

The Obama Timeline – Part II

The Doomed Presidency

March 2013

On March 1 the sun comes up and the world does not end—despite the failure to avoid budget cuts called for by the 2011 budget agreement. Heritage.org president James DeMint writes, “Suppose you desperately needed to lose weight but had a Big Mac with fries and a Coke staring you in the face. You could take your need to diet seriously and say, ‘No thanks, I’ll have a salad.’ Or you could decide to reduce the Big Mac meal by 2 percent—pushing aside a couple French fries and gobbling up the rest. If you took Option B, how do you think that ‘diet’ would work out for you? Well, that, my friends, is the tale of the sequester that hit us this morning. ...So why is ...Obama leading a scare campaign filled with untruths about how sequestration will necessitate firing firefighters, cops, and teachers? I’ll tell you why. Because liberals know the Obama tax hikes forced through in January will really hurt the economy. It’s preemptive damage control. [Obama] is trying to blame the sequester for the economic problems his tax hikes will spawn. But our struggling economy is [Obama’s] own creation. His tax hikes—in income taxes, payroll taxes, and Obamacare taxes—will take \$150 billion out of the economy this year alone. The \$150 billion doesn’t magically appear in Washington’s bank account without real consequences. It comes out of your paycheck. It means less money for your boss to give you a raise. Small businesses won’t have the money to hire new employees. You’ll have less money to save for your retirement or your child’s college fund. The impact of the tax hikes on the economy is nearly twice as big as the impact of sequestration. Over 10 years, Obama’s tax hikes will suck \$2.9 trillion out of the economy.” [42978, 42984]

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) states, “There will be no last-minute, back-room deal and absolutely no agreement to increase taxes.” [42984, 43001]

By mid-day on March 1 the world had still not ended—despite the federal government being forced to waste \$40 billion less in 2013 than it did in 2012.

Investors.com reports that “Americans paid out a record amount of taxes in January,” at a rate that would result in the federal government receiving \$2.6 trillion in taxes in 2013—more than in any previous year. Despite the expectation of record amounts of tax revenue, Obama and his fellow Democrats continue to call for tax increases rather than spending cuts. And despite Obama’s call for the wealthiest Americans to “pay their fair share,” they already do: the top 20 percent of income earners pay 71.8 percent of all the taxes. (Although record taxes were collected in January, the federal deficit for February *alone* was a whopping \$253.5 billion.) [43085, 43086, 43087, 43098]

The national debt reaches \$16.687 trillion. (The amount was \$10.626 trillion when Obama took office. More debt has been added during his tenure in the Oval Office than any of his predecessors—including those who served eight years.) [43038]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rises 35 points, suggesting that Wall Street investors do not think the world will end if the federal government spends only \$46 trillion over the next 10 years, rather than \$44.8 trillion. (It will probably spend more than either of those numbers.) [43031]

Across the Internet, Obama's "sky is falling" tactic is mocked as the sequester "cuts" go into effect. Some sample Tweets: "Just tried driving but since sequestration went into effect the roads have all crumbled into dust." "OH MY GOD THERE ARE GOVERNMENT WORKERS SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTING ALL OVER THE PLACE, THIS IS HORRIBLE, PLEASE MAKE IT STOP." "It wasn't until I ate my neighbor's pancreas that I realized ...Obama was right about the sequester." "The corpses are piling up outside my window like cordwood, oh my God the humanity." "Nothing to worry about! I grabbed my double barrel shotgun & blasted sequester through the door, just like the VP said." "Did America lose 170,000,000 jobs in the last 10 minutes? Keep me informed, everyone." "The sequester may now join the Mayan Calendar and the Y2K bug in the 'Sh*t Everyone Survived' Hall of Fame." "Just looked out the window. Five hedge fund guys fighting over a piece of raw meat." [42990, 42991, 42992, 42993, 42994, 42995, 42996, 42997, 42998]

Obama makes a statement—after briefly meeting with Congressional leaders and refusing to agree to spending cuts that would replace the across-the-board sequester cuts. Obama says, "Let's be clear. None of this is necessary. It's happening because a choice that Republicans in Congress have made. They've allowed these cuts to happen because they refused to budge on closing a single wasteful loophole... As recently as yesterday they decided to protect special interest tax breaks for the well-off and well-connected, and they think that that's apparently more important than protecting our military or middle-class families from the pain of these cuts. ...Not everyone will feel the pain of these cuts right away. The pain, though, will be real. Beginning this week many middle-class families will have their lives disrupted in significant ways. All of this will cause a ripple effect throughout our economy. Layoffs and pay cuts means that people have less money in their pockets, and that means that they have less money to spend at local businesses. That means lower profits. That means fewer hires." (Obama's tax increases, of course, mean the same thing—and to an even greater extent.) "So every time that we get a piece of economic news over the next month, next two months, next six months, as long as the sequester's in place we'll know that that economic news could have been better if Congress had not failed to act." (Townhall.com's Derek Hunter calls this Obama's "get out of blame free" card. Obama is here making sure that the media gets the message they must incessantly repeat: "*Every single piece of bad economic news from today forward was caused by Republicans and has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with ObamaCare, higher taxes, or additional federal rules and regulations!*" Obama is saying, "*I am not responsible for anything bad that happens—ever.*" And the mainstream media will take his message and obediently run with it.) [43011, 43024, 43045, 43217]

"People are going to be hurt," says Obama. "The economy will not grow as quickly as it would have. Unemployment will not go down as quickly as it would have. And there are

lives behind that. And it's real." Obama whines that House Speaker cannot overcome the "politics within the Republican Party" (that is, conservatives and Tea Party members) and agree to more tax increases. "What I can't do is force Congress to do the right thing [raise taxes]. The American people may have the capacity to do that. And in the absence of a decision on the part of the speaker of the House and others to put middle class families ahead of whatever political imperative he might have right now, we're going to have these cuts in place." (Obama is counting on the GOP caving in and raising taxes, and he is hoping Americans will help ensure that outcome by asking them to call their Senators and Congressmen to demand that government be allowed to remain bloated and all-powerful.) [43011, 43024]

Obama falsely states, "Starting tomorrow everybody here, all the folks who are cleaning the floors at the Capitol. Now that Congress has left, somebody's going to be vacuuming and cleaning those floors and throwing out the garbage. They're going to have less pay. The janitors, the security guards, they just got a pay cut, and they've got to figure out how to manage that. That's real." (Even *The Washington Post* calls Obama's claim an exaggeration.) [43025, 43033, 43124]

A typically-defensive Obama bristles when a reporter says, "It sounds like you're saying this is a Republican problem and not one that you bear any responsibility for." Obama testily responds, "Well, Julie, give me an example of what, uh, what I might do. ... The, uh, what, what, what, what I'm suggesting is that I, I've put forward a plan that calls for serious spending cuts, serious entitlement reforms, [that] goes right at the problem, uh, that is at the heart of our long-term deficit problem. Um, I've offered, uh, negotiations around that kind of balanced approach, and so far we've gotten rebuffed because, uh, what [House] Speaker [John] Boehner and the Republicans have said is, 'We cannot do any revenue [sic]. We can't do a dime's worth of revenue [sic].' So, what more do you think I should do?" (Reporter Julie does not provide a proper response, which would be: "No, you have not put forward a plan that calls for any such thing. You have not put forward *any* plan other than raising taxes—and the Republicans already gave you \$600 billion in tax increases in the last negotiation on New Year's Eve. Isn't it time you agreed to significant spending cuts? And why do you need me to give you advice on how to lead the nation? You're the one who campaigned on promises to solve problems and bring people together, not me.") [43048, 43089, 43435]

CNN's Jessica Yellin asks Obama why he can't meet with Congressional leaders and hammer out a budget agreement. Obama responds, "Jessica, I am not a dictator... Ultimately, if Mitch McConnell or John Boehner say[s] we need to go to catch a plane, I can't have Secret Service block the doorway. I know that this has been some of the conventional wisdom that's been floating around Washington, and that somehow—even though most people agree that I'm being reasonable, that most people agree I'm presenting a fair deal—the fact that they don't take it means that somehow I should do a Jedi mind-meld with these folks and convince them to do what's right. ... But ultimately it's a choice they make, and this idea that somehow there's a secret formula or secret sauce to get speaker Boehner or Mitch McConnell to say, 'You know what... you're right'—I think if there was a secret way to do that, I would have tried it. I would have

done it.” (This is not the first time Obama has said, “I am not a dictator” or “I am not a king.” Some might argue that those pronouncements are psychologically revealing, and that Obama certainly wishes he did have dictatorial powers. Others might say that Obama’s statement sounds like, “I’m not a dictator; I just play one on TV.” The “most people agree that I’m being reasonable” line is also something Obama has often used—probably to counter deep-seated insecurities: he needs to convince himself that he is correct as much as convince others.) [43243]

Rush Limbaugh observes, “As insulting as it is to us, as depressing as it is to us, as frustrating and maddening as it is to us, what we are witnessing is masterful... We are watching masterful demagoguery. This guy [Obama] is better than Bill Clinton. This guy is smoother, he’s better, he’s more accomplished, and the real genius of Barack Obama, he’s been in office now for four years, and may as well not have been, because [in Obama’s and the media’s opinion] not one aspect of his agenda or policies explains what’s happening in the country today, not one thing.” [43011]

Limbaugh also reminds his radio listeners of a statement Obama made in an October 23, 2012 interview with the *Des Moines Register*: “[T]he good news is that there’s going to be a forcing mechanism [the sequester cuts] to deal with what is the central ideological argument in Washington right now, and that is: How much government do we have and how do we pay for it? So when you combine the Bush tax cuts expiring, the sequester in place ...we’re going to be in a position where I believe in the first six months [of 2013] we are going to solve that big piece of business. It will probably be messy. It won’t be pleasant. But I am absolutely confident that we can get what is the equivalent of the grand bargain.” (Obama therefore knew in October then that the sequester cuts would take effect, *even though he was promising voters they would not*. He knew there would be a showdown with Republicans, *and he assumed all along* that the voter appetite for big government and “free stuff” would force Republicans to eventually cave in and give him what he wants: more revenue from tax increases. In addition, Obama would gain revenue from defense cuts—all of which he can use not to reduce the deficit, but to spend on the creation of an even more massive, expensive, and intrusive federal government.) [43012, 43042]

Liberal journalist Juan Williams tells DailyCaller.com, “I’m all for killing terrorists, but the question is, are you going to be the only one who is in charge of deciding weather you can kill an American citizen? You are allowing [Obama] to decide who to kill and when to kill, [someone] who is an American citizen. I think that’s pretty appalling, in my opinion. I think that’s unconstitutional.” [43035]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The Democratic National Committee has no plans to repay Duke Energy for an unprecedented \$10 million line of credit it guaranteed to help the Democratic convention’s local host committee put on ...Obama’s three-day nominating convention in Charlotte, N.C., last September. A Duke company official said the company was claiming the money as a business expense for tax purposes...” (The original scheme may, in fact, have been for the money never to be paid back. A portion of the \$10 million became a gift from Duke to Obama and the Democrats, with the

taxpayers picking up the rest by being forced to subsidize Duke's tax deduction. At FrontPagePag.com Daniel Greenfield reminds readers that "Duke and Progress Energy each got \$200 million in federal stimulus money for smart grid improvements in 2009. Duke's Cliffside power plant won a \$125 million 'advanced coal' tax credit from the Department of Energy, and a plant under construction in Indiana got \$460 million in federal, state, and local incentives." That is not a bad trade: "You give me \$200 million in tax dollars and I'll loan you \$10 million for your convention—which I won't even ask you to pay back, and you'll let me take a tax deduction for the loss.") [43005, 43028, 43039]

LifeSiteNews.com reports, "An insurance company known for not keeping its contractual obligations has received \$340 million in federal loans to set up a health care exchange under ObamaCare. Critics say the only apparent criteria [sic] for the loan is the fact that the company is led by a friend of Barack Obama during his community organizer days. She is also a former leader of a George Soros-funded politically radical organization. Congress has opened an inquiry into the eligibility of ...Obama's close friend Sara Horowitz and her embattled health insurance company to receive \$340 million in taxpayer-funded loans. Horowitz, a former labor lawyer and community organizer, heads the Freelancers' Union and the related Freelancers' Insurance Company (FIC). Despite the name, the Freelancers' Union is not a union. It is the parent organization of Horowitz's for-profit health insurance company, which serves 200,000+ customers, mostly freelancers who are ineligible for benefits through their employers. FIC has been rated the 'worst' insurer in New York for the past two years by state regulators, and has weathered numerous public relations and customer service crises since it launched in 2008." [43056]

"The company is so unpopular it has spawned its own hate blog, 'Upset Freelancers' Union Members,' where those who buy their healthcare from FIC meet to complain, strategize, and give each other tips on how to navigate labyrinthine restrictions and try to get results from the notoriously frustrating customer service hotline. In 2011, the New York State Insurance Department ranked FIC dead last in customer satisfaction among insurers. Despite its relatively small size, FIC had the most complaints of all the state's insurance providers. Last year, FIC again ranked 'worst' in complaints. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners says FIC's complaint rate is more than seven times the national average. In half the complaints lodged against FIC by its customers, the insurance department ruled that 'the health insurer did not comply with statutory or contractual obligations.' None of this stopped the Obama administration from handing Horowitz a \$340 million loan from the American taxpayers to start ObamaCare health care cooperatives." [43056]

The Associated Press reports that Obama's half-brother, Abon'go Malik "Roy" Obama, is running for governor of the county of Siaya in Kenya. (As noted previously in *The Obama Timeline*, the 54-year-old Malik Obama is a Muslim who has had as many as 12 wives, some of whom are teen-agers. Since 2008 he has operated the "Barack H. Obama Foundation." In 2011 the IRS retroactively approved it as a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization in the record time of about 30 days—as opposed to the usual six months.

The “Foundation” collects Internet contributions. What Obama does with the cash is not known. The National Legal and Policy Center has charged that the foundation is a fraudulent money-making scheme.) [15222, 20539, 20540, 20541, 20603, 20604, 20631, 24176, 24582, 24583, 43006]

Congressman Howard “Buck” McKeon (R-CA), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, tells reporters, “I don’t know what extent this White House will go to, but it’s got to end. I have never in my lifetime seen such a lack of leadership and truth-telling emanating from the White House and from our commander-in-chief. Senator [Harry] Reid [D-NV] and the Democratic leadership for three years have not passed a budget and we’ve given them a pass. You’ve given them a pass.” McKeon notes that the U.S. military has been operating without a budget because of the lack of action from the Democrat-controlled Senate: “These men, who’ve dedicated their life to protecting our nation, we put them in these very responsible jobs and give them no financial support, no direction. Sequestration was [Obama’s] idea over a year ago. And when we tried to fix it, he said, ‘No, if you do anything, I’ll veto it.’ Then during the campaign he said it won’t happen. Then the last couple of weeks he’s come out and said it’s Armageddon, the world’s going to end. Then [over] the last couple of days he’s softened and said, ‘no.’ It’s just kind of pitiful. He’s played all kinds of roles in this position. And when [Bob] Woodward, a respected journalist, tried to lay out the truth, he was crucified, vilified.” [43070]

On CNN, Jessica Yellin reports that Obama has made “all but final selections” for various ambassadorships—filing the positions with key campaign donors. Yellin states, “Of course, [there is] nothing illegal about this, but for [someone] who said he really wants to get money out of politics, this is definitely sullyng some of that brand.” Marc Lasry, a hedge fund manager who raised \$922,006 for the Obama campaign, is Obama’s choice to be ambassador to France. The Democrat National Committee’s Patrick Gaspard will be ambassador to South Africa. Matthew Barzun, who raised \$917,042, heads to Great Britain, while Caroline Kennedy is being considered for an ambassador position. “Why is this different?” asks Yellin. “Because ...Obama said he would be different. And so, we’re pointing out this really does seem to be more of the same.” [43007]

At Politico.com Democrats Pat Caddell and Doug Schoen, former pollsters for Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, write that Obama “is obviously going all-out—but not to avoid the \$85 billion in spending cuts, known as the sequester... Obama doesn’t want to make a deal with Republicans. His fear-mongering is part of a concerted plan that extends far beyond the sequester crisis: to obliterate the Republican Party as a viable force in American political life. His self-righteous rhetoric obscures a bitter truth: Obama is not trying to unite the country. He’s waging a class-based battle for political gain. His goal is to win back the House for Democrats in 2014, giving him a united Congress for his last two years in office and allowing him to pursue the most expansive government in American history. ...It seems increasingly clear that Obama’s legacy will not be balancing the budget or bringing together a divided country, but rather, expanding the size and scope of government like no one since Lyndon Johnson—but without the revenue or political support that LBJ enjoyed. In 1965 and 1966, when Johnson was at

the peak of his power, he passed major legislation with bipartisan support. Still, he overreached, and eventually he lost his huge majorities. Obama's overreaching is much worse. He thinks he can do whatever he wants, even without Republicans votes. Two factors fuel his overconfidence: a visionless, disorganized Republican Party, and a docile, shamelessly partisan media. Republicans lack an agenda and a message. Even when their instincts are correct, they can't seem to communicate with the American people. With no competing narrative, they continue to take a drubbing in the court of public opinion as 'the party of the rich.' The media, meanwhile, remain determined to protect [Obama]. Only when they found out, belatedly, that Obama played golf with Tiger Woods did they become angry with the White House for not letting them in on the photo op. They are silent about Obama's failure to address the nation's fiscal challenges, his stonewalling on Benghazi, or the refusal of his unqualified Defense nominee to release his records. But a secret golf game with Tiger Woods—that's beyond the pale." [43014]

Caddell and Schoen continue, "With weak opposition and a compliant media, the only place [Obama] might hear criticism is from within his own party—but that's not happening, either. As lifelong Democrats, we can remember a time when the Senate had a Sam Nunn and a Daniel Patrick Moynihan on one side, and on the other, a Bob Dole—men who put country first, party second. Today, partisanship and party discipline are practically absolute. Obama has brought partisanship to a new low by creating a full-time political advocacy organization—Organizing for Action—funded by secret contributions from corporate elites. OFA's founding is historically unprecedented. No president has ever affiliated himself with a national organization other than reelection campaigns. Obama has taken the Saul Alinsky organizing vision to a national level. In earlier columns, we've described Obama as the most polarizing president in American history, but even we never imagined that he would be this divisive. [Obama's] overconfidence—by now a well-known character flaw—may yet backfire on him. The country is struggling and scared; businesses feel deep uncertainty about making investments in this climate. The Congressional Budget Office projects that the sequester could stifle economic growth and slow down the stock market. The risk to Obama would be even greater if he had a strong opposition. Still, [Obama] faces a downside not reflected in current polling numbers. Presidents ultimately take the blame when things go wrong. In August 2011, Obama paid the most serious political price from the debt-ceiling debacle that led to the first-ever credit downgrade in U.S. history. It was his administration's low point, and it led to the sequester scenario that we now face. Obama and the Democrats may be the short-term victors of the sequester drama, however it ends. But the long-term outcome is less certain. What is certain is that the American people are hurting and losing faith in the system, and for good reason. For all of the Republican missteps and myopia, the problem starts at the top, with [Obama] determined to pursue a partisan agenda—the country be damned." [43014]

Congressman John Kline (R-MN) tells Politico, "It is strange to have ...Obama's [partisan political] arm [Organizing for Action] reaching out and attacking members of the House Republicans when in theory he's trying to work with us. I'm not sure how smart that is. If he really wants cooperation, why would you just sort of, intentionally antagonize? I don't know. ...The well is fairly poisoned right now, so we'll see."

(Organizing for Action is running \$100,000 in attack ads targeting Republicans even though the next election is not until November 2014.) GOP strategist Ford O'Connell warns that Obama's continued attacks will make compromise on future issues more difficult for Obama: "Folks inside the Beltway in both parties don't like being shown up and when [Obama] gallivants around the countryside saying 'this is what it is' that burns up people in Congress. It's certainly helping him on the message side right now, but I think some people inside and outside the Beltway are tiring of this. You're talking about some very delicate issues and what people want within Congress is a leader, not a legislative dictator. It's going to take some very big behind the doors action where people have to put their cards on the table and if people feel like he's going to burn them they're not going to do it." [43015]

Obama issues his first pardons. [43016]

The Chicago Public School (CPS) system releases a glowing report of a [February 28] visit from Michelle Obama: "Over 6,500 CPS students joined First Lady Michelle Obama at McCormick Place yesterday to celebrate the third anniversary of her Let's Move! Campaign as well as the introduction of the LetsMove! Active Schools—an event that coincided perfectly with the release of the Healthy CPS Action Plan." Fifth through seventh graders "from across the District were given the opportunity to participate in an interactive, high-energy event that inspired them to eat well and stay active. 'It was so fun to be there,' said Taylor Pulver, a 5th-grader from Hawthorne Elementary. 'We were put into different groups to learn a cool dance, and we saw lots of celebrities, including Mrs. Obama, who said that she really cared about us and wants us to be healthy.'" (One Chicagoan tells *The Obama Timeline* what really happened: "My 12-year-old grandson... was one of the 6,000 kids that HAD to go to this. He was told he would be back to school in time for lunch. It took them two hours to get through security, Michelle talked for about 10 minutes and he didn't get back to the school where the bus finally dropped him off until 6 p.m No one had lunch, everyone was starving, and his mother was not there to pick him up from the bus. Not only were all these kids without buses, but it affected every other school that has bus service, like my 14-year-old grandson... No buses to pick up the kids at his school either. He was supposed to get to a different school for a basketball game, but everyone at his school was grounded while the teachers were trying to figure out what to do and to locate the parents. None of this was on the news. [Mayor] Rahm [Emanuel] is bragging about this and everyone is talking about how wonderful Michelle is.") [43017, 43059]

ABCNews.com reports, "The Obama administration today moved one step closer to approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, concluding in a draft environmental impact statement that the project would not accelerate global greenhouse gas emissions or significantly harm the natural habitats along its route. The report, done by the State Department, suggests that the proposed 875-mile pipeline, which would carry 830,000 barrels of crude oil per day from the tar sands of Alberta, Canada, to Steele City, Nebraska, has cleared a significant hurdle on its way to President Obama's desk for final consideration. 'The approval or denial of any one crude oil transport project, including this proposed project, really remains unlikely to significantly impact the rate of

development of the oil sands or the continued demand for heavy crude oil in the U.S.,’ said Kerri-Ann Jones, the Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. The State Department, which conducted the study because the pipeline would cross an international boundary, also suggested in a voluminous report that impacts on air, water and landscape would be minimal. The agency found it ‘very unlikely’ that the pipeline would affect water quality in any of the four aquifers through which it crossed. It also concluded that along one part of the proposed route, in the case of a large-scale oil spill, ‘these impacts would typically be limited to within several hundred feet of the release source, and would not affect groundwater.’” (*The Obama Timeline* believes Obama will attempt to negotiate a deal in which he approves the pipeline if Congress approves a “global warming carbon tax.” He will not be successful, because many members of Congress understand that such a tax would destroy jobs and reduce the standard of living of almost all Americans. News.com.au reports that a carbon tax in Australia “is contributing to a record number of firms going to the wall with thousands of employees being laid off and companies forced to close factories that have stood for generations.” The carbon tax has also already added “around 10 per cent to the price of electricity for most families.”) [43018, 43020, 43037, 43057, 43416, 43674]

Environmentalists are, not surprisingly, outraged that the Obama administration appears to be allowing the Keystone XL pipeline to proceed. The Sierra Club issues a statement that it “is outraged by the State Department’s deeply flawed analysis today and what can only be interpreted as lip service to one of the greatest threats to our children’s future: climate disruption.” Bill McKibben, founder of the activist group 350.org states, “Groundhog Day—we’re hearing the same rehashed arguments from the State Department about why a great threat to the climate is not a threat at all. Mother Nature filed her comments last year—the hottest year in American history.” (2012 was not the hottest year in American history, and sending oil through a pipeline will not raise the nation’s average temperature.) [43060]

Congressman Paul Gosar (R-AZ) tells WND.com the Obama administration’s release of illegal immigrants was retaliation for his not getting his way on sequestration: “This just shows the pattern of do-and-deny that this administration does over and over again. We saw it in [Operation] Fast and Furious. We also saw it in the horrific acts of Benghazi. So here’s number three. Three’s a charm. We need to wake up and understand how this administration rolls. ...This [prisoner release] was to create hysteria in which to get the public behind their mantra of increasing taxes and doing it [Obama’s] way... This shows the lack of leadership by [Obama] and this administration for accountability and responsibility. When you look at our core functions as a federal government is security and protection [sic]. Boy, I certainly hope that none of these people that are released create a crime that cost[s] a citizen both injury to themselves, their life or their property. This is absolutely horrific. It’s like taking page out of Fidel Castro’s playbook, dumping people out on the streets egregiously. ...I find it kind of interesting and very offensive that once again this administration targets Arizona as one of its foremost states to pick on. We have additional responses by this administration by rules and regulations and administrative rulings that [designate] Arizona as their evil stepchild.” [43019]

Newsmax.com reports, “The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released its proposal Friday to garner billions of dollars through annual fees on health insurers as part of the Affordable Care Act [ObamaCare]. Industry groups are quite upset, arguing that the fees will be passed along to consumers, The Hill reports. The fees, to be collected from most insurers, would register \$8 billion next year and rise every year afterward, breaking \$14 billion in 2018, according to the IRS. The amount of the fees would depend on an insurer’s net premiums. America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), one of the industry’s top trade groups, lambasted the proposal, estimating it would cost insurers more than \$100 billion over the next 10 years and hurt consumers. AHIP estimates that the fee would help push up the average family’s health insurance bill by \$300 next year and more than \$500 in following years. AHIP spokesman Robert Zirkelbach states, “This is a new \$100 billion tax on health insurance. Taxing health insurance is only going to make it more expensive.” [43026]

At WashingtonPost.com Kathleen Parker writes that the White House threat to journalist Bob Woodward “...is no tempest in a teapot but rather the leak in the dike. Drip by drip, the Obama administration has demonstrated its intolerance for dissent and its contempt for any who stray from the White House script. Yes, all administrations are sensitive to criticism, and all push back when such criticism is deemed unfair or inaccurate. But no president since Richard Nixon has demonstrated such overt contempt for the messenger. And, thanks to technological advances in social media, Obama has been able to bypass traditional watchdogs as no other president has. More to the point, the Obama White House is, to put it politely, fudging as it tries to place the onus of the sequester on Congress. And, as has become customary, officials are using the Woodward spat to distract attention. As Woodward put it: ‘This is the old trick... of making the press... the issue, rather than what the White House has done here.’ Killing the messenger is a time-honored method of controlling the message, but we have already spilled that blood. And the First Amendment’s protection of a free press, the purpose of which is to check power and constrain government’s ability to dictate the lives of private citizens, was no accident.” [43027]

Parker’s colleague Dana Milbank writes, “...[Bob] Woodward is correct to single out the Obama White House for its excessive pugnacity. His exchange with [Gene] Sperling may be a poor example of it, but there’s little argument that 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. has become a frat house for the thin-skinned and the foul-mouthed. ‘As editor in chief of National Journal, I received several e-mails and telephone calls from [a] White House official filled with vulgarity, abusive language, and virtually the same phrase that Politico characterized as a veiled threat,’ Ron Fournier, one of Washington’s best journalists, wrote in Woodward’s defense. ‘Once I moved back to daily reporting this year, the badgering intensified.’ I’ve received the same communications—and so has everybody else I know who has dealt with this White House. If this administration launched drone strikes at the rate Sperling and his colleagues launch F-bombs, there would be nobody left in Yemen. This isn’t just a language issue (although it’s amusing to think of Obama aides’ -obscenity-laced e-mails going to the National Archives). It is a symptom of a White House in perpetual combat—with the media, with Republicans in Congress, with

everybody—and dedicated to incremental point-scoring, without a view of the real goal. The failure to reach a ‘grand bargain’ on taxes and spending is typical. Woodward told Politico that he was perplexed Obama won’t ‘sit down and work through this’ and produce the obvious compromise. ‘Color me a little baffled,’ he said. ‘I don’t understand this White House. Do you?’ I do. And it’s a !&%@#\$ shame.” [43079]

Obama’s approval rating drops to 47 percent in the Gallup three-day rolling average poll. [43030]

On March 2 Thomas Joscelyn writes at WeeklyStandard.com, “[N]early two years after the May 1, 2011, assault on Osama bin Laden’s compound, the Obama administration has made public just 17 documents out of the huge cache of information captured during that raid. U.S. intelligence officials tell The Weekly Standard that the vast collection includes ‘hundreds of thousands of documents and files.’ Obama administration officials themselves have referred to the documents as a ‘treasure trove’ the size of a ‘small college library.’ Why hasn’t the public seen them? One of the main reasons: John Brennan. The Obama administration, with Brennan as its top counterterrorism adviser, has worked hard to convince the American people that al Qaeda ‘is a shadow of its former self,’ in the words of [Obama]. Its affiliates are atomized cells that operate without serious coordination, they’ve suggested, and with the assassination of several top leaders, the defeat of al Qaeda is, according to Obama, ‘within reach.’ The war on terror, or whatever it is, is nearing an end. These claims are important to the administration’s withdrawal from Afghanistan and the key to its broader counterterrorism posture”—and the Osama bin Laden documents likely contradict the Obama narrative. (There remain many experts who believe Osama bin Laden died long before the 2011 SEAL Team 6 operation. If that is the case, it is another reason for the government to shield information.) [43029, 43911]

Magpul, a manufacturer of gun magazines and weapons accessories, says it will relocate to another state if the Colorado legislature passes its pending gun control law. FoxNews.com reports, “As the debate unfolds, states have made overtures to Magpul, including offering to pay their moving costs. The company won’t name the states, but Wyoming and Texas have expressed interest in netting the \$85 million the company projects it will spend in Colorado next year in payments to suppliers, subcontractors and service providers. Magpul said the move would also impact its 200 employees, plus an additional 400 who work for suppliers and subcontractors.” [43034, 43093]

FreedomOutpost.com reports, “In a key move, which should have been done months ago, Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA), Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and Congressman Jim Gerlach (R-PA), a House Ways and Means Committee member, sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry on Friday asking to both recognize and speak with ‘as many as 30 Americans (including State Department and CIA personnel and government contractors) may have been injured in the attack’ in Benghazi on September 11, 2012.” (The Obama administration has so far refused to provide Congress with the names of Americans who survived the terrorist attack in Benghazi on September 11, 2012 because it does not want them interviewed and the facts known. Some Benghazi

information has been given to the Senate Intelligence Committee, but one Senate source told Fox News, “It was so redacted that there was no information whatsoever. There were some documents that were 100 pages with every word on the page redacted. They were worthless.”) [43040, 43043]

CNET.com reports, “The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has customized its Predator drones, originally built for overseas military operations, to carry out at-home surveillance tasks that have civil libertarians worried: identifying civilians carrying guns and tracking their cell phones, government documents show. The documents provide more details about the surveillance capabilities of the department's unmanned Predator B drones, which are primarily used to patrol the United States' northern and southern borders but have been pressed into service on behalf of a growing number of law enforcement agencies including the FBI, the Secret Service, the Texas Rangers, and local police. Homeland Security's specifications for its drones, built by San Diego-based General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, say they 'shall be capable of identifying a standing human being at night as likely armed or not,' meaning carrying a shotgun or rifle. They also specify 'signals interception' technology that can capture communications in the frequency ranges used by mobile phones, and 'direction finding' technology that can identify the locations of mobile devices or two-way radios.” (Meanwhile, in response to an inquiry from Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), Attorney General Eric Holder states that although the government has “no intention” of using drones against U.S. citizens within the nation's borders it could be authorized under “extraordinary circumstances.” Paul calls Holder's statement “...more than frightening—it is an affront to the Constitutional due process rights of all Americans.”) [43044, 43122, 43123, 43129]

In the *New York Post* Maureen Callahan reports on the Obama administration's threats to journalists and how it controls the media. “Even Jonathan Alter—who frequently appears on the Obama-friendly MSNBC—came forward to say he, too, had been treated horribly by the administration for writing something they didn't like. ‘There is a kind of threatening tone that, from time to time—not all the time—comes out of these guys,’ Alter said this week. During the 2008 campaign swing through Berlin, Alter said that future White House press secretary Robert Gibbs disinvited him from a dinner between Obama and the press corps over it. ‘I was told ‘Don't come,’ in a fairly abusive e-mail,’ he said. ‘[It] made what Gene Sperling wrote [to Woodward] look like patty-cake. I had a young reporter asking tough, important questions of an Obama Cabinet secretary,’ says one DC veteran. ‘She was doing her job, and they were trying to bully her. In an e-mail, they called her the vilest names—bitch, c--t, a--hole.’ He complained and was told the matter would be investigated: ‘They were hemming and hawing, saying, ‘We'll look into it.’ Nothing happened.” [43046, 43049, 43077, 43095]

Former Congressman Joe Scarborough comments on the sequester cuts at NYTimes.com: “For once, Mr. Obama seems to be the one who has overplayed his hand. His predictions of a crippled military, contaminated food and unforeseen hurricanes will pack a political punch only if those projections come to pass. Republicans can be forgiven for asking what hardships most Americans can expect to face if sequestration actually allows

spending to rise another \$15 billion next year. How compromised will federal agencies' missions really be, given that their budgets increased sizably during Mr. Obama's first term? How much pain will voters inflict on Republicans for following through on the Obama-originated plan to force automatic spending 'cuts' that nonetheless maintain the dollars flowing from taxpayers to Washington? For all the warnings from the Pentagon, it's worth noting that the defense budget will continue to grow even after the sequestration. ...[T]his year's reductions will not do great damage to domestic and defense programs. Congress will have \$85 billion less to spend this year, but the Congressional Budget Office projects that the actual cuts implemented this year will amount to only \$42 billion out of a \$3.5 trillion budget. That means that politicians will have to cut a little more than a penny out of every dollar that it spends this year. Does Mr. Obama really want to claim that his administration, which has added \$6 trillion to the national debt, is unable to save a penny out of every dollar it spends? Does he really expect Americans to believe—after four years, the banking and auto bailouts, several stimulus bills and a run of record deficits—that our \$16 trillion economy cannot absorb \$42 billion of spending reductions? Even if the White House believes that such posturing is good politics, it's a strategy that adds up to a fiscal Russian roulette and cheapens the debate." [43053]

NBC's *Saturday Night Live* mocks Obama, with an actor portraying him telling reporters at a press conference, "Most Americans still don't understand what this whole sequester really means. I could explain it in financial terms or in human terms, but since I really have no idea about how money works, or budgets work, I'll go with human terms instead. You see, we're all going to feel the pain from these cuts, even in the White House. From now on, my wife Michelle will only do four television appearances a week, down from her usual 75. I also had to sit Joe Biden down and tell him he couldn't order another Fathead poster for his bedroom wall. But tonight, I want to show you some of the everyday men and women these cuts are going to affect. ...So you see, we all have to make sacrifices. It will be a difficult road ahead. But trust me, nine months from now you won't remember this sequester ever happened. Why? Because there will be another way worse financial crisis to deal with." (The skit also includes actors dressed as the Village People—a clear but subtle suggestion that Obama is gay and Michelle "runs interference" for him as his "beard.") [43055, 43062, 43096]

On March 3 White House economic advisor Gene Sperling appears on *Meet the Press* and admits that the sequester cuts were, in fact, Obama's idea—even though Obama claimed during one of his debates with Mitt Romney that the scheme was not his idea. Sperling blames the Republicans for not agreeing to raise taxes again in order to avoid spending cuts. Laughably, Sperling also claims, "Nobody ever suggested that this [cuts in spending] ...was going to have all its impact in the first few days." (Obama, of course, claimed just that, claiming that air traffic would be delayed, children would be kicked out of the Head Start program, federal janitors would see an immediate pay cut, and meat inspectors would be laid off.) [43050, 43054, 43124]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) also appears on *Meet the Press*. Obama-toady David Gregory asks Boehner whether it was "appropriate" for him to have said the U.S.

