

## *The Obama Timeline – Part II*

### *The Doomed Presidency*

*March 2014*

On March 1, Sarah Palin writes at Facebook, “Yes, I could see this one from Alaska. I’m usually not one to [say I] Told-Ya-So, but I did, despite my accurate prediction being derided as ‘an extremely far-fetched scenario’ by the ‘high-brow’ Foreign Policy magazine. Here’s what this ‘stupid’ ‘insipid woman’ predicted back in 2008: ‘After the Russian Army invaded the nation of Georgia, Senator Obama’s reaction was one of indecision and moral equivalence, the kind of response that would only encourage Russia’s Putin to invade Ukraine next.’” (Blake Hounshell, who ridiculed Palin, is now an editor at Politico.) It is worth noting that, after he took office, Obama did nothing about the situation in Georgia. In fact, he had Secretary of State Hillary Clinton present Russia with her infamously mistranslated “reset button” while Russian troops were still in Georgia. That was a tacit message from Obama to Russia that he would not stand in its way—and Russia got the message. [55730, 55731, 55732, 55737, 55748, 55760, 55761, 55788, 55802, 55823, 55837, 55838, 55843]

It is also worth recalling that in the third presidential debate in 2012 Obama ridiculed Mitt Romney’s statements on Russia: “Governor Romney, I’m glad that you recognize that al-Qaeda’s a threat, because a few months ago, when you were asked, ‘What’s the biggest geopolitical threat facing America,’ you said Russia! Not al-Qaeda, you said Russia. And the 1980s are now calling to ask for their foreign policy back because, you know, the cold war’s been over for 20 years.” (After the debate, media leftists and others were quick to pounce on Romney. According to Mediaite.com, MSNBC’s Chris Matthews said, “I don’t know what decade this guy’s living in. Is he trying to play Ronald Reagan here, or what?” The University of Georgia’s Cynthia Tucker said on the air, “This is Mitt Romney’s severely conservative problem. It made Romney look dumb. He’s not a dumb man, but he said something that was clearly dumb.” (Romney was, of course, correct, but Obama was prepared to pounce. At Slate.com Dave Weigel writes, “Romney was right. Why was Obama wrong? Because, I think, he was willfully blurring the distinction between ‘geopolitical’ and other sorts of threats. He was playing to the cheap seats. Voters do not fear Russia, or particularly care about its movements in its sad, cold sphere of influence. [Nor do most voters understand the term geopolitical threat.] They do care a lot about terrorism. And Obama would use any chance he had, in 2012, to remind voters that he was [in the Oval Office] when Osama Bin Laden was killed. So you see the politics—they reveal Obama as the player of a cheap trick. Of course al-Qaida isn’t a ‘geopolitical threat’ to the United States. It’s a terrorist organization, untethered to states or geography. Obama himself (like George W. Bush before him) repeatedly claimed that the organization was on the run. How could al-Qaida be the greatest threat to America and a pathetic coalition of losers? It couldn’t. Obama was spinning, hopefully faster than Romney could un-spin. ...Obama saw Russia as a declining power that he

could do business with... Romney... saw Russia as a recovering power.”) [55730, 55731, 55732, 55737, 55748, 55760, 55761, 55788, 55802, 55823, 55837, 55838, 55843]

HuffingtonPost.com’s Sam Stein said Romney had an “antiquated worldview” and warned, “I personally am worried about what it says to the Russian people.” MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow said, “[Romney] read about Reagan’s private, outside-the-CIA cabal of team-B zealots who were telling him that Russia had all the stuff they didn’t have so he could justify a giant defense budget.” Lawrence O’Donnell chimed in: “It is amazing that Mitt Romney can flip like that just as soon as he hears something to exploit in foreign policy.” Maddow on her blog: “[T]he problem is the former governor just doesn’t have any real policy chops in this area. He’s out of his depth, and struggles when the subject takes center stage. It’s not just that Romney is uninformed; it’s that he hasn’t figured out how to fake it.” Former Secretary of State Colin Powell (who should have known better) said, “I think [Romney] really needs to not just accept these cataclysmic sort of pronouncements. Let’s not go creating enemies where none yet exist. Does this mean that we should trust [Vladimir] Putin or [Dmitry] Medvedev? No. [But] Let’s be mature people and look at the reality of the situation and not find ways to see if we can hyperbolize the situation.” Then-Senator John Kerry said at the 2012 Democrat convention, “Romney talks like he’s only seen Russia by watching Rocky IV.”) [55730, 55731, 55732, 55737, 55748, 55760, 55761, 55788, 55802, 55823, 55837, 55838, 55843]

Meanwhile, the hapless Republican National Committee commemorates Women’s History Month with a statement that is conspicuous for the absence of Sarah Palin from a list of “trailblazing” Republican women. The Democrat National Committee commemorates the month by tweeting a photograph of Obama admiring busts of women. [55774, 55778, 55779]

At VeteransToday.com British Intelligence operative Michael Shrimpton comments on the increased viewings of a 2008 YouTube video in which he claimed Obama was born in Kenya and the CIA had performed secret DNA testing to prove or disprove his claimed parentage. He writes, “The [Obama?] Administration have been backing the, with respect, malicious prosecution of me by Britain’s Crown Prosecution Service [CPS], a state-controlled entity which reports to the Cabinet Office and is highly politicized. They have also been having a go at the NSA. Someone, somewhere has been winding up to give Obama and the CPS a good smack. The [video] excerpt on Obama was released and my Inbox has been overflowing ever since. ...I can confirm that the Marlborough Video is genuine. It was shot in Marlborough Town Hall. ...I can also confirm that I advised the CIA to do a DNA test on Barack Obama, in the interests of US national security, and the hemispheric security interest. I also suggested the method of acquiring his DNA that they eventually used—a wine glass. I was the second lawyer in the world to use DNA fingerprinting, in 1985. As an immigration judge I used to analyze DNA reports on a regular basis. I was amused to be told last night that the Secret Service now protect Obama’s wine glasses! Word on the street is that he failed the test. At any rate the DNA test report went into the [CIA] Director’s office safe at Langley [Virginia]. ...Senior officials in the Justice Department viewed the video excerpt, following which the Attorney-General [Eric Holder] was hospitalized, although I make no suggestion that

there was a connection. General Holder has my best wishes for a speedy recovery. I gather it was only a short stay, thankfully, so I didn't send flowers. For some reason my relations with the Obama Administration have never been good. I cannot imagine why." (*The Obama Timeline* cannot vouch for the veracity of Shrimpton's claims. Readers are free to draw their own conclusions.) [55630, 55631, 55632, 55653, 55664, 55952, 55953, 55954, 55994, 56072, 56073, 56074, 56114]

The White House states, "[Obama's] national security team met today to receive an update on the situation in Ukraine and discuss potential policy options. We will provide further updates later this afternoon." *Time* magazine's Zeke Miller reports, "Obama did not attend the meeting, but WH official says he has been briefed by Susan Rice and his national security team." (Whether Obama was playing golf or watching ESPN is not known.) The White House notes that Obama's absence from such national security meetings is "not unusual." [55741, 55742, 55743, 55749]

According to Politico, Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin reportedly "spoke by phone Saturday amid rising tensions over Russia's military involvement in Ukraine." The Kremlin states, "Vladimir Putin emphasized that, in the case of a further spread in violence in eastern regions [of Ukraine] and Crimea, Russia maintains the right to protect its interests and the Russian-speaking population that lives there." (In other words, "Obama can take a hike." In general, people speak Russian in the south and eastern portion of Ukraine and Ukrainian in the north and west. The Ukrainian-speaking segment of the country may be anti-Russia and pro-Europe, but it is incorrect to assume that means it is also pro-America. Crimea has been an integral part of Russia since it was annexed by Catherine the Great in 1783. Obama is not so much "drawing a red line" in the region as he is asking Russia to move one of theirs that has been in place for more than two centuries.) [55744, 55764, 55815, 55879]

For some unknown reason the White House tweets a photograph of jeans-clad Obama in the Oval Office while he purportedly speaks with Putin. [55757, 55758, 55781]

The White House issues a statement condemning Russia's military action in Ukraine as a "violation of international law" that will lead to a "greater political and economic isolation" of Russia, and calling on Russia to "de-escalate tensions by withdrawing its forces back to bases in Crimea and to refrain from any interference elsewhere in Ukraine." (It is worth noting that the United States has no strategic interests with regard to Ukraine. The country is broke, the government is corrupt, and bribes are necessary to accomplish anything of significance. Nevertheless, the Obama administration worked behind the scenes to aid in the ouster of Ukraine's elected president. Why Obama thought he could do so without angering anyone is not clear. He had already worked to remove Hosni Mubarak in Egypt and Moammar Gaddafi in Libya—in both cases with disastrous results—and his efforts to topple Syria President Bashar al-Assad, a Russian ally, have been a monumental failure. What prompted Obama to believe he could help install a new anti-Russian government in Ukraine without raising the ire of Vladimir Putin is anybody's guess, but he and advisor Valerie Jarrett—who has a Muslim boyfriend—apparently thought crossing one of Russia's most prominent and historical red lines was a

good idea. Conspiracy theorists might believe that Obama's "more flexible after the election" actions are all part of a master plan to help Russia win back Ukraine, just as Obama's support of pro-democracy demonstrators in Egypt was nothing more than a back door way of gaining power for his Muslim Brotherhood pals, and his actions in Libya and Syria helped pave the way for Sunni Muslims to gain a foothold.) [56048, 56075, 56076]

Reuters reports, "Russia's upper house of parliament will ask President Vladimir Putin to recall Moscow's ambassador from the United States, the chamber's speaker said on Saturday. Valentina Matviyenko, the head of the Federation Council, asked the Council's Committee on Foreign Affairs to draw up a proposal setting out the demands to Putin." [55762]

William Kristol writes at WeeklyStandard.com, "Here's ... Obama on Friday: 'The United States will stand with the international community in affirming that there will be costs for any military intervention in Ukraine.' Characteristically, Obama establishes a few degrees of separation between himself and actually acting. He doesn't say, straightforwardly, that the United States will lead the international community in imposing costs for any military intervention in Ukraine. No. The United States will 'stand with' others in 'affirming' that 'there will be costs.' One suspects that [Russian] President [Vladimir] Putin isn't very worried about affirmations of future costs by the international community. He's seen [Syrian President] Bashar al-Assad survive similar affirmations. Putin, like Assad, understands actions, not affirmations. So will Obama now move beyond affirmations to actions? Will Obama get Brussels, Berlin, Paris, and London to begin to isolate the Putin regime diplomatically, politically, and economically? Will Obama lead our allies to move the G-8 meeting from Russia, disinvite Putin, refuse visas to Putin's cronies to travel abroad, and expose and tie up bank accounts he and his buddies have in the West? Will Obama expedite the admission of Georgia to NATO, and begin to move toward a security relationship with Ukraine? Will Obama canvass his administration to discover the many other things that could be done to begin to undermine Putin at home and abroad? Will Obama act so that the Russian people and Russian elites see that Putin's actions have costs—real costs, not the affirmation of the possibility of costs? Or will we be all talk, no action?" [55736]

BizPacReview.com reports, "It took filing a lawsuit, but Judicial Watch discovered Friday that ... Obama has set a new record for travel on the taxpayer dime. The conservative watchdog group obtained travel records from the U.S. Department of the Air Force that show the Obamas racked up \$7.4 million during just three trips in 2013—in flight expenses only." Judicial Watch comments, "The fact is, the Obamas are abusing the public trust and the taxpayers with unnecessary luxurious vacations and travel. These staggering costs show why these documents were covered-up and we had to sue in federal court to get them. Another transparency fail for the Obama gang, but thanks to our federal lawsuit it is another accountability win for the American taxpayer." [55728, 55934]

Politico writes that Obama “couldn’t have been clearer when he warned Russia not to send troops into Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin couldn’t have been clearer in his response: Watch me. And just like that, an already toxic relationship got even worse, and the two countries—and the rest of the world—veered closer to an unprecedented showdown. The two leaders spoke Saturday for 90 minutes about the situation in Ukraine, the White House said. Obama started his [administration] pushing for a ‘reset’ in Russian relations. Instead, Putin has essentially pulled the plug. ... The White House woke up Saturday morning to more definitive news: Putin asked for, and received, approval from Parliament for ‘using the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine pending the normalization of the socio-political situation in that country,’ according to an Associated Press translation of his request. The upper house of Parliament also recommended the recall of the Russian ambassador to the United States in retaliation for Obama’s comments Friday.” [55745]

A *Washington Post* editorial says “Obama’s foreign policy is based on fantasy,” noting that “For five years ... Obama has led a foreign policy based more on how he thinks the world should operate than on reality. It was a world in which ‘the tide of war is receding’ and the United States could, without much risk, radically reduce the size of its armed forces. Other leaders, in this vision, would behave rationally and in the interest of their people and the world. Invasions, brute force, great-power games and shifting alliances—these were things of the past. ... Unfortunately, Russian President Vladimir Putin has not received the memo on 21st-century behavior. Neither has China’s president, Xi Jinping, who is engaging in gunboat diplomacy against Japan and the weaker nations of Southeast Asia. Syrian president Bashar al-Assad is waging a very 20th-century war against his own people, sending helicopters to drop exploding barrels full of screws, nails and other shrapnel onto apartment buildings where families cower in basements. These men will not be deterred by the disapproval of their peers, the weight of world opinion or even disinvestment by Silicon Valley companies. They are concerned primarily with maintaining their holds on power.” [55768, 55769, 55789, 55820]

“... Now Ukraine has emerged as a test of Obama’s argument that, far from weakening American power, he has enhanced it through smarter diplomacy, stronger alliances and a realism untainted by the ideology that guided his predecessor. It will be a hard argument for him to make, analysts say. [Obama] has made clear to the American public that the ‘tide of war is receding’ [and] has also made clear to foreign leaders, including opportunists in Russia, that he has no appetite for a new one. What is left is a vacuum once filled, at least in part, by the possibility of American force. ‘If you are effectively taking the stick option off the table, then what are you left with?’ said Andrew C. Kuchins, who heads the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. ‘I don’t think that Obama and his people really understand how others in the world are viewing his policies.’ ... There are rarely good—or obvious—options in such a crisis. But the position Obama is in, confronting a brazenly defiant Russia and with few ways to meaningfully enforce his threat, has been years in the making. It is the product of his record in office and of the way he understands the period in which he is governing, at home and abroad.” [55768, 55769, 55789, 55820]

At CanadaFreePress.com Gail Jarvis suggests the “office of the First Lady” should be eliminated. She writes, “Unrestrained government spending and a mushrooming federal deficit have reached such a level that even entrenched bureaucrats should be concerned about the stability of their jobs. Indeed, there is a lot of talk coming out of Washington about cost-cutting and requiring departments to operate with less expense. ...[I]f officials in our nation’s capital are truly interested in reducing expenses, there are numerous ways it can be done without lessening governmental effectiveness. Economists have identified billions of dollars that could be saved by eliminating unnecessary government functions. One function that could be eliminated without any negative consequences is the Office of the First Lady. ...[W]hen Hillary Clinton became First Lady, she created a full-time staff of 22, plus 15 interns and volunteers. It has now become de rigeur for first ladies to not only have large staffs, but to pay six figure salaries for their assistants.” [55754]

On March 2, at least 29 people are killed and more than 130 are injured at the Kunming Railway Station in Yunnan province, China. The knife-wielding attackers are Xinjiang separatists (Muslim Uighurs). In December 2013 the Obama administration released the last of 17 Muslim Uighur terrorists who had been held at the detention facility in Guantanamo. (Whether any of the 17 were involved in the Kunming massacre is not known.) [2732, 55724, 55725, 55726, 55727, 55948]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Obama administration’s new proposed rule for Medicare Part D would eliminate half of all Medicare Part D plans and raise prescription drug premiums for millions of seniors by up to 20 percent, according to a U.S. House subcommittee chairman. ‘Today, the average senior has 35 different [Medicare Part D] plans to choose from this year. This rule would reduce that choice to two plans. 50% of the plans offered today will be gone, and the health care that seniors like may go with it,’ House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee chairman Rep. Joe Pitts said in a statement at a Feb. 26 hearing attended by a top administration health official.” [55785, 56220]

On *This Week*, Secretary of State John Kerry tells ABC’s George Stephanopoulos, “Russia has engaged in a military act of aggression against another country, and it has huge risks, George. It’s a 19th-century act in the 21st century that really puts at, at question Russia’s capacity to, uh, be within the G-8...” (Kerry apparently believes there have been no military acts of aggression around the world during the last 200 years.) Stephanopoulos interrupts, “All those violations, sir, so what’s the penalty for what Russia has already done?” Kerry: “I think all options are on the table.” (That is incorrect. The Obama administration has no intention of taking military action.) “There’s no question but that Russia needs to understand this is serious. And we and the other friends and allies engaged in this are all deadly serious about this. We call on Russia to engage with the government of the Ukraine. We’re prepared to work very closely with Russia in order to address any legitimate concerns that exist. We believe there are many alternatives before you get to an invasion, and none of those have been tried at this point.” Stephanopoulos: “But the invasion has already happened, hasn’t it?” Kerry: “The invasion of Crimea has already happened, that’s absolutely accurate, and we believe that President Putin should make the decision to roll it back. We understand that Russia has

interests in Crimea. The Ukrainian government is prepared to respect the base agreement. Nobody has threatened those Russian interests. And we're prepared to stand up against any hooligans, any thuggery, any individual efforts, with Russians, in order to create stability in Ukraine and allow the people of Ukraine to make their choices for the future." Stephanopoulos: "But do you have any indication at all that President Putin is taking heed of what ...Obama is saying?" Kerry: "Well, they [Obama and Putin] just had the conversation yesterday, and [Obama] invited him to engage with the government—I understand there may have been one phone call. We're going to continue to engage diplomatically. This is a time for diplomacy... Nobody wants this to spiral into a bad, uh, worse direction." [55753, 55769, 55797]

On *Face the Nation*, Secretary of State John Kerry says, "Well, it's, it's an incredible act of aggression. It is really a stunning willful choice by President Putin to invade another country. Russia is in violation of the sovereignty of Ukraine. Russia is in violation of its international obligations. Russia is in violation of its obligations under the U.N. Charter, under the Helsinki Final Act. It's a violation of its obligations under the 1994 Budapest Agreement. You just don't in the twenty-first century behave in nineteenth-century fashion by invading another country on completely trumped up pretext. So, it is a very serious moment. But it's serious not in the context... of Russia-U.S., it's serious in terms of sort of the, the modern manner with which nations are going to resolve problems. There were all kinds of other options still available to Russia. There still are. ...Obama wants to emphasize to the Russians that there is a right set of choices that can still be made to address any concerns they have about Crimea about their citizens but you don't choose to invade a country in order to do that. ...[In his phone call to Putin, Obama] was very strong. He made absolutely clear that this was unacceptable [and] that there will be serious repercussions if this stands. ...Russia chose this brazen act of aggression and moved in with its forces on a completely trumped up set of pretext, claiming that people were threatened. And the fact is that that's not the act of somebody who is strong, that's the act of somebody who is acting out of weakness and out of certain kind of desperation." (Whether Kerry understands the concept of weakness is not clear.) Host Bob Schieffer refers to Obama's phone call to Putin as "the toughest phone call" he ever had to make. [55769, 55770, 55787]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Congressman Mike Rodgers (R-MI), chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, discusses the situation in Ukraine with Chris Wallace. Rodgers says, "Putin is playing chess, and I think we are playing marbles—and I don't think it's even close. They've been running circles around us. ...I believe it's the naive position of the National Security Council and [Obama's] advisers that, if we just keep giving things to Russia, they'll wake up and say, 'the United States is not that bad.' That is completely missing the motivations of why Russia does what Russia does." (Secretary of State John Kerry declines a request to appear on the program—although he appears on Sunday morning shows on other networks.) Also on the program, Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, confirms that former IRS official Lois Lerner will testify before the committee on March 5 and will not "plead the Fifth." [55752, 55786, 55794, 55899]

In an interview with Bloomberg's Jeffrey Goldberg, Obama slams Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, saying, "If not now, when? And if not you, Mr. Prime Minister, then who?" (That is, "When are you going to capitulate to the Palestinians?") Obama states that if Netanyahu "does not believe that a peace deal with the Palestinians is the right thing to do for Israel, then he needs to articulate an alternative approach. It's hard to come up with one that's plausible." (Obama wants Israel to agree to demands in exchange for commitments the Palestinians will never honor.) "...If you see no peace deal and continued aggressive settlement construction—and we have seen more aggressive settlement construction over the last couple years than we've seen in a very long time—if Palestinians come to believe that the possibility of a contiguous sovereign Palestinian state is no longer within reach, then our ability to manage the international fallout is going to be limited." (In other words, "Israel had better cave in to Palestinian demands, or my administration will not be able to defend your position." By "continued aggressive settlement construction" Obama means, "How dare Israelis build homes and apartments on land that is theirs but that I want the Palestinians to have.") [55755, 55756, 55766, 55791]

Obama absurdly claims Syria has eliminated some of its chemical weapons because President Bashar al-Assad, Iran, and Russia are afraid of him: "We've now seen 15 to 20 percent of those chemical weapons on their way out of Syria with a very concrete schedule to get rid of the rest. That would not have happened had the Iranians said, 'Obama's bluffing, he's not actually really willing to take a strike.' If the Russians had said, 'Ehh, don't worry about it, all those submarines that are floating around your coastline, that's all just for show.' Of course they took it seriously! That's why they engaged in the policy they did." Goldberg asks, "What is more dangerous: Sunni extremism or Shia extremism?" Obama, who has consistently sided with Sunni Muslims over Shi'ites, says, "I'm not big on extremism generally. I don't think you'll get me to choose on those two issues. What I'll say is that if you look at Iranian behavior, they are strategic, and they're not impulsive. They have a worldview, and they see their interests, and they respond to costs and benefits. And that isn't to say that they aren't a theocracy that embraces all kinds of ideas that I find abhorrent, but they're not North Korea. They are a large, powerful country that sees itself as an important player on the world stage, and I do not think has a suicide wish, and can respond to incentives." (Iran is Shi'ite.) [55755, 55756, 55766, 55791]

At CommentaryMagazine.com John Podhoretz excoriates Obama for his absurd comments and contradictory claims in the Bloomberg interview. He writes, "The Palestinians, in Obama's view, do not actually need to make changes; astonishingly, he says, they're *ready* for peace. 'The Palestinians,' [Obama] says, overlooking every piece of polling data we have about the opinions of the Palestinians, 'would still prefer peace. They would still prefer a country of their own that allows them to find a job, send their kids to school, travel overseas, go back and forth to work without feeling as if they are restricted or constrained as a people. And they recognize that Israel is not going anywhere.' Ah. So that 2011 poll that says 60 percent of the Palestinians reject a two-state solution is bunk—a poll whose findings have not been contradicted since. If Palestinians refuse to accept a two-state solution, they do not 'recognize that Israel is not



going anywhere.’ Rather, they are still engaging in a pseudo-national fantasy about Israel’s disappearance or destruction. And they are so eager for peace and coexistence with Israel that they remain the only significant Muslim population that still has a favorable view of suicide bombings, according to a Pew survey.” [55756, 55766]

“[Obama’s] fantasies about the Palestinians also involve Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority. ‘I think,’ he says, ‘nobody would dispute that whatever disagreements you may have with him, he has proven himself to be somebody who has been committed to nonviolence and diplomatic efforts to resolve this issue.’ *Nobody would dispute?* In 2008, offered a peace deal by then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert that involved Abbas actually drawing a new West Bank map giving the Palestinians something between 92 and 95 percent of the territory, Abbas basically fled the table and didn’t return. Granted, he didn’t do what Yasser Arafat did after a similar deal at Camp David in 2000 and begin the second intifada, but this hardly demonstrates a commitment to a diplomatic effort—except for one that fails. So the Palestinians, in [Obama’s] view, are all in. It’s really quite wonderful, in fact: ‘You’ve got a partner on the other side who is prepared to negotiate seriously, who does not engage in some of the wild rhetoric that so often you see in the Arab world when it comes to Israel, who has shown himself committed to maintaining order within the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority and to cooperate with Israelis around their security concerns—for us to not seize this moment I think would be a great mistake.’ Yes, the PA [Palestinian Authority] is such a partner for peace that even with negotiations going on, it celebrates acts of violence against Israel on a constant basis...” [55756, 55766]

“...All of this is folderol, anyway, because [Obama] clearly thinks peace is solely Israel’s to make, and basically, Binyamin Netanyahu should listen to Obama’s mother and rip off the band-aid: ‘One of the things my mom always used to tell me and I didn’t always observe, but as I get older I agree with—is if there’s something you know you have to do, even if it’s difficult or unpleasant, you might as well just go ahead and do it, because waiting isn’t going to help. When I have a conversation with Bibi, that’s the essence of my conversation: If not now, when? And if not you, Mr. Prime Minister, then who?’ Now that’s some chutzpah right there, because of course [Obama] is invoking the words of Hillel, the ancient Jewish sage, as a rhetorical tool against the Israeli prime minister. Of course, Obama leaves out the key words of Hillel’s famed plaint, which are: ‘If I am not for myself, then who will be for me?’ Israel must be for itself, because there is almost no country left in the world that will be for it; while [Obama] says the American commitment to Israel is ‘rock-solid,’ clearly he does not believe it will necessarily be so in the future ...*nor should it be.*” [55756, 55766]

“Says [Obama] of Netanyahu, ‘if he does not believe that a peace deal with the Palestinians is the right thing to do for Israel, then he needs to articulate an alternative approach. And as I said before, it’s hard to come up with one that’s plausible.’ That’s ridiculous. A peace deal with the Palestinians is of course the right thing to do for Israel. But if there can be no peace deal, or can be no peace deal that does not pose a severe danger to Israel’s survival, then it is not the right thing to do. The only ‘plausible’ thing to do is to challenge the Palestinians to cure themselves of their psychotic political

culture and become a rational actor with whom a true peace can be made. Is that a tragedy? It sure is. Sometimes there are tragedies, and they must be faced realistically, not wished away. One thing that cannot be wished away is [Obama's] insistence on placing the burdens on Israel. This is something else his apologists can no longer wish away." [55756, 55766]

While Obama does his best to anger and shame Israel, a Gallup poll shows Americans view Israel more favorably than they have in 23 years, with 72 percent having a favorable opinion of the Jewish state. [55857]

By telephone, Obama speaks with British Prime Minister David Cameron, Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel about Russia's incursion into Ukraine. [55759]

The White House issues a statement: "We have decided for the time being to suspend our participation in activities associated with the preparation of the scheduled G-8 Summit in Sochi in June." [55784]

DailyCaller.com lists seven questions it would like Lois Lerner to be asked at the March 5 House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing: "1. Will you admit you lied when you blamed the Cincinnati office?" "2. How many offices targeted conservative groups?" "3. How much did the IRS collude with Democratic political operatives and how involved was the Federal Elections Commission (FEC)?" "4. So these new 501(c)(4) rules restricting the political activity of nonprofit groups: When did you start developing them and why?" "5. Provide every single communication between the White House and the IRS between 2010 and 2012." "6. How many IRS agents did you specifically order to target conservative groups, and why was the Special Counsel's Office involved?" "7. Who ordered you to target conservative groups?" (*The Obama Timeline* assumes Lerner will either again refuse to answer questions by relying on her Fifth Amendment right, or she will lie—despite being under oath. There is simply no way she will implicate the White House in the scandal, and she probably—perhaps justifiably—fears for her life.) [55783]

NYPost.com reports, "Even as the Obama administration denounced what it called anti-gay legislation in Arizona and [Obama] sat out the Sochi Olympics because of Russia's crackdown on same-sex couples, the State Department allowed an Islamic preacher who called for the death penalty for homosexuals into the country for a tour of hate. Sheikh Mohammad Rateb al-Nabulsi was issued a visa for a 17-city tour of US mosques to raise money and support for the Syrian uprising. He arrived New Year's Day. ... In addition to his anti-gay pronouncements, Sheikh al-Nabulsi has publicly endorsed holy war against Westerners and Jews as well as suicide bombings against Israel, America's democratic ally in the region. 'All the Jewish people are combatants,' he said in a religious edict that appeared in Arabic on his personal website." [55812, 55813]

While smug Hollywood leftists pat themselves on their backs at the annual Academy Awards telecast, many Americans are up in arms over a new movie called *Non-Stop*—in

which the perpetrator of an airliner hijacking is not a bearded Muslim passenger but a family member of a victim of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The movie's secondary hero is a Muslim doctor (as is current al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri). [55773]

Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA), who happens to be black, celebrates the best picture award for *12 Years a Slave* by tweeting, "Congratulations 12 Years a Slave! It may take Hollywood to get us to acknowledge what America has denied for over 200 years." (Bass does not explain exactly what it is that America has denied.) [55780]

At NewRepublic.com Ezekiel Emanuel, one of the architects of ObamaCare (and the brother of former Obama chief of staff Rahm Emanuel) eagerly writes, "The good news is you won't have insurance companies to kick around much longer. The system is changing. As a result, insurance companies as they are now will be going away. ...[B]ecause of health care reform, new actors will force insurance companies to evolve or become extinct. ...So be prepared to kiss your insurance company good-bye forever." (Ezekiel waited until ObamaCare was passed and implemented before admitting what critics of the scheme have claimed all along. The Affordable Care Act is merely the first step in implementing a socialized health care system.) [55866, 55921, 56004]

According to research by the Environmental Policy Alliance, "green" office buildings are not as energy efficient as people believe. DailyCaller.com reports, "The free-market group analyzed the first round of energy usage data released by city officials Friday and found that large, privately-owned buildings that received the green energy certification Leadership in Energy Design (LEED) actually use more energy than buildings that didn't receive this green stamp of approval. LEED is the brainchild of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a private environmental group. ... 'LEED certification is little more than a fancy plaque displayed by these 'green' buildings,' charged Anastasia Swearingen, LEED Exposed's lead researcher on the project. 'Previous analyses of energy use by LEED-certified buildings have consistently shown that LEED ratings have no bearing on actual energy efficiency.' Swearingen told The Daily Caller News Foundation the system doesn't take into account any proof of energy efficiency. The LEED model grades buildings on ideal conditions—the certification is based on 'if everyone shuts their blinds, turns off their computers at the end of the day, makes sure the lights are off—but it doesn't factor in how much energy is really used after it's actually occupied,' Swearingen contended." [55943]

On March 3 BBC.com reports, "Ukrainian defence sources have accused Russia's military of demanding the surrender of their forces in Crimea. Russia's Black Sea Fleet chief Aleksander Vitko threatened a full assault if they did not surrender by dawn on Tuesday, the sources said. However, Interfax news agency later quoted a Russian spokesman denying that any ultimatum had been issued. The EU [European Union] and US are threatening to hit Moscow with sanctions and travel bans over its intervention in Crimea. Meanwhile, Russia's UN envoy has said ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich has asked Russia to use military force in Ukraine. Vitaly Churkin said in a speech at the UN that Mr Yanukovich had made the request in writing to Russian

President Vladimir Putin.” (According to one report, Russia issued the statement: “If they do not surrender before 5 a.m. [Ukrainian time] tomorrow, a military storm will commence against units and divisions of the armed forces across Crimea.”) [55803, 55806]

FoxNews.com reports, “Ukraine officials on Monday claimed 16,000 Russian troops have been deployed in the Crimea region, a sign of widening military intervention in the flashpoint peninsula. ‘Approximately 16,000 Russian troops have been deployed in Crimea by the military ships, helicopters, cargo airplanes from the neighboring territory of the Russian Federation,’ the permanent mission of Ukraine to the United Nations wrote in a letter. ‘The Russian troops keep taking their attempts to seize, block and control crucial governmental and military objects of Ukraine in Crimea: the Parliament in Crimea, all civil and military airports, means of communications, radio stations, customs service, military and coast guard bases and headquarters of the Ukraine’s navy in Crimea.’ The letter also claims Russian forces used stun grenades against Ukrainian soldiers, and said Ukrainian ships had been blocked in Sevastopol Bay by Russian naval vessels. Ukraine also claimed that Russian aircraft twice entered the nation’s airspace, and said the Ukrainian military base in Kerch was surrounded by Russian forces. But the letter says Ukrainian armed forces are ‘protecting their staffs, military units and bases, and are not responding to any provocations that occurred over the past days.’” [55804]

On *Fox & Friends*, Donald Trump says that Obama “is not a respected man. The thing I have the most concern about is that he’s being so lambasted for not being respected, and for being a joke, that he’ll do something really stupid to show that he’s all man. And that’s a real problem.” [55807, 56036]

The U.S. Supreme Court decides not to hear the case of a Christian family that is trying to avoid deportation to Germany—where they will be persecuted and prosecuted for their homeschooling beliefs. The family was granted asylum in the United States in 2010 but, according to WND.com, “[t]he Obama administration successfully fought to overturn the federal judge’s decision that would have given the family permission to remain in the U.S.” (German law outlaws homeschooling. The Obama administration therefore argues that the family is not being singled out because *no* German families are allowed to homeschool their children.) With as many as 20 million illegal immigrants in the United States not being deported by the administration, some might wonder why it has chosen to fight in court against one German family. The answer may be that Obama is no fan of homeschooling. Michael Farris, chairman of the Home School Legal Defense Association, tells Todd Starnes at Townhall.com, “I think this is a part of the Obama administration’s overall campaign to crush religious freedom in this country. The Obama administration’s attitude toward religious freedom, particularly religious freedom for Christians is shocking. I have little doubt that if this family had been of some other faith that the decision would have never been appealed in the first place. They would have let this family stay. ...Had this administration been waiting at Plymouth Rock, they would’ve told the Pilgrims to go back home. ...This administration thinks it’s a privilege to home school—not a right. We’d better buckle down and be ready to fight them every step of the way.” (On March 4 the Obama administration blinks and grants the family

“indefinite deferred status,” which would allow it to remain in the United States. That does not, however, alter the fact that the Obama administration essentially argued in court that it is *not* a violation of religious freedom to force children to attend a particular school. The administration did not change its argument; it merely chose to temporarily not follow through with it.) [55763, 55822, 55829, 55880, 56318]

Lois Lerner’s attorney, William W. Taylor, states that she will not testify before Congress—after having made clear to Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) that she would. Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) tells Fox News, “She knows a lot about this case. We have issued a subpoena. We have voted on this, this is not an optional activity. We’re not giving her immunity, she’s going to come testify in front of Congress.” Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) states, “They agreed to come Wednesday and they agreed to answer our questions. She is coming Wednesday [March 5] and there’s no question about that.” (At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich notes, “As we wait for Lerner to make up her mind, it’s important to remember the targeting of tea party groups hasn’t stopped since the scandal bubbled to a public surface last year. Dozens of groups are still waiting on an answer from the IRS about their tax-exempt status ahead of the 2014 midterm elections. One of the country’s largest tea party organizations, Tea Party Patriots, [waited] three years before finally obtaining their tax exempt status last week.”) [55765, 55790, 55795, 55841]

According to a Rasmussen poll, “One-in-three U.S. voters now says his or her health insurance coverage has changed as a result of Obamacare, and the same number say the new national health care law had a negative personal impact on them. Forty percent (40%) of Likely U.S. Voters have at least a somewhat favorable opinion of the health care law, while 56% regard it unfavorably... This includes 16% who view the law Very Favorably and 41% who have a Very Unfavorable opinion of it.” [55835, 55836]

In a Gallup poll, former First Lady Barbara Bush has a 77 percent favorable rating; Laura Bush is at 73 percent; Michelle Obama gets 66 percent, and Hillary Clinton gets a positive rating of 56 percent. [55839, 55840]

Shoebat.com posts a video of a Christian being beheaded by (perhaps Obama-backed) rebels in Syria. He was “was captured by Muslims in Syria, and forced him to declare the Shahadatan (‘There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger’). After he stated the heretical creed, they deemed him an infidel anyway and brutally beheaded him. ...The Syrian Christians are being persecuted every single day, with rape, beheading, kidnapping, and all sorts of other horrific violence.” (Obama has no current comment, but author Frederick William Dame notes Obama’s statements from his June 4, 2009 speech in Cairo—with Muslim Brotherhood members in the audience. Obama said “that one can find ‘dignity and peace in the Muslim faith,’ that where Islam is there are ‘places of peaceful contemplation,’ that with Islam one can ‘live in peace and security ...get an education and ...work with dignity; ...love our families, our communities, and our (Islamic) God,’ ‘that Islam ‘is the hope of all humanity’ [and] that Islam is ‘an important part of promoting peace.’”) [55944, 55945]

Throughout Washington, D.C. and the mainstream media, those who ridiculed Sarah Palin and Mitt Romney for warning about Russia invading Ukraine are eagerly giving advice about how to stop it.