Senate should “get off their ass” and pass a budget and act to avoid repeated showdowns. (Gregory aims his criticism not at the Senate for doing nothing, but at Boehner for using the word “ass.”) [43066]

On *State of the Union*, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) says, “We are exploding our spending. We’ve added \$6 trillion to the national debt in just four years. We’ve got to begin to cut spending, and we promised the American people we’d do it a year-and-a-half ago, and we’re going to do it. ...[The] modest reduction of 2.4 percent in spending over the next six months [called for by the sequester agreement] is a little more than the average American experienced just two months ago” when their Social Security tax cut expired. By any objective standard, cutting 2.4 percent out of \$3.6 trillion is certainly something we can do. I’m absolutely confident we’re going to reduce spending [by] the amount of money that we promised the American people we would in the law [Obama] signed a year-and-a-half ago. We have said we are open to discussing how to reconfigure those spending reductions without raising taxes. [Obama] is free to call whoever he chooses to; he doesn’t have to go through the [House] speaker and myself to talk to our members, and I fully expect him to do that. But so far, I haven’t heard a single Senate Republican say they’re willing to raise one dime in taxes in order to avoid a spending reduction commitment that we made on a bipartisan basis just a year-and-a-half ago.” [43068]

Nose-ringed and lip-ringed former professional basketball player Dennis Rodman appears on ABC’s *This Week* to discuss his recent visit to North Korea and call its dictator, Kim Jong Un, his “friend.” According to Rodman, the communist ruler “wants Obama to do one thing: call him. ...He said, ‘If you can, Dennis—I don’t want to do war. I don’t want to do war.’ He said that to me.” (The tyrant is not trying to avoid war; he is trying to get U.S. taxpayers to provide his regime with food for his starving people—to keep them from storming his palace.) [43061, 43065, 43073]

At TeaPartyNation.com Alan Caruba provides some examples of government waste that could be addressed to save taxpayer dollars: “The government spends \$1.7 billion [per year] for maintenance on empty buildings it owns, although some sources put the figure at closer to \$25 billion. The Office of Management and Budget estimates that 55,000 properties are underutilized or entirely vacant.” (Selling some of those unused properties and buildings could result in billions of dollars in revenue.) “The federal government owns approximately one-third of all U.S. land. It does not need more land and it could be argued that it should not own 80% of Nevada and Alaska, and more than half of Idaho. That said, it wants to spend \$2.3 billion to purchase more land and the National park Service currently has a backlog of maintenance tasks totaling \$5 billion. These include parks that the Obama administration was saying would all have to be closed down because of a sequester reduction of a mere 1.2% of all federal spending.” “[Senator] Tom Coburn (R-OK) is a leading budget hawk who identified programs to fund a space ship to another solar system, funds for advancements in beef jerky from France, and \$6 billion for research to find out what lessons about democracy and decision-making can be learned—from fish!” “[T]he National Science Foundation [awarded a] \$350,000 grant to Perdue University researchers on how to improve your golf game.” “[T]he National

Institutes of Health gave a \$940,000 grant to researchers who found that the production of pheromones in—wait for it—fruit flies, declines over time. Turns out that male fruit flies were more attracted to younger female fruit flies. The NIH also paid researchers to find out why gay men in Argentina engage in risky sexual behavior when they're drunk and spent \$800,000 in 'stimulus funds' to study the impact of a 'genital-washing' program on men in South Africa." "Sanity does not apply to the \$2 billion given annually to U.S. farmers to not farm their land." [43051]

Obama's approval rating falls to 46 percent in the Gallup poll. [43052]

At GatewayPundit.com Jim Hoft refers to an earlier report from Ken Jorgustin at ModernSurvivalBlog.com that "The Department of Homeland Security (through the U.S. Army Forces Command) recently retrofitted 2,717... 'Mine Resistant Protected' vehicles for service on the streets of the United States. Although I've seen and read several online blurbs about this vehicle of late, I decided to dig slightly deeper and discover more about the vehicle itself. The new DHS sanctioned 'Street Sweeper' (my own slang due to the gun ports) is built by Navistar Defense (NavistarDefense.com), a division within the Navistar organization. Under the Navistar umbrella are several other companies including International Trucks, IC Bus (they make school buses), Monaco RV (recreational vehicles), WorkHorse (they make chassis), MaxxFox (diesel engines), and Navistar Financial (the money arm of the company)." (Why the federal government needs armored vehicles with gun ports for the streets of America that can withstand IED blasts and RPG attacks is not known. It can be assumed that no reporter will ask Obama or press secretary Jay Carney.) Additionally, InforWars.com posts a video of hundreds of railroad flatcars transporting militarized DHS vehicles across Arizona. [43063, 43064, 43658, 43659]

In Egypt, Secretary of State John Kerry announces an additional \$250 million in U.S. aid to the Israel-hating and America-hating Mohammed Morsi regime. Kerry calls it "a good faith effort to spur reform." (Some might call it "giving Egypt money for weapons to use in an attack on Israel.") *The New York Times* reports that Congresswoman Kay Granger (R-TX) "...would use her position as chairwoman of the House appropriations subcommittee overseeing foreign aid to block the distribution of the money. She said the American relationship with Egypt 'has never been under more scrutiny' than it is in the wake of the election of President Mohamed Morsi, a former leader of the Muslim Brotherhood. 'I am not convinced of the urgent need for this assistance and I cannot support it at this time,' Ms. Granger said in a statement that her office issued even before the administration announced the package." (The Obama administration had hoped to give Egypt much more than \$250 million but was blocked from doing so by the House Foreign Affairs Committee which prefers doling out cash in smaller increments.) [43069, 43080, 43268]

On March 4 journalist David Brody appears on *Fox & Friends* and says that he too has been bullied by the Obama administration. Mediaite.com reports, "Brody revealed that in 2009 he was bullied by members of the administration for pursuing a story about the removal of a cross at Georgetown University ahead of a speech that Obama delivered

there. ‘What started as just some verbal frustration from the White House that I would even want a reason about this story turned into a full-fledged shouting match on the phone with some choice words, shall we say, and it escalated from there,’ Brody revealed. ... ‘They are rabid defenders of [Obama],’ Brody said of Obama’s staff. Brody said that the [political] right was ‘overly sensitive’ to that protective instinct in [Obama’s] first term, but now journalists across the spectrum are beginning to show their frustration.” [43074, 43075]

Asked by reporters about Organizing for Action’s announced “sale” of time with Obama in exchange for raising \$500,000 or more, press secretary Jay Carney responds, “Any notion that there is a set price for a meeting with [Obama] is just wrong. As you know, Organizing for Action was set up to promote [Obama’s] public policy agenda. Therefore, as anyone would expect, [Obama] would likely meet with their representatives to discuss his agenda. But again, any notion that there’s a price for meeting with [Obama] is simply wrong. ...I would send specific questions on how they do their fundraising to the organization. It is worth noting that they are going beyond what is required by disclosing donors and not accepting any funds from lobbyists. ...The White House sets [Obama’s] schedule. There is no price to meet with [Obama]. Organizations have fundraising. They raise money, and this one has committed to disclosing its fundraising activities, but I would refer you to them for more on that.” (Whether “there is no set price” means Obama sometimes offers discounts for White House access is not clear.) [43101, 43219, 43220]

Obama nominates Environmental Protection Agency air chief (and man-caused global warming believer) Gina McCarthy to replace Lisa Jackson as the head of the entire EPA, MIT physicist Ernest Moniz to replace Steven Chu as Secretary of Energy, and Sylvia Mathews Burwell to head the Office of Management and Budget. According to Politico, “Moniz served in the Clinton administration as undersecretary of energy. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Moniz is a physics professor and director of the university’s Energy Initiative, which draws funding from industry oil and gas heavyweights like BP, Saudi Aramco and Shell.” Moniz has also bought into the “man-caused global warming” theories, and has called for a “carbon tax” to make energy use more expensive to encourage the development of alternative fuels. In 2010 McCarthy said, “I didn’t go to Washington to sit around and wait for Congressional action. Never done that before, and don’t plan to in the future.” McCarthy apparently believes she should have more power than the Congress of the United States, and is eager to impose EPA regulations even without legislative authority. [43099, 43287, 43667, 43680]

DailyCaller.com reports on at least one Chicago teacher who was not happy with a field trip for school children to McCormick Place, the city’s enormous convention center, to hear Michelle Obama speak on February 28: “White House officials called the event ‘a groundbreaking, earth-shattering, awesomely-inspiring day.’ [Teacher] Lisa Putnam and her fifth grades most certainly did not experience the event the same way, however. According to Putnam, the event... was an unmitigated catastrophe.” Putnam states, “If you are a parent, imagine that you take your child on a trip and they are very excited. Now imagine they have to wait on a bus and stand in straight lines for three hours straight. Then imagine after one hour of ‘fun’ that they have to sit around and wait for

three more hours that bus to pick them up. Oh, did I mention that [they] are not allowed to have a morsel of food the entire time?” According to DailyCaller.com, “Most of the 90-minute trip to the convention center was spent sitting behind all the other busses [sic] full of kids staffers had shipped in as props. As per the request of Michelle Obama and her massive support staff, none of the children brought any food or drinks.” the children then had to stand in one line for security checks, then another line for over-sized T-shirts promoting Obama’s “Let’s Move” agenda, and then another line for entry into the “surprise” event. Putnam states, “We were told to keep our students in three straight quiet lines. Then, the students were ushered into a giant room with a stage and told they had to be very quiet, that there was a ‘surprise in there for them.’ Six thousand kids quiet? Good luck guy.” [43059, 43067, 43071, 43090]

“The students framed the stage on three sides and the media was seated on the four [sic] side of the rectangular square,” continues Putnam. “As the commercial, I mean event, began each athlete was introduced. They all had a 1–2 minute motivational speech that was so cheesy that none of the athletes really seemed to connect with the students and the messages did not resonate. It seemed like one giant Nike advertisement.” Michelle Obama then came onstage to address the media—not the children. “She was facing the media.” After the event, Putnam says she and her starving students had to wait more than two hours for the bus to take them back to school. “My students continually came up to me to tell me that they were hungry and ask why this was happening. We teachers feel responsible for our students and there was nothing we could do but wait. We were at the mercy of this poorly run event. Many of the parent chaperones had to make various arrangements for their younger students that they could no longer pick up from school. ...At 3:52 we finally departed from McCormick Place, exhausted, deflated, and hungry. This event was clearly not about the children, because their needs were not put first.” (Perhaps the Obama plan is for children to lose weight not by exercising, but by being deprived of lunches.) [43059,43067, 43071, 43090]

The mainstream media does its best to help the Obama tax hike agenda by running scare stories on the sequester cuts. Geoffrey Dickens reports at NewsBusters.org, “MRC [the Media Research Center] analysts reviewed all of the 88 sequestration stories, from when coverage began on February 14 through March 1 when the ‘cuts’ took effect, and found 58 (66 percent) of them advanced the most horrific Obama administration talking points. Another 10 offered the same scary forecasts but at least included the skeptical view that the sequestration reductions weren’t that big and their effects were being overhyped. ...CBS ran the most sequestration stories (43) with a whopping 37 (86 percent) of them hyping the danger of reducing spending. Charlie Rose’s hair on fire promo, aired on the February 25 This Morning, was typical of CBS’s coverage: ‘Kids without vaccines; schools without teachers; and massive airport delays—we’ll show you the worst-case scenario for government spending cuts.’ NBC ran a total of 27 stories, with 15 (56 percent) of them containing the kind of hyperbolic language delivered by Brian Williams on the February 19 Nightly News: ‘Deep impact... deep budget cuts poised to have a major impact on the military, law enforcement, even food inspection.’ ABC aired a total of 18 sequestration stories, 16 (89 percent) of which pushed budget panic. Most ABC stories took the tone of ABC’s David Kerley, who on the February 24 World News,

claimed the reductions sounded like ‘a disaster movie’ and warned: ‘Child care canceled for tens of thousands of kids. Long airport security lines. Flight delays with a shortage of controllers. And military cuts that will leave us ‘second rate’ according to the Defense Secretary.’” [43072]

Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (R-KS) tells reporters, “We have a spending problem and yet [Obama] continues to want to raise taxes. He got \$1 trillion in taxes with his health care bill; he got nearly \$700 billion at the beginning of the year; and now he’s roaming the country talking about closing loopholes. That I am pleased to hear because Republicans in the House have been talking about closing loopholes as a part of fundamental comprehensive tax reform for the last two years. But if he uses closing tax loopholes to pay for his addiction to spending, then that kills fundamental comprehensive tax reform, which is what the Ways and Means Committee has been working so hard on in the last two years and has an intent to pass [during] this next two years. Taxes is [sic] not the problem here in Washington. We’ll collect more in tax revenue this year than we’ve ever collected in the history of this nation.” [43100]

The Obama administration approves a \$227,437 grant for Michigan State University to examine 120 years of “images of animals” from National Geographic magazine “to see how people have changed their view of the natural world.” [43449]

In *The Telegraph*, Peter Foster reports, “Barack Obama is a ‘dithering’ president whose controlling tendencies and extreme risk-averse attitude to foreign policy has damaged US interests in the Middle East, according to a new book by a senior former State Department adviser. The insider-account of the damaging divisions between the White House and the State Department comes as diplomats around the world wait to see if John Kerry, the new US secretary of state, can persuade Mr. Obama to greater engagement on Syria, Egypt and the wider Middle East. Vali Nasr, a university professor who was seconded in 2009 to work with Richard Holbrooke, Mr. Obama’s special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, records his profound disillusion at how a ‘Berlin Wall’ of domestic-focused advisers was erected to protect Mr. Obama. ‘[Obama] had a truly disturbing habit of funneling major foreign policy decisions through a small cabal of relatively inexperienced White House advisers whose turf was strictly politics,’ Mr. Nasr writes in *The Dispensable Nation: America Foreign policy in Retreat*. The book sets out in detail how Mr. Holbrooke, appointed with great fanfare in 2009, was systematically cut out of decision making as both he and Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state, tried to argue the merits of engaging with the Taliban and the dangers caused by the overuse of drones. ‘The White House seemed to see an actual benefit in not doing too much,’ Prof Nasr writes, ‘The goal was to spare [Obama] the risks that necessarily come with playing the leadership role that America claims to play in this region.’” [43078]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The sequester cuts are now officially in place, but many government agencies appear to be hiring freely anyway. The U.S. Forest Service on Monday posted help-wanted ads for a few good men and women to work as ‘recreation aides’ this summer, the Internal Revenue Service advertised for an office secretary in Maryland, the U.S. Mint wanted 24 people to help press coins, and the Agriculture

Department said it needs three ‘insect production workers’ to help grow bollworms in Phoenix. Monday marked the first regular workday under sequestration, and federal agencies posted more than 400 job ads by 6 p.m. ... At the Homeland Security Department, which just days ago announced it was releasing some low-priority illegal immigrants from jails to await removal, the agency in charge of deportations advertised for an assistant to help with deportations. The annual salary for the job is \$60,765, enough to detain one immigrant for about 500 days.” [43081]

The Telegraph reports, “[Department of Homeland Security head Janet] Napolitano said today that major airports were seeing lines ‘150 to 200 per cent as long as we would normally expect’ as result of the federal spending cuts that went into force on Friday. ‘We’re already seeing the effects at some of the ports of entry, the big airports, for example. Some of them had very long lines this weekend,’ she told a breakfast event organised by Politico. When pressed for specifics she cited Chicago’s O’Hare, Atlanta’s Hartfield-Jackson and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), adding: ‘I don’t mean to scare, I mean to inform.’ However, when contacted by *The Daily Telegraph*, spokespeople for both O’Hare and LAX, as well as representatives from the travel industry, denied that airports had been hit by delays. ‘We haven’t had any slowdowns at all,’ said Marshall Lowe, a spokesman for LAX. Mr. Lowe said that he had been on duty over the weekend and received no reports of unusual security delays.” (In other words, Napolitano lied.) [42083, 43084, 43132]

HotAir.com reports on a stunning poll that shows 41 percent of Democrats support giving Obama the power *on his own* to kill U.S. citizens on U.S. soil via remote controlled drones if he believes they are terrorists. There would be no investigation, no arrest, and no trial. Obama could simply order a U.S. citizen executed—and 41 percent of Democrats find that acceptable. The Republican percentage is an almost as alarming 26 percent. Interestingly, more women than men support giving Obama that power, by 33 to 28 percent. (The poll responses would no doubt have been different had Mitt Romney defeated Obama in the November election.) [43094]

Appearing on *The O’Reilly Factor*, Fox News senior political analyst Brit Hume says, “Congressional leaders are normally behind-the-scenes people. ... They are really not normally the leading spokesman on the issues. ... That’s really a presidential job. ... Obama’s behavior in this business about the automatic budget cuts—this itself is the most peculiar behavior I have ever seen by a president. A normal president would be trying to reassure the public that this, after all, is not a large sum of money compared to the budget overall. [Obama] seems prepared to let the public suffer almost as much as possible, as long as he can blame somebody else. This is not what we expect of presidents. Presidents in the end are supposed to be the people who put [on] their big boy pants and prepare to shoulder responsibility...” [43088]

On March 5 Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com that upwards of six million Americans will be paying the new ObamaCare tax in 2014 for not having health insurance, according to the latest Congressional Budget Office estimate. Pavlich observes, “If you don’t have health insurance it’s probably for two main reasons. The

first being that you can't afford it or two, you're a healthy young person who doesn't feel like they [sic] need it at this point in life. Others may not have health insurance due to lack of employer coverage. Regardless, under new ObamaCare rules lacking health insurance results in a large ObamaCare fine/tax, something that forces people to pay for something they can't afford and young people to pay for something they don't need. Not to mention, when people are paying a fine and not receiving healthcare insurance in return, they're simply throwing money into a black hole that could have been saved to eventually purchase a plan." [43082]

According to DailyCaller.com, "A report by the Congressional Research Service shows that oil production on federal lands took another dip in 2012, while overall U.S. oil production has exploded due to increased production on private and state lands. 'All of the increased production from FY2007 to FY2012 took place on non-federal lands, causing the federal share of total U.S. crude oil production to fall by about seven percentage points,' according to the report. 'Overall, U.S. natural gas production rose by four trillion cubic feet (tcf) or 20% since 2007, while production on federal lands (onshore and offshore) fell by about 33% and production on non-federal lands grew by 40%.'" In his State of the Union address Obama bragged, "After years of talking about it, we are finally poised to control our own energy future. We produce more oil at home than we have in 15 years. We produce more natural gas than ever before—and nearly everyone's energy bill is lower because of it." (That production is despite Obama's policies, not because of them.) [43225, 43226]

Congressmen John Fleming (R-LA), Diane Black (R-TN), and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) hold a press conference to announce the introduction of the Health Care Conscience Rights Act (HCCRA). The legislation would protect First Amendment rights by guaranteeing a religious exemption for Americans who oppose the ObamaCare regulation requiring free contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization. The regulation would also protect health care providers who refuse to participate in abortions. (The legislation may pass in the House but is less likely to pass in the Senate—and Obama will probably issue a veto if it does pass.) [43091, 43092]

CNSNews.com reports, "The impending sequester did not prevent the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) from acting in late February to seal a \$50-million deal to purchase new uniforms for its agents—uniforms that will be partly manufactured in Mexico. Soon after this new investment in TSA uniforms, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano warned Americans that the lines are already lengthening at airports due to the sequester. ... The TSA employs 50,000 security officers, inspectors, air marshals and managers. That means that the uniform contract will pay the equivalent of \$1,000 per TSA employee over the course of the year." (The White House claims it was "unaware" of the \$50 million order.) Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) states, "I find it deeply disturbing that as [Department of Homeland Security] Secretary [Janet] Napolitano is running around scaring people by saying she is going to have to furlough employees because of sequester, that she would also spend \$50 million of taxpayer money on new uniforms. This is a classic failure in leadership. DHS has the flexibility it needs in the sequester to cut waste, fraud, and abuse from its budget. Instead, Secretary

Napolitano is making the active decision to furlough personnel and is trying to manufacture a scenario where passengers have to wait in longer lines.” [43097, 43142, 43193]

Congressman Tim Griffin (R-AR) obtains an Obama administration email that makes it clear the White House is “intentionally undermin[ing] government operations in order to score political points” with the issue of sequestration cuts. Griffin issues a statement: “This email confirms what many Americans have suspected: The Obama Administration is doing everything they [sic] can to make sure their worst predictions come true and to maximize the pain of the Sequester cuts for political gain. Instead of cutting waste, the Obama Administration is hurting workers. ...Obama should stop protecting wasteful government spending.” In response to an inquiry from Charles Brown, the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) eastern regional director, about how to reduce the impact of the sequester cuts, his superior responded in an email: “We have gone on record with a notification to Congress and whoever else that ‘APHIS would eliminate assistance to producers in 24 States in managing wildlife damage to the aquaculture industry, unless they provide funding to cover the costs.’ So, it is our opinion that however you manage that reduction, you need to make sure you are not contradicting what we said the impact would be.” (In other words, “Even if the sequester cuts do *not* impact your operations, you should eliminate assistance anyway. Make them feel the pain even if you don’t have to.”) For the record, in previous months Obama *twice* ordered his administration *not* to plan for sequester cuts—because he expected the Republicans to cave in and give him more tax increases. Meanwhile, there are no plans to cancel USDA employee participation in the upcoming 26th California Small Farm Conference in Fresno. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “The event will feature USDA speakers, field trips, a banquet and a tasting reception... Conference organizers promise the tasting will be a ‘mouthwatering event’ featuring ‘fine wines and exceptional micro-brews paired with seasonally driven culinary delicacies.’” [43102, 43104, 43110, 43136, 43153, 43154, 43235]

The House Appropriations Committee holds a subcommittee meeting attended by Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control. Congressman Andy Harris (R-MD) points out that although the Obama administration has attempted to frighten parents by warning that fewer vaccinations would be available for their children because of about \$30 million in sequestration cuts to the 317 Immunization Program, Obama’s own budget proposal submitted in 2012 for 2013 called for \$58 million less for the agency. Frieden admits to Harris that his agency believed it would have been able to avoid vaccination shortages for children with \$58 million less. (That means that a \$30 million cut would not, in fact, mean vaccination shortages, despite the Obama administration’s warnings that it would.) [43184, 43192, 43345]

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee releases a report outlining \$67 billion in savings the government could achieve simply by implementing—rather than ignoring—more than 10,000 recommendations made over four years by internal auditors of federal departments. [43292]

The media reports the death of Venezuela's socialist dictator, Hugo Chavez. (It is possible, and perhaps likely, that Chavez had been dead for weeks, although the media claims he died from his cancer on March 5 at 4:25 p.m. Venezuela time.) Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro charges that the United States assassinated Chavez with a cancer ray or death ray of some sort. Among those mourning the death of the thug are actor Sean Penn, director Oliver Stone, and former president Jimmy Carter. Penn states, "Today the people of the United States lost a friend it never knew it had. And poor people around the world lost a champion. I lost a friend I was blessed to have. My thoughts are with the family of President Chavez and the people of Venezuela. Venezuela and its revolution will endure under the proven leadership of Vice President Maduro." Stone says, "I mourn a great hero." Carter states, "We came to know a man who expressed a vision to bring profound changes to his country to benefit especially those people who had felt neglected and marginalized." Chavez, states Carter, "will be remembered for his bold assertion of autonomy and independence for Latin American governments and for his formidable communication skills and personal connection with supporters in his country and abroad to whom he gave hope and empowerment." Congressman Jose Serrano (D-NY), who has called for the repeal of the Twenty Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution so that Obama can serve for life, says, "Hugo Chavez was a leader that [sic] understood the needs of the poor. He was committed to empowering the powerless. R.I.P. Mr. President." (Obama mourns the loss of his socialist friend in private.) [10476, 10477, 43105, 43113, 43115, 43116, 43117, 43118, 43120, 43121, 43130, 43148, 43167, 43384]

Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) releases an internal U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE) document showing that the Obama administration plans to release thousands of detained illegal aliens, using the sequestration cuts as an excuse. According to DailyCaller.com, "The document revealed that from Feb. 15 to March 31, 2013, ICE planned to release 1,000 detainees a week, reducing their detainee numbers from 30,748 to 26,748 ..." Goodlatte states that the document "shows that Administration officials at ICE prepared cold calculations to release thousands of criminal aliens onto the streets and did not demonstrate any consideration of the impact this decision would have on the safety of Americans. ... Clearly, there are better ways to save money than to release criminals onto the streets. The House Judiciary Committee has found several ways the Department could save money in light of sequestration, such as reducing staff bonuses and performance awards and using unspent funds from inefficient state and local grant programs. But regardless of sequestration, DHS actually has plenty of funding to pay for the detention of criminal aliens. ... The Judiciary Committee plans to hold a hearing on this issue soon to get down to the bottom of this problematic situation." [43111, 43128]

Congressman Paul Broun (R-GA) says that Obama "should have to personally apologize to every soldier, every teacher, every firefighter, and every single other American he lied to and used as a pawn in his sequester game. *The Washington Times* uncovered hard evidence today that the Administration has flat out been using scare tactics to trick the American people into thinking the sequester needs to be administered in the most detrimental way possible. As shown in this article, many agencies would be able to achieve savings through modest and reasonable spending cuts. Unfortunately, it seems

that responsible cuts don't fit with the Administration's message of 'big spending, or else.' Republicans didn't cave into ...Obama's demand for higher taxes, the sequester went into place, and the world didn't come to an end—so now [Obama] is trying to cover his tracks because he knows he cried wolf. What he's doing is shameful, and I hope the American people hold him accountable.” [43138]

The Obama administration announces that White House tours are being cancelled “until further notice” as a result of the sequestration agreement cuts. Congressman Kevin Cramer (R-ND) charges, “It's politically motivated. It seems childish—take my ball and go home.” DailyCaller.com reports that Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) has “introduced an amendment to the Continuing Resolution that would not provide the White House with any taxpayer funds to transport ...Obama to and from any golf course until they resume White House public tours.” Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich comments, “Canceling white house tours is childish and dishonest. [Obama's] golf weekend in Florida cost enough to keep the white house open for months. Obama should be challenged... this is silly and demeaning. Now I guess the only way to get inside Obama WH is to give \$500,000 to OFA [Organizing for America].” The Republican National Committee remarks, “Want to reschedule your canceled WH tour? That'll be \$500,000.” Congressman Tom Graves (R-GA) says, “Rather than do his job and agree to take responsible measures to get our government's finances in order, ...Obama continues playing on the emotions and fears of the American people. Canceling all self-guided White House tours is the latest shameless political stunt by [Obama], who is twisting basic government efficiency into an extreme consequence. As the White House doors are slammed in the face of the average American, I want to know if they will still swing wide open for Hollywood and the liberal elite. Will Jay-Z and Beyonce still get to stop by for a tour, or will they be denied like those who aren't rich and famous? Will someone who donates half a million dollars to Organizing for Action get a tour, or will they be denied just like someone from Summerville, Georgia, who might drive ten hours for a self-guided tour? The American people deserve to know if this also spells the end for wild, 2:00 a.m. parties at the White House with celebrities like Katy Perry and Swizz Beatz.” [43106, 43107, 43114, 43119, 43127, 43131, 43149, 43174]

While the White House cuts back on tours, WeeklyStandard.com reports that it continues to pay its “chief calligrapher” \$96,725 per year. Two “deputy calligraphers” earn \$85,953 and \$94,372. The taxpayers spend more than \$277,000 per year for fancy handwriting on invitations and other documents. Fox News later reports on the “global warming” salaries paid by the taxpayers: Obama has on staff a “deputy assistant” for energy and climate change, a “special assistant” for energy and environment, and a “deputy director” for energy and climate change. “Together, their salaries totaled over \$370,000 last year, according to White House records.” (Exactly what those three staffers do to earn their salaries is not known. A personal computer, printer, and a script font can perform the same functions for \$1,000.) [43137, 43186, 43295, 43343]

In a letter to his constituents, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) states, “The White House announced today that White House tours are being canceled effective Saturday, March 9, 2013 until further notice due to staffing reductions resulting from sequestration.

Sequestration, as you may know, is the term for the mandatory federal budget cuts that went into effect March 1 under the terms of a bipartisan budget law enacted in 2011. Under sequestration, federal agencies and offices are required to find ways to reduce unnecessary spending within their budgets, and to do more with less, as many American families are being forced to do in the current economy. While I'm disappointed the White House has chosen to comply with sequestration by cutting public tours, I'm pleased to assure you that public tours of the United States Capitol will continue. Under the leadership of the House officers and their teams, who oversee daily operations in the Capitol in consultation with the Office of the Speaker, planning for the possibility of sequestration has been underway for some time. Consequently, alternative spending reductions have been implemented within the Capitol complex to ensure public tours and other regular activities can proceed as they normally would." (In other words, even though Obama is incompetent and did not prepare for the sequester cuts, the House of Representatives did.) [43177]

On March 6 The House Science, Space and Technology Committee postpones its environmental subcommittee's hearing on global warming because of an anticipated snowstorm in Washington, D.C. [43144, 43152]

The satire site TheDailyRash.com "reports," "The White House announced this morning that because of the automatic spending cuts known as sequestration, ...Obama was forced to tell Michelle Obama's mother, Marian Robinson, she had to move out of the White House. Moments after his mother-in-law and her possessions disappeared through the gates of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave in a rented U-haul truck, Obama met with reporters in the Rose Garden. [Obama's] tone was melancholy as he answered questions about moving his wife's mother out of the White House and into a small apartment in the southeastern part of the city. [The action was necessary] Because the funds necessary to heat her room, provide her meals and pay her cable bill dried up a few hours after the sequestration kicked in. It's the last thing I wanted to do but the Republicans left me with little choice. ...We were able to pull a few strings and get her into a government housing facility that's relatively close to the White House. ...Something like this is never easy. My wife is very upset and my children are confused. But what can you do? If the money's gone you're kind of stuck. It's not like I didn't warn everyone about the devastating effects of sequestration. ...Understandably she's disappointed. But she is well aware that, along with the stagnant economy and soaring national debt, the blame for her eviction falls on my predecessor and the Republican congress. ...[T]he area where she'll be living ain't exactly Mayberry, if you know what I'm saying. Fact is, the crime rate is one of the highest in the city. So Joe's gift [Joe Biden's gift of a shotgun] affords us a small token of reassurance that mom will be able to protect herself. It's only a matter of weeks until those 175 million jobs are lost, which will spark the inevitable collapse of public transportation systems along with the police and fire departments. The inability to pay our prison guards is going to flood the streets with rapists and murderers while the release of demented psychotics from government run mental hospitals will only escalate the carnage. Knowing mom has her double barrel shotgun will be a comfort and help us sleep at night. ...[S]he'll be fine. I have no doubt that in no time she'll make some new friends who will help fill the time she used to spend following us around." [44197]

On the floor of the Senate, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) calls for a rejection of John Brennan as Obama's new CIA director in order to emphasize his opposition to the Obama administration's domestic drone assassination policy. Paul says, "I will speak until I can no longer speak. I will speak as long as it takes until the alarm is sounded from coast to coast that our Constitution is important, that your rights to trial by a jury are precious, that no American should be killed by a drone on American soil without first being charged with a crime, without first being found to be guilty by a court. I will speak today until [Obama] responds and says, 'No, we won't kill Americans in cafes. No, we won't kill you at home in your bed at night. ...Are we so afraid of terrorism, are we so afraid of terrorists that we're willing to just throw out our rights and freedom? ...I'm not standing down [here] as a Republican who will never vote for a Democrat. I voted for the first two—I voted for the first three nominees by [Obama]. This is not about partisanship. I have allowed [Obama] to pick his political appointees but I will not sit quietly and let him shred the Constitution. I cannot sit at my desk quietly and let [Obama] say that he will kill Americans on American soil who aren't actively attacking our country. The answer should be so easy. I can't imagine that he will not expressly come forward and say, 'No, I will not kill Americans on American soil.'" [43146, 43147, 43150, 43155, 43158, 43159]

Rand continues, "...I will not sit quietly and let [Obama] shred the Constitution," and references a *National Review* article in which Kevin Williamson asked whether the Obama standard could have been used by Presidents Nixon and Johnson to bomb college campuses in the 1960s to eradicate anti-American revolutionaries. "To be bombed in your sleep? There's nothing American about that. There's nothing constitutional about that." Paul asks, "Has America the beautiful become 'Alice in Wonderland'?" When I asked [Obama], 'Can you kill an American on American soil?' it should have been an easy answer—an unequivocal no. But his answer was, 'I haven't killed anyone yet and I have no intention of killing Americans, but I might.'" Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) says, "Your standing here today like a modern *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* must surely be making Jimmy Stewart smile. My only regret is that there are not 99 of your colleagues here today standing with you in defense of the most fundamental principle in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution." [43146, 43147, 43150, 43155, 43158, 43159, 43187, 43200]

Cruz also reads the famous February 24, 1836 letter sent by Colonel William Barret Travis from the Alamo mission: "Fellow citizens and compatriots; I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual Bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country. Victory or Death." [43250, 43251]

Throughout Paul's filibuster the White House has no comment—which one might take to mean Obama continues to believe he has the power to ignore the Constitution and use a drone to assassinate a U.S. citizen on American soil.

At about 7:15 p.m. Senator Paul offers to end his filibuster and allow a vote of Obama's CIA nominee, John Brennan, if Senate Democrats would allow a vote on a non-binding resolution declaring opposition to targeted drone assassinations of U.S. citizens on U.S. soil. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) objects. (Paul's proposed resolution reads, "the use of drones to execute or target American citizens on American soil who pose no imminent threat clearly violates Constitutional rights" of due process.) Why Durbin is afraid of a vote on a "no-brainer" issue is unclear, unless he is in favor of such killings and has no use for the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments to the Constitution.) [43165, 43166, 43170]

An ABC/Washington Post polls shows that Americans support the non-military sequester cuts by 61 to 33 percent. [43125]

Obama's approval rating drops to 43 percent in a Reuters/Ipsos poll. [43126, 43156]

By a vote of 267–151 the House of Representatives approves a "continuing resolution" legislation to fund the government through the remainder of 2013—even though the Democrat-controlled Senate has yet to pass a budget. The continuing resolution, or CR, authorizes spending at levels that include the sequester cuts. (Without the CR the government would have to shut down operations at the end of March.) To the dismay of the more conservative members of the House, the CR includes funding for the implementation of ObamaCare. [43139, 43189, 43208]

CNSNews.com reports, "The White House may be closed to spring break visitors because of staff shortages blamed on spending reductions, but it looks like the White House Easter Egg roll, a party for 35,000 hosted by the Obama family, is still on" for Monday, April 1. Meanwhile, DailyCaller.com reports, "The annual salary for the director of the White House Visitors Office, Ellie S. Schafer, went from \$70,000 in 2009 to \$100,000 in 2012. According to annual reports to Congress on White House staff salaries, Schafer was paid \$70,000 in 2009, \$71,400 in 2010, \$80,000 in 2011 and \$100,000 in 2012." [43140, 43176]

In a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, a persistent Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) gets Attorney General Eric Holder (who is sometimes referred to as "Epic Holdup") to admit that killing an American on U.S. soil via a drone strike would be unconstitutional. In a stunning March 4 letter Holder wrote, "[T]he U.S. government... has no intention of (carrying out drone strikes in the United States." (Having "no intention" sounds like a husband telling his wife, "I promise I will never beat you again.") "As a policy matter... we reject the use of military force where well-established law enforcement authorities provide the best means for incapacitating a terrorist threat." (In fact, the Posse Comitatus Act prohibits the military from acting as civilian police officers. The issue is not a matter

of *policy*. The issue is a matter of *constitutionality*. Holder's lawyerly statement is meant to obfuscate.) "It is possible... to imagine an extraordinary circumstance in which it would be necessary and appropriate for [Obama] to authorize the military to use lethal force within the territory of the United States." (Holder should learn that the purpose of the military is to defend the United States against attacks from other nations, *not* to go after U.S. citizens. Holder does not provide an example of the "extraordinary circumstance" he would use as an excuse for the military to use a drone to assassinate an American on U.S. soil.) Holder says he would "examine the particular facts and circumstances before advising [Obama] on the scope of his authority." (In other words, Americans should simply trust Obama and Holder to do the right thing, regardless of the U.S. Constitution. The Bill of Rights is always applicable; not just when Obama and Holder see fit.) [43143, 43151, 43183, 43191, 43240, 43241]

Senate Republicans block a cloture vote on Caitlin Harrigan, a far-left radical attorney Obama has tried five times to nominate to the Washington D.C. Circuit Court. [43178]

Attorney Orly Taitz issues a press release: "14 U.S. Congressman and House Judiciary Committee were served with subpoenas with attached Urgent Demand for Verification [of Obama's eligibility to serve as president] to be provided within 2 weeks by March 19th. If they do not comply, they are in contempt of court. Most of the congressmen served are members of the Judiciary committee. Most of them are attorneys, former prosecutors and judges. Proof of service on every Congressman is being posted on orlytaitzesq.com today and tomorrow. Copies are being sent by certified mail to the US Attorneys' office-Department of Justice and are being filed with the presiding Judge Morrison C. England. Donations to cover expenses are greatly appreciated. Law abiding U.S. citizens have a right to contact their congressmen and demand that they comply with subpoenas expeditiously." [43157, 43161, 43162, 43171]

At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield reports that Michelle Obama will present an "International Women of Courage Award" to anti-American, anti-Semite Samira Ibrahim at a March 8 ceremony. According to the State Department, Ibrahim "was among seven women subjected by the Egyptian military to forced virginity tests in March 2011." Ibrahim "was arrested while in high school for writing a paper that criticized Arab leaders' insincere support to the Palestinian cause." What the State Department does not mention is that in response to the murder of five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian bus driver in a suicide bombing attack, Ibrahim issued a Twitter message: "An explosion on a bus carrying Israelis in Burgas airport in Bulgaria on the Black Sea. Today is a very sweet day with a lot of very sweet news." She has described the Saudi royal family as "dirtier than the Jews," and once said, "I have discovered with the passage of days, that no act contrary to morality, no crime against society, takes place, except with the Jews having a hand in it. Hitler [said that]." On the day mobs attacked the U.S. embassy in Cairo and four Americans were killed in Benghazi, Ibrahim stated, "Today is the anniversary of 9/11. May every year come with America burning." (The Obama administration apparently believes a woman who makes such statements deserves an award.) [43160, 43163, 43164, 43227, 43275]

Americans for Tax Reform reports that the Internal Revenue Service will be totally unprepared to deal with the "...47 new taxes and regulations to administer in overseeing Obamacare." [43207]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) states that he will introduce an amendment to the upcoming spending bill that would delay funding for the implementation of ObamaCare: "I believe we should continue to delay such funding at least until economic growth returns to historic averages, and I intend to object to consideration of any continuing resolution that does not include a vote to delay funding of ObamaCare." (His amendment will, of course, go nowhere in the Democrat-controlled Senate.) [43175]

As the House of Representatives gets ready to release its budget proposal, House Budget Committee chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) tells reporters, "I find it interesting that [Obama has] chosen to blow [his budget] deadline again, not only by a week or two, which is what we've seen in the past, but for an indefinite period of time and waiting for others to lead first. The person in the White House ought to lead. That's what [Obama is] supposed to do. And by delaying your budget for an indefinite period of time, [it] shows that there's just not a seriousness of purpose to actually fixing our budget problems. ... Our goal and hope here is not to pass a budget and then forget about it. Our goal is to get a down payment on this problem for America. The value of a Republican majority ought to be, at the very least, to help delay a debt crisis from hitting this country and hurting everybody. ... The Senate's finally doing a budget. [Obama] hasn't, but the Senate is. And it is my hope that we can start talking to each other and start solving some problems." (The White House blames the sequestration cuts for its failure to produce a budget. That excuse—invalid as may or may not be—does not apply, however, to the prior four years of deadlines Obama has missed.) [43181, 43182]

With the Obama administration refusing to even give Congress and the media the names of the 30 or so survivors of the Benghazi attack, let alone allow them to be interviewed, Democrat analysts Kirsten Powers says on Special Report, "Someone needs to ask [Obama] to define the word 'transparency,' because I think he has a different understanding of it than other people." (*The Obama Timeline* believes the administration continues to shield the Benghazi survivors because Obama cannot afford to have anyone reveal the truth: the incident was a failed scheme to have U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens kidnapped by terrorists and then traded for the "blind sheikh," Omar Abdel Rahman, the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. At FreedomOutpost.com Tim Brown writes that retired Four-Star Admiral James "Ace" Lyons "has put forth that the Obama administration softened security in Benghazi to reduce the possibility that resistance would be minimal as the Ansar al-Sharia terrorist organization kidnapped Ambassador Chris Stevens. They just were not counting on Americans to step up and resist, like those brave souls which included former U.S. Navy Seals Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty, and State Department information manager Sean Smith. Woods and Doherty, ignored order to 'stand down.'" Obama planned to ride a wave of popularity to reelection by "brilliantly negotiating" a deal for the release of Stevens. The collapse of the plan should have ended Obama's political career—but the mainstream media rode to his rescue and ran interference for him.) [43188, 43757]

On ABC's evening newscast, Diane Sawyer tells viewers, "The White House says they're forced to shut down White House tours. Little kids are disappointed, and people have been e-mailing us today saying, 'Really? Is that the only way to save money?'" [43199]

Using a 20-car motorcade for a half-mile ride to a restaurant at the Jefferson Hotel, Obama joins 12 Republican Senators for dinner—ostensibly for the purpose of persuading them to raise taxes and not cut spending. Obama's dinner guests are Senators Lindsey Graham, Bob Corker, Kelly Ayotte, John McCain, Dan Coats, Tom Coburn, Richard Burr, Mike Johanns, Pat Toomey, Ron Johnson, John Hoeven, and Saxby Chambliss. Dozens of journalists in the mainstream media refer to Obama's dinner play as a "charm offensive"—as if he has any charm or could use it to persuade Republicans to raise taxes. (Michelle Malkin calls it Obama's "smarm offensive.") During the dinner conversation Obama makes the delusional claim that he had already come up with \$3.9 trillion in deficit reduction. (In *The Wall Street Journal* Peggy Noonan later writes of one Senator's reaction to the meeting: "[Obama's] idea of a process is, 'You guys figure it out and work with my staff, and if you need me call me.' But in the end, unless [Obama] really gets engaged and forces meeting after meeting, I don't see how you get past the logjam. ...If he just takes the standoff attitude—my guess is he's gotta be smart enough to know that's not gonna work." Another Senator comments, "At the end I mentioned, 'Share [with us] how you see this going forward.' ...[Obama] "got hazy. ...I told him this will never work without adult supervision from the White House. I don't think he comprehends that this is part of getting something done." Noonan states "[One] argument is that nonnegotiating is actually [Obama's] way of negotiating—drive the other side crazy by withholding involvement and information, talk over Congress's head to the public." "If you really want a grand bargain," suggests Noonan, "that dinner was exactly where you'd make it clear you'll work with them every step of the way, you'll own this, you'll lead. It doesn't sound like that's what [Obama] did.") [43112, 43133, 43145, 43159, 43236, 43291, 43296, 43315, 43380]

On *The Daily Show*, Jon Stewart comments on Senator Rand Paul's filibuster: "Holy Howard Roark's ghost—it looks like we got us a good old fashion actual talkie filibuster. ...Rand Paul had sent a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder asking just a simple question: 'Can the president use a drone to take out an American citizen on U.S. soil?' You would think he would get a letter back like, 'No, way.' Holder writes him back a letter never directly addressing the question [but which] kind of, sort of implied that hypothetically in the right [circumstances]—'Yes, yes, we can do that. We can do that, probably won't, but yes.' So, Senator Rand Paul, to draw attention to the issue of the execution of executive executions, executed the classical old school filibuster. I mean he's out there talking. This isn't one of those—he's using the filibuster the way it's meant to be used. [I] can't say I agree with Rand Paul about everything, but as issues go, drone oversight is one certainly worth kicking up a fuss for." [43173, 43222]

Joining Senator Paul in the filibuster, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) states, "...[A]t whatever point we get to a cloture vote to extend debate on the nomination of [John] Brennan, it is my view that cloture should not be invoked. This is a

controversial nominee. Should cloture be invoked, I intend to oppose the nomination and congratulate my colleague from Kentucky for this extraordinary effort.” (That is, McConnell will force the Democrats to find 60 votes to end debate on the Brennan nomination.) [43195]

On March 7 Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) ends his 13-hour filibuster speech at 12:42 a.m. As he stops speaking, the number one Twitter feed is #StandWithRand. C-SPAN2 enjoys much higher than normal ratings during his marathon talk, which was intended to bring focus to the Obama regime’s belief that it can ignore the Constitution and assassinate U.S. citizens simply because it believes they may be a terrorist threat. Paul is aided in his filibuster by lengthy questions from several Republicans that allow him time to rest his voice. Democrat Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon also cooperates, stating, “Every American has the right to know when their government believes that it is allowed to kill them,” and thereby proving that at least one Democrat believes U.S. citizens have constitutional rights that Obama should not be allowed to abrogate. (Most Senate Democrats apparently believe it is not acceptable for the Bush administration government to waterboard captured terrorists but it is acceptable for the Obama administration to assassinate Americans with drone strikes on U.S. soil.) [43168, 43172, 43173, 43187, 43194]

According to Twitter.com, more than one million “Tweets” about Rand Paul’s filibuster were sent during his marathon speech. [43229]

TheBlaze.com compiles the more memorable statements from Paul’s filibuster: “Are you going to just drop a Hellfire missile on Jane Fonda? Are you going to drop a missile on Kent State? ...That’s gobbledygook.” “I think its also safe to say that Barack Obama of 2007 would be right down here with me arguing against this drone-strike program if he were in the Senate.” “I have hounded and hounded and hounded him [John Brennan]... Only after yanking his chain... does he say he’s going to obey the law. We should be alarmed by that.” “I’m not saying that anyone is Hitler, don’t misunderstand me. But what I am saying that is... when a democracy gets it wrong, you want the law to be in place.” “I have allowed [Obama] to pick his political appointees. But I will not sit quietly and let him shred the Constitution.” “If there were an ounce of courage in this body I would be joined by other senators... saying they will not tolerate this.” “[Obama] was elected by a majority, but the majority doesn’t get to decide who we execute [under his drone program].” “This [filibuster] will be a blip in his nomination process. But I hope people will see it as an argument for how important our rights are.” “Are you so afraid [of terrorists] that you are willing to trade your freedom for security?” [43180]

Other statements by Rand: “Can [Obama] have the power to decide when the Bill of Rights applies?” “Someone in the media should ask [Obama], do you plan on killing Americans who are not in combat? People he might be accusing of some kind of crime but who are not actually engaged in combat? It should be an easy question [to answer].” “We’ll take a telegram [from the White House]. We’ll even take a tweet... if they let us know that they acknowledge that their power is not unlimited.” “If you have a war that has no end, if you have a war that has no geographic limit, and then if you have strikes

that have no constitutional bounds, basically what you have is an unlimited imperial presidency.” “But even under George Bush, nobody ever maintained they could kill Americans at home. I can’t imagine that [Obama], when he comes forward and says that he hasn’t killed Americans yet and he doesn’t intend to do it, but he might, that somehow we’re supposed to be placated by that.” “The [Obama] who ran for office and said we’re not going to tap phones without a warrant, the [Obama] who ran for office and said we’re not going to torture people, now says we’re going to kill people with no due process. I find that incredibly hypocritical and incredibly ironic.” “I don’t know how to halfway believe in the Fifth Amendment.” “[Obama] above all people... should realize that his opinion is [legally] not so important. For him to say he doesn’t intend to kill people, I would defy a constitutional lawyer in this country to say that’s important.” “No president has the right to say that he is judge, jury and executioner!” “It’s not a question between GOP and Democrats, it’s a question between [Obama] and the Constitution.” “Bush started this, Obama is expanding this. The irony is that Obama ran as the anti-Bush candidate.” “I cannot sit at my desk quietly and let [Obama] say that he will kill Americans on American soil who are not actively attacking a country.” “Do we not get the opportunity to explain ourselves in a court of law before we get a Hellfire missile dropped on our heads?” “To those who would say it’s a battlefield: [like] hell it’s a battlefield. This is our country.” “Where’s the cacophony that stood up and said ‘How can you tap my phone without going to a judge first?’ I say, ‘How can you kill someone without going to a judge first?’” [43240, 43262]

North Korea threatens the United States with a nuclear strike over military drills in South Korea. The government-run news agency KCNA states, “Since the United States is about to ignite a nuclear war, we will be exercising our right to preemptive nuclear attack against the headquarters of the aggressor in order to protect our supreme interest.” (North Korea’s leaders are perhaps flexing their muscles because their third nuclear test, conducted on February 12, resulted in nothing but a few words of denouncement from the Obama administration.) [43169]

At Mediaite.com Noah Rothman writes, “Much will be written about Sen. Rand Paul’s (R-KY) filibuster. It may be viewed through the prism of history as a turning point. It may be quickly forgotten as subsequent events diminish its relevance. Before Wednesday, however, Paul spoke for a narrow slice of the Republican Party’s coalition. Today, he speaks for a reinvigorated GOP base. But as the hours wore on, another phenomenon began to take shape—Paul’s ultimately unsuccessful efforts to rein in the president spoke directly to the forgotten millions of Americans wary of the ever-expanding scope of the unconstrained global war on terror. Paul offered himself up as something of a martyr. His voice, once lonely, grew in stature as his Republican colleagues—one after the next—shared his demand for redress from the White House, though all knew that would not be forthcoming. It was poetic. It was romantic. What may be most important, it reframed Congressional Republicans. All of the sudden, they were fighting for a cause with self-evident nobility that requires no public education campaign: life, liberty, and due process. In filibustering, Paul chipped away at the monopoly on romance that the left has enjoyed for more than a century. ...[Paul’s] actions broke through traditional firewalls that keep politics out of the homes of the nation’s marginally

interested voters. He showed that the struggle for personal freedom is an idealistic pursuit. For a moment, the pervasive cynicism that has hardened voting patterns over the last two decades melted away. The political class will miss it, but the apolitical citizenry who could care less for what a consultant or a pundit says or thinks will not. The shift that Paul's actions have ushered in will not remain imperceptible for long." [43196]

HotAir.com comments on Senator Rand Paul's filibuster performance: "Paul's performance yesterday was, I think, the biggest rout Obama's suffered since the 2010 midterms. ...If Obama caved to Paul's demand that he formally repudiate drone strikes on Americans inside the U.S., he'd lose. If he stayed conspicuously silent while Paul begged him, hour after hour, to simply be the guy he pretended to be in 2008, he'd lose. Meanwhile, the spectacle of seeing Obama humiliated on a big political stage in the name of civil liberties managed to bring both libertarians and mainstream conservatives into alignment, however temporarily, behind the Paulian view of the war on terror. And the left, which is usually frantic to come to O's defense, had to sit mostly silent after being reminded that they're supposed to be critical of executive overreach on terrorism. It was a shockingly deft play by a guy whose patrilineage did not suggest an ability to rally support from mainstream Republicans. ...No one, including me, doubts that Paul spoke from the heart. As Noah Rothman puts it, he chipped away at the Democrats' 'monopoly on romance,' which may mean something to young voters." [43185]

Because of Senator Paul's 13-hour speech, White House press secretary Jay Carney is forced to admit to reporters that Obama "has not and would not use drone strikes against American citizens on American soil. ...Whether the lethal force in question is a drone strike or a gun shot, the law and the Constitution apply in the same way." Attorney General Eric Holder sends a letter to Paul confirming that opinion. Holder's letter consists of only two sentences: "It has come to my attention that you have now asked an additional question: 'Does [Obama] have the authority to use a weaponized drone to kill an American not engaged in combat on American soil?' The answer to that question is no." Holder's snippy response makes it sound as though Paul's question is new; it is most certainly not. Additionally, Holder only states that a "weaponized drone" would be considered off limits to Obama. He does not state that Obama would never use a covert CIA agent to assassinate an American who disagrees with administration policies. Holder left a loophole large enough for Michelle Obama to stroll through. Nevertheless, Paul calls Holder's letter satisfactory and says he will not block a vote to confirm Brennan as head of the CIA. Paul states, "I'm quite happy with the answer. Through the advise and consent process, I've got an important answer." [43190, 43197, 43198, 43202, 43205, 43216]

At NationalReview.com Mark Krikorian writes, "The genius of [Senator] Rand Paul's [filibuster] effort was similar to the partial-birth abortion fight—it focused on a narrow, rare circumstance so outlandish that supporting it marks you as a kook. That only works, of course, if your opponents stick to their outlandish position—that, for instance, it's okay to deliver a full-term baby backwards, then crack its skull open and vacuum out its brain. The administration walked right into this problem when [Attorney General] Eric Holder repeatedly refused to say [that Obama] was prohibited by the Constitution from

assassinating Americans in the United States when there was no attack imminent. Unlike the partial-birth abortion issue, the White House has finally conceded the point, but the political damage to Obama has been done.” [43201]

At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey notes that canceling White House tours saves the government about \$18,000 per week, based on 20 hours of tours and 30 accompanying Secret Service agents at \$30 per hour. But Obama has traveled 5,200 miles over the last few weeks to argue against the sequestration cuts, which accounts for about \$1.6 million in Air Force One expenses. Morrissey writes, “That would have paid for 88 weeks of White House tours. The Secret Service budget increased \$66 million from FY2011 to the sequestered level of FY2013. That pays for three thousand, six hundred and sixty-six weeks of White House tours, or over 70 years of tours. I’ll bet if the Secret Service cut back on its drinks-and-hookers expenses while overseas, we could get that to round up to an even 4,000 weeks, too.” (If the IRS were to collect the \$3.5 billion in back taxes owed by 312,000 federal employees, the White House tours could be funded for 194,444 weeks, or 3,739 years.) The Secret Service claims that its coverage of White House tours costs \$74,000 per week. (It might be cheaper to have no federal chaperones and to simply buy a new vase when a visitor accidentally knocks one over and breaks it.) [43179, 43260, 43267]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Obama administration pulled back on plans to give an award to an Egyptian activist after anti-American and anti-Semitic messages were discovered on her Twitter account. Samira Ibrahim, an Egyptian activist who rallied worldwide attention against forced ‘virginity tests’ on female protesters, was supposed to be honored Friday along with nine others by first lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry. The State Department, though, announced that it would postpone the International Women of Courage award while officials investigate the tweets. Ibrahim is now headed back home.” (Ibrahim initially claims her Twitter account was hacked and that the messages were not hers. After she realizes she will not get away with that line of defense—her blog is also full of anti-American and anti-Israel comments—and that no award will be forthcoming, she defiantly states, “I refuse to apologize to the Zionist lobby in America regarding my previous anti-Zionist statements under pressure from American government therefore they withdrew the award.”) State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland says, “After careful consideration we’ve decided that we should defer preventing this award to Miss Ibrahim this year so that we have a chance to look further into these statements.” (Some might argue that “careful consideration” should have gone into investigating Ibrahim *before* the Obama administration decided to present an award to her.) [43203, 43210, 43224, 43227, 43228, 43275]

Obama signs the Violence Against Women Act—which won’t end violence against women any more than gun registration and confiscation will end shootings. (Whether wife-abusing Muslim-Americans will object is not known, but in Egypt the Muslim Brotherhood says the United Nations document on violence against women “clash[es] with Islamic principles,” “eliminates Islamic values,” and “seeks to destroy the family... which would lead to social disintegration.”) [43204, 43360, 43361]

Reuters reports, “Prosecutors unsealed an indictment against a son-in-law of Osama bin Laden on Thursday that charged him with conspiracy to kill Americans, after government sources said he was arrested overseas and brought to New York. Suleiman Abu Ghaith, a militant who appeared in videos representing al Qaeda after the September 11 attacks in 2001, had initially been picked up in Turkey and was brought to the United States in an operation led by Jordanian authorities and the FBI, the sources said.” The Obama administration will treat Abu Ghaith like a U.S. citizen and hold his trial in New York City rather than detain him at Guantanamo and have him appear before a military tribunal. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) states, “We believe the administration’s decision here to bring this person to New York City, if that’s what’s happened, without letting Congress know, is a very bad precedent to set. We think that sneaking this guy into the country, clearly going around the intent of Congress when it comes to enemy combatants, will be challenged.” Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) says that prosecuting Ghaith “...in civilian court is “the last thing in the world we want to do, in my opinion. This man should be in Guantanamo Bay.” (On March 8 Ghaith pleads not guilty.) [43206, 43213, 43256, 43265, 43266]

In Kenya, Obama’s half-brother, Abon’go Malik “Roy” Obama [who served as best man at the wedding of Barack and Michelle Obama in 1992], finishes a distant third in the election for governor of the county of Siaya. He gains about one percent of the vote. [15222, 20539, 20540, 20541, 20603, 20604, 20631, 24176, 24582, 24583, 43006, 43209]

At WND.com Bob Unruh reports, “The lead investigator in Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s review of the authenticity of Barack Obama’s birth certificate today unloaded a bombshell about the case: that he was told by sources members of the media were threatened with federal investigations should they continue to report on the birth certificate issue. Lead investigator Mike Zullo told WND that as he was preparing information to be presented to the public ‘it was clear that the mainstream media was not going to be in attendance’ at the sheriff’s scheduled new conference, where he presented facts suggesting both fraud and forgery in the image of a Hawaiian birth certificate that the White House released last year as ‘proof positive’ of Obama’s eligibility for office. ‘During our investigation, we actually were told [that media] had been threatened with FTC investigations. Commentators [had been] threatened with their jobs,’ Zullo said. The threats were so intimidating that some individuals quit their positions over safety concerns for their families, he said.” [43629, 43630]

Senator Carl Levin (R-MI) announces he will not seek reelection in 2014. (To some observers, the decision suggests that Levin does not believe Obama will be able to help flip the House of Representatives back to Democrat control in the mid-term elections. That is, if Levin thought the Democrats would control both the House and the Senate he would remain to help push through a far left agenda.) [43221, 43220]

The Senate votes 63–34 to approve John Brennan as Obama’s new CIA director. Thirteen Republican Senators join the Democrats in the approval: Alexander, Burr, Coats, Coburn, Collins, Corker, Flake, Graham, Hatch, Kirk, McCain, Murkowski, Rubio. At his

swearing in ceremony Brennan, a convert to Islam, does not use a Bible or a Qu'ran. According to the White House, he "was sworn in with his hand on an original draft of the Constitution, dating from 1787, which has George Washington's personal handwriting and annotations on it." The 1787 document does not include the Bill of Rights, which were not ratified until December 15, 1791. (Whether Brennan intentionally chose to skip allegiance to the Bill of Rights is not known, but Brennan's oath is nevertheless arguably—if not absolutely—meaningless. Townhall.com's Ken Blackwell writes, "Normally, one takes an oath with his hand on a Bible, or a Koran, on some other Scripture one holds sacred. Taking an oath to defend the Constitution by putting your hand on the Constitution is a skyhook. It is supported by nothing else. It neatly avoids the central question: Is this a valid oath? Can we rely on a person who creates such a stir by the simple act of taking an oath of office?" Essayist Frederick William Dame points out, "As a Muslim convert [Brennan's] only allegiance is to Islam (Allah) and the Koran. Additionally, Islam allows for no other allegiances.") [42433, 43223, 43245, 43246, 43247]

On *Special Report*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer says, "You know, that [Jay] Carney explanation [about the canceled White House tours] was truly jumping the shark. He's talking about kids in the White House and then all of a sudden he ends with throwing orphans in the snow. 'We don't really want to, but we have to because the Republicans have forced us.' I have an idea: if you want to allow kids in the White House and support it with the funds, [Obama's] travel expenses alone for the golfing outing with Tiger Woods would pay for a year of White House visits. So I suggest that, perhaps, he curtail the travel or perhaps auction off a set of [golf] clubs and he might be able to allow those Iowa tots to come through the White House. Perhaps I'm not cynical enough." [43234]

On MSNBC Chris Matthews says, "I Look at Obama as a perfect American. I don't mean politically. We can disagree left and right on him. You can argue about the drones. Argue about the fiscal policy, all that stuff. But as a citizen. The guy went to school, he never broke a law. He did everything right. He raised a wonderful family. He's a good husband, a good father. My God, I don't think he's ever gotten a speeding ticket. The guy does everything right and these right-wingers. And he's really been pretty moderate on guns until the horror of Newtown. And I don't know what they're so afraid of, except that he happens to be black. Is there some reason why he has sparked this explosion of right-wing organizing?" (For the record, Matthews has no way of knowing whether Obama is a good husband or a good father. As far as breaking the law, Obama has admitted to the illegal use of drugs in high school and in college; he racked up several hundred dollars in parking tickets while attending Harvard and paid the fines only after he decided to run for president; his 2008 and 2012 campaigns illegally accepted contributions from foreign donors; he has illegally used several Social Security numbers, all of which were probably stolen; he committed fraud by releasing to the public a forged birth certificate; on multiple occasions he has violated the U.S. Constitution, which he swore under oath to uphold. With regard to gun control, Obama's anti-gun record is well-documented in this *Timeline*. Matthews is either blissfully ignorant of Obama's history of antagonism toward the Second Amendment, or he is lying.) [43214, 43215]

On March 8 The Department of Labor reports that 236,000 new jobs were added in February. (The bad news is that more than 200,000 Americans gave up looking for work and dropped out of the labor force entirely. There were about 8 million fewer Americans working in January 2013 than there were when Obama took office in January 2009. The official unemployment rate would be in excess of 15 percent if the government were to not stop counting the unemployed after they exhaust their unemployment benefits.) The national unemployment rate declines slightly to 7.7 percent. The unemployment rates for women (7.0 percent), African-Americans (13.8 percent), and Hispanics, (9.6 percent) showed little or no change in February. The underemployment rate—the unemployed plus those working only part-time because they cannot find full-time employment—falls from 14.4 to a still terrible 14.3 percent. The workforce participation rate is at a pathetically low 63.5 percent. (Only 63.5 percent of Americans of working age are actually working. The remainder are receiving unemployment benefits, disability benefits, or welfare.) Meanwhile, J.C. Penney announces it is laying off 2,200 employees. [43211, 43212, 43218, 43231, 43232, 43239, 43248, 43252, 43253, 43254, 43255]

The Department of Agriculture reports that a record 47,791,966 people were receiving food stamp benefits in December 2012. The states with the largest population of food stamp recipients are Texas, California, and Florida. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) comments, “We spend a trillion dollars each year on federal poverty programs. That’s more than the budget for Social Security or Defense. But poverty seems only to increase. Something is wrong. Compassion demands that we change.” [43297, 43310]

On the *Today* program, White House reporter Chuck Todd says, “You know, when it comes to Barack Obama’s views on money and politics, his actions have rarely matched his words, and with word that he wants to keep his political machine alive, how he plans on going about raising money for that group is coming under new scrutiny. Todd follows that statement with a report on Obama’s hypocrisy on the issue and his Organizing for Action political action committee. [43276]

Stars and Stripes reports, “The Army announced Friday it is suspending its tuition assistance program for soldiers newly enrolling in classes due to sequestration and other budgetary pressures. ‘This suspension is necessary given the significant budget execution challenges caused by the combined effects of a possible year-long continuing resolution and sequestration,’ Paul Prince, an army personnel spokesman at the Pentagon, wrote in an email to *Stars and Stripes*. ‘The Army understands the impacts of this action and will re-evaluate should the budgetary situation improve.’” (The Obama administration chose not to reduce waste and fraud in the Defense budget in response to the sequestration spending reductions, but to instead suspend an educational program for soldiers. Although the administration may be making it more difficult for soldiers to attend college, there have been no announced plans to reduce educational benefits for illegal immigrants. It is clear that Obama’s shameful tactic is to make the sequester cuts as painful and public as possible, in order to boost public support for them to be reversed with tax increases.) [43277, 43354, 43378]

At PJMedia.com Tom Blumer comments on Obama's suspension of White House tours and his other actions to make the sequester cuts more hurtful than they should be: "The only conceivable conclusion to draw from all of this is that Barack Obama and his administration don't give a damn about any suffering their deliberately destructive and disruptive decisions will cause if they believe that they can exploit the related pain for political gain. It's far too early to know for sure, but it appears that our Punk President and his Gangster Government have, in this instance and several larger ones, seriously miscalculated in two ways: First, in their belief that the American people won't come to understand and deeply resent their strategy. Second and unfortunately less likely, in their trust that those who have served as their lapdogs in the press during the past five years going all the way back to the 2008 presidential campaign will continue to consistently cover for them in such egregious circumstances. ... In 2008, Obama's Republican opponent John McCain used 'Country First' as his campaign slogan. Both in that year and during 2012, a truth-in-packaging Obama campaign would have gone with 'The Country Be Damned.' That's what we're seeing now. It's unprecedented. It can't be allowed to work." [43233]

IJReview.com warns, "The price of Senators [John] McCain and [Lindsey] Graham attending an 'outreach dinner' with [Obama] may wind up costing taxpayers \$600 billion more in taxes. And you thought the only price paid would be to their image. While Rand Paul was working the Senate chamber in a 13-hour-long filibuster to ensure the American homeland would not be treated like a permanent battlefield, the two GOP Senators were noshing on some mega-caloric meal with ... Bad optics isn't just the vision you get when you spend as much time in government as these two senators." (Obama is reportedly seeking a deal in which he agrees to \$600 billion in spending reductions in exchange for \$600 billion in tax increases—on top of the \$600 billion in tax hikes he got on January 1.) "Roll Call had reported that the dinner appears to have been spurred on by Graham and McCain. The two Senators attended the dinner and then blasted Senator Rand Paul by calling his filibuster a 'disservice' to the conversation about [Obama's] legal use of drones and even 'ridiculous.' Speaking of ridiculous, the GOP thought that after having the fiscal cliff settled by a deal that hammered most workers with payroll tax increases, and led to zero serious spending cuts, that the idea of tax increases would be taken off the table. The Republicans had compromised on tax increases and then could get serious about spending cuts, or so the quixotic line of thinking went. The next day, the Democrats were already talking about \$1 trillion more in tax increases." (McCain and Graham may have succeeded only in insuring that they will be even more disliked by conservatives, and that Graham will be opposed by a Tea Party candidate in the 2014 primaries.) [43237, 43238]

NYPost.com reports, "An undercover TSA inspector with an improvised explosive device stuffed in his pants got past two security screenings at Newark Airport—including a pat-down—and was cleared to get on board a commercial flight, sources told The Post yesterday. The breach took place Feb. 25, when the Transportation Security Administration's special operations team—the agency's version of internal affairs—staged a mock intrusion at the airport. 'This episode once again demonstrates how Newark Airport is the Ground Zero of TSA failures,' a source said." (Some might

suggest that the \$50 million the Obama administration is spending on new TSA uniforms—made in part in Mexico—should instead be used for retraining agents.) [43242, 43244]

In *The Washington Post* Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) writes, “On Thursday, the Senate confirmed John Brennan as director of the CIA. But this debate isn’t over. The Senate has the power to restrain the executive branch—and my filibuster was the beginning of the fight to restore a healthy balance of powers. [Obama] still needs to definitively say that the United States will not kill American noncombatants. The Constitution’s Fifth Amendment applies to all Americans; there are no exceptions. ... On Thursday, the White House produced another letter explaining its position on drone strikes. But the administration took too long, and parsed too many words and phrases, to instill confidence in its willingness or ability to protect our liberty. I hope my efforts help spur a national debate about the limits of executive power and the scope of every American’s natural right to be free. ‘Due process’ is not just a phrase that can be ignored at the whim of [Obama]; it is a right that belongs to every citizen in this great nation. I believe the support I received this past week shows that Americans are looking for someone to really stand up and fight for them. And I’m prepared to do just that.” [43249]

In an interview with Steve Malzberg, legendary comedian Jackie Mason says Obama “doesn’t care what happens to this country. He doesn’t care if the country goes into the toilet by Thursday. All he cares is about one thing: How do I dramatize that the Republicans are no good so I can ruin the next Congressional campaign? ... [Obama] doesn’t know anything about anything but if it makes any sense it doesn’t mean anything to him.” With regard to Obama’s whining about the sequester cuts, Mason says, “Let me ask you a question—is there any family that has a budget of \$300, if you were going to take away 8 cents, would the whole family fall apart? Will they have nothing to eat for the next 30 years?” [43257]

At NationalReview.com Charles C. W. Cooke reports, “The current annual cost of the White House—just in household expenses, not the policy operations for which it exists—is \$1.4 billion: Annually, [Obama family] vacations cost \$20 million (the low estimate for one ... vacation to Hawaii is \$4 million, but the true cost is probably five times that); the first family’s yearly health-care costs are \$7 million; more than \$6 million is spent on the White House grounds each year. Transporting [Obama] cost \$346 million last year. But as Michelle Obama might say, America is basically a downright mean sort of place, so the [White House] tours will just have to go.” (The \$1.4 billion spent on the Obamas far exceeds what it costs Great Britain to support its royal family.) Meanwhile, entertainers Adele and Beyonce Knowles will be performing for Michelle Obama’s extravagant 50th birthday party in January 2014. [43279, 43280, 43311, 43313]

On *Special Report* Charles Krauthammer explains why Obama is suddenly inviting Republicans to dinner: “The only thing that truly changed is that his [poll] numbers have gone down from the mid to high 50s into the 40s. And the only thing that’s happened in the real world he tried to exploit the sequester, with predictions of the apocalypse. Then with sort of the petty actions like shutting the tours of the White House. And what

happened is Obama's strongest constituency, which is not the left, it's the mainstream media, could no longer cover for him without being entirely embarrassed. It had to expose the one exaggeration after another on the sequester, the stuff about the janitors being laid off and all that which wasn't so and, secondly, the obvious cynicism of the White House tours trying to inflict the maximum pain in order to make a case and to blame Republicans. That kind of partisanship has worked for [Obama] since election night and through the fiscal cliff, but it crashed on the sequester. And that's why I think he's had to recalculate and now he's become extremely charming." [43285]

On March 9 Uhuru Kenyatta is proclaimed the winner of the Kenyan presidential election, by almost seven percentage points over his closest opponent, Prime Minister Raila Odinga. Odinga, a purported cousin of Obama, is a Muslim socialist with ties to al-Qaeda and the late Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. Odinga, who named his first son Fidel after Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, was educated in communist East Germany and has promised to establish Shari'ah Muslim law in Kenya. (Obama traveled to Kenya in 2006 to campaign for Odinga in his first bid for the presidency. As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Obama delivered a speech to university students in Nairobi in which he criticized the existing pro-American Kenyan government, rallied the students against it, and spoke of the need for change. With his speech Obama, who also raised \$950,000 for Odinga, violated the stated conditions of his Official Government Visa: "to nurture relations between the (African) Continent and the United States." The Kenyan government lodged an official protest of Obama's passport abuse and misconduct, and Obama's actions were denounced by the U.S. State Department as being in direct opposition to U. S. National Security. After Odinga lost the election, his Muslim followers burned Christian women and children alive in a church where they had sought refuge. More than 1,500 people were ultimately killed in riots, and Odinga was reluctantly given the position of prime minister to placate his radical supporters and stop further bloodshed.) [126, 127, 207, 208, 271, 293, 294, 313, 329, 452, 1449]

FoxNews.com reports, "Another federal employee has come forward to claim the Obama administration resisted efforts to ease the impact of sequester. A U.S. park ranger, who did not wish to be identified, told FoxNews.com that supervisors within the National Park Service overruled plans to deal with the budget cuts in a way that would have had minimal impact on the public. Instead, the source said, park staff were told to cancel special events and cut 'interpretation services'—the talks, tours and other education services provided by local park rangers." The unidentified ranger tells Fox News, "Apparently, they want the public to feel the pain. ...It's obvious that they want the public to feel the pain in order to push this agenda that Washington wants. ...A lot of these parks can absorb these cuts without the public's visit being affected." (The individuals who called for the imposition of as much pain and suffering on the public as possible should be fired. If the order came from Obama he should be impeached.) [43258, 43259]

CNSNews.com reports on the growing number of firearm companies that are limiting or even eliminating business with cities and states that have passed strict gun control legislation that violates the Second Amendment rights of U.s. citizens. "In just two

weeks, the number of companies participating in what has been named the ‘Firearms Equality Movement,’ has more than tripled from 34 companies to 118.” As an example, pistol manufacturer Wilson Combat states that it “will no longer provide any products or services to any State Government imposing legislation that infringes on the second amendment rights of its law abiding citizens. This includes any Law Enforcement Department, Law Enforcement Officers, or any State Government Entity or Employee of such an entity. This also applies to any local municipality imposing such infringements.” The company’s exclusion list includes California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Washington D.C. and the city of Chicago. “Wilson Combat will in NO way support the government of these states or their anti-gun agenda that only limits the rights of law-abiding citizens. Wilson Combat will continue to supply any product and/or service they can legally sell in these states to all non-government affiliated citizens.” [43261]

At Breitbart.com Lee Stranahan writes, “Judging by the reaction of some on the left, Rand Paul’s 13 hour filibuster exposes some deep-seated fears about Barack Obama’s potential for dangerous totalitarianism. When the progressive left is worried about overreach from Obama, it’s time for everyone to pay attention. ...The normally non-self-aware progressives even seem to recognize Democrats’ hypocrisy on the issue. One commenter writes[at Daily Kos]: ‘If the Bush Administration had implemented this policy a few years ago, he’d be criticized and ridiculed to death on this blog. When a Democratic administration does it—headed no less by a former constitutional law professor—it is equally appalling.’ ...While it’s true that some liberals have fought back against any support for Rand Paul, the voices supporting Paul’s activism on the floor of the Senate seem to be carrying the day.” [43264]

According to TheHill.com Obama “plans to nominate Thomas Perez, who heads Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, to become the next secretary of Labor, according to reports.” Examiner.com note that “...several Justice Department co-workers and citizens groups believe Perez is a radical leftist with his own political agenda. ...Christopher Coates, former voting chief for the department’s Civil Rights Division, testified in 2010 at a hearing before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, after outcries from citizens’ groups and a public-interest organization over the Justice Department’s stonewalling a full investigation of the New Black Panther Party’s actions during the presidential election. Coates alleged that ...Perez, for political reasons, dismissed intimidation charges against New Black Panther members who were videotaped outside a Philadelphia polling place in 2008 dressed in military-style uniforms—one was brandishing a nightstick—and allegedly hurling racial slurs. However, the Justice Department reportedly tried to prevent Coates from testifying before Congress and subsequently transferred him to the U.S. Attorney’s Office in South Carolina.” (Perez is a rabid advocate of amnesty for illegal immigrants, who will most certainly continue to be an advocate for those illegals if he is confirmed as head of the Department of Labor. He can also be expected to routinely side with labor unions over businesses.) [43273, 43274, 43324, 43355, 43408]

Obama joins members of the Gridiron Club for its annual white-tie dinner. (Politico later reports, “During a break in the program, [House Majority Whip Kevin] McCarthy [R-CA] saw an empty chair next to Obama and decided to seize the chance. Surprised Obama wasn’t working the room, and thinking [Obama] really is a loner, McCarthy walked up to the head table. He found [Obama] was reading his BlackBerry. ... ‘I’m waiting for my dinner invitation,’ the Republican joshed to Obama, referring to [Obama’s] recent evening out with Republican senators. ‘I listen to Paul,’ Obama replied, according to McCarthy, referring to House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan.” (That is, Obama doesn’t consider McCarthy important enough to speak with.) “...As told by McCarthy, Obama then said that if Republicans are going to get entitlement reform, ‘You need me.’ As McCarthy walked away, the congressman thought: ‘He’s still a law professor. He’d rather lecture you and put a red mark on your paper than talk to you.’”) [43263, 43270, 43283, 43323]

According to ThePostEmail.com, Obama ends his remarks by saying, “Now, I do want to end on a serious note. I know that there are people who get frustrated with the way journalism is practiced these days. And sometimes those people are me. But the truth is our country needs you and our democracy needs you. ...But don’t worry. We’re all friends again in the spirit of that wonderful song. As you may have heard, [journalist] Bob [Woodward] invited [White House adviser] Gene [Sperling] over to his place. And Bob says he actually thinks that I should make it too. And I might take him up on the offer. I mean, nothing says ‘not a threat’ like showing up at somebody’s house with guys with machine guns.” (ThePostEmail.com’s Sharon Rondeau contacts the White House and asks, “What did Obama mean by ‘not a threat’ and ‘machine guns?’” She is unlikely to receive a response.) [43338]

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal also speaks at the event. Jindal’s remarks include: “This of course is the night for the Washington press corps and [Obama] to kick back, share a few laughs, not take things seriously and just generally enjoy each other’s company. Kind of like [Obama’s] interview on *60 Minutes*. ...The Gridiron Dinner used to be known as the night the media and the administration set aside their differences—back in the days when they had some. ...I was on the treadmill the other day and I caught something about the supreme and infallible leader ordained from on high stepping down, and I got all excited, but then I realized it was just the Pope not [Obama]. ...[N]ow some people have asked me if I intend to run for president in 2016. And the answer is that I have no plans to run. I’ve made that clear, over and over again... in Iowa... in New Hampshire... and in South Carolina. There is a reason I’ve got no plans to run. I mean, come on. What chance does a skinny guy with a dark complexion and a funny name have to get elected president of the United States? ...Great to see the new Senator from Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren. My staff tells me we’ve got a lot in common. Well, from one Indian politician to another, I want to wish you all the best in your new job. ...I ran into Joe Biden earlier today. I don’t think he recognized me though. He asked me to go get him a Slurpee. You know, sometimes I wonder where we would be without Vice President Biden. And then I realize: Pretty much exactly where we are right now. ...I see Eric Holder is with us tonight. I actually heard a rumor that due to sequestration, the attorney general can only afford to ship a couple hundred illegal guns across the border

this year. I saw a bumper sticker on the way over here that said, ‘Honk if you’ve been released by Janet Napolitano.’ I understand that to save money [Obama’s] Secret Service detail is being replaced by Joe Biden with a shotgun. ... You know, a lot of people warned me that if I voted for Mitt Romney, a Wall Street robber baron who hid his money in secretive Grand Cayman bank accounts would end up running the U.S. Treasury. I see Jack Lew is here tonight. ... This may surprise you, but I’m looking forward to ... Obama’s second term. It will be refreshing to hear him stop blaming all the country’s problems on the last four years.” [43374, 43420]

On March 10 FoxNews.com reports, “U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice is the leading contender to become the White House’s new national security adviser, following a failed bid to become secretary of state, a senior Obama administration official told Fox News this weekend. ... Obama could appoint Rice without the Senate confirmation needed for a Cabinet post. Rice withdrew herself from consideration for the secretary of state post in the face of withering criticism by congressional Republicans and others for her handling of the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2012, Libya terror attacks.” [43271, 43286]

The Associated Press reports, “Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Sunday accused the Taliban and the U.S. of working in concert to convince Afghans that violence will worsen if most foreign troops leave—an allegation the top American commander in Afghanistan rejected as ‘categorically false.’ Karzai said two suicide bombings that killed 19 people on Saturday—one outside the Afghan Defense Ministry and the other near a police checkpoint in eastern Khost province—show the insurgent group is conducting attacks to demonstrate that international forces will still be needed to keep the peace after their current combat mission ends in 2014.” [43272]

On ABC’s *This Week*, *New York Times* columnist and Obama toady Paul Krugman claims, “Spending growth has been exceptionally low under Obama. We just need to say that.” (The federal government spent about \$362 billion more in 2012 than it did in 2008, or about \$609 more per U.S. household.) [43290]

On *Fox News Sunday* Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) states that the House budget plan will balance the federal budget in 10 years, even though federal spending will increase over that period: “Instead of spending \$46 trillion over the next 10 years, we’ll spend \$41 trillion. That’s means we’ll grow spending on average 3.4 percent a year instead of growing it an average 4.9 percent a year, which is the path we’re on, which keeps us from ever balancing the budget which produces a debt crisis.” Many would argue that 3.4 percent per year growth in federal spending is outrageous; the government’s growth should certainly not be greater than that of the private economy, and it is absurd to believe that average annual growth in the nation’s Gross Domestic Product will equal or exceed 3.4 percent. The Ryan budget reduces the growth in spending from 4.9 to 3.4 percent partly by assuming ObamaCare will be repealed. If ObamaCare is not repealed it will impose an enormous burden on the private economy which will reduce tax revenue and prevent the budget from ever being balanced absent tremendous tax increases on the middle class as well as wealthy Americans. The Ryan budget also calls for the elimination of some tax deductions and loopholes in exchange for lower tax rates. (That

combination would likely increase tax revenue, as taxpayers would have an incentive to work and be productive rather than spend time engaging in tax avoidance tactics.) Ryan's budget makes arguably unrealistic assumptions about growth in the nation's Gross Domestic Product. Achieving a balanced budget in 10 years is unlikely to be achieved even if ObamaCare is repealed. (On the other hand, the budgets proposed by Obama call for even more federal spending, even more unlikely assumptions about GDP growth—and not only never achieve balance, they add an average of \$450 billion per year to the national debt for at least 10 years.) [43278, 43281, 43282, 43284, 43289, 43304, 43307, 43351]

On CNN's *Reliable Sources*, *Washington Post* journalist Dana Milbank calls the Obama White House "more course" than any he has covered in the past: "It's more vulgar. Maybe this is how everybody is these days, but the number of F-bombs being dropped by this White House, scholars are going to look in the national archives in 20 or 30 years and they're going to be shocked by the language that was coming out of this place." [43298]

Responding to gossip about the political future of his boss, Sean Rushton, a spokesman for Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), tells *WashingtonExaminer.com*'s Byron York, "Sen. Cruz is a U.S. citizen by birth, having been born in Calgary to an American-born mother. He is focused entirely on his new role in the Senate, and on working every day to represent Texas and defend conservative principles in the Senate." (Cruz was born in Canada in 1970 to an American mother and a Cuba father. Although Cruz is a U.S. citizen, he is certainly not a natural born citizen—which requires birth on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents. York writes, "Although the drafters of the Constitution did not define what they meant when they required an American president to be a 'natural born citizen,' it is generally thought that 'citizen by birth' is the best modern-day equivalent. On that basis, Cruz appears entirely eligible—if he ever chooses to pursue the White House." York is mistaken. The law is not what is "generally thought" by columnists and politicians; it is the rules defined in the U.S. Constitution and subsequent legislation.) [43300, 43358, 43359]

At *WashingtonExaminer.com* Byron York writes, "As Republican senators Ted Cruz, Mike Lee, Marco Rubio, and James Inhofe prepare to introduce a measure to defund Obamacare—and threaten to hold up a continuing resolution to fund the U.S. government if the measure is not given a vote—some conservatives are unhappy that the House, controlled by Republicans, did not do the same thing. It wasn't for lack of effort, at least on the part of some conservative Republicans. As the House prepared to consider its own version of the continuing resolution last week—it ultimately passed 267 to 151—more than two dozen conservative GOP lawmakers signed on to an amendment that would have defunded Obamacare. They submitted the amendment and hoped it would receive a vote but were stymied when the House leadership declared that no amendments would be allowed." [43303]

Leo Rennert writes at *AmericanThinker.com*: "In his first year [in the White House], Barack Obama committed not one, but two disastrous errors during a Middle East trip—both in a June 4, 2009 address to the Muslim world from Egypt. The first humongous

mistake is well-known—Obama, while in the region, conspicuously omitted Israel from his itinerary. ...The second huge mistake—largely forgotten—was what he actually said in his Cairo speech. In pushing for a two-state solution, Obama put both Israelis and Palestinians on an equal scale as far as their respective claims for statehood are concerned. To achieve this unreal feat, he had to erase four millennia of Jewish ties to the Holy Land. And that's what he ended up doing. Here's how he described Israel's claim: 'The aspiration for a Jewish homeland is rooted in a tragic history that cannot be denied. Around the world, the Jewish people were persecuted for centuries, and anti-Semitism in Europe culminated in an unprecedented Holocaust.' In other words, Israel's right to the land is [nothing more than] an offshoot of the Holocaust. Guilt-ridden Europeans, it would seem, made up for the murder of 6 million Jews by planting a Jewish state in the Holy Land. ...This, of course, is falsified history on a grand scale. While the Holocaust produced greater urgency in establishing a Jewish state, Zionist roots and Jewish ownership claims antedate the Holocaust by several millennia. ...When Obama delivers his major address in Jerusalem, it will be interesting to hear whether he realizes the huge errors of his 2009 Cairo speech and how far he is willing to go to give the world a full account of Israel's sovereignty claims—backed up not only by the Bible, but also by irrefutable empirical evidence. In other words, will Obama finally deliver a historically kosher speech?" [43319, 43320]

On March 11 Rasmussen reports that only 19 percent of likely voters have a favorable view of the GOP-controlled House of Representatives. Even fewer—12 percent—think the Democrat-controlled Senate is doing a good job. [43288]

Massive federal deficits notwithstanding, the State Department awards a \$704,198.30 contract to maintain the gardens of the U.S. ambassador's residence in Belgium. [44089]

Eight Democrat members of the House of Representatives send Obama a letter asking him to provide details about his drone policy. The letter states, "Every American has the right to know the underlying legal rationale that ensures due process. ...Authorizing the killing of American citizens and others has profound implications for our Constitution, the core values of our Nation, our national security and future international practice. The executive branch's claim of authority to deprive citizens of life, and to do so without explaining the legal bases for doing so, sets a dangerous precedent and is a model of behavior that the United States would not want other nations to emulate." [43293, 43294]

At a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council various individuals come forward to address the issue of an American minister from Idaho, Saeed Abedini, who is in an Iranian prison for being a Christian and building an orphanage in Tehran. At FoxNews.com Jay Sekulow writes, "At the American Center for Law & Justice, we represent Pastor Saeed's wife and two young children, and we've launched a national and international effort to pressure the Iranian regime to release Pastor Saeed. More than 100 members of Congress have issued strongly bipartisan calls for his release, spokespersons from the White House and State Department have called for his release." Sekulow reports that when it was the turn of the U.S. representative from the Obama administration to speak, "The U.S. said nothing about Pastor Saeed. Not one word. Yes, we condemned

human rights abuses in Iran, and yes we even mentioned an Iranian blogger by name. But an American citizen? Imprisoned by the Revolutionary Guard? Nothing. No comment. ...[W]hen it mattered, the Obama administration left an American behind.” [43949]

The Florida Senate votes not to expand the state’s Medicaid program for ObamaCare, rejecting Governor Rick Scott’s turnaround on the issue. [43302]

According to a Sienna College poll, Obama’s favorability rating in the state of New York has plunged from 66 percent to 56 percent in only one month, and 60 percent believe the nation is “headed in the wrong direction” (up from 49 percent two months earlier). [43299, 43309]