At TimesofIsrael.com David Horowitz comments on Obama's latest anti-Israel remarks: "Until he read the breaking news of ...Obama's earth-shattering interview with Bloomberg's Jeffrey Goldberg on Sunday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu might have anticipated that Monday's meeting was going to be one of his less confrontational and unpleasant sessions of frank, allied diplomacy with his good friend Barack [sarcasm font needed]. ...But then came that bombshell Bloomberg battering. The timing could not have been any more deliberate—an assault on the prime minister's policies delivered precisely as Netanyahu was flying in to meet with him, and on the first day, too, of the pro-Israel lobby AIPAC's annual tour de force conference across town. At the very least, that might be considered bad manners, poor diplomatic protocol, a resounding preemptive slap in the face: I've just told the world you're leading your country to wrack and ruin, Mr. Prime Minister. Now, what was it you wanted to talk to me about? ...Since even before he [entered the White House], Obama has made plain his conviction that Israel's settlement enterprise is profoundly counterproductive for the Jewish state. ...That Obama chose to highlight his concern in such ominous and pointed terms, going so far as to warn that it would become harder in the future for the US to protect Israel from the consequences of its misguided West Bank building, would suggest that he has all but despaired of Netanyahu's willingness to rein in construction. Otherwise, surely, he would have held his fire, and first consulted face-to-face with the prime minister." [55767, 55791]

"[O]ne thing is certain, [Obama's] resort[ing] to a newspaper interview on the eve of their talks to issue near-apocalyptic warnings about the disaster Netanyahu risks bringing upon Israel is just about the last thing likely to bolster the prime minister's confidence in their alliance, and just about the last thing likely to encourage Netanyahu to further alienate his hawkish home base by taking steps such as halting building outside the settlement blocs. It will be particularly interesting now to see what platitudes the pair can manage when they invite in the press for the traditional, brief Q&A session at the White House on Monday. Doubtless they'll come up with something. But the fact is that Obama chose to have his real say about Netanyahu before the prime minister had arrived, and it constituted a brutal political assault. Other than that, Mr. Prime Minister, how are you enjoying Washington, DC?" [55767, 55791]

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meets with Obama in the White House. He later tells reporters, "What we want is peace—not a piece of paper. ...Israel has been doing its part, and I regret to say that the Palestinians haven't. ...Israel, the Jewish state, is the realization of the Jewish people's right to self-determination. I think it's about time they recognized a nation state for the Jewish people. We've only been here for about 4,000 years." Pamela Geller reports, "There is small pleasure in watching Obama's narrative meet reality. It's rare that Obama's delusions are laid bare for the world to see. And while I don't believe it will make any difference to the megalomaniacal autocrat in the White House, it will to the American people. Netanyahu lays it out respectfully... and

accurately. Netanyahu pointed out that Israel took ‘unprecedented steps’ for peace. Israel vacated cities in Judea and Samaria. Israel left Gaza entirely. Israel not only froze settlements, but uprooted entire Jewish communities. Israel ‘released hundreds of terrorist prisoners including dozens in recent months, and when you look at what we got in return, it’s been scores of suicide bombers, thousands of rockets on our cities fired from the areas we vacated and just incessant Palestinian incitement against Israel.’” (Obama wants still more concessions from Israel, while demanding nothing of the Palestinians.) [55875]

At Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, “A Russian push deeper into eastern Ukraine now seems inevitable. Under this standard, Russia reiterated its lack of respect for international borders, as it clearly demonstrated in its 2008 incursion into Georgia. Russian troops have occupied several regions of that former Soviet state ever since, all under the pretext of ‘protecting’ ethnically Russian populations. That’s why other neighboring nations with sizable Russian populations are beginning to worry if they may be the next target of Putin’s expansionist designs. For its part, the United States government looks confused and impotent. A weekend analysis in the *Washington Post* noted that Putin is capitalizing on American incoherence, reasoning that the Crimean provocation was years in the making. In short, weakness is provocative.” (Some defenders of Obama point to the invasion of Georgia in 2008 as their “proof” that President George W. Bush is responsible for Putin’s aggressive actions. But it should be noted that Bush sought cooperation from European allies to include both Georgia and Ukraine under the NATO umbrella. Europe did not agree—and soon after that Russian troops entered Georgia. It can also be argued that Obama’s decision to cancel plans for a missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic also emboldened Putin—in addition to angering those two nations. Putin may also have been emboldened by Obama’s 2001 statement: “I, yeah, I, I, for example, don’t agree with, uh, a miss... missile defense system.”) [55769, 56663, 56664, 56665]

“Now a debate is underway,” writes Benson, “as to how the United States ought to respond to the Russian invasion, as some Ukrainian leaders are blasting America’s ‘pathetic’ response. Complicating matters is a 1994 treaty signed by the US, UK, Russia and Ukraine. In exchange for Ukraine surrendering its Soviet-era nuclear weapons, the western powers pledged to defend Ukraine’s territory. The Obama administration reaffirmed these ‘security assurances’ in 2010. If the US does little to defend Ukraine today, how will that reflect on America’s word in the eyes of friends and foes alike? And what impact will that have on the efficacy of diplomacy? Sen. Marco Rubio [R-FL] suggests eight retaliatory steps the White House could take that fall short of military intervention, several of which already appear to be taking place. John Kerry said that ‘all options’ remain on the table, while offering up bizarre condemnations like this: ‘Invasion is not the act of someone who is strong. It is the act of someone who is weak.’” [55769]

The Associated Press reports, “The White House says the United States has decided not to send a presidential delegation to the Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia. The move is in retaliation for Russia’s military advances in Ukraine. White House spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden says ...Obama still supports the U.S. athletes participating and wishes

them success. The U.S. and its allies are weighing sanctions and other potential consequences to persuade Russia to reverse course in Ukraine. Britain has also decided not to send ministers to the Paralympic Games, which start Friday.” [55771]

Obama states that Russia is “on the wrong side of history.” On *The Five*, Greg Gutfeld responds, “Telling a tyrant he’s on the wrong side of history is like telling a bank robber he doesn’t have an account.” Actor Rob Lowe tweets, “Obama: ‘Russia on wrong side of history’ in Ukraine’ Perfect. Guilt trips always work on Putin.” [55784, 55805]

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) addresses the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, saying—to much applause—that the crisis in Ukraine is “the ultimate result of a feckless foreign policy where nobody believes in America’s strength anymore. [Arguably, the world still believes in America’s strength—but they don’t believe Obama can or will use it.] ...[Obama] believes that the Cold War is over. That’s fine; it is over. But [Russian President Vladimir] Putin doesn’t believe it’s over.” (Obama’s Treasury Secretary, Jack Lew, also addresses the group. Lew reportedly “received a stony reception,” according to PJMedia.com’s Roger L. Simon. Secretary of State John Kerry also addresses AIPAC, and is also similarly received.) [55817, 55852]

The stock markets in Europe and the United States decline significantly because of the concerns over the situation in Crimea and Ukraine.

The National Security Council meets at the White House—this time with Obama in attendance. [55818, 55819]

The Obama administration announces new fuel and automobile rules to reduce emissions. According to Reuters, “The rules, the third tier in a series of standards, will cut gasoline sulfur levels by more than 60 percent and should also reduce tailpipe and evaporative emissions from cars, light and medium-duty trucks and some heavy-duty vehicles. Health advocates praised the move, while a petroleum refiners’ group called the compliance schedule ‘unrealistic’ and warned of potential supply disruptions.” (The changes will add about \$75 to the cost of a new vehicle and increase the cost of gasoline by as much as nine cents per gallon.) [55792, 55793]

CNSNews.com reports, “Michelle Obama plans a weeklong solo visit to China this month [March 19–26] that includes meetings with China’s first lady and high school and university students.” (“Solo” means without her husband. She will be accompanied by her daughters, her mother, dozens of Secret Service agents and aides—and no reporters. The “vacation”—which is being called a “cultural exchange”—will include a visit with Peng Liyuan, the wife of Chinese President Xi Jinping, in order to make the trip “official” and thereby pass many of the costs on to the taxpayers.) [55796, 55844, 55851, 56521, 56582, 56582, 56588]

TheHill.com reports, “The Obama administration is set to announce another major delay in implementing the Affordable Care Act, easing election pressure on Democrats. As



early as this week, according to two sources, the White House will announce a new directive allowing insurers to continue offering health plans that do not meet ObamaCare's minimum coverage requirements. Prolonging the 'keep your plan' fix will avoid another wave of health policy cancellations otherwise expected this fall. The cancellations would have created a firestorm for Democratic candidates in the last, crucial weeks before Election Day. The White House is intent on protecting its allies in the Senate, where Democrats face a battle to keep control of the chamber. 'I don't see how they could have a bunch of these announcements going out in September,' one consultant in the health insurance industry said. 'Not when they're trying to defend the Senate and keep their losses at a minimum in the House. This is not something to have out there right before the election.'" (In other words, "If you like your plan you can keep your plan... but only until after the elections.") [55825, 55826, 55827, 55849]

According to CampusReform.org, "Obamacare could cost the University of North Carolina (UNC) system as much as \$47 million per year starting in 2015—and the universities may cut hours and jobs to comply... The Affordable Care Act requires the system to start providing insurance for 8,586 non-permanent employees who work more than 30 hours per week—but UNC is considering just cutting their hours to avoid having to pay for the insurance, Marty Kotis, a member of UNC Board of Governors' Budget and Finance Committee, writes on his blog, the Greensboro Observer. Kotis told Campus Reform that UNC Chief Operating Officer, Charlie Perusse, said universities will 'likely' cut the hours of 75 percent of eligible employees in order to lower the cost of complying with the mandate to between \$11-\$22 million." [55828]

CNSNews.com reports, "The average annual labor force participation rate hit a 35-year-low of 63.2 percent in the United States in 2013, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The last time the average annual labor force participation rate was that low was in 1978, when it was also 63.2 percent. ... The BLS bases its employment statistics on the civilian noninstitutional population, which consists of all people in the United States 16 or older who are not on active duty in the military or in an institution such as a prison, nursing home or mental hospital. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of people in the civilian noninstitutional population who either had a job or who actively sought one in the previous four weeks." (In other words, *36.8 percent of the working age population is not working.*) [55854]

At FoxNews.com K. T. McFarland, former national security official in the Nixon, Ford, and Reagan administrations, suggests ways the United States could "stop Putin's Ukraine power grab without firing a shot." McFarland proposes that Obama tell Putin: "I will reverse my decision to halt the missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic. America will go ahead as originally planned and build the missile shield, but [on] an accelerated basis." "I will reverse course on the defense budget." "I will allow the Keystone Pipeline to go ahead, again on an accelerated basis. That will not only give a boost to the American and Canadian economies, it will start driving down the price of oil." "I will give my wholehearted support for fracking and horizontal drilling. American energy companies will now develop the vast oil and gas resources that lie, literally, under our feet. We've seen the U.S. go from natural gas importers to exporters in less than five

years and the price of gas fall accordingly. We will now do the same with oil. Analysts expect the price of oil could decline by 20%. I don't have to tell you what that means for the Russian economy. Your economy and government are solely dependent on energy revenues." "I will send a trade delegation to Poland and other countries in Central Europe to explore ways of helping them use fracking technologies to develop their own gas reserves. ... At the same time I will throw roadblocks in front of any American energy company that seeks to develop your eastern Siberian fields. Your existing oil fields in western Siberia have, maybe, a decade left. You need our technology to develop new ones. You're not getting it." [55798, 55901]

"It's time we refocus on Western Europe's over-dependence on Russian natural gas. [Russia provides Germany with about 40 percent of its natural gas needs.] We will explore ways to export our newfound natural gas surpluses to Europe by underwriting [the] building of LNG terminals to accept imports from America." "It's high time we expand our relations with the oil and gas rich nations of central Asia. We will extend invitations to each of them to visit Washington, to see how America and American energy companies might work with them to build pipelines to get their energy exports to Europe and beyond, bypassing Russia." "The result of these actions, as I'm sure you will appreciate, will devastate your economy. That will feed the small but growing anti-Putin sentiment in Russia as you are forced to cut back on subsidies and benefits for your people." McFarland concludes, "Sadly, that is not the real transcript of the 90-minute Obama-Putin phone call. The real conversation probably consisted of Obama lecturing Putin about what was in Russia's best interests, and Putin ignoring him, instead daydreaming about what was next on his expansionist agenda. ... Obama prefers public speeches. President Putin prefers to let his actions speak for him. Obama talks. Putin takes." [55798, 55848, 55901]

It is worth noting that Europe's dependence on Russia for natural gas has increased as a result of its own short-sighted energy policies. DailyCaller.com notes, "Russia's hold on Europe is the unintended consequence of burdensome environmental and global warming policies. For years environmental activists have been spreading fears about drilling for oil and gas, which has only intensified in recent years due to the advent of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in the U.S. Europe sits on vast recoverable natural shale gas reserves. The Wall Street Journal reports that 470 trillion cubic feet of gas lies in reserves, but much of it has been blocked off due to government policies. France has banned fracking based on environmental fears that it will contaminate water supplies and raise carbon dioxide emissions—effectively preventing 137 trillion cubic feet from being extracted and brought to E.U. markets." (When a nation refuses to take advantage of its own natural resources, it necessarily becomes more dependent on other nations.) [56868, 56882]

According to the Kremlin, in his 90-minute telephone conversation with Obama, "Vladimir Putin stressed that in case of any further spread of violence to Eastern Ukraine and Crimea, Russia retains the right to protect its interests and the Russian-speaking population of those areas. ... The Russian president spoke of a real threat to the lives and health of Russian citizens and the many compatriots who are currently on Ukrainian

territory. ... Vladimir Putin noted that in case of any escalation of violence against the Russian-speaking population of the eastern regions of Ukraine and Crimea, Russia would not be able to stay away and would resort to whatever measures are necessary in compliance with international law.” [55799]

At the United Nations, Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin—like Putin, another KGB veteran—responds to comments from U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power about Russia respecting the constitution of Ukraine. Churkin says, “We believe that that is important. I’m trying to imagine where, if ... Obama went to California, let’s say, and then Mitt Romney went to the White House and then—whatever, if the Congress, [skirting] around all procedures, called to impeach him when he was not in the White House. How would the U.S. public opinion view that? Would that be a manifestation of democracy? And that’s what happened in Ukraine.” [55800, 55855, 56036]

Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, states, “The arrogant actions of President Putin and Russia in recent days is [sic; are] a direct result of ... Obama's disarming of America since the beginning of his Administration. Five years ago, I went to Afghanistan to respond to ... Obama’s first budget, knowing he was going to disarm America. In that first budget, he canceled our only fifth generation fighter, the F-22; he cancelled our C-17; and he cancelled our FCS [future combat systems]. That was just the first year. Since then he has taken \$487 billion out of our national security. His disarming of America over the past five years limits our options in Ukraine today. I just returned from Georgia in January, and they fear Russia will further invade their territory next. Throughout this Administration, I have also warned that if the United States does not maintain a ready and capable military, we would surrender our global influence and leave a vacuum that will be filled by Russia. I warned this day was coming, and it is here. ... Obama’s attempt to seek peace through apologetic diplomacy while defunding and dismantling our military has failed. Today our enemies don’t fear us and our allies no longer respect us.” [55801]

“When the Defense Department releases its budget this week, we will be faced with the impacts of another year of cuts to our national security. ... Obama plans to ask Congress for more funding for our troops, but his request is deceiving as he plans to tie it to tax hikes and increased spending for non-defense. General Dempsey testified in a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing that defense cuts will ‘severely limit our ability to implement our defense strategy. It will put the nation at greater risk of coercion, and it will break faith with men and women in uniform.’ Furthermore, Vice Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Winnefeld testified that ‘there could be for the first time in my career instances where we may be asked to respond to a crisis and we will have to say that we cannot.’ It’s time for ... Obama to come forward and either fully fund our military or reduce expectations for the United States’ leadership in the world.” [55801]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) says, “The most important thing is for us, the United States, to make sure that we don’t go off [and implement sanctions against Russia] without the European community. We have to work with them. Their interests are really paramount if we are going to do sanctions of some kind. We have to have them

on board with us.” (That may be an excuse for doing nothing, as more than a few European nations have extensive business dealings with Russia. It will not be as easy as some believe it might be to develop a strong coalition to punish Russia for its actions in Crimea and Ukraine. More than a few pipelines run through Ukraine, and no nation will place their supplies of natural gas at risk if they believe Putin has the upper hand over Obama.)

Obama tells reporters, “I think the world is largely united [in agreement] that the steps Russia has taken are a violation of international law. Over time, this will be a costly proposition for Russia. ... We should be able to set up international monitors and [an] international effort that mediates between various parties, that’s able to broker a deal that’s acceptable to the Ukrainian people [and] de-escalate the situation.”

At WeeklyStandard.com Elliott Abrams, a former Reagan and Bush administration official who is now senior fellow for Middle Eastern studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, comments on “Obama’s scary interview” with Bloomberg.com’s Jeffrey Goldberg, saying it “shows a chief executive who has learned next to nothing about the world in his five years in office. First, kudos to Goldberg: he pressed Obama repeatedly, challenging vague formulations and seeking clarity. Goldberg pushed Obama hard, especially on Iran and Syria. Obama isn’t good off the cuff, especially when challenged; he is far better with a prepared speech. And what emerged is an awful portrait of [Obama] and his conception of the world. ... Obama’s ‘arguments’ about Syria in the Goldberg interview are insulting to his former... top advisers, whose advice he rejected, and misleading about their advice. He describes a situation where ignorant critics seek ‘large scale military action,’ which is akin to the administration’s claim that those who want sanctions on Iran are ‘warmongers.’ But that is a false description, for what was recommended time after time was serious help to the rebels, and a one-time strike... at chemical weapons assets. So we have [Obama] deriding those who disagreed with him—who include his top aides and top experts—and refusing, even now, to understand that his policy of passivity in Syria has produced nearly the worst of all possible worlds: 150,000 dead, 6 million homeless, and a menacing gathering of perhaps 25,000 jihadists at the heart of the Middle East.” [55808]

“On Israel, Obama was harsh and unfriendly to [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu just days before the Netanyahu visit—quite a welcome to Washington. But the errors of his own analysis are striking. He says we must give the Palestinians ‘the dignity of a state,’ but the Tunisians and Egyptians and other Arabs who rebelled in the ‘Arab Spring’ had a state. They lacked dignity because that state treated them with contempt, giving them no real freedom and jailing them if they asked for it. Under Mr. Obama corruption in the Palestinian Authority has exploded and they have gone five additional years without an election. Mr. Obama says this: ‘Palestinians would still prefer peace. They would still prefer a country of their own that allows them to find a job, send their kids to school, travel overseas, go back and forth to work without feeling as if they are restricted or constrained as a people.’ If they would also prefer freedom of the press and of speech, and free elections, and an independent court system, and a government that does not steal their money, well, that isn’t of much interest to Mr. Obama. It isn’t even worth

mentioning. So he would give the Palestinians the ‘dignity’ that led to oppression and uprisings elsewhere in the Arab world, and seems to have no interest in the actual conditions of political life in the state he would create. The burden of making peace is put entirely on Israeli shoulders. PA [Palestinian Authority] president [Mahmoud] Abbas (whose term ended five years ago, and who is surrounded by growing corruption) is portrayed [by Obama] as a lovely man ready for peace—no mention that he refused it when it was offered by then-prime minister [Ehud] Olmert in 2008. Is Abbas really ready, now, to sign what he would not back then: an agreement that ends the conflict entirely and finally tells Palestinian ‘refugees’ that they have no right to go to Israel? An agreement that acknowledges Israel as a Jewish state? These doubts are never acknowledged by Obama, who assumes that the only problems are on the Israeli side. ...[Obama’s] message remains clear: if Israel refuses the terms we give it, life will become tougher.” [55808]

“When it comes to Iran, Obama shows an attitude that can only be described as solipsistic: what’s in his mind is reality. And any other reality is just plain silly. Here is the key exchange: Goldberg: ‘So just to be clear: You don’t believe the Iranian leadership now thinks that your ‘all options are on the table’ threat as it relates to their nuclear program—you don’t think that they have stopped taking that seriously?’ Obama: ‘I know they take it seriously.’ Goldberg: ‘How do you know they take it seriously?’ Obama: ‘We have a high degree of confidence that when they look at 35,000 U.S. military personnel in the region that are engaged in constant training exercises under the direction of a [commander in chief] who already has shown himself willing to take military action in the past, that they should take my statements seriously. And the American people should as well, and the Israelis should as well, and the Saudis should as well...’ ...It’s pretty obvious to all analysts that Iran does not fear an American military strike much these days, especially after Mr. Obama’s failure to act in Syria last summer. But Obama denies it, referring to himself in the third person as someone ‘who has shown himself willing to take military action.’ Drones, sure; a quick raid as well. But in Libya and Syria, he showed himself extremely reluctant to take military action. Remember ‘leading from behind?’ If he genuinely thinks he is viewed as a scary guy with his finger near the trigger, we all have a problem. ...Change is apparently not scary to Mr. Obama, who is confident all his policies are right. Those who disagree are uninformed, or itching for conflict, or ignorant about the risks they will soon face, or sadly unable to adapt to world events. This is the Obama who said of his own nomination that ‘this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal.’ If he believes it, it must be so. The Goldberg interview reveals that five years in, nothing has changed.” [55808]

At NationalReview.com Victor Davis Hanson writes, “Each step to the present Ukrainian predicament was in and of itself hardly earth-shattering and was sort of framed by Obama’s open-mic assurance to [Dmitry] Medvedev to tell Vladimir [Putin] that he would more flexible after the election. Indeed, Obama, as is his wont, always had mellifluous and sophistic arguments for why we had to take every soldier out of Iraq after the successful surge; why we needed to drop missile defense with the Poles and Czechs; why we needed both a surge and simultaneous deadline to end the surge in Afghanistan;

why we first issued serial deadlines to Iran to ask them to please stop proliferation, then just quit the sanctions altogether just as they started to work; why we needed to ‘lead from behind’ in Libya; why the Muslim Brotherhood was largely secular and legitimate and then later not so much so; why we issued redlines and bragged about Putin’s ‘help’ to eliminate WMD in Syria, and were going to bomb and then not bomb and then maybe bomb; why we kept pressuring Israel; why we cozied up to an increasingly dictatorial Turkey; why we reached out to Cuba and Venezuela; and why we sometimes embarrassed old allies like Britain, Canada, and Israel.” [55809]

“...[E]ach incident in and of itself was of little import. None were the stuff of crises. But incrementally all these tiny tesserae began forming a mosaic, fairly or not, of the Obama administration as either weak or clueless or perhaps both. Accordingly, Mr. Putin, in empirical fashion, after factoring in the rhetoric and the facts, has decided that it is time, in the fashion of 1979–80, to move with probable impunity. Others are, of course, watching what Obama derides as Cold War chess games. Should Iran now go full bore on its nuclear program? Should China test Japanese waters and airspace a bit more aggressively? Should North Korea try to gain new concessions from its nuclear lunacy? Should the failed Communists of Latin America try forcibly exporting their miseries to neighbors? And all are operating on the shared assumption that the American reaction will be another ‘outrageous,’ ‘unacceptable,’ ‘don’t cross this line,’ or another solemn Kerry lecture about the existential threats of global warming. ...This will probably end in either two ways : Either Barack Obama will have his 1980 Jimmy Carter revelatory moment as something like an ‘Obama Doctrine,’ or we could see some pretty scary things in the next three years as regional thugs cash in their chips and begin readjusting the map in their areas of would-be influence.” [55809]

Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jimmy Carter’s hapless national security adviser, predictably writes at WashingtonPost.com, “Russia’s unilateral and menacing acts mean the West should promptly recognize the current government of Ukraine as legitimate. Uncertainty regarding its legal status could tempt Putin to repeat his Crimean charade. Second, the West should convey—privately at this stage, so as not to humiliate Russia—that the Ukrainian army can count on immediate and direct Western aid so as to enhance its defensive capabilities. There should be no doubt left in Putin’s mind that an attack on Ukraine would precipitate a prolonged and costly engagement, and Ukrainians should not fear that they would be left in the lurch. Meanwhile, NATO forces, consistent with the organization’s contingency planning, should be put on alert. High readiness for some immediate airlift to Europe of U.S. airborne units would be politically and militarily meaningful. If the West wants to avoid a conflict, there should be no ambiguity in the Kremlin as to what might be precipitated [sic; precipitated] by further adventurist use of force in the middle of Europe.” (Brzezinski does not want to “humiliate” Russia, yet he wants to provoke it with U.S. troops deployed to NATO bases.) [55846]

The leftist *New Republic* notes Mitt Romney’s statements in a 2012 interview with CNN’s Wolf Blitzer: “Russia is, without question, our number one geopolitical foe. They fight every cause for the world’s worst actors. ...I’m saying in terms of a geopolitical opponent, the nation that lines up with the world’s worst actors. Of course, the greatest

threat that the world faces is a nuclear Iran. A nuclear North Korea is already troubling enough. But when these, these terrible actors pursue their course in the world and we go to the United Nations looking for ways to stop them, when—when Assad, for instance, is murdering his own people, we go—we go to the United Nations, and who is it that always stands up for the world’s worst actors? It is always Russia, typically with China alongside. And, and so in terms of a geopolitical foe, a nation that’s on the Security Council, that has the heft of the Security Council and is, of course, a, a massive nuclear power, Russia is the, the geopolitical foe.” The *New Republic’s* conclusion? “This all seems... exactly right.” (Why it took the magazine’s staff two years to realize Romney was correct is not known.) [55833, 55834]

At IsraelNationalNews.com, Mark Langfan writes, “About the only campaign promise Obama has kept (apart from his promise to open direct talks with Iran) was Obama’s famous ‘hot mic’ promise of ‘flexibility’ to [Vladimir] Putin transmitted through the then-President [Dmitry] Medvedev. ...Obama has been flexible to Russia not only on missile defense, but also on Russia’s abetting Assad’s murder of hundreds of thousands of Sunnis. He turned a blind eye to Russia arming Iran with nukes, Egypt with billions of weapons, and now Russia invading the Crimea. Obama has been ‘flexible’ indeed. Russia has accomplished almost all these striking goals while almost all of the European countries were steadfastly against most of Russia’s moves. Now, if Obama rolled over for Putin when almost all the EU and Sunni Arab world were against it, just imagine if Russia inserted troops into a ‘West Bank Palestine’ where the EU and Sunnis would be all for it. With West Bank Palestine international airports under Palestinian control, Russia could land 20 troops transports in 2 hours before Israel knew what happened. Would Israel shoot Russian troop transport planes vectoring for Palestinian Arab International airports out of the sky? That’s a strong ‘no,’ except if Israel wanted to be nuked by Russian ICBMs. Could the UN do a single thing if Russia sent thousands of soldiers into ‘West Bank Palestine?’ Russia and likely China, France, and Great Britain would fight over who vetoes the resolution first. ...[I]f Russia or Iran act with impunity over invasions of Georgia, and the Crimea, or proxy wars such as Syria, they will do so when Obama creates an independent ‘West Bank Palestine.’ ...Obama’s spineless quotes on the Ukraine will seem brave compared to when Russia or Iran will throw thousands of soldiers into a ‘democratic’ Palestine that has requested Russian and Iranian troops to march in.” [55816]

At Reuters.com David Rhode writes, “One senior Obama administration official called Vladimir Putin’s actions in the Ukraine ‘outrageous.’ A second described them as an ‘outlaw act.’ A third said his brazen use of military force harked back to a past century. ‘What we see here are distinctly 19th and 20th century decisions made by President Putin,’ said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity to a group of reporters. ‘But what he needs to understand is that in terms of his economy, he lives in the 21st century world, an interdependent world.’” (The unnamed official is as naive as Secretary of State John Kerry, who also said, “It’s a 19th-century act in the 21st century.” The entire Obama administration apparently believes the use of force across borders has not occurred in the last 200 years.) Rhode continues, “James Jeffrey, a retired career U.S. diplomat, said that view of Putin’s mindset cripples the United States’ response to the

Russian leader. The issue is not that Putin fails to grasp the promise of western-style democratic capitalism. It is that he and other American rivals flatly reject it. ‘All of us that have been in the last four administrations have drunk the Kool-Aid,’ Jeffrey said, referring to the belief that they could talk Putin into seeing the western system as beneficial. ‘If they would just understand that it can be a win-win, if we can only convince them’—Putin doesn’t see it,’ Jeffrey said. ‘The Chinese don’t see it. And I think the Iranians don’t see it.’” [55848]

PJMedia’s Roger L. Simon writes, “With Vladimir Putin giving Barack Obama the back of his gloved hand in the Crimea, it’s easy to forget what the two leaders have in common. Neither of them likes democracy very much. In Putin’s case that couldn’t be more obvious, but Obama has given more than his share of signals to that effect in recent days, informing a complaisant Congress during the State of the Union that he was going to override them and take the law into his own hands by executive fiat if they didn’t go along with his policies. His number one *consigliere*, Valerie Jarrett, repeated essentially the same thing during a recent interview on *The O’Reilly Factor*. Unfortunately, that’s about it in the similarity department (except they both seem to like sports). In two other major categories, the dissimilarities are striking. Putin is one tough dude and a patriot for his country. Obama is neither of these. In evidence I offer one five-letter word: Syria. I could offer a lot more, but I don’t want to bore you. The point is, as Putin threatens Ukraine and who knows what else, China moves on the Japanese islands, the Iranian mullahs jaw on while moving ever closer to nuclear capability, the already nuclear North Koreans improve their ballistics while starving their people, Venezuela approaches civil war, al-Qaeda and its myriad cousins metastasize across North Africa, the Levant, and beyond, the West has at its helm someone who is not only a documented liar (‘if you like your plan,’ etc., etc.) but who is also essentially a blowhard. Even worse, and ultimately even more dangerous to our health and/or survival, [Obama] is a monumentally poor judge of character. He is clueless.” [55852]

“Consider this: Obama preferred the company of Egypt’s vile Islamist Morsi and Turkey’s equally vile Islamist Erdogan (not to mention Putin himself, whom many recall Obama reassured, via Medvedev, of his coming ‘flexibility’ with the Russian president after Obama’s own reelection) to Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu. Talk about not knowing who your friends really are. Well, scratch that. Maybe those really *are* his friends, which makes the situation yet more horrifying. (Only the editors of the *L.A. Times* know for sure—and they won’t release the Khalidi tape.)” (Note: In 2003 Obama attended a dinner held in honor of Rashid Khalidi, a former PLO operative and harsh critic of Israel. Obama, who has denied a close relationship with Khalidi (even though the Obamas have dined more than once at the home of Khalidi and his wife, Mona, and used them as occasional baby-sitters), praised Khalidi during the decidedly anti-Semitic event. William Ayers also attended the dinner, and both Ayers and Obama signed Khalidi’s guest book. The dinner was sponsored by the Arab American Action Network, to which Obama had funneled cash several times while serving on the board of the Woods Fund. One speaker at the dinner remarked that if Palestinians cannot secure a return of their land, Israel “will never see a day of peace.” The *Los Angeles Times* has a videotape of the Khalidi dinner but refuses to make it public. It is assumed the tape’s contents are damaging to Obama,



likely because the event includes anti-Semitic sentiments and Obama heaping praise on Khalidi. It has been alleged that, in his speech at the Khalidi dinner, Obama states “Israel has no God-given right to occupy Palestine,” and there has been “genocide against the Palestinian people by Israelis.”) [384, 387, 395, 418, 419, 438, 439, 440, 55852]

At WashingtonPost.com Marc Thiessen writes, “In the wake of [his Syria] debacle, Obama is now warning Putin—the man who saved him from his promise to impose costs on Assad—that he’s going to impose costs on Putin for his intervention in Ukraine? Did he really expect Putin to take him seriously? Putin believes Obama does not have the intestinal fortitude to stand up to him in Ukraine. He thinks Obama will talk tough and then look for a way out—just like he did with Assad. He also knows that without American leadership to stiffen their spines, our European allies (who depend on Russian natural-gas imports) will not impose any real or lasting consequences on Russia either. Putin calculates that he can do what he wants in Ukraine, and the whole unpleasantness will blow over in a few months. ... Today, America is projecting weakness. Obama’s failure to enforce his red line in Syria projected weakness. His constant talk of withdrawal and ending wars so we can focus on ‘nation-building here at home’ projects weakness. His decision to gut the U.S. defense budget and reduce the Army to pre-World War II levels projects weakness. When your adversaries believe you are weak, they are emboldened to act—and prone to miscalculate. Putin believes there will be no real costs for his intervention in Ukraine because there were no costs in Syria. He knows the Obama Doctrine is to do just enough ‘not to get mocked.’ If he is proved right, it will have consequences far beyond the Crimean Peninsula. A failure to impose costs on Russia will further embolden adversaries from Beijing to Pyongyang to Tehran—all of whom are measuring Obama’s resolve in Ukraine, just as Putin measured Obama’s resolve in Syria and found it lacking. The lesson of history is clear: Weakness is provocative. And symbolic gestures and strongly worded statements are not going to get Russian troops out of Ukraine.” [55861]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer states, “[I]t wasn’t the weakness of Europe that precipitated all this, and it wasn’t Obama’s flinching on Syria. When [Vladimir] Putin had to make a calculation whether to go into Ukraine—and Ukraine isn’t Georgia, a small republic that is sort of on the fringes of the west, Ukraine’s at the crossroads, a huge country—to go into Ukraine and... take over, to invade Crimea, is a *huge* step. And he would only have done it with [Obama,] who has shown from the very beginning that he is living in a fantasy world. Remember the speech he gave at the U.N. when he started his administration? He said, ‘No nation can or should dominate another.’ I mean, there’s not a 12-year-old in the world who believes that. And he said, ‘The alignment of nations rooted in the cleavages of the long ago Cold War make no sense in this interconnected world.’ As our Secretary of State said today, or yesterday, after all this, this is a 19th century action in a 21st century world. As if what he means... actions where governments pursue expansion, territory domination, no longer exist in this century, as if that hasn’t been a *constant* in all of human history since Hannibal. They imagine the world as the new interconnected world where climate change is the biggest threat and they are shocked that the Russians actually are interested in territory.” [55830, 55850]

On *On the Record*, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld says, “We have created a leadership vacuum in the world, and it is being filled by the Putins of the world, by people without our values or our interest, and it’s to the detriment of the United States and our friends and allies around the world. It is the United States that’s injected that instability into the world equation. ...So, the thing we have got to persuade other countries of is that we get peace through strength, as [President Dwight D.] Eisenhower said. If we want peace, we have to be prepared for war and that it is U.S. weakness that has shaken the world.” [55811]

On *Hannity*, Sarah Palin says, “Anyone who carries the common sense gene would know that [Vladimir] Putin doesn’t change his stripes. He harkens back to the era of the czars and he wants that Russian empire to grow again, he wants to exert huge power and dominance. People are looking at Putin as one who wrestles bears and drills for oil. They look at [Obama] as one who wears mom jeans and equivocates and bloviates. We are not exercising that peace through strength that only can be brought to you courtesy of the red, white and blue.” [55823, 55842]

On *The Kelly File*, Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of Tea Party Patriots, tells Martha MacCallum it took her organization three years to obtain tax-exempt status from the IRS—and that status was not granted until the day before she was scheduled to testify before a Congressional Committee.