McClatchyDC.com reports, “[Obama’s] approval rating has dropped to the lowest level in more than a year, with more voters now turning thumbs down on his performance than thumbs up, according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll. The measure of how much people like him also has dropped. ...The national survey, conducted four months after Obama was re-elected with 51 percent of the popular vote, found 45 percent of voters approving of the way he’s handling his job and 48 percent disapproving. That was down from a 50 percent approval rating in November and December, and the lowest since November 2011. It also was the first time that more people disapproved of his work than approved since November 2011, when his rating was 43–50. Obama’s personal popularity also has declined, with 48 percent of voters having favorable impressions of him and 48 percent having unfavorable impressions. That was down from 53–44 in December. It also was the lowest since November 2011, when it was 47–49.” [43301]

The McClatchy-Marist poll also reveals that most Americans have not fallen for Obama’s “sky is falling” sequester scare tactics. By 53 to 37 percent, Americans prefer to reduce deficits by spending cuts rather than tax increases. Conversely, solid majorities prefer tax increases to cutting Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits. (That is, Americans want someone else’s benefits cut, not their own.) [43308]

According to CNSNews.com, “The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded \$1.5 million to study biological and social factors for why ‘three-quarters’ of lesbians are obese and why gay males are not, calling it an issue of ‘high public-health significance.’” (Canceling that grant could save enough to fund 83 weeks of White House tours. Perhaps fat lesbians could get exercise by becoming tour guides.) Another study—costing \$2.7 million—will try to discover why lesbians are at a higher “risk for hazardous drinking,” and \$3.8 million was spent in 2011 and 2012 for an African Elephant Conservation grant to “decrease human-elephant conflict.” (U.S. taxpayers should hope no one suggests to the government that lesbian elephants be studied.) Additionally, a \$384,949 grant—using money from Obama’s 2009 stimulus legislation—has been awarded to Yale University for a study on “Sexual Conflict, Social Behavior and the Evolution of Waterfowl Genitalia.” The project evaluates “plasticity in duck penis length” and, according to the grant, “...examines how reproductive morphology covaries [sic] with season, age, and social environment in a diverse sample of duck species that differ in ecology, territoriality and breeding system.” The National Science Foundation’s Debbie Wing tells Fox News,

“It’s an investment into our future. It’s an investment into our economy. Sometimes you have to look at the big picture.” (Wing does not state whether fat, alcoholic, lesbian ducks warrant their own separate study.) [43305, 43328, 43498, 43499, 43544, 43591]

At WashingtonExaminer.com Paul Bedard writes that the impact of ObamaCare “is about to hit home. The latest impact hot off the grill: prices of burgers and hot dogs at Five Guys, the national chain that started in Washington, are going to rise to cover [Obama’s] mandated insurance coverage. ‘Any added costs are going to have to be passed on,’ said Mike Ruffer, a Five Guys franchise holder with eight of the popular restaurants in the Raleigh-Durham, N.C. area. He will need all the profits from at least one of his eight outlets just to cover his estimated added \$60,000-a year in new ObamaCare costs. What’s more, he’s iced plans to build another three restaurants until after the administration explains the exact rules and penalties employers will face. The law’s plan to have those available March 1 has been pushed back to October. ...Ruffer initially thought he would escape the law because he created each restaurant as its own company. But the law doesn’t recognize that distinction, so now he’s trying to determine if he can fire enough workers, or cut enough hours, to slide out of the grasp of ObamaCare. He said that ‘scorched earth plan,’ however, would hurt his restaurants, so Ruffer is likely to either pay the fine or buy insurance. But spreading the costs over his basic menu of fries, drinks, burgers and hot dogs, could scare off customers, he worries. He said that the recent spike in gas prices cut into his profits since fewer people were stopping at his restaurants. And the health care law isn’t only going to hit Ruffer. He’s quizzed his workers to ask if they understand that they will be fined if they don’t get health insurance. Just one of 20 workers were [sic] aware of the \$95 tax penalty that rises to \$695 by 2016.” [43317, 43377]

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) releases a photograph of the current ObamaCare regulations: a seven-foot stack of more than 20,000 pages of job-killing rules and requirements. The uncertainty about what is in those regulations is partly responsible for the high unemployment rate. Employers are simply unwilling to hire more workers until they know what ObamaCare will cost their businesses. (Another 828 pages of onerous ObamaCare regulations were added to the Federal Register soon after the photograph was taken.) Meanwhile, the Associated Press reports that the application a family must fill out to apply for benefits from an ObamaCare state insurance exchange will run 15 pages, and “At least three major federal agencies, including the IRS, will scrutinize [the] application.” (A family that does not complete the application and chooses to go without health insurance will be required to pay the ObamaCare tax penalty. It is reasonable to believe that many people will have difficulty with the application. One question reads, “What’s the name of the lowest cost self-only health plan the employee listed above could enroll in at this job?”) [43321, 43322, 43327, 43337, 43371]

Obama’s propaganda machine, Organizing for Action, issues an email to supporters warning them that children will lose school lunches if the sequester cuts are not reversed. (Apparently Obama can find nothing in the federal budget that warrants being cut in place of school lunches. CNSNews.com reports, “According to new data from the USDA,

during the average school month in fiscal year 2012, 18.7 million students in U.S. high schools and grammar schools were given completely free lunches, courtesy of the department's National School Lunch Program. That was up from the record of 18.4 million that was set in fiscal 2011.") [43325, 43339]

The local CBS affiliate in Miami, Florida notes that ObamaCare will result in higher prices for veterinary care because the 2.3 percent "medical device tax" in the new law applies to products used for both humans and animals. [43348, 43349]

On *Special Report* Charles Krauthammer observes, "Look, last week everybody was excited that [Obama] supped with 12 [Senate] Republicans. But I'm not a believer in relationships. I'm a believer in policy. I don't care what the relationship is. If he has one or doesn't, plays golf with whoever he wants—if it's a Republican or Democrat. The problem isn't that he and [Congressman Paul] Ryan aren't buddies. The problem is that [Obama] is not interested in cutting [spending] and Ryan says if we don't, we're gonna go over a cliff. That is the real issue here. It's not that he's not hanging out with [Senate Minority Leader] Mitch McConnell. It's that the Republicans believe that unless we get our fiscal house in order, we are doomed. And Obama thinks that he can, should, and is destined to be the one who increases American entitlements. That's the problem. And unless—so here's where I think the real issue is: What will the Democrats show in the Senate when they produce a budget, which will be in a couple of days—the first in four years? That's gonna be black and white. We're gonna look at the numbers and see if there will be any cutting, is there going to be any entitlement reforms or not. And that's where I think it becomes important. Who cares who dines with whom. ...[W]e're not gonna get a bargain, grand or small. It's simply not gonna happen. We have an administration that is not interested in what the country needs: reform in entitlement [benefits], tax reform, and cuts, and Republicans who insist on that, and that will only be resolved in elections at the mid-term, or elections in 2016." [43306]

On March 12 House Budget Committee chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) releases the GOP budget proposal. Heritage.org notes that the document "advances much-needed reforms and importantly accomplishes the crucial goal of balancing the budget within the decade, though this is partially on the coattails of Obama's tax increases. Not a silver bullet, it is more of a stasis budget, rather than a bolder plan that builds on the reforms of previous years." [43312, 43314, 43326, 43340, 43352]

In introducing his budget, Ryan states, "This is not only a responsible, reasonable, balanced plan, it's also an invitation. This is an invitation to [Obama], to the Senate Democrats, to come together to fix these problems. We don't think it's fair to let critical programs like Medicare go bankrupt. We don't think that it's fair to take more from hardworking families to spend more in Washington. The most important question isn't how we balance the budget, but why. A budget is a means to an end. An end is the well-being of the American people. An end is a growing economy that produces opportunity and upward mobility." Ryan refers to the fact that his budget proposal assumes a repeal of ObamaCare: "When Americans see exactly what this law [ObamaCare] entails, which they have not seen all of this details [sic]. Those of us who work on these oversight

committees, who know what's gonna happen to the provider networks, who know what's gonna happen to people when they lose their health insurance or their jobs, they're not gonna like this law. This is why we're not only repealing this law because we don't think we can afford to borrow \$1.8 trillion in extra spending this law entails, we think we can replace it with a better health care system, and that's also something we're going to be proposing. Not only are we saying, here's how you save and strengthen Medicare for current and future generations, but here's a better patient-centered system to replace ObamaCare." [43316, 43340]

White House press secretary Jay Carney lies, telling reporters that the Ryan budget calls for the top income tax rate to be reduced from 29.6 to 25 percent. (There is no such provision in the Ryan budget, although Republicans—and some Democrats—have suggested eliminating various tax deductions and “loopholes” in exchange for reducing income tax rates.) [43316]

The administration announces it will appeal to the Supreme Court the U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that Obama can make recess appointments only during actual recesses. [43332]

Residents of the Falkland Islands vote 99.8 to 0.2 percent to retain their status as a British overseas territory. Voter turnout was 92 per cent. The Argentine government still refuses to take no for an answer and claims the islands as its territory—despite having lost a war over the issue in 1982. The Obama administration continues to side with Argentina, and Secretary of State John Kerry calls for “a peaceful resolution of this critical issue.” (Some might call a 99.8 to 0.2 vote a sufficiently peaceful resolution.) [43501, 43502]

Democrats in both the House and the Senate introduce “carbon tax” legislation. (The Senate version applies a tax of \$20 per ton on any carbon dioxide produced by industry, and would add an estimated 17.8 cents to the cost of a gallon of gasoline. The tax would also increase automatically by 5.6 percent by year for 10 years. The House version calls for a \$35 per ton tax, and annual increases of 8 percent. Neither proposal stands a chance of passing.) [43370, 43416]

In Bangladesh, Muslims vandalize and set fire to 47 Hindu temples and homes. In Pakistan, Muslims torch 160 Christian homes and two churches. Obama is silent. [43362, 43363, 43364, 43365]

AlArabiya.net reports, “In a meeting with a group of Arab Americans this week, ...Obama revealed that he will not push the Israelis and Palestinians toward restarting negotiations or outline a new peace initiative during his upcoming visit to the region, but he will take with him a cash infusion of \$500 million—which Congress will soon release—of much needed financial aid to the Palestinian Authority. Obama met at the White House with members from the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee, the Arab American Institute, the Arab Federation of Ramallah, the American Task Force for Palestine and other individuals and groups. ...But Obama warned that [his] speech to the Israeli public might not have what the Arab participants in the meeting were looking

for. ‘But he implored us to give them a pass on this one,’ the source said. Obama told the group he will speak to Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas separately during his planned visit to Ramallah. Obama wants his plans to include another West Bank stop, though what he will do is still unclear. ‘He said ‘I don’t want the trip to be a drive by,’ according to a participant ‘but they haven’t figured out how to do it yet.’” [43468]

Newsmax.com reports, “Brazen hackers may have pillaged the computer files of ...Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, billionaire Donald Trump, and other top politicians and celebrities—posting their private financial records online. Also possibly hit by the cybercriminals were Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jay-Z, Beyonce, Britney Spears, Sarah Palin, Kim Kardashian, Mel Gibson, Paris Hilton, Ashton Kutcher, FBI Director Robert Mueller, and Attorney General Eric Holder. Information purporting to be Social Security and credit card numbers, along with bank account details of the politicians and celebrities were splashed on a website called ‘The Secret Files,’ which appears to have originated in Russia.” Several emails to Hillary Clinton from Sidney Blumenthal, a longtime friend of the former Secretary of State, have reportedly been sent to hundreds of people, including Congressional aides. According to TheSmokingGun.com, “Most of the e-mail recipients were sent four separate memos that were e-mailed to Clinton by Blumenthal during the past five months. Each memo dealt with assorted developments in Libya, including the September 11, 2012 attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi. One memo marked ‘Confidential’ was sent to Clinton on September 12.” [43318, 43329, 43464]

At AmericanThinker.com Matthew Vadum comments on Obama’s apparent choice of Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez as his new Secretary of Labor: “Perez led the Obama administration’s assault on voter ID laws last year. As John Fund and Hans von Spakovsky report in *Who’s Counting*, as a member of the Montgomery County, Md., Council in 2003 he also tried to force governments to accept fraud-prone matricula consular ID cards issued by Mexican consular offices. He was a board member of Casa de Maryland, an advocacy group for illegal aliens funded by George Soros and the recently deceased Hugo Chavez. ...At the July 27, 2012, meeting of the House Judiciary Committee’s subcommittee on the Constitution, Perez refused to say whether he would uphold the religious speech protections in the First Amendment in the future.” (Perez, who Vadum calls an “in-your-face radical leftist lawyer,” believes that criticism of Islam should be outlawed.) 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, now nominally the nation’s top civil rights enforcer at the Department of Justice, has an appalling track record at the DOJ and myriad unsavory associations. He has targeted Maricopa County, Ariz. Sheriff Joe Arpaio, for legal harassment because he doesn’t like Arpaio’s tough-on-crime approach, especially with respect to illegal aliens. ...[Perez] was reportedly instrumental in the Justice Department’s dismissal of a case involving two Philadelphia-based members of the New Black Panther Party who intimidated white voters on Election Day 2008.” (Perez’s “civil rights” stance includes standing up for college students who demanded

gluten-free food in the cafeteria: “You’re killing somebody if you have them in your college and you’re forcing them to eat that.”) [43356, 43357, 43381, 43556, 44238]

At AmericanClarion.com Gina Miller calls Obama’s choice of Perez “stunningly bad.” Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) has called the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, headed by Perez, “...a rat’s nest of unacceptable and unprofessional actions, and even outright threats against career attorneys and systemic mismanagement.” At Spectator.org Quin Hillyer calls Perez, a racial-quota-loving, not-very-good lawyer who has frequently been rebuked by the courts, “one of the most loathsome figures in the thoroughly loathsome political ranks of Obama’s Justice Department.” Among Perez’s unsuccessful legal maneuvers was trying to block Florida from removing *non-citizens* from its voter registration lists. Perez has also worked to make it more difficult for U.S. troops overseas to vote, while pushing to make it easier for convicted felons to vote. Perez also likely committed perjury when he testified that the decision to drop the already-won case against the New Black Panther Party was not influenced by Obama political appointees. Hillyer concludes, “Thomas Perez has a record of dishonesty, radical leftism, legal hackery, and contempt in some cases for the rule of law itself. This man has no business heading a major Cabinet Department; instead, he should be swiftly cashiered from all federal government service.” (Whether Senate Republicans have the sense and the courage to block his nomination remains to be seen.) 43356, 43357, 43381]

AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller calls the nomination of Perez a “Stunning subversion. Obama continues to troll the bottom of the uber-left political cesspool to fill his key cabinet positions, in order to impose his radical anti-freedom agenda on the nation. Al Quds [John] Brennan, Pro-Iran [Chuck] Hagel, Swiftboat [John] Kerry and now dhimmi [Tom] Perez. As Assistant Attorney General at the Justice Department, Tom Perez has a shameful record of pro-sharia initiatives and craven accommodation to Islamic supremacists at the DoJ [Department of Labor]. He refused to answer questions whether DoJ would advance a proposal to criminalize speech against any religion. He refused to commit to the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution that it would never advance a law criminalizing the right to criticize any religion. My confidential source tells me that Thomas Perez, the Department of Justice official, ‘has been present at Muslim conventions both as a panelist and as a speaker. During a question and answer session a Muslim audience member was hostile, and Perez literally cringed and promised that the DOJ would do better. He also asked that more Muslims join the DOJ—that he would look forward to working with them.’ Perez gave extraordinary access to Muslim Brotherhood groups and was touted by these Hamas proxies for all his actions on behalf of Muslims, including a suit against the city of Lilburn, Georgia for resisting the expansion of a mosque and amicus participation calling for dismissal of a suit brought by Murfreesboro, Tennessee patriots against an Islamic supremacist mosque there. Further, Perez is the subject of a ‘a newly released report that found he gave incomplete testimony on the controversial decision to drop charges against members of the New Black Panther Party.’” [43470]

Politico reports that Obama’s chances of getting a “grand bargain” on tax reform and spending cuts are slipping away because of his intransigence and inability to deal with

people. “Obama thought he would be able to stare down Republicans over the sequester, and get them to double the size of his tax increase to avoid heavy defense cuts. He was wrong. Once Republicans swallowed the \$600 billion in hikes, they made plain they were done raising taxes for this Congress. And they really are done, Republicans say. ... ‘Nobody is even talking about a grand bargain,’ one of the Senate’s most influential Democratic leadership aides told us. ‘It is not even on our radar right now.’ An adviser to Speaker John Boehner told us that window was slammed shut by Obama’s hardball tactics since the tax hike. ‘He missed the chance.’ ... The truth is Obama has lost some leverage—and needed a bunch of high-profile meetings with adversaries to swat away reports that he’s too stubborn and too political. But, in private, nothing has really changed. As for the grand bargain, which could always happen if lightning strikes in these meetings and common ground emerges, the trade-off has always been simple and clear: Republicans swallow tax increases; Democrats swallow an equal amount of entitlement cuts. Obama would have to persuade Republicans to vote for a tax increase for the second time in less than one year. Can you imagine Boehner and his troops heading into the 2014 midterm elections dominated by conservative activists having to explain, not one, but two increases? They ate \$600 billion in defense cuts that a majority of Republicans wish they could undo rather than discuss even a tiny tax increase. Hard to see them budging now.” [43323]

In an interview with ABC News, Obama—who called huge deficits “unpatriotic,” “irresponsible,” and a “failure of leadership” when George W. Bush was president—says he is not interested in balancing the federal budget: “My goal is not to chase a balanced budget just for the sake of balance. My goal is how do we grow the economy [sic], put people back to work, and if we do that we are going to be bringing in more revenue.” (Obama wants to raise taxes, which will most certainly destroy jobs and not put people back to work. Obama does not plan to release his budget proposal until some time in April—two months after the legal deadline and after which it will be irrelevant.) Obama laughably claims, “We don’t have an immediate crisis in terms of debt. In fact, for the next 10 years, it’s going to be in a sustainable place.” (Obama apparently believes four consecutive years of trillion dollar deficits is not an “immediate crisis” and that such a burden can be shouldered by the American people for another decade—despite interest costs of more than \$300 billion per year.) [43335, 43394, 43407]

Obama also claims it was not his fault that White House tours were canceled: “You know, I have to say this was not—a decision that went up to the White House. But what the Secret Service explained to us was that they’re going to have to furlough some folks.” (In other words, Obama is blaming the Secret Service—and, for shameless political purposes, willingly throwing under the bus the very people who risk their lives to protect him.) “What furloughs mean is—is that people lose a day of work and a day of pay. And, you know, the question for them is, you know, how deeply do they have to furlough their staff and is it worth it to make sure that we’ve got White House tours that means that you got a whole bunch of families who are depending on a paycheck who suddenly are seein’—a five percent or 10 percent reduction in their pay. Well, what I’m asking them is are there ways, for example, for us to accommodate school groups—you know, who may have traveled here with some bake sales. Can we make sure that kids, potentially, can,

can still come to tour? But, but, I'm always amused when people on the one hand say the sequester doesn't mean anything and the administration's exaggerating its effects; and then whatever the specific effects are, they yell and scream and say, 'Why are you doing that?' Well, there are consequences to Congress not having come up with a more sensible way to reduce the deficit. And what I'm proposing is if we do it smart, if we do it sensibly, if we do it in a balanced way that the American support, including, by the way, a majority of Republicans, then we don't have to do arbitrary stuff. [sic]. We can do it in an intelligent way that's going to improve our economy." (In other words, "Don't blame me—it's not my fault. But, thanks to my greatness, the White House tour problem will be resolved.") [43333, 43334, 43335]

The Associated Press reports on how ObamaCare's rules will impact grocery stores—and their prices. ObamaCare requires that restaurants and other food-serving establishments post calorie counts on menus, labels, and vending machines. "While the restaurant industry has signed on to the idea and helped to write the new regulations, supermarkets, convenience stores and other retailers that sell prepared food say they want no part of it." The Food Marketing Institute's Erik Lieberman "...says the rules could cover thousands of items in each [grocery] store, unlike restaurants, which typically have fewer items. The rules could go beyond just the prepared foods case and extend to cut fruit, bakery items like pies and loaves of bread and other store items that aren't already packaged and labeled. Lieberman says that means each store has to send all of those items out to labs to be tested, do paperwork to justify the ingredient and nutritional information for each item to the FDA and then create signage and train employees to use it." (The result of the regulations will be higher food prices or fewer product choices. Supermarkets operate on very small profit margins and the cost of determining the calorie counts of every item sold will necessarily be added to the sales price.) Pizza restaurants are among the businesses that will be negatively affected, because *every* possible combination of ingredients on a pizza must be reviewed for a calorie count.) [43346, 43347]

Obama attends a \$50,000 per person fundraiser for his laughably labeled "non-partisan, grassroots" Organizing for Action propaganda group. Obama tells the wealthy donors, "If you have a senator or a congressman in a swing district who is prepared to take a tough vote... on immigration reform, or legislation around background checks for guns, I want to make sure that they feel supported and that they know that there are constituencies of theirs who agree with them, even if they may be getting a lot of pushback in that district. If we do it well, then I'm confident that we can move strong immigration legislation... we can get common-sense gun safety legislation... we can craft a budget that is responsible. ...The politics of a lot of these issues are tough, and members sometimes are scared about making the right decisions [sic]." Obama says, "This idea [of Organizing for Action] has been viewed with puzzle—some—both suspicion and—and people have been puzzled about what it is that we're trying to do because the usual idea is, well, this must just be a mechanism to try to win the next election in 2014. And what we've tried to explain to people is is [sic] that, no, I actually just want to govern, at least for a couple of years. But I also want to make sure that the voices of ordinary people are heard in the debates that are gonna be taking place." (Obama is, of course, lying. the organization is most certainly intended to help Democrats win back the House of Representatives in the

November 2014 elections. By ‘I actually just want to govern’ Obama means, ‘I want Democrat control of both the House and the Senate so I can do whatever I want—with no need to compromise with, or even listen to, even one Republican.’) [43342, 43369, 43375, 43382]

On March 13 EconomicPolicyJournal.com reports, “The Joint Committee on Taxation recently released a 96 page report on the tax provisions associated with Affordable Care Act. The report describes the 21 tax increases included in Obamacare, totaling \$1.058 trillion [over 10 years]—a steep increase from initial assessment, according to the Tax Prof Blog. The summer 2012 estimate is nearly twice the \$569 billion estimate produced at the time of the passage of the law in March 2010.” (Obamacare taxes will suck more than \$100 billion per year out of the private economy.) [43330]

Senate Democrats reveal their first budget in four years. The “balanced approach” document—which is incredibly light on details and is more of a broad outline than a budget—calls for \$1.503 trillion in higher taxes and \$46.4 trillion in total spending over 10 years, a reversal of the sequester spending cuts, \$100 billion in “stimulus” spending, \$162 billion more spending in 2014 than in 2013. (The \$1.503 trillion in higher taxes is in addition to the \$600 billion the Democrats won in the last budget confrontation.) The budget also calls for \$2.2 *trillion* more spending in 2023 than in 2013—a whopping 62 percent increase, in contrast to the ludicrous Democrat claim that the budget reduces the deficit by \$1.85 trillion. Spending cuts in the proposal include reductions Medicare in payments to physicians and hospitals, which will almost certainly not be enacted—and which would make it even more difficult for senior citizens to find a doctor if they were. The Democrat budget is full of gimmicks and unreasonable claims, such as \$240 billion in “savings” from ending the war in Afghanistan. (Scaling back the war does not give the government more money, of course, because it has been operating at a deficit. It simply means it does not have to borrow as much—and reduced borrowing does not mean more money is available to spend. Claiming war savings every year is tantamount to a family claiming it can “save” \$500,000 simply by not buying a new \$50,000 Mercedes Benz in each of the next 10 years.) The Democrat proposal—which never results in a balanced budget—also claims \$242 billion in “savings” from reduced interest rates. (It absurdly assumes interest rates will remain eternally low and uses that assumption to claim it “saves” money on future borrowing and spending.) Democrat Senators up for reelection in 2014 who choose to support the budget do so at the risk of their jobs. One Republican Senate aide remarks, “It’s going to be nice to be able to play some offense this time around [by offering budget amendments and defying the Democrats to vote against them]. I think it’s going to become abundantly clear why Democrats have avoided this process for so long.” [43331, 43335, 43336, 43341, 43351, 43353, 43366, 43368, 43373, 43525]

The Democrat budget proposal is immediately excoriated by Senate Republicans. Senator John Thune (R-SD) states, “[The] budget would raise taxes on Americans by \$1.5 trillion to pay for increased spending... on top of the \$1.7 trillion in tax increases already signed into law during the Obama administration. The policies of big spending and big government have led to a dismal average economic growth rate of just 0.8 percent over

the past four years. It's time to grow the economy, not the government." Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) states, "We need to grow the economy, not the government. We must act to create more jobs and better pay. And we can do it without adding to the debt. [We need] Pro-growth tax reform, more domestic energy production, make the welfare office a place to restart lives... enforce immigration law to ensure fairness for American workers, eliminate every burdensome federal regulation that isn't needed and that destroys jobs [and] balance the federal budget." The White House claims, "The Senate Democratic budget is a concrete plan that will grow our economy and shrink our deficits in a balanced way, consistent with [Obama's] belief that our economy grows best from the middle-out, not the top-down, while reducing the debt as a share of the economy." (It is later reported that the Democrat budget proposal includes the sequester spending cuts as part of its overall claim that it saves \$1.85 trillion—even though the budget restores the spending from the sequester.) [43373, 43462]

The Democrat budget includes a continuation of spending on advertisements promoting food stamps to Hispanic Americans via a "partnership" between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Mexican government. (DailyCaller.com reports, "In a party-line 12 to 10 vote, the Democrats on the committee rejected a proposal to prevent funding for such endeavors from ranking member Alabama Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions, who has spoken out against the program in recent months." In a losing battle, Sessions states, "Contrary to sound policy, the United States is spending money advertising food stamp benefits in foreign consulates. This amendment would prohibit any funds from being spent on this controversial promotion campaign.") [43400, 43439]

The Washington Post slams the Democrat budget: "Partisan in tone and complacent in substance, [the Democrat budget] scores points against the Republicans and reassures the party's liberal base—but deepens these senators' commitment to an unsustainable policy agenda. ...It is on the issue of entitlements that the Democrats' document really disappoints. There is literally nothing—not a word—suggestive of trimming Social Security, whether through greater means-testing, a more realistic inflation adjustment or reforming disability benefits. The document's fuzzy call for \$275 billion in 'health savings' is \$125 billion less than the number ...Obama has floated. ...As for the coming flow of baby boomers into Medicare, the Democrats declare that 'new retirees deserve the same promise of quality, affordable health care from which their parents have benefitted [sic]—and it is the position of the Senate Budget that they ought to get it.' There's plenty of excoriation for the GOP 'premium support' plan. But there's no explanation of how the Democrats would pay for their 'promise'—nary a hint of the many cost-saving reforms that would extend Medicare's life without embracing the GOP plan. In short, this document gives voters no reason to believe that Democrats have a viable plan for—or even a responsible public assessment of—the country's long-term fiscal predicament." [43427, 43428, 43553]

Press secretary Jay Carney confirms for reporters that the White House was, in fact, responsible for the decision to end tours—contradicting Obama's claim in an ABC interview that he had nothing to do with the decision. ABC's Jonathan Karl asks Carney, "How much does it cost for [Obama] to go and play golf?" Carney responds, "Uh, Jon,

again, you know, you're trivializing an impact here. People will lose their jobs [because of the sequester cuts]. Three quarters of a million people will lose their jobs." Karl: "But this is about choices." in an interview with WMAL-DC, former Secret Service agent Dan Bongino says, "This [cancellation of tours] started in the White House. The Secret Service would not shut down the tours." Obama's claim is "not true. They [Secret Service agents] are taking it on the chin for this guy. It is not true." Bongino tells Fox News Channel's Neil Cavuto that Obama's blame game is "an act of cowardice. ...To say that this was the Secret Service, and that they somehow injected themselves into a political decision—well, do they get to tell [Obama] to stop taking vacations and to stop going golfing as well? ...This doesn't even pass the smell test, this argument." [43344, 43376, 43380, 43383, 43403]

According to a union official, the Transportation Security Administration will not lay off or furlough any employees for the time being—even though Obama and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano have threatened otherwise. [43395]

Karen Finney, a former spokesperson for Bill Clinton, floats the idea of a Hillary Clinton-Michelle Obama ticket for the Democrats in 2016. Finney calls it a "dream team for America." (Millions of Americans would, of course, call it a nightmare.) "Both women are proven effective leaders who've raised children, so dealing with Congress would be a snap." At WashingtonExaminer.com Paul Bedard writes, "Recently, there has been some talk that [Michelle] Obama would be a good Illinois Senate candidate after the White House, much like Clinton, who ran for and won a Senate seat in New York. But teaming her with Clinton would create a political and fundraising force that would be impossible to beat on the Democratic side." (Whether Clinton and Obama could unseat William Howard Taft as the most obese chief executives in the nation's history remains to be seen.) [43350]

Newsmax.com reports, "The Obama administration is drawing up plans to give all U.S. spy agencies full access to a massive database that contains financial data on American citizens and others who bank in the country, according to a Treasury Department document seen by Reuters. The proposed plan represents a major step by U.S. intelligence agencies to spot and track down terrorist networks and crime syndicates by bringing together financial data banks, criminal records, and military intelligence. The plan, which legal experts say is permissible under U.S. law, is nonetheless likely to trigger intense criticism from privacy advocates." [43372]

Jon Cohen and Karen Tumulty write in *The Washington Post*, "The afterglow of ...Obama's reelection and inauguration appears to have vanished as increasingly negative views among Americans about his stewardship of the economy have forced his public approval rating back down to the 50 percent mark, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll. In December, just after he won a second term, Obama held an 18-percentage-point advantage over congressional Republicans on the question of whom the public trusted more to deal with the economy. Now, it's a far more even split—44 percent to 40 percent, with a slight edge for [Obama]—but the share of those saying they have confidence in 'neither' has ticked up into double digits. ...At 50 percent, Obama's

overall standing in the poll is lower than that of most other modern second-term presidents at this point in their terms. Of the seven second-term presidents who have been in office since Harry S. Truman, only George W. Bush had a positive rating as low as 50 percent at this stage.” (Obama still has time to match his socialist compatriot in France, President Francois Hollande, whose approval rating has plunged from 59 to 31 percent since his election in May 2012. Unemployment has remained at record highs in France, and Hollande’s Obama-like high tax “solution” has done little but drive job creators out of the country.) [43388, 43433]

The Associated Press reports, “Some Americans could see their insurance bills double next year as the health care overhaul law expands coverage to millions of people. The nation’s big health insurers say they expect premiums—or the cost for insurance coverage—to rise from 20 to 100 percent for millions of people due to changes that will occur when key provisions of the Affordable Care Act roll out in January 2014. Mark Bertolini, CEO of Aetna Inc., one of the nation’s largest insurers, calls the price hikes ‘premium rate shock.’ ‘We’ve done all the math, we’ve shared it with all the regulators, we’ve shared it with all the people in Washington that need to see it, and I think it’s a big concern,’ Bertolini said during the company’s annual meeting with investors in December. ...[T]he biggest price hikes are expected to hit a group that represents a relatively small slice of the insured population. That includes some of the roughly 14 million people who buy their own insurance as opposed to being covered under employer-sponsored plans, and to a lesser extent, some employees of smaller companies. ... Young people who currently have low-cost coverage may see some of the biggest hikes. In many states, insurers charge a 60-year-old customer \$5 in premiums for every \$1 they collect from a 24-year-old. The logic behind that is that older people use health care more and generate more expensive claims than younger customers, so insurers need to collect more to help pay their bills. But the [ObamaCare] overhaul will narrow that ratio to [no more than] 3-to-1. That alone could cause the premium for a 24-year-old who pays \$1,200 annually to jump to \$1,800, according to [America’s Health Insurance Plans].” [43392, 43393]

On March 14 the Senate Judiciary Committee approves a ban on 157 models of “assault weapons” and high-capacity ammunition clips. All 10 Democrats votes for the ban and all eight Republicans vote against it. (The legislation will almost certainly be defeated by the full Senate.) [43367]

At NationalReview.com Andrew Stiles writes, “Senate Democrats on Wednesday officially unveiled a budget resolution for the first time in nearly four years. It presents a stark contrast to the latest offering by House Republicans, which achieves balance within a decade without raising taxes. The Democratic proposal never balances, and calls for a \$1 trillion tax increase [it is, in fact, \$1.5 trillion], at least \$100 billion in stimulus spending, and a smattering of nebulous spending cuts, most of which can be chalked up to accounting gimmicks. Now that Senate Democrats have finally put their plan on paper, it is not hard to understand why they have been so reluctant to do so. For one, it is far easier to demagogue an opponent’s proposal without a serious plan of your own to

defend. In almost all respects, the Democratic budget is a political testament to ...Obama's insistence that 'we don't have an immediate crisis in terms of debt.'" [43379]

Newsmax.com reports that Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) "confronted Obama during a closed-door meeting over the refusal of his administration to share with key senators' memos from the Justice Department that gives legal justification for targeting Americans abroad, Politico reported. Obama's response: 'This is not Dick Cheney we're talking about here.'" (Obama is apparently unaware that Cheney has been supportive of his drone policy—at least as far as using them on foreign soil. In any event, Obama believes he can be trusted with drones but Cheney could not.) [43385]

After a lunch meeting Obama holds with Senate Republicans, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) tells reporters that Obama did not eat because his "food taster" was not present. Collins says, "He looked longingly at it [lobster salad]. He honestly did look longingly at it, but apparently he has to have essentially a taster, and I pointed out to him that we were all tasters for him, that if the food had been poisoned all of us would have keeled over so, but he did look longingly at it and he remarked that we have far better food than the Democrats do, and I said that was because I was hosting." (DailyCaller.com notes, "According to a 2009 AFP report, the U.S. Secret Service has 'always refused to confirm that US presidents travel with a food 'taster,' in line with their policy of discretion on all security related issues.") [43401, 43421, 43647]

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) tells reporters, "...I believe that we're on a path to reduce the deficit. And I would say that—count me as one who would say I want us to be on a path to balance the budget in a number of decades." (The 73-year-old Pelosi will, of course, be long dead before the budget is in balance—if it ever is in balance.) [43405]

Asked about the massive federal deficits and national debt, Congressman John Conyers (D-MI) says, "...First of all, ...the debt is not endangering us a bit—not at all. Our economists say we're in debt but it's not endangering everything. As a matter of fact, there are economists that say some debt is not a bad idea at all. So all those ideas about the ceiling falling, the walls caving in because of that, you can sleep more comfortably in your bed at night when you realize that we don't think there's a problem." (That is, of course, easy for the 83-year-old Conyers to say. He'll be dead and will not have to pay off the \$16 trillion nation debt he helped create in his 47-year career as a big-spending Congressman.) [43406]

John Morton, Obama's director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, confirms for a House Appropriations Committee subcommittee that 2,228 illegal immigrants have been released "throughout the country" for "solely budgetary reasons." FoxNews.com reports, "For the first time, [Morton] explained the kinds of detainees that were sprung from local jails—he said they included detainees held on theft charges, financial criminals and drunken drivers." [43386]

Federal District Court Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff of the Eastern District of Michigan grants a Motion for a Preliminary Injunction against enforcement of the ObamaCare mandate that would have required plaintiff Tom Monaghan (the founder of Domino's Pizza) to provide free contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization to employee of his business, Domino's Farms Corporation (which is unrelated to the pizza restaurant chain). LifeNews.com reports, "Judge Zatkoff previously ruled in favor of granting an emergency temporary restraining order in January. The preliminary injunction extends the previous ruling to protect the plaintiffs for the entire pendency of the case. Erin Mersino, an attorney with Thomas More [Law Center], told LifeNews, 'The HHS Mandate forces our clients to provide abortion causing drugs to their employees when doing so is a direct violation of the teachings of the Catholic Church and our clients' sincerely held religious beliefs. The Court's decision today upholds everyone's freedom of religion and rights protected by the Constitution.' ...The Obama administration is expected to appeal Judge Zatkoff's ruling to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals." [43396, 43402]

At the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), Texas Governor Rick Perry refers to Obama's use of the sequestration cuts as an excuse to release of illegal immigrants: "[Obama's] posture, it'd be laughable if he hadn't taken it one step too far, dangerously releasing criminals onto our streets to make a political point. When you have a federally-sponsored jailbreak—and don't get confused, that's exactly what this is—when you've had a federally-sponsored jailbreak, you've crossed the line from politics of spin to politics as a craven form of cynicism, where everything goes, everything goes in order to win the next election." (Obama also crossed the line into an impeachable offense—not that many in Congress have the courage to impeach him for failing to uphold the U.S. Constitution.) "But here is my concern: if Obama can't handle \$85 billion in cuts that he suggested, how can we ever believe that he will tackle trillion dollar deficits...?" Perry also indirectly criticizes John McCain and Mitt Romney: "The popular media narrative is that this country has shifted away from conservative ideals, as evidenced by the last two presidential elections. That's what they [in the media] think. That's what say. That might be true if Republicans had actually nominated conservative candidates in 2008 and 2012." [43387, 43404]

At CPAC, attorney Orly Taitz meets with Congressman Louis Gohmert (R-TX), Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), Congressman Steven King (R-IA) and retired Senator and current president of the Heritage Foundation Jim DeMint. Taitz issues a press release that states, "During the conversation with Congressman Gohmert, Taitz was surrounded by multiple reporters, who took pictures and recorded on video tape the conversation. Taitz showed Gohmert Obama's tax returns with CT SSN 042-68-4425 and SSNVS and E-verify, showing that Obama failed E-Verify and SSNVS, that he is using a stolen SSN. Taitz advised Gohmert that in January [a] Department of Justice [attorney] appeared before Judge England, stating that they represent the US Congress and on behalf of the US Congress they opposed the injunction of the certification of Obama's electoral votes. I asked, if he as a US Congressman and member of the Judiciary committee indeed felt that it is proper for Obama to use the SSN that was not assigned to him, whether he indeed directed the US Department of Justice to represent him and oppose the injunction.