Medea Benjamin, co-founder of the leftist activist group Code Pink, tweets: “I’m being held in a jail at Cairo airport!!!” According to TheGatewayPundit.com, “Benjamin is in Egypt to lead a delegation of activists to Hamas-led Gaza to mark International Women’s Day later this week. Code Pink has a history of working with the Muslim Brotherhood to overthrow the Egyptian government of former President Hosni Mubarak as well as other terrorist groups and state sponsors of terrorism. Medea Benjamin appeared at ease as she walked around Tahrir square and handed out roses during the anti-Mubarak protests in 2011. ...Code Pink also works with ...Obama and leading elected Democratic Party officials.” (It seems unlikely that Benjamin would be allowed to keep her cell phone to issue messages while in a Cairo jail—not that with her history the Egyptian authorities would not consider locking her up until they learn her motives for visiting the country.) As noted previously in this *Timeline*, in 2004 Code Pink delivered \$600,000 in cash and supplies to Iraq—not to American soldiers, but to the terrorists who were fighting them in Fallujah. In June 2009 Benjamin delivered a letter from the terrorist group Hamas to Obama. In September 2009 Benjamin and Code Pink co-founder Jodie Evans—a friend of Jane Fonda—met with then-Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Evans has reportedly delivered messages from the Taliban to Obama. Benjamin violated federal law by assisting terrorists with the “peace flotilla” that attempted to break Israel’s blockade of Gaza, the territory controlled by Hamas; the Obama administration declined to prosecute her. Benjamin’s pal Evans committed identity theft that enabled her to sneak past security at the Republican National Convention in 2008; she was attempting to storm the stage during Sarah Palin’s speech. Benjamin has previously been to Egypt, having protested in Cairo’s Tahrir Square along with Obama’s domestic terrorist ghost-writer William Ayers and his wife Bernardine Dohrn. The Muslim Brotherhood even named one of its protests

a “Day of Rage,” borrowing the name from Ayers’ Weather Underground. On its own day of rage, the Muslim Brotherhood ransacked police stations and freed convicts from their cells.” [104, 215, 220, 355, 384, 387, 395, 416, 419, 438, 439, 440, 521, 6160, 6163, 6322, 6481, 6523, 6860, 6861, 6862, 6863, 6864, 6865, 7902, 7903, 7904, 7905, 10776, 10829, 10902, 10903, 10904, 11706, 13055, 13092, 13093, 14760, 15281, 15282, 11707, 11708, 11769, 14760, 15281, 15282, 17511, 21004, 29906, 36117, 36154, 36258, 56049, 56050]

On March 4 Mona Charen writes at Townhall.com, “Among the academic set from which ...Obama springs, everyone agrees that wars are the result of ‘arrogance’ and bullying by the United States. ...It can’t do any harm to talk, right? That was Obama’s claim in 2008, when he suggested that he would meet with any rogue leader. He thinks words are like chicken soup—they may not help but they cannot hurt. We’re now seeing how dangerous that view is. ...Formal conclaves that permit evil regimes to gain concessions in exchange for promises they quickly break are one form of dangerous talk. Obama has been perfecting another type as well: the empty threat. ...When [Syrian President Bashar al-] Assad flamboyantly hopped over Obama’s red line and received no response, the world rocked on its axis. Though the Obamaites couldn’t see it, every small, peace-loving nation in the world was instantly made more vulnerable. Perhaps now, with Russian ships and tanks aiming at Ukraine, they are beginning to understand how international relations work. (‘It’s not some chessboard,’ [Obama] asserted recently, displaying his continuing confusion.) No, the game isn’t chess; it’s more like boxing, where the winner is the stronger one.” [55821]

“The Ukraine crisis flows directly from the Syria debacle, as Vladimir Putin, like Assad, has taken Obama’s measure. The left heaped scorn on George W. Bush for initially praising Putin, but Bush wised up fast. Obama, by contrast, has submitted passively as Putin put one thumb after another in his eye... In January, the administration, so easily surprised by the world, announced that Syria was ‘dragging its feet’ on removing chemical weapons stockpiles and that only an estimated 4 percent of its supply had been relinquished. ‘It is the Assad regime’s responsibility to transport those chemicals to facilitate removal,’ said spokesman Jay Carney. ‘We expect them to meet their obligation to do so.’ Weakness invites aggression. Prepare for more.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes that Obama’s foreign policy failures are inviting disaster. The more Obama is criticized as incompetent, weak, and feckless, the more he may feel he has to act in order to “prove” that he is not. Those are precisely the circumstances under which one can make incredibly foolish decisions, and the likelihood of such decisions are increased by the team of bumbling and naive “experts” surrounding him. No American should be under the illusion that close Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett, National Security Advisor Susan Rice, or Director of National Intelligence James Clapper are competent.) [55821]

Hugh Hewitt writes at Townhall.com, “No one from left to right has suggested the use of military force by the U.S., or any of its allies, but to not even summon the courage to immediately exile Russia from the G-8 and G-20 while draining the bank accounts of its oligarchs is astonishing. ...Obama has roused himself to make two tepid statements, as ambiguous as they have been ineffective, and [Secretary of State] John Kerry arrives [in

Kiev] with a paltry promise of a paltry billion [dollars] in loan guarantees and ‘technical assistance’ for a country in the process of dismemberment, the geopolitical equivalent of a last cigarette before execution. What a shameful time to be an American, and to accede to the loss of freedom that Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and John Paul II helped win for the people of Ukraine. A few Republicans are speaking up, and a few analysts have begun the work of laying out the cost of rebuilding what ...Obama has allowed to decline into dangerously provocative weakness. It will get worse before it gets better, and people in Tel Aviv, Taipei and Tallinn all know the score. They are on their own.” [55824, 55856]

While in Kiev, Kerry says, “It is clear that Russia has been working hard to create a pretext for being able to invade further. It is not appropriate to invade a country, and at the end of a barrel of a gun dictate what you are trying to achieve. That is not 21st-century, G-8, major nation behavior. ...Diplomacy and respect for sovereignty, not unilateral force, can best solve disputes like this in the 21st century. ...If Russia does not choose to de-escalate, then our partners will have absolutely no choice but to join us to continue to expand upon steps we have taken in recent days in order to isolate Russia politically, diplomatically and economically. ...The fact is, this is the 21st century and we should not see nations step backwards. We believe there are a set of options [that] could move us down the road to appropriate [negotiations]. We invite Russia to that table.” (The Obama administration has repeatedly used a “21st century” comment to criticize Vladimir Putin. Why it thinks that will lead him to change his strategy or goals is not known. Kerry may scold Putin and suggest he will lose international respect if he does not act the way the United States wants him to act, but Kerry does not understand that Putin may not care about that particular kind of respect. Putin desires the respect that power brings.) [55856, 55858]

At a fundraiser in Long Beach, California, Hillary Clinton notes the Russian troop incursion into Crimea and says, “Now if this sounds familiar, it’s what Hitler did back in the 30s. The ethnic Germans, the Germans by ancestry who were in places like Czechoslovakia and Romania and other places, Hitler kept saying they’re not being treated right. ‘I must go and protect my people,’ and that’s what’s gotten everybody so nervous. ...So it’s a real nail-biter right now, but nobody wants to up the rhetoric. [Her statement, of course, does just that.] Everybody wants to cool it in order to find a diplomatic solution and that’s what we should be trying to do.” (Clinton does not explain why her Russian “reset” program failed.) [56008]

For the first time in history, the House Armed Services Committee rejects the White House’s Quadrennial Defense Review. Chairman Howard “Buck” McKeon (R-CA) calls Obama’s proposal for gutting the U.S. military “shortsighted” and says, “Unfortunately, the product the process produced this time has more to do with politics than policy and is of little value to decision makers. It allows [Obama] to duck the consequences of the deep defense cuts he has advocated and leaves us all wondering what the true future costs of those cuts will be.” BizPacReview.com reports, “In a statement released with the defense review, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had little good to report. ‘The smaller and less capable military outlined in the QDR makes

meeting these obligations more difficult,' he said..." (In other words, "I don't agree with the review, but I can't publicly chastise the White House.") [55963]

In what Politico calls a "major speech," Janet Murguía, president of the racist National Council of La Raza, refers to Obama as the "deporter-in-chief." The remark prompts outrage from close Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett and several other White House officials, who telephone Murguía to express their disapproval. (The situation is of Obama's own making. It is his administration that has bragged about the "record number of deportations" since he entered the White House—even though the numbers have been inflated by counting Mexicans who are merely turned back at the border and are not actually being "deported." According to The Heritage Foundation, "[D]eportations by prior Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) standards actually are 'down 40 percent since 2009.' Of 368,644 reported "deportations" in 2013, 235,093—about two-thirds—were nothing more than border "turnarounds." At NationalReview.com Andrew Stiles notes, "Activists fighting to end deportations argue that, while the people being deported are here illegally, they've been living in the country for some time, often with relatives or children of their own—hence the charge that deportations 'break up families.' Cases like these exist, but as the ICE data show, they are the minority. For the most part, the Obama administration is 'deporting' people it catches in the act of entering the country illegally.") [55968, 55969, 55970, 55993, 56459]

Obama responds, calling himself the "champion-in-chief of comprehensive immigration reform," and adding, "But what I've said in the past remains true, which is until Congress passes a new law, then I am constrained in terms of what I am able to do." (In other words, "That damned U.S. Constitution forces me to uphold the law!") Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), eager to pour gasoline on the fire, calls for Obama to stop deportations altogether if House Republicans do not agree to amnesty legislation. (La Raza founder Jose Angel Gutierrez, a University of Texas professor, has stated, "We have an aging white America. They are not making babies. They are dying. The explosion is in our population... I love it. They are shitting in their pants with fear. I love it. We have got to eliminate the gringo, and what I mean by that is if the worst comes to the worst [sic], we have got to kill him." PatDollard.com notes that Gutierrez was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Bill Clinton, and Gutierrez is listed as "the sixth most dangerous Academic in America" in David Horowitz's book, *The 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America*.) [55968, 55969, 55970, 55993, 56459]

ClimateDepot.com reports that, based on satellite data from Remote Sensing Systems, Inc. (RSS) shows there has been no "global warming" for more than 17 years. Lord Christopher Monckton writes, "The satellite datasets are based on measurements made by the most accurate thermometers available—platinum resistance thermometers, which not only measure temperature at various altitudes above the Earth's surface via microwave sounding units but also constantly calibrate themselves by measuring the known temperature of the cosmic background radiation, which is 1% of the freezing point of water, or just 2.73 degrees above absolute zero. ... The graph is news. Not only is it very recent: it is also something that the mainstream news media very seldom reveal. They

tend to keep the now embarrassingly long hiatus in global warming secret.” (Obama continues to call for massive federal spending to “combat global warming.”) [56210]

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu addresses the AIPAC conference and says, “[Do] You remember that beer commercial? ‘This Bud’s for you?’ Well, when you see Iran building ICBMs, just remember, America, that SCUD’s for you.” [55900]

Obama proposes a \$3.901 trillion budget that calls for \$55 billion in new spending in 2015 alone, \$302 billion in transportation projects, a whopping \$651 billion in additional tax increases on wealthy Americans, and \$1.8 trillion in total increased taxes over the next decade—of which about \$100 billion would come from the energy industry. (For the record, \$100 billion in increased energy industry taxes would probably result in close to \$100 billion in increased consumer costs.) Under Obama’s 10-year budget proposal, annual spending would approach \$6 trillion by 2024, and the national debt would increase to \$25 trillion—if interest rates don’t go up substantially by then. Despite Obama’s promise that “there would be no more bailouts” and that his health care legislation would “not add a dime to the deficit,” his budget includes a \$5.5 billion “risk corridor” bailout of health insurance companies that lose money in the ObamaCare exchanges. (The Obama budget proposal—which does nothing to reduce spending or annual deficits and never leads to a balanced budget—has no chance of becoming law, but it provides a class warfare framework for Democrats running for reelection. Republicans will argue, “In this weak economy, it is ridiculous to even suggest job-killing tax increases.” Democrats will counter, “See? The Republicans only want to protect the rich and don’t care about single moms struggling to feed their children.” Not only will Obama’s budget proposal go nowhere, the Democrat-controlled Senate will not bother to even produce one for 2015—despite the fact that it is legally required.) [55859, 55860, 55882, 55883, 55888, 55889, 55895, 55904, 55911, 55914, 55979]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) says, “After years of fiscal and economic mismanagement, [Obama] has offered perhaps his most irresponsible budget yet. Spending too much, borrowing too much, and taxing too much, it would hurt our economy and cost jobs.” [55905]

While visiting an elementary school in Washington, D.C., Obama says, “The way that some of this has been reported, uh, that, uh, the suggestion somehow that the Russian actions, uh, have been clever strategically, I actually think that this has not been a sign of, of strength, uh, but rather is a reflection that countries near Russia have deep concerns and suspicions about this kind of meddling and, if anything, it will push many countries further away from Russia.” (In other words, “No, I’m not really as weak and feckless as I appear to be and Russia is a bully and my mother told me that standing up to bullies never works.”) “...There is a strong belief that Russia’s action is violating international law. President Putin seems to have a different set of lawyers making a different set of interpretations, but, uh, I don’t think that’s fooling anybody.” (Whether the school children agree is not known. Whether Vladimir Putin will laugh at photographs of Obama speaking from a schoolroom while standing on a rug with A-Z graphics is certain.) [55864, 55865, 55912, 55913]

At Morning Jolt, NationalReview.com's Jim Geraghty notes that in August 2005, Senator Dick Lugar (R-IN) and then-Senator Obama visited a weapons destruction facility in Donetsk, Ukraine and "called for the immediate destruction of 15,000 tons of ammunition, 400,000 small arms and light weapons, and 1,000 man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) or shoulder missile launchers that are often sought by terrorists." Geraghty quips, "Heck, it's not like Ukraine will need lots of weapons in the next decade, right?" [55936]

Geraghty also notes that in his final novel before his death, *Command Authority*, Tom Clancy wrote: "Golovko added, 'Volodin has his eyes on the Crimea, in Southern Ukraine, and he knows once Ukraine joins NATO, that will be difficult for him to achieve. The way he sees it, he has to move soon.' Ryan said, 'He is right that there is no treaty between Ukraine and NATO. And if he does invade, getting Europe on board to fight for the Crimea is a nonstarter.'" (In 2008 President George W. Bush attempted to get the Europeans to support a Crimea and Ukraine entry into NATO. Europe did not listen. Had those two countries joined NATO, there would be an obligation to defend them from any invasion, and that alone would likely have led Vladimir Putin to stay out.)

At WashingtonTimes.com Charles Hurt writes, "I certainly understand why freedom-lovers around the world are upset over Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent incursion into Ukraine. And I understand why the good people of Georgia, Estonia and other democracy-minded countries take exception to this sort of Iron Curtain saber-rattling. But I just cannot understand why it is that ...Obama is so upset about it. After all, Mr. Putin understandably believes in Russian exceptionalism. 'Just, as I suspect, that the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism,' as Mr. Obama famously soft-pedaled an apologetic admission that he kinda, sorta believes in American exceptionalism in a remote, former-world-power kind of way. ...Under Mr. Obama's 'everybody is exceptional' geopolitical theory, Mr. Putin is not such a bad guy. He is not particularly ideological. He just really loves Russia and believes that Russia is exceptional, and, in this world where everybody gets a trophy, he is going to get the biggest one he can." [55922]

"...The whole problem with saying you believe in American exceptionalism just as Mr. Putin believes in Russian exceptionalism and the Britons believe in British exceptionalism, etc., is that it means that you do not actually believe that America is, in fact, exceptional. ...This sort of shallow, unstudied and pseudo intellectual worldview is what leads [Obama] to deliver his first major address to a Muslim country and tell them it is 'part of my responsibility... to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam wherever they appear.' ...But seriously, what is so bad about America publicly slashing her firepower at the Pentagon while spending 5 years running around painting 'red lines' that get laughed at and generally spreading apologetic humility across the globe? Well, it gets you the gassing and mass slaughter of civilians and children in Syria, a nearly nuclear Iran, and vanished gains in Iraq and Afghanistan. Meanwhile, allies such as Israel are increasingly isolated, and America has rarely, if ever, been more hated around the world. Not for flexing her power, but for shirking her responsibility to be a principled beacon of

freedom around the world. Even apart from Mr. Obama, little comfort can be found in the people with whom he surrounds himself. Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Secretary of State John F. Kerry are a trifecta of incompetence best known for flubbing virtually every major foreign-policy issue of their time. They are the Axis of Wrong.” [55922]

In a Quinnipiac poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval rating falls to a record low 45/51 in Connecticut. His ratings are 40/57 among men and 49/49 among women. [55853]

According to an ABC/Washington Post poll, “Among those for whom it matters, 38 percent [of American voters] say they are less likely to vote for someone who favors a path to citizenship [for illegal immigrants], while 30 percent say they would be more likely.” [55862, 55863]

According to a Rasmussen poll, “Few voters think life for young black Americans has improved under ...Obama, and hopes aren’t high that [his] new My Brother’s Keeper initiative will make things any better. Just 16% of Likely U.S. Voters think life for young black Americans has gotten better since Obama’s election in November 2008, while 22% believe it’s gotten worse. The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that half (49%) feel life for these Americans is about the same. Twelve percent (12%) are not sure.” Among blacks polled, only 11 percent believe life has gotten better under Obama. [56091, 56127]

Iranian General Masoud Jazayeri, commenting on Obama’s statement, “We have a high degree of confidence that when they look at 35,000 US military personnel in the region that are engaged in constant training exercises under the direction of a [commander in chief] who already has shown himself willing to take military action in the past, that they should take my statements seriously,” says, “The low-IQ [Obama] and his country’s Secretary of State John Kerry speak of the effectiveness of ‘the US options on the table’ on Iran while this phrase is mocked at and has become a joke among the Iranian nation, especially the children.” TimesofIsrael.com reports, “The Iranian news agency Tuesday published a political cartoon mocking [Obama], calling it: ‘All Options on Table. This Time for Russia.’ In a jab at US non-intervention in Ukraine, the cartoon portrays Obama peering forlornly into an empty paint can with the label ‘Red Line’ while Russian President Vladimir Putin walks away saying, ‘I think you used it all on Syria.’” [55867]

Radio Shack announces it will close as many as 1,100 of its 5,000+ stores. According to MoneyNews.com, RadioShack Corporation lost \$440.2 million in 2013. (The company had previously estimated that it would close only 200 stores.) [55871, 55981]

JerusalemOnline.com reports, “After putting members of the Muslim Brotherhood on trial, an Egyptian court ruled to ban the activities of the Palestinian organization in the country. The ruling constitutes another harsh blow to the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip, whose economy is based largely on the goods passed through the smuggling tunnels between Egypt and Gaza. Egypt has banned Hamas activities in the country: the court in Cairo ruled that all Hamas activities in Egypt are officially illegal.



Communications media in Egypt report that the decision was made as part of efforts to control the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas's sister movement and greatest supporter, whose activities in the country were also banned, with Former President Mohamed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood leader who was ousted last year, currently facing trial." (Pamela Geller comments, "While rational actors are banning Hamas, ...Obama means to partner with them. Just imagine if the US government outlawed all Hamas activity in America: every major Muslim group would be out of business—CAIR, ISNA, MSA, MAS, et al.") [55876, 55877]

With the U.S. government threatening to impose sanctions on Russia over its incursion into Crimea, Kremlin economic aide Sergei Glazyev states, "If sanctions are applied against state structures, we will be forced to recognize the impossibility of repayment of the loans that the US banks gave to the Russian structures. Indeed, sanctions are a double-edged weapon, and if the US chooses to freeze our assets, then our equities and liabilities in dollars will also be frozen. This means that our banks and businesses will not return the loans to American partners. ... We have wonderful economic and trade relations with our Southern and Eastern partners. We will find a way not just to eliminate our dependence on the U.S. but also profit from these sanctions. ... We would find a way not just to reduce our dependency on the United States to zero but to emerge from those sanctions with great benefits for ourselves. An attempt to announce sanctions would end in a crash for the financial system of the United States, which would cause the end of the domination of the United States in the global financial system." (That is, Russia could stop using dollars for international transactions such as petroleum sales. In fact, foreigners sold a record amount of U.S. Treasury debt in the week ending March 8. As the dollar weakens, more nations would resort to other currencies—or gold. Bonds would be sold, more dollars would enter the private economy, and prices would increase dramatically. That would further weaken the dollar, cause interest rates to rise, and force the U.S. government to pay tens of billions more in interest on the national debt. Obama is playing with fire—especially if China were to join Russia and start dumping dollars and U.S. debt. Additionally, most Crimeans are likely happy to be rejoined with Russia, and even in Ukraine there are many people who would not be unhappy with a reunification. For Obama to risk a further destruction of the U.S. economy over the issue is absurd.) Meanwhile, Russian lawmakers draft legislation allowing the confiscation of property and assets of European and American companies if their governments impose sanctions. [55878, 55896, 55908, 55920, 55996, 56390, 56619]

At Heritage.org Terry Miller calls Obama's threat to expel Russia from the G8 group of nations "weak symbolism and absurd theater." He writes, "Annual G8 summits provide opportunities for photos and endless pontification on the foreign policy issue of the day: food security, ending poverty, climate change, whatever. Attendance has grown into something resembling a mini-United Nations, with leaders from countries such as China and Brazil joining regularly and invitations going to countries such as Guinea and Niger and organizations such as the European Union and the League of Arab States. The events are long on talk and ceremony and woefully short on substance. Little of consequence has been achieved. Suspending or expelling Vladimir Putin from this group has about as much chance of changing Russian behavior in Ukraine as a non-Russian figure skater had

of grabbing top marks at the Olympics. ...Suspending Russia from the G8 would be a hollow gesture from a group that has provided little more than symbolic theater in recent years. The G8 doesn't matter much, and expelling Russia from it wouldn't matter much. If Ukraine is to survive as an independent nation, the U.S. and the West had better come up with a more serious response to the crisis." [55890]

Russia successfully test launches an advanced intercontinental ballistic missile. (Although the test had been planned in advance and the U.S. government had been notified of the pending firing, canceling it would have made sense—unless Russia wanted to “send a message.”) [55902, 55903]

CNSNews.com reports that “1.6 million students who used to pay for school lunches have stopped buying them, according to a Government Accountability Office Report (GAO). GAO noted that part of the decline was due to the ‘challenges with palatability’ of lunches that have to meet new nutrition guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The GAO also noted that among students still getting the school lunches there was ‘plate waste.’” [55918]

On *Special Report*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer says, “This is astonishing. On the one hand they’re unable—our people, our leaders—to muster anything that the Europeans will join that will hurt [Russian President Vladimir] Putin. And on the other hand [they are] telling us that they are thinking that Putin *thinks* he made a mistake, did make a mistake and is looking for an ‘off-ramp.’ And our real job is not to slap on sanctions or to push him out of Crimea, but to allow him some kind of diplomatic exit that will save the face. It’s in tandem with what he [Obama] said about it being a sign of weakness on the part of the Russians.” Host Brett Baier asks if the Obama administration is treating Putin’s most recent comments as “some kind of blink.” Krauthammer responds, “That’s not a blink! That’s a KGB agent lying through his teeth, which is what they train to do for all of their lives! I mean, when Hitler went into the Sudetenland, he claimed it was in response to a desire on the part of the population. This is what all dictators do. The idea that somehow it’s a blink, because he’s waiting to see whether he wants to take the rest of Ukraine, and that’s a sign of weakness... I think it’s delusional.” (Putin speaks fluent German. According to WashingtonPost.com, he “spent the last half of the 1980s recruiting people to spy on the West. Vladimir Putin looked for East Germans who had a plausible reason to travel abroad, such as professors, journalists, scientists and technicians, for whom there were acceptable ‘legends,’ or cover stories. ...According to German intelligence specialists who described Putin’s task, the goal was stealing Western technology or NATO secrets. A newly revealed [January 2000] document shows Putin was trying to recruit agents to be trained in ‘wireless communications.’”) [55894, 55947]

Speaking at a McLean, Virginia fundraiser, Obama says “the Russians are engaging in a fundamental breach of international law. We may be able to de-escalate over the next several days and weeks, but it’s a serious situation and we’re spending a lot of time on it.” (Translation: “Putin won and I lost, so let me get back to raising money for Democrats.”) He continues, “We get a little sleepy, we get a little distracted. We

[Democrats] don't turn out to vote [in the mid-terms as we do for presidential elections]. We don't fund campaigns as passionately. That has to change and has got to change right here, because too much is at stake for us to let this opportunity slip by. Everything that you all care about, advancing every issue that is of deep concern to you, depends on us successfully maintaining Democratic control of the Senate. ...If you care about the environment... If you care about women getting equal pay for equal work or having control over their health care decisions, or who is in the Supreme Court determining those laws... if you care about making sure that we're investing in early childhood education and continuing to reform our schools to make them serve every child, you [sic; you had] better make sure that we still have Democrats in control of the Senate." [55893, 56102]

Democrat hopes of "turning Texas blue" seem a bit more far-fetched after Wendy "abortion Barbie" Davis does poorly in the state's gubernatorial primary. Although she wins the Democrat primary, she loses in several counties to opponents who spent almost nothing. In the GOP primary, Gregg Abbott wins—with about three times more votes than Davis. Davis receives fewer than 450,000 votes, despite enormous financial support from outside Texas. In fact, she even loses several border counties where she assumed she would do well. (While the mainstream media pushes Davis, the leftist MSNBC continues to mock Abbott—who is wheelchair-bound because of an accident that severed his spine. MSNBC headlines: "Greg Abbott's spine of steel," and "No one pushes Greg Abbott around.") The mainstream media eagerly but incorrectly reports Senator John Cornyn's win in the GOP primary as a loss for the Tea Party, but challenger Steve Stockman was not only not supported by the Tea Party, he was criticized by Tea Party Express, Breitbart TX, and other similar groups. [55926, 55927, 55946, 56030]

Even worse for Texas Democrats, no candidate wins a plurality in the U.S. Senate primary, forcing a May 27 run-off between the top two vote-getters: millionaire dentist David Alameel and the far-left Kesha Rogers—who opposes ObamaCare because it's not socialist enough, wants Obama impeached, and is a follower of Lyndon LaRouche. (According to BizPacReview.com, Rogers' campaign "received only \$27,000 in donations" yet she still came in second in a multi-candidate contest. "Texas Democrats should be quaking. ...If Rogers were a conservative fringer who'd managed to force an establishment Republican candidate into a primary runoff for a U.S. Senate seat, she would have been on all the morning talk shows... On MSNBC, Rachel Maddow would be snarling; Chris Matthews would be weeping. Instead, she's a Democrat, and the media attention is minimal. And come May 28, she could be the Democratic candidate for Senate running on a platform of impeachment and Obamacare repeal. Now that she's forced a runoff against a wealthy, well-endorsed businessman, it's going to be tough for the mainstreamers at the New York Times and the non-Fox networks to keep ignoring her. This should be fun.") [55962, 55995, 56053]

In Connecticut, Republican Samuel Belsito wins a special election to represent the 53rd District—which the Democrats have held for 40 years. The major issue: the state's new gun control legislation, that makes felons out of tens of thousands of citizens. [55932, 55933]

On March 5 former IRS official Lois Lerner again appears before the House Oversight and Government Reform and again refuses to testify, invoking her Fifth Amendment privileges. To every question put to her Lerner responds, “On the advice of my counsel I respectfully exercise my fifth amendment right and decline to answer that question.” Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) says, “Ladies and gentlemen, seeking the truth is the duty of this committee and I see no point in moving forward. We’re adjourned, close it down.” (The adjournment angers Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD), not because he wanted to ask Lerner questions, but because he wanted the opportunity to make a long-winded public statement criticizing Issa and the committee for even doubting Obama’s claim that there was not a “smidgen” of corruption in the IRS—a claim clearly proven false by Lerner’s refusal to testify. Cummings’ outburst works, as the major news networks spend an inordinate amount of time on his confrontation with Issa, rather than the fact that Lerner is assisting in a cover-up of illegal actions.) Lerner—who also had a history of harassing conservative groups when she worked for the Federal Election Commission—could conceivably be held in contempt of Congress and jailed. Issa says, “That’s certainly something that has to be considered.” (Lerner cannot be forced to testify, but she can be held in contempt for not testifying. The threat of jail may perhaps be enough to persuade her to change her mind. DailyCaller.com notes, “If the full House of Representatives chooses to cite Lerner for contempt, the case would be referred to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia who would be obligated to send the case on to a grand jury. The House can also use the ‘inherent contempt’ process which would allow the House to conduct the case itself without a grand jury, though this process was last used in 1934.”) [55868, 55869, 55870, 55872, 55884, 55892, 55916, 55917, 55919, 55924, 55937, 55938, 55939, 55940, 55959, 55983, 55998, 56028, 56045]

The questions Issa asks and Lerner refuses to answer: “In October 2010, you told a Duke University group: ‘The Supreme Court dealt a huge blow, overturning a 100-year-old precedent that basically corporations couldn’t give directly to political campaigns. And everyone is up in arms because they don’t like it. The Federal Election Commission can’t do anything about it. They want the IRS to fix the problem.’ Who exactly wanted you to ‘fix the problem’ caused by Citizens United?” “In February 2011, you e-mailed your colleagues in the IRS: ‘Tea Party Matter very dangerous. This could be the vehicle to go to court on the issue of whether Citizens United overturning the ban on corporate spending applies to tax-exempt rules. Counsel and Judy Kindell need to be in on this one please. Cincy should probably NOT have these cases.’ Why did you think the Tea Party cases were ‘very dangerous?’” “In September 2010, you e-mailed your subordinates about initiating a ‘c4 project,’ but wrote: ‘we need to be cautious so it isn’t a per se political project.’ Why were you worried about this being perceived as a political project?” “Michael Seto, manager of EO Technical in Washington, testified that you ordered Tea Party cases to undergo a ‘multi-tier review.’ He testified: ‘She sent me email saying that when these cases need to go through multi-tier review and they will eventually have to go to Miss Kindell and the chief counsel’s office.’ Why did you order the Tea Party cases to undergo a ‘multi-tier review?’” “In June 2011, you requested that Holly Paz obtain a copy of the tax-exempt application filed by Crossroads GPS so that your senior technical advisor, Judy Kindell, could review it and summarize the issues for

you. Why did you want to have the Crossroads GPS application?” “In June 2012, you were part of an e-mail exchange that appeared to be about writing new regulations on political speech for 501(c)(4) groups ‘off-plan’ in 2013. What does ‘off-plan’ mean?” “In February 2014, ...Obama stated that there was not a ‘smidgeon of corruption’ in the IRS targeting. Ms. Lerner, do you believe that there is not a smidgeon of corruption in the IRS targeting of conservatives?” “On Saturday, our Committee’s General Counsel sent an e-mail to your lawyer stating: ‘I understand... that Ms. Lerner is willing [to] testify, and she is requesting a one week delay. In talking to the Chairman, wanted to make sure we had this right.’ Your lawyer gave a one word e-mail response: ‘yes.’ Are you still seeking this discussed delay?” [55941]

The mainstream media spins the Lerner story, focusing not on her refusal to testify but on Cummings’ confrontation with Issa. CBS uses the headline, “Issa Walks Out of IRS Scandal Hearing as Cummings Calls Proceedings Un-American.” (Cummings no doubt knew Lerner was not going to testify, and his outburst may have been planned as a way to draw the media focus away from her.) CNN’s Erin Burnett cooperates by eagerly asking Cummings, “Should Congressman Issa lose his chairmanship because of that?” [55924, 55998, 55999]

Rush Limbaugh remarks, “[W]hen I look at this Lois Lerner... I see somebody who is miserable, mean, vindictive, unhappy, and vengeful. The woman just encapsulates all of that just in her facial expression. This is the woman who led the IRS effort to essentially disenfranchise the Tea Party. This is the woman at the IRS who was responsible for all of the decision-making, aside from Obama. I mean, I don’t want to leave him out of this because he’s the inspiration for these people. He’s the guy all of these people, the Lois Lerner of the administration, are trying to impress. Obama is the guy they are all trying to please. They are in these positions because Obama or his people put them there because they’re not gonna need a memo of instructions; they’re already going to know what to do. Obama doesn’t need to send his people at the IRS an instructional memo, i.e., a smoking gun memo on giving the Tea Party a tough time. They already are inclined to do it on their own. It’s who they are. That’s why they’re there. And I say that because, again, when this happened people said, ‘Does Obama know? Does Obama know?’ Obama is the guy who inspires this. This is the woman who saw to it that all of these applications from the Tea Party for tax-exempt status were delayed or denied. This is the woman who led the effort at the IRS to target Tea Party individuals and organizations because 2010’s not gonna happen again. ‘We’re not gonna have that again. The Democrats are not gonna get shellacked like that again. We are gonna do everything we can when we’re in charge. When we run the government, we are gonna use it to punish our opponents.’ That’s what it’s for, in their view. The government is a weapon; the government is an anvil. We conservatives do not look at it that way, of course, and that’s why this is so reprehensible.” [55937]

Rt.com reports, “The leader of the Ukrainian radical group, Pravy Sektor (Right Sector), Dmitry Yarosh, has been put on an international wanted list and charged with inciting terrorism, after asking Doku Umarov to attack Russia. ‘The investigators believe that Yarosh has been publicly calling upon anti-Russian forces for extreme actions and terror

on the territory of Russia,' said Vladimir Markin, the spokesman for Russia's Investigative Committee. In the near future, Russian investigators are going to demand Yarosh's arrest, he added." [56002]

Israeli's navy intercepts a ship smuggling long-range rockets to terrorists in Gaza. According to JPost.com, "The ship's crew is in Israeli custody, and the navy is towing the vessel to Eilat, where it is expected to arrive in the coming days. The rockets originated in Syria, according to Military Intelligence assessments. Iran reportedly flew the rockets from Syria to an Iranian airfield, trucked them to the seaport of Bander Abbas, and shipped them to Iraq, where they were hidden in cement sacks. The ship then set sail for Port Sudan, near the Sudanese-Eritrean border, on a journey that was expected to last some 10 days. Had the shipment not been intercepted, the rockets could have been unloaded at Port Sudan and taken overland, through Egypt into Sinai, and through smuggling tunnels into the Gaza Strip. 'This is the same known land route that the Iranians have been using to smuggle arms to Gaza,' Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said." [56116, 56117]

In a defeat for the White House, the Senate votes *not* to confirm Obama's contemptible and controversial nominee for assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's civil-rights division, cop-killer advocate Debo Adebile. Despite his previous efforts to rig the process by eliminating the 60-vote requirement, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) fails to get even a simple majority of 51 votes for the attorney who helped cold-blooded murderer Mumia Abu-Jamal escape the death penalty. The vote is 52–47 against confirmation. Among the Democrats Senators who vote *for* Adebile are several who face tough reelection battles: Kay Hagan (D-NC), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Mark Begich (D-AK), Mark Warner (D-VA), AL Franken (D-MN), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Jeff Merkley (D-OR). Mark Pryor (D-AR), whose job is also at risk, votes with the Republicans and six other Democrats in opposing Adebile. (Expecting a close vote, Vice President Joe Biden was on hand to cast a vote in the event of a tie. Whether Obama will sneak Adebile into the position via a "recess appointment," bypassing Senate approval, remains to be seen.) The NAACP's Hilary Shelton suggests the vote against Adebile was racist: "You hate to raise that up, but it smells very bad." (According to Shelton, Democrat Senators Chris Coons (DE), Bob Casey (PA), Joe Donnelly (IN), Heidi Heitkamp (ND), Joe Manchin (WV), John Walsh (MT), and Mark Pryor (AR) are racists.) [55873, 55874, 55881, 55885, 55887, 55891, 55958, 55982, 56080, 56190]

According to WashingtonPost.com, "A senior aide to one of the senators who voted against the pick said several offices were 'very angry' with the White House for moving ahead with the Adebile nomination even though they knew it created an unnecessarily uncomfortable and politically treacherous vote for several vulnerable Democrats in tough reelection races this year. 'It's a vote you didn't have to take. It's a 30-second ad that writes itself,' said the aide, who asked for anonymity in order to speak frankly." Pamela Geller writes, "The fact that Obama chose Debo Adebile for this post in the first place shows how much of a subversive hater of American values the egotist in the White House really is. Mumia Abu-Jamal murdered a policeman in cold blood. He has been a cause celebre among the left, and they have tried numerous times to get him freed, but he is still

in prison because the evidence is so overwhelming that he is guilty. And Obama wanted an advocate for this murderer to be head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. It shows how much he values our nation's police officers." The political left's defense and even glorification of Abu-Jamal is astounding. In Oakland, California, a lesson plan on the school district's web site asks students to "critically examine a possible parallel" between civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. and "someone else many believe is currently targeted by the U.S. government, Mumia Abu-Jamal." Some might hope that at least a few students handle the assignment with the response, "King never murdered a police officer in cold blood.") [55949, 55950, 57508]

Some might wonder why Hagan and Landrieu would further tighten the nooses around their electoral necks by voting for Adebile when they know full well that will anger a majority of their constituents. RedState.com suggests they have already "called it quits." That is, they know they will lose their Senate seats in the November elections, but with their Senate votes they can "curry favor" with Obama" and perhaps be rewarded with jobs in the administration in 2015. (In an Elon University poll, Hagan's approval rating is a dismal 33 percent. Obama is at 39 percent in the same poll. Only 30 percent of those surveyed believe ObamaCare will "make things better.") [55897, 55898, 56027]

Obama—firmly in lame duck status—responds to the rejection of his nominee: "The Senate's failure to confirm Debo Adebile to lead the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice is a travesty based on wildly unfair character attacks against a good and qualified public servant. Mr. Adebile's qualifications are impeccable. He represents the best of the legal profession, with wide-ranging experience, and the deep respect of those with whom he has worked. His unwavering dedication to protecting every American's civil and Constitutional rights under the law—including voting rights—could not be more important right now. And Mr. Adebile's personal story—rising from adversity to become someone who President Bush's Solicitor General referred to as one of the nation's most capable litigators—is a story that proves what America has been and can be for people who work hard and play by the rules. As a lawyer, Mr. Adebile has played by the rules. And now, Washington politics have used the rules against him. The fact that his nomination was defeated solely based on his legal representation of a defendant runs contrary to a fundamental principle of our system of justice—and those who voted against his nomination denied the American people an outstanding public servant." (The issue is not whether Adebile is a "capable litigator." The issue is his judgment. Under the Constitution, cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jabal was entitled to legal representation, but that did not mean Adebile had to volunteer for the job, defame the police officer he murdered, or work to not only defend the killer but help make him appear to be a "victim" of a racist white society. A "victim" does not shoot a police officer and, after he is on the ground, fire additional bullets into his face. That Obama even considered Adebile for the position reveals more about Obama than Adebile.) Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police political director Richard Costello says, "If ...Obama thinks that voting your conscience is a travesty, then I submit that the true travesty is sitting in the White House." [55886, 55891, 55923, 55987, 56007]

It is worth noting that the person Adebile would have replaced had he been confirmed is Jocelyn Samuels, the acting assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. CNSNews.com reports that Samuels believes "the 'next generation' of civil rights challenges includes addressing racial disparities in school discipline; defending the rights of LGBT Americans; combating discrimination in housing and in lending; protecting women from sexual assault and harassment; ensuring the fair treatment of youth in the juvenile justice system; and defending the right to vote in the 21st Century." (That is, Samuels believes "compared to blacks and Hispanics, not enough white students are being disciplined in schools; lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transsexuals need special protections under the law, banks are not approving mortgages for people who cannot afford to pay them, and requiring photo ID for voting is unfair." Samuels may not have defended a cop-killer, but she has the same political ideology as Adebile.) [55988]

Meanwhile, author Jack Cashill notes at WND.com that on March 4 "cop killer and former Black Panther leader Marshall 'Eddie' Conway was sprung from a Maryland prison, and the NAACP greeted his release as though he were Nelson Mandela. As the son of a cop, the nephew of a cop, the cousin of four other cops, I wish I were overstating how indifferent liberal activists were to the murder of then 35-year-old Donald Sager. The Baltimore Sun suggests I am not: 'The Baltimore branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and others hailed [Conway's] release, calling it a 'monumental day' and 'an important page turner in this tragic story.' Conway insisted, of course, that he was innocent and that he had been set up because he was a Black Panther. This was a leftist cliché as old as Sacco and Vanzetti, but for racial and ideological reasons, the NAACP chose to accept it. Conway's celebrity 'innocence' mirrors that of cab driver revolutionary Mumia Abu-Jamal who murdered police officer Danny Faulkner in Philadelphia in 1981.'" [55957]

Obama campaigns for an increase in the minimum wage in Connecticut—and then attends an evening fundraiser. [55893]

TheArabDailyNews.com reports, "The White House has launched a new outreach initiative targeting American Arabs and Muslims hoping to nudge the normally low-profile mainstream American Arabs to a higher level of social engagement and involvement. The outreach is being headed by Rumana Ahmed of the White Office of Public Engagement." Ahmed reports to Obama's closest advisor, Iranian-born Valerie Jarrett. (Pamela Geller writes, "Obama is really losing it. He is *expanding* outreach to Muslims? After telling NASA's chief to direct his efforts to making Muslims feel good about Muslim contributions to science? After going to Cairo and making his notorious 'outreach' speech on June 4, 2009, and since then indefatigably supporting every pro-Sharia Islamic supremacist uprising and regime? After putting his DoJ to work forcing non-Muslim businesses and educational institutions to comply with Sharia? What else could he possibly do now to expand outreach?") [56054, 56055]

The House votes 250–160 to delay ObamaCare's individual mandate tax penalty—by defining the penalty as \$0.00 for calendar year 2014. TheHill.com notes, "Most of the 27



Democrats voting for the bill are seen as vulnerable in the November elections, and one of them, Rep. Gary Peters [D-MI], is running for the Senate this year. ...The bill is not expected to be taken up in the Senate, but Republicans hope it can bolster their case for taking the Senate in this fall's midterm elections. The party wants to make the elections as much as possible about the problems of ObamaCare, and is hoping to exploit Democratic division on the issue." Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI) states, "The American people have paid over and over for this healthcare law. They've paid higher premiums and they've paid by having their hours cutback and their paychecks decreased. The last thing this law should do is penalize Americans for being unable to purchase a plan on HealthCare.gov either because of multiple web failures or that they were unable to find an affordable plan." Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (R-KS) comments, "[Obama] has now acted unilaterally on two separate occasions to give big businesses relief from this tax burden. However, he has not leveled the playing field for the millions of individuals and families who are forced to comply with the individual mandate tax." All of Obama's changes to the rules have "led to confusion, frustration and ultimately difficulty in complying with the law." Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) complains, "Don't we have anything else to do?" [55961, 55967, 55989]

Politico reports, "People whose health plans were supposed to be canceled this year may now get to keep them deep into 2017, according to another Obamacare policy change announced Wednesday by the administration. That would avoid an outcry over plan cancellations before the November midterm elections. It extends a policy the administration announced last November to let people remain on health plans that would otherwise have been eliminated because they fall short of Obamacare coverage standards. Extension is voluntary for states and insurers so the impact is unclear." (The move not only helps Democrats in November 2014, it will also help them in November 2016—because Obama will no doubt extend the deadline again to help Democrat incumbents and Hillary Clinton. Of course, insurance companies and state insurance commissioners are under no obligation to go along with the scheme.) [55929, 55942]

HotAir.com observes that "extending un-canceled plans *hurts ObamaCare financially*. There's no way that Obama would do this without a pressing political reason; ...the whole point of making insurers cancel plans in the first place was to force healthy middle-class suckers into more expensive 'comprehensive' plans so that their premiums could be redistributed to people with preexisting conditions. Allowing those suckers to stay on their old, cheaper pre-ObamaCare plans means that insurers will have to rely on less revenue than they thought, which means Uncle Sam will be under even more pressure to use the 'risk corridor' mechanism as a bailout mechanism to cover unanticipated losses. Healthy people will stick with their old plans, sick people will stick with their new ObamaCare plans (replete with guaranteed issue and community rating), and insurers will tear their hair out wondering how to pay for it without billions of dollars from HHS to help. Quite simply, Obama was forced to choose between doing something that would help his party at the ballot box but hurt his signature health-care law and doing something that would help stabilize the law financially at the risk of generating a nasty backlash to his party from consumers with cancellations. He made the political choice. Which is *exactly what O's critics feared would happen* as government insinuated itself

further into the health-care industry via O-Care. Decisions on health-care policy are now a species of politics. You're welcome, America." [55909]

Although a number of Republicans candidates arguably shot themselves in the foot in the 2012 campaign season, some Democrats are taking up the challenge in 2014. Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR) criticizes his GOP opponent, Tom Cotton, who served in the U.S. military, telling NBC, "There's [sic; there are] a lot of people in the Senate that [sic; who] didn't serve in the military. Obviously in the Senate we have all types of different people, all kinds of different folks that have come from all types of different backgrounds—and I think that's part of that sense of entitlement that he [Cotton] gives off is that, almost like, 'I served my country, let me into the Senate. But that's not how it works in Arkansas.'" HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey asks, "No? How *does* it work in Arkansas? Apparently, having your daddy be Governor and Senator first is a much more legitimate platform for entitlement." (Pryor's father was both of governor of Arkansas and a senator.) [55910, 55925]

Algemeiner.com writes, "...Obama's recent statements on the current state of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority have sabotaged U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's efforts to iron out a framework agreement between the two sides, Israeli daily *Ma'ariv* reported on Wednesday citing high level sources. Specifically, aides to the Secretary of State referenced Obama's interview with *Bloomberg View* columnist Jeffrey Goldberg, published just hours before [Obama] was to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, *Ma'ariv* said. ...According to one of *Ma'ariv's* sources, 'The interview, which was held without Kerry's prior knowledge, was a harsh personal attack against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and has undermined his [Kerry's] best efforts.' A second source told *Ma'ariv* that, 'Kerry's greatest fear is that the interview will cause both Netanyahu and the Israeli public to lose faith in the [U.S.] government.'" [55915]

Attorney Dr. Orly Taitz—famous for fighting Obama with lawsuits challenging his eligibility to serve in the White House—writes, "Just a couple of days ago Obama threatened sanctions against Russia. I remember watching Fox [News Channel], where [Bill] O'Reilly and analyst [Marc] Thiessen and military analyst Ollie North ... were saying that US should revoke visas, freeze bank accounts and also freeze Putin's bank [account] in Switzerland. While I have respect for North for his military service, I was shaking my head. Are these people for real? First, I don't know if Putin has a Swiss bank account, but assuming he does, Switzerland is not known as a nation which just opens its bank accounts. But, moreover, what did Ollie North and O'Reilly think? Do they think that Putin will just put all his money in a bank account under the name Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin? Really? I predicted that Putin will respond to the threats by confiscating the property of American companies in Russia. The damage will be significant, as it will affect many S&P 500 and NASDAQ companies, which opened shop in Russian and its satellites. My further prediction, is that China might follow suit and will do the same with ease." [55928]

“...I also expect a Crimean referendum to happen very soon, within days. I expect other ‘oblasti,’ other autonomous regions to the East of Dnepr river to follow Crimean parliament. I also believe that Putin will move further soon. He will be armed with the official request of [Ukrainian President Viktor] Yanukovich, as well as Prime ministers of Eastern regions asking Russia to intervene and to stop [the] CIA-NSA-instigated coup in Kiev and remove the new Prime Minister, who was appointed under the gun of neo-NAZI Banderovzi and Muslim Tatars, which were armed by the CIA. Putin also knows that he has a very short window of opportunity, as [the] May election in Kiev is expected to be heavily rigged and probably conducted with the same rigged voting machines and ballot counting scanner, which placed Indonesian-Kenya usurper with bogus IDs in the White House. Putin knows that he can’t wait for this sham election, which will give legitimacy to the new coup. I believe that Putin will advance west towards Kiev, before the emergency May election. It is possible that Putin with [Edward] Snowden’s help will reveal all of the evidence in his possession about Obama’s bogus IDs. He will use it as an ace to show that no decisions, no executive orders by Obama are valid or legitimate. I am totally frustrated by the myopic and outright feebleminded moves of our government.” (Note that Taitz is a naturalized U.S. citizen. She emigrated from Moldavia to Israel in 1981, and to the United States in 1987.) [55928]

Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings fall to 38/54 percent in a Fox News poll. On the issue of foreign policy, his ratings are 33/56. [55930, 55991]

A *Washington Post* poll shows that 60 percent of Republicans and 63 percent of conservatives would be “less likely” to vote for a candidate who *supports* amnesty for illegal immigrants. Not surprisingly, the opposite is true of Hispanic voters, with 61 percent saying they would be “less likely” to vote for a candidate who *opposes* amnesty. (Some establishment Republicans believe they should support amnesty in order to gain Hispanic votes. But most Hispanics would likely vote for Democrat candidates anyway, and a pro-amnesty vote would simply cause Republican candidates to lose non-Hispanic votes.) [55964]

DailyCaller.com reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin is among the 278 candidates nominated for the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize. Other candidates include NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, Pope Francis. (Secretary of State John Kerry is almost certainly peeved.) [55965, 55966]

PersonalLiberty.com reports, “A leaked telephone conversation reveals that the snipers who shot at protesters and police in Kiev leading to charges of criminality against the deposed Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich were hired by U.S.-backed opposition leaders. The telephone call between Estonia Foreign Minister Urmas Paet and EU [European Union] Foreign Affairs Chief Catherine Ashton was allegedly hacked by agents of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) loyal to Yanukovich and uploaded to the Internet. Paet has confirmed the call is authentic. The U.S. propaganda media blamed the violence, which resulted in at least 94 deaths and 900 injuries, on Yanukovich. It served to incite U.S. opinion against the Russia-backed Yanukovich, who was forced to flee to Russia and has been charged with numerous crimes. But Paet learned from a

doctor the injuries being treated were made by the same weapons. ‘There is now stronger and stronger understanding that behind the snipers, it was not Yanukovych, but it was somebody from the new coalition,’ said Paet. In early February, senior U.S. State Department official Victoria Nuland was caught selecting the puppet Ukrainian opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk. According to Nuland, the U.S. has reportedly sunk \$5 billion in the opposition in order to agitate for admittance to the EU.” (The German news media claims that the recording is not authentic, but Estonia’s Foreign Ministry claims it is.) [55931, 55951, 55997, 56003, 56755]

At TheBlaze.com Wayne Allyn Root (a former Columbia University student who attended the school at the same time as Obama and had the same major yet says he and his fellow classmates never saw Obama in any classes or ever heard of him until he entered politics) writes, “[T]he media and Republicans in Congress are missing the larger picture. They keep thinking this scandal involves nameless, faceless Tea Party groups. That’s only the tip of the iceberg. That’s what Obama hopes we all think. This ‘IRS targeted the Tea Party’ [theme] is the distraction to make us miss the real scandal. Congress needs to expand this investigation. The real scandal is that this was a widespread criminal conspiracy by the Obama White House to use the IRS to target, persecute, intimidate and silence Obama’s critics and political opposition. ...Congress needs to ask Lois Lerner and other IRS officials about the targeting of individual critics of Obama... good Americans with names and faces and families... who they tried to destroy and intimidate... people like me. That story will resonate with the American people. That story leads to the impeachment of [Obama]. ...Tea Parties are just one part of this widespread conspiracy. I was personally targeted along with many others including Dr. Benjamin Carson; former GOP Senate candidate Christine O’Donnell; a stage 4 terminal cancer victim (after appearing on Fox News); conservative filmmakers like Jerry Mullen (Dinesh D’Souza’s partner) and Joel Gilbert; Christian minister Billy Graham; Catherine Engelbrecht, who was targeted over 15 times by the IRS and other government agencies after founding her Tea Party; and numerous prominent GOP donors. The list goes on and on. There is a clear pattern of a criminal conspiracy here – this was an organized crime conspiracy that would make Al Capone and the Gambino Crime Family proud. The only question is can Obama be connected? If he can, this becomes the biggest scandal in modern U.S. political history.” [55955]

Root has been repeatedly harassed by the IRS, even after he defeated the agency in court. He reports, “Since then Judicial Watch, the leading government watchdog organization in the country, jumped on board. Judicial Watch agreed my case looked suspiciously like a classic case of IRS persecution and intimidation ordered by highest levels of government. They partnered with me to find out the truth—including whether the IRS trail leads directly to the Obama White House. Judicial Watch requested all files, records, correspondence, phone calls, etc relating to my case on Aug. 7, 2013, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). By law the IRS had 30 days to comply. That was more than six months ago. It’s been over half a year of silence. The IRS is refusing to cooperate with... *the law of the United States of America*. Why would the IRS risk breaking the law rather than releasing my files? Something smells rotten in D.C. ...After all that, I don’t place the blame on the IRS. Obama has used them as scapegoats. He

threw the IRS under the bus. He blamed ‘rogue agents’ out of the Cincinnati office. He’s lying through his teeth. My case involved the Las Vegas office of the IRS. And there are no ‘rogue agents.’ Most government employees are good people. Career bureaucrats would never risk their pensions to harass or persecute taxpayers without orders from above. The IRS employees who handled my appeals in California and at Tax Court were honest, fair, and professional. I have nothing but good things to say about them. The other IRS agents that tried to destroy me were undoubtedly ordered to do so. I’m sure they felt that their careers were at risk if they didn’t follow orders from the top levels of government. The buck stops with the Obama White House. They had all the power and the motive. That’s where the criminal act occurred. I believe the Obama White House not only directed this widespread witch-hunt...not just of me... but of hundreds of other critics of [Obama] and major GOP donors. Then when the Obama White House got caught in a criminal conspiracy, they tried to distract the media with the Tea Party story... and blame ‘the little guys’ at the IRS [office in Cincinnati]. Suddenly lower level employees just following orders were ‘rogue agents.’ How low can you go? The IRS was used by Obama and then thrown under the bus. These agents are victims too of an out of control tyrant [in the White House]. Watergate proved even the president isn’t above the law. This IRS scandal may yet prove Obama isn’t too big to jail.” [55955]

At WND.com F. Michael Maloof points out that “Russian troop movements on the Crimean Peninsula are permitted under a 1997 Partition Treaty signed between Russia and Ukraine, as long as there are not more than 25,000 Russian troops. At present, the Russians have about 16,000 troops on the peninsula, which means a further increase of troops would be permitted. The Kremlin contends the move is to protect ethnic Russians who make up a majority of the population on the peninsula and in eastern Ukraine. Moscow asserts that ethnic Russians, especially in the Crimea, are being threatened by ultra-nationalists, as WND recently reported. Meantime, there is concern on Capitol Hill that Russian troop movements were not anticipated by the U.S. intelligence community, resulting in impending oversight hearings to find out why. According to House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers [R-MI], there was debate within the intelligence community about whether Russian troops were on the move in Crimea, prompting public allegations that the Obama administration was caught by surprise.” [55956]

BuzzFeed.com reports, “Contract negotiations are stalled for thousands of workers at casinos on the Strip and in downtown Las Vegas to the point where they may go on strike—and the sticking point is Obamacare. On Feb. 20, thousands of housekeepers, porters, cooks, cocktail servers, and others represented by Nevada’s largest union, the Culinary Union Local 226, voted to end a contract extension the workers agreed to last summer. The union wants to maintain its current benefits—including health care coverage at no cost to workers, pensions, and guaranteed 40-hour workweeks. Rising health care costs due to provisions in the Affordable Care Act could put those benefits in jeopardy, the union says. ‘The biggest hurdle to reaching settlements in Vegas is the new costs imposed on our health plan by Obamacare,’ Donald ‘D’ Taylor, president of Unite Here, the parent union of CU Local 226, told BuzzFeed in a statement. ‘Even though [Obama] and Congress promised we could keep our health plan, the reality is, unless the

law is fixed, that won't be true.' On March 20, workers will have the opportunity to decide whether or not they would want to walk off the job at several hotels, including the Stratosphere, the Riviera, and the Plaza. ...Taylor has been outspoken about his displeasure with ...Obama's signature health care law for some time, going as far as meeting with one of his top critics, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell [R-KY], earlier this year. This is a far cry from how most union leaders have handled their Obamacare grievances—often toeing the line between admitting the law needs changes and actually criticizing the administration. 'You can't just order people to do stuff,' Taylor told the *Washington Post* in January. 'If their health plan gets wrecked, why would they then go campaign for the folks responsible for wrecking their health care?'" [56014]

ABC and CBS neglect to report that Congressman Alan Grayson (D-FL) has been accused of domestic abuse by his estranged wife and a judge has granted a temporary protective injunction against him. (Grayson, who continues to accuse the Republican Party of a "war against women," has been endorsed by the National Organization of Women.) [55984, 55985, 55986]

On March 6 *Good Morning America* broadcasts what it calls a "revealing, one-on-one conversation" with Michelle Obama. (The claim is half-right; it is one-on-one.) During the interview with ABC's Robin Roberts, at a Black Entertainment Television conference, Mrs. Obama's is asked, "How are the girls?" "Malia is about to drive. ...Are you all right with that?" "But the Obamas haven't done it alone [raise their children], heartened by the support of so many others." [56000]

An Iranian-born student at Georgia Tech, Saamer Akhshabi, dies from burns suffered in a February 6 explosion in his apartment—where he was making Molotov cocktails. According to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, "Investigators determined that Akhshabi was not a threat to the Georgia Tech community... But no information was released regarding why Akhshabi had the explosive materials." Zvi Galil, dean of the college of computing, states, "Our faculty and students visited him regularly, often staying for hours at a time. This was an excellent, promising student, and all of us in the college deeply mourn him." [56401]

Obama tells reporters, "I am confident that we are moving forward together, united in our determination to oppose actions that violate international law and to support the government and people of Ukraine. ...In 2014, we are well beyond the days when borders can be redrawn over the heads of democratic leaders. ...The proposed referendum on the future of Crimea would violate the Ukrainian constitution and violate international law." (On February 28 Obama said the future of Ukraine "must be determined by the Ukrainian people." He may have a difficult time arguing against the results of a May referendum in Crimea if its citizens vote to reunite with Russia. If Ukrainians should be allowed to determine their own future, why cannot the Crimeans? For that matter, if Crimea can vote to reunite with Russia, why cannot Texas or Alaska vote to secede from the United States of America if that is what its citizens desire? By having a referendum in Crimea, Vladimir Putin is arguably defusing Obama's argument.

Self determination can hardly be applicable to only *some* people in *some* nations.) “Any discussion about the future of Ukraine must include the legitimate government of Ukraine. ...I want to be clear that there is also a way to resolve this crisis that respects the interests of the Russian Federation as well as the Ukrainian people: Let international monitors into all of Ukraine, including Crimea, to ensure the rights of all Ukrainians are being respected, including ethnic Russians. That’s the path to de-escalation.” (Obama does not state whether he will stop telling Israel how to redraw its borders.) Obama’s “framework of sanctions” against Russia will include revocation of travel visas for some Russian officials. (Whether a diplomat’s wife not being able to shop in New York City will persuade Vladimir Putin to give up Crimea remains to be seen.) [55670, 55671, 55681, 55689, 55692, 55695, 55711, 55722, 55723, 55735, 55960]

After planes carrying an estimated 2,000 Russian troops land in the Crimea, Ukraine, and capture airports, Obama issues a statement: “The Ukrainian people deserve the opportunity to pursue their own country. We are now deeply concerned by reports of military movements taken by the Russian Federation inside Ukraine. ...Any violation of Ukrainian sovereignty would be deeply destabilizing to the region. ...It would represent a profound interference in matters that must be determined by the Ukrainian people. ...The United States will stand with the international community in confirming their will be costs for military intervention in Ukraine. [Obama does not elaborate on what those costs might be.] In this difficult moment, the United States stands in support of his [Ukrainian Prime Minister Aresniy Yatsenyuk’s] efforts. Human beings have a universal right to determine their own future. I commend the Ukraine for its restraint.” Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich writes, “Fox News’ Jennifer Griffith has reported eye witnesses on the ground in Crimea describe the atmosphere as ‘increasingly militarized.’ The troop movement comes a week after former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted. Half of the country wants to join the European Union and the other half is sympathetic to the former Soviet Union, as is Putin. ...Apparently the Obama administration isn’t calling thousands of troops landing on the ground in Crimea an ‘invasion,’ but rather an ‘uncontested arrival.’” [55670, 55671, 55681, 55689, 55692, 55695, 55711, 55722, 55723, 55735]

Obama signs an executive order calling the Crimea/Ukraine crisis an “unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security” of the United States and declaring a “national emergency”—thereby giving himself the power to impose visa restrictions and impose sanctions. (Obama does not explain *why* the situation is a threat to the national security.) According to DCClothesline.com, “The executive order suspends ‘entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants [sic; non-immigrants], of such persons’ who fulfil [sic; fulfill] the following criteria; ‘[A]ny person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State: (i) to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following: (A) actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions in Ukraine.’ As CNS News’ Craig Bannister notes, this would effectively ban entry for anyone deemed to be a ‘Russian sympathizer,’ or anyone who has expressed a view similar to Moscow, which was that the Kiev uprising was a violent coup d’état and not a democratic uprising, since that could easily be characterized as an indirect action or policy which undermines

Ukraine's post-coup government. By extrapolation, this would mean anyone who has drawn attention to the mountain of evidence that the Kiev protest groups were funded by the U.S. State Department in concert with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US government-backed National Endowment for Democracy.” [55992, 56101, 56106, 56110, 56402]

“It would also ensnare anyone who has highlighted the leaked phone call in which US Assistant Secretary of State for Europe Victoria Nuland was caught red handed plotting with top diplomat Geoffrey Pyatt to pick Ukraine's future puppet leaders. Nuland specifically approved Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who later became Prime Minister after the coup. The executive order could also target critics of the fact that both Nuland and [Senator] John McCain [D-AZ] met with the leader of the neo-nazi affiliated Svoboda Party before the election, an organization that was subsequently handed three top positions within the newly formed Ukrainian government despite its clear links to fascism and anti-Semitism. The irony of Washington targeting anyone who took actions to ‘undermine democratic processes or institutions in Ukraine’ is painful given that the Kiev revolt led directly to the overthrow of a democratically elected government. The broad language of the executive order is also a chilling move towards discriminating against people for their political opinions. Obama is seemingly intent on mirroring the United Kingdom, where people like radio host Michael Savage are banned from entering the country and labeled “extremists” for daring to dissent from political correctness.” Remarkably, Obama's executive order allows the U.S. government to seize the property of U.S. citizens the Secretary of the Treasury deems to be in violation of the order. At LewRockwell.com Daniel McAdams writes, “The Executive Order is, as usual, so broadly written that it leaves nearly everything open to interpretation. For example, what are ‘direct or indirect... actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine?’ Could that be someone writing an article that takes issue with the US policy that the Crimea referendum is illegal and illegitimate? Could it be standing up in a public meeting and expressing the view that Ukraine would be better off with nationwide referenda to determine whether other regions should become autonomous or joined to neighboring countries? What if a Polish-American appears on a radio or television program suggesting that parts of Poland incorporated into Ukraine after WWII should be returned to Polish authority? Probably [Obama] will not seize the assets of Americans in the scenarios above. But he says he can.” [55992, 56101, 56106, 56110, 56402]

By a vote of 385–23 the House of Representatives approves loan guarantees for the government of Ukraine. (Where the money will come from is not explained, but it can be assumed the United States will borrow money from China to then lend to Ukraine—and U.S. taxpayers will pay interest on the debt in perpetuity. The Obama administration also discusses assistance for Ukraine from the International Monetary Fund—which is funded largely by the United States.)

White House press secretary Jay Carney, asked if Obama regrets ridiculing Mitt Romney over his prescient “Russia is the greatest geopolitical threat” statement, responds, “No, because, uh, again, this—you have a situation where Russia is, uh, violating international



law because a country that Moscow—a government that Moscow, ah, supported was rejected by the vast majority of the Ukrainian people, uh, and, uh, because they wanted to determine their own future, because they wanted to be able to make the decision as to their inter, integration with Europe. They didn't want to be dictated to by, uh, an outside state or an outside authority. I think it's hardly a demonstration of, uh—it's not a positive thing for Russia, uh, that Ukraine has been moving in this direction. Our whole point is it doesn't have to be a negative thing. It is a mistake, certainly, in the long run for Russia not to accept the fact that Ukraine can, and the Ukrainian people should be able to decide for themselves in a democratic manner how, how they will, uh, integrate with Europe, and that doing so does not mean they cannot maintain their long, historical and cultural ties, and economic ties, to Russia.” (In other words, “Russia is only a threatening geopolitical foe if its actions are logical. If it acts irrationally it is not a geopolitical foe.” Why that would not make Russia *more* dangerous is not made clear by Carney.) [55971, 56071]

At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen tries to interpret Carney's bizarre statement: “Now, I can almost kinda'-sorta' imagine where Carney was trying to take that bloviating response—i.e., Russia is currently acting out of geopolitical weakness rather than strength—but I certainly don't buy that as an excuse for being so flippant with Romney. Soviet strongman with a plan or desperate empire-chasing quibbler, that doesn't make Putin's actions, as the Obama administration so *commandingly* put it, any less of a 19th century-style 'act of aggression' in violation of modern, civilized, international norms or whatever. As Romney argued during the 2012 campaign, Russia is indeed our number one *geopolitical* foe: No matter how lately diminished their influence, they are still constantly opposing us at the United Nations and acting generally supportive of the world's worst actors. Obama tried to nail him with a terrorist organization that he himself had argued was 'on the run' and with an oh-so-enlightened 'pivot to Asia' foreign policy that he has miraculously failed to execute. And Obama's not feeling just the *tiniest* bit sheepish about that little episode? Really?” [55971, 56071]

According to a study by McKinsey & Co., only about 10 percent of ObamaCare enrollees had been without insurance. The statistic comes from an independent survey because the Obama administration is *not bothering to collect that information*—even though the whole point of the Affordable Care Act was supposedly to get uninsured people insured. (The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Gary Cohen states, “That's not a data point we are really collecting in any sort of systematic way.”) In addition, only about one-half of the previously uninsured enrollees have actually paid premiums. (Until they do, they are of course not covered.) HotAir.com: “So the number of uninsured who've signed up and who'll retain their coverage going forward is more like five percent. As for the other five percent, who signed up but then didn't pay, you tell me: How likely is it that those people will come back into the fold after going through the headache of obtaining a new policy and then seeing it quickly canceled for nonpayment?” The survey also shows that, in December, 42 percent of those who went to Healthcare.gov but chose not to enroll made that decision because they “could not afford to pay the premium.” In January and February the percentages were 42 and 50 percent, respectively. [55972, 55973, 56019]

Meanwhile, in an interview on the Spanish language networks Telemundo and Univision, Obama says, “I am absolutely confident that you will see millions of people benefiting from this law. It doesn’t mean that at some point there won’t be some additional problems or improvements that we can make. ... You know, at, at, th— at this, at, at, at, at this point, I think actually it is working the way it should. But I, what we need to do after the first year we’ll evaluate what the pool looks like. Can we make sure that we’re keeping the premiums low? Uh, are there more people that we could potentially cover through other mechanisms, reaching those, uh, who are still, uh, uh, still uninsured.” Obama is asked, “Will we hear from you a pledge, a personal promise, that the information provided in the [ObamaCare] registration process will not be used for deportation purposes in this country?” Obama replies, “Absolutely.” (Of course, illegal immigrants are *not* entitled to ObamaCare coverage so they should not be using Healthcare.gov in the first place.) [55974, 55990, 56034, 56096, 56245, 56259, 56287]

Obama adds, “It’s true that the undocumented [illegal immigrants] are not eligible [for ObamaCare], that’s how the law was written, but if you are a U.S. citizen or you have a legal presence in this country, you are eligible. And none of the information that is provided in order for you to obtain health insurance is in any way transferred to immigration services. So that’s something we’ve been very clear about. If you live in a mixed status family, then the son who could potentially be eligible for the children’s health insurance program or some other mechanism to get health insurance, he needs to be signed up. And the mother should not be fearful that in any way that’s going to affect—of course I understand the fear.” (In other words, the Obama administration makes it possible for illegal immigrants to enroll their U.S.-born children in Medicaid or subsidized ObamaCare plans without fear of deportation because Healthcare.gov will not share the address information with the Department of Homeland Security. ObamaCare, therefore, gives foreigners one more incentive to cross the border illegally.) Asked about a family that makes \$36,000 per year and simply cannot afford \$316 per month for health insurance, Obama responds, “I guess what I would say is, if you looked at that person’s budget, and you looked at their cable bill, their telephone, uh, their cell phone bill, uh, other things that they’re spending on [sic], it may turn out that, it’s just [that] they haven’t prioritized health care because right now everybody’s healthy. ... I guarantee that if that gentleman, who just wrote you that letter, uh, and I don’t know his particular circumstances, whether he has actually gotten all the information about the subsidies that might be available, but I guarantee you that even at \$300 a month if, heaven forbid, something happened to him or a family member where they got sick and really needed, let’s say, a week’s worth of hospitalization, he will wish he had paid that \$300 a month.” (TammyBruce.com notes that in September 2013 Obama said at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Phoenix Awards Dinner, “You can offer your family the security of health care ... for less than your cell phone bill. That’s what change looks like.” Bruce writes, “One day Obamacare is cheaper than a cell phone; the next day we’re told to give up cell phones to pay a small portion of the Obamacare bill. Riiight. This endless and utter disconnect between [Obama’s] words and the real world destroys the ideal of government integrity. How can the people believe in a government whose leaders won’t

(or can't) stop lying to them?") [55974, 55990, 56034, 56096, 56245, 56259, 56287, 56349]

Daniel Garza, Executive Director of The LIBRE Initiative, reacts to Obama's statement: "If the President actually believes that a family earning less than \$40,000 per year can afford nearly \$4,000 in health insurance premiums, then he truly does not understand middle-income families. Americans do not need [Obama] to tell them how to budget their households. People are already cutting back on things like cable television and cell phones, just to compensate for an awful economy. [Obama] promised he would deliver on affordable health care. Instead, premiums are up, out-of-pocket expenses are up, and overall cost of living is up. [Obama] simply doesn't get it. And his condescending attitude adds insult to injury." (Obama also ignores the fact that the lower-cost ObamaCare plans have high deductibles and out-of-pocket expense limits. A family that cannot afford \$300 per month for insurance can hardly afford to cover those large amounts that apply before the insurance "kicks in." The family not only needs \$300 per month for the insurance premiums, it also needs thousands of dollars for the deductibles and out-of-pocket limits.) For the record, the odds of finding an ObamaCare plan that costs less than cell phone coverage is close to zero—unless one has an horrendously expensive cell phone plan. DailyCaller.com notes, "The cheapest bronze plan on the D.C. health insurance exchange has a \$124.05 monthly premium—still almost 70 percent more expensive than the average wireless service bill." [56245, 56287, 56526]

Payroll processor ADP posts part three of its explanations of ObamaCare rules for employer determination of full-time status under ObamaCare guidelines. The "explanations" include text like this: "Under the proposed regulations, the stability period for a new variable hour or seasonal employee who does not average at least 30 hours of service per week during the initial measurement period could extend no longer than the end of the standard measurement period (plus any associated administrative period) in which the initial measurement period ends. The final regulations change this rule to provide generally that—for a variable hour employee or seasonal employee who does not average at least 30 hours of service per week during the initial measurement period—the maximum length for a stability period associated with the initial period is the end of the first full standard measurement period (plus any associated administrative period) during which the new employee was employed." (That statement is ADP's *explanation* of the ObamaCare rule, which is even more complicated to understand. If few Americans start businesses, ObamaCare is most certainly one of the reasons. The complexity of the rules is such that a business must hire attorneys and accountants just to ensure compliance with the Affordable Care Act—services most new businesses cannot afford.) [56009]

The Congressional Black Caucus demands that Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) be stripped of his chairmanship of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee—even though it was Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and not Issa who theatrically (and almost certainly intentionally) lost his temper after the Lois Lerner hearing was adjourned. (The caucus was conspicuously silent when, in May 2008, then-chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) violated committee rules and when Issa objected, said,

“I will have you physically removed from this meeting if you don’t stop.”) [56010, 56011, 56045]

At CanadaFreePress.com Judi McLeod writes, “It would be the irony of all time if the 71 percent of disenfranchised black African American youths trying to survive under ...Obama forced him out of office before his time is up. This is one group Obama cannot silence with the racist smear he levies against any who dare criticize his destructive policies. ...They see clearly through Obama’s Feb. 27th announced ‘My Brother’s Keeper’ initiative that they have been as blatantly Obama-ignored as Obama’s brother still living in abject poverty in a hut. They see clearly that Obama’s race war which only divides a not-so-long-ago thriving country has done absolutely nothing to help them. They know, too, that were it not for the mainstream media and its talking heads, Obama would never have gotten away with it. ...Racist rhetoric does nothing to find jobs, lift the dejected or to feed hungry bellies. In short, Obama is doing zero for the country’s ‘disappointed,’ ‘mad’ and ‘frustrated’ African American youth who on his watch go jobless, hungry and lost. It must be the most tragic fact of politics that Barack Obama gets to use his colour to remain untouchable while he spreads Marxist misery on the masses when a sizeable part of those masses entail a lost generation of African Americans. ...What Obama has done for Black America was aptly put by Rush Limbaugh on his radio show yesterday: ‘The black population is being aborted into further minority status with the assistance of Planned Parenthood.’” [56090, 56091]

Members of Parliament in Crimea vote to formally become part of the Russian Federation, and set a March 16 date for a national referendum. [55975, 55976, 55977]

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), chairman of the Democrat National Committee, comments on Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) being denied the right to speak on the record after Lois Lerner’s refusal to testify promoted chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) to adjourn the committee hearing: “In the last couple of weeks, in which we have been, on both sides of the aisle, standing up for the rights of the oppressed, trying to make sure that in Venezuela, that dictators there aren’t shutting down the opposition, the same thing in the Ukraine. At the same time, you have a chairman of the Government Oversight Committee literally electronically cutting off the mic[rophone] of the opposition to prevent him from having any say or participation in the hearing that was focused on an investigation that has been resolved and that they are purely... proving that what they are doing here is just trying to continue to politicize this issue.” Erika Johnsen responds at HotAir.com, “Honesty, I can see why the Democrats are irked with Issa’s brusqueness there, but the hearing *wasn’t gonna’ happen*, and if we’re really so concerned about governmental forces trying to ‘shut down the opposition’ on par with what’s happening in Ukraine and Venezuela, then what about showing a little concern for, oh, I don’t know—an administration using a government agency to stifle groups of a certain political stripe? A.k.a., the actual story from that hearing today?” [55978]

At the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton tells the audience, “Our biggest national security crisis is Barack Obama.” [55980]

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie also speaks at the conference, delivering a predictable address that prompts the mainstream media to call his “comeback.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes mainstream media leftists will intentionally promote Christie because they believe he could win the GOP nomination in 2016 and then lose to Hillary Clinton.) [56046]

Texas Governor Rick Perry delivers a strong and well-received speech at CPAC. He states, “It is time for Washington to focus on the few things the Constitution establishes as the federal government’s role. Defend our country, provide a cogent foreign policy, and what the heck, deliver the mail, preferably on time and on Saturdays. Get out of the healthcare business. Get out of the education business. Stop hammering industry. Wake the sleeping giant of American enterprise. ...Our place in the world is weakened. So I have a simple solution: It’s time for a little rebellion on the battlefield of ideas. We have demonstrated [in Texas] that no state can tax and spend its way to prosperity, but with the right policies, you can grow your way there.” [56017, 56039, 56070]

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal tells the audience, “We have long thought and said [Obama] is a smart man. It may be time to re-visit that assumption. Or at least make a distinction between being book smart and being truly wise. And so today, let it be heard and I hope he’s watching, to President Carter I want to offer a sincere apology. It is no longer fair to say he was the worst president of this great country in my lifetime. ...Who could be against giving [school] choices to parents? [Attorney General] Eric Holder and ...Obama, that’s who could be against giving parents choices. The Department of Justice has taken us to federal court to try to impede this program. Now, I want you to think about this. We’ve got Eric Holder and the Department of Justice trying to stand in the schoolhouse door to prevent minority kids, low-income kids, kids who haven’t had access to a great education the chance to go better schools. Over 90 percent of these kids are minority children. Over 100 percent of these kids are in low-income families who would otherwise go to C, D, or F schools. ...I think it is cynical, immoral, and hypocritical for the attorney general and [Obama] to deny these children the same choices and chances they would want for their own children. ...It’s especially cynical to try to use those same rules designed to protect these children to trap them in failing schools. But I’ve got a message for Eric Holder and I’ve got a message for [Obama]: We’re going to fight them every step of the way, even at the United States Supreme Court, to defend these children’s rights.” [56020, 56021]

At CPAC, filmmaker Dinesh D’Souza shows a trailer for his new movie, *America*. The movie examines what the world might be like had George Washington been killed during the War of Independence and the United States of America never come into being. D’Souza tells the audience, “We are at a moment in America when we are facing a crisis of leadership. How badly we need a Washington, a Lincoln or a Reagan. We don’t have them, but we do have us. ...We have America. What are we going to do to keep her? Let us resolve right here and right now that liberty is our choice.” *America*, like his earlier film, *2016: Obama’s America*, is certain to anger the White House. After the release of D’Souza’s first film, both he and his executive producer, Gerald Molen (*Schindler’s List*,

*Jurassic Park, Rain Man, Days of Thunder*, and others) were audited by the IRS, and felony charges have been brought against D'Souza for campaign contribution violations that typically result in only misdemeanor charges and a fine. (WND.com notes, "Republican Sens. Charles E. Grassley, Jeff Sessions, Ted Cruz and Mike Lee are among the lawmakers who have signed a letter to the FBI demanding details of the D'Souza investigation, saying it smacks of 'selective prosecution.' ...[Molen] characterized D'Souza's criminal indictment as a Soviet-style 'political prosecution.'") [56041]

Donald Trump tells the crowd of conservatives, "We have so many problems, and we have so little leadership. It's all about the leadership. ...The reason why they're [China] doing it [devaluing currency] is because our leadership is so weak and so pathetic that they can get away with it. Believe me, they're taking our jobs, and they're taking them, big league. You look at other countries. They're doing the same thing. They have no respect for our leader and, frankly, they have no respect any longer for our great country. It's so simple to solve: What we need is a strong economy. What we need is jobs." Trump says Russian President Vladimir Putin is "toying" with Obama: "He has the Olympics. The day after the Olympics, he starts with the Ukraine. When he goes into Crimea, he's taking the heart and soul, because that's where all the money is. That's the area with the wealth. So that means the rest of Ukraine will fall—and they're predicting that it will fall very quickly. ...It's like with this country: if we don't make it great, it's going to fall. It's really going to fall. ...Our country is in serious, serious trouble. We owe \$17 trillion... How do you pay off \$17 trillion? No one ever heard the expression a number of years ago, the word 'trillion.' We have debt that's beyond belief. We have deficits that nobody can even comprehend. ...Obamacare has to be stopped. [It] Has to be. ...Immigration: We're either a country or we're not. We either have borders or we don't. It's true. You have a border, you have a country—and if you don't have a border, what do you have? ...Nothing. ...As a conservative Republican, you will not get any of those [immigrant] votes, no matter what you do. ...You're not going to get the votes. With immigration, you [had] better be smart, you [had] better be tough—and they're taking your jobs, and you'd better be careful." [56012, 56029]

BizPacReview.com reports, "The crisis in Ukraine's Crimean peninsula has created a quandary for ...Obama. He may actually be forced to cancel his South Florida vacation plans for the weekend. [Obama and his wife] were scheduled to appear at an event on education and the economy at Coral Reef High School on Miami's south side Friday. As it turned out, the first couple's daughters were added to the passenger manifest, and the family was going to make a long weekend of it, according to Politico. Enter Russia's President Vladimir Putin to ruin those well-laid plans. '[Obama] had planned to stay in South Florida with his family for the remainder of the weekend,' White House spokesman Josh Earnest said. 'However, it is possible the president may return to the White House on Friday as events unfold in Ukraine.'" (Golf later takes priority over world crises, and the Obamas—along with Valerie Jarrett and her boyfriend—helicopter their way to Key Largo, Florida on March 7. According to the *Chicago Sun-Times*' Michael Sneed, Obama will reportedly play golf at the luxurious and private Ocean Reef Club—which Obama cannot even afford to join, as it requires a net worth of at least \$35 million. Members are not likely to protest his appearance, however.) Meanwhile, Vice

President Joe Biden vacations in the Virgin Islands. [56005, 56038, 56064, 56065, 56068, 56076, 56185, 56186]

According to Local10.com, Coral Reef High School teacher Randall Scott was “banned” from attending Obama’s address because of his conservative views. Miami-Dade County Public Schools spokesman John Schuster states, “The size and setup of the event venue did not permit all of the school’s staff and students to attend, and local administrators were required to decide who would attend to represent the school.” (Scott has demanded a public apology.) [56341, 56342]

WashingtonExaminer.com writes that several questions Lois Lerner refused to answer “...establish that somebody outside of the IRS told her they wanted the tax agency to ‘fix’ something involving groups seeking 501(c)(4) tax status, that she directed subordinates to begin a (c)(4) project she feared could be seen as ‘political,’ that she viewed Tea Party groups as ‘dangerous,’ and that she ordered that such groups be subjected to ‘multi-level review.’ Those are the four essential points of the IRS scandal: Who ordered the tax agency to get involved, who in the tax agency responded, who they targeted and what actions they took. She cannot answer these questions because, as she herself has claimed, that would be incriminating. Lerner and others must hope Issa doesn’t already have the answers.” [56015]