Gohmert stated in front of all the reporters that he did not know anything about this and that the Department of Justice never gave him any papers. ...Senator Inhofe similarly did not know anything about it. The conversation took place in front of the talk show host Rusty Humphries. Taitz talked to Congressman Steven King. He said that if the Department of Justice were to give him any papers he would remember it. ...As of now the picture is such that the Department of Justice went behind the backs of the U.S. Congressmen and never gave them any pleadings or documents and did not act as an attorney for the US Congress, but rather as a private criminal defense attorney for Obama.” [43391, 43398]

At CPAC Taitz meets with former Attorney General Edwin Meese to discuss Obama’s use of forged documents and stolen Social Security numbers. Taitz later reports that Meese “listened very attentively, he appeared more alert and attentive than many congressmen and senators, who are half his age. He stated that he will review the documents and will get back [to me].” Taitz also discusses Obama’s identity fraud with former Virginia governor Jim Gilmore, a retired U.S. Army counterintelligence officer. [43414, 43419, 43432]

At WashingtonTimes.com David Hill reports, “While listening to a who’s-who of leaders of the conservative movement addressing the giant CPAC gathering here, many younger conservatives expressed a wish that those leaders follow them home and return the favor. ‘...Obama is on college campuses everyday, so we need conservatives,’ said Sophia Coyne-Kosnak, an 18-year-old freshman at Hillsdale College in Michigan. ‘Kids just can’t have other kids talking about [conservatism]. We need authority figures.’ As CPAC kicked off Thursday, the prominent demographic in attendance was the young conservatives who came from their jobs and from college campuses across the country to take in a three-day conference that organizers have largely billed as a showcase for the next generation. Conservatives are looking for ways to attract college students and 20-somethings, a group that supported ...Obama by a more than 2-to-1 margin in last year’s election, according to exit polls. ...‘We need candidates like [Rand Paul] that stand for something. Politics as usual doesn’t appeal to young people,’ said Scott Bowen, a 22-year-old senior at Texas A&M University. ‘That was what Obama campaigned against, but it turns out that’s exactly what we got.’” [43443]

The Wall Street Journal reports that a new conservative cable news channel will be launched July 1. The 24-hour network, called One America News, “will be a combination of straight news reporting and conservative political talk shows, according to [network president] Charles Herring... Mr. Herring said that his family’s company, Herring Broadcasting, is investing ‘hundreds of millions’ of dollars into the new channel, which he says will provide a much-needed alternative in the current news landscape. ‘If you take a typical channel on any of the leading video providers, and you try to determine which ones are providing credible news, you get about eight or nine news channels that skew to the left—for example, MSNBC skews left, and some argue that CNN skews left,’ Mr. Herring said. ‘There is only one that skews right on political talk shows, and that’s Fox. We are going to open up another front and give independents, libertarians and all

kind of different voices under the conservative umbrella an opportunity to express themselves.” (Obama will not be happy.) [43389, 43390]

CNSNews.com reports, “The Obama administration is planning new cuts to Medicare, a federal regulatory filing reveals, cuts that could mean higher premiums or seniors losing their coverage altogether. The new cuts come in the form of a planned reduction in the reimbursement rates the government pays to insurance companies that operate Medicare Advantage plans, which are services administered by private for-profit or non-profit providers that offer additional services than can be found in traditional Medicare.” According to one estimate, the reimbursement reductions may mean as much as \$50 to \$90 per month in benefit cuts and premium increases per Medicare Advantage participant in 2014. [43397, 43618]

In advance of Obama’s trip to Israel, Ben Rhodes, Obama’s “deputy national security adviser for strategic communications,” tells reporters, “It is obviously a good thing that the people in the region are seeking to express themselves democratically. Israel needs to take into account the changing dynamic and the need to reach out to public opinion across the region as it seeks to make progress on issues like Israeli-Palestinian peace and broader Arab-Israeli peace.” (Rhodes, whose brother David is—conveniently for Obama—the president of CBS News—does not explain how or why a nation should “reach out to public opinion” when that opinion calls for that nation’s destruction. Asking Israel to “reach out” to its enemies would be like asking 1930s Jews to reach out to Hitler.) [43399, 43552]

Meanwhile, about 25 current Israeli residents who attended Columbia University at the same time Obama attended tell the newspaper *Haaretz* they do not recall ever seeing him at the school. Judy Maltz writes, “Not one of us remembers Barack Obama—who transferred to Columbia after his sophomore year at Occidental College in California—from our undergrad years, nor do we know anyone else who does. ‘If he wasn’t on my radar, he wasn’t on anyone’s radar,’ asserts Jamie Miller, a mother of five, who lives in Beit Shemesh and remains active in the alumni association, traveling back to New York every five years to attend reunions. ‘I was a cheerleader, so I knew all the jocks,’ says Miller, who went to law school after college and today works as a librarian and English teacher. ‘I was in the marching band, I worked on the yearbook, and I was involved in student government, so I knew everyone. But I never saw him around.’ Sarah Graber Nehrer, a speech pathologist who moved with her family from the United States to Rehovot last summer, says she became curious about Obama even before his first presidential run. ‘When he first came on the political scene, back when he was running for the Senate, I was living in Illinois, and I was like [sic], ‘Wait, this guy went to school with me,’ she explains. ‘But I had no recollection of him whatsoever, and neither did anyone else I know, which I found very strange.’” (Obama’s graduating class had fewer than 2,000 students, yet no one has ever come forward to claim any recollection of Obama—not in class, at the library, or at nearby bars or restaurants. Obama’s picture is also not on the school yearbook, which has helped fuel speculation that Obama never attended Columbia but “bought” or was “given” his degree with assistance from someone seeking to advance his career.) [43415]

A Quinnipiac poll shows Obama's approval rating plummeting in Pennsylvania, from 51 to 44 percent in just 45 days. His disapproval rating jumped from 46 to 51 percent. In the Gallup national poll, Obama's approval rating stands at 47 percent. [43410, 43411, 43412]

On March 15 Obama travels to Lemont, Illinois for the sole purpose of giving an energy speech at the Argonne National Laboratory. (At NationalReview.com Jim Geraghty notes that Obama "will be flying about 620 miles between Washington and Chicago. While the precise rate of fuel consumption of Air Force One is not revealed to the public, a 747 burns about five gallons of fuel per mile. So ...Obama will burn about 6,200 gallons of jet fuel in his round trip, to deliver a speech urging 'new research and technology to shift our cars and trucks off oil for good.'") Obama makes the impossible pledge to "shift our cars ...entirely off oil" and calls for continued federal funding of "green energy" projects. "We recognize there are some things we do together as a country because individually we can't do it [sic]—and by the way, the private sector on its own will not invest in this research because it's too expensive, it's too risky. They can't afford it in terms of their bottom lines. So we've got to support it, and we'll all benefit from it and our kids will benefit from it and our grandkids will benefit from it. That's who we are. That's been the American story." (That, of course, is certainly *not* "the American story." The American story has been free enterprise capitalism and the great accomplishments and wealth that can be generated by self-reliance, individualism, and hard work. It is not throwing good money after bad. If green energy investments were wise, they would be made by private investors. It is absurd to forcibly confiscate tax dollars from Americans to pay for schemes in which they would not voluntarily participate.) [43409, 43450, 43461]

On HBO's *Real Time*, leftist comedian Bill Maher complains to his panel of guests about high taxes: "You know what? Rich people—I'm sure you'd agree with this—actually do pay the freight in this country. I just saw these statistics. I mean, something like 70 percent [of the taxes are paid by a small minority of income earners]. And here in California, I just want to say liberals—you could actually lose me. It's outrageous what we're paying—over 50 percent. I'm willing to pay my share, but yeah, it's ridiculous." (Maher, age 57, took quite a few more years than many Americans to figure out that the wealthy do, in fact, pay their "fair share.") [43510]

On March 16 Sarah Palin addresses the CPAC audience. Noting the Democrats' push for gun control, she remarks, "Background checks Mr. [Obama]? [We] Should have started with yours." Palin also says, "The election came and went but the campaign never stopped. Mr. [Obama], we get it, you won. Accept it. Now step away from the teleprompter and do your job." [43415, 43426, 43438]

Also in attendance at the CPAC event are radio talk show host Dr. Carl Gallups and Mike Zullo, lead investigator of Sheriff Joe Arpaio's "cold case posse"—which has been accumulating evidence related to Obama's forged birth certificates, Selective Service registration form, and stolen Social Security numbers. ThePostEmail.com reports that Gallups and Zullo met with several members of Congress who were at CPAC. Gallups

states, “An obvious crime has been committed that is historic. We have the evidence. We have the criminal investigation.” Gallups adds that he was given “promises” that something would be done about the “Obama identity scandal.” Gallups relates that some Congressmen were “quite shocked” by the information he and Zullo provided. “Once Lieutenant Zullo sat down and explained what [evidence] he had, their jaws were on the floor. ... We’ve got the proof. Now we need a ruling on the proof. I think we may get it very soon based upon what these VIPs are telling us now that they have seen the evidence.” On the other hand, one “very prominent” conservative (former Congressman Allen West) responded to the evidence about Obama by saying, “I can’t get involved in that because it might hurt my future political aspirations.” (Note that *The Obama Timeline* has cooperated with the Arpaio investigation and has provided Zullo with information from its years of research into Obama’s past. It is believed that the identity of the birth certificate forger is known and it will be made public at an appropriate time.) [43417, 43418, 43425, 43487, 43531, 43578, 43623, 43671]

Senator Rand (R-KY) wins the CPAC straw poll with 25 percent of the vote. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) wins second place with 23 percent. Falling behind in single digits are Rick Santorum (8), Christ Christie (7), Paul Ryan (6), Scott Walker (5), Benjamin Carson (4). Ted Cruz (4), Bobby Jindal (3), Sarah Palin (3). Remaining candidates collectively gather 14 percent. [43422]

Some labor unions have apparently gotten around to reading some of the details of ObamaCare, and are learning that the legislation may cost members \$63 per year if health insurers pass on a fee meant to help fund pre-existing conditions coverage for others. Breitbart.com reports, “Analysts say most of the cost will likely be passed on to workers. ... But the United Auto Workers Retiree Medical Trust, which covers 806,000 autoworkers, has joined others in asking federal regulators for an exemption. Boeing, which has 405,000 employees and dependents subject to the fee, has also requested an exemption. Boeing [whose request was denied] says the Obamacare fee will add \$25 million in costs on top of the already \$2.5 billion the company spends each year on health benefits.” (The \$63 per person fee would add more than \$50 million per year to the cost of running the auto workers fund.) [43423]

WeeklyStandard.com reports that the U.S. Senate barbershop “has run deficits of approximately \$350,000 a year for each of the last 15 years” (enough to cover more than a few White House tours). Attempts to privatize the Senate service have been unsuccessful, but “House Republicans successfully privatized their taxpayer-subsidized barbershop in 1995, when they passed a resolution from then-speaker Newt Gingrich’s privatization task force. The operation had been losing \$50,000 annually...” (Senators apparently cannot afford to pay for their own haircuts on a salary of only \$174,000 per year.) [43424, 43447]

On March 17 blogger Doug Ross posts a transcript of a little-noted radio interview of Dr. John Drew by Paul Kengor. (Drew knew Obama when they both attended Occidental College. Kengor is the author of *The Communist, Frank Marshall Davis: The Untold Story of Barack Obama’s Mentor.*) Drew states, “I see myself as Barack Obama’s

missing link from his exposure to communism through Frank Marshall Davis and his later exposure to Bill Ayers and Alice Palmer in Chicago. So, as far as I can tell, I'm the only one of Obama's extended circle of friends who's spoken out and verified that he was a Marxist-Leninist in his sophomore year of college, from 1980 to 1981. ...[Occidental] was considered sort of the 'Moscow' of southern California. There were a lot of Marxist professors, many of whom I got to know pretty well... [T]his is what I know for sure, and this is why I'd sought you out, to be helpful to the historic record, is to verify that Barack Obama was definitely a Marxist and that, it was very unusual for a sophomore to be as radical, or as ideologically attuned as young Barack Obama was. I think people like David Remnick [a biographer], they make it sound like Frank Marshall Davis had no impact on Obama and that his friend Mohammed Shandu [Pakistani Muslim Mohammed Hassan Chandoo] somehow converted him to Marxism at Occidental. And my impression is that Obama was the leader of that group and Obama was already very ardent and committed to Marxism. And Shandu [Chandoo] struck me as somewhat more passive. So it doesn't fit the story that I read in Remnick's story *The Bridge*." [20, 28, 188, 189, 191, 245, 332, 43429, 43430, 43431]

Drew continues, "Obama believed, at the time I met him, this was probably around Christmas time in 1980. ...And Obama was looking forward to an imminent social revolution, literally a movement where the working classes would overthrow the ruling class and institute a kind of socialist Utopia in the United States. I mean, that's how extreme his views were his sophomore year of college. ...I was a comrade, but I was more... the Frankfort School of Marxism at the time. I was, I felt like I was doing him a favor by pointing out that the Marxist revolution that he and Caroline [Bosch] and Shandu [Chandoo] were hoping for was really kind of a pipe dream. And that there was nothing in European history, or the history of developed nations, that would make that sort of fantasy, that Frank Marshall Davis fantasy of revolution, come true. ...[There were some] who were puzzled why they didn't see Marx's predictions come true, and [who] weren't interested in the role of psychology or false consciousness in preventing a revolution from happening. I was a card-carrying Marxist, but I was more of an east coast, Cornell University Marxist at that time. ...[Obama] thought I was a little reactionary... or insensitive to the coming needs of the revolution! He was full-bore, 100 percent into that very, kind of, simple-minded Marxist revolutionary framework." [20, 28, 188, 189, 191, 245, 332, 43429, 43430, 43431]

"...I've challenged ...Obama to explain how he evolved this Marxist-Leninist viewpoint he had in his sophomore year of college. And he's just never articulated how he changed. In fact, he's buried and, I think, lied about his ideological convictions of his youth. And we can trace it all the way to Alice Palmer, I think, in 1995 [the Illinois state senator who he replaced]... who attended the Communist Party 'Politburo' event. Or she was part of a big international Communist convention in Moscow. [As noted in Part I of *The Obama Timeline*, Palmer visited the Soviet Union as an official of the U.S. Peace Council, an affiliate of the Soviet front group World Peace Council.] ...[Obama] had a very consistent ideology, I think, probably from the time he was in [Hawaii] to the time he was with Palmer and [William] Ayers in Chicago. I think his current behavior demonstrates that he still has some ideological convictions. When ever he talks about taxing the richest

two-percent, I think he knows that will harm the economy. To him, the redistribution of wealth is extremely important. And he never took economics or science like I did. He went straight to law school, never had any business experience, never had a payroll to meet. And I think he's locked in a very dangerous mindset, where if he didn't fight to redistribute the wealth that he'd be violating [his Marxist] ideology. ... You see people like [Obama's former green jobs czar] Van Jones, who's an admitted Communist, you see [Obama's former White House communications director] Anita Dunn, who's praising Mao Tse-Tung—to me, it's like Obama's Marxist-Socialist ideology is hiding in plain sight! It's frustrating to me. It seems to me [that] people should be up in arms about this! ... I think whenever he talks about people clinging to their guns and religions due to economic stress, that's just the standard Marxist argument... he's still using the standard Marxist architecture, the way he talks about things. I think he's surrounded by people who share that mental architecture. ... I feel like our nation's life is at stake.” [20, 28, 75, 188, 189, 191, 245, 269, 332, 43429, 43430, 43431]

On *Face the Nation*, Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) warns, “We believe that young people, seniors, families, businesses are in for a very rude awakening as ObamaCare is rolled out. It still has nearly two years to go before it's fully implemented and we're showing [in our GOP budget] that there's a better way of going and this is a better plan to balance the budget. ... I really believe [ObamaCare is] going to destroy the healthcare plan, the healthcare system in America. We believe the law will collapse under its own weight and that people will be eager for alternatives, as the gory details unfold in the future with its implementation.” [43444]

On *This Week*, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) says, “When you get down to the bottom line, [Obama] believes that we have to have more taxes from the American people. [With that argument] We're not going to get very far [in negotiations]. If [Obama] doesn't believe that the goal ought to be to balance the budget over the next 10 years, I'm not sure we're going to get very far. And this is the whole issue. We have a spending problem here in Washington, and it's time to solve the problem. ... We do not have an immediate debt crisis—but we all know that we have one looming. And we have one looming because we have entitlement programs that are not sustainable in their current form. They're going to go bankrupt. ... The American people know that you can't continue to spend money that you don't have. ... [Obama] talks about a balanced plan. What's balanced about a plan that never gets to balance[d budget]? ... [Obama] got his tax hikes on January 1. The talk about raising revenue is over. It's time to deal with the spending problem.” [43446]

On *Meet the Press*, House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) declares that Obama is not going to get any additional taxes from the Republican-controlled House of Representatives beyond the \$600 billion he got on January 1. Host David Gregory asks, “Is there any ratio of spending cuts to tax increases that any Republican is actually prepared to support?” McCarthy responds, “There are no new tax increases because you don't need it. If you look at this report—” Gregory: “But you're never going to get entitlement reform [from Obama without higher taxes]—” McCarthy: “[Then] You're going to get nothing. ... Every viewer that's watching today that's working, already got a

tax increase. [Obama] took \$600 billion of this economy. He talks about a balanced plan, but he never talked about cutting.” [43500]

On *Fox News Sunday* host Chris Wallace asks Senator Dick “Eddie Haskell” Durbin (D-IL) how \$9 trillion in national debt under President George W. Bush could be called “unpatriotic” by Obama in 2008 while Obama’s \$16 trillion debt is “sustainable.” Durbin’s response is typical political nonsense. He laughably claims that \$2.4 trillion has already been cut (even though federal spending in the first five months of fiscal year 2013 was \$30.5 billion more than in the same period in fiscal year 2012), and says, “We need strong economic recovery. We need to put Americans back to work.” (Durbin, like Obama, has no intention of cutting spending. They call for tax increases to reduce the deficit but have plans to spend every additional dime in new tax revenue they collect.) [43445, 43448]

At WND.com F. Michael Maloof writes, “There are said to have been seven of them—seven American survivors of the Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, who were seriously wounded but remain unknown six months after the fact, but no one knows why. Initial reports said there were 30 American survivors, seven of whom required extensive medical attention. Now, a U.S. intelligence source who asked to remain unnamed has told WND that the American survivors who are said to be receiving extensive medical attention at Walter Reed Hospital near Washington, D.C., are contractors and employees for the Central Intelligence Agency, or CIA, using the State Department as a cover for their actual affiliation. The intelligence source added that the facility in Benghazi called the ‘annex’ was used by CIA as a base to look for weapons which had been taken from Libyan weapons stockpiles at the height of the 2011 civil war that saw the overthrow of Libyan leader Moammar al-Gadhafi, who ruled that country for some 40 years. Unconfirmed reports suggest that some of these weapons were being turned over to the rebels battling the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. ... Other sources say that almost all 30 of the American survivors were affiliated with CIA either as contractors or employees, raising a separate issue of what they were doing there.” (Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) has been trying to learn the identities of the Benghazi survivors so that they can be interviewed, but the Obama administration has kept them cloaked in secrecy. Wolf states, “It’s like it’s a dark hole and I think we’re now at a point—now there is a cover-up.” Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) states, “My understanding is that we still have some people in the hospital. I’d like to visit with them and wish them nothing but the best but the State Department has seen it unfit for me to know who those people are—or even how many there are. I don’t know who they are,” he said. “I don’t know where they live. I don’t know what state they’re from. I don’t even know how many there are. It doesn’t seem right to me.”) [43436]

Newsmax.com reports, “Buried in the news made late Friday made by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel [sic] that the U.S. planned to deploy missile interceptors in Alaska and California was the equally important news that the Obama administration was going to stop long-held plans to fully deploy a missile shield in Eastern Europe. The Pentagon insisted that the change in deployment had nothing to do with trying to assuage Russia and everything with the threat from North Korea, which in recent months has sent a long-

range missile into space, detonated a nuclear device, and, last week, sent a barrage of missiles into the Sea of Japan. ...The U.S. plan had called for interceptors in Poland and Romania, complemented by deployed U.S. naval ships outfitted in the Mediterranean. Hagel said the first three phases would be fully implemented, but the fourth, the deployment of a large interceptor warhead, would not go forward. At a meeting last March in South Korea, Obama told then-Russia President Dmitri Medvedev in remarks picked up by a live microphone that he would have 'more flexibility' on the missile shield issue following an election victory. Hagel's decision Friday confirms that Obama may be trying to live up to the promise, resolving a key part of the issue in Russia's favor early in his second term. ...The Obama Administration recently offered an olive branch to Russia, indicating it planned to de-activate one-third of the U.S. nuclear arsenal unilaterally and without Congressional approval." [43442, 43473, 43533]

While Obama continues to demand higher taxes from individuals and corporations, *USA Today* reports that Exxon Mobil paid \$31.05 billion in taxes on pre-tax earnings of \$78.73 billion in 2012. Chevron paid \$20 billion in taxes on \$46.33 billion in pre-tax earnings. Apple paid \$14.21 billion on \$55.96 billion. (Meanwhile, Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) calls for an increase in the federal gasoline tax.) [43476, 43543]

At CPAC, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker tells DailyCaller.com, "What I've seen thus far suggests [Obama] does not care about truly balancing the budget. What I think we've seen increasingly is more of a political agenda, and one in which he measures success by how many people are ultimately dependent on the government. I think we [conservatives] measure success by just the opposite: by how many fewer people are dependent on the government, not because we kicked them out on the streets, but we've empowered them to control their own destiny through the dignity of work that comes from a job in the private sector. ...Why not do what most governors have done over the past two years, and sit down with your Cabinet and put together a more responsible list of alternative cuts? Well, [Obama] doesn't want to do that, because in the end, what he really wants to do is harp on this so-called 'measured approach,' or 'balanced approach,' which really means higher taxes, unspecified, uncertain cuts somewhere in the future, and more of the same." [43488]

The March 17 episode of the History Channel's series, *The Bible*, sparks some controversy with the appearance of the devil—portrayal by a Moroccan actor who, at least in his theatrical make-up, resembles Obama. (The movie's producer, Mark Burnett, is an Obama supporter who donated to the Obama campaign and to the Democrat National Committee. John McCormack issues a Twitter message: "Everyone asking why Satan character looks like Obama. When will MSM ask real Q: Why does Obama look like Satan?" Comedian Jimmy Fallon later quips "The guy who plays Satan on *The Bible* looks like ...Obama. Even Rush Limbaugh was outraged. He was like [sic], 'How can you do that to Satan?'" [43434, 43451, 43460, 43463, 43495, 43511, 43522]

On March 18 Obama announces that he has chosen Tom Perez to be the next Secretary of Labor, replacing the departing Hilda Solis. (Perez, a far left radical, is strongly pro-union,

pro-illegal immigrant, and anti-business. He also lied under oath when testifying about the dropping of voter intimidation charges against the New Black Panther Party.) [43437]

Rush Limbaugh comments on Obama's selection of Tom Perez to head the Department of Labor: "This guy's name is Tom Perez, and he may as well be Hugo Chavez. And that is not an exaggeration. ...He is the guy in the Department of Justice in the civil rights division who made the call not to prosecute the New Black Panthers. I want to play a little game with you, folks. In a hypothetical [argument], let's replace Obama with George W. Bush and the Black Panthers with the Ku Klux Klan. Now, I want you to try to imagine Bush's head of the Civil Rights Division not prosecuting Klanners when they engage in voter intimidation, and then—after not prosecuting Klanners for that—imagine what would happen if Bush turned around and nominated the Grand Kleagle of the Ku Klux Klan to a cabinet position where he would be deciding on discrimination lawsuits. That is exactly what's happened here. There would be unmitigated hell to pay if that had happened. If George W. Bush puts a Klansman in his cabinet, there would be hell to pay. ...This guy, Tom Perez. I read a piece at PJ Media today by... J. Christian Adams who was in the Justice Department and who was prosecuting the New Black Panthers for voter intimidation in Philadelphia. He was prosecuting them when [Eric] Holder [and Perez] shut it down, just ended it. There was evidence to convict a mile long, and J. Christian Adams had seen investigation pulled out from under him, and he retired. He resigned. He quit. He said, there's no point in me being here. [Adams] has written this up this way: 'Today, ...Obama issues a challenge to Republican senators: In nominating Tom Perez as labor secretary, he implies that Senate Republicans don't have either the guts or organizational skill to stop' it. This guy, Tom Perez, is a Hugo Chavezite who may be 'the most radical left-wing cabinet member in history.'" [43453, 43454, 43455]

Senator David Vitter (R-LA) states that he will block Obama's nomination of Tom Perez. Vitter, saying his record "should be met with great suspicion by my colleagues for his spotty work related to the New Black Panther case, but Louisianans most certainly should have cause for concern about this nomination. ...Perez was greatly involved in the DOJ's partisan full court press to pressure Louisiana's Secretary of State to only enforce one side of the [voting rights] law—the side that specifically benefits the politics of [Obama] and his administration at the expense of identity security of each and every Louisianan on the voter rolls." Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) states, "Nominating somebody who is in the middle of a congressional investigation shows me that [Obama] isn't very serious about working together. It appears that Mr. Perez may be at the heart of a decision by the Justice Department to make a quid pro quo deal with the city of St. Paul, Minnesota that ultimately led to the American taxpayer potentially losing hundreds of millions of dollars by declining to intervene in a False Claims Act case that career attorneys had signed off on. I'm looking forward to hearing his testimony, because there are a lot of tough questions he should answer for the American people, including those regarding St. Paul." Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) says of the Perez pick: "[Obama] picks people to promote because they support his ideology rather than the rule of law." [43455, 43492, 43539]

DailyCaller.com reports that at a recent meeting Obama had with House Republicans questions were allowed only from Congressmen who were “pre-selected.” Congressman Michael Burgess (R-TX) states, “They had pre-selected the people who were going to ask questions. I guess someone made those decisions. ...Honestly, I don’t know [who]. I assume it was the House conference that made the decision who got to ask a question.” (Burgess, a physician, had wanted to ask Obama about the implementation of ObamaCare.) [43440]

In a YouTube video, Hillary Clinton—no doubt continuing to pave the way for a 2016 presidential run—endorses gay marriage. [43441]

At RealClearPolitics.com Robert Samuelson writes, “We don’t need a charm offensive [from Obama]; we need a candor offensive. The budget debate’s central reality is that federal retirement programs, led by Social Security and Medicare, are crowding out most other government spending. Until we openly recognize and discuss this, it will be impossible to have a ‘balanced approach’—to use one of ...Obama’s favorite phrases. It’s the math: In fiscal 2012, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and civil service and military retirement cost \$1.7 trillion, about half the budget. If they’re off-limits, the burdens on other programs and tax increases grow ever-greater. ...Liberals drive this process by treating Social Security and Medicare as sacrosanct. Do not touch a penny of benefits; these programs are by definition progressive; all recipients are deserving and needy. Only a few brave liberals complain that this dogma threatens programs for the non-aged poor. ...What frustrates constructive debate is muddled public opinion. Americans hate deficits but desire more spending and reject higher taxes. In a Pew poll, 87 percent of respondents favored present or greater Social Security spending; only 10 percent backed cuts. Results were similar for 18 of 19 programs, foreign aid being the exception. ...Obama hasn’t talked intelligently or openly about America’s aging. In budget negotiations, the administration has made some proposals (a different inflation adjustment for Social Security benefits, a higher Medicare eligibility age) that broach the subject. But Obama hasn’t put these modest steps into the larger context of social change; nor is it clear how much the administration supports them. It’s true that Republicans should also accept higher taxes—but only after the White House engages retirement spending. Little is possible while public opinion remains frozen in contradiction. The mistake lies in thinking that the apparent paralysis isn’t policy. It is. Government is being slowly transformed into a vast old-age home, with everything else devalued and degraded.” [43452]

White House press secretary Jay Carney dodges a question about a scheme by the European Union to confiscate between 6.7 and 10 percent from the savings accounts of citizens of Cyprus to help deal with that nation’s debt crisis. (The percentages are later changed to 6.7, 9.9, and 15, depending on the amount of one’s deposits.) Carney says, “I would refer you to the Treasury Department. We’re obviously monitoring the situation, uh, right now. The—our general proposition [sic] is that we, uh, you know, believe it’s very important for, uh, Europe to take steps necessary, as they have been, to both grow and deal with, uh, sovereignty debt issues, but as regards to this particular situation I would refer to you Cyprus, beyond saying we’re monitoring it—I mean, refer you to

Treasury, beyond saying we're monitoring it." (In other words, the Obama administration does not have the courage or the integrity to state, "The action by the European Union is reprehensible. Americans can rest assured that no such action would ever even be contemplated by the U.S. government." The administration is no doubt "monitoring" the situation to see how big a fit the Cypriots throw. If they calmly submit to the confiscation of their wealth, Obama may decide he could get away with such an action as well. There are certainly Democrats in Congress who would support him. But Cypriots quickly react by withdrawing cash from their accounts, the value of the Euro plunges in the exchange markets, and gold increase to more than \$1,600 per ounce.) [43456, 43457, 43458, 43459, 43475, 43477, 43481, 43482, 43483, 43576, 43617]

The Cypriot "steal their wealth" plan is not unique to European socialists. At Townhall.com Neal Boortz reminds readers, "Go back to 1993. Bill Clinton has just been sworn in. The Democrats are running the show. They've passed a nice little tax increase—retroactive, mind you—and they feel encouraged. Along comes a lady by the name of Alicia Munnell. She's been appointed by Clinton to be an Assistant Treasury Secretary for Economic Development. Munnell proposes a plan to come up with some cash to shore up Social Security. Not everyone, it seems, is 'fortunate' enough to have a nice little IRA or 401k retirement account. Why this just isn't fair! Everyone should have a comfortable retirement, not just the people who actually planned and worked for one! So Munnell proposed to Clinton an idea! Let's just go out there and seize 15% of the outstanding balance of every IRA and 401k. Seize that money and pump it into the Social Security system. As it turns out, Munnell and Clinton never really had the chance to put their plan into action since the very next year the Republicans took control of the House and the Senate in the voter revolution of 1994. Munnell hasn't gone away though. She now hatches her wealth seizure and redistribution schemes as the Director of the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College." (In 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered a temporary "bank holiday," during which time no American could access his own money. Additionally, he ordered the confiscation of gold. The government paid the citizens \$20.67 per ounce, and after the confiscation it was declared to be worth \$35.00 per ounce. In other words, no American should say of the scheme in Cyprus, "It can't happen here.") [43481]

On *The Five*, Greg Gutfeld reacts to the European Union's Cypriot wealth confiscation plan: "So, Cyprus is mulling a plan to tax bank deposits in their country. The breakdown: Below €100,000 will be taxed at 6.7 percent; above €100,000, taxed at 9.9 percent; above €500,000, you're taxed at 15 percent. This wholesale robbery has caused the citizen to rush to get their money out. The response: The banks close. So, how can a government assume it can get away with this? Because they assume they can get away with it. ... While Cypriots can own guns, it's a bear to get them. There is no gun culture there, which then allows the government to wonder of its docile populace, 'What are they going to do, shoot us?' Well, in America—yes, we will shoot you. Cyprus just proved that Joe Biden's notion of 'all you need is a shotgun' is deeply flawed. Sadly, though, the 'steal from the rich' mentality is alive and well in America. Remember Occupy Wall Street? How different is the Cyprus solution from the class warfare rhetoric that demands your wealth is spread around?" (Of course, the scheme is not taxation; it is theft. It is called a

“tax” only to make the proposal more palatable to those who are easily fooled by such rhetorical chicanery. The media leftists cooperate with the schemers by emphasizing that many Russians launder money through banks in Cyprus, apparently assuming that the average Cypriot won’t mind having his money stolen as long as the Russian mafia gets swindled as well. Some wealthy Chinese businessmen also have substantial deposits in banks in Cyprus.) [43489, 43740]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The map of the Middle East displayed in an Obama administration video released days before ...Obama’s visit to Israel shows the Jewish state dispossessed of substantial parts of its current territory, including its capital. The map of Israel, displayed repeatedly during the video, shows the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, northern Israel, and areas surrounding what is currently the West Bank as non-Israeli territory. The Golan Heights is shown as part of Syria; Jerusalem is shown as part of the West Bank; and northern Israel is shown as part of Lebanon. The itinerary on the White House website also implies that Jerusalem is neither Israel’s capital nor even part of Israel. [Obama’s] schedule lists two stops in ‘Tel Aviv, Israel’ and one in ‘Amman, Jordan’ but his activities in Israel’s capital city are identified as taking place only in ‘Jerusalem’”—with no country name attached. This keeps with a reluctantly-acknowledged administration policy of denying that Jerusalem is Israel’s capital or even a part of Israel.” AtlasShrugs.com reminds readers, “Obama is going to Israel with \$500 million cash in hand for the Muslims in the terror statelet of Gaza. Brilliant.” [43465, 43466, 43467, 43468]

In Bethlehem, Palestinians set fire to posters of Obama. *The Jerusalem Post* reports, “Scores of protesters gathered near Manger Square and threw shoes at a US diplomatic vehicle as it arrived at the scene in the context of preparations for Obama’s visit to the city later this week. The protesters also set fire to signs posted in the city earlier this week and reminding Obama that Palestinians still don’t have 3G communications technology. Similar anti-Obama demonstrations are expected to take place in Ramallah and other Palestinian cities in the coming days. ...The protesters also trampled on Obama’s picture, chanting, ‘America is the head of the snake.’ ...Waving a shoe in his hand, Fayez Mansour of the Dehaishe refugee camp near Bethlehem said that Obama was not welcome in the city. ‘We won’t receive Obama with flowers and a red carpet,’ he declared. ‘We will receive him with shoes. We want to tell America that we hate you and you have no place here. We don’t want to see Obama in Palestine. He is coming to save Israel. He does not have anything to offer our people.’” (One billboard in Ramallah displays Obama’s face next to the text, “Obama: Don’t bring your smart phone to Ramallah. You won’t have mobile access to Internet. We have no 3G in Palestine.” There is, of course, no “Palestine.” Ramallah is a city in Israel, located about six miles north of Jerusalem. It serves as the administrative capitol of the Palestinian Authority.) [43469, 43514, 43517, 43546]

IsraelNationalNews.com reports, “Arabs in Bethlehem had a ‘warm welcome’ for American officials who on Monday came to prepare for ...Obama’s visit to the city Friday, by throwing shoes and garbage at the vehicles in an entourage from the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. Hundreds of Arabs mobbed the vehicles outside the Church of

the Nativity, where Obama is scheduled to visit when he comes to Bethlehem. Sources in the city told Israel Radio that Arab protesters tore down posters with Obama's image, throwing them to the ground and spitting and stepping on them. The protesters threw shoes at other posters that were hung too high for them to easily tear down. The American entourage had entered Bethlehem unannounced, apparently in an effort to avoid such scenes. The entourage was said to be comprised chiefly of security officials who were there to ensure that Obama would be safe during his visit. PA police attempted to stop the crowd from throwing shoes and debris at the American vehicles, and were only partially successful, witnesses said." [43561, 43562]

Obama will be protected by an estimated 5,000 Israeli police officers during his "image-remaking" visit to the Jewish state. According to IsraelNationalNews.com, "Over 1,000 police alone will be deployed around the King David Hotel, where Obama will be staying, and will follow Obama around as he pays visits to people and institutions during his three day visit here. For Israelis, and especially many Jerusalemites, their main memory of Obama's visit is likely to be the traffic nightmare the president will bring in his wake. Obama could not have come at a worse time, from the traffic point of view: The week before Passover is one of Israel's heaviest shopping periods, and the streets are jammed with shoppers as it is. With Obama spending most of his visit in Jerusalem, many roads will be closed, parking throughout the center of the city will be sharply limited, and security measures, such as checkpoints, will slow traffic to a crawl." (It is not just Palestinians who are angry with Obama. Only about 10 percent of all Israelis hold a favorable opinion of him. The Palestinians do not like Obama because he has not kicked out the Jews and given Israel to them, and the Jews do not trust Obama because of his many overtures to the Palestinians and his anti-Israel actions. Worse for Obama is the fact that Binyamin Netanyahu remains Prime Minister of Israel. When the visit was first proposed and planned Obama had hoped that Netanyahu would lose his bid for reelection and he would be greeted by someone naive and foolish enough to accept concessions in exchange for a promised peace with the Palestinians. Obama's visit will likely accomplish nothing.) [43469, 43474, 43484, 43496, 43503, 43515]

At GatewayPundit.com Jim Holt reports that Obama has "disqualified students from Ariel University from attending his speech because they study at a West Bank settlement school. ...Labor MK [Member of the Knesset parliament] Nachman Shai called on Israeli students to boycott Obama's speech this week after [he] banned West Bank Ariel University students from the event." (Obama has invited students from all Israeli universities except Ariel.) Shai states, "It is shocking to think that you can disqualify students just because they learn in the West Bank. I do not understand how ...Obama wants to conduct a dialogue with the Israeli public when he is consciously excluding part of it." AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller writes, "Israel needs this anti-Semite there like a hole in the head. Obama is banning settlers? File this under Obama attempting to render parts of Jerusalem judenrein. There is no such thing as a 'settler.' A 'settler' is a Jew living in the Jewish homeland, Judea and Samaria. For Jewish people, the ancient tribal territories of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and west Menasheh—a.k.a. Judea and Samaria or the West Bank—form the very heartland of the homeland. This is hitlerian." Rather than visit the Knesset (the Israeli legislative body), Obama is speaking to college

students—likely because he believes he has a better chance of persuading minds of young liberal mush to accept his arguments than the minds of veteran politicians who have heard all the naive “land for peace” rhetoric before. Obama is betting that the Israeli students are as gullible as American students. [43471, 43472, 43497]

TheHill.com reports, “More voters trust the Democratic Party than the Republican Party on budgetary issues, according to the results of a new poll for The Hill—even though a strong majority actually prefer Republican fiscal policies. The discrepancy would appear to be rooted in the GOP’s image problem, as the party attempts to recover from a bruising general election and recalibrate for a new generation of voters. Respondents in The Hill Poll were asked to choose which of two approaches they would prefer on the budget, but the question’s phrasing included no cues as to which party advocated for which option. Presented in that way, 55 percent of likely voters opted for a plan that would slash \$5 trillion in government spending, provide for no additional tax revenue and balance the budget within 10 years—in essence, the path recommended by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) last week. This was almost twice as many voters as opted for a proposal that would include \$1 trillion in added tax revenue as well as \$100 billion in infrastructure spending, and which would reduce the deficit without eradicating it. Only 28 percent of voters preferred this option, which reflects the proposal put forth by Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) last week. An even stronger majority of respondents, 65 percent, said U.S. budget deficits should be reduced mostly by cutting spending rather than by raising taxes. Just 24 percent said the budget should be balanced mostly by increasing revenue. ...However, as soon as respondents heard the words ‘Republican’ and ‘Democrat,’ the picture changed drastically. A plurality of voters, 35 percent, said they trust the Democrats more on budgetary issues, while 30 percent said they trust the Republicans more. A full 34 percent said they trust neither party. These findings buttress the impression that the Republican label itself incites mistrust among many voters.” [43508, 43509, 43553]

Magpul Industries Corporation issues a statement: “Apparently [Colorado] Gov Hickenlooper has announced that he will sign HB 1224 [strict gun control legislation] on Wednesday. We were asked for our reaction, and here is what we said: We have said all along that based on the legal problems and uncertainties in the bill, as well as general principle, we will have no choice but to leave if the Governor signs this into law. We will start our transition out of the state almost immediately, and we will prioritize moving magazine manufacturing operations first. We expect the first PMAGs to be made outside CO within 30 days of the signing, with the rest to follow in phases. We will likely become a multi-state operation as a result of this move, and not all locations have been selected. We have made some initial contacts and evaluated a list of new potential locations for additional manufacturing and the new company headquarters, and we will begin talks with various state representatives in earnest if the Governor indeed signs this legislation. Although we are agile for a company of our size, it is still a significant footprint, and we will perform this move in a manner that is best for the company and our employees. It is disappointing to us that money and a social agenda from outside the state have apparently penetrated the American West to control our legislature and Governor, but we feel confident that Colorado residents can still take the state back through recalls,

ballot initiatives, and the 2014 election to undo these wrongs against responsible Citizens.” (The White House has no comment. Meanwhile, weapons manufacturer Colt—which makes M16 rifles and M4 machine guns for the U.S. military—threatens to leave Connecticut if it passes a strict gun ban—after 175 years of operations in Hartford.) [43478, 43479, 43490, 43493, 43560, 43565, 43615]

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) Admits defeat and tells reporters that her weapons ban will not be included in the Senate’s final gun legislation. Feinstein says, “I tried my best, but my best, I guess, just wasn’t good enough.” NBCNews.com comments, “[I]ts exclusion from the package makes what was already an uphill battle an almost certain defeat.” (NBC’s claim is absurd. It is Feinstein’s banning of 157 specific weapons—many of them incredibly popular—that would have *guaranteed* defeat of any Senate gun control legislation. It may be that gun control legislation still will not pass, but failing to include Feinstein’s amendment will not be the cause. Feinstein’s demands would have made a 60-degree uphill climb a 90-degree climb.) Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) says, “Dianne has worked so hard on this. She understands going back to the day she found the mayor [George Moscone of San Francisco] dead in his office [after having been shot on November 27, 1978]. I know that, but right now her amendment, using the most optimistic numbers, has less than 40 votes. That’s not 60. I have to get something on the floor so we can have votes on that issue and the other issues.” (At Breitbart.com John Nolte writes, “Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid admitted it had zero chance of passing, which is astonishing when you look at how much political capital our totally objective, completely-unbiased, not-at-all liberal media spent to ensure a nationwide gun grab would become the law of the land. Literally, within minutes of the Sandy Hook massacre, the media had coordinated a narrative attacking what they describe as assault weapons. The push for gun control was on, and this time it was for real—or so the media deluded their bubbled selves into thinking.” If Reid can gather only 40 votes, that means about 15 Senate Democrats are essentially telling Obama to do “indecorous things” with his gun control plans—and Obama does not have the clout or the courage to pressure them to change their minds.) [43512, 43513, 43540, 43541, 43558]

Weld County, Colorado Sheriff John Cooke says he “won’t bother enforcing” the state’s new gun control laws. Additionally, a March 7–12 Wenzel Strategies poll shows that “only 1 in 5 gun owners would be willing to give up their firearms if the government demanded it.” (According to the 2010 U.S. census, almost 115 million American households have at least one gun.) Meanwhile, hunters start canceling their hunting trips to the state, taking their guns—and their business—elsewhere. According to FoxNews.com, “Out-of-state hunters accounted for 15 percent of hunting licenses last year, 86,000, compared with 489,000 for [Colorado] residents.” If many of those 86,000 hunters go elsewhere, the state’s businesses could lose a significant amount of money. Additionally, “Michael Bane, a producer for The Outdoor Channel, also announced he will no longer film his four shows in Colorado.” [43485, 43486, 43565, 43686, 44446]

On March 19, the 10th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by U.S. forces, terrorists—possibly from al-Qaeda—set off car bombs that kill at least 56 people. Obama, who opposed the war and the elimination of Iraq’s brutal dictator, Saddam Hussein, issues a

statement: “As we mark the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq war, Michelle and I join our fellow Americans in paying tribute to all who served and sacrificed in one of our nation’s longest wars. We salute the courage and resolve of more than 1.5 million service members and civilians who, during multiple tours, wrote one of the most extraordinary chapters in military service. We honor the memory of the nearly 4,500 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice to give the Iraqi people an opportunity to forge their own future after many years of hardship. And we express our gratitude to our extraordinary military families who sacrificed on the home-front, especially our Gold Star families who remain in our prayers.” [43491, 43535]