At PJMedia.com Patrick Poole reveals, “While IRS officials were targeting Tea Party groups for special scrutiny of their 501(c)3 tax exempt applications, the IRS also hired a policeman who had been prosecuted by the Justice Department—and convicted in federal court—of using his access to the FBI’s NCIC system to tip off a terror suspect about the bureau’s surveillance. The leak wrecked a major terror investigation. *He is still at the IRS.* Weiss Russell (he has changed his name from ‘Weiss Rasool,’ the name under which he was convicted), is currently employed as a financial management analyst in the IRS Deputy Chief Financial Officer’s Office. In 2008, Russell/Rasool was prosecuted for his role in tipping off Abdullah Alnoshan, a close associate of al-Qaeda cleric Anwar al-Awlaki and a friend of Russell’s from their mosque. According to the Justice Department’s Statement of Facts filed at the time of Russell’s indictment, Alnoshan provided license plate numbers to Russell for cars he believed were conducting surveillance on him. Russell then checked those plate numbers in the FBI’s NCIC database, which came back to a leasing company which federal prosecutors claimed would have tipped off Russell to the bureau’s surveillance. He left a phone message for Alnoshan that the FBI intercepted. ...Alnoshan was deported to Saudi Arabia in December 2005. Russell was indicted in January 2008, and pleaded guilty in April 2008. While prosecutors had requested jail time for Russell after he failed a polygraph just a week before sentencing, the judge sentenced him to two years of probation.” [56035, 56100]

Zaid Jilani, a former “Think Progress” blogger for the leftist Center for American Progress (CAP), writes, “I’m writing this post to explain how working in Washington taught me we’re all a little bit like the good folks who work at RT [Russia Times] America—struggling against editorial censors, doing our best to follow our conscience

despite sometimes suffocating pressures from our publishers and sponsors.” Noting a post he wrote that criticized Obama’s strategy in Afghanistan, Jilani states, “[P]hone calls from the White House started pouring in, berating my bosses for being critical of Obama on this policy. Obama’s advisor Ben Rhodes—speaking of a staffer who follows policy set by others for his career path—even made a post on the White House blog more or less attacking my [report and evidence] by fudging the numbers and including both the Iraq and Afghan troop levels in a single chart to make it seem as if the surge never happened... Soon afterwards all of us ThinkProgress national security bloggers were called into a meeting with CAP senior staff and basically berated for opposing the Afghan war and creating daylight between us and Obama. It confused me a lot because on the one hand, CAP was advertising to donors that it opposed the Afghan war... But what that meeting with CAP senior staff showed me was that they viewed being closer to Obama and aligning with his policy as more important than demonstrating progressive principle, if that meant breaking with Obama. ...I left CAP not too long after that, partly for reasons of other censorship... The people who work at ThinkProgress today continue to do awesome, independent reporting. But they have a lot of constraints on them, and I’m sure they wish they didn’t. But it’s an unfortunate reality in many of the journalistic environments we exist today. We can’t criticize certain people, or dig into certain stories, or follow our noses on the trail of corruption if it means upsetting our publishers, sponsors, and donors.” (The Center for American Progress Action Fund is a tax-exempt organization that should be non-partisan. It can hardly be non-partisan, however, if the White House is censoring its bloggers and pressuring them to write Obama-friendly articles.) [56052, 56053, 56128]

On *The Kelly File*, attorney Cleta Mitchell, who represents True the Vote, TEA Party Patriots, and other conservative organizations targeted by the IRS, reports that although former IRS official Lois Lerner is not willing to testify before Congress about the issue, Lerner has been talking freely with Obama’s Department of Justice attorneys. (*The Obama Timeline* believes that Lerner and others involved in the scandal are busy making sure they all have the same false stories to tell when they are finally forced to testify. They certainly know the Obama administration has no desire to even identify illegal behaviors, let alone indict anyone for them. They are therefore coordinating their efforts with the Department of Justice. It is worth noting that Lerner’s husband, Michael R. Miles, is a tax attorney and partner at the law firm Sutherland Asbill & Brennan. According to DailyCaller.com, “The 400-attorney firm hosted an organizing meeting at its Atlanta office for people interested in helping with voter registration for the Obama re-election campaign. This is not the first of Lerner’s connections to [Obama] to surface. ...Lerner personally signed the tax-exemption approval for a shady charity run by Obama’s half-brother [Malik Obama], after an inexplicably brief one-month application process.” One of the law firm’s partners, David Adelman, was chosen by Obama to be U.S. ambassador to Singapore.) [56016, 56028, 56053, 56061]

At Shoebat.com licensed private investigator Camilia K. ElDidi questions the propriety of Malik Obama’s “The Barack H. Obama Foundation” and the granting of its tax-exempt status. The name itself is, suggests ElDidi, a “deceitful act, meant to intentionally give a false impression, misleading, where the American public and the Internal Revenue



Service were conned by it...” (A reasonable person might have expected it to have been named “The Malik Obama Foundation.”) Malik Obama’s application was approved for tax-exempt status on June 26, 2011, a Sunday, and was dated retroactive to April 30, 2008. (Why an IRS official was working on a Sunday to review the files is not known.) Additionally, “[t]he addresses used when applying for the 501(c)(3) as a Not-for-Profit Organization, when filing the tax return 990EZ, and when listing it as a charity organization are all different addresses and at least one—if not two—addresses are Social Services facilities, another was a mail drop into box No. 401, and the third was a Planned Urban Development in Arlington, VA.” Even more disturbing is the fact that the foundation’s records have “disappeared from the public records.” Malik Obama is known to be associated with Omar al-Bashir, the murderous Muslim president of Sudan, who was indicted by the International Criminal Court for his campaign against Darfur rebels that involved rapes, atrocities, and the killings of thousands of innocent people. ElDidi asks, “How many in the United States knew of Malik Obama or of granting him a tax exempt status, let alone expeditiously on a Sunday and retroactive about 38 months? ...Malik Obama should not have been granted tax exempt status on a Sunday or any other day of the week.” [356, 360, 628, 831, 1282, 1377, 1679, 1680, 1681, 2197, 2467, 2505, 3528, 5476, 14196, 14766, 15550, 15551, 17282, 22205, 56078]

At the White House, Michelle Obama hosts a “workshop” called “I’m Every Woman: The History of Women in Soul.” Her husband then hosts a “Women in Soul” evening, with Aretha Franklin, Patti LaBelle and others. In his introduction, Obama says, “When Aretha first told us what r-s-p-e-c-t [sic; r-e-s-p-e-c-t] meant to her, she had no idea it would become a rallying cry for African-Americans and women and then everyone who felt marginalized because of what they look like or who they loved. They wanted some respect.” (How someone can misspell “respect”—with or without a teleprompter—is not known.) [56013, 56069, 56086]

On March 7 DailyMail.co.uk reports, “Deposed president of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich is in a Moscow hospital after suffering a suspected heart attack, it was reported in Russia today. His condition was said to be ‘grave,’ Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper, known as MK, has claimed, citing unofficial sources. Austrian authorities meanwhile have said SWAT teams boarded a plane carrying Ukraine's new Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk after receiving a threat that a terrorist attack was planned.” [56001]

At NYPost.com Rich Lowry writes, “At one level, the Obama administration [has been] guilty of the human impulse of wanting to see the world as you would like it to be rather than as it is. At another, [Obama] isn’t particularly interested in international relations. It was appropriate that one of his statements on the crisis came at an elementary school while announcing his latest budget, which reduces the US Army to pre-World War II levels. Because we all know that we’ll never face an unexpected, unpredictable international crisis again. ...Whereas Obama has the left’s traditional discomfort with American power, [Russian President Vladimir] Putin has no such guilty conscience. Whereas Obama believes we’ve entered a paradisiacal new period in history when everyone can be constrained by international norms, Putin has no such delusions. ...Obama declares that Russia is on the wrong side of history. That may be a clinching

argument in a debate over gay marriage at Wesleyan University, but won't carry much weight with Putin. He thinks he can make history move with lies, thuggery and iron. It's now Obama's challenge to prove him wrong." [56011]

According to the Department of Labor, only 175,000 jobs were created in February—fewer than the average monthly job gain of 194,000 in 2013. The unemployment rate move upward from 6.6 to 6.7 percent. The number of unemployed individuals increased by 223,000. The unemployment rate for Americans age 16–19 increased from 20.7 to 21.4 percent. The number of unemployed women increased by 36,000. There are about two million fewer working Americans than two years ago. [56018, 56031, 56032, 56033, 56040, 56043, 56044, 56056]

Office supply chain Staples announces it will close 225 stores by the end of the year. [56194]

Sears Holdings is expected to close 500 Sears and Kmart stores. [56195]

According to WashingtonExaminer.com, “Consumer Financial Protection Bureau officials will pay \$22.3 million to lease temporary offices ...in a building owned by Neil G. Bluhm, a longtime friend and campaign bundler for ...Obama. Bluhm made headlines in 2010 when he hosted Obama's 49th birthday party at his Chicago home. Admission was \$30,000 per person, with the proceeds going to the Democratic National Committee.” Meanwhile, the government is spending a “record-breaking \$145 million... to renovate the agency's [permanent] headquarters...” [56104]

FoxNews.com reports, “Armed men believed to be Russian seized a Ukrainian military base in Crimea Friday, triggering a standoff but no gunfire in the latest incident of escalating tension in the flashpoint peninsula. The move followed reports earlier in the day that Russia had begun large-scale air defense drills. Witnesses say Russian troops broke through the gate of a missile defense base with a military vehicle, trying to break into a command post, but no shots were fired, Interfax Ukraine reported. Initial Reuters reports said the truck had pushed through the gates of a post in the city of Sevastopol, but there were no signs of damage. There was conflicting information about the circumstances of the raid.” *Time* magazine's Simon Shuster tweets: “CONFIRMED: Russian forces storming Ukraine base near Sevastopol, home of anti-aircraft commander center.” “20 Russian troops inside, moving toward command post of Crimea base, guarded by 100 Ukrainian troops...” “Ukraine MoD [minister of defense] spoxman [spokesman] confirms storm of air force base in Sevastopol. Russian troops already seized part of base. Says unaware of shots fired.” “Ukraine air force Colonel tells... TIME that Russian commander in charge of siege now demanding Ukraine forces lay down arms and surrender.” [56022, 56023]

NYTimes.com reports, “The Russians... sent menacing economic signals to the financially stressed interim central government in Kiev, which Russia has refused to recognize. Gazprom, the Russian natural gas monopoly, which supplies Ukraine with most of its gas, warned that it might shut off supplies unless Ukraine paid \$1.89 billion

that it owes the company. ‘We cannot deliver gas for free,’ Russia news agencies quoted Gazprom’s chief executive Alexei Miller as saying. Gazprom cut off gas to Ukraine for nearly two weeks in January 2009, causing severe economic problems for Ukraine and for European customers elsewhere who were dependent on supplies delivered through Ukraine.” [56024]

According to KyivPost.com (*Kiev Post*), Crimean voters will have only two choices in the March 16 referendum: “[J]oin Russia immediately or declare independence and then join Russia. So the choices are ‘yes, now’ or ‘yes, later.’ Voting ‘no’ is not an option. The lack of choice wouldn’t surprise anyone familiar with how Soviet or Russian elections are run.” [56025]

Heritage.org reports, “Three states are trying to get around a new minor reform Congress made to the food stamp program. In the farm bill it passed earlier this month, Congress tightened a loophole dubbed ‘Heat and Eat’ that has made it possible for states to artificially boost the amount of food stamp benefits a household receives. Here’s how it works: Some food stamp households that receive Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) benefits are automatically eligible for higher deductions on their utility bills. A higher deduction means eligibility for more food stamps. So some states had simply been mailing out LIHEAP checks for amounts as small as \$1 to trigger the higher food stamp benefits. ...New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) announced earlier this week that the state would fork out \$6 million in state LIHEAP benefits to 300,000 households so they could continue to draw the hundreds of millions of federal food stamp dollars through the loophole. Connecticut and Pennsylvania are following suit. Because 95 percent of food stamp funding is federal, states are not accountable for most of the cost and thus have no problem with spending more on food stamps.” [56042]

IllinoisPolicy.org reports, “More bad news is coming on the heels of the Bureau of Labor Statistics report that Illinois dropped 27,600 payroll jobs in the month of January alone. More than 1,000 workers will be laid off in comings weeks and months, according to advance notices filed by businesses to regulators. Businesses such as Accretive Health and Graham Packaging Co. will lay off hundreds. OfficeMax will continue with lay-offs that are a part of their relocation to Boca Raton, Florida.” [56047]

Addressing high school students in Miami, Florida, Obama says, “When I was your age, I didn’t know what I was doing. I was lucky if I got out of bed on time.” (Some might suggest that explains a lot.) It is worth noting that although he is in Florida, Obama does not stop to campaign for Democrat Congressional candidate Alex Sink, who faces Republican David Jolly in a March 11 special election for Florida’s 13th district. (It can be assumed that the White House realizes Obama’s presence would be more likely to harm Sink than help her.) [56066]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) addresses the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). He tells the audience, “You may think I am talking about electing a Republican. I am not. I am talking about electing lovers of liberty. It isn’t good enough to pick the lesser of two evils. We must elect men and women of principle, and conviction and

action that will lead us back to greatness. ...There is a great battle going on. It is for the heart and soul of America. ...[Republicans must be] bold in our convictions, or we will be sunshine patriots that cower in the truth and power of our message. ...I will be earnest. I will not be equivocating. I will not retreat an inch, and I will be heard. ...If you have a cell phone, you are under surveillance. I believe that what you do on your cell phone is none of their [the government's] damn business. Can a single [court] order put all cell phones under surveillance? The Constitution is clear: A single warrant for all cell phones, generalized warrants that don't name an individual and that seek millions of records of millions of individuals is unconstitutional. ...The Fourth Amendment is equally important as the Second Amendment and conservatives cannot forget this. ...Will we stand and say, 'We are free, and no man—no matter how well intentioned—will take this freedom away from us?'" [56056, 56060, 56062, 56067]

"How will history remember Barack Obama? History will record his timid defense of liberty. [If] the executive branch can detain citizens without trial; if it can amend legislation; if it can declare to Congress that Congress is in recess; then government unrestrained by law becomes nothing short of tyranny. ...Progressives believe the Constitution is whatever the majority says it is. Progressives believe our rights are what the majority believe they are. But are rights are inherent, they are inseparable from our person; they come from our Creator, and no government can take them away from us. ...Mr. [Obama], we won't let you run roughshod over our rights. We will challenge you in the courts; we will battle you at the ballot box. Mr. [Obama] we will not let you shred our Constitution. ...This is not a message for the rich versus the poor. ...We believe all men are created equal and that all can exceed—that brings not only great prosperity, but also great generosity. ...Our freedom is in our DNA and in our founding document—it is based on a plan that restrains the government, not the liberty of the individual. Let's take a stand—I took a stand—I filibustered. I took a stand—I sued [Obama]. ...You can't have prosperity without freedom. The time is now: stand with me; let us stand together for liberty." [56058, 56060, 56062, 56067]

It is worth noting that the annual CPAC event is organized by the American Conservative Union (ACU). At JewishWorldReview.com Diana West notes, "Amid the hoopla, book signings, meet and greets, speeches, panels and bands, a tense, no-holds-barred fight is underway to try to rid CPAC of a pair of influential men with track records of working with America's enemies—Islamic organizations the U.S. government has linked to the Muslim Brotherhood and larger world of jihad. ...Among [the] ACU board members is Suhail Khan. A former Bush administration appointee, now a member of a newly minted minority 'engagement' council of the Republican National Committee, Khan is one of the two men under [the] scrutiny [of conservatives]. The other is Khan's longtime ally Grover Norquist, the well-known anti-tax activist and ubiquitous presence at CPAC and other conservative power centers. [Norquist's wife is a Muslim.] The case against Khan and Norquist is not new. Frank Gaffney, a national security expert and former Reagan Pentagon official (also a friend and colleague of mine) first began making it more than a decade ago. On behalf of ACU, [legal counsel Cleta] Mitchell officially rejected a ...presentation by Gaffney in 2011, maintaining that it had 'no basis' in fact, but rather constituted 'continuing venom against Grover'—as if, for example, laying bare both

Khan's and Norquist's troubling, past associations with such enemies of America as the later-convicted al-Qaida terrorist and Muslim Brotherhood member Abdulrahman 'Oh Allah, destroy America' Alamoudi could be discounted as a personality clash. ... How long will the ACU and CPAC both embrace and be guided by men who, as distilled by the executive summary of the [conservative] group's Statement of Facts, 'have extensive ties to 'various Muslim extremist organizations,' individuals associated with them and their activities?' ... Ties to groups avowed to America's destruction are not usually seen as conservative movement resume enhancers. But that's not the only bizarre aspect to this long struggle to reintroduce the survival reflex into conservative thinking. The ACU seems unable to recognize that people who build political careers associating with operatives from Muslim Brotherhood front groups and advancing their interests straight into the inner sanctum of the Bush White House are not the best candidates for conservative leadership." (Among the speakers at CPAC is New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who has alarmed some conservatives not just with his friendly relations with Obama, but because he has seemed remarkably reluctant to criticize radical Islam and has several Muslims in his administration.) [56097]

USNews.com reports, "Exiled whistle-blower Edward Snowden told the European Parliament in testimony published Friday there are many more surprises in the classified cache of documents he downloaded and distributed last year. But, Snowden said, he will allow the journalists with whom he's shared the material to decide what to report. 'There are many other undisclosed programs that would impact EU [European Union] citizens' rights, but I will leave the public interest determinations as to which of these may be safely disclosed to responsible journalists in coordination with government stakeholders,' he said." [56081]

On March 8 Michael S. Rozeff writes at LewRockwell.com, "Obama is making such claims as 'The proposed referendum on the future of Crimea would violate the Ukrainian constitution and violate international law. Any discussion about the future of Ukraine must include the legitimate government of Ukraine. In 2014 we are well beyond the days when borders can be redrawn over the heads of democratic leaders.' But why blame Crimea for responding when a massive violation of the constitution has already occurred in Kiev and been blessed by Obama? Why not see this Crimean response in historical perspective? Why shouldn't the Crimean parliament seek to protect its autonomy? Isn't submitting a referendum's result to Kiev under the existing constitution a moot point after a virtual coup d'état has occurred followed by immediate changes in the government's structure and the installation of a strong right-wing presence? What is undemocratic about the action of the Crimean parliament? Who is enforcing borders or intends to enforce them over the heads of democratic leaders? Is it Kiev or Crimea? In other words, everything that Obama said in the above quote has questionable merit. It really makes no sense in view of the history and current situation." [56057]

"...Who is Obama to pronounce a verdict about Crimea from on high? There is no evidence that he or the State Department understand what is involved or care about the peoples involved. There is no evidence that they are acting in the interests of Ukrainians. Past history tells us that the U.S. causes enormous damage to many nations it claims to be

helping or freeing. How can Obama claim to know what the outcome between Ukraine and Crimea should be when federalism hinges on so many uniquely Ukrainian factors that he is in no position to gauge? Even if he can to some extent gauge them, and he is entitled to an opinion, what right does he have to meddle actively in their affairs? What right did the U.S. have to support a revolution? We can also ask how prudent it is to be meddling on Russia's doorstep. After the sorry record of U.S. meddling in other nations, what credibility does the U.S. government have in matters such as this that involve basic constitutional relations and state-building? What Obama should be saying is that such matters of basic political groupings are delicate; that they depend on factors best known by those in a given country and therefore best dealt with by them without the interference of other states. He should be saying that the U.S. will offer its services for discussions and mediation if requested, making every effort to secure a peaceful outcome by which everyone benefits. He should be saying that he recognizes that Crimea has a long history with both Russia and Ukraine, and that these are in the best position to resolve their own difficulties; that the U.S. has no intention to and will not interfere in these domestic matters." [56057]

RT.com reports, "The NSA and GCHQ [Government Communications Headquarters, Great Britain's NSA equivalent] will soon have the ability to spy on the entire planet, as their capabilities double every 18 months, Julian Assange told the South by Southwest (SXSW) conference on Saturday. The Wikileaks founder made a Skype appearance at the interactive technology festival, which is taking place in the city of Austin. 'The ability to surveil everyone on the planet is almost there, and arguably will be there in a few years,' said Assange. 'And that's led to a huge transfer of power from the people who are surveilled upon to those who control the surveillance complex. It's an interesting postmodern version of power.' Assange also posed the question, 'How is it that the internet that everyone looked upon as perhaps the greatest tool of human creation that had ever been has, in fact, been co-opted and [is] now involved in the most aggressive form of state surveillance the world has ever seen?' He added that the world is 'moving into a new totalitarian world—not in the sense of Stalin or Pol Pot, but totalitarian in the sense that the surveillance is total.'" [56161]

ChicagoTribune.com reports, "Malaysian officials investigating the disappearance of a Malaysia Airlines plane Saturday said they were not ruling out terrorism—or any other causes—as reports emerged that two Europeans listed on the passenger manifest were not aboard and may have had their passports stolen. Asked for a possible explanation for the plane's disappearance, Malaysia Airlines CEO Ahmad Jauhari Yahya told a news conference: 'We are not ruling out any possibilities.' Vietnamese rescue planes have spotted large oil slicks and a column of smoke off its coastline, but it was not clear if they were connected to a missing Malaysia Airlines carrier, a transportation ministry official said on Saturday. The Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-200ER plane carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew went missing off the Vietnamese coast early on Saturday as it flew from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing and was presumed to have crashed." (Some suspect the incident was a terrorist act perpetrated by Uighurs (or Uyghers), militant Chinese Muslim separatists—who may also have been responsible for the March 2 mass murders

at the Kunming Railway Station in Yunnan province, China.) [2732, 55724, 55725, 55726, 55727, 55948 56059, 56077, 56084, 56087, 56105, 56119, 56126, 56133, 56211]

The Associated Press reports, “A top White House official who has been with ...Obama since he first became a senator nine years ago is resigning. Alyssa Mastromonaco is Obama’s deputy chief of staff for operations and often described as the most influential person inside the White House who isn’t well known outside of it. She is responsible for planning presidential events, hiring staff and overseeing the White House complex. A White House official said Mastromonaco is leaving in May to look for a job in the private sector. The official said Obama insisted as a condition of her departure that she continue to act as an outside adviser. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter and spoke on a condition of anonymity.” [56079]

At the Conservative Political Action Conference, Sarah Palin “re-writes” the Dr. Seuss children’s story *Green Eggs and Ham*, reciting to a laughing audience, “I do not like this Uncle Sam. I do not like his health care scam. I do not like [interrupted by applause and cheers] —oh, just you wait—I do not like these dirty crooks, or how they lie and cook the books. I do not like when Congress steals, I do not like their crony deals. I do not like this spying, man, I do not like, ‘*Oh, Yes we can.*’ I do not like this spending spree, we’re smart, we know there’s nothing free. I do not like reporters’ smug replies when I complain about their lies. I do not like this kind of hope, and we won’t take it, nope, nope, nope.” (WeeklyStandard.com notes that Palin was “inspired by [Senator] Ted Cruz’s reading of *Green Eggs and Ham* during his filibuster last year.”) [56080, 56082, 56093, 56099]

Noting young people in the audience, Palin says, “You’re the ones who will pay the bills in our brave new world. They forgot that part, didn’t they, when they said that you were the change that you were waiting for. It turns out that you have the change that they were waiting for. You have the fives, and the tens, and the twenties.” Palin ridicules establishment Republicans for being weak-kneed: “But some GOP experts, they subscribe to the old saying, ‘Don’t interrupt [the Democrats] while they’re in the process of destroying themselves.’ That may be true [generally]. But you *do* interrupt when they are in the process of destroying your country.” Palin slams Obama, saying, “He promised to heal the planet and stop the rise of the oceans, but the planet’s not listening to Doctor Obama, and the only thing rising in his la-la land is the Russian empire. I’m sorry, but really, I’m probably being too hard on [Obama]. After all, who could have seen this coming?” [Palin, of course, warned in 2008 about Russia moving to take back Ukraine.] Returning to the GOP establishment, Palin says, “Remember that 2010 victory that swept you into power? *You didn’t build that.* The *Tea Party* did. So dance with the one [who] brought you. And do you want another sweep? Than grab a broom and join us at the party. ...And when we meet next, Lord willing, Harry Reid—either he will be the Senate *Minority* Leader, or a blackjack dealer in Vegas. ...The age of Obama is almost over. The end of an error. He is the lamest of lame ducks. So expand our ranks. We can do this. Expand our ranks to save our country.” (MSNBC’s Mika Brzezinski—who has her job only because her father Zbigniew was Jimmy Carter’s National Security Advisor—calls

Palin a “multi-million dollar moron selling a message.”) [56080, 56082, 56093, 56099, 56170]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) wins the CPAC presidential straw poll with 31 percent. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) gets 11 percent, Dr. Ben Carson gets 9, and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie manages 8 percent. (Senator Marco Rubio’s (R-FL) pro-amnesty stance renders him largely irrelevant with conservatives, who may prefer Paul—but the GOP establishment most certainly does not. Newsmax.com reports, “Mitt Romney raised more than \$1.1 billion in his 2012 campaign, and [former Florida governor] Jeb Bush is the potential 2016 Republican presidential candidate most likely to enjoy support from his donors. ‘Every single Romney donor we spoke with this week listed the former Florida governor as their top choice,’ Wesley Lowery wrote in *The Washington Post*. ‘The donors said that, like Romney, Bush’s time as governor proved he can be an effective leader and manager.’ Romney donors also consider Bush the most electable of the potential GOP candidates, which the donors believe is the most important asset for a candidate. ‘If Jeb Bush is in the race, he clears the field,’ one major Romney donor told Lowery. ‘The natural inclination for Mitt supporters would be to gravitate toward Jeb Bush because he’s a candidate that can win a national race.’” (*The Obama Timeline* believes the GOP establishment, as well as Wall Street bankers, want a 2016 contest between Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton because neither will rock the boat; neither will cut federal spending; neither will reduce the role of government in the lives of Americans; and neither will stand in the way of the Federal Reserve’s continued expansion of the money supply. For the same reason, they will also support a Chris Christie nomination. The last thing the “establishment” wants to see is Rand Paul or Ted Cruz winning the Republican nomination, because they will work to slash spending and rein in the Federal Reserve. Bush and Clinton can be controlled; Paul and Cruz cannot.) [56083, 56094, 56098]

Obama celebrates International Women’s Day by playing golf in Key West, Florida. White House spokesman Josh Earnest tells reporters, “What [Obama] will be doing this weekend in Florida is essentially what [he] would be doing back at the White House. It’s just that the weather will be a little warmer. [Obama] is looking forward to spending some time with his wife and daughters, who are traveling down to Florida as well. There are some recreational amenities on the property, including workout facilities, tennis courts, a couple of golf courses. If there is an opportunity for [Obama] to enjoy some of those amenities, then he’ll do that. What he will do, and what he is looking forward to doing, is getting a little downtime in the warm weather with his wife and daughters.” (Most Americans do not care that Obama takes quite a few vacations and plays golf. But the issue is not so much what Americans think; it is what Russian President Vladimir Putin thinks. If Putin thinks Obama is not concerned about defusing the situation in Crimea—or does not know what to do about it—that may embolden the Russian leader to more seriously consider taking southern Ukraine as well. HotAir.com quips, “But if nothing else, Obama can finally work on his short game. And that should come as some relief, as he currently doesn’t seem too much of a long one in mind.”) [56115, 56139]



The White House releases a photograph of Obama on the telephone with Vladimir Putin during a break from his golf. [56144]

Breitbart.com reports, “On Friday [March 7], a federal jury took less than two hours to convict the daughter of ...Obama’s controversial former pastor, Jeremiah Wright, of fraud. Jeri Wright was found guilty of a fraud scheme that siphoned thousands of taxpayer dollars intended for a not-for-profit work and education program known as We Are Our Brother’s Keeper. Prosecutor Timothy Bass said Jeri Wright lied ‘over and over’ and went on a ‘spending spree’ that included traveling to Las Vegas, buying vehicles, and remodeling her basement with cash from the money laundering scheme. She was found guilty on all counts.” According to DailyCaller.com, “The state [of Illinois] provided her with a \$1.25 million grant to train 40 people for bricklaying and electrician jobs, at an average cost of \$31,250 per person. Little training was provided, and much of the \$1.25 million grant was stolen by [program head Regina] Evans, who used Rev. Jeremiah Wright’s daughter, Jeri Wright, to launder \$30,000 in stolen funds.” [56085, 56127]

Saudi Arabia joins Egypt in classifying the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization. (Obama has no comment, likely because several Muslim Brotherhood members and supporters serve in his administration. In fact, Pamela Geller reminds readers, “Obama punished the Egyptian people by withdrawing aid after they threw off the Islamic yoke of tyranny imposed by The Muslim Brotherhood. Obama presents a very real danger to freedom loving people.”) [56088]

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) tells The New York Times, “I think we are going to crush them [Tea Party primary challengers] everywhere. I don’t think they are going to have a single nominee anywhere in the country.” [56107, 56145]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “Speculation was growing last night that American mercenaries had been deployed to Donetsk after videos emerged of unidentified armed men in the streets of the eastern Ukrainian city. At least two videos published on YouTube earlier this week show burly, heavily armed soldiers with no insignia in the city, which has been gripped by pro-Moscow protests. In one of the videos onlookers can be heard shouting ‘Blackwater! Blackwater!’ as the armed men, who wear no insignia, jog through the streets. ...Both the videos which purport to show ‘Blackwater’ mercenaries in Donetsk were uploaded last Monday, with their descriptions written in Russian. The context of the videos is not clear, but it appears that the armed men had turned up at a street protest against the new regime. They wander around brandishing their weapons before suddenly fleeing the scene as passers-by shout ‘Blackwater! Blackwater!’ ...Since the videos emerged, Twitter has been alive with speculation that mercenaries linked to Blackwater, now known as Academi, are active in Ukraine, helping to prop up the embattled new pro-western government. And a Russian diplomat in Kiev told the Interfax news agency on Wednesday that 300 employees of private security companies had arrived there.” [56120, 56129]

At the annual Gridiron Club dinner, Secretary of State John Kerry jokes that he was asked by CNN's John King if he would run for president in 2016 and responded, "I am out of politics—and based on the ratings, so is CNN." [56171]

On March 9 WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "A national union that represents 300,000 low-wage hospitality workers charges in a new report that Obamacare will slam wages, cut hours, limit access to health insurance and worsen the very 'income equality' ...Obama says he is campaigning to fix. Unite Here warned that due to Obamacare's much higher costs for health insurance than what union workers currently pay, the result will be a pay cut of up to \$5 an hour. 'If employers follow the incentives in the law, they will push families onto the exchanges to buy coverage. This will force low-wage service industry employees to spend \$2.00, \$3.00 or even \$5.00 an hour of their pay to buy similar coverage,' said the union in a new report. 'Only in Washington could asking the bottom of the middle class to finance health care for the poorest families be seen as reducing inequality,' said the report from Unite Here. 'Without smart fixes, the ACA threatens the middle class with higher premiums, loss of hours, and a shift to part-time work and less comprehensive coverage,' said the report, titled, 'The Irony of Obamacare: Making Inequality Worse.' Based on government and private reports, polling and statements from administration officials, the report, to be sent to pro-union members in Congress, charges that low-wage workers are taking the hit under Obamacare, while wealthy insurance companies fatten up on government subsidies. Union head Donald 'D.' Taylor, in a note also being sent to Congress, demands changes and admits to being reluctant to bash a president his union supported. 'Believe me; I enter this entire debate about the consequences of the ACA with a deep reluctance,' he wrote. 'Unite Here was the first union to endorse then-Senator Obama. We support the addition of health care to millions of Americans. Yet facts are facts, and Obamacare will cost our members the equivalent of a significant pay cut to keep their hard-won benefits.'" [56103]

Members of the leftist SEIU, the New York State Nurses' Association, and the NAACP protest a whopping \$100 million donation to build a new wing on New York Presbyterian Hospital—because the money is coming from conservative David Koch. [56164, 56165]

On March 9, 2007 American Robert Levinson disappeared in Iran. He has been held captive by the Iranian government since then. PJMedia.com's Bridget Johnson writes, "Levinson's wife, Christine, has reported her frustration from years of trying to push the administration to get her husband home. After releasing in January photos the family had received from his captors, Christine Levinson said she'd gone to the press with the pictures, received nearly two years earlier, because 'there isn't any pressure on Iran to resolve this.' In November, Levinson became the longest held U.S. hostage in history, passing Terry Anderson's 2,454 days in captivity at the hands of Hezbollah before being freed in 1991." [56146]

At TheMinorityReportBlog.com Caroline Glick writes, "Bloomberg columnist Jeffrey Goldberg minced few words in discussing the interview that ...Obama gave him on the eve of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's latest visit to Washington. Speaking with journalist Charlie Rose, Goldberg equated Obama's threat to stop supporting Israel in

international forums to the talk of a mafia don. Obama told Goldberg that if Israel doesn't cut a deal with the Palestinians soon, 'our ability to manage the international fallout is going to be limited.' He added, 'And that has consequences.' That statement, Goldberg noted, was a 'veiled threat' and 'almost up there with, 'Nice little Jewish state you've got there. Hate to see something happen to it.'" Goldberg saw the interview as Obama's way of showing that he is beginning to abandon the pretense of supporting Israel, now that he no longer faces reelection. In Goldberg's words, 'It's not that the gloves are coming off. It's more that the mask of diplomatic language is coming off a little bit.' ...And indeed, Obama has achieved a comfort level with implementing anti-Israel policies. His threat to step aside and let Israel-haters have their way in places like the United Nations or in certain quarters of Europe is of a piece with several steps the he is already reportedly undertaking to harm Israel in various ways. ...Now that he no longer has to concern himself with the wishes of the American public and its representatives in Congress, Obama has dropped the mask of opposition to Iran and forged ahead with a diplomatic process that all but ensures Iran will acquire nuclear weapons. The same is apparently the case with joint US-Israeli missile defense programs. On Wednesday, it was reported that the administration has slashed funding of those programs by two-thirds for the 2015 fiscal year. Obama touted his previous willingness to fully fund those programs—manifested in his decision not to veto congressional appropriations, despite his stated desire to slash funding—as proof of his administration's 'unprecedented' security cooperation with Israel." [56108]

“Obama's new willingness to threaten Israel and to take the actions he feels it is safe to take to downgrade Israel's relations with the US will likely only grow after November's midterm elections. After the congressional elections, Obama will feel entirely free to attack the US's closest ally in the Middle East. ...Since [Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu returned to the premiership in January 2009, he has implemented a policy of waiting Obama out. Over the past five years, the prime minister has only directly challenged Obama when he had no choice. And that has been the right course. Little good comes to Israel from open fights with the White House. Such fights should only be engaged when the consequences of having a fight are less bad than the consequences of not fighting. In his speech at the AIPAC Conference on Tuesday, Netanyahu rebutted every position Obama has staked out on the Palestinians and Iran without ever mentioning Obama's name. By doing so he energized Israel's supporters while denying Obama the ability to claim that Netanyahu is unsupportive of his policies. ...If Obama views the midterm elections as the final restraint on his ability to act against the will of the American public, his fellow Democrats likely view the elections as the last time Obama will serve as the head of their party during an election cycle. In the 2016 elections, the Democrat presidential nominee will set the tone for the party, not Obama. Moreover, as the full economic impacts of Obamacare, Obama's signature domestic policy, become known after the midterm elections, Obama will be even more severely weakened. Consequently, his ability to pressure his Democrat colleagues to toe his line will be diminished. Finally, given Obama's obsessive focus on demanding that Israel surrender its land to the Palestinians, it is imperative that Israel develop a strategy for waiting Obama out on this issue.” [56108]

FoxNews.com reports, “Ex-NSA contractor Edward Snowden said he tried more than 10 times to go through official channels to alert someone about government spying programs, but nobody listened. According to The Washington Post, Snowden claimed in European Parliament testimony that he reported policy or legal issues about the NSA to more than 10 officials, but as a contractor he had no legal avenue to pursue the matter. ‘As an employee of a private company rather than a direct employee of the U.S. government, I was not protected by U.S. whistle-blower laws, and I would not have been protected from retaliation and legal sanction for revealing classified information about lawbreaking in accordance with the recommended process,’ Snowden said in his testimony. Snowden was at the CIA before becoming an NSA contractor. He was working for Booz Allen Hamilton at an NSA facility in Hawaii when he leaked information about the NSA spying programs to the press...” [56109]

Breitbart.com reports, “At the same time the US State Department is relaxing entry requirements to visa applicants with Islamist terrorist connections, and reassuring President Putin of Russia that any sanctions against travel to the US placed upon those responsible for Russia’s invasion Ukraine will be limited to no more than a ‘few dozen’ named individuals, it is dramatically increasing its rejection rate of Israelis seeking visas to visit the US. While the State Department denies it, Israeli officials now suspect their country is being deliberately sanctioned as part of an unannounced administration policy to punish the Jewish state. This week their fears were publicly shared by none other than administration ally NY Senator Charles Schumer, who, in a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry, demanded an end to the ‘State Department policy of categorically denying young Israelis tourist visas that makes it nearly impossible for any young Israeli to visit the U.S.’ ...The State Department confirms there has been a 400% increase in the visa refusal rate for Israeli citizens since 2007, when only 2.5% of all Israeli visa requests were denied, as compared to 2013 when 9.7% were. In fact, rejection rates for Israeli visa applicants were so high in 2013, that Israel was expelled from the State Department’s visa waiver program. Some of the countries whose citizens are eligible to participate the US visa waiver program, in addition to traditional and treaty allies like Canada and the UK, include Saudi Arabia and Qatar.” [56112]

On CNN’s *State of the Union*, Republican-turned-independent-turned-Democrat-Florida-gubernatorial-candidate Charlie Crist tells Candy Crowley, “I think it’s [ObamaCare has] been great, and, uh, I know the roll-out was difficult... and, uh, you know, I just know that he [Obama] has a compassionate heart and he cares about people. People getting health care is like a civil right, I mean, people need to have shelter, they need food, they need water, and they need health care and they deserve it. We’re the richest country in the world and we oughta [sic] be able to provide it and God bless him [Obama] for doing it.” (Crist does not explain how someone can have a *right* to something if it comes at someone else’s expense. If one has a *right* to health care, shelter, food, and water, that means everyone can quit their jobs and wait for others to provide those things.) [56113, 56130]