Townhall.com’s John Hawkins provides the “top 20” quotes from the just-completed Conservative Political Action Conference. Among the 20: “American Journalism is dead... They have behaved like hockey goalies in front of Barack Obama’s net.” – Roger Noriega “We believe [Obama] and first family deserve the best security, to live in the White House, and fly on a private plane. But there are five chefs on Air Force One. There are two projectionists who operate the White House movie theater and even sleep in the White House in case the first family wants to watch a late show. I hate to be petty here, but can’t they just press the play button? We are paying someone to walk [Obama’s] dog, but we can’t pay for a veteran to go on a White House tour?” – Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) “There are many negative consequences to amnesty, but the one that I think ought to concern this crowd is that if amnesty goes through, America becomes California and no Republican will ever win another national election.” – author Ann Coulter [43480]

Obama’s approval/disapproval rating drops to 47/50 in the latest CNN poll. (It was 55/43 in January 2013.) [43494, 43549]

One day after a tragedy in which seven U.S. Marines were killed during a training exercise in Hawthorne, Nevada, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) shamelessly and disgustingly uses their deaths to criticize the sequestration cuts. Reid says, “[I]t’s very important we continue training our military, so important. But one of the things in sequester is we cut back in training and maintenance. That’s the way sequester was written. Now, the bill that’s on the floor, we hope to pass today helps that a little bit. ...[W]e have to be very vigilant. This sequester should go away. We have cut already huge amounts of money in deficit reduction. It’s just not appropriate... that our military can’t train and do the maintenance necessary. These men and women, our Marines were training there in Hawthorne. And with this sequester, it’s going to cut back. I just hope everyone understands the sacrifices made by our military. They are significant, being away from home, away from families, away from their country.” (The accident involved the inadvertent explosion of a 60 millimeter mortar and had absolutely nothing to do with spending cuts.) [43507, 43523, 43526, 43527, 43542, 43548]

Former Congressman Allen West, a U.S. Army veteran, responds with a Twitter message: “Disgusted by your attempt to politicize the death of 7 Marines in NV. If you possessed any shred of honor, you’d apologize now.” One Marine official calls Reid’s statement “pure political posturing on the backs of these dead Marines.” Author and talk

show host Mark Levin calls Reid "...the lowest of the low-lives, you know that? You really are at the bottom of the sewer, all the time on every issue—whether it's accusing Mitt Romney of not filing taxes [sic]. You are just a very ill human being. And the fact that you're the Senate majority leader says an awful lot about the Democrats in the Senate. The American people deserve better than this miscreant—we do. We deserve better than this man. He is a vicious, stupid man. Somehow out of Searchlight, Nevada he has acquired tens of millions of dollars, as he lives on the penthouse floor in the Ritz-Carlton in Washington, D.C. Somehow, somehow this low I.Q., no-talent hack politician has become the Senate majority leader and an extremely wealthy man. ...Now look at the slime that comes out of his mouth. Seven dead Marines—somebody's sons, somebody's fathers, somebody's brothers—seven dead Marines, and this jerk goes to the Senate floor and he has to talk about the sequester, which has nothing to do with it. Now, did a single Republican go to the Senate floor and condemn this? Well if they did, I haven't heard about it, and they're welcome to call the program and tell us, because this man needs to be condemned on the Senate floor in public for the implication that he drew—and he clearly drew it on the Senate floor today. Our men and women in uniform—they're not there as political props." [43507, 43523, 43526, 43527]

CBS and NBC shield Reid from criticism by ignoring the story of his Marine tragedy remarks. ABC briefly covers the incident, but spins the story in his defense. [43548]

After a public outcry, lawmakers in Cyprus briefly come to their senses and vote to reject a confiscatory tax on bank deposits. (Nevertheless, banks will temporarily remain closed for several days to protect against massive customer withdrawals.) [43505, 43506, 43534]

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) and five other senators calls on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) to schedule hearings on immigration/amnesty legislation that has been concocted behind closed doors. Sessions writes, "We respectfully request that the public be given adequate time, consistent with past practice in handling complex comprehensive immigration legislation, to read and analyze the contents of the any such bill." According to DailyCaller.com, "The bill is expected to include an amnesty for at least 11 million low-skill immigrants and put them and their foreign relatives on 'a path to citizenship.'" [43528, 43538]

In an interview with ESPN, Obama "fills out his brackets" for the NCAA basketball championship games. Obama's "final four" choices are Louisville, Indiana, Ohio State, and Florida. (How much time Obama spends watching sports is not known, but his basketball knowledge clearly exceeds his business acumen.) [43524]

News agencies report the use of chemical weapons in the ongoing conflict in Syria. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) issue a statement: "We are extremely disturbed by reports that chemical weapons have been used today in Syria. ...Obama has said that the use of weapons of mass destruction by Bashar Assad is a 'red line' for him that 'will have consequences.' If today's reports are substantiated, [Obama's] red line has been crossed, and we would urge him to take immediate action to impose the consequences he has promised. That should include the provision of arms to

vetted Syrian opposition groups, targeted strikes against Assad's aircraft and SCUD missile batteries on the ground, and the establishment of safe zones inside Syria to protect civilians and opposition groups. If today's reports are substantiated, the tragic irony will be that these are the exact same actions that could have prevented the use of weapons of mass destruction in Syria." (It is unclear whether the rebels are using chemical weapons or the Assad regime is making it look as though they are. The problem with U.S. intervention is that both sides on the conflict are unappealing and hardly worthy of support: rebels infiltrated by al-Qaeda and anti-American jihadists and the brutal president, Assad.) [43536, 43537, 43622, 43703]

Sequester budget cuts notwithstanding, Obama hosts a two-days-late St. Patrick's Day party at the White House for Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny. (The guest list is in the hundreds.) [43504, 43518]

Obama boards Air Force One for his trip to Israel. The local CBS affiliate in New York City quotes *Jerusalem Post* political correspondent Gil Hoffman: "This trip is a charm offensive to make Israelis like him. ...He wants to move [Israeli-Palestinian negotiations] forward, but he knows he can't do it unless he is respected by Israelis." Hoffman "said Obama thinks he can win a Middle East peace settlement if Israelis pressure [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu." [43516, 43529]

The Guardian reports that Obama's trip was quickly marred by a fuel incident: one of the limousines transported for the visit was inadvertently filled with diesel fuel, rather than gasoline. The damaged vehicle had to be towed and replaced with another standby limousine. (The satirical web site PalookavillePost.com "reports," "The limo has been a recent source of controversy in the Jewish State because it was previously owned by Adolf Hitler, and brought to Israel by Obama administration officials as a show of strength. The action is considered insulting to a majority of Israeli citizens, and usually not the protocol of a visiting foreign diplomat. ...The Palookaville Post has learned that the Israeli people do not have a positive view of ...Obama, and recent polling shows his approval number just above 16%. Not surprisingly, that same number is the percentage of Muslims living in Israel.") [43532, 43547]

On March 20 Pamela Geller writes, "Why is Obama going to Israel? The Muslim Brotherhood advocate in the White House has refused to speak to the Knesset. He caved to Muslim threats and supremacist demands and is not going to the Temple Mount with an Israeli escort. And an Obama administration official has said that Obama will not bring any new Middle East peace plan with him, because he doesn't think the Israelis are interested in peace. Not the 'Palestinians' with their calls for blood and genocide, but the Israelis. So what is he doing there? He is going on the offensive against Israel, and he is doing it from Israel. Expect the notorious leftist Israel press to applaud Obama's land confiscation policy. And Obama is not going over there empty-handed. He brings a cash infusion of 500 million smackers for the jihadists, aka the Palestinian Authority. No money for White House tours or military tuition—but half a billion for the terror statelet and billions and F16s to the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. ...Americans are finally starting to notice Obama's sustained and relentless opposition to Israel. The Hill reported:

[Obama's] support for Israel was found wanting by many voters. ... Three times as many voters believe that the Obama administration is not supportive enough of Israel [39 percent] as believe it is too supportive [13 percent]." Geller, noting Obama's statement that "Israel doesn't know what its own best interests are," asks, "Israel doesn't know what's in her best interests? Survival is in her best interests. But apparently, according to an Islamophile like Obama, annihilation would be in Israel's best interests. The very existence of Israel is offensive to every devout Muslim—which is why every time a Jew builds a home in the Jewish homeland, heads explode in the White House and the Muslim world. ... Obama isn't going to say or do anything in Israel that will cause any concern to Jeremiah Wright, Louis Farrakhan and the rest of his cabal. No doubt they are rubbing their hooves in glee at how he plans to humiliate Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu even more than he has already done. Obama hates the 'settlements.' Obama hates the Jewish homeland. I have two words for Israel: Keep building!" [43519, 43520, 43566]

In *The Jerusalem Post* Caroline Glick asks, "Why is ... Obama coming to Israel today? ... It is possible that Obama is coming here in order to build up pro-Israel bona fides. But why would he bother? Obama won his reelection bid with the support of the overwhelming majority of American Jews. Their support vindicated his hostility toward Israel in his first term. He has nothing to prove. ... [I]n his interview with Israel television's Channel 2 last week, on issue after issue, Obama made clear that there will be no departure from his first term's policies. ... As for the Palestinians, Obama repeated his fierce opposition to Jewish communities beyond the 1949 armistice lines, and his insistence that Israel must get over its justified fears regarding Palestinian intentions and withdraw from Judea and Samaria, for its own good. Given that all of these are positions he has held throughout his [first term], the mystery surrounding his decision to come to Israel only grows. He didn't need to come to Israel to rehash policies we already know. ... In his interview ... Obama spoke of the instability on Israel's borders—but never mentioned the key role he played in overthrowing Mubarak and empowering the Muslim Brotherhood, thus emptying of meaning Israel's peace treaty with the most populous Arab state. He never mentioned that his feckless handling of Syria's civil war ensured that the moderate opposition forces would be eclipsed by radical Islamists affiliated with al-Qaida, as has happened, or expressed concern that al-Qaida forces are now deployed along Syria's border with Israel, and that there is a real and rising danger that Syria's arsenals of chemical and biological weapons, as well as its ballistic missiles, will fall into their hands." [43529, 43530, 43557]

Glick continues, "Obama will not use his speech before Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's most outspoken critics to express remorse over the hostility with which he treated Israel's leader for the past four years. He will not admit that his decision to coerce Israel into suspending Jewish property rights in Judea and Samaria in his first term gave the PLO justification for refusing to meet with or negotiate with the Israeli government. So since he doesn't think he's done anything wrong, and he intends to continue the same policies in his second term, why did he decide to come to Israel? And why is he addressing, and so seeking to empower the radical, unelectable Left? ... It is possible that in addressing the unelected radical Left in Jerusalem, Obama seeks to undermine the legitimacy of the Israeli government. But if that is the plan, then it would bespeak an

extraordinary contempt and underestimation of Israeli democracy. ... There are two possible policies Obama would want to empower Israel's radical, unelectable Left in order to advance. First, he could be strengthening these forces to help them pressure the government to make concessions to the Palestinians in order to convince the Palestinian Authority to renew negotiations and accept an Israeli peace offer. ... [But] With the Muslim Brotherhood now in charge in Cairo, there is absolutely no way they will agree to negotiate—let alone accept a deal. This leaves another glaring possibility. Through the radical Left, Obama may intend to foment a pressure campaign to force the government to withdraw unilaterally from all or parts of Judea and Samaria, as Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005. ... The truth is we don't know why Obama is coming to Israel. The Obama administration has not indicated where its Israel policy is going. ... What we can say with certainty is that the administration that supports the 'democratically elected' Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, and did so much to clear all obstacles to its election, is snubbing the democratically elected Israeli government, and indeed, Israel's elected officials in general. Obama's transmission of this message in the lead-up to this visit, through symbols and action alike does not bode well for Israel's relations with the US in the coming four years." [43529, 43530, 43557]

At USAToday.com, James S. Robbins, a senior fellow in national security affairs at the American Foreign Policy Council, writes that Obama's trip to Israel "comes amid earth-shattering change in Middle East, much of it for the worse. The Arab Spring, which once raised hopes of freedom and dignity, has diverged onto the dark path of Islamist authoritarian rule. In Syria, tens of thousands of people have died in a bitter civil war that might have recently seen its first use of chemical weapons. And Iran continues its march toward nuclear weapons capability, heedless of international condemnation. Obama's effort to seek peace between Palestinians and Israelis is in tatters. That's why the White House has been lowering expectations for Obama's trip to Israel all this week. He will announce no new peace plan, grand design or major foreign policy initiative. His advisers are calling the trip a 'listening tour.' That is what you call a state visit when you have little to say. ... According to the latest survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, confidence in Obama in Muslim countries dropped from 33% to 24% in his first term. Approval of Obama's policies declined even further, from 34% to 15%. And support for the United States in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Pakistan is lower today than it was in 2008 in the closing year of George W. Bush's administration. That collapse of support has not happened elsewhere. ... Obama is not popular in [Israel]. A poll released last week showed he had a scant 10% approval rating in Israel, with an additional 32% saying they respect but don't like him. ... If Israelis don't like Obama, Palestinians are even less favorable. Washington's perceived failure to take a harder line with Israel over the final status of Jerusalem, and U.S. opposition to President Mahmoud Abbas' successful campaign for higher Palestinian status in the United Nations, have engendered a deep sense of frustration. ... The hope that Obama will say the right things in Thursday's speech at Jerusalem's convention center is negated by doubts he will follow through. [Obama] has to assure Israelis and Palestinians that he is still engaged if the peace process has any chance of moving forward. In part, this means convincing them that he still matters." [43596]

Having just nominated the controversial Thomas Perez as Secretary of Labor, Obama appears eager to nominate the also controversial Penny Pritzker as his next Secretary of Commerce. Author and columnist Michelle Malkin warns, “Taxpayers, beware. Pritzker is a deep-pocketed doyenne with a family history of dodging taxes—or siphoning them away from the public for her own family’s gargantuan private gain. If you want to see how she’ll oversee a \$10 billion government agency, look at her own wealth redistribution record. Most notoriously, Pritzker headed up subprime lender Superior Bank. Even after it went under in 2001 and left 1,400 mostly poor and minority customers destitute, Pritzker was pushing to expand its toxic subprime loan business. ...One of the Obamas’ oldest Chicago friends and an intimate confidante of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Pritzker served as a top national finance chairwoman and bundler for the 2008 presidential campaign. She is an heir to the Hyatt Hotel and Pritzker family fortunes. ...To protect her family’s multibillion-dollar fortune, Pritzker’s enterprises park their money in the very same kind of offshore trusts Obama attacked GOP rival Mitt Romney over. But Obama lapped up nearly \$800 million in campaign and inaugural funding raised by Pritzker. A former Pritzker tax lawyer pioneered tax-avoidance strategies for the family, which allowed them to pay \$9 million in taxes instead of \$150 million in estate taxes after patriarch A.N. Pritzker died. As Forbes notes: ‘There are now 11 Pritzkers on the Forbes list of the 400 richest Americans.’ Nice lawyering if you can get it.” [43521]

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) slams Obama’s decision to cancel White House tours: “It’s telling that [Obama] would rather cancel White House tours during the most popular tourist season than roll up his sleeves and get to work fixing our nation’s spending crisis. Just two weeks ago, my committee released a report chronicling \$67 billion in unimplemented reforms recommended by [Obama’s] own non-partisan Inspectors General.” [43535]

The New York Times reports on the dilemma faced by a wholesale bakery in San Marcos, California that will see its annual profits shrink by more than 50 percent because of the cost of complying with ObamaCare. Rachel Shein, the chief executive of Baked in the Sun, “needs to decide if the owners will provide health insurance, which they estimate will cost up to \$108,000 per year, or pay the penalty [for not providing insurance], which they estimate will cost \$130,000. One benefit of paying the penalty is that the company would not have to take on the burden or expense of managing the insurance plan, which Ms. Shein estimates would take \$10,000 of staff time. She is also considering a third option: outsourcing certain jobs to reduce staff. That is because businesses with 50 or fewer employees will be exempted from the law. It is important for Ms. Shein to make a decision soon on staffing levels because the number of full-time workers a business employs in 2013 will determine its [ObamaCare] status in 2014. Ms. Shein said she believes all workers should have health insurance, and she and her husband have offered it to employees in the past, but most are young and healthy and have not been receptive to plans that require them to contribute.” [43608]

In Israel, Obama meets with President Shimon Peres and then with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. (After Obama and Peres plant a tree Obama brought with him from

the United States, Israel's Agriculture Ministry digs it up for examination—because the law requires that foreign plants must be inspected.) [43550]

At a joint press conference held by Obama and Netanyahu, Obama is peeved by a long-winded question from NBC's Chuck Todd about the failure to negotiate Middle East peace during his first term in office. (An equally peeved White House Valerie Jarrett watches Todd from her front row seat, no doubt making sure to note that he dared to suggest that Obama had failed to live up to his 2008 campaign promises—or reminding herself to get the coordinates for a drone attack on Todd's house.) [43555, 43572]

On MSNBC's *Lean Forward*, Andrea Mitchell remarks that Obama and Netanyahu “certainly made a big effort at” trying to appear as though they get along. “Louise just mentioned that terrible visit two years ago when the Prime Minister in the Oval Office scolded [Obama] to his face. And you saw the expressions. Uh, they were really—the White House was really offended by that and it's taken a lot to repair it and, similarly, the Israelis felt that the, uh, position that Barack Obama took when he first took office against Jewish settlements were [sic] a real obstacle, and then of course [Obama] backed down, and that was an awkward moment for the Palestinians, leaving them in the lurch. So nobody, none of the independent critics would say that the White House has not bungled this relationship, but a lot of people put blame on the Israeli side as well. It's gotten off on the wrong foot and they're trying to fix it, but it is one of the worst relationships I can remember, and I've covered every president going all the way back to Ronald Reagan. Uh, these, these leaders do not get along. They are not simpatico. There's certainly a perception, probably a correct one, that Netanyahu was in Mitt Romney's camp and leaned over backwards on behalf of the Republican nominee, got involved in American politics too much. So they have a lot of repair to do, damage control, if you will, uh, but the White House comes on this comes on this visit clearly with that in mind.” [43559, 43564]

FoxNews.com reports, “A Department of Homeland Security [DHS] program intended to give ‘trusted traveler’ status to low-risk airline passengers soon will be extended to Saudi travelers, opening the program to criticism for accommodating the country that produced 15 of the 19 hijackers behind the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. ...Any Saudi travelers cleared through the program will be able to bypass the normal customs line after providing passports and fingerprints. The status lasts for five years.” (Meanwhile, elderly Americans and grandmothers in wheelchairs continue to get frisked by power-crazed TSA agents.) DHS Secretary Janet “Butch” Napolitano states, “By enhancing collaboration with the government of Saudi Arabia, we reaffirm our commitment to more effectively secure our two countries against evolving threats while facilitating legitimate trade and travel.” Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) responds, “I think you have radical Wahhabism in certain elements in Saudi Arabia, and I think to be more lenient there than in other places would be a mistake. There were 15 [hijackers] from that country, and there is a lot taking place in that region.” (In the Obama administration's eyes, Saudis are “trusted travelers” but the Brits, the French, and the Germans are not.) [43551, 43586, 43589]

WorldTribune.com reports, “A leading U.S. military commander said NATO was drafting and reviewing military contingencies against the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad. U.S. European Command chief Adm. James Stavridis said Washington would join any NATO intervention in Syria. ‘The alliance has taken a position that it will follow the same sequence that was used in Libya,’ Stavridis said. ‘We are prepared if called upon to be engaged.’” (In other words, Obama is again ready to go to war without Congressional approval. House Speaker John Boehner tells CNN, “I do think that the threat that Syria used chemical weapons is a serious one. I would hope that as [Obama] is making his decision with what our reaction will be, that he will, in fact, consult with the bipartisan leaders in the Congress, something that didn’t happen before our involvement with Libya. This is an important part of the process and I would hope that he would reach out to the Congress so that we could be part of that process.”) [43554, 43570]

The Democrat-controlled Senate’s budget fails by a vote of 154–261 in the House. Thirty-five Democrats vote against the budget—mostly Congressmen who are concerned about reelection in 2014. A budget proposed by the Congressional Black caucus fails by a vote of 105–305. The Progressive Caucus—that is, the Socialist Caucus—budget fails, 84–327. There is no vote on Obama’s budget—which he has failed to produce despite a February 1 deadline. Meanwhile, Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) introduces the “No Budget, No OMB Pay Act of 2013,” which would withhold the pay for Obama’s director of the Office of Management and Budget and other budget officials until the fiscal 2014 budget is delivered as required by law. Cornyn states, “For four of the last five years [Obama] has missed the legal deadline for submitting his budget, and leading from behind has become the standard mode of operation. The American people have been waiting 44 days to hear the president’s priorities. Texans don’t expect to get paid for a job they don’t do, and it’s time to start holding Washington to the same standards. This administration should do its job, meet its obligations, and submit a budget.” [43561, 43569, 43581]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Citing figures indicating that more than 100,000 federal employees owe more than \$1 billion in federal taxes, a House committee on Wednesday approved legislation that would require the firing of government workers who are ‘seriously tax delinquent.’ The legislation, introduced by Utah Rep. Jason Chaffetz, advanced through the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. It now has to pass the full House to be implemented into law. ...The Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2013 requires the termination of employment for tax delinquent federal employees, while also prohibiting the hiring of new federal employees with a substantial amount of delinquent tax debt.” Apparently believing that federal employees do not have to pay “their fair share” of taxes, “Democrats on the committee opposed the bill.” (Some estimate that the unpaid taxes of federal employees are in the \$3.5 billion range. The most taxes are owed by employees of the U.S. Postal Service.) [43567, 43599]

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) tells reporters, “Let’s just be honest about it, the bill [ObamaCare] hasn’t triggered yet fully. And it doesn’t until the first of next year. When the young people in this country find out that they are going to be the generation of debtors and there’s no way they’re ever going to get out from underneath this kind of

stuff—I’ve got to tell you, people don’t even realize how crushing it’s going to be after the first of this next year. And I’ll predict that within that year—now I may be wrong on this—but within the immediate future the Democrats are going to throw their hands in the air and say, ‘It’s not working. It’s unaffordable. And we have to go to a single-payer system, where the government controls everybody’s lives. That’s what’s behind all of this. And they know it’s going to fail. It’s already failing, and it hasn’t even triggered yet, the big expenses.’ (Hatch is correct. ObamaCare was designed not to work, but to so destroy the private health care industry that Americans will simply give up and accept socialized health care.) [43573]

On March 21 the House of Representatives passes Congressman Paul Ryan’s 2014 budget by a vote of 221 to 207 on a mostly party-line vote. The House also approves a stop-gap spending bill to keep federal agencies funded through the end of the 2013 fiscal year (through September 30, 2013). The vote is 318–109. Having already been approved by the Senate by a vote of 73–26 one day earlier, the legislation heads to Obama—who will certainly sign it even though it does not reverse the sequester spending reductions. (Most observers will consider the sequester issue a victory for the GOP and a failure for Obama. Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH) says, “When Republicans are unified around conservative principles, we have proven that we can move the White House and the Senate in our direction. Just look at what’s happened in the last three months.”) [43571, 43582]

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) introduces an amendment calling for the federal budget to be balanced within 10 years using *any combination* of tax increases, spending cuts, or benefit reforms the Democrats prefer. The Democrats prove they are totally disinterested in balancing the budget by defeating the amendment by a vote of 46–53. (The sole Democrat voting in favor of the measure is West Virginia’s Joe Manchin.) Democrats also vote down (45–54) an amendment by Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) that would prohibit any tax increases from being passed when the national unemployment rate exceeds 5.5 percent. Senator Ted Cruz offers an amendment to repeal ObamaCare, which fails by a purely partisan vote of 45–54. The Senate also votes down the GOP House budget—that does balance over 10 years—by a vote of 40–59. At Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson notes, “since 2009, every single Senate Democrat has voted against every single budget with which they’ve been presented.” [43590, 43593, 43594, 43644]

The Senate votes 40–59 to defeat an amendment to the budget that would cut the Navy’s “biofuels” program by \$60 million. (Senate Democrats apparently prefer buying biofuels at \$27 per gallon to conventional military fuels at \$3.50 per gallon.) [43592]

Obama meets with Mahmoud Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority, in Ramallah, in Israeli’s West Bank. Abbas tells reporters, “We require the Israeli government to stop settlements in order to discuss all our issues and their concerns. It’s the duty of the Israeli government to stop the settlement activities to enable us to talk about the issues in the negotiations.” Obama says, “If the expectation is that we can only have direct negotiations when everything is settled ahead of time, then there is no point for

negotiations, so I think it is important to work through this process even if there are irritants on both sides.” [43574]

Obama delivers a speech to leftist college students in Jerusalem, the capitol of Israel—which the White House refuses to acknowledge as the capitol of Israel to avoid offending Muslims who want it for themselves. Obama, showing no hesitancy to insult and lecture the country that is hosting him, calls for the Israelis to stop building housing on their property because the Palestinians want the land for themselves. He states, “Given the frustration in the international community, Israel must reverse an undertow of isolation. ...Just as Israelis built a state in their homeland, Palestinians have a right to be a free people in their own land. The Palestinian people’s right to self-determination and their justice must also be recognized. Put yourself in their shoes, look at the world through their eyes. It is not fair that a Palestinian child cannot grow up in a state of her own, living their [sic] entire lives with the presence of a foreign army that controls the movements ...every single day.” (To Obama, an Israeli army in Israel is a “foreign army.” Obama may want to put Palestinian children—or his own—in Israeli shoes, taking gas masks to bed in fallout shelters every night in fear of attacks from Hamas terrorists. The solution for the Palestinian children would be for their parents to take them back to their own homelands, such as Jordan.) “Israelis,” says Obama, “must recognize that continued settlement activity is counterproductive to the cause of peace, and that an independent Palestine must be viable with real borders that have to be drawn. No single step is going to erase years of history and propaganda, but progress with the Palestinians is a powerful way to begin, while sidelining extremists who thrive on conflict and thrive on division. It would make a difference.” (It would, of course, make absolutely no difference whatsoever. If Israel gives the Muslims “land for peace” they will simply demand more. Their goal is the complete eradication of Israel, *not* side-by-side peaceful co-existence.) Channeling his revolutionary hero Saul Alinsky, Obama urges the Israeli students to “create the change that you want to see,” and says that Israel “has the wisdom to see the world as it is, but also the courage to see the world as it should be.” (The reference to “the world as it is and the world as it should be,” which Michelle Obama swooned over and repeated twice in her speech to the 2008 Democrat National Convention, comes from chapter two of Alinsky’s book, *Rules for Radicals*.) [20, 33, 352, 43574, 43579, 43583, 43584, 43602, 43603]

In New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo takes the Hitlerian step of launching a “Gun Tip Line” for snitching on illegal gun owners—and offering \$500 rewards for the information. [43575]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the White House insider, who writes, “I wanted to give you a quick heads up on a plan I learned about a couple days back. Filtered back to some operatives who are already putting feelers out for ’16 and then made its way back to little old me. DNC [Democrat National Committee] and the Obama action for assholes [Organizing for Action] group, or whatever that [James] Messina boys club thing is, has already laid out in detail, the big scare out the vote campaign for 2014. It’s all about the entitlements. Big push. Big. Big. Big.” (That is, the Democrat campaign plan for the 2014 mid-term elections will be to frighten voters into believing the Republicans want to take

away their Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits.) “Now I have to think that the [John] Boehner for boneheads crew is not so out of it stupid that they don’t know this is coming, but wouldn’t put it past them. R.I. [Republican Insider] is doing a helluva job the past few weeks. I see his angle in this thing. He’s wanting that prime time spot so bad now. He’s so close he can almost reach out and touch it. So R.I. has got to know about what’s coming and he’ll be all over it because he has to prove himself in ’14 if he wants to get a ticket on the You Must Be This Tall ride for ’16.” [43577]

“[I] Just wanted to let you and your readers know. Of course you say they’re so smart so maybe they already know it. Just smart enough maybe to miss it. That’s what the Dems are counting on. Look over here! Hey, is that an Iranian nuke? Hey! What’s going on in Greece? Italy? Don’t be fooled. Keep your eye on the prize and that’s ’14. Not some Dennis Rodman kisses North Korean ass bullshit. Goddamn media is so far gone it’s almost back again. If you watch for it you’ll see all the signs. The collusion between the WH [White House] and the media. Then everyone needs to call bullshit and roll it all back on them. Just like what happened with the Sequester which is still kicking Obama’s ass. Man oh man did R.I. call that one or what? Nice work young fella! Maybe there really is something to all his talk about alternative media educate the masses thing he’s always going on about. Lord knows the Obama gang has had all that cornered since ’07. With a lot of help from some big fish who now regret big time their hand in helping create this monster. There’s stupid. There’s Obama stupid And there’s I helped get him elected Obama stupid. Shit. The big roll out is coming in a few more weeks give or take. Going to be poor grandma and poor grandpa, he fought in the war but now he can’t get his surgery, or his pills, and everyone is going to die if the Republicans keep the House, blah-blah-blah. Scare tactics x1000 is what’s coming up now. Thing is, you can’t just discount this stuff. These Obama operatives are good at this thing, and the media has become one big Obama operative too. And with the millions of dollars that the Obama action for assholes organization is going to be dumping into all this, if people don’t get ready to talk back the lies and hold up the truth, then they will win. Again. Don’t underestimate these people. They will do what needs to be done. Period. Don’t forget, it worked for them in 2012. They are going to go all-in on that same method in ’14. Among other things I still say went down too [vote fraud]. I know, I know, I’m supposed to let that stuff go. I can’t. Never gonna. Dishonest motherfuckers.” [43577]

“Hey, got a little story to share with you too. Real short but makes a heck of a point and coming from an old dog like me who still likes to hunt even if we have to gum our prey these days. He’s retired military. Hell of a good guy. Been out for a spell. Don’t want to say exactly how long. Anyways, the subject of Benghazi comes up with him and me. Kind of out of the blue thing. He gets all fired up. I mean he’s so pissed and going off about this and that. This has happened with other people on this subject before. Basically he puts it to me like this. How is that we have four dead Americans and one of them is a United States Ambassador for fuck’s sake. And we got video and photos of the people who did the killings. Who planned and implemented the attack on U.S. soil. He kept making that point over and over again too. They attacked U.S. soil. But not one single person who did the attacks has been brought to justice by the Obama administration. Not one. C’mon now. And there’s a guy high up in that food chain who has been lounging in

and around Benghazi for months. Months! Right out in the open. No fear. And then he starts asking about the survivors. You've mentioned that too. All those survivors and not one word. Nothing. Like they don't exist. Then he says the real kicker. He calls out Senators [John] McCain and [Lindsey] Graham. Now I haven't said one word about those two to him. Ever. But this old boy he is ripping them all kinds of ways. A good ten minutes about how they did this that and the other with military appropriations for years and years. I played the other side a little and said how McCain was a war hero. This guy, who was in a lot longer than McCain, comes right back with telling me, 'You ain't no goddamn hero if you've spent the last twenty years being a traitor.' Benghazi is a very deep and very dark hole. I've hinted at what I think I know, but I think it goes even farther than that. Real bad juju. And this guy laid out a term I hadn't hear before. 'Diplomatic Immunity.' For terrorists? Who in the hell inside that administration would be fool enough to go that route? Second question. How in the hell do they get away with it? Whew! Now we need to get this guy to write a book about that! The shit he knows on McCain and Graham alone could fill volumes. He's old school military though and they don't talk. Which I respect. But part of me says you got to talk big fella. Spill it! Maybe he will in his own way. I would love to be in the front row for that one. Maybe that's why old soldiers never die. They know how to keep their mouths shut." [43577]

The CBS affiliate in San Francisco reports, "Pharmacy giant CVS has told workers in the Bay Area and around the nation to reveal their weight and other health information, or pay extra for health coverage. The company announced Wednesday what it called 'A Plan for Health,' that features a mix of rewards and penalties for employees. Among the measures, employees must report their weight, body fat, cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar levels. Workers must also be tobacco free or enroll in an addiction program by next year. Employees who refuse will have to pay \$50 more for health coverage each month, totaling \$600 a year." (The action by CVS will no doubt be followed by many businesses as they seek ways to offset the burden of ObamaCare—which certainly encourages companies to hire and retain only healthy employees by significantly increasing the cost of insuring the less healthy.) [43580, 43604]

The satirical web site PalookavillePost.com "reports," "Early Thursday morning ...Obama's traveling food taster was rushed to the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem after complaining of severe stomach pains. The food taster fell ill after eating a kosher gefilte fish appetizer, and his condition quickly became serious as paramedics attempted to treat the patient en-route to the hospital. The man died on an emergency room gurney waiting for his Obamacare paperwork to be approved. The name of [Obama's] food taster was not immediately released for legal reasons, as he had previously signed a non-disclosure agreement that in essence gave up all rights to his own life and identity for the sake of Obama's health and well being. Israeli officials volunteered to investigate the cause of death, but Obama administration officials said it was not necessary as there were plenty more young liberal Democrats willing to risk their lives to protect their secular leader. At press time it was unclear whether the death was caused by an attempt at poisoning [Obama], or if the food taster just had a bad piece of fish. Obama officials do not plan to investigate the cause of death and wish to make no further comment." [43585]

While the Palookaville Post reports humorous false reports about Obama's trip, ABC reports the real news that "Two rockets from the Gaza Strip landed in southern Israel today as ...Obama began the second day of his visit to Israel, the occupied West Bank and Jordan. Israel's military said the rockets [which violated a cease fire agreement] landed in the southern town of Sderot, causing some minor damage but injuring no one. Obama was in Jerusalem at the time, preparing to go see the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Israel Museum, before heading to Ramallah in the West Bank to meet with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas." At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, "You can talk peace all you want with those who want it, but it is irrelevant when the enemy is bent on your defeat. The Israelis have never initiated hostilities but have merely defended themselves from an enemy vowed to destroy them. The genocidal Islamic jihadists in Gaza made the point quite plainly today by firing rockets into Israel. Hamas and the PA [Palestinian Authority] do not desire peace. Their religious mandate is the destruction of the State of Israel. That is the reality. Obama's fanciful rhetoric is fantasy. Obama, knowing how naive (and stupid) the young can be encouraged the young to 'pressure your leaders.' ...The media is reporting the rocket attacks were a 'sign of protest.' Yes, they are reporting this with a straight face. Fire rockets, trying to kill people is 'protest.'" [43587, 43586]

For Obama's visit to Ramallah, the Associated Press reports that "empty streets were dotted with truculent Palestinian soldiers deployed to prevent violent protest at [Obama's] visit. Ramallah's major thoroughfare, running from the presidential compound to Qalandiya checkpoint, was lined with posters censored with black paint. Their slogans had read: 'Mr. [Obama], don't bring your smart phone to Ramallah, there is no 3G in Palestine!' Just 100 metres away from the Muqata'a, a small crowd of angry demonstrators gathered outside a Kentucky Fried Chicken, contained by flanks of riot police. 'Obama get out,' they chanted in [Obama's] direction..." One protestor says, "When [Obama] got the presidency, he said he would do lots for Palestine but he did nothing. Now Palestine is angry, as you can see. Most Palestinians hate Obama—he will only make more problems for us." Business owner Hassan Mousa says, "It's crazy, this visit. All our business shut down for a whole day and for what? [Obama] may be the head of the most important country in the world but he is doing nothing for us as Palestinians. He is a man who offered a lot but has delivered nothing." Providing an apparent endorsement of terrorism, Obama delivers his speech in Ramallah in front of a huge banner with the face of former Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yassar Arafat—the "father of modern terrorism." [43597, 43598, 43638]

Obama's approval rating drops to 47 percent in a March 13–17 Pew Research Center poll. (His rating was 55 percent in December 2012.) According to the poll, "When it comes to views of the national economy, most Americans do not think a recovery has taken hold. Just 27% say that the economy is recovering, while 31% say it will recover soon and 40% say it will be a long time before the economy recovers. These views have changed little over the past year. Looking ahead, the public's forecast for the national economy has deteriorated. A year ago, nearly three times as many Americans expected the economy to be better [rather than] worse in the next year (44% vs. 14%). Today, just

a quarter (25%) expect economic conditions to be better a year from now, while nearly a third (32%) say conditions will be worse.” [43600, 43601]

At Breitbart.com John Sexton comments on the media’s (and Obama’s) general lack of interest in the trial of Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell—who was charged with eight counts of murder after the botched-abortion death of one patient and seven babies he allegedly killed after they were born alive. (Gosnell killed at least one baby who had survived the abortion and was crying, and joked with a nurse that one of the babies he had killed was “so big he could have walked to the bus stop.” One former Gosnell employee later testifies that she was once called to a back room where the discarded bodies were kept because one of them was still alive and making sounds. “I can’t describe it. It sounded like a little alien,” the woman tells a Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas judge and jury.) Sexton writes, “But a man who is arguably the worst serial killer in U.S. history, who operated a clinic that is straight out a horror film with freezers full of body parts, a man who actually groomed his subordinates to kill, a man who smiled after he was arrested and believed he would be cleared to return to his important work—amazingly that’s of no interest. And it’s not just the media that’s taking a pass. ...Obama has made a habit of offering words of comfort when tragedy occurs, especially tragedy that involves children.” [43605, 43621, 43679, 43805, 44086]

“...So where is Obama on the 7 infants killed in Philly (really it’s many, many times that number)? Why are there no teachable moments this time? Why no national dialogue about the grim reality of late term abortion? No discussion of the razor thin line between constitutional rights and murder from the First Lawyer. No vow to prevent this happening again by banning scissors or, more to the point, working to eradicate illegal late-term abortions (which like gun crimes are already illegal but still happen). Don’t Gosnell’s victims deserve a vote? [Obama] will not offer nationally televised words of healing at any of the funerals (complete with souvenir t-shirt). He will not stare into the rafters, pause dramatically and stage whisper something about Kermit Gosnell failing to live up to our best ideals. In short, he will not capitalize on the deaths of *these* innocent children. And no one in the media seems to have noticed his unusual disinterest in doing so. ...Gosnell is charged with eight murders but it’s likely the true number of victims—over two decades—is in the hundreds. For perspective, consider that Gosnell’s clinic may well have murdered more infants than the total number of people killed in the Oklahoma City bombing. He certainly killed far more than Adam Lanza or Jared Loughner. My point is, by any measure this is a national tragedy not a local crime story. ...[Obama] himself voted to defend partial-birth abortion, which is one technicality away from the crimes Gosnell committed. Given all this, shouldn’t [Obama] at least be asked to comment? Even if he wants to remain silent, for obvious reasons, how can the media allow him to do so?” (Gosnell, who happens to be black, is using racism as his defense—claiming that he is being singled out for prosecution because of his skin color. At Townhall.com Susan Stamper Brown later writes, “Besides the Third World conditions at [Gosnell’s abortion] clinic likened to a serial killer house of horror, FBI investigators discovered a vast collection of hewed babies’ feet and other parts dispersed in plastic bags, juice cartons and containers.” Being offended by such displays is apparently racist—at least from Gosnell’s point of view.) [43605, 43665, 43666, 43679, 44086]

On *Hannity*, host Sean Hannity points out that although for a speech Obama once delivered at Georgetown University a black cloth was draped over a cross in order to provide a “neutral background,” when Obama addressed a Palestinian audience at Ramallah during his current trip he spoke under a banner displaying the face of terrorist Yassar Arafat. Hannity’s guest, former New York City mayor Rudi Giuliani responds, “It says to me, does this man [Obama] have any sense of history? Does he know what he heck he’s dealing with? This is a man [Arafat] who’s murdered at least 27 Americans... and he stole hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollar from his own people while he watched them starve and blamed it on Israel. ...So Jesus is an embarrassment and Arafat isn’t? ...The reality is [that Obama] should never be giving a speech with a terrorist, a murderer, and a crook of international proportions behind him.” [43632, 43635, 43636, 43637, 43638]

On March 22 Federal Communications Commission chairman Julius Genachowski announces he will leave his position in April. According to *TheHill.com*, “Potential candidates to succeed Genachowski include venture capitalist Tom Wheeler; Karen Kornbluh, ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and Larry Strickling, the head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.” (Genachowski was an Obama classmate at Harvard Law School who was rewarded with the FCC post for raising more than \$500,000 for Obama’s 2008 campaign. Obama gave Genachowski’s wife, filmmaker Rachel Goslins, the job of executive director of the President’s Committee on Arts and Humanities. Genachowski’s ex-wife is ABC’s Martha Radditz, who moderated the 2012 debate between Joe Biden and Paul Ryan. Genachowski refuses to testify before the House Armed Services Committee about his agency’s “fast-track” waivers for the LightSquared company. LightSquared’s transmitters have been shown to cause drop-out problems with GPS units and aircraft navigation units, but the company was given a tentative go-ahead anyway—despite the Department of Defense having asked the FCC to slow down its decision process. *The Washington Times* reported, “According to insiders, the deal was brokered through the office of ...Genachowski, who cut the other commissioners out of the process.” Hedge fund investor Philip Falcone, who invested \$3 billion in LightSquared, has also made significant contributions to the Democrat Senatorial Campaign Committee.) [1547, 1548, 17475, 21544, 21545, 24484, 35444, 35445, 35506, 35515, 35882, 35927, 35930, 37865, 43595]

PrisonPlanet.com reports that Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) “and 14 of his House peers have written a letter to the Department of Homeland Security [DHS] demanding to know why the federal agency is buying so many rounds of ammunition and whether the purchases are part of a deliberate attempt to restrict supply to the American people. The DHS has committed to purchasing around 2 billion rounds of ammunition over the course of the last year. Many believe the purchases are exacerbating bullet shortages across the country, supplies already strained by record sales prompted as a result of the Obama administration’s gun control agenda.” LaMalfa writes, “The extraordinary level of ammunition purchases made by Homeland Security seems to have, in states such as my own, created an extreme shortage of ammunition to the point where many gun owners are

unable to purchase any. Are these purchases being conducted in a manner that strategically denies the American people access to ammunition?” (On March 21 DHS posts a solicitation for an additional 360,000 rounds of hollow point ammunition.) [43613, 43614, 43645, 43646]

At a news conference with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Obama says, “So I think it’s important for us to work through this process, even if there are irritants on both sides. The Israelis have concerns about rockets flying into their cities last night. And it would be easy for them to say, you see, this is why we can’t have peace because we can’t afford to have our kids in beds sleeping and suddenly a rocket comes through the roof. But my argument is even though both sides may have areas of strong disagreement, [and] may be engaging in activities that the other side considers to be a breach of good faith, we have to push through those things to try to get to an agreement—because if we get an agreement then it will be very clear what the nature of that agreement is: There will be a sovereign Palestinian state, a sovereign Jewish State of Israel. And those two states I think will be able to deal with each other the same way all states do. I mean, the United States and Canada has arguments once in a while, but they’re not the nature of arguments that can’t be solved diplomatically.” (Obama’s careful use of language is worth noting. He mentions the rocket attack on Israel “last night” as if the attacks have not been routinely taking pace for *years*. Additionally, it is not a matter of whether the other side “may” be engaging in objectionable activities, it is a *certainty*. Obama is clearly suggesting, for his Muslim audience, that Israel is exaggerating threats to its safety and sovereignty—threats which no reasonable person would doubt. Lastly, Obama’s U.S.-Canada reference is absurd to the point of being laughable. Neither country is lobbing rockets across the border, neither country is sending terrorists to slash the throats of children while they sleep, and neither country is advocating the complete elimination of the other and the killing of all its citizens because of their religious beliefs. Obama’s use or “moral equivalency” in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is as obscene as it is unjustifiable.) [43610]

At the U.S. Embassy in Jordan, demonstrators protest Obama’s visit, shouting, “USA go away” and “Obama go away,” and burning a U.S. flag. One protester says, “This stand is just to pass a message to Obama that he has maybe the last chance, because this is his second round in the White House, to make just peace in Palestine.” [43606]

The Wall Street Journal reports, “Health insurers are privately warning brokers that premiums for many individuals and small businesses could increase sharply next year because of the health-care overhaul law, with the nation’s biggest firm projecting that rates could more than double for some consumers buying their own plans. The projections, made in sessions with brokers and agents, provide some of the most concrete evidence yet of how much insurance companies might increase prices when major provisions of the law kick in next year—a subject of rigorous debate. ...Starting next year, the law will block insurers from refusing to sell coverage or setting premiums based on people’s health histories, and will reduce their ability to set rates based on age. That can [and will] raise coverage prices for younger, healthier consumers, while reining them in for older, sicker ones. The rules can also affect small businesses, which sometimes pay

premiums tied to employees' health status and claims history. ...In a private presentation to brokers late last month, UnitedHealth Group Inc., the nation's largest carrier, said premiums for some consumers buying their own plans could go up as much as 116%, and small-business rates as much as 25% to 50%. ... Aetna Inc., in a presentation last fall to its national broker advisory council, suggested rates on individual plans not being grandfathered under the law could go up 55%, on average, and gave a figure of 29% for small business rates. ...An official with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina told a gathering of brokers last week that individual premiums could go up by as much as 40% to 50%, according to brokers who were present." [43607]

Actor and director Jake McClain uses Twitter to start "tweeting" every word of the ObamaCare legislation. IBTimes.com reports that McClain's goal is "drawing attention to the bill's content, which he argues is detrimental to the nation's fiscal health." McClain writes, "Folks... this will probably take a long time to do, but I decided I will read every page, word by word, of Obamacare, and tweet every word." [43675]

The never-ending Obama campaign pushes gun control legislation with a Twitter message that includes a 1980 murder scene photograph of John Lennon's bloodied eyeglasses. The message: "Over 1,057,000 people have been killed by guns in the USA since John Lennon was shot and killed on 8 Dec 1980." [43612]

Caitlin Halligan, Obama's nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals, DC Circuit, withdraws her name from consideration after strong Republican opposition. Obama states, "This unjustified filibuster obstructed the majority of Senators from expressing their support. I am confident that with Caitlin's impressive qualifications and reputation, she would have served with distinction. ...The D.C. Circuit is considered the nation's second-highest court, but it now has more vacancies than any other circuit court. This is unacceptable." (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Halligan opposes military commissions for captured terrorists, supports same-sex marriage, supports strict gun control, and believes in a "living Constitution." She believes not in the rule of law, but the rule of judges who will fashion society in a manner they believe preferable.) [20739, 20786, 43616]

At a news conference in Amman, Jordan, Obama pledges to seek \$200 million in aid to help King Abdullah cope with refugees from Syria. (Obama does not say how many White House tours could be provided for \$200 million, how many airport control towers could be left open, or how many food inspectors could avoid being laid off.) Obama says, "I am very concerned about Syria becoming an enclave for extremism." (He has apparently not noticed that it already has.) Meanwhile, King Abdullah worries about Obama's dangerous support of the Muslim Brotherhood which, in turn, is supporting the rebels in Syria. (Abdullah has complained that Obama's State Department has told him, "The only way you can have democracy is through the Muslim Brotherhood." In other words, Obama has fallen in with the Islamists, who have deceived him by proclaiming their love of democracy. In an interview with *The Atlantic*, Abdullah relates that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan "once said that democracy for him is a bus ride. 'Once I get to my stop, I'm getting off.'" Of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood president, Mohamed

Morsi, Abdullah says he is obsessed with Israel and “There’s no depth to the guy.”)
[43609, 43725, 43726]

At NationalReview.com Jim Geraghty reports that a February visit to London by Vice President Joe Biden cost the taxpayers \$459,338.65 in hotel costs. Although Biden stayed only one night, the visit “required 136 rooms and 893 room nights (meaning some or most of the 136 rooms were booked for several nights). ...Mind you, that’s just the cost of the hotel rooms for the vice president, his advance staff, security personnel, etc., not transportation or any other costs.” (Biden also travels from Washington, D.C. to his home in Delaware on most weekends. WhiteHouseDossier.com reports that Biden “generally uses Air Force Two to get to Wilmington. The cost of flying Air Force Two, a military version of the Boeing 757-200, amounts to about \$8,800 per hour, according to the most recent federal data. The distance between Washington and Wilmington is only about a hundred miles, but it’s safe to assume that between flying time and the time spent on the takeoff and landing, the total flight takes at least 45 minutes. That would amount to a roundtrip cost to taxpayers of about \$13,200”—almost every weekend.) [43611, 43631]

By a vote of 62–37 the U.S. Senate approves a non-binding resolution urging Obama to approve Keystone XL pipeline project. (Seventeen Democrats join the Republicans in the vote of encouragement.) [43728]

On March 23 the Senate passes its budget by a vote of 50–49. (New Jersey’s 89-year-old senior Senator, Frank Lautenberg, misses the vote because of illness.) Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) allows four of the Democrats who are up for reelection in 2014 to vote against the legislation to make it more difficult for their Republican opponents to use its \$1+ trillion in tax hikes against them in the campaign. The four given a “pass” are Max Baucus (MT), Mark Begich (AK), Kay Hagan (NC), and Mark Pryor (AR), who can pretend during the 2014 campaign that they are not really Democrats—in states won by Mitt Romney in 2012. [43619]

By a vote of 53–46 the Senate approves a budget amendment from Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) “to uphold Second Amendment rights and prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty.” (The Obama administration supports the United Nations treaty, despite the fact that it allows the abrogation of the Second Amendment rights of U.S. citizens. Immediately after his reelection victory in November 2012 Obama ordered his U.N. delegation to vote for a measure to “fast track” the gun control treaty.) [43625, 43626]

By a vote of 43–56 Senate Democrats reject an amendment offered by Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) that would have prevented illegal aliens from receiving taxpayer-funded health care via ObamaCare or Medicaid even if they are given legal status under “immigration reform” legislation. (Section 212(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act states, “Any alien who, in the opinion of the consular officer at the time of application for a visa, or in the opinion of the Attorney General at the time of application for admission or adjustment of status, is likely at any time to become a public charge is inadmissible.” That is, even *legal* immigrants are not supposed to be allowed into the

United States if it is believed they will be dependent on federal benefits.) Sessions states, “The Senate Democrat majority voted to extend free and subsidized health care—specifically, Medicaid and Obamacare—to illegal immigrants who could be granted legal status under any comprehensive immigration bill. The result of [this] vote places immigration reform in jeopardy.” In a press release, Sessions states, “Specifically, there is nothing in the framework [of the proposed immigration legislation] to apply federal public charge law to those in the country illegally before they are granted legal status. What this means is that the bill would create an end-run around federal law: individuals in the country illegally could receive legal status without having to demonstrate financial self-sufficiency. It appears that—by virtue of entering the country illegally—individuals will be able to obtain a form of legal status without going through the screening process created for legal immigrants as required by statute.” (Immigrants who apply for entry into the United States legally are not given permission if the government believes they will not be capable of self-sufficiency and will end up as welfare recipients. The proposed amnesty legislation would not apply that test to illegal immigrants—giving them an absurd unfair advantage over legal applicants.) [43639, 43640, 43796, 43874]

Meanwhile Chris Crane, head of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents union says “the immigration bill being crafted behind closed doors will be rushed to passage without proper public consideration and proper input from the law enforcement community. ...A mass legalization, or amnesty, of millions of illegal aliens, combined with an increase in future immigration, will have profound consequences for every law enforcement officer in the country and especially those who enforce our nation’s immigration laws. But we have been shut out of the process. ...[G]iven the administration’s current enforcement record, I have zero confidence any promises of future enforcement will be fulfilled.” [43639, 43640, 43796]

According to an ABC/Washington Post poll conducted March 7–10, Americans trust Obama to “handle the economy” by only four percentage points (44–40) over Congressional Republicans. The spread was 18 points (54–36) in mid-December. [43620]

A Kaiser Health Tracking Poll shows that only 37 percent of Americans approve of ObamaCare, down from 46 percent when the legislation was passed exactly three years earlier. [43655, 43656]

Syrian President Bashir Assad is reportedly shot by one of his bodyguards and, according to at least one unconfirmed Arab media report, “He is currently hospitalized, between life and death, [at] Shami Hospital in Damascus [where] the streets were closed.” [43627, 43628]

On March 24 Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, appears on *Face the Nation* and states, “I think that it is abundantly clear that that red line has been crossed [with regard to the use of chemical weapons in Syria]. There is mounting evidence that it is probable that the Assad regime has used at least a small quantity of chemical weapons during the course of this conflict.” (The use of chemical weapons may be the excuse Obama uses to involve the United States militarily

in Syria. Obama certainly wants Bashar Assad removed from office. Whether he wants the regime replaced by a government that supports democracy or Shari'ah law is unclear.) [43624]

On *Fox News Sunday* Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) says, “You’re only going to get the conservatives, particularly a Republican House, to pass immigration reform if we, as conservatives, are reassured the border is controlled and that we get to vote on whether the border is controlled. The main reason I don’t want [Obama] just to stamp it is, I don’t really trust any president, Republican or Democrat, to do a good enough job to say the border is really secure. Every representative should get to vote on that.” (Some drafts of immigration reform legislation call on the executive branch to determine whether the border is secure, which would then trigger other actions regarding amnesty. Rand is rightfully suspicious of any such arbitrary determination by Obama—or his successors. Janet Napolitano, Obama’s dimwitted Secretary of Department of Homeland Security, already believes the border is “as secure as it’s ever been,” and argues that even if it isn’t, “I think that once people really look at the whole system and how it works, relying on one thing as a so-called ‘trigger’ is not the way to go.”) [43633, 43685, 43696]

Paul also notes the large number of people in jail simply for using drugs and comments, “The main thing I’ve said is not to legalize them, but not to incarcerate people for extended periods of times. I’m working with Senator [Patrick] Leahy—we have a bill on mandatory minimums. There are people in jail for 37, 50, 45 years for nonviolent crimes. That is a huge mistake. Our prisons are full of nonviolent criminals. I don’t want to encourage people to do it. I think even marijuana is bad to do. I think it takes away your incentive to work and show up and do the things you should be doing. I don’t think it is a good idea. I don’t want to promote that, but I also don’t want to put people in jail who make a mistake. There are a lot of young people who do this and later on in their 20s. They grow up, get married and quit doing things like this, and I don’t want to put them in jail and ruin their lives. The last two presidents could conceivably have been put in jail for their drug use, and I really think—look what would have happened. It would have ruined their lives. They got lucky but, poor kids—particularly in the inner city—don’t get lucky. They don’t have good attorneys, and they go to jail for these things. And I think it is a big mistake.” (Paul is incorrect in counting only Obama and George W. Bush as examples. Bill Clinton was also a routine user of illegal drugs, even while serving as governor of Arkansas.) [43641]

In Baghdad, Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki and is unsuccessful in his attempt to persuade him to stop Iran from shipping arms to Syria via flights over Iraq. (Some in the Iraqi government would no doubt prefer that Syrian President Bashar Assad not be toppled by rebels because they believe they might be the next targets.) [43634]

IsraelNewsAgency.com reports, “Russian media sources have confirmed that Syria President Bashar Assad was shot by an Iranian bodyguard Saturday night. ‘The lone assassination pumped several bullets at point blank range into Assad,’ said the source. ‘Assad was rushed to Al-Shami Hospital in Damascus in critical condition. He died on

the operating table from heart failure resulting from massive blood loss.’ An Israeli security analyst believes the report to be accurate.” [43654]

On March 25 Breitbart.com reports, “Sasha and Malia Obama are quietly vacationing at the Atlantis resort on Paradise Island in the Bahamas, Breitbart News has learned. A source tipped Breitbart News off to the First Daughters’ spring vacation, which was not publicly announced or reported. Breitbart subsequently confirmed ...Obama’s daughters’ trip with other sources. Both the White House and the Atlantis resort declined to confirm the report or comment, but another guest provided a photograph of Sasha and Malia at the resort. Social media, including Twitter and Facebook, have also carried reports of the First Daughters’ presence at Atlantis. One person who is at the resort wrote: ‘Rumor confirmed: friends saw the first daughters with a gaggle of friends being escorted to the held elevator.’ ...It is unclear at this time if first lady Michelle Obama is also at the resort, or if she is planning to join her daughters there. ...Sasha and Malia both attend Sidwell Friends School, which is currently on its spring break. That break continues through Friday. It is unclear how long the first daughters will be staying in the Bahamas, or what the cost will be to taxpayers. ...According to Judicial Watch, Malia Obama’s trip to Mexico last spring break, during which she was apparently accompanied by Secret Service protection, cost taxpayers \$115,500.87. Sasha did not accompany Malia on that trip.” (The Bahamas trip is the third vacation for the Obama daughters in as many months, counting Hawaii in January and skiing in Aspen in February. Meanwhile, White House tours remain canceled.) [43642, 43672]

Secretary of State John Kerry travels to Kabul, Afghanistan to meet with President Hamid Karzai. Meanwhile, Kenneth Timmerman reports at DailyCaller.com that Kerry’s daughter Vanessa is married to an Iranian-American, Behrouz (Brian) Nahed. Although they live in the United States, Nahed has close relatives in Iran. Timmerman notes, “Since its inception, the FBI has vetted U.S. government officials involved in national security issues, and it generally won’t grant clearances to individuals who are married to nationals of an enemy nation or have family members living in that country, for fear of divided loyalties or, more simply, blackmail. ...Certainly, Secretary Kerry has long favored a U.S. rapprochement with the Islamic Republic. He has repeatedly appeared with groups such as the American Iranian Council (AIC), and has taken money from Iranian-Americans for his political campaigns, including at least one illegal donation from an Iranian woman who did not have a green card. ...[W]hat if the [Iranian] regime simply decides to round up Nahed’s family members and torture them? Or sends its goons to visit them at home? Or exerts some form of more subtle pressure on them that gets no publicity, and then makes it known they want the United States to release Iranians jailed in the United States on terrorism charges or for attempting to procure weapons technology or military spare parts? In any other administration, such a complicated situation would have been considered an unacceptable security risk for a cabinet-level officer. My guess: Now that the cat is out of the bag, a fawning left-wing media will attempt to gin up public sympathy for Secretary Kerry, and lionize him for bravely reaching out to Tehran. While that might send shivers down the leg of a Chris Matthews, it won’t resolve the very real security risk. The mullahs in Tehran and their goon squads won’t hesitate to exploit this messy situation for their own benefit. One can only

sympathize in advance with Behrouz Nahed’s family in Iran, and wonder at the audacity, naiveté and hubris of an American politician who apparently thinks his position (and positions) put him above it all.” [43643, 43744, 43745]

At FrontPageMag.com Caroline Glick explains Obama’s trip to Israel: to persuade Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to apologize to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan “for the deaths of nine Turkish protesters aboard the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara on May 31, 2010. For those who don’t remember, the Mavi Marmara was a Turkish ship that set sail in a bid to break Israel’s lawful maritime blockade of Hamas-controlled Gaza’s coastline. When Israeli naval commandos boarded the ship to interdict it, passengers on deck attacked them—in breach of international maritime law. Soldiers were stabbed, bludgeoned and thrown overboard. In a misguided attempt to show the good faith of Israeli actions, the naval commandos were sent aboard the ship armed with paintball guns. As a consequence, the soldiers were hard-pressed to defend themselves. In the hand-to-hand combat that ensued, nine of the Turkish attackers were killed. ...For three years Israel refused to apologize to Turkey. And then Obama came to Israel for a visit, and before he left the country, he had Netanyahu on the phone with Erdogan, apologizing for the loss of life of the Turkish protesters who stabbed and bludgeoned Israeli soldiers. Netanyahu also offered restitution to their families.” Glick asks if the apology is “a declaration with little intrinsic meaning” or “...will the apology facilitate Turkish cooperation in stemming the rise of jihadist forces in Syria, and blocking the transfer of chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missiles to such actors? Finally, what does Obama’s central role in producing Israel’s apology say about his relationship with the Jewish state and the consequences of his visit on Israel’s alliance with the US and its position in the region?” (Note: On March 23 Erdogan called Netanyahu’s apology insufficient, and demands 10 times the amount offered by Israel for each Turkish thug who was killed in the incident. One family vows to turn over any compensation from Israel to Hamas.) [43676, 43691, 43871]

“By forcing Israel to apologize to Turkey,” writes Glick, “Obama effectively forced Israel to acknowledge that it is in the wrong for lawful actions by its military taken in defense of international law and of Israel’s national security. That is, Obama sided with the aggressor—Turkey—over the victim—Israel. And in so doing, he signaled, deliberately or inadvertently, to the rest of Israel’s neighbors that the US is no longer siding with Israel in regional disputes. As a consequence, they now feel that it is reasonable for them to press their advantage and demand further Israeli apologies for daring to defend itself from their aggression. Whether or not Obama meant to send this message, this is a direct consequence of his visit. ...On a wider level, it is important for Israel to develop the means to end its dependency on the US. Under Obama, despite the support of the great majority of the public, the US has become an undependable ally to Israel, and indeed to the rest of the US’s allies as well. The more quickly Israel can minimize its dependence, the better it will be for Israel, for the US and for the stability of the region. The apology to Turkey was a strategic error. To minimize its consequences, Israel must boldly assert its interests in Syria, Iran, and throughout the region.” [43676]

Slate.com reports that “after a month of Rand Paul-driven discussion of drone warfare,” a Gallup poll shows 41 percent of those surveyed approve the use of “drones to launch airstrikes [sic] in other countries against U.S. citizens living abroad who are suspected terrorists.” Sixty-five percent approved such strikes in a *Washington Post* poll conducted one year ago. Meanwhile, Breitbart.com reports, “California local agencies are reportedly moving forward with an application to declare a broad swath of Southern California a ‘drone zone’—an area to be used to test pilotless aircraft. The purpose: government stimulus. ...Northrup Grumman, a major drone producer, has relocated branches of its unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) program to Southern California. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, which produces Predator drones, is located in Poway. The UAV industry in San Diego County clocks in at approximately \$1.3 billion, and that number is growing fast.” [43648, 43649]

Rush Limbaugh comments on the fuss being made by some conservatives about Obama delivering his speech in Ramallah in front of a huge banner depicting terrorist Arafat: “I look at it and say, ‘What’s the big deal? Nobody knows who Arafat is, and the people who do don’t think there was anything wrong with him.’ Arafat was a more frequent guest at the Clinton White House than Barbra Streisand or Kathleen Willey, or even [Monica] Lewinsky. As far as the low-information voters are concerned, Arafat led the oppressed who are being denied their chance at freedom (and gay marriage and clean sewage and whatever else they want) by the oppressive Israelis. We live in a different age. ...I’m thinking of this picture of Obama in front of Yasser Arafat. Do you realize that when most people in America see that they’re gonna think it’s a picture of Ringo Starr? They’re not even gonna know who Arafat is.” (Limbaugh is correct. If one were to explain to the “low information voters” that Arafat was responsible for the 1985 death of Leon Klinghoffer—who was pushed off the Achille Lauro cruise ship in his wheelchair by terrorists—they would simply respond, “Leon who?” Obama could deliver a speech while wearing a Che Guevara t-shirt and a majority of Americans probably would not consider it revolting.) [43650]

Cyprus temporarily “solves” its budget crisis by allowing average Cypriots to keep the savings they have in their bank accounts but confiscating as much as 40 percent of the deposits of citizens with 100,000 euros or more in their accounts. The deal provides Cyprus with about \$10 billion in bailout funds from the European Union in exchange for various other economic actions—most of which will cause more unemployment and only make the situation worse. The banks will remain closed until March 28 and will reopen with limits to how much customers can withdraw. (The nation’s number two bank will be shut down completely.) [43651, 43652, 43653, 43668, 43670]

Following in the footsteps of Cyprus, other nations consider confiscating portions of the bank deposits of their citizens to pay government bills. *The Telegraph* reports, “Savings accounts in Spain, Italy and other European countries will be raided if needed to preserve Europe’s single currency by propping up failing banks, a senior eurozone official has announced. The new policy will alarm hundreds of thousands of British expatriates who live and have transferred their savings, proceeds from house sales and other assets to eurozone bank accounts in countries such as France, Spain and Italy.” [43662, 43670]

TheHill.com reports that Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) “will not seek reelection in 2014 ...putting another red-state seat up for grabs in the battle for control of the Senate. Johnson, who is serving his third term, will announce the news on Tuesday at the University of South Dakota, his former school. Johnson will be the fifth Senate Democrat to retire this election cycle. The decision gives Republicans another prime pickup opportunity as they work to win back control of the Senate. Republicans need to gain six seats to flip control of the upper chamber in 2014. Mitt Romney carried South Dakota with 57 percent of the vote in the 2012 presidential election.” (Johnson’s son Brendan may run for the seat, and former governor Mike Rounds, a Republican, has already announced he will run.) Four other Democrat senators will not seek reelection in 2014: Tom Harkin (IA), Frank Lautenberg (NJ), Carl Levin (MI), and Jay Rockefeller (WV). [43657, 43684]

According to Politico, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), Ted Cruz (R-TX), and Mike Lee (R-UT) “are threatening to filibuster gun-control legislation, according to a letter they plan to hand-deliver to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s office on Tuesday.” The letter states, “We will oppose the motion to proceed to any legislation that will serve as a vehicle for any additional gun restrictions.” Politico notes that “...Reid intends to allow liberal amendments that would limit clip capacity and ban certain assault weapons to be offered—even though they would be defeated—to give Democrats a chance to vote on them. For moderate Democrats in competitive states, that amounts to an opportunity to vote no and show allegiance to gun rights.” At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich observes, “This is actually a brilliant move by Paul and Cruz. Reid has already had the ability to protect Democrats from voting on the assault weapons ban, but a filibuster on criminalization legislation would force Reid to either try and stop the talking, which will bring attention to gun control efforts of vulnerable Democrats or will be forced to allow a filibuster to continue, preventing a vote on the legislation.” (White House press secretary Jay Carney responds, “Filibusters of efforts to move forward with common-sense measures to reduce gun violence would be unfortunate. We have worked with Congress, with the Senate [sic; Carney apparently does not know that the Senate is one of the two parts of Congress], to try to advance the elements of [Obama’s] plan that require legislative action and these again are common-sense measures.”) [42663, 43664, 43669, 43677]

At TheNewAmerican.com Joe Wolverton II reports that Obama “will not wait on states to enforce ObamaCare. The Obama administration has announced its intent to disregard state laws and state constitutional amendments prohibiting the enforcement of ObamaCare. Federal agents from the Department of Health and Human Services will assume absolute control over states’ health insurance industry and regulation in states that refuse to comply with the federal healthcare mandates. In an exclusive telephone interview with *The New American*, Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak reported that the his office has received a letter from Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) Deputy Administrator and Director Gary Cohen informing him that the federal government will impose ObamaCare regulations on insurance companies in Oklahoma. The CCIIO is part of the Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid Services (CMS).” (Obama will force ObamaCare and its federal insurance exchanges on states that have passed legislation to the contrary.) The CMS has demanded that Oklahoma insurance companies “submit all group and individual health insurance policy forms, certificates, riders, endorsements, and amendments, as well as any other requested material pertinent to the market reforms of the Affordable Care Act to CMS for review.” Wolverton concludes, “These letters reveal that is nothing more or less than an end run by the Obama administration around the sovereignty of Oklahoma (and presumably other states) and usurpation of power in defiance of the state constitution, the will of the people, and the laws passed by their elected representatives in the state legislature. Doak promises to continue faithfully and fearlessly carrying out his duty to enforce the laws of Oklahoma, even if that means taking on the behemoth that is the federal ObamaCare bureaucracy. ‘We must continue to fight for what’s right,’ Doak said.” (Whether Obama will send armed thugs to Oklahoma and other states to force them to establish ObamaCare exchanges remains to be seen.) [43681, 43682]

According to a report from Sentier Research, U.S. median annual income—pre-tax and inflation-adjusted—has fallen from \$51,994 in February 2012 to \$51,404 in February 2013, a decline of 1.1 percent in one year and 5.6 percent since Obama took office in 2009. (Obama may just as well have imposed a 5.6 percent tax increase on every American.) [43753, 43754]

On March 26 demonstrators both in favor of and opposition to same-sex marriage gather in Washington, D.C. as the U.S. Supreme Court hears oral arguments regarding California’s Proposition 8 prohibition of gay marriage. (A lower court previously ruled the ban unconstitutional.) The mainstream media largely ignores the tens of thousands who join in the “March for [normal heterosexual] Marriage”—but make a fuss over NBC talking head Jenna Wolfe for “coming out of the closet” and announcing that she is a lesbian. [43687, 43789]

The Associated Press reports, “Virginia law will require all voters to have photo IDs beginning next year. Gov. Bob McDonnell signed a bill Tuesday that his fellow Republicans said was a safeguard against voter fraud. Democrats bitterly denounced the legislation as a Jim Crow-era tactic to suppress the votes of the elderly, minorities and the underprivileged. The legislation provides for a free valid ID with the bearer’s photo to any registered voter who lacks one.” [43660, 43661]

With talk of Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) perhaps eventually running for president or vice president, articles start to appear questioning his birth history and arguing he is or is not a “natural born citizen.” Cruz was born in Canada to an American mother and a Cuban father. Although one can argue whether Cruz was a Cuban, a Canadian, or a U.S. citizen at birth, he was most certainly *not* a “natural born citizen” of the United States—which requires birth on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents. (As stated many times in this *Timeline*, Obama, Marco Rubio, and Bobby Jindal—and Ted Cruz—are not natural born citizens. Like Chester A. Arthur, Obama is not a legal president. Congressman John Bingham, the “father of the Fourteenth Amendment,” stated in a March 9, 1866 discussion: “[I] find no fault with the introductory clause [S 61 Bill], which is simply

declaratory of what is written in the Constitution, that every human being born within the jurisdiction of the United States *of parents not owing allegiance to any foreign sovereignty* [emphasis added] is, in the language of your Constitution itself, a natural born citizen.” That statement reinforces the argument that the Founding Fathers understood the term “natural born citizen” to mean born on U.S. soil to two-U.S. citizen parents. Obama’s father, not having been a U.S. citizen, clearly was someone who owed allegiance to a foreign sovereignty; Obama cannot therefore legally serve as president. Nor can Cruz, Rubio, or Jindal. It is worth noting that since 2001 there have been five attempts by Congress to redefine the meaning of the term natural born citizen; clearly those attempts would not have been necessary if it only meant “born in the U.S.A.) [12191, 12192, 12266, 12299, 12300, 12301, 12410, 12411, 12533, 13239, 43673]

At the National Press Club Bob Johnson, founder of Black Entertainment Television, states, “This country would never tolerate white unemployment at 14 and 15 percent. No one would ever stay in office at 14 or 15 percent unemployment in this nation, but we’ve had that double unemployment [rate] for over 50 years. The national average is 7.7 percent, and African-American unemployment is 13.8 percent. To be honest, it’s probably greater than that when you count the number of African-Americans who have simply given up on finding employment. ... [I]f that doesn’t change, somebody’s going to have to pay—34 million African-Americans are not going to leave this country, millions of African-Americans who don’t have jobs. Somebody’s going to have to pay for them. Somebody’s going to have to take care of them, and if somebody’s going to have to take care of them, that money’s got to come from somebody. And whoever’s paying for it is going to be upset about it, and they’re going to start looking for somebody to blame. ... We can’t be competitive if we don’t put all our people on the field to work, and African-Americans can’t be consumers if they don’t have jobs. They can’t buy houses, and the reason the wealth gap is so high, we don’t [have] home ownership. We don’t have savings. We don’t have investments, and part of that is because we don’t have capital. So a white household can buy a home. [But] Now it’s even more difficult to buy a home. There’s talk about taking the home deduction away as part of a chance to balance the budget, so all of these things, as I said, however the solution comes out, it’s going to impact us.” [43742]

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen “no fetus left alive” Sebelius reluctantly admits to reporters that ObamaCare will cause insurance premiums to increase—contradicting Obama’s promise that premiums would decrease by \$2,500 per year. Sebelius states, “These folks will be moving into a really fully insured product for the first time, and so there may be a higher cost associated with getting into that market, but we feel pretty strongly that with subsidies available to a lot of that population that they are really going to see much better benefit for the money that they’re spending.” (At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen translates: “Dear Younger and Healthier People, You will help shoulder the burdens and higher costs of ObamaCare—both through your taxes that go toward subsidies, and by paying for a particular health insurance plan that you yourselves might neither want nor need—and you will like it. You’re welcome. Sincerely, ObamaCare.”) According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “The Society of Actuaries, a nonpartisan professional association, has issued a new report warning that

the cost of medical claims in the new individual-insurance market could rise by an average of 32% per person over the first few years the law is in place, as more people with higher medical needs get coverage, and that the impact will be very different depending on the state.” (Meanwhile, the Obama administration has warned officials not to promise that health care costs would go down under ObamaCare.) [43678, 43683, 43688, 43689, 43695, 43708]

Sebelius responds to the “32 percent increase” claim by criticizing bare-bones, catastrophic policies. At TheDailyBeast.com Megan McArdle notes that Sebelius “said some of what passes for health insurance today is so skimpy it can’t be compared to the comprehensive coverage available under the law. ‘Some of these folks have very high catastrophic plans that don’t pay for anything unless you get hit by a bus,’ she said. ‘They’re really mortgage protection, not health insurance.’ ...Sebelius’ response is apparently that catastrophic insurance isn’t really insurance at all—which is exactly backwards. Catastrophic coverage is ‘true insurance.’ Coverage of routine, predictable services is not insurance at all; it’s a spectacularly inefficient prepayment plan. ...I think she’s sincerely confused about the difference between insurance, and prepayment. Which explains a lot about the new health law. ...The Secretary of Health and Human Services genuinely believes that health insurance should do more than just, well, protect your ability to keep paying the mortgage. Unfortunately, ‘more’ is very expensive and inefficient.” [43825]

By extending Sebelius’ viewpoint from health care to automobiles, its absurdity becomes more obvious: She would expect car insurance to cover gasoline fill-ups, oil changes, new tires, and windshield washer fluid—with the driver never having to pay for anything. Insurance is, however, *by definition* only intended to cover expenses that are costly but out of the ordinary. That they are out of the ordinary is *what makes it possible to share the cost among thousands of policy holders*. (If everyone has to pay for everyone else’s new tires, one might as well just buy one’s own new tires.) If health insurance covers everything for everybody, as Sebelius apparently believes it should, *there is no longer anyone with whom the cost burden can be shared*—because everyone expects everything to be paid for, including routine expenses that everyone encounters. “*Risk pooling*” *does not work with “non-risk” expenses*. If 300 million Americans are all “entitled” to a “free” annual medical examination, then the cost of 300 million exams must necessarily be shared by those same 300 million Americans. In that case, it would be cheaper to simply pay for the exam out of one’s own pocket and avoid the expense of the insurance middleman—regardless of whether that middleman is a private insurance company or the federal bureaucracy. (Some people—Sebelius included—may be too stupid to understand that concept. Others understand it full well, but are living off the system as welfare and Medicaid parasites and can, in fact, pass off the cost of their care to everyone else.) [43825]

On March 27 the Supreme Court hears oral arguments related to the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act.

Breitbart.com reports, “From 2009 to 2013, the U.S. government has spent \$1,188,382 on puppetry-related expenses. Some of the expenses include puppet shows for kids on educational topics. Others include puppet-based research. In 2010, the taxpayer-funded National Science Foundation awarded the University of Central Florida a \$199,754 research grant for “Efficient Control and Transmission of Digital Puppetry. The UCF website explains the project thusly: ‘The purpose of this project is to improve the quality of experiences that can be provided by the puppeteering paradigm (more varied behaviors, enhanced quality of service, reduced latency), while simultaneously reducing the barrier to entry (cost and complexity of set-up, cognitive load on puppeteer, need for extensive training).’” [43690]

CNSNews.com reports, “The National Science Foundation awarded a grant for \$876,752 to the University of Iowa to study whether there is any benefit to sex among New Zealand mud snails and whether that explains why any organism has sex. The study, first funded in 2011 and continuing until 2015, will study the New Zealand snails to see if it is better that they reproduce sexually or asexually—the snail can do both—hoping to gain insight on why so many organisms practice sexual reproduction.” [43697, 43705]

In an interview with Telemundo, Obama says border security should not be placed ahead of turning illegal immigrants into voting U.S. citizens: “We don’t want to make this earned pathway to citizenship a situation in which it’s put off further and further into the future. There needs to be a certain path for how people can get legal in this country, even as we also work on these strong border security issues.” Obama tells Univision, “I’m actually optimistic that when they [members of Congress] get back [from their Easter recess] they will introduce a bill. My sense is that they have come close and my expectation is that we’ll actually see a bill on the floor of the Senate next month.” (Obama assumes—perhaps rightly—that Senate Republicans are close to caving in on amnesty legislation. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) tells reporters, “The bottom line is, we’re very close. I’d say we’re 90 percent there. We have a few little problems to work on. We’re on track to meet our deadline of having a bill when we get back to Congress in April.” Senator John McCain (R-AZ) states, “Nobody is going to be totally happy with this legislation. No one will be because we are having to make compromises, and that’s what makes good legislation.” In other words, “I have caved in to Democrat demands.”) [43721, 43722, 43723, 43734]

On March 28 *The Obama Timeline* posts the following on Facebook:

“With the fuss over whether Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) is a natural born citizen (he is most certainly not, although he is a generic citizen), it is worth recalling some history (from *The Obama Timeline*):

On February 28, 2008 Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) introduced Senate Bill 2678, the Children of Military Families Natural Born Citizen Act. The bill was intended to allow McCain to be considered a natural born citizen eligible to serve as president. The bill was co-sponsored by Obama (surprise!) and Senators Hillary Clinton, Robert Menendez, and Tom Coburn, but did not pass.

Having failed to get Senate Bill 2678 passed, on April 10 Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) introduced Senate Resolution 511 to ‘recognize that John Sidney McCain is a natural born citizen.’ The resolution was intended to clarify that McCain is eligible to be president even though he was born in Panama. McCaskill’s resolution was unnecessary and served no purpose: McCain was either eligible or not eligible at the moment of birth. No ‘resolution’ can override the U.S. Constitution and one cannot later legally modify the ‘natural born citizen status’ of one’s birth: you either are one or you are not.

An effort was made by McCaskill and Obama to change the resolution’s language to provide a ‘blanket cover’ for other foreign-born candidates without military backgrounds (that is, Obama)—in an attempt to enable Obama to be eligible to serve as president should it be discovered that he was not born in Hawaii.

McCaskill and Obama had the following language inserted, ‘Whereas previous presidential candidates were born outside of the United States of America and were understood to be eligible to be President...’ That statement was, of course, false. (What previous presidential candidates born outside the U.S were commonly considered to be eligible?) They unsuccessfully attempted to remove the following language, ‘...and Whereas John Sidney McCain, III, was born to American citizens on an American military base in the Panama Canal Zone in 1936.’ The only reasonable explanation for the resolution and the proposed changes to make it more generic and less McCain-specific was to cover Obama if he is not a natural born citizen.

As I have stated in the past, the term ‘natural born citizen’ historically meant born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents.

It is clear that the Founding Fathers knew what the term natural born citizen meant and why they used it in defining eligibility requirements for the president. Had they meant only ‘native born’ or ‘born citizen’ they would have used that term. They did not. In fact, an earlier draft of the U.S. Constitution, perhaps influenced by Alexander Hamilton, used the phrase ‘born Citizen of the United States.’ That was intentionally changed to ‘natural born Citizen of the United States’ to help assure that the president was as far removed as possible from foreign influence and owing his full allegiance to the United States. (The change was made by James Madison after John Jay wrote George Washington and asked that the requirement be made more limiting than merely born on U.S. soil.)

Constitutional attorney Mario Apuzzo (*Kerchner v. Obama*) observes, ‘And the adjective ‘natural born’ was known and understood by [the Founding Fathers] to mean sole allegiance at birth to one nation as Vattel defined in his legal treatise, *The Law of Nations or Principles of Natural Law*, first published in 1758 in French and reprinted as a new edition in French and which was sent to the founders in 1775 by Dumas of the Netherlands, the editor of the new 1775 edition. The founders were fluent in French which was the diplomatic language of the time. That history of the United States Constitution explains why Obama is fiercely fighting all the eligibility lawsuits: he knows that the Supreme Court will have no choice but to declare that he is not a natural born

citizen by virtue of his father having not been a U.S. citizen. If his birth took place in Hawaii, Obama is native born, but he is not natural born. That conclusion is inescapable—unless a majority of Supreme Court Justices choose to defy the clear intentions of the authors of the U.S. Constitution.’

Congressman John Bingham of Ohio was the ‘father of the Fourteenth Amendment,’ which deemed former slaves to be citizens of the United States. In a discussion on March 9, 1866 Bingham stated, ‘[I] find no fault with the introductory clause [S 61 Bill], which is simply declaratory of what is written in the Constitution, that every human being born within the jurisdiction of the United States *of parents not owing allegiance to any foreign sovereignty* [italics added] is, in the language of your Constitution itself, a natural born citizen.’ That statement further reinforces the argument that the Founding Fathers understood the term ‘natural born citizen’ to mean born on U.S. soil to two-U.S. citizen parents. (What part of ‘of parents not owing allegiance to any foreign sovereignty’ is not clear?) Obama’s father, not having been a U.S. citizen, clearly was someone who owed allegiance to a foreign sovereignty; Obama cannot therefore legally serve as president.

It is worth noting that there have been five attempts by Congress since 2001 to redefine the meaning of the term natural born citizen; clearly those attempts would not have been necessary if it only meant ‘born in the U.S.A.’

On the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1862 Bingham stated, ‘All from other lands, who by the terms of [congressional] laws and a compliance with their provisions become naturalized, are adopted citizens of the United States; all other persons born within the Republic, *of parents owing allegiance to no other sovereignty, are natural born citizens* [italics added]. Gentleman can find no exception to this statement touching natural-born citizens except what is said in the Constitution relating to Indians.’ (What part of ‘of parents owing allegiance to no other sovereignty’ is not clear? Why would we not take the word of the primary author of the Fourteenth Amendment over that of the Democrat National Committee and a leftist media?)

In 1866 Bingham stated, ‘Every human being born within the jurisdiction of the United States *of parents 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. (Note: Obama supporters—including attorneys filing briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court—have omitted the words ‘of parents’ when quoting Bingham’s statement, in a shameful and intentional effort to mislead. I dare anyone to justify intentionally omitting those words.)