On ABC's *This Week*, *Wall Street Journal* columnist Peggy Noonan, in a discussion of the many ObamaCare waivers and changes, asks, "Is there still an ObamaCare law?" [56137]

On *Face the Nation*, former Vice President Dick Cheney says there is "no question he [Russian President Vladimir Putin] believes he [Obama] is weak. We have created an image around the world, not just for the Russians, of, of weakness and indecisive—the Syrian situation's a classic. We got all ready to do something, a lot of the allies signed on. At the last minute, Obama backed off. ... There are military options that don't involve putting troops on the ground in Crimea. Reinstating the ballistic missile defense program in Poland. He [Putin] cares a lot about that. Conduct the joint military exercises with our NATO friends close to the Russian border; offer up equipment and training to the Ukrainian military. ... [C]onvey the notion, especially to our friends in Europe, that we keep our commitments. So far that's in doubt. It's a matter... of sending a strong signal that the U.S. will keep its commitments to our friends and allies. That's been in doubt for some time now because of the policies of the Obama administration, and this becomes a crucial moment." [56143]

Asked on *Fox News Sunday* if he believes "Crimea is gone," former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates replies, "I do. I do not believe that Crimea will slip out of Russia's hand." Gates also says, "Past cuts to the [defense] budget came when the world was a 'safer place.' [But] No one can make that case now. ... I think cutting the defense budget in significant ways right now is a serious mistake. Frankly, the pace at which both the Europeans and the United States are cutting their defenses... certainly sends a signal that we are not interested in protecting our global interests." [56136, 56138]

Reuters reports, "The Arab League on Sunday endorsed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's rejection of Israel's demand for recognition as a Jewish state, as U.S.-backed peace talks approach a deadline next month." (Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry naively believe they can broker a deal between Israel and the Palestinians, even though Abbas and the people he represents refuse to concede that Israel has a right to exist.) [56118]

Obama-challenging attorney Dr. Orly Taitz writes, "In 2009 Deportation officer John Sampson provided me with evidence that Obama used Equatorial Guinea, not Kenya as his place of origin. One of Obama's half brothers was Roman Obama. It was reported that Roman died in a car accident. However, in a 1992 article, which appeared in the state of Washington, in DC and Chicago, the author quoted one Roman Obama, as a student in the University of Patrice Lumumba in Moscow, which is widely known as a hunting ground for KGB recruits among students from African, Asian and Latin American countries. What is interesting, is that Roman Obama was the same age as Barack Obama, he had the same country of origin as Barack Obama in his Inteligator.com records and had the name of his half brother. It is also interesting that the article was changed in 1997 and the name and country of origin were changed. This seem to follow the same pattern of cover up." (The February 13, 1992 article by Associated Press reporters Deborah Seward appeared in *The Seattle Times* and in other newspapers. It referred to Roman

Obama as a 31-year-old law student from Equatorial Guinea. Barack Obama was allegedly born in August 1961 and would have been six months from his 31st birthday in February 1992. An inteligator.com report from November 16, 2009 lists Barack H. Obama as born August 1, 1961 and an “ethnic code” of “Equatorial Guinea.” Note that Obama claims his date of birth was August 4, not August 1.) [56196, 56197]

The Democrat-controlled state senate in West Virginia passes a ban on abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy. Whether Democrat Governor Earl Ray Tomblin—arguably one of the nation’s worst governors—will sign the bill into law remains to be seen. A CNN poll shows that, nationwide, 58 percent of Americans oppose abortion in all or most cases. (Obama is among the very few Americans who support abortion in the final weeks or days of pregnancy.) [56148, 56149]

NYTimes.com reports, “In a little-noticed outcome of ...Obama’s Affordable Care Act, jails and prisons around the country are beginning to sign up inmates for health insurance under the law, taking advantage of the expansion of Medicaid that allows states to extend coverage to single and childless adults—a major part of the prison population. State and counties are enrolling inmates for two main reasons. Although Medicaid does not cover standard health care for inmates, it can pay for their hospital stays beyond 24 hours—meaning states can transfer millions of dollars of obligations to the federal government. But the most important benefit of the program, corrections officials say, is that inmates who are enrolled in Medicaid while in jail or prison can have coverage after they get out. People coming out of jail or prison have disproportionately high rates of chronic diseases, especially mental illness and addictive disorders. ...Health care experts estimate that up to 35 percent of those newly eligible for Medicaid under ...Obama’s health care law are people with histories of criminal justice system involvement, including jail and prison inmates and those on parole or probation.” [56150, 56157]

On March 10 Bloomberg.com reports, “Russian forces advanced in Ukraine’s Crimean peninsula, ignoring Western calls to halt a military takeover before the region’s separatist referendum. Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said yesterday he’d travel to Washington this week as Russian President Vladimir Putin defended Crimea’s local government, which may use the March 16 vote to leave Ukraine and join the country’s Soviet-era master. Russian troops detained Ukrainian border guards at a base a day after gunmen fired warning shots at international observers and barred them from Crimea. ...Pro-Russian units planted minefields in the Kherson region, north of Crimea on Ukraine’s mainland, and began to install border markers between the two regions, news website Khersonskie Vesti reported today. Ukraine’s border control service said Russian forces now control 13 border bases as well as the ferry crossing across the Kerch Strait to Russia, preventing guards from inspecting trucks arriving in Crimea.” [56121, 56122]

Investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson announces her resignation from CBS. Politico reports, “Attkisson, who has been with CBS News for two decades, had grown frustrated with what she saw as the network’s liberal bias, an outside influence by the network’s corporate partners and a lack of dedication to investigative reporting, several sources said. She increasingly felt that her work was no longer supported and that it was a

struggle to get her reporting on air. At the same time, Attkisson's reporting on the Obama administration, which some staffers characterized as agenda-driven, had led network executives to doubt the impartiality of her reporting. She is currently at work on a book—tentatively titled 'Stonewalled: One Reporter's Fight for Truth in Obama's Washington'—that addresses the challenges of reporting critically on the administration. ...Attkisson had become a polarizing figure at the network, sources there said. While some championed her relentless dedication to investigations—ranging from defective Firestone tires to the Fast and Furious gun-walking scandal—others saw evidence of a political agenda, particularly against ...Obama. (The bulk of Attkisson's work since 2009 has focused on the failures or perceived failures of the Obama administration, including its failed green-energy investments and the attack in Benghazi, though she has reported on several Republican failures as well.)" Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich notes, "During her time at the network, she has heavily scrutinized both Democrat and Republican administrations. Back in 2008, Attkisson debunked Hillary Clinton's infamous claim that she dodged sniper fire in Bosnia. During the Bush administration, Attkisson won an Emmy for her reporting on shady Republican fundraising. In 2012, she won an Edward R. Murrow award and an Emmy for her reporting on Operation Fast and Furious. She has been equally critical of both political parties in Washington D.C." [56123, 56124, 56125, 56147, 56169, 56175, 56199, 56221]

At Spectator.org David Catron, noting the low number of ObamaCare enrollees, asks, "Why so few? According to [a new] survey, which was released last Thursday by McKinsey & Company, the most common reason cited by uninsured respondents was lack of affordability. Out of five possible reasons for failing to enroll, most chose, 'I could not afford to pay the premium.' The irony of this is mindboggling. For years, the advocates of Obamacare characterized the uninsured problem as a human tragedy that bankrupted millions and killed tens of thousands. ...In fact, as recently as December of last year, [Obama] was still peddling this whopper in an attempt to convince an increasingly skeptical electorate that his rapidly disintegrating health care 'reform' program had made America a better place: 'We believe we're a better country than a country where... every year, tens of thousands of Americans died because they didn't have health care.' If Obama actually believes the lack of insurance kills this many people, it's a little difficult to see how he can maintain that Obamacare has 'fundamentally transformed' the United States into a healthier and happier place. The answer, of course, is that actual facts have little to do with the claims [Obama] makes for Obamacare. It's pretty obvious, for example, that the 4 million sign-up figure touted by his administration is fiction. The McKinsey survey makes it clear that the actual number is less than 500,000. The reality is that Obama's health care bureaucrats aren't bothering to track how many uninsured are obtaining coverage via Obamacare. When asked for that figure, the government official charged with implementing the program said, 'That's not a data point that we are really collecting in any systematic way.'" [56364]

"That's right. The plight of the uninsured was a major selling point for the passage of Obamacare, and the law's advocates claimed the lack of insurance was killing more people annually than automobile accidents. The Grim Reaper was mowing down uninsured Americans in their thousands, yet no one has bothered to ascertain if

[Obama's] 'signature domestic achievement' has reduced the carnage? There are only two possible interpretations of this revelation: (1) The Obama administration is incompetent beyond our scariest nightmares or (2) the uninsured problem was always a hoax. The latter is the obvious explanation. Obamacare's advocates claimed that there were 47 million uninsured Americans. As far back as 2008, Sally Pipes explained in the *Washington Times* why that was a bogus figure: 'The [Census] Bureau counts anyone who went without health insurance during any part of the previous year as 'uninsured.' Anyone without coverage for a single day was counted in the 47 million. Pipes went on to point out that this figure included 10 million illegal immigrants, 14 million people already eligible for government assistance, and about 10 million making more than \$75,000 annually. In other words, the actual number of Americans who were involuntarily uninsured was, at worst, somewhere around 13 million. And it is a myth that these people were ever denied care. This is why HHS isn't keeping up with the number of uninsured who are signing up through the exchanges. The plight of the uninsured was a phony issue. A genuine issue, on the other hand, was increasing insurance premiums. And, perversely, the authors of Obamacare never addressed the underlying causes of this problem. In fact, the ironically named Affordable Care Act actually exacerbated the cost problem." [56364]

The Treasury Department issues final regulations for "Information Reporting by Applicable Large Employers on Health Insurance Coverage Offered Under Employer-Sponsored Plans." The 84-page document includes rules such as, "(1) Certification of qualifying offer. An applicable large employer member is an eligible applicable large employer member and is treated as meeting its reporting obligation under section 6056 if: (i) The applicable large employer member certifies on the section 6056 transmittal form, in accordance with the form and the instructions to the form, that it made a qualifying offer. A qualifying offer is an offer to one or more of its full-time employees for all months during the year for which the employee was a full-time employee and which are not within a limited nonassessment period (as defined in §54.4980H-1(a)(26) of this chapter), of minimum essential coverage providing minimum value at an employee cost for employee-only coverage not exceeding 9.5 percent of the mainland single federal poverty line, and that includes an offer of minimum essential coverage to the employees' spouses and dependents. For this purpose, the applicable federal poverty line is the federal poverty line as defined in §54.4980H-1(a)(19) of this chapter, as calculated and applied to the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia..." (Needless to say, many businesses will be unable to properly comply with such ObamaCare regulations without the assistance of lawyers and tax experts. The cost of paying for those professional will necessarily be added on to the prices of the goods and services sold by the company.) [56609]

At NationalReview.com Jillian Kay Melchior writes, "The Department of the Interior knew beforehand that two groups of aging veterans would be visiting the World War II Memorial as the partial government shutdown began on Oct. 1 but decided to barricade the site anyway, according to e-mails obtained by National Review Online. The newly released public records also show National Park Service employees busily monitoring the



news for any bad publicity and making shutdown exceptions for their co-workers.” [56350, 56351]

White House press secretary Jay Carney, noting a planned 14-hour Senate “Up4Climate talkathon” to discuss global warming, tells reporters, “We commend those who are participating because it’s a very important subject that [Obama], as you know, is concerned about and has a climate action plan dedicated to addressing,” White House press secretary Jay Carney told reporters. . . . He has taken steps in his first term and again in his second term and will continue to take steps to both reduce our carbon emissions and to make sure that we’re more prepared for the effects and impacts of severe weather, for example, which is a byproduct of the climate change that we’ve seen.” Twenty-eight Senate Democrats are scheduled to speak. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) states, “The purpose is to use the bully pulpit of our Senate offices to achieve that wake-up call. We believe that climate change is a catastrophe that is unfolding before our eyes, and we want Congress to take off the blindfolds.” (The issue is so important to Democrats that they are not even promoting legislation. They plan only to talk about climate change. HotAir.com comments, “In a nutshell, it’s all about the politics, not so much about the legislation...” That is, the Democrats can say they “care” more about the environment than Republicans, while at the same time they will not push any job-killing legislation to show they are serious.) [56134, 56135, 56160, 56162]

According to a Gallup poll, 15.9 percent of Americans do not have health insurance—up from 14.8 percent in 2008, but a decline from 17.1 percent in 2013. [56140, 56141]

Politico reports, “The Obama administration has dropped controversial plans to overhaul the Medicare prescription drug program amid withering criticism from the industry, patient advocacy groups and lawmakers that the changes would limit seniors’ access to certain medications and choice of plans. CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner wrote in a letter to Congress Monday that she was shelving changes proposed in January that could have loosened the requirements that Medicare Part D insurance plans cover a broad range of drugs in six ‘protected classes’ of medications. The changes also would have limited the number of drug plans that were available. The letter comes a day before a potentially embarrassing House vote was expected on a bill to block the changes to the program—the Keep the Promise to Seniors Act, which could have garnered bipartisan support.” (Some might assume that Obama will wait until after the November elections to reintroduce the changes.) [56151, 56220]

LibertyNews.com reports, “In January, Hillary Clinton’s former campaign manager, Terry McAuliffe, who’d never before held elected office, became Virginia’s Governor. According to *The Washington Post*, one of McAuliffe’s top priorities, expanding the state’s Medicaid benefits, caused so much rancor among General Assembly members that the legislative session ended on Saturday without a budget. Conservatives in House of Delegates say they refuse to help the Governor ease Obamacare implementation in the Commonwealth. Thus, they have no intention of expanding Medicaid even if it leads to a statewide government shutdown. . . . If Conservatives hold their resolve and McAuliffe remains determined to only sign a budget that includes provisions that ease Obamacare’s

implementation in the Commonwealth, the state government will shut down on July, 1.” (Many states have refused to accept the Medicaid expansion requested by the Affordable Care Act because of cost concerns. Although the federal government covers the initial cost of the expansion, the subsidy is phased out over several years.) [56152]

The Sbarro pizza chain files for bankruptcy protection. In recent weeks Sbarro has closed 155 of its 220 U.S. restaurants. [56153, 56167]

USAToday.com reports, “Ukraine may have to arm itself with nuclear weapons if the United States and other world powers refuse to enforce a security pact that obligates them to reverse the Moscow-backed takeover of Crimea, a member of the Ukraine parliament told USA TODAY. The United States, Great Britain and Russia agreed in a pact ‘to assure Ukraine's territorial integrity’ in return for Ukraine giving up a nuclear arsenal it inherited from the Soviet Union after declaring independence in 1991, said Pavlo Ryzanenko, a member of the Ukrainian parliament. ‘We gave up nuclear weapons because of this agreement,’ said Ryzanenko, a member of the Udar Party headed by Vitali Klitschko, a candidate for president. ‘Now there’s a strong sentiment in Ukraine that we made a big mistake.’ His statements come as Russia raised the possibility it may send its troops beyond the Crimean peninsula on the Black Sea into the eastern half of Ukraine. ...Ryzanenko and others in Ukraine say the pact it made with the United States under President Bill Clinton was supposed to prevent such Russian invasions. The pact was made after the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991 and became Russia, leaving the newly independent nation of Ukraine as the world’s third largest nuclear weapons power. The communist dictatorship that was the Soviet Union had based nuclear missiles in republics it held captive along its border with Europe, and Ukraine had thousands. World powers urged Ukraine to give up the arsenal but its leaders balked, expressing fear they needed the weapons to deter Russia from trying to reverse Ukraine’s independence. To reassure the Ukrainians, the United States and leaders of the United Kingdom and Russia signed in 1994 the ‘Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances’ in which the signatories promised that none of them would threaten or use force to alter the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine.” [56154]

TheHill.com reports, “Central European countries are asking U.S. lawmakers to expedite natural gas exports in an effort to curb Russian President Vladimir Putin’s power. Ambassadors from Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia wrote to Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) urging congressional action to fast-track natural gas exports to allies in Central and Eastern Europe. ‘As events in Ukraine bring back the memories of the Cold War, from which all of our countries suffered terribly, we are writing to highlight the overall importance of U.S. engagement in Central and Eastern Europe, and more specifically in the area of energy security and reliable supply of natural gas,’ the letter states.” [56180, 56181]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “A key fleet of U.S. reconnaissance planes used to detect enemy aircraft in hostile settings will to be [sic; will be] cut by 25 percent under ...Obama’s fiscal year 2015 budget, according to multiple sources familiar with the budget proposal. A fleet of 31 AWACs, or Airborne Warning and Control System planes,

will be reduced to 24 by 2015 under Obama's budget proposal. ...The situation has prompted concern in defense circles and elsewhere, where sources have pointed out that AWACS are currently deployed in Poland and Romania in order to help monitor the standoff in Ukraine." At AmericanThinker.com Ed Lasky writes, "Again and again, Obama practices unilateralism. He normally decries American leadership in world affairs but will make an exception by slashing our defense budget while those of our adversaries are soaring and the Russian bear has emerged to run rampant and wild across the world. He did not even try to get a fig leaf for his actions by negotiating a mutual reduction with other nations. He is just increasingly disarming the US—making us weaker and weaker by the day. After all, if we don't see the danger it doesn't exist, right? More food stamps and more welfare and more taxpayer money flowing to unions and Democratic donors are good but securing America is bad. Iran is developing nuclear weapons while regime leaders ridicule America—and Obama averts his eyes. Islamic terrorism is dismissed as 'work place violence' (as in Ft. Hood) or man-made disaster. The Russian invasion of Crimea is called an 'uncontested arrival.' Red lines are ignored. The list goes on and on. The only people Obama sees as enemies seem to be fellow Americans—Republicans. And Israelis." [56207, 56208]

The FBI lists the top 10 most dangerous cities in the United States—all of which are run by Democrats: 1. Camden, New Jersey (Mayor Dana Redd, Democrat); 2. Flint, Michigan (Mayor Dayne Walling, Democrat); Detroit Michigan (Mayor Dave Bing/Mike Duggan, Democrat(s)); Oakland, California (Mayor Jean Quan, Democrat); St. Louis, Missouri (Mayor Francis Slay, Democrat); Cleveland, Ohio (Mayor Frank Jackson, Democrat); Gary, Indiana (Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Democrat); Newark, New Jersey (Mayor Corey Booker/Luis Quintana, Democrat(s)); Bridgeport, Connecticut (Mayor Bill Finch, Democrat); Birmingham, Alabama (Mayor William A. Bell, Democrat). [56215, 56216]

On March 11 Obama designates a 1,665-acre nature preserve in California, Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands, a national monument. Legislation to designate the area a monument has been sitting in the Democrat-controlled Senate for months. The Senate inaction was almost certainly intentional, so that Obama could instead take credit for the eventual action. At PJMedia.com Bridget Johnson writes, "...Obama whipped out his pen today and used the 1906 Antiquities Act to declare the coastline protected land, proclaiming that he needed to use his executive authority to do so. 'In my State of the Union address, I said that I would use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations,' Obama said in a statement. 'Our country is blessed with some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. It's up to us to protect them, so our children's children can experience them, too. That's what today is about.'" Of course, the area could have been protected months earlier had the Senate simply voted on the bill. [56135]

Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT) states, "[Obama's] use of the Antiquities Act to expand the Coastal California National Monument is disappointing to say the least. It is also purely political and undermines sincere efforts to reach consensus on questions of conservation. The House passed legislation to incorporate these public lands into the

national monument with bipartisan support—both at the committee level and on the House floor. The fact that this bill hasn't yet been considered in the Senate is not an oversight, it was intentional. The legislation was held up in the Senate so [Obama] could usurp the congressional process. In other words, the House was punked by [Obama]. ...Had the Senate done its job, the bill would have been considered and passed under regular order. There was broad support for the measure. [Obama] seems to view the legislative process as relevant only when it is politically convenient. Unfortunately, that is not how our founding fathers intended for the federal government to operate. I am troubled by the way ...Obama and [Senate Majority Leader] Harry Reid [D-NV] misuse the powers entrusted to them by the American people. This only hurts our country as we move forward tackling some of the biggest issues facing the American people.” [56135]

Thousands of Turkish citizens protest upon hearing of the death of a 15-year-old who had been in a coma since being struck in the head by a tear gas canister while shopping for bread near a June 2013 demonstration against the government. The government responds with rubber bullets, water cannons, and tear gas. At least two protesters are killed. (The government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan—Obama's closest foreign leader friend—has become increasingly brutal as it works to convert the somewhat secular nation to one that follows Shari'ah law. Many Turks consider Erdogan to be “Obama's puppet.”) [56400]

At Spectator.org Jeffrey Lord reports that Hillary Clinton's “own private NSA,” the American Bridge Political Action Committee, “spent last week spying on the private conversations of attendees at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). The group also plans to spy on the private lives of GOP delegates to the 2016 Republican National Convention wherever the convention is located... American Bridge was founded by Clinton ally David Brock and is funded by longtime Clinton supporter and billionaire George Soros. American Bridge PAC president Brad Woodhouse boasted that the group's ‘trackers’ at CPAC had been ‘in the hallways capturing conversations and that kind of thing.’ Meaning? Meaning Hillary's American Bridge is about invading privacy. CPAC's today, someone else's tomorrow. Yours.” [56365]

*The Washington Post* reports, “A longtime adviser to Hillary Rodham Clinton personally sought and secured the funding for what prosecutors say was an illegal shadow operation to boost Clinton's 2008 presidential bid, according to court papers released as part of a wide-ranging campaign finance investigation. Washington businessman Jeffrey E. Thompson, who pleaded guilty Monday to federal conspiracy charges in a case that has focused largely on D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray's (D) 2010 campaign, told federal prosecutors that Clinton aide Minyon Moore asked him to fund pro-Clinton efforts in four states and Puerto Rico costing \$608,750 during the hard-fought 2008 Democratic presidential primary campaign, the documents show.” (Clinton denies any knowledge of the scheme.) [56373, 56374]

CIA Director John Brennan, addressing the Council on Foreign Relations, provides excuses for Islamist terrorism, saying that al-Qaeda has “a perverse and very corrupt interpretation of the Qur'an. One of the things that I'm struck with when I travel

throughout the Middle East and I meet with leaders, military and civilian—these are individuals who are Qur’anic scholars themselves and they are the ones who are most annoyed at how al-Qaeda has hijacked their religion and how they have really distorted the teachings of Mohammed, you know, for violent purposes. Now, quite unfortunately, though, that ideology, that agenda of al-Qaeda has gained resonance and following in many parts of the world. It’s fed a lot of times by, you know, political repression, by economic, you know, disenfranchisement, by, you know, lack of education and ignorance, so there, there are a number of phenomena right now that I think are fueling the fires of, you know, this ideology.” (It apparently does not occur to Brennan—who some believe secretly converted to Islam—that the ideology itself is the cause of Muslim violence.) Pamela Geller asks if Brennan is “aware of the Rand Corporation report on counterterrorism, prepared for the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 2009? It found that ‘Terrorists are not particularly impoverished, uneducated, or afflicted by mental disease. Demographically, their most important characteristic is normalcy (within their environment). Terrorist leaders actually tend to come from relatively privileged backgrounds.’” (*The Obama Timeline* believes Brennan is working against the best interests of the United States in his position as CIA Director—a job he was given by Obama because Brennan “knows where the bodies are buried.” That is, Brennan knows about Obama’s past.) [56434]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) issues a 141-page report excoriating former IRS official Lois Lerner, accusing her of making false and misleading statements, obstruction, and misleading Congress. Issa states that Lerner “led efforts to scrutinize conservative groups while working to maintain a veneer of objective enforcement. ... Through e-mails, documents, and the testimony of other IRS officials, the Committee has learned a great deal about Lois Lerner’s role in the IRS targeting scandal since the Committee first issued a subpoena for her testimony. She was keenly aware of acute political pressure to crack down on conservative-leaning organizations. Not only did she seek to convey her agreement with this sentiment publicly, she went so far as to engage in a wholly inappropriate effort to circumvent federal prohibitions in order to publicize her efforts to crack down on a particular Tea Party applicant. She created unprecedented roadblocks for Tea Party organizations, worked surreptitiously to advance new Obama Administration regulations that curtail the activities of existing 501(c)(4) organizations—all the while attempting to maintain an appearance that her efforts did not appear, in her own words, ‘per se political.’” (In other words, “Contempt charges against Lerner are coming.”) [56305]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Malaysian military said Tuesday they may have tracked missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 fly hundreds of miles off course to the Strait of Malacca after its last contact with air traffic control and apparent transponder switch-off. The Strait of Malacca runs along Malaysia’s west coast, and is one of the busiest shipping channels in the world. If accurate, the new radar information released by an unidentified Malaysian military official would put the missing Boeing 777 on the opposite side of Malaysia from its last confirmed position, CBS reports. It would also mean the flight made a major course correction mid-flight and flew below standard radar-detection altitude heading back to Malaysia without alerting air traffic control, and after having its

location transponder and tracking systems switched off or disabled.” (No wreckage has been found. That, and the fact that two Iranians— 18-year-old Pouria Nour Mohammad Mehrdad and 29-year-old Delavar Syed Mohammad Reza—reportedly boarded the flight with stolen passports, suggests a possible hijacking.) [56166, 56173, 56174, 56211]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports on Dr. Vivek Hallagere Murthy’s gun control activism. Murthy, Obama’s nominee for Surgeon General, is the founder of Doctors for Obama, which morphed into Doctors for America. Pavlich notes, “Murthy recently made it through a vote from Senators on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and will face a full Senate floor vote sometime in the near future. Although Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-NV] has nuked the filibuster and set up Senate rules that nearly guarantee Murthy’s confirmation, red state Democrats are going to have a tough time in an election year justifying a confirmation vote for an anti-Second Amendment activist.” (Murthy has been a doctor for only a few years and has never even run a hospital department. He is primarily an anti-gun activist. According to TheBlaze.com, Murthy’s group “successfully fought a proposed Florida law that would have prevented doctors from including in a person’s medical file whether they are a gun owner. Doctors for America has referred to guns as a public health threat, and circulated a petition to pressure Congress to pass stricter gun laws.” Even if his activism is ignored, Murthy is too inexperienced to be the nation’s surgeon general.) [56155, 56156, 56466]

Obama does an embarrassingly unfunny and demeaning-to-the-office scripted interview with actor Zach Galifianakis on FunnyorDie.com. (The web site is primarily viewed by young people, and Obama uses the interview to plug the Affordable Care Act.) ABC’s Dianne Sawyer calls the interview “a bold move.” On NBC, Carson Daly gushes, “It’s over six minutes long... all of it is really, really funny. ...But boy, [Obama], he is amazing in this.” On CBS, Obama-sycophant Gayle King exclaims, “Humor works. Bravo to Zach and bravo to [Obama]!” [56158, 56159, 56178, 56191, 56193, 56233, 56243, 56251, 56252, 56274, 56290]

Republicans criticize Senate Democrats for their 14-hour “climate change talkathon.” Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) says, “It’s hard to square the [Democrat] message [of job-killing environmental regulations] with the middle class and middle class prosperity.” Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) says, “So we had an all-night Talkathon, and what did it accomplish? A waste of time and more hot air... to satisfy their liberal donor.” (Barrasso is referring to hedge fund billionaire Tom Steyer, who DailyCaller.com reports, “has pledged \$100 million to make global warming a top tier issue in this year’s elections.” The whole point of the talkfest was to persuade Steyer to keep his wallet open.) “But for most of these folks [Senate Democrats], they just want to talk all night. They don’t want to do anything, they just want to talk. It’s astonishing that the most vulnerable Democrats [Mark Begich (D-AK), Kay Hagan (D-NC), Mary Landrieu (D-LA)] did not show their faces last night.” During the all-night talkfest, Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) says, “I just do want to say that right after I turned 17 and got my New Jersey driver’s license, one of the earliest places I drove was a trip—the only trip I have ever taken was to Hawaii.” (How Booker drove from New Jersey to Hawaii is not clear.) [56162, 56172, 56179, 56182, 56187, 56188, 56244, 56270]

Senator James Inhofe (R-UT) states, “In the last five years, between 2009 and 2014, [Obama] has spent \$120 billion on the environmental agenda, mostly global warming, climate and that type of thing. And in that respect, if you’ll just take the amount that was not authorized by Congress—and I’m talking about the environmental agenda, you could actually buy 1,400 F-35s.” (Recognizing that the talkathon was nothing more than a meaningless stunt, Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, “It was an odd spectacle. Not only were Democrats ‘demanding action’ from a legislative body that *they control*, they did so while deliberately declining to specify what action they were demanding. Might I suggest the following inspirational chant? ‘What do we want? *Non-specific action from ourselves!* When do we want it? *Now!*’” Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)—who would apparently rather spend 14 hours talking about “climate change” than ways to reduce the government’s massive debt—says, “This is about trying to raise the profile and being to gain some momentum on this issue. Then I think we’re in a position to ask corporate America and other groups and organizations to get more engaged and open the kind of space it will take to pass a bill. But the first thing we have to show is that we’re engaged ourselves.” [56162, 56172, 56179, 56182, 56187, 56188, 56244]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Obama administration announced new Obamacare numbers showing that they’ll need to sign up a whopping 1.8 million people in March to meet even their pared-down goals. A total of 4.2 million people have selected a plan on Obamacare exchanges nationwide so far, according to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). [The administration had projected 5.7 enrollments by the end of February.] The Obama administration has already given up meeting its original 7 million-strong enrollment goal, but the new numbers suggest it may not reach its lowered 6 million enrollment target either. ...Realistically, the administration will need even more enrollments than that. Once again, HHS officials refused to reveal the number of Americans who have fully completed the enrollment process by paying their first premiums.” (The ObamaCare enrollment period ends March 31. Whether Obama will act unilaterally—and illegally—to extend the deadline is not known.) [56163, 56213, 56219, 56316]

On the floor of the Senate, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, accuses the CIA of illegally searching a computer network used by her and her committee colleagues. Feinstein says, “This was done without the knowledge or approval of committee members and staff and in violation of our written agreements. ...I have grave concerns that the CIA’s search may well have violated the separation of powers principles embodied in the United States Constitution.” According to the Associated Press, “The CIA provided computers to congressional staffers in a secure room in northern Virginia in 2009 so the panel could review millions of pages of top secret documents in the course of its investigation into the CIA’s detentions and interrogations during the Bush administration. At issue now is whether the CIA violated an agreement made with the Senate Intelligence Committee about monitoring the panel’s use of CIA computers.” Feinstein claims the White House ordered the CIA to remove documents in the system. (Perhaps not surprisingly, Feinstein seems willing to accept

NSA spying on Americans, but draws the line at CIA spying on her.) The White House denies the claim, and CIA Director John Brennan calls Feinstein's claim "beyond the scope of reason." (Brennan does not directly deny the accusations; he merely claims they are "beyond the scope of reason." He also says, "When the facts come out on this, I think a lot of people who are claiming that there has been this tremendous sort of spying and monitoring and hacking will be proved wrong." He is technically not denying spying; he is only denying a "tremendous sort of spying." Brennan is counting on Obama covering for him or bailing him out if necessary. But that pits Feinstein against Obama, and she may be tough enough to not back down.) Senator John McCain (R-AZ) tells NBC, "I have never had a great deal of confidence in Mr. Brennan. ...It is very disturbing, and we need a thorough and complete investigation, and I'm trying to figure out who would be doing it, because there's [sic; there are] allegations of bias on both sides, so we may need some kind of independent investigation." [56176, 56177, 56192, 56229, 56230, 56234, 56272, 56275, 56303, 56363]

It was probably Brennan—a former CIA station chief in Saudi Arabia—who ordered Mike Morell, then-head of the CIA's Counterterrorism Center, to remove references to terrorism from then-Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice's September 2012 talk show talking points about Benghazi and who helped come up with the phony YouTube video cover story. For that—and other "errands," such as "scrubbing" Obama's passport files in 2008—Obama rewarded Brennan with the CIA position. Former FBI agent John Guandolo, author of the first Muslim Brotherhood training manual for the agency, told radio talk show host Tom Trento (before Brennan's confirmation as CIA director) that Brennan was "wholly unfit for government service in any national security capacity, and that would specifically make him unfit to be the Director of Central Intelligence for the United States. ...[Brennan] has interwoven his life, professionally and personally, with individuals that we know are terrorists, and he has given them access to not only senior leaders inside the government but has given them access to the National Security Council, the national security staff; he has brought known Hamas and Muslim Brotherhood operatives into those positions of government; he has overseen and approved and encouraged others to bring known leaders of Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood into the government to advise the U.S. government on characters and strategy as well as the overall quote unquote 'war on terror.'" [807, 41469, 42433, 56176, 56177, 56192, 56209]

"...[Brennan] has proven through his own comments publicly that he is clueless and grossly ignorant of al-Qaeda's strategy. ...Brennan did convert to Islam when he served in an official capacity on behalf of the United States in Saudi Arabia. ...What makes him unfit for duty was [that] his conversion to Islam was the culmination of a counterintelligence operation against him to recruit him, and the fact that foreign intelligence service operatives recruited Mr. Brennan, and he was in a very sensitive and senior U.S. government position in a foreign country means that he is either a traitor, which I'm not saying but that's one of the options and he did this all willingly and knowingly, or he did it unwillingly... and unwittingly, which means he is naive and does not understand, he has the inability to discern to understand how to walk in those kind of environments, which makes him completely unfit to be the Director of Central



Intelligence.” (Brennan is more than capable of ordering the actions that angered Feinstein, and would not hesitate to lie about those actions.) [807, 41469, 42433, 56176, 56177, 56192]

At a Senate hearing, Obama’s choice to head the National Security Agency and the U.S. military’s “Cyber Command,” Vice Admiral Michael Rogers, says, “I would attempt to be as transparent as possible with the broader nation about what we’re doing (at the NSA) and why.” [56226, 56227]

Legislators in Hawaii push legislation imposing a penalty fee on health insurance companies that have chosen not to participate in the state’s ObamaCare exchange—which has enrolled fewer than 5,000 people. State Representative Angus McKelvey (D) says, “This is not something we want to do. It’s federally mandated that we have to have our exchanges be sustainable.” (The extortion bill, which is clearly unconstitutional, has already passed the House.) [56224, 56250]

According to *The New York Times*, “...Obama this week will seek to force American businesses to pay more overtime to millions of workers, the latest move by his administration to confront corporations that have had soaring profits even as wages have stagnated. On Thursday, [Obama] will direct the Labor Department to revamp its regulations to require overtime pay for several million additional fast-food managers, loan officers, computer technicians and others whom many businesses currently classify as ‘executive or professional’ employees to avoid paying them overtime, according to White House officials briefed on the announcement. ...Conservatives criticized Mr. Obama’s impending action. ‘There’s no such thing as a free lunch,’ said Daniel Mitchell, a senior fellow with the Cato Institute, who warned that employers might cut pay or use fewer workers. ‘If they push through something to make a certain class of workers more expensive, something will happen to adjust.’ ...The proposed new regulations would increase the number of people who qualify for overtime... Currently, employers are prohibited from denying time-and-a-half overtime pay to any salaried worker who makes less than \$455 per week. Mr. Obama’s directive would significantly increase that salary level.” CBS claims “An estimated 10 million workers stand to benefit” from Obama’s action. (Whether those 10 million workers will enjoy having to punch a time clock remains to be seen.) [56246, 56247, 56283, 56289, 56337]

HotAir.com comments, “It’s a logical corollary to [Obama’s] push to raise the minimum wage. If, in the name of fairness and income equality, we can tell businesses how much to pay their lowest-ranking employees, we should also tell them how much to pay their middle managers, no? ...Currently management can avoid paying you overtime if your duties are ‘executive’ (i.e. supervisory) and if you make more than \$455 per week. O wants to raise that salary cut-off so that lower-ranking ‘executives’ get time and a half just like the people they’re supervising. New dilemma for businesses, then: Do they bite the bullet and pay extra to middle managers who work overtime? Or, in the name of keeping costs down, do they decide to be sticklers about hours?” (The likelihood is that many supervisors and managers who have not had to punch time cards will now have to

do so. Those employees may be happy to know they will be paid overtime for working more than 40 hours, but they will be less than thrilled to discover that their lunch hour abuses will be curtailed. They may end up being ordered by their bosses not to work one second past 40 hours, while being watched more closely during the 40 hours they do work.) [56246, 56247, 56283, 56289, 56337]

BizPacReview.com reports, “Fresh off its abandoned plan to inject progressive commissars into the nation’s newsrooms, the Federal Communications Commission is turning its attention to the financing arrangements that have made it possible for Armstrong Williams, the outspoken conservative to be the only black owner of a television station in the United States, according to the Washington Times. Armstrong’s two stations—in Flint, Mich., and Myrtle Beach, S.C.—operate under a deal with white-owned Sinclair Broadcasting that helps Armstrong’s stations get better advertising rates in return for a cut of the stations’ ad revenues. The only other black owner of a television station in the country, Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss., operates under a similar arrangement with American Spirit Media. Such deals have been common in broadcasting for years, according to the Washington Times. Now, the FCC and Eric Holder’s Justice Department think they give too much power to the larger firms—Sinclair and American Spirit—while ignoring that without the deals, there would be no minority ownership of the stations at all.” [56235]

The CBS affiliate in Cleveland, Ohio reports, “A former Ohio poll worker sentenced to five years in prison for voting illegally on behalf of other people has been released from prison after less than a year behind bars. Melowese Richardson of Madisonville was released Tuesday after her attorney says [sic] she gave him permission to reveal that she has bipolar disorder. Her attorney, David Singleton, shared Richardson’s medical records with Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters. After reviewing the case, Deters asked Judge Robert Ruhlman to allow Richardson to be released. ‘In the interest of justice, it is time for her to go home,’ Deters said, according to WCPO-TV.” (Richardson admitted voting for Obama several times.) According to DailyCaller.com, Richardson also “sat on the board of a group that received an Obama administration Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant. Richardson worked for and sat on the board of a Cincinnati-based environmental activist group called Communities United for Action, which received an EPA grant and attended a conference with former Obama administration Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.” (Although Richardson was charged in Ohio, the Obama administration has shown no desire to prosecute her under federal statutes, which Breitbart.com reports could result in a 25-year prison sentence under 42 USC Section 1973i(e).) [56256, 56668, 57227]

According to *The New York Times*, the Obama administration has rejected Ecuador’s request to extradite two embezzlers, brothers Roberto and William Isaias. (Some might assume the rejection has something to do with the \$90,000 donated to the Obama reelection campaign by Isaias family members. It could also be political payback for Ecuador harboring Wikileaks founder Julian Assange in its embassy in London.) [56268, 56269]

Obama travels to New York City for a fundraiser, stopping first at a Gap store to buy sweaters for his daughters—and tell reporters the minimum wage needs to be increased. TruthRevolt.org reports, “According to the White House press pool, Obama visited Gap because the company recently announced that it would voluntarily increase wages for employees. After telling employees that ‘the ladies will be impressed by my sense of style,’ Obama then picked up a couple of sweaters for his girls, Sasha and Malia. Upon checking out, however, the problems began. Obama took out his credit card and began handing it to the cashier, who told him that he could swipe his credit card in the automated machine. ‘Oh, wow,’ Obama said, ‘so you can sign the machine?’ He then said he was kidding: ‘They had these around the last time I shopped.’” [56214, 56255, 56260, 56298, 56431]

Republican David Jolly defeats Democrat Adelaide Alexander “Alex” Sink, 48.5–46.6 percent, in a special election to fill the 13th District seat of the late Congressman Bill Young (R-FL). Libertarian candidate Lucas Overby wins 4.8 percent. (Obama won the district in both 2008 and 2012. Sink carried the district by two points in her losing 2010 campaign for governor.) Prior to the vote, pundits argued that the election would be a referendum on ObamaCare. After Jolly wins, Democrats predictably say it was not a bellwether. RollCall.com notes, “At a minimum, Jolly’s win means Democrats still must pick up a net of 17 seats to capture control of the House in November—a difficult task. But both parties also used the special election as a test for their messages ahead of the midterm elections.” Sink, who received campaign help from a Bill Clinton appearance and outspent Jolly by about 4-to-1, tried to avoid the issue of ObamaCare during the campaign. When pressed, Sink said she would work to correct problems in the legislation. One of her statements: “Instead of repealing the health law, we need to keep what’s right and fix what’s wrong.” Some will assume that Sink, who was widely expected to win the “must win” race, will regret having said, “Immigration reform is important in our country. We have a lot of employers over on the beaches that rely upon workers and especially in this high-growth environment, where are you going to get people to work to clean our hotel rooms or do our landscaping?” (Jolly is in favor of repealing ObamaCare and opposed to amnesty for illegal immigrants.) Sink was likely also harmed by her anti-gun position, and a “F” rating from the National Rifle Association’s Political Victory Fund. She also relied partly on “global warming” scaremongering. [56168, 56183, 56184, 56198, 56200, 56201, 56202, 56203, 56212, 56217, 56222, 56223, 56228, 56231, 56232, 56248, 56253, 56254, 56273, 56327, 53666, 56471]

Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR) says, “Tonight, one of [House Minority Leader] Nancy Pelosi’s [D-CA] most prized candidates was ultimately brought down because of her unwavering support for Obamacare, and that should be a loud warning for other Democrats running coast to coast.” Democrat pollster and strategist Doug Schoen tells Newsmax.com, “Obama won the district when he ran for president. Sink won the district when she ran for governor. It says to me that the Democratic brand is in trouble. Maybe not big trouble, but certainly in serious trouble. The Sink campaign did everything they possibly could to win and, bottom line, the sentiment against the Democrats and ...Obama was the difference on the night.” Dr. Ezekiel Emmanuel, a chief architect of

ObamaCare, tells *The Kelly File's* Megyn Kelly, "This is a razor-thin election. It was a very close election on both sides." (Emanuel does not explain how an election might be close on only one side.) Congresswoman Debbie "Baghdad Bob" Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), who also chairs the Democrat National Committee, states, "Tonight, Republicans fell short of their normal margin in this district because the agenda they are offering voters has a singular focus—that a majority of voters oppose—repealing the Affordable Care Act that would return us to the same old broken health care system. ...The GOP underperformed tonight..." (It would have been impossible for Jolly to outperform his predecessor, Bill Young, and win with the "normal margin" because Young ran unopposed seven times.) [56168, 56183, 56184, 56198, 56200, 56201, 56202, 56203, 56212, 56217, 56222, 56223, 56228, 56231, 56232, 56236, 56241, 56242, 56248, 56253, 56254, 56273, 56327, 53666, 56471]

It is worth reminding readers that in January 2009 Ezekiel Emanuel wrote in the medical journal *The Lancet*, "Unlike allocation (of health care) by sex or race, allocation by age is not invidious discrimination. Every person lives through different life stages rather than being a single age. Even if 25-year-olds receive priority over 65-year-olds, everyone who is 65 years now was previously 25 years. Treating 65-year-olds differently because of stereotypes or falsehoods would be ageist; treating them differently because they have already had more life-years is not." Emanuel was essentially stating that he believes it is *not* discriminatory to deny health care to the elderly. He has also written that "individuals who are irreversibly prevented from being or becoming participating citizens" should not necessarily be guaranteed health services. "An obvious example is not guaranteeing health services to patients with dementia." Elderly persons suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's are therefore among those who Emanuel (and Obama) would consider denying treatment. Another of Emanuel's statements: "Doctors take the Hippocratic Oath too seriously." Emanuel is a fellow of the Hastings Center, an organization "dedicated to bioethics." One of its goals is "to collaborate with policy makers, in the private as well as the public sphere, to identify and analyze the ethical dimensions of their work." Also affiliated with the Hastings Center is Emanuel's ex-wife, Linda L. Emanuel, author of *Regulating How We Die*. (The Emanuel family appears to have a fascination with methods for ridding society of the elderly and the unproductive.) Of Emanuel, columnist George Potts Thompson wrote at CanadaFreePress.com, "This guy is quite frankly frightening in his view of humanity. You are only worthy of care if you are 'Contributing to the Communitarian.' After you've outlived your usefulness to the state... go away and die. Ezekiel Emmanuel and Joseph Mengele would have got on famously. For they both apparently share a common view of mankind. People only exist as a 'Resource' to be used on behalf of The State. When the resource is used up, it is discarded. Sarah Palin was correct in her assessment ["death panels"] of this monstrous Legislation. It's EVIL." [3736, 4043, 4124, 4125, 4126, 4271, 4290]

Democrat strategist Paul Begala comments, "Dems should not try to spin this [Alex Sink] loss. We have to redouble our efforts for 2014. Too much at stake." *Cook Political Report's* David Wasserman writes, "If Dems couldn't win an Obama CD [congressional district] with a solid candidate against a flawed R[epublican], expect a rough November... Bottom line: #FL13 result suggests House GOP still on track for gains this

November, perhaps in 5–15 seat range.” (It is worth noting that Cook had rated the Florida-13 district the 12th most vulnerable of 37 Republican-held districts that are not “safe” for the GOP. Many nonpartisan political observers believed that the seat would be a gain for the Democrats as soon as Young left office.) [56168, 56183, 56184, 56198, 56200, 56201, 56202, 56203, 56212, 56217, 56222, 56223, 56228, 56231, 56232, 56236, 56241, 56242, 56248, 56253, 56254, 56273, 56327]

At TampaBay.com political editor Adam C. Smith writes, “If I’m a Democratic House member in any competitive district in America or a Democratic incumbent senator up for re-election this year in a moderate-to-conservative state like North Carolina, Arkansas, Colorado, Alaska or Louisiana, I’m waking up more than a little anxious about what happened in Pinellas County on Tuesday. In Alex Sink, Democrats had a better-funded, well-known nominee who ran a strong campaign against a little-known, second- or third-tier Republican who ran an often wobbly race in a district Barack Obama won twice. Outside Republican groups—much more so than the under-funded Jolly campaign—hung the Affordable Care Act and ...Obama on Sink. It worked. ...Don’t be surprised to see vulnerable Democrats across the country start distancing themselves from health care reform in a way that Sink did not. Nobody seriously expected Democrats to win back a majority in the U.S. House in November, but Sink’s loss in a winnable swing district makes Democrats’ hold on the U.S. Senate majority look more tenuous than before the special election.” [56237]

Not only was Jolly’s campaign under-funded—at least compared to Sink’s—the Republican establishment worked against Jolly by trying to recruit other candidates to run against him. Author and radio talk show host Mark Levin states, “They expected him to lose, and so they had their whole positioning ready to go that this was just another Todd Akin, a conservative kook. This guy never ran for public office before. They didn’t want him. They did everything they could to stop him in the primary. Then they trashed the hell out of him when their polls showed him to be a few points behind. The point is this: If we don’t get new Republican leadership in Washington, clean out these consultants, clean out these Republican institutions, and put in some fresh people, new people, solid people who are really concerned about the country, really concerned about winning, this is the sort of sleazy crap that’s going to go on.” According to Newsmax.com, “...Levin’s radio listeners from Florida’s 13th district had told him Jolly, a first-time candidate, beat the better-known and well-financed Sink because conservative groups turned out the vote at the grassroots level... Obamacare was the key issue in the race, followed by amnesty for illegal immigrants...” [56327]

At an evening fundraiser, Obama says, “[T]he fact of the matter is that Democrats are not without our flaws. We have our blind spots and we have our dogmas and we’ve got our crazy folks. But, as a whole, this is a party that is serious about making sure that America is growing and offering opportunity to everybody. And the story many of you here in this room have lived, the success that you’ve lived out, what we’re about is making sure a whole bunch of kids behind us can live out that same success. And if I have just a smidgeon of a cooperative Congress, think what we can do these next two and a half years. ...I hope you will all step up [and donate money] because, although I’m very

optimistic about our long-term trends, the notion that we would waste two years in further inaction rather than move boldly on a path that I think all of us in this room agree on—we don't have time to waste. I don't have time to waste. The clock is ticking. There's less than two years left—less than three years left. I want to squeeze every last little bit of work that I can during the remainder of my term so that, looking back, I'm going to be able to say that we left everything on the field and every single person I could help in this office—which is such an incredible privilege—I helped.” [56301]

On March 12 Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “In response to its own inappropriate targeting of conservative, patriot and tea party groups, the IRS has proposed a new set of rules limiting the free speech of tax exempt groups. ...But now, liberal groups like the NAACP are discovering new rules apply to them too and they're not happy about it. ...Ironically, NAACP leaders have repeatedly complained about the Supreme Court's Citizen's United ruling, the ruling that protects the free speech of tax-exempt groups, including the NAACP. Over the past few months, we've heard liberals argue that the IRS was simply 'doing its job' by singling out tea party groups for further scrutiny, but as the fallout continues with new regulations affecting them and their own activities, now they're outraged.” (According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “[T]he IRS would recategorize a broad swath of nonprofit actions as political, including any public communication that identifies a candidate within 30 days of a primary election or 60 days of a general election. The rule would also count any communication, public or private, as political if it expresses 'a view on, whether for or against, the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of one or more clearly identified candidates or of candidates of a political party.’”) [56218]

NPR.org reports, “Government estimates suggest there may be 77,000 empty or underutilized buildings across the country. Taxpayers own them, and even vacant, they're expensive. The Office of Management and Budget says these buildings could be costing taxpayers \$1.7 billion a year. That's because someone has to mow the lawns, keep the pipes from freezing, maintain security fences, pay for some basic power—even when the buildings are just sitting empty. ...But doing something with these buildings is a complicated job, partly because the federal government does not know what it owns. ...Some buildings listed as being in great shape had trees growing through the roofs. And many buildings weren't even on the list. ...[E]ven when an agency knows it has a building it would like to sell, bureaucratic hurdles limit what it can do. No federal agency can sell anything unless it's uncontaminated, asbestos-free and environmentally safe. Those are expensive fixes. Then the agency has to make sure another one doesn't want it. Then state and local governments get a crack at it, then nonprofits—and finally, a 25-year-old law requires the government to see whether it could be used as a homeless shelter. Many agencies just lock the doors and say forget it.” (How much could be collected by selling the vacant buildings is not known.) [56362]

In a grilling before the House Ways and Means Committee, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius says, “I think [ObamaCare] premiums are likely to go up [in 2015], but go up at a slower pace.” Asked how many ObamaCare enrollees have actually paid premiums, she replies, “I can't tell you that, sir, because I don't know that.”

(According to Politico, “Insurance industry officials at four of the big national health plans [state] that about 15 to 20 percent people who have signed up have not yet paid their first monthly premium...” It is not possible that Sebelius does not know that—because the insurance companies have relayed that information to the White House. “They have a lot more information than they’re letting on,” one industry source said of the Obama administration. “They have real hard data about the percent that have paid... If they have not processed those yet and compiled the data, that is a choice they are making. But they have that data now.”) Asked about Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s (D-NV) comment that negative stories about ObamaCare are “all lies,” Sebelius replies, “Congressman, I did not hear what Senator Reid said, and of course there are a lot of anecdotes... I don’t want to comment on [what Reid said].” Sebelius also admits that she does not know how many ObamaCare enrollees were previously without insurance. [56225, 56299, 56316]

Obama’s approval/disapproval rating falls to 41/54 percent in a *Wall Street Journal*/NBC poll; 65 percent of those polled say the nation is “headed on the wrong track.” (In this particular poll, Obama had never had an approval rating as low as 41 percent. In 2010, when the GOP won 63 seats in the House, Obama’s approval rating was 45 percent.) Perhaps even more worrisome for the Democrats is that Hillary Clinton’s favorable/unfavorable ratings are 41/34 in the poll—a far cry from the 56/29 she registered a year earlier. [56238, 56239, 56240, 56249, 56265]

Gay entertainer Lance Bass tweets a photo of himself at the White House with the message, “Entering the White House to meet [with Obama] to discuss health care reform. HealthCare.org.” (The site is Healthcare.gov, not HealthCare.org. Bass was a member of the singing group ‘N SYNC (also spelled \*NSYNC). What Obama expects to gain from a meeting with Bass is not clear.) [56257, 56258, 56261, 56279, 56302]

White House press secretary Jay Carney downplays Alex Sink’s loss to David Jolly in the Florida special election, telling a press room of skeptical and laughing reporters, “Any fair assessment of the role the debate about the Affordable Care Act played, uh, reaches the conclusion that, at best, for the Republicans, it was a draw. ...It [ObamaCare] was not a negative or positive. It was not the decisive factor...” (BizPacReview.com notes, “Carney’s assertion flies in the face of reality. The far-left Slate.com referred to the race as ‘Obamacare’s ground zero,’ and U.S. News and World Report agreed, saying: ‘The most recent polling in the district shows that health care has become closely linked to the contest, with 81 percent of the voters for Sink supporting the health care law and 84 percent of voters for Jolly opposed to Obamacare.’” Even *The New York Times* recognizes that it was ObamaCare that cost Sink the election. The White House even suspected Sink might lose and was gearing up for it: according to the *Times*, “As early as Monday, the White House political director, David Simas, expressed anxiety about the race, phoning reporters to pre-emptively play down the health law as a factor, something that Democratic leaders continued to do on Wednesday.”) [56338, 56359, 56360]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) comments on the Democrats’ insistence that Jolly’s victory over Sink is not particularly meaningful: “Listen, I’ve stood here after

losing some special elections. I've tried to put lipstick on a pig, and it's still a pig. You can bet they'll try to put lipstick on it today, but you [reporters] all know what the facts are." [56366]

On the floor of the House of Representatives, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC), a co-author of proposed legislation—the Executive Needs to Faithfully Observe and Respect Congressional Enactments of the Law (ENFORCE the Law) Act of 2014—that would give legislators standing to sue Obama if he fails to enforce laws, delivers a scathing attack on Obama's abuse of power. Gowdy—who is fast becoming a favorite of conservatives nationwide for his directness and his common sense remarks—says, “Maybe we [members of Congress] would be more respected if we had a firmly rooted expectation that when we pass something as law it be treated as law. ...Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives does not exist to pass *suggestions*, we do not exist to pass ideas, we make *law*. And while you are free to stand and clap, when any president comes into this hallowed chamber and promises to do it with or without your approval—I will never stand and clap. When any president, whether it's your party or mine, promises to make us an anomaly, an afterthought—I will never stand and clap.” [56276, 56277, 56278, 56286, 56307, 56330]

Gowdy also reads a number of Obama's statements about the misuse of power—that he made while a U.S. Senator: “These last few years, we've seen an unacceptable abuse of power, having a president [George W. Bush] whose priority is expanding his own power.” “No law can give Congress a backbone if it refuses to stand up as a co-equal branch the Constitution made it.” “I taught the Constitution for ten years. I believe in the Constitution.” “One of the most important jobs of the Supreme Court is to guard against the encroachment of the executive branch on the power of the other branches. And I think the chief justice has been a little too willing and eager to give the president more power than I think the Congress or the Constitution originally intended.” Gowdy asks, “[H]ow in the world can you get before the Supreme Court if you don't have standing? What did [Obama] mean by that, when he looked to the Supreme Court to rein-in executive overreach? If you don't have standing, how can you possibly get before the Supreme Court? ...And if [Obama] does not faithfully execute the law, Mr. Speaker, what are our remedies? Do we just sit and wait on another election? Do we use the power of the purse, the power of impeachment? Those are punishments, those are not remedies. The remedy is to do exactly what Barack Obama said to do, to go to court, to go to the Supreme Court and have the Supreme Court say once and for all we don't pass suggestions in this body, Mr. Speaker, we don't pass ideas. We pass laws, and we expect them to be faithfully executed.” [56276, 56277, 56278, 56286, 56307, 56330]

The House then passes the ENFORCE Act by a vote of 233–181, with five Democrats joining Republicans; 181 Democrats who vote against the legislation apparently believe Obama does not have to enforce laws—even though “faithfully executing” the laws is his main obligation under the U.S. Constitution. (Obama has threatened to veto the legislation if it is also passed by the Senate.) [56276, 56277, 56278, 56286, 56307, 56308, 56340]



House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) comments on the White House threat to veto the ENFORCE Act: “The fact that [Obama] would threaten to veto a measure requiring him to uphold his constitutional obligations underscores why this bill is needed, and why Senate Democrats should pass it immediately.” [56386]

Muslim terrorists in Gaza launch dozens of rockets against villages in southern Israel. According to IsraelNationalNews.com, “*IDF Radio* is reporting that over 60 rockets have landed in Israel so far, after initial reports put the number at closer to 25. Of those, at least five were launched at Sderot; the Iron Dome has stopped some of them from making an impact on Israeli soil, according to the latest updates. No injuries have been reported. The Islamic Jihad terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the attack, in response to IAF airstrikes in Gaza on Tuesday, which killed three Islamic Jihad terrorists. Those airstrikes were themselves a response to an attempted mortar attack on IDF forces by the terrorist squad.” (Pamela Geller writes, “Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza. The invented “Palestinian” people got their state and where is the peace, harmony and happiness? Gaza is a terror statelet whose goal is the annihilation of Israel. Giving Gaza to savages based on a lie could only have this catastrophic result. Responding to the onslaught of more than 60 rockets fired by Islamic Jihad terrorists from the Gaza Strip this evening, Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman has said that any Israeli response must include the retaking of Gaza, according to AFP. The comments were made in an interview with Israel’s Channel Two. ‘Following an attack like this—a barrage of more than 50 rockets—there is no alternative to a full reoccupation of the entire Gaza Strip,’ he said.” [56266, 56267, 56294]

*The Wall Street Journal* reports, “In 2013, HHS [Department of Health and Human Services] decided that ObamaCare’s wave of policy terminations qualified as a ‘hardship’ that entitled people to a special type of coverage designed for people under age 30 or a mandate exemption. HHS originally defined and reserved hardship exemptions for the truly down and out such as battered women, the evicted and bankrupts. But amid the post-rollout political backlash, last week the agency created a new category: Now all you need to do is fill out a form attesting that your plan was cancelled and that you ‘believe that the plan options available in the [ObamaCare] Marketplace in your area are more expensive than your cancelled health insurance policy’ or ‘you consider other available policies unaffordable.’ This lax standard—no formula or hard test beyond a person’s belief—at least ostensibly requires proof such as an insurer termination notice. But people can also qualify for hardships for the unspecified nonreason [sic; non-reason] that ‘you experienced another hardship in obtaining health insurance,’ which only requires ‘documentation if possible.’ And yet another waiver is available to those who say they are merely unable to afford coverage, regardless of their prior insurance. In a word, these shifting legal benchmarks offer an exemption to everyone who conceivably wants one.” (In other words, an individual can now avoid the ObamaCare individual mandate tax penalty simply by claiming he cannot afford to buy health insurance.) [56271, 56280, 56284, 56291, 56304, 56309]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson comments, “That’s exactly right. This change could easily apply to the entire uninsured population—the vast majority of whom haven’t

signed up for Obamacare coverage, with most citing lack of affordability as the top reason. The White House recognizes that dispatching [Obama] to practically beg people to think about canceling their cable or cell phones in order to pay for his law's 'affordable' care isn't politically sustainable. Nor is the idea of millions of long-term uninsured Americans remaining without coverage, but getting slapped with resulting fines for the first time. So the mandate tax has, in effect, been regulated out of existence until 2016. ...So why was this enormous change made with zero fanfare? Two reasons: First, the White House is already far behind its projected pace on enrollments. They've decided against trumpeting a huge disincentive to signing up in the midst of their enrollment period's home stretch. Second, this is all hugely embarrassing to [Obama]. This mandate tax is the tent pole of this whole enterprise. It is what allowed the law to narrowly survive the Supreme Court's scrutiny. Obama has also repeatedly threatened to veto Republican efforts to delay the mandate tax through the legislative process. He did so most recently last week. Democrats allowed the government to shut down last fall when the GOP's central 'ask' was to do... exactly what Obama has now unilaterally done on his own. Once the March 31 deadline passes, the White House will need to determine whether or not to publicize its expansive, all-inclusive 'hardship waiver.' (Again, they're admitting that the hardship is Obamacare itself). This delay was so nonchalant that it hardly generated any attention at all until the *Journal* picked up on it... Through opacity, the White House spared itself another horrible news cycle. But if people don't hear about these new, anything-goes waivers, anger over the unfair mandate tax could continue to simmer and hurt Democrats. Decisions, decisions. In any case, Obamacare—as it was originally envisioned and passed—is gone. Think about that. It's extraordinary." [56271, 56280, 56284, 56291, 56304, 56309]

At Heritage.org Hans von Spakovsky writes, “[L]ast week, one interesting news item did not get much attention: the revelation by [former IRS official Lois] Lerner’s attorney, William Taylor III, that Lerner had given ‘a lengthy interview to Justice Department prosecutors within the last six months.’ Even more surprising was Taylor’s admission that Lerner gave DOJ her testimony without getting *any* immunity from prosecutors. If that is true, the former IRS official’s reassertion of the privilege against self-incrimination at the March 5 hearing of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is problematic. While the prevailing rule in most federal courts is that a waiver of the Fifth Amendment privilege at one proceeding does not carry through to another proceeding, that is *not* the rule in the District of Columbia. ...[I]f Lerner—without receiving a grant of immunity—voluntarily spoke to Justice Department prosecutors and/or FBI agents involved in investigating IRS targeting of conservative groups, she cannot now invoke the privilege to avoid answering congressional questions that would require her to give the *same information she has already provided to criminal investigators.*” [56281]

“...Taylor said he allowed his client to talk to DOJ because he had ‘every confidence’ that prosecutors are fair-minded and haven’t prejudged the facts. In contrast, Taylor claimed that GOP committee members only want to ‘vilify’ Lerner. But as any competent criminal defense lawyer can attest, you can’t assert the Fifth Amendment to avoid being ‘vilified;’ you can assert it in a congressional setting only to prevent your hearing

testimony being used against you in a criminal prosecution by the government. And in the D.C. Circuit, unlike every other circuit, you cannot assert the Fifth Amendment to avoid giving the same testimony that you have already provided to the government. ...According to The Wall Street Journal, at least one expert on criminal procedure, Rutgers law professor George Thomas III, found it a 'little odd' that Taylor allowed his client to talk to Justice without an immunity deal. Thomas said it could be because 'she and her lawyer think the DOJ is not interested in a serious investigation of the IRS treatment of these tax-exempt groups.' ...Could Lois Lerner be held in contempt of Congress for reasserting her privilege against self-incrimination under the Fifth Amendment, when she waived the privilege by providing criminal prosecutors with the same information sought by Congress? The answer is most likely yes. And, given that Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment right under applicable case law in the District of Columbia, there is a high probability that a court would enforce the contempt citation against her." [56281]

At WND.com author Jack Cashill (*First Strike: TWA Flight 800 and the Attack on America*) writes, "The one safe thing we can say at this point about the 'unprecedented mystery' that is Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 is that the authorities are not sharing what they know and probably never will. Unfortunately, the involvement of American authorities like [CIA Director John] Brennan does not increase our confidence that the truth will out. No, in the case of TWA Flight 800, we created the model for covering-up an air disaster and have since exported that model. The case of TWA Flight 800 is well enough known. On the night of July 17, 1996, hundreds if not thousands of people on Long Island's south shore watched as unknown objects streaked up from the horizon and arced over toward TWA Flight 800 in the seconds before it exploded. At that exact same moment, FAA radar operators out of New York picked up an unknown object on their radar screens 'merging with TWA Flight 800.' Indeed, when Ron Schleede of the National Transportation Safety Board first saw the radar data, he exclaimed, 'Holy C—, this looks bad.' He added later, 'It showed this track that suggested something fast made the turn and took the airplane.' Four years after the crash, NTSB officials came up with their own unverifiable explanation. According to the NTSB, at the very moment that these hundreds of eyewitness and FAA technicians were witnessing what appeared to be a missile attack, the airliner self-destructed in mid-air because of a center wing tank problem, the first such event in the 75 year history of commercial aviation. ...The Malaysians are likely looking for an alibi as well. It took our authorities eight days to 'find' the TWA 800 black boxes in 100 feet of water 10 miles south of the Hamptons. I suspect it will take the Malaysians that long to find their black boxes as well. Then, they can figure out the most useful story they think they can get away with." [56282, 56296, 56317]

MSNBC's hot-headed leftist Ed Schultz argues that Democrat candidate Alex Sink lost to Republican David Jolly in Florida's 13th district election because she did not defend ObamaCare: "In the aftermath of this election the media has gone, I think, off the rails. Just because this guy [Jolly] ran on repealing Obamacare and—should I say, 'replacing' it—people are calling this election a referendum on the Affordable Care Act? Their logic is comical! Give me a break! Talk about a knee-jerk reaction. These guys, they need to do

some research. ...Here's the bottom line, again, for the Democrats. And I don't think it was a perfect campaign. She is a very qualified Democrat, no question about it. She'd make a great congressional member. But she ran on 'fixing' Obamacare! Democrats, let this be a lesson! You don't have to fix anything! The numbers are on your side! You're saving lives! You're saving money! Any Democrat that [sic; who] runs ads and goes out there and plays into the negative narrative that, 'Well, I'm gonna go to Washington and fix Obamacare'—is that the first thing you're going to say in your ad, Democrats? No. We're on the right side of history. In my heart, I know that the progressive movement is going to win out in November, seven months. That's almost like an eternity in politics." [56285]

According to the Media Research Center, CBS, NBC, and ABC neglect to report the results of Tuesday night's Florida Congressional election on their Wednesday evening news broadcasts. (Before the polls closed on Tuesday, CBS correspondent Nancy Cordes thought it was important to tell viewers, "Both parties see this race as a referendum on [Obama's] health care law." Telling them who won the election is apparently not as important.) NBC also ignores *its own poll* that shows Obama's approval rating falling to a record low 41 percent. (It can be assumed that the major networks would have eagerly and gleefully reported on the election results had Sink defeated Jolly.) [56288]

In an interview with TheHill.com, Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) says, "There's no question my critics try to blame Obama-Rahall for everything. I mean, the snow blitz that's coming tonight is probably Obama-Rahall's fault. And they won't have that to do two years from now, so it's obvious they're leaving no stone unturned to defeat me this time. Because it's the last time they'll have Obama around! It's that simple. ...I will support [Obama] when he's good for West Virginia, and I will oppose him when he's bad for West Virginia. ...I probably have supported George Bush more than I have Barack Obama. Am I going to switch parties because of that? No. I'm a Democrat, born a Democrat, am a Democrat and will die a Democrat." (Morning Jolt's Jim Geraghty comments, "Indeed, Congressman, and you'll probably be voted out of office as a Democrat. But considering what we think of the Arlen Specters and Charlie Crists of the world, your determination to stick with your party even when it's unpopular is admirable on some level.") Although Rahall was first elected in 1976, Obama and ObamaCare are terribly unpopular in West Virginia, and his Democrat-turned-Republican challenger, Evan Jenkins, leads 54–40 in one poll. [56292]

The *Daily Mail* reports, "Ukraine warned last night that 80,000 Russian troops were massing on its borders and could invade—as world leaders told Vladimir Putin to back off. A senior security chief in Kiev said Moscow could launch a full-scale invasion and Russian troops would be in the Ukrainian capital within 'two or three hours' of the order to advance. Photographs of Russian tanks and armoured personnel carriers close to Ukraine's borders added to tensions. Last night senior British officials told the Mail they had received reports about Russian troops massing on the border since Tuesday and were concerned by the show of force. British intelligence is unsure whether the movements are intended to back up the annexation of Crimea, preparation for an invasion or simply defensive. Moscow's show of force came as Ukraine's new prime minister, Arseniy

Yatsenyuk, met Barack Obama in the Oval Office and NATO continued military exercises in Poland.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes that Russia will annex both Crimea and southeastern Ukraine—and get away with it.) After his meeting with Yatsenyuk, Obama tells reporters, “We will continue to say to the Russian government that if it continues on the path that is on, then not only us but the international community ... will be forced to apply a cost to Russia’s violations of international law. There is another path available, and we hope that [Russian] President [Vladimir] Putin is willing [to] seize that path.” [56293, 56295, 56300]

LATimes.com reports, “The National Security Agency has reportedly used automated systems to infect user computers with malware since 2010, according to a Wednesday report. And at times the agency pretended to be Facebook to install its malware. The NSA has been using a program codenamed TURBINE to contaminate computers and networks with malware ‘implants’ capable of spying on users, according to the Intercept, which cited documents provided by whistleblower Edward Snowden. Between 85,000 and 100,000 of these implants have been deployed worldwide thus far, the report said. To infect computers with malware, the NSA has relied on various tactics, including posing as Facebook. The federal agency performed what is known as a ‘man-on-the-side’ attack in which it tricked users [sic users’] computers into thinking that they were accessing real Facebook servers. Once the user had been fooled, the NSA hacked into the user’s computer and extracted data from their hard drive. Facebook said it had no knowledge of the NSA’s TURBINE program, according to the National Journal. However, the social network said it is no longer possible for the NSA or hackers to attack users that way, but Facebook warned that other websites and social networks may still be vulnerable to those types of attacks. ... The NSA has said that the report... is inaccurate. ‘NSA does not use its technical capabilities to impersonate U.S. company websites,’ the agency said in a statement. ‘Nor does NSA target any user of global Internet services without appropriate legal authority.’” [56310]

TimesofIsrael.com reports, “Egypt’s military said Wednesday it has destroyed 1,370 smuggling tunnels under its border with the Gaza Strip, as Cairo’s ties remain sour with the Hamas movement that rules the Palestinian enclave. Ties took a turn for the worse after the military’s July ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, who belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood, with which Hamas is affiliated. The statement did not say when the tunnels were destroyed, but the military has poured troops into the adjacent Sinai Peninsula to counter militancy that has grown since July.” (The White House has no comment. Had Israel destroyed the tunnels, Obama would have had a hissy fit.) [56321, 56322]

The Associated Press reports, “An extremist Taliban splinter group has claimed responsibility for killing a Swedish-British journalist in Kabul. Nils Horner had worked for Swedish Radio since 2001 as a foreign correspondent. The 51-year-old was killed by a shot in the head as he was reporting on Afghanistan’s election on a street in Kabul on Tuesday.” [56323, 56324]

On March 13 MSNBC's Chris Matthews, appearing on *Morning Joe*, warns that Democrats have to fight dirty in order to keep their mid-term losses to a minimum: "If they [Republican candidates] say they're going after entitlements, you [Democrat candidates] tell the voters they're going after Social Security and Medicare. If they're getting tough on voter suppression and things like—you say they're coming after you if you're a minority. If they, if they put on their platform or say they're against abortion, you say they're coming after abortion rights. You've gotta get out there, put [paint] a very strong bold picture with [sic; of what] Republicans would *like* to do, and say that's what they're *going* to do. You gotta [sic] get very tough, and that way you could probably have a chance of not taking a big loss in the House, but even then... It's going to be very hard [for the Democrats] to hold the Senate—I think the Senate goes. I think we heard from the Ghost of Christmas Future this week [when Republican David Jolly defeated Democrat Alex Sink in a Florida Congressional election], which is they're gonna lose the Senate, so they'd better change the name of this game." (In other words, unless the Democrats lie about Republicans, the GOP will make major gains in the November elections). [56312, 56328, 56446, 56447]

HotAir.com reports, "The White House has refused to allow the Senate to access over 9,000 top-secret documents related to their probe of CIA activities in interrogations and black-site operations, even though Barack Obama explicitly criticized those activities in the previous Bush administration when he ran for President in 2008. This time, Obama hasn't even bothered to claim executive privilege. ...One has to wonder if this is just a habit in this administration. Let's be clear about the context; the Senate Intelligence Committee investigation wants to get to the bottom of activities that took place before Obama [entered the White House]. The theory of the investigation, to the extent we know it, is that the CIA lied to George W. Bush and Congressional intelligence committees about its interrogation tactics and operations in the war on terror. That's probably why no explicit claim of executive privilege has been made—but absent that, the Senate Intelligence Committee has the right to see materials relating to proper oversight of the CIA. Why not give them up, especially after five years? Obama pledged to clean up those areas of intelligence and national security, including the closure of the acknowledged detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and the end of 'black sites' for secret detentions. At one point, [Attorney General] Eric Holder planned to prosecute CIA officials over their actions, but eventually retreated when Congress balked. It's not as if this administration had sympathy for the CIA on this issue, and certainly not five years ago. ...Pledging transparency in public while stonewalling access to materials in private is quite a cynical achievement, but the question remains why Obama is so anxious to get the report completed but unwilling to provide the material needed for a completely *transparent* result." [56297]

CNSNews.com reports, "Ten U.S. Islamic organizations have formed a new umbrella group to serve as a 'representative voice' for American Muslims, and one of their first tasks will be to carry out a census of the community. Other focus areas for the new U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), according to speakers at the body's launch in Washington on Wednesday, include enhancing Muslim political engagement and participation in forthcoming elections, civil rights issues, combating 'Islamophobia' and

having an impact on U.S. foreign and domestic policy. Participating organizations include high-profile groups that have been dogged by controversy, such as the Muslim American Society (MAS), founded by Muslim Brotherhood members, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), which was named by the Justice Department in 2007 as ‘unindicted co-conspirators’ in its case against the Holy Land Foundation in Texas, subsequently found guilty of raising money for Hamas.” [56306]

According to a YouGov/Economist poll, 78 percent of American adults view Russian President Vladimir Putin as a strong leader; 45 percent consider Obama a strong leader; 55 percent consider Obama weak or very weak. [56311]

Secretary of State John Kerry appears before the Senate Appropriations Committee, and is asked by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) why the Keystone XL pipeline has still not been approved. She states, “It is hard for me to understand why there are still questions about whether building this pipeline is in our national interest.” Kerry responds, “I understand it’s on a lot of people’s minds, a mean a lot of people’s.” Noting that he still has to review public statements, an environmental impact reports, and “feedback from eight different agencies,” Kerry replies, “So I’m not at liberty to go into my thinking at this point.” (At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen observes, “Of course, there’s nothing else he can really say on the matter; I’ll take a wild, flying guess that deep in his climate-change crusading heart... he’d love to see the Keystone XL pipeline shot down in a progressive blaze of anti-fossil fuel glory. Admitting to it, though, wouldn’t be very pragmatic at the moment—the Obama administration is in the throes of a big enough political quandary as it is without Kerry putting his foot in it. There have been reports that ...Obama has warned everybody on down the line not to take a public stance on the pipeline, because the decision of whether to abide by the vast majority of Americans who support the project or the small, well-monied, and Democratically-donating minority who vocally oppose it will be made by him alone, and it’s best to just keep everything under wraps until then.” As noted previously, *The Obama Timeline* believes Obama will eventually approve the pipeline—but not until it is too late for environmentalists to stop payment on their campaign contribution checks.) [56361]

James Hansen, former director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies, tells the committee, “An important point is that such [global warming carbon tax] legislation I think needs to be introduced by conservatives, because I’m afraid liberals will try to take part of the money to make the government bigger. Not one dime should go to the government. 100 percent should go to the public. ...100 percent of the money should be distributed to the public—equal amounts to all legal residents so the person who does better than average in limiting his carbon footprint will make money. This will provide a huge incentive for individuals and a huge incentive for entrepreneurs and business people. It will spur our economy, make it more efficient, and it will modernize our infrastructure, and create hundreds of times more jobs than building a pipeline to transport the dirtiest fuel on earth. With a fee of \$10 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, rising \$10 each year, after 10 years, it will reduce our fossil fuel use almost 30 percent, according to the economic simulations by the Carbon Tax Center. It will reduce our oil use in 10 years three times more than the volume of the Keystone pipeline.” (Hansen fails to realize that

any carbon tax that is enacted will ultimately be paid for by consumers even though the tax may apply only to carbon dioxide-producing businesses, because businesses will simply increase the prices of their goods and services to cover the cost of paying that tax. If, for example, \$100 billion is collected in taxes and the government returns that \$100 billion to individuals, all that will do is reimburse them for the \$100 billion in higher prices they will be paying.) [56367]

After the hearing, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) is caught on an open microphone saying to Kerry, “Hey John, good job. Let me know what I can do to help you with [House Speaker John] Boehner.” (Kerry has asked for aid for Ukraine. Some Senate Republicans object to an aid proposal because it includes unrelated provisions. In addition, the House wants reforms to the International Monetary Fund included in the aid package—and objects to Obama’s call for shifting \$63 billion in the IMF from a crisis fund to a general account. Some might argue that aid for Ukraine would only end up in Russia, which has increased the price of its natural gas. Ukraine is in debt and has to borrow money to pay its bills. If the U.S. government gives financial aid to Ukraine, it might be used by Ukraine to pay Russia for its gas.) [56345, 56346, 56347]

FoxNews.com reports, “American personnel on the ground in Benghazi the night of the 2012 terror attack are outraged after learning that the CIA’s inspector general never conducted an investigation into what happened—despite two CIA workers being killed in the attack and despite at least two complaints being filed by CIA employees. ...Many in the agency were told, or were under the impression, that an investigation was in the works, but that is not the case. One person close to the issue told Fox News: ‘They should be doing an investigation to see what the chief of base in Benghazi and station chief in Tripoli did that night. If they did, they’d find out there were some major mistakes.’ This source claimed an investigation would likely uncover a lot of details the public does not know. Asked why such a probe has not been launched, a CIA spokesman said: ‘CIA’s Office of the Inspector General (OIG) always reviews carefully every matter that is brought to its attention, and takes appropriate action based on a variety of factors.’” [56313]

According to InfoWars.com, “A newly obtained document released under the Freedom of Information Act confirms that the Department of Homeland Security keeps tabs on the Drudge Report as part of its media monitoring program. According to the document, the function of the DHS’ Media Monitoring Capability (MMC) desk is to track news websites and social media in order to gather critical information, ‘during normal operations, crises and extraordinary events.’ ‘It is essential to monitor the media’s storylines and integrate their focus into the Department’s situational awareness and operations analytical process,’ states the document, adding that such work is necessary in shaping ‘public statements’ made by the DHS. ...According to the document, the program treats mainstream news sources such as BBC, AP, Reuters and U.S. television networks as ‘first tier’ platforms that do not require additional corroboration. Included on a list of ‘other sources,’ ones that need to be verified by a first tier source before being circulated to DHS fusion centers, is Drudge Report.com, along with



NationalTerrorAlert.com, DisasterNews.net, Opensourceintelligence.org, Homelandsecurityleader.com and HomelandSecurityToday.com.” [56314, 56315]

Politico reports that Obama “has asked for a review of the administration’s enforcement policies for immigration laws to see if it can be done ‘more humanely within the confines of the law,’ the White House said Thursday. The announcement came after Obama met Thursday evening with three leading members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus amid a furor in the Latino and immigration-rights community over the number of deportations of undocumented immigrants under his administration. [Obama] emphasized his deep concern about the pain too many families feel from the separation that comes from our broken immigration system,’ the White House said in a readout of the meeting.” (In other words, Obama is looking for ways to avoid enforcing immigration laws.)