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 who were its citizens* [italics added] became themselves, upon their birth, citizens also. These were natives, or natural-born citizens, 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 not material. Without justification, Obama supporters eagerly accept the less common interpretation. The Supreme Court has *never* ruled on the meaning of the term. Obama has fought lawsuits intended to rectify that situation—because he fears the Court will rule against him and follow the words of Waite.”

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.”

“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.”

The “grandfather clause” is essentially a loophole that means, “We can’t go without a president for decades while we wait for natural born citizens to reach age 35, so we will temporarily allow individuals who are not natural born citizens serve as president, as long as they were 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 from serving as president. Obama is 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 would not have been necessary if his 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. Obama is therefore not a natural born citizen. (Additionally, according to Kenya’s constitution, a person born of a Kenyan parent—irrespective of the place of birth—automatically becomes a citizen of Kenya. Obama was therefore a Kenyan citizen at birth, by virtue of his father’s citizenship.) 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 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.

The White House announces that Obama’s formal budget proposal, which is required by February 1, will be released on April 10. (At Townhall.com Erika Johnsen notes that Obama “holds the record for both the longest delay and the most delays” in submitting budgets, and observes that White House budgets are “supposed to be the first out of the gate as a starting point for Congress to work off of—but fortunately, Congress has already started duking it out over the particulars without him. Calling this anything other than a scrubbed leadership opportunity just isn’t quite honest. Although, to be fair, I can’t say I’m really holding out hope that his actual budget is going to represent any kind of real attempt at leadership either, so, [it’s a] wash.”) [43720]

Banks reopen in Cyprus—but account holders are not allowed to withdraw more than 300 euros in cash per day. BeforeItsNews.com reports, “Confiscating the customer deposits in Cyprus banks, it seems, was not a one-off, desperate idea of a few Eurozone ‘troika’ officials scrambling to salvage their balance sheets. A joint paper by the US Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Bank of England dated December 10, 2012, shows that these plans have been long in the making; that they originated with the G20 Financial Stability Board in Basel, Switzerland; and that the result will be to deliver clear title to the banks of depositor funds. ...Although few depositors realize it, legally the bank owns the depositor’s funds as soon as they are put in the bank. Our money becomes the bank’s, and we become unsecured creditors holding IOUs or promises to pay. But until now the bank has been obligated to pay the money back on demand in the form of cash. Under the FDIC-BOE plan, our IOUs will be converted into ‘bank equity.’ The bank will get the money and we will get stock in the bank. With any luck we may be able to sell the stock to someone else, but when and at what price? ...The 15-page FDIC-BOE document is called ‘Resolving Globally Active, Systemically Important, Financial

Institutions.’ It begins by explaining that the 2008 banking crisis has made it clear that some other way besides taxpayer bailouts is needed to maintain ‘financial stability.’ Evidently anticipating that the next financial collapse will be on a grander scale than either the taxpayers or Congress is willing to underwrite, the authors state: ‘An efficient path for returning the sound operations... to the private sector would be provided by exchanging or converting a sufficient amount of the unsecured debt from the original creditors of the failed company [meaning the depositors] into equity [or stock]. ...[T]he new equity would become capital in one or more newly formed operating entities.’ (*The Obama Timeline* believes Obama and his Democrat comrades have plans to nationalize all U.S. banks when the next banking crisis strikes.) [43692, 43702, 43781]

The government revises its estimate of fourth quarter 2012 Gross Domestic Product growth from an annual rate of -0.1 percent to a still anemic +0.4 percent. At NationalReview.com Lawrence Kudlow observes, “Perhaps more to the point, the year-on-year GDP change is only 1.7 percent, less than the 2 percent average growth of the Obama recovery, which is still the weakest in modern times going back to 1947.” [43693, 43700, 43701]

In a military exercise the United States send stealth bombers to South Korea to drop dummy bombs. The bombers then return to Whiteman Air Force base in Missouri. (At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey writes, “No word yet from Pyongyang, but don’t expect that to last long. We’re less interested in their response now than we are in Beijing’s. The real message is that the US will take action if China can’t get Kim [Jong Un] and his generals back on the leash, and the resultant refugee flood would be a disaster for China. Whatever benefit Beijing gets from playing Pyongyang against Japan and the US would rapidly dissipate, and we’re getting very close to the point where a simple mistake could send things out of everyone’s control.”) [43694]

With public support for gun control legislation waning, Obama delivers a White House speech surrounded by family members of shooting victims. Obama predictably brings up the killings in Newtown, Connecticut, and essentially labels anyone who opposes his legislative plans as eager to see children killed in bloodbaths across the nation. Obama states, “There is absolutely no reason why we can’t get this [gun control] done. But the reason we’re talking about it here today is because it’s not done until it’s done. And there are some powerful voices on the other side that are interested in running out the clock, or changing the subject or drowning out the majority of the American people to prevent any of these reforms from happening at all. They’re doing everything they can to make all our progress collapse under the weight of fear and frustration, or their assumption is, is that people will just forget about it. ...Shame on us if we’ve forgotten. I haven’t forgotten those kids. Shame on us if we’ve forgotten. If there is one thing I’ve said consistently since I first ran for this office, nothing is more powerful than millions of voices calling for change.” [43698]

Jessica Chasmar reports at WashingtonTimes.com, “A new report states that districts containing Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City ranked last in enforcing federal gun laws in 2012. The report, from Syracuse University’s Transactional Records Access

Clearinghouse, shows that the districts of Eastern New York, Central California and Northern Illinois ranked 88th, 89th and 90th, respectively, out of 90, in prosecutions of federal weapons crimes per capita. U.S. News notes that these cities also have some of the country's strictest gun laws, as well as the most active mayors in advocating for gun control. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa are all members of Mr. Bloomberg's group, the national Mayors Against Illegal Guns campaign." [43699]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) hops on the Rand Paul/Ted Cruz/Mike Lee threatened-filibuster-bandwagon, adding his name to their letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) stating their opposition to "any legislation that will serve as a vehicle for any additional gun restrictions." Rubio states, "We should look for ways to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill prone to misusing them, but I oppose legislation that will be used as a vehicle to impose new Second Amendment restrictions on responsible, law-abiding gun owners. We should work to reduce tragic acts of violence by addressing violence at its source, including untreated mental illness, the lack of adequate information-sharing on mental health issues, and the breakdown of the family." Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) also signs onto the letter. [43704, 43709, 43712, 43973]

Deputy press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters, "The measures [Obama] has put forth would not affect the Second Amendment rights of law abiding citizens; that is a priority of [his] as well. [Obama] believes in the Second Amendment, [and] none of the measures he has put forth would have any impact on the Second Amendment rights of law abiding citizens." (No reporters laugh—at least not out loud.)

Obama issues an Executive Order creating a nine-seat Presidential Commission on Election Administration to "identify best practices and otherwise make recommendations to promote the efficient administration of elections in order to ensure that all eligible voters have the opportunity to cast their ballots without undue delay, and to improve the experience of voters facing other obstacles." (DailyCaller.com notes, "Obama's panel does not have the legal ability to rewrite state election laws, but its recommendations could help Obama's appointees at the Department of Justice ask friendly judges to impose changes on states." Obama's goal, of course, is to make it easier for non-citizens to be able to vote illegally, and for legal citizens to illegally vote more than once—by fighting voter ID laws and making it easier to register to vote without proof of citizenship.) [43711]

In *The Wall Street Journal* Liz Cheney, chairman of Keep America Safe, calls on Republicans to "get over" their 2012 loss and "start fighting back." Cheney warns that Obama "is the most radical man ever to occupy the Oval Office. ...He believes that more government borrowing and spending are the solution to every problem. He seems unaware that the free-enterprise system has lifted more people out of poverty than any other economic system devised by man. ...[Obama] has launched a war on Americans' Second Amendment rights. He has launched a war on religious freedom. He has launched a war on fossil fuels. He is working to nationalize one-sixth of the economy with job-

killing ObamaCare. He wants to collect a greater portion of every American paycheck, not for the purpose of paying down the national debt but to expand his governing machine. He doesn't believe in creating a bigger pie with more opportunity for all. He believes in greater redistribution of a much smaller pie. If you're unsure of what this America would look like, Google 'Cyprus' or 'Greece.' [Obama] has so effectively diminished American strength abroad that there is no longer a question of whether this was his intent. He is working to pre-emptively disarm the United States. He advocates slashing our nuclear arsenal even as the North Koreans threaten us and the Iranians close in on their own nuclear weapon. He has turned his back on America's allies around the world and ignored growing threats." [43732]

Cheney continues, "In the face of this reality, it is time for Republicans to get over their loss in 2012. We are all that stands between [Obama's] policies and a damaged and diminished America. It is time to get back in the fight. And I do mean fight. ...It is time to defend our values with vigor and courage. We are conservatives. We believe in limited government, low taxes, a strong national defense, individual freedoms, self-reliance, the importance of the family, and the miracle and authority of America's founding documents. We know that government is best that governs least and governs closest to the people. We know that the private sector is the engine of economic growth. We know that America is the exceptional nation, the best that has ever existed. We know that the men and women who wear the uniform of the U.S. military are the greatest fighting force and the greatest force for good that the world has ever known. We know that preventing [Obama] from enacting devastating policies is not obstructionism. It is patriotism. The miracle of the Constitution resides to a large extent in the first three words, 'We the People,' placing sovereignty with us, not with our rulers. We are the inheritors of these blessings of liberty, and it is our solemn duty to fight for, protect and defend our freedom. Now is the time to pick ourselves up, brush ourselves off, and man the barricades for freedom." [43732]

A Pew Poll shows that only 43 percent of Americans believe illegal immigrants should be allowed to apply for U.S. citizenship, although 71 percent are willing to allow them to remain in the country. (The popular sentiment is therefore, "No deportation, but no voting rights either." Popular sentiment notwithstanding, many assume that Senate Republicans will cave in and support amnesty legislation that falls far short of requiring border security as a precondition to citizenship for illegal immigrants.) [43718, 43719, 43734]

At ThePostEmail.com Sher Zieve interviews Larry Grathwohl, a former FBI informant who infiltrated the Weather Underground and as a result knew Obama pals William Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn—who Grathwohl says "have not changed the color of their stripes and they continue—to this day—to [work] to destroy this country's government and replace it with communism." Grathwohl tells Zieve, "What was new 30 years ago was the violence and the determination of individuals such as Bill Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn... [who had] the sole purpose of destroying the United States of America, its Constitution and the liberties it provides us. Nothing [has] really changed other than the commitment to violence which was predominant 30 years ago. Today the same goal is being pursued with a certain amount of success through the means of the political

process, which has manifested itself in the form of Barack Obama and his administration. ...Obama is, without doubt, an associate, friend and fellow traveler along with Bernardine Dohrn, Bill Ayers and many others who believe in the total destruction of this country. ...I think in regards to an American Stalin, Barack Obama is the definition. The only thing missing, at this time, is 20 or 30 million dead and that may be set to take place with the Department of Homeland Security via the NDAA act. Presently the Department of Homeland Security is buying millions upon millions of rounds of ammunition, mostly of the 9mm and 40 caliber type. They have also purchased armored vehicles which are capable of withstanding mines and other explosive devices and the question begs: 'For what purpose?'" [43713]

Apparently not bothered by the fact that the federal government cannot even pay its current bills, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announces that will review the possibility of federal coverage for sex-change surgery. [43724]

Infowars.com reports that Shepard Fairey, the artist who created the famous Marxist-inspired Obama "change" and "hope" posters, "has taken aim at the Second Amendment by releasing new works that equate gun owners with Satan. Fairey has released a new print titled 'God Saves & Satan Invests' which depicts an AR15 rifle with the words 'America—The Land Where God Saves & Satan Invests In Assault Weapons And High Capacity Magazines.'" [43727]

Vice President Joe Biden arrives in Kiawah Island, South Carolina for a golf vacation—his third taxpayer-subsidized vacation of the year. [43729]

On March 29 the Department of Labor reports that first-time jobless claims rose by 16,000 to 357,000 in the week ending March 23. Robert Brusca, president of Fact & Opinion Economics in New York, states, "We're not making progress the way we'd like to. It's still a very disappointing picture for jobs." (Obama, who said he would "not rest" until every American who wanted a job found one, remains occupied pushing gay marriage and gun control legislation.) [43706, 43707]

DailyCaller.com reports, "House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul [R-TX] and the panel's subcommittee chairmen are calling on Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to explain why DHS has extended a trusted traveler program to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In a letter to Napolitano released Thursday, the seven GOP lawmakers voiced their concerns about 'potential risks' associated with opening the Global Entry trusted traveler program—which 'allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States'—to Saudi Arabia." (Fifteen of the 19 hijackers on September 11, 2001 were from Saudi Arabia, yet Napolitano and Obama apparently believe all Saudis can now be considered "trusted travelers.") [43710, 43717]

CBSNews.com reports, "North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned Friday that his rocket forces were ready 'to settle accounts with the U.S.,' unleashing a new round of bellicose rhetoric after U.S. nuclear-capable B-2 bombers dropped dummy munitions in joint

military drills with South Korea. ...Kim 'convened an urgent operation meeting' of senior generals just after midnight, signed a rocket preparation plan and ordered his forces on standby to strike the U.S. mainland, South Korea, Guam and Hawaii, state media reported. Kim said 'the time has come to settle accounts with the U.S. imperialists in view of the prevailing situation,' according to a report by the North's official Korean Central News Agency." [43714, 43715]

Financial guru Jim Rogers, chairman of Rogers Holdings, is asked by CNBC about the confiscation of bank accounts in Cyprus. "What more do you need to know?" asks Rogers. "Please, you [had] better hurry, you better run for the hills. I'm doing it anyway. I want to make sure that I don't get trapped. Think of all the poor souls that just thought they had a simple bank account. Now they find out that they are making a 'contribution' to the stability of Cyprus. The gall of these politicians. ...I, for one, am making sure I don't have too much money in any one specific bank account anywhere in the world, because now there is a precedent. ...[Y]ou can be sure that other countries, when problems come, are going to say, 'well, it's condoned by the EU [European Union], it's condoned by the IMF [International Monetary Fund], so let's do it too.' ...I'm certainly not investing in the U.S., because the U.S. [stock market] is making all-time highs based on money printing. If you give me a trillion dollars, I'll show you a good time too and a lot of people are having a good time. I'm somewhat skeptical because I know it's going to end badly." David Sterman, senior market analyst at StreetAuthority.com, tells Newsmax TV, "The real threat to the U.S. is concern that things like Cyprus start to impact bigger and bigger dominoes in Europe, whether it's Italy or Spain, and messes up all the financing mechanisms we're desperately trying to arrange to keep things moving forward there. So it's really what Cyprus means for Europe and what Europe means for the U.S." [43747]

Obama's minions at the Environmental Protection Agency announce new emissions regulations that will boost the price of gasoline—by an estimated 6 to 9 cents per gallon. The regulations require that refineries reduce the amount of sulfur and nitrogen oxides. (Ironically, complying with the regulations will force the refineries to use more energy in the fuel production processes—and that will increase the amount of "greenhouse gases.") at HotAir.com Ed Morrissey observes, "[P]art of the reason why gas prices jumped so high this year has been maintenance down time. The US operates near full capacity at all times to keep up with demand, one of the problems created by opposition to building new refineries, which would already have this technology in place. If 66 refineries need 'modifications' and another 16 need major overhauls to comply [with the new regulations] within four years, that means that 74% of our refineries will be experiencing additional down time during that period. That sounds like a recipe for shortages and price shocks. And so far, prices haven't come down a lot after the round of supply issues of this year." (Among the beneficiaries of the new regulations will be Obama's billionaire buddy George Soros, who has heavily invested in "green energy" ventures that would not fare nearly as well without the heavy thumb of government on the scales.) [43716, 43755]

WeeklyStandard.com posts a video of a legislative committee hearing in Florida in which Alisa LaPolt Snow, a “lobbyist representing the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, testified that her organization believes the decision to kill an infant who survives a failed abortion should be left up to the woman seeking an abortion and her abortion doctor.” State Representative Jim Boyd responds, “So, um, it is just really hard for me to even ask you this question because I’m almost in disbelief. If a baby is born on a table as a result of a botched abortion, what would Planned Parenthood want to have happen to that child that is struggling for life?” Snow replies, “We believe that any decision that’s made should be left up to the woman, her family, and the physician.” (Snow’s response should not shock anyone. It is the same position held by Obama who, as a state senator in Illinois, voted against legislation that would have required abortion-surviving infants to be treated and not left to die or be intentionally killed.) [43730, 43731, 43739, 43805, 43920]

According to *The Telegraph*, “North Korea has revealed its plans to strike targets in Hawaii and the continental United States in photos taken in Kim Jong-un’s military command centre. The photos appeared in the state-run Rodong newspaper and were apparently taken at an ‘emergency meeting’ early on Friday morning. They show Kim signing the order for North Korea’s strategic rocket forces to be on standby to fire at US targets, the paper said, with large-scale maps and diagrams in the background. The images show a chart marked ‘US mainland strike plan’ and missile trajectories that the NK News web site estimates terminate in Hawaii, Washington DC, Los Angeles and what they claim is Austin, Texas.” (Austin is the home of a Samsung Electronics semiconductor manufacturing facility; Samsung is a South Korea company.) “...The North’s military was placed on its highest alert level earlier this week and a hotline link with the South Korean military was severed.” (Whether North Korea even has missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland is not known.) [43733, 43735, 43736, 43771, 43842]

TheBlaze.com reports, “According to a new report published in the Arabic-language news outlet Misr al-Gidida and translated by Islam expert Raymond Ibrahim, Egyptian president Muhammad Morsi’s secretly met with al Qaeda leader Ayman Zawahiri while in Islamabad, Pakistan. During the visit, Morsi reportedly promised to smuggle the Egyptian-born jihadist back to his native country. According to the report, a Pakistani source said the clandestine meeting was ‘facilitated by elements of Pakistani intelligence [ISI] and influential members of the international organization, the Muslim Brotherhood.’” (The Muslim Brotherhood’s Morsi is president of Egypt largely because Obama turned his back on former president Hosni Mubarak. Obama apparently preferred a Muslim Brotherhood thug who hates Israel and the United States to Mubarak, who, despite his faults, maintained peace with Israel and did not provoke the United States.) [43751]

The Associated Press reports that the 10th U.S. Circuit Court “has granted Hobby Lobby’s request for the entire court to hear its challenge of a federal requirement that it provide insurance coverage for the morning-after pill and similar emergency contraceptives. ... Appeals are usually decided by a three-judge panel, but a total of nine

judges will hear the appeal from the Oklahoma City-based arts and crafts chain. Hobby Lobby is challenging a requirement in the new federal health care law that says the company must provide and pay for emergency contraceptives. The company says the requirement violates the beliefs of its Christian owners. The Denver-based court also said it would hear Hobby Lobby's appeal on an expedited basis, with oral arguments expected this spring." [43737]

Continuing his tradition, Obama does not attend a Good Friday church service.

Left-wing environmentalist and author Bjorn Lomborg appears on *Stossel* and tells host John Stossel, "The Germans are spending about \$110 billion on subsidies for these solar panels. The net effect of all those investments will be to postpone global warming by 37 hours by the end of the century. ...so remember them in [the year] 2100 and say, 'Wow.' ...Global warming is real, and it is something we need to fix. But we should fix it smartly, and not in a very, very costly way as we're doing right now. Germany is probably spending \$660 for every ton of CO2 they're cutting, and remember, the benefit of it is about \$5 per ton. That's a bad deal." [43746]

Mike Zullo, lead investigator in the Maricopa County, Arizona "Cold Case Posse" investigating Obama, updates radio host Carl Gallups on the progress in the case. Zullo and the members of his team are convinced that Obama's birth certificate and Selective Service registration form are forgeries and are treating the issue as a criminal investigation. Zullo confirms that four Congressmen have been given incriminating evidence that has not yet been made public. Zullo also confirms that when he approached former Congressman Allen West at the Conservative Political Action Conference with his evidence and told him he was "sitting on a felony," West responded that he would rather spend political capital on the Benghazi issue than the Obama felonies—because he might want to run for office again. (In other words, West is a coward, willing to ignore a crime in order to keep from losing votes from Obama supporters.) Although Zullo was disappointed that West was willing to "sell the country down the road," there are other prominent individuals who may have the courage to come forward and publicly support the investigation and its findings. As ThePostEmail.com later described the radio interview, "Zullo stated that he is planning to "make various appointments and presentations to very important people throughout the nation. No one has seen our book of evidence," Zullo said. "If they did see it, they would have a responsibility to act on it." [43750, 43760, 43761]

Meanwhile ThePostEmail.com's Sharon Rondeau notes, "Maj. Gen. Paul E. Vallely [retired] stated that 'ten out of ten' former CIA agents who analyzed the birth certificate affirmed that it is a forgery." A number of investigators believe that Obama's forged document used the file number from the birth certificate of Virginia Sunahara, who was born on August 4, 1961 and who died the next day. Because a deceased infant would never request his or her own birth certificate, their documents are frequently used when forgeries are needed. The practice is purportedly common in Hawaii, where state workers illegally sell the numbers of those who died soon after birth. Virginia Sunahara's brother Duncan has asked for her birth certificate—and *the state of Hawaii has refused to comply*

with his request. (Those who believe Obama's birth certificate is not a forgery should be asked to explain why Hawaii will not release the Sunahara document to her brother.) Duncan Sunahara has filed a lawsuit, which is currently on appeal in Hawaii. Rondeau reports that document and scanner expert Douglas Vogt "told Mark Gillar of the Tea Party Hours that he believes Alvin Onaka [the registrar at the Hawaii Department of Health who name is on the Obama document] 'is very nervous' about he forgery of Obama's birth certificate. "He knows someone's after him,' Vogt said." BirtherReport.com has reported anomalies with other Hawaiian birth documents from August 1961 and claims that Obama was given the Birth Certificate number of someone names Stig Waidelich. The site states, "[W]e also have evidence that a high authority at the [Loretta] FUDDY HDOH [Hawaii Department of Health] forced a subordinate to forge the Virginia Sunahara death certificate—and that subordinate resisted by deliberately adding red flags." That is, the subordinate added "clues" to make it obvious the document was forged—without state employee Fuddy realizing that was being done. [43750, 43760, 43761, 43910]

The Wall Street Journal reports that Democrats in Congress are "turning on their White House minders as the harmful and unpopular parts of the Affordable Care Act ramp up. On the heels of the recent 79-20 Senate uprising against the 2.3% medical device tax, now comes the surge of Democrats pleading on behalf of Medicare Advantage. Liberals have claimed for years to hate this program, but by now Advantage provides private insurance coverage to more than one of four seniors. And those seniors like it. However, the ObamaCare true believers who run the Health and Human Services Department don't answer to voters, and they have written draft regulations that cut Medicare Advantage even more deeply than Congress mandated in the Affordable Care Act. Those cuts will bite hardest in states like Oregon (where 42% of Medicare beneficiaries use Advantage), or Florida (37%), New York (33%), California (37%) and Arizona (38%). The extra cuts stem from HHS's discretion and were dropped from the sky with no warning in February. More than a few Democrats seem to have caught the anvil. Some 139 Members of Congress have formally objected in 16 letters to HHS so far, and the signers include 26 Democrats in the House and 13 in the Senate." [43759]

On March 30 Barack "I will not rest until every American who wants a job has one" Obama plays golf. (It is his 117th golf outing since entering the Oval Office.) Obama then heads to the Verizon Center to watch a basketball game with his "close" friend Reggie Love. According to WhiteHouseDossier.com, "There were some reports that Obama was booed as he entered the Verizon Center. The White House press pooler said he did not hear boos and others said the boos were for NCAA President Mark Emmert, but a local Washington TV station Tweeted there were 'a mixture of cheers and boos' as Obama entered." [43758]

The Associated Press reports, "Big depositors at Cyprus' largest bank may be forced to accept losses of up to 60 percent, far more than initially estimated under the European rescue package to save the country from bankruptcy, officials said Saturday. Deposits of more than 100,000 euros (\$128,000) at the Bank of Cyprus will lose 37.5 percent in money that will be converted into bank shares, according to a central bank statement. In a

second raid on these accounts, depositors also could lose up to 22.5 percent more, depending on what experts determine is needed to prop up the bank's reserves. The experts will have 90 days to figure that out. The remaining 40 percent of big deposits at the Bank of Cyprus will be 'temporarily frozen' until further notice, but continue to accrue existing levels of interest plus another 10 percent. The savings converted to bank shares would theoretically allow depositors to eventually recover their losses. But the shares now hold little value and it's uncertain when—if ever—the shares will regain a value equal to the depositors' losses." (The actions will further destroy the economy in Cyprus, with businesses that owe payments to suppliers and creditors having lost the cash to pay their bills. The already poor economy will grind to a halt—and depositors will withdraw whatever cash they can as soon as they can. Meanwhile, it is almost guaranteed that European leaders—as well as Obama and his Democrat comrades—will be watching to see how the average Cypriot reacts. If the citizens accept the confiscation of their savings without mass rioting and without much of a fuss, other nations will be led to believe they can get away with the same type of theft. At 21stCenturyWire.com Patrick Henningsen quotes Lucious Petrou, a retired farmer: "Imagine the timing of [former president Demetris] Christofias resigning only five weeks ago, and then our banks closing their doors three weeks later? Our communist president came into power [in 2008] with a one billion euro surplus and left with what will be a 17.5 billion euro debt to the international bankers. Where is he now?") [43738, 43740]

In the Gallup poll, Obama's three-day, rolling average approval rating falls to 47 percent. Obama's rating also drops to 47 percent in a Pew Research poll—in which only 25 percent of Americans believe economic conditions will improve over the coming year. [43741, 43743]

FoxNews.com reports, "...Obama approved a temporary spending bill this week that averted a government shutdown but also riled a slew of groups that say one provision protects Monsanto and other makers of genetically modified seeds and crops from federal courts. The so-called Monsanto Protection Act essentially requires the Agriculture Department to approve the growing, harvesting and selling of such crops, even if the courts rule environmental studies are incomplete—undermining the judicial review system and posing potential health risks, critics say. The biotech rider was included in spending bill HR 933 and signed Tuesday by Obama, despite White House protests and at least two petitions, including one by the group Food Democracy Now that got more than 250,000 signatures. Critics have also attacked Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski, accusing the Maryland Democrat of allowing the rider to be added to the continuing resolution without a proper hearing." [43748]

WND.com reports that "an appeal has been filed with a state Supreme Court led by a newly elected chief justice who has expressed doubt about Obama's qualification for office. Roy Moore was elected chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court last November, a decade after he defied a federal order to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the state Supreme Court building. Now, 2012 Constitution Party presidential nominee Virgil Goode and Alabama Republican Party leader Hugh McInnish are asking the state's highest court to force Secretary of State Beth Chapman to verify

that all candidates on the state's 2012 ballot were eligible to serve. Attorney Larry Klayman, founder of the Washington, D.C.-watch dog Judicial Watch and now head of Freedom Watch, filed the appeal Tuesday with the Alabama Supreme Court, asking for oral arguments. ...In his brief, Klayman says 'credible evidence and information from an official source' was presented to Chapman before the election indicating Obama might not have been qualified for Oval Office.' ...Moore said he had seen no convincing evidence that Obama is a natural-born citizen and much evidence that suggests he is not." Klayman comments, "We are hopeful that Chief Justice Moore and the rest of the jurists on the Alabama Supreme Court will follow the law. He is one courageous and brave man. There are few in this country." [43756, 43783]

TimesofIsrael.com reports, "Natural gas from the offshore Tamar field was pumped to Israeli shores for the first time Saturday, four years after its discovery, in preparation for its first use in the Israeli energy market—a move that could transform the Israeli economy. The Tamar deposit, discovered in 2009 some 90 kilometers west of Haifa, holds an estimated 8.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. ...The gas is to be transferred Sunday from the facility to a processing plant in Ashdod. From there, it will flow into the Israeli market. These newly harnessed resources promise to be a major boon to both the country's public and private energy needs. The controlling Tamar shareholder, Yitzhak Tshuva, said Saturday's start of pumping came 'months ahead of schedule.' He said the gas flow 'will make Israel energy independent.' ...The Tamar deposit, and especially the heftier Leviathan, which was discovered in 2010, are expected to provide Israel with enough natural gas for decades and transform the country, famously empty of natural resources, into an energy exporter." [43749]

Politico reports, "Senate negotiators cleared the last major hurdle to reaching a bipartisan immigration reform deal Saturday as labor and business groups signed off on a visa program for future low-skilled workers. The agreement marks a major breakthrough and significantly improves the odds of passing a larger immigration bill because it brings two powerful Washington interests on board on an issue that contributed to the defeat of past reform efforts. The visa program, which allows businesses to bring in up to 200,000 low-skilled workers annually depending on economic conditions, would be among the most controversial elements of the overhaul package. But the AFL-CIO, the Chamber of Commerce and other labor and business groups are expected to play a key role in helping blunt attacks by conservatives activists and liberals."

In *The New York Times*, former director of the Office of Management and Budget David A. Stockman writes, "Over the last 13 years, the stock market has twice crashed and touched off a recession: American households lost \$5 trillion in the 2000 dot-com bust and more than \$7 trillion in the 2007 housing crash. Sooner or later—within a few years, I predict—this latest Wall Street bubble, inflated by an egregious flood of phony money from the Federal Reserve rather than real economic gains, will explode, too. ...[T]he Main Street economy is failing while Washington is piling a soaring debt burden on our descendants, unable to rein in either the warfare state or the welfare state or raise the taxes needed to pay the nation's bills. By default, the Fed has resorted to a radical, uncharted spree of money printing. But the flood of liquidity, instead of spurring banks to

lend and corporations to spend, has stayed trapped in the canyons of Wall Street, where it is inflating yet another unsustainable bubble. When it bursts, there will be no new round of bailouts like the ones the banks got in 2008.” [43773, 43921, 43960]

“...The modern Keynesian state is broke, paralyzed and mired in empty ritual incantations about stimulating ‘demand,’ even as it fosters a mutant crony capitalism that periodically lavishes the top 1 percent with speculative windfalls. ...The Democratic Keynesians, as intellectually bankrupt as their Republican counterparts (though less hypocritical), had no solution beyond handing out borrowed money to consumers, hoping they would buy a lawn mower, a flat-screen TV or, at least, dinner at Red Lobster. But even Mr. Obama’s hopelessly glib policies could not match the audacity of the Fed, which dropped interest rates to zero and then digitally printed new money at the astounding rate of \$600 million per hour. Fast-money speculators have been ‘purchasing’ giant piles of Treasury debt and mortgage-backed securities, almost entirely by using short-term overnight money borrowed at essentially zero cost, thanks to the Fed. Uncle Ben has lined their pockets. If and when the Fed—which now promises to get unemployment below 6.5 percent as long as inflation doesn’t exceed 2.5 percent—even hints at shrinking its balance sheet, it will elicit a tidal wave of sell orders, because even a modest drop in bond prices would destroy the arbitrageurs’ profits.” [43773, 43921, 43960]

“...Self-titled fiscal hawks like Paul D. Ryan, the chairman of the House Budget Committee, are terrified of telling the truth: that the 10-year deficit is actually \$15 trillion to \$20 trillion, far larger than the Congressional Budget Office’s estimate of \$7 trillion. Its latest forecast, which imagines 16.4 million new jobs in the next decade, compared with only 2.5 million in the last 10 years, is only one of the more extreme examples of Washington’s delusions. Even a supposedly ‘bold’ measure—linking the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security payments to a different kind of inflation index—would save just \$200 billion over a decade, amounting to hardly 1 percent of the problem. ...[T]he nation’s fiscal collapse will play out incrementally, like a Greek/Cypriot tragedy, in carefully choreographed crises over debt ceilings, continuing resolutions and temporary budgetary patches. The future is bleak. ...Instead of moderation, what’s at hand is a Great Deformation, arising from a rogue central bank that has abetted the Wall Street casino, crucified savers on a cross of zero interest rates and fueled a global commodity bubble that erodes Main Street living standards through rising food and energy prices—a form of inflation that the Fed fecklessly disregards in calculating inflation. These policies have brought America to an end-stage metastasis.” [43773, 43921, 43960]

“The way out would be so radical it can’t happen. It would necessitate a sweeping divorce of the state and the market economy. It would require a renunciation of crony capitalism and its first cousin: Keynesian economics in all its forms. ...The United States is broke—fiscally, morally, intellectually—and the Fed has incited a global currency war (Japan just signed up, the Brazilians and Chinese are angry, and the German-dominated euro zone is crumbling) that will soon overwhelm it. When the latest bubble pops, there

will be nothing to stop the collapse. If this sounds like advice to get out of the markets and hide out in cash, it is.” [43773, 43921, 43960]

On March 31 Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) appears on *Meet the Press* and declares, “We’ve come to a basic agreement [on immigration legislation], which is that first, people will be legalized. Then we will make sure the border is secure.” (That, of course, is precisely the opposite of what most Americans want. Schumer’s—and Obama’s—goal is, however, not to get the legislation passed but to make it impossible for Republicans to support. Democrats can then spend the 2014 campaign season calling every GOP candidate anti-Hispanic and racists. At NationalReview.com Andrew Stiles later writes, “Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, says Schumer’s policy staffers, many of whom have ties to influential liberal groups such as the Center for American Progress, have probably prepared myriad ‘loopholes, escape hatches, and land mines that [Senator Marco] Rubio’s people are completely unaware of,’ particularly with respect to immigration enforcement. Others insist that Rubio is fully aware of whom he is dealing with. ‘He’s not naive,’ says a senior GOP aide. ‘He’s aware that Schumer has this reputation, and he knows what Schumer is capable of.’” One Republican aide remarks, “Schumer’s challenge is to convince people that the last 40 years of his career don’t matter. The burden is on him to prove that he’s not what everyone knows him to be — a partisan snake.”) [43902]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) issues a statement: “Reports that the bipartisan group of eight senators have agreed on a legislative proposal are premature.” [43752, 43765]

AtlasShrugs.com reports, “The Department of Defense is refusing to give Purple Hearts to the victims of the Fort Hood jihad and is blocking support of such a move by any means necessary, because it might hurt the long overdue prosecution of the vile Nidal Hasan. Despite extensive evidence that Hasan was in communication with al Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki prior to the attack, the military has denied the victims a Purple Heart and is treating the incident as ‘workplace violence’ instead of ‘combat related’ or terrorism. This is Obama’s Pentagon—killer over victim. Jihadi murderer over infidel victim. Obama’s DoD is refusing the proper recognition of the victims of the Fort Hood jihad because such a provision will be viewed as setting the stage for a formal declaration that Major Hasan is a terrorist. That religious savage is a terrorist. Hasan was wearing the garb of the shaheed the morning of his jihad. Hasan was giving out qurans the morning of his jihad. His business card said ‘soldier of allah.’ He was ululating allahu akbar as he slaughtered our soldiers in cold blood.” Pamela Geller observes, “Awlaki is dead, but Hasan is still on the army payroll,” and asks, “Please, people, write your congressmen today.” (The White House is pressuring members of Congress not to pass legislation that would call for awarding of Purple Hearts to Hasan’s victims.) [43762, 43788]

In Nigeria, Muslims kill at least 50 Christians in the days leading up to their celebration of Easter. Obama has no comment. 3News reports, “Major attacks by Islamic extremists, including car bombings, also have hit the area in recent years as Nigeria’s weak central government appears unable to stop the killings. With Easter on Sunday, government officials urged those living in Jos and the surrounding villages to be calm and peaceful

during the holiday.” (Obama has also been routinely ignoring Muslim violence against Christians in Egypt—violence which increased substantially after President Hosni Mubarak was removed from power with the eager assistance of the Obama administration.) [43763, 43779]

Obama—who rarely goes to church, especially in non-election years—attends an Easter service at St. John’s Episcopal Church. The main attraction is Reverend Luis Leon, who likely makes Obama feel right at home with an Easter message that includes the statement, “It drives me crazy when the captains of the religious right are always calling us back... for blacks to be back in the back of the bus... for women to be back in the kitchen... for immigrants to be on their side of the border.” (Obama does not walk out during the disgusting and inflammatory tirade—perhaps to signal agreement with the sentiment.) [43771, 43774, 43778, 43784, 43785, 43786, 43787, 43810]

Gerald Celente, publisher of *The Trends Journal*, tells USAWatchdog.com’s Greg Hunter, “The United States is provoking North Korea. They keep putting more and more sanctions on them. It’s economic warfare. ... We have no business being there [in South Korea]. ... This is just another losing war that’s going to end up [with] weapons of mass destruction annihilating millions if this madness is not stopped.” Celente comments on the banking crisis in Cyprus: “I’ve been talking about a [potential] bank holiday [in the United States] now for a year-and-a-half. ... They just stole the money from the Cypriot people. ... A tax on deposits? Can any adult say, ‘stealing your money?’ ... Nothing has changed. When are the people going to stand, grow up, and wise up?” Celente calls the current system fascism: “That’s what this is, the merger of state and corporate powers. It’s a takeover. It’s fascism.” To those who ridicule Celente for investing in gold and silver, Celente says, “Suppose you lived in Cyprus right now. ... Suppose you can’t get your money out of the banks? ... Suppose they just screwed you... and you’re hungry, or you need medicine, or you need fuel? You’d like a couple of pieces of gold or silver in your hand? [Do] You think that would buy you anything?” Asked about the Department of Homeland Security stockpiling hollow point ammunition, Celente responds, “That this question is even being asked is an atrocity against what this country was built upon and what it was founded on and what the people fought for freedom for [sic]. That we’re even having this discussion shows you how fascist it has turned. ... How much more of history has to be repeated before we see it’s repeating itself, again?” [43782]

From AtlasShrugs.com: In Damascus, Syria, Muslims loot and destroy the 2,000-year-old Jobar Synagogue. (Obama has no comment.) In Homs, Syria, rebels have murdered hundreds of Christians and churches have been destroyed. (Obama has no comment.) In Jerusalem, more than 30 Muslims hurl rocks at Jews visiting the Temple Mount. (Obama has no comment.) In Afghanistan, a Muslim teenager stabs and kills a U.S. soldier who was playing with local children. (Obama has no comment; in fact, the Pentagon lies and says the soldier was killed in a combat situation.) In Ohio, a man shoots and kills his father during Easter services while yelling about “the will of Allah.” (Obama has no comment.) German Chancellor Angela Merkel has correctly stated, “Christianity is the most persecuted religion in the world.” Most of that persecution is at the hands of Muslims, but Obama remains silent on the issue. [43793, 43794, 43795, 43832, 43865]

The *New York Post* reports, “Just like the pledge that premiums wouldn’t go up, another key ObamaCare promise is coming a cropper: that Americans with pre-existing medical conditions will be completely covered. Well, guess what? The CMS [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services] has announced that it has run out of money to enroll any more individuals in the program. So it is blocking states from accepting any more applications. It’s a sweet political irony, but it’s not funny to those stuck without insurance.” (One of Obama’s selling points with ObamaCare was that Americans with pre-existing conditions would be able to buy health insurance. He lied.) [43799]

The Wall Street Journal reports that only 14 of the nation’s 100 largest cities have more workers than they did before the economic crisis hit in 2008–2009. “Six of them are in Texas, according to researchers at the Brookings Institution, who recently analyzed local economic conditions through the end of 2012. ...Austin, San Antonio, El Paso, McAllen, Dallas and Houston all made the list, along with Oklahoma City, another energy town. The other cities on the list of 14 are: Omaha, Neb., Salt Lake City, Pittsburgh, San Jose, Calif., Knoxville, Tenn., Washington [D.C.] and Charleston, S.C. ...Texas has added jobs every month since January 2010, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.” [43817, 43818]

InfoWars.com reports, “According to in-house memos now circulating, the DHS has issued orders to banks across America which announce to them that ‘under the Patriot Act’ the DHS has the absolute right to seize, without any warrant whatsoever, any and all customer bank accounts, to make ‘periodic and unannounced’ visits to any bank to open and inspect the contents of ‘selected safe deposit boxes.’ Further, the DHS ‘shall, at the discretion of the agent supervising the search, remove, photograph or seize as evidence’ any of the following items ‘bar gold, gold coins, firearms of any kind unless manufactured prior to 1878, documents such as passports or foreign bank account records, pornography or any material that, in the opinion of the agent, shall be deemed of to be of a contraband nature.’ DHS memos also state that banks are informed that any bank employee, on any level, that releases ‘improper’ ‘classified DHS Security information’ to any member of the public, to include the customers whose boxes have been clandestinely opened and inspected and ‘any other party, to include members of the media’ and further ‘that the posting of any such information on the internet will be grounds for the immediate termination of the said employee or employees and their prosecution under the Patriot Act.’ Safety deposit box holders and depositors are not given advanced notice when failed banks shut their doors. If people have their emergency money in a safe deposit box or an account in a bank that closes, they will not be allowed into the bank to get it out. They can knock on the door and beg to get in but the sheriff’s department or whoever is handling the closure will simply say ‘no’ because they are just following orders.” [44442, 44443]