BeforeItsNews.com reports, “Yet another suicide has sent shivers through the financial world. This time it was 47 year old Edmund Reilly of the New York’s Vertical Group. His death marks yet another in a series of recent suicides within the financial industry.” According to the *New York Post*, Reilly “jumped in front of an LIRR [Long Island Railroad] train at 6 a.m. near the Syosset train station. He was declared dead at the scene.” (DailyCaller.com observes, “Financial workers have a particularly high rate of suicide, according to statistics given by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, with the second largest amount of suicides among all professions for the 4 most recent years the CDC assessed suicides by occupation. Fortune Magazine reports that financial professionals are 39 percent more likely to kill themselves than the workforce as a whole and the total, combined number of suicides for the years 1999, 2003, 2004, and 2007 (the most recent years the data was gathered) was 329. That would make a yearly average of around 82 suicides among financial specialists.”) [56325, 56343]

At Townhall.com Conn Carroll reports on the problem Obama has created with his abuse of executive orders: members of the political left now expect Obama to use them even more. Carroll writes, “Obama’s unilateral legislating is coming back to haunt him. Obama desperately needs Latinos and union members to show up at the polls this November, but the only way Obama can make them happy is by further shredding the Constitution’s separation of powers doctrine. But if he does that, he will only further motivate the Republican base and turn off moderate voters. Which path will Obama choose? Will he turn to Congress to work on the legislative fixes he needs? Or will he continue to legislate from the White House?” [56332]

At ZeroHedge.com Tyler Durden writes, “The latest foreclosure news out of RealtyTrac is out, and provides the latest proof that if there is a housing recovery somewhere, it sure isn’t in the US, where the dislocations in the supply/demand for real estate are so profound that one in five homes in the foreclosure process has been vacated by the distressed homeowner. To wit: ‘As of the first quarter of 2014, a total of 152,033 U.S. properties in the foreclosure process (excluding bank-owned properties) had been vacated by the distressed homeowner, representing 21 percent of all properties in the foreclosure process.’ This means that neither the distressed homeowner or the foreclosing lender [is] taking responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of the home, leading to a veritable army

of Vacant Dead housing units that are spreading like zombies across the nation in the most improbable housing ‘recovery’ of all time.” [56326]

The White House sends a Twitter message that read, “#GetCoveredNow because all moms deserve that peace of mind. hc.gov.” Accompanying the message is a photograph of Obama with his mother. [56333]

Obama’s propaganda arm, Organizing for America, tweets, “Even if you look before you cross, you should still get covered.” An accompanying photograph shows two girls dressed as crossing guards holding homemade stop signs. [56334, 56335]

Senate Republicans cave in and agree to an extension of unemployment benefits. (The benefits would be retroactive to the end of 2013 and would expire at the end of May 2014, and will cost an estimated \$10 billion.) [56336]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Four out of five U.S. companies have either already raised deductibles on their employee health plans or are considering it thanks to Obamacare, according to a survey of over 700 businesses by consulting firm Mercer LLC. A third of the companies surveyed have already hiked deductibles or copays and another 48 percent are contemplating options that increase health-care payments by workers themselves, Bloomberg reports. Health-care costs for customers and companies alike are continuing to rise, partly because of Obamacare-instated essential benefits that all health-care plans must now provide. The more controversial benefits insurers must provide in all plans are pregnancy and child-care services, which have received pushback from men, women past childbearing age, and even nuns.” [56344]

According to a Bloomberg poll, 51 percent of Americans do not believe Hillary Clinton’s claim that she never saw requests for additional security at the compound in Benghazi before the September 11, 2012 terrorist attack; 41 percent believe her. [56371, 56372]

The Associated Press reports, “Former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown [R] has begun seeking campaign staff while aggressively courting New Hampshire’s political elite, marking what local Republicans consider serious steps toward launching a Senate campaign against Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. The stakes are high for the GOP’s national push for the Senate majority this fall as well as for Brown’s own political ambitions. The longtime Massachusetts resident, having recently relocated to his seacoast New Hampshire vacation home, is expected to launch an exploratory committee to enter the race as soon as Friday, according to several New Hampshire Republican officials who spoke directly to Brown about his plans. The move officially allows him to begin raising money and hiring staff. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly disclose his plans before an official announcement.” (Shaheen is considered vulnerable, and Brown certainly noticed David Jolly’s win over Alex Sink in Florida—where anti-ObamaCare sentiment was a deciding factor in the race.) [56379, 56380]

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg writes, “To keep the internet strong, we need to keep it secure. That’s why at Facebook we spend a lot of our energy making our services and the whole internet safer and more secure. We encrypt communications, we use secure protocols for traffic, we encourage people to use multiple factors for authentication and we go out of our way to help fix issues we find in other people’s services. The internet works because most people and companies do the same. We work together to create this secure environment and make our shared space even better for the world. This is why I’ve been so confused and frustrated by the repeated reports of the behavior of the US government. When our engineers work tirelessly to improve security, we imagine we’re protecting you against criminals, not our own government. The US government should be the champion for the internet, not a threat. They need to be much more transparent about what they’re doing, or otherwise people will believe the worst. I’ve called ...Obama to express my frustration over the damage the government is creating for all of our future. Unfortunately, it seems like it will take a very long time for true full reform.” (Rush Limbaugh comments, “Now, this is just amazing to me. Here you have a guy who’s raising money for Obama, thinks Obama’s the end of the world, the greatest guy, and can’t believe that Obama’s running a government spying on him and his buddies! He’s got real alarm about the NSA spying on Facebook and everybody else. He’s for ‘immigration reform.’ He’s doing everything he can to help Obama. He doesn’t understand it. Here’s Zuckerberg. In one way, he’s gotta be a very smart guy. He’s a 24-, 25-year-old guy who can call Obama and he’ll take the call. (Hey, Mark, try calling Putin; see how far you get.) Anyway, he’s surprised Obama is an authoritarian. He is surprised! How do you not know who Obama is? ...It just boggles the mind! ...How can he not know? How can they be surprised that Obama is who he is?” [56388, 56389]

On March 14 Donald Trump appears on NBC’s *Today* program. Host Matt Lauer says, “You’ve been critical of [Obama] and his handling of the situation with Ukraine and Crimea. I think you said, I’m paraphrasing here, but basically [Russian President Vladimir] Putin was playing with or toying with Obama. That is kind of a common refrain of yours, I should mention.” Trump observes, “If you’re [a strong leader], that doesn’t happen and it’s not a big surprise. I mean, it should have worked so that a thing like that doesn’t happen. ... But we should definitely be strong. We should definitely do sanctions. And we have to show some strength. I mean, Putin has eaten Obama’s lunch, therefore our lunch, for a long period of time. And I just hope that Obama, who’s not looking too good, doesn’t do something very foolish and very stupid to show his manhood. I just hope that doesn’t happen.” [56339, 56348]

The Obama administration again changes the Affordable Care Act rules, allowing insurance companies to retain an additional two percent of premiums. (The law requires that insurers spend at least 80 percent of income on health care. That 80/20 rule is now 78/22, and is buried in 279 pages of new regulations.) [56480, 56481]

Pamela Geller reports, “The [missing plane] plot thickens. Now the investigation is focusing a Uighur with flight training who was on board. A Uighur is a Chinese Muslim. Media prefers to use Uighur the way the UK media uses Asian for Muslim and the French media use immigrant or youth for Muslim and so on. The Uighurs have been

waging raging jihad with bomb attacks in Tiananmen Square, mass murder in a railway station last week, etc. Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Philippines, this is the nexus of the Asian jihad. In my ongoing coverage of the mysterious disappearance of flight MH370—one of the most popular tourist routes in Asia—I previously reported that a jihadist convicted of plotting a similar attacks on an aircraft says he gave explosives to a Malaysian terror cell which included a pilot. We know the plane turned around. We know that it flew up to four hours with the transmission turned off. No contact—so who was flying the plane? Malaysian authorities said Wednesday [March 12] that a review of military radar records showed plots of what might have been the plane turning back, crossing over the country and flying to the Strait of Malacca, a busy shipping lane west of the narrow nation.” (Some speculate that the plane was hijacked and safely landed, and will be used for a future terrorist act.) [56319, 56320, 56329, 56397, 56398, 56399]

The House passed legislation that blocks huge cuts in Medicare payments to physicians—and delays ObamaCare’s individual mandate for 10 years. [56331, 56358, 56377]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Insiders *very* close to White House Press Secretary Jay Carney indicate that he’s on his way out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, *The Mirror* has learned. Carney has told people he’s leaving the White House soon. ...In the last 48 hours, Carney has been getting press attention from outlets like *The Weekly Standard* and the *New York Daily News* for plugging his wife, ABC’s Claire Shipman’s, book—‘Womenomics: Write Your Own Rules for Success’—during a press briefing. She has a new book on women and confidence co-written with BBC’s Katty Kay rolling out in mid-April. ...*The Mirror* sought comment from White House Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest, the man who could very well replace Carney when he makes the jump. He gave the old non-denial denial: ‘We routinely decline to comment on speculation about personnel matters,’ Earnest told *The Mirror*.” (In August 2013 Earnest was asked about the murder of Australian athlete Christopher Zane, who was shot by three Oklahoma teenagers because they were “bored.” Earnest replied, “I’m not familiar with that, actually. ...[Obama] himself has spoken pretty eloquently about violence in our communities...”) [47457, 47508, 47587, 56352, 56353, 56354, 56413]

CBSNews.com reports, “As U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart [Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov] met in London Friday in a last-ditch effort to find some common ground over the Russian invasion of Crimea, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a warning suggesting Moscow was willing to expand its military actions in Ukraine into another region. The Foreign Ministry released a statement, according to the Reuters news agency, saying Moscow ‘reserves the right to take people under its protection’ in light of clashes between pro-Moscow and pro-Western demonstrators in the city of Donetsk on Thursday. ... ‘Russia is aware of its responsibility for the lives of compatriots and fellow citizens in Ukraine,’ said the statement obtained by Reuters.” (In other words, Russia will take the southern Ukraine—because it was not stopped from taking Crimea.) [56355, 56356]

In an interview with WebMD, Obama says, “For the average person, many folks who don’t have health insurance initially, they’re going to have to make some choices

[because of the Affordable Care Act]. They might end up having to switch doctors, in part because they're saving money. But that's true, you know, if your employer suddenly decides we think this network's going to give a better deal, we think this is going to help keep premiums lower, you've got to use this doctor as opposed to that one or this hospital as opposed to that one. The good news is in most states, people have more than one option, and what they'll find, I think, is that their doctor or network or hospital that's conveniently located is probably in one of those networks. Now, you may find out that network is more expensive than another network, and then you've got to make a choice in terms of what's right for your family.” (Some Americans, of course, do not want to change doctors—even if it does mean “saving money.” In any event, that was not Obama's promise. On July 16, 2009 he said, “If you like your doctor, you like your plan, you can keep your doctor, you can keep your plan.”) [56368, 56369, 56370, 56387, 56578]

Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) tweets, “On #Immigration, GOP can help pass comprehensive reform or watch [Obama] greatly curtail deportations...” On Facebook, Schumer writes, “It's crystal clear where the issue of immigration reform is headed, and Republicans have only two choices to make. They can either help pass comprehensive reform which will greatly reduce the flow of illegal immigrants, grow our economy by bringing in needed workers in high tech and agriculture areas, and provide a hard-earned path to eventual citizenship for the 11 million in the shadows, or they can sit idly by and watch [Obama] greatly curtail deportations while 11 million continue to live in limbo here in America. The choice is clear; a reform bill has the support of liberals, moderates, and conservatives and all we need is the courage of the Republican leadership to make the right and obvious choice.” In other words, “If the Republicans don't cave in on amnesty legislation, Obama will simply refuse to enforce existing immigration laws.” (The legal term for Schumer's threat is extortion.) [56375, 56376, 56888]

In an interview with Michael Medved, Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters (Retired) says, “The comparison between ...Obama and [the late 1930s British Prime Minister] Neville Chamberlain is grossly unfair—to Neville Chamberlain. Neville Chamberlain was trying to buy time while Britain desperately and frantically rearmed. Obama is shilly-shallying while America disarms.” [56378]

FoxNews.com posts the February 25 resignation letter of David Wright, director of the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Research Integrity (ORI). In his scathing letter, Wright states, in part, “This has been at once the best and worst job I've ever had. The best part of it has been the opportunity to lead ORI intellectually and professionally in helping research institutions better handle allegations of research misconduct, provide in-service training for institutional Research Integrity Officers (RIOs), and develop programming to promote the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). ...The rest of my role as ORI Director has been the very worst job I have ever had and it occupies up to 65% of my time. That part of the job is spent navigating the remarkably dysfunctional HHS bureaucracy... [P]ublic bureaucracies quit being about serving the public and focus instead on perpetuating themselves. This is exactly my experience... We spend exorbitant amounts of time in meetings and in generating

repetitive and often meaningless data and reports to make our precinct of the bureaucracy look productive. [It] sucks away time and resources that we might better use to meet our mission. Since I've been here I've been advised by my superiors that I had 'to make my bosses look good.' I've been admonished: 'Dave, you are a visionary leader but what we need here are team players.' Recently, I was advised that if I wanted to be happy in government service, I had to 'lower my expectations.' ...I'm offended as an American taxpayer that the federal bureaucracy—at least the part I've labored in—is so profoundly dysfunctional. I'm hardly the first person to have made that discovery, but I'm saddened by the fact that there is so little discussion, much less outrage, regarding the problem.” [56381, 56382, 56883, 56418]

The White House continues its propaganda efforts to encourage young people to enroll in ObamaCare, posting a lengthy video featuring the *mothers* of celebrities. At the end of the video, Michelle Obama appears and says, “We nag you because we love you. So go to healthcare.gov and enroll today [sic; today].” (At Townhall.com Heather Ginsberg writes, “Clearly the White House is getting a bit desperate here. Now that they have used all of the celebrities they possibly can to try and get people excited about Obamacare, they are now moving on to their moms. How bad is it when they can't find anyone to speak to the younger generation and get them excited about the new health law that they supposedly support.”) [56384, 56385, 56412, 56414, 56494]

Russia claims it captured a U.S. drone—unit UAV MQ-5B, to be precise—flying over Crimea, bringing it down electronically. The U.S. government denies the claim. [56391, 56392]

The Maricopa County, Arizona Cold Case Posse web site is hacked (apparently by someone in Indonesia), and then later restored. (The Cold Case Posse has been accumulating considerable evidence related to the forgery of Obama's birth certificate and Selective Service registration form, and is reportedly preparing for a press event in the near future.) [56394]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The United States Department of Commerce gave up control of the organization charged with managing the Internet's core infrastructure Friday as a result of mounting global pressure born out of the backlash over global National Security Agency surveillance. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers [ICANN] has overseen domain names, assigned Internet protocol addresses, and executed other crucial Internet functions since 2000 under the supervision of the Commerce Department. Basically, it's the map that points computers to the servers and websites their users are looking for. According to the National Telecommunications & Information Administration—a Commerce Department subsection—the government will relinquish control of the Los Angeles, California-based organization to the 'global Internet community' after its current contract expires in fall 2015.” Former Bush administration State Department senior advisor Christian Whiton states, “U.S. management of the internet has been exemplary and there is no reason to give this away—especially in return for nothing. This is the Obama equivalent of Carter's decision to give away the Panama Canal—only with possibly much worse consequences. ... While

the Obama administration says it is merely removing federal oversight of a non-profit, we should assume ICANN would end up as part of the United Nations. If the U.N. gains control what amounts to the directory and traffic signals of the Internet, it can impose whatever taxes it likes. It likely would start with a tax on registering domains and expand from there.” [56415, 56416, 56417, 56449, 56458, 56460, 56477, 56482, 56553]

Fadi Chehade, the president of ICANN, says, “Nothing will be done in any way to jeopardize the security and stability of the Internet.” Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) says, “While I certainly agree our nation must stridently review our procedures regarding surveillance in light of the NSA controversy, to put ourselves in a situation where censorship-laden governments like China or Russia could take a firm hold on the Internet itself is truly a scary thought. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Senate Commerce Committee and with the Commerce Department on this, because—to be blunt—the ‘global internet community’ this would empower has no First Amendment.” Former National Telecommunications and Information Administration head John Kneuer tells DailyCaller.com, “Where it [Internet domain control] transfers to is the key question. I would have hoped that the administration had a more clear view on that than what they expressed... They kind of said, ‘Well, we’re going to give it up and we will wait to see where its supposed to go to,’ effectively—‘We’ll ask the community to tell us.’” Former senior White House technology policy advisor Richard Russell comments, “The U.S. should continue to be resolute in its support for a free and open Internet. The Department of Commerce’s decision to transition away from its historical role as the keeper of the IANA [Internet Assigned Numbers Authority] contract raises the stakes when it comes to the future of Internet governance.” [56415, 56416, 56417, 56449, 56458, 56460, 56477, 56482, 56553]

Pamela Geller later comments on the administration’s move to relinquish control of important Internet operations: “Obama’s next offensive in his war on freedom. Global governance of the internet. ‘Global governance?’ As in the UN? And who and what drives the UN? The largest world body drives the UN. Bat Ye’or describes the OIC this way, ‘The OIC is one of the largest intergovernmental organizations in the world. It encompasses 56 Muslim states plus the Palestinian Authority. Spread over four continents, it claims to speak in the name of the ummah (the universal Muslim community), which numbers about 1.3 billion. The OIC’s mission is to unite all Muslims worldwide by rooting them in the Koran and the Sunnah—the core of traditional Islamic civilization and values. It aims at strengthening solidarity and cooperation among all its members, in order to protect the interests of Muslims everywhere and to galvanize the ummah into a unified body.’ The Organization of the Islamic Conference will undoubtedly demand the suppression of websites that ‘insult Islam’ or ‘encourage hatred,’ and they won’t be referring to jihad forums that foment and incites to slaughter. ...The OIC has already gotten passed a proposal in the UN, backed by Muslim nations, urging the passage of laws around the world protecting religion from criticism. Islam is the only religion specifically named as deserving protection. Websites like mine are the ones that dare speak of the truth of Islam and report on the jihad and the terrible human rights abuses, the Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu etc. persecution, the suppression of women and children, the murder of non-believers, the brutal imposition of shariah law,

Islamic supremacism, academic jihad, social jihad, cultural jihad, shariah finance, stealth jihad and the galloping global jihad. The corrupt media are already subdued and self-censor themselves. The net is all there is.” [56553]

Obama defends his “mom jeans,” telling radio host Ryan Seacrest, “You know, the, uh, this, this is a—I’ve, I’ve been unfairly maligned about my jeans. Uh, the truth is, the truth is, generally, I look very sharp in jeans. There was, there was, there was one episode like four years ago in which, uh, I was wearing some loose jeans, mainly because, uh, I was out on the pitcher’s mound and I didn’t want to feel, you now, uh, confined while I was, uh, you now, pitching’, and, uh, and, and I think I’ve paid my penance for that. I got whacked pretty good. Since that time, my, my jeans, uh, fit very well.” (Obama was ridiculed not just for his jeans, but because he threw like a girl with his opening pitch at a major league baseball game.) [56428]

On March 15 WND.com’s Bob Unruh reports that an organization called “Sue the IRS” has done just that, filing a lawsuit against the IRS for discriminating against conservative groups through intentional harassment and delays related to their applications for tax-exempt status. Unruh writes, “The case seeks damages for violations of the federal law, damages against individuals, and injunctive and declaratory relief against the IRS and Treasury Department. Named individually are ex-IRS official Lois Lerner, acting IRS Commissioner Steven Miller, IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman, Chief IRS Counsel William Wilkins, Sarah Hall Ingram of the Tax-Exempt Unit and others. The case is in the discovery phase in which evidence is being obtained and reviewed.” [56393]

MarketWatch.com reports, “With roughly two weeks left in the open enrollment period for health insurance, some groups are trying to sell Obamacare to young people in terms they might actually understand: music, comedy, and cash. Young Invincibles, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. that is focused on the economic issues affecting young adults, launched a sweepstakes last week where it is awarding a cash prize of \$1,200—enough to potentially cover a year’s worth of health insurance premiums for a young adult—to people who download their health care app or submit a card in the mail. The contest runs through the fall, but by launching it now, organizers hope young people who download the app can use it to learn more about whether they qualify for financial assistance and where they should go to sign up. ‘This last month is going to be a huge push for educating young adults,’ says Jen Mishory, deputy director for Young Invincibles.” (It is worth noting that \$1,200 would be enough to cover “a year’s worth of health insurance premiums” only if coverage could be found for \$50 per month. ObamaCare coverage that inexpensive would apply only to the low-coverage “bronze” plans, which have annual deductibles of more than \$6,000—depending on where the enrollee lives. The odds of a young person enrolling in a plan that would cost him \$50 per month—plus as much as \$6,000 per year if he gets sick—in order to win \$1,200 are minimal.) [56543, 56544]

Pamela Geller updates information on the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370: “The flight was still communicating with satellites until 8:11 a.m.—seven and a half hours after takeoff, and more than 90 minutes after it was due in Beijing. A satellite orbiting



22,250 miles over the middle of the Indian Ocean received the transmission that, based on the angle from which the plane sent it, came from somewhere along one of the two arcs. One arc runs from the southern border of Kazakhstan in Central Asia to northern Thailand, passing over some hot spots of global insurgency and highly militarized areas. The other arc runs from near Jakarta to the Indian Ocean, roughly 1,000 miles off the west coast of Australia. The plane changed course after it took off. ‘These movements are consistent with deliberate action by someone on the plane,’ Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia said. Did the hijacker(s) make those radical moves up to 45,000 feet then quickly down to 25,000 intentionally to put ‘the passengers to sleep?’ These people knew exactly what they were doing. The Boeing’s transponder was switched off just as the plane passed from Malaysian to Vietnamese air traffic control space, thus making it more likely that the plane’s absence from communications would not arouse attention...” (Flying at high altitude would not “put the passengers to sleep” unless the cabin was depressurized by the pilot and the oxygen from the masks that automatically descend ran out. That could take 15 minutes or more.) [56409, 56410]

Obama’s approval rating falls to 39 percent in the Gallup poll (conducted March 12–14). [56403]

NBC’s *Today* show co-host Savannah Guthrie marries Michael Feldman, founder of a Democrat public relations and lobbying firm and a former Linton-Gore political operative. (Guthrie joins the growing list of mainstream media journalists who have ties to the Democrat party in general or the Obama administration in particular. White House press secretary Jay Carney, for example, is married to ABC Washington correspondent Claire Shipman. After a press conference with former press secretary Robert Gibbs at which Obama unexpectedly attended, Guthrie gushed to NBC’s Norah McDonnell, “I felt a little bit like I was having a dream sequence minus the pink unicorn. I have to say, we attend those briefings [with Gibbs] every day; they are rarely so exciting.” Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich called Guthrie’s response “embarrassing to watch.” Guthrie is the only reporter to have been allowed to see the copy of Obama’s long-form birth certificate. She said at the time, “I saw the certified copy of long-form POTUS birth certificate today, felt the raised seal, snapped this pic[ture].” She was given the *Today* show position just a few days later. Before marrying Feldman, Guthrie was married to Mark Orchard, formerly a BBC Los Angeles bureau chief and subsequently a producer and editor for Al Jazeera.) [2717, 21389, 50357, 50387, 50437, 50454, 50758, 51163, 56475]

The Associated Press’ Julie Pace writes that for Obama, “a public spat between his trusted ally at the CIA and a loyal Democratic senator has put into sharp focus his complicated role in managing the post-Sept. 11 anti-terror programs he inherited from George W. Bush.” Obama “wants to stay neutral in the feud between Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and CIA Director John Brennan, Obama’s former top counterterrorism adviser. Feinstein this past week accused the CIA of illegally searching computers used by the Senate Intelligence Committee, which she heads, to study documents related to the harsh interrogation techniques the CIA employed after the Sept. 11 attacks. Obama said taking sides was ‘not something that is an appropriate role for me and the White House to

wade into at this point.” (Pamela Geller observes, “Discord, infighting and internecine warfare is quickly becoming the hallmark of the Obama years—both domestically and internationally. The latest outbreak in hostilities is between the Senate Intelligence Committee’s Sen. Dianne Feinstein and CIA thug Director John Brennan. Obama is letting the dogs have it, in what is now his typical weak and unpresidential style. The enemedia, in their typical lapdog mode, paint this leaderless move as ‘a delicate balancing act for Obama in CIA-Senate Row’ and ‘refusing to wade in.’ He refuses to wade in? But he always ‘wades in.’ And on the wrong side, I might add. He waded in on the side of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Gaza, and the jihadists in Libya, Syria, Iraq, and the Taliban in Afghanistan. He has no problem weighing in on the side of evil. Every time. He weighed in on Trayvon Martin. He weighed in on Henry Louis Gates. He weighed in on Sandra Fluke. He weighed in on the ‘Auschwitz’ borders in Israel. This man puts his ass in more places that it doesn’t belong, and he refuses to weigh in on this critical national security issue. Is he kidding? Note the AP’s insertion of ‘blaming Bush’ in the very first sentence. Six years into his presidency, and they are trying to pin this latest Obama on Bush. These destroyers are evil. Pure evil.”) [56405, 56406]

TimesofIsrael.com reports, “Gunmen killed six soldiers at a Cairo checkpoint Saturday in a brazen morning attack the military blamed on the [Obama-backed] Muslim Brotherhood movement of deposed [Egyptian] president Mohammed Morsi. The attack came two days after gunmen killed a soldier in Cairo, as militants once largely confined to the restive Sinai Peninsula increasingly target the capital in a campaign that has killed more than 200 police and soldiers since the army overthrew Morsi last July. The assailants on Saturday opened fire on military policemen as they finished their morning prayers and then planted two bombs to target first responders, the military said in a statement. Live television footage showed military sappers safely detonating one of the bombs near the checkpoint in the northern Cairo neighborhood of Shubra al-Kheima. An Egyptian private television station quoted an interior ministry official as saying one of the bombs left behind was planted next to a soldier’s corpse.” (Pamela Geller writes, “Obama threw everything he had behind the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. After supporting the ouster of our 30-year ally Mubarak, Obama applied intense pressure to expedite the Muslim Brotherhood takeover of power in Egypt. Without thought, statecraft or strategy, he turned the keys of our 30-year ally over to an 80-year-old terrorist group, banned in Egypt. And Obama punished the Egyptian people by withdrawing aid and support after they threw off the Islamic yoke of Muslim Brotherhood tyranny.”) [56407, 56408]

At Antiwar.com, Justin Raimondo writes, “As the US and its European allies rally around the Ukrainian coup leaders and denounce the Crimean referendum, we have yet another opportunity to stand in awe of Washington’s limitless supply of arrogance. Meeting with the new ‘Prime Minister’ of Ukraine—who achieved his high office by unleashing mobs on the duly elected government—...Obama averred Washington would be ‘forced to apply a cost’ unless the Crimean vote is called off. So here is the United States, the alleged champion of ‘democracy,’ hailing a decidedly undemocratic coup, honoring one of the coup leaders with an appearance at the White House, and railing against the decision of the democratically elected Parliament of Crimea to let the people vote on their own future. As if vaguely aware of the massive hypocrisy infusing his word-cloud,

Obama conceded the Crimeans might possibly have some say in all this, just not now: he wants talks with the Kremlin which ‘could lead to different arrangements over time’ for Crimea. ‘But, that’s not something that can be done with the barrel of a gun pointed at you’—that is, unless we’re talking about Afghanistan. Or Iraq. In Iraq, the first post-invasion elections were unilaterally canceled by Paul Bremmer, the American viceroy, because the newly ‘liberated’ nation ‘wasn’t ready.’ ...When *we* do it, goes the unspoken first rule of ‘mainstream’ American foreign policy, it’s an act of ‘liberation’—but when *they* do it, it’s a brazen violation of international law and a horrific act of aggression.” [56411]

National security officials, Secretary of State John Kerry, and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel meet at the White House to discuss the situation in Crimea and Ukraine. (Obama does not attend the meeting.) [56420]

Breitbart.com reports, “The latest issue of Al-Qaeda’s *Inspire* magazine contains an article about using car bombs in U.S. cities as well as abroad during election seasons, both presidential and congressional, as well as on Christmas and New Years Eve. The cities and areas listed in the piece include Washington, D.C., New York, Northern Virginia, Chicago, and Los Angeles.” The article declares, “America is our first target, followed by United Kingdom, France and other crusader countries. As for the field target for the car-bomb, you have places flooded with individuals, e.g. sports events in which tens of thousands attend, election campaigns, festivals and other gathering. The important thing is that you target people and not buildings. [56432, 56433]

On March 16 Obama speaks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and says the referendum in Crimea—in which more than 95 percent vote to join Russia—“would never be recognized by the United States and the international community.” According to the White House, Obama “emphasized that Russia’s actions were in violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and that, in coordination with our European partners, we are prepared to impose additional costs on Russia for its actions.” The Obama administration claims the referendum is not legitimate because it “occurred under duress of Russian military intervention.” (Of course, U.S. troops were present in far greater numbers during many elections in Iraq and Afghanistan.) Putin tells Obama the vote is “fully consistent with international law and the U.N. Charter and took account of the precedent set by Kosovo, among other things.” [56422, 56425, 56451, 56452, 56453, 56454, 56485]

North Korea fires 25 missiles into the Sea of Japan. (According to the Media Research Center, ABC, NBC, and CBS ignore the story—but they do cover the death of Mick Jagger’s girlfriend, fashion designer L’Wren Scott.) [56476]

WND.com reports, “In recent weeks, representatives for the Obama administration have held meetings with a senior politician [in Tel Aviv, Israel] in which the U.S. delegates brought up the possibility of replacing Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister, according to an informed Jerusalem diplomatic source. The meetings were held with Israel’s popular finance minister, Yair Lapid, founder and leader of the Yesh Atid Party, which

became the second-largest party in the Knesset winning 19 seats in the last election. The diplomatic source said the Obama administration identified Lapid as a moderate who could be helpful in pushing the Israeli government into accepting the framework to create a future Palestinian state. According to the source, the talks included the possibility of Lapid bolting Netanyahu's government if the prime minister rejects the U.S.-brokered regional talks." (The Obama administration does not want Russia interfering in Crimea and Ukraine, but believes it is acceptable to interfere in Israel.) [56855]

Patrick Cockburn writes in *The Independent*, "Three years after [the death of Moammar] Gaddafi, Libya is imploding into chaos and violence. ...Its government has no real power; militias are ever more entrenched, and now the state itself is under threat. ...A striking feature of events in Libya in the past week is how little interest is being shown by leaders and countries which enthusiastically went to war in 2011 in the supposed interests of the Libyan people. ...Obama has since spoken proudly of his role in preventing a 'massacre' in Benghazi at that time. But when the militiamen, whose victory NATO had assured, opened fire on a demonstration against their presence in Tripoli in November last year, killing at least 42 protesters and firing at children with anti-aircraft machine guns, there was scarcely a squeak of protest from Washington, London or Paris. ...Libya is imploding. Its oil exports have fallen from 1.4 million barrels a day in 2011 to 235,000 barrels a day. Militias hold 8,000 people in prisons, many of whom say they have been tortured. Some 40,000 people from the town of Tawergha south of Misrata were driven from their homes which have been destroyed. 'The longer Libyan authorities tolerate the militias acting with impunity, the more entrenched they become, and the less willing to step down' said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch. 'Putting off repeated deadlines to disarm and disband militias only prolongs the havoc they are creating throughout the country.' ...The Libyan uprising was reported as a simple-minded clash between good and evil. Gaddafi and his regime were demonised and his opponents treated with a naïve lack of scepticism and enquiry. The foreign media have dealt with the subsequent collapse of the Libyan state since 2011 mostly by ignoring it, though politicians have stopped referring to Libya as an exemplar of successful foreign intervention." [56404]

The *Daily Mail* reports, "An image has emerged of the pilot of the missing Malaysia Airlines jet wearing a T-shirt with a 'Democracy is Dead' slogan as it has been revealed he could have hijacked the plane in an anti-government protest. Captain Zaharie Ahmad Shah, a father-of-three, was said to be a 'fanatical' supporter of the country's opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim—[who was] jailed for homosexuality just hours before the jet disappeared. It has also been revealed that the pilot's wife and three children moved out of the family home the day before the plane went missing. It comes as FBI investigators say the disappearance of MH370 may have been 'an act of piracy' and the possibility that hundreds of passengers are being held at an unknown location has not been ruled out. Officials also revealed that it is possible the aircraft could have landed and transmitted a satellite signal from the ground. If the plane was intact and had enough electrical power in reserve, it would be able to send out a radar 'ping.'" (Some believe the plane was hijacked and perhaps safely landed—after the passengers were killed by depressurizing the cabin at high altitude and eventually starving them of oxygen. The plane could

conceivably be kept hidden long enough for the United States and other countries to spend a fortune unsuccessfully looking for it. After the situation quiets down, jihadists might load the plane with explosives and fly it into an American target—perhaps an overseas military base. If, however, the plane was flown very low in order to avoid radar, that action would have increased the likelihood of a crash because flying low at night is not a simple task—and it burns fuel more rapidly than flight at normal altitudes.) [56421, 56423, 56429, 56431, 56450, 56461, 56523]

On *Meet the Press*, former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs says, “If [Obama] doesn’t get... more involved in raising money, in getting voters excited... you [Democrats] lose the Senate, and if you lose the Senate, turn out the lights because the party’s over.” [56424, 56445]

Also on *Meet the Press*, White House advisor Dan Pfeiffer blames the insurance companies for the limited physician networks in their ObamaCare plans, saying, “There is nothing in ObamaCare that’s gonna cause, that, in—mandates an insurance company make any changes [unintelligible] all doctors.” Pfeiffer blames Obama’s terrible poll numbers on the partial government shutdown in 2013 (even though virtually every political observer believes the shutdown hurt Republicans) and the problems with the healthcare.gov web site. Pfeiffer insists Obama will not delay ObamaCare’s individual mandate (even though he has already essentially done so, by allowing a waiver for anyone who claims that purchasing an ObamaCare policy presents a hardship). Pfeiffer laughably claims Obama “will be an asset in every way possible” for Democrat candidates in 2014. On *Face the Nation*, Pfeiffer says it is “largely irrelevant” who edited the Benghazi talking points. On *Fox News Sunday*, Pfeiffer says Obama’s whereabouts on the night of the terrorist attack in Benghazi is “largely irrelevant.” On *This Week*, Pfeiffer says of the IRS’s special scrutiny of conservative groups that “the law’s irrelevant.” [56439, 56440, 56456, 56487]

On *Inside Politics*, CNN’s John King says, “I’m told, in the next week to 10 days, look for two, perhaps three more” retirements of senior House Democrats. (Democrats know the House will remain under Republican control after the November mid-term elections, and they suspect the GOP will win control of the Senate as well. Some Democrats would therefore rather retire than lose reelection, or win and remain in ineffective positions.) [56463]

At PatriotUpdate.com Marilyn Assenheim writes, “When Senator Lindsey Graham [R-SC] asked [Secretary of State John] Kerry what the administration would do should Russia make further inroads into the Ukraine, Kerry responded cautiously but in full pie-in-the-sky mode: ‘Our hope is not to create hysteria or excessive concern about that at this point in time,’ he said. ‘Our hope is to avoid that, but there’s no telling that we can.’ Hope. Hmmm. As the song says, it seems we’ve heard that tune before. Unfortunately for ‘Clap-For-Tinkerbelle’ Kerry, he might have to wrestle with that very eventuality. *The New York Times* had the breaking story: ‘Russia’s Defense Ministry announced new military operations in several regions near the Ukrainian border on Thursday... A day after a deputy minister denied any military buildup on the border; the Defense Ministry

released a series of statements beginning early Thursday that appeared to contradict that.' ...Statists have long chosen to pervert what Ronald Reagan really meant by 'peace through strength.' Although Reagan did not endorse military conflict he knew that *not* having a strong military would send a catastrophic signal to cultures that respect only strength. Democrats, believing that what they want makes their desires true, prefer diplomacy and sanctions and ignore the failures of the past. They eagerly neuter U.S. armed forces while providing military aid to nations hostile to America." [56426]

"Kerry, although he has taken up room on planet earth for over 71 years, has not learned very much. Not surprising considering that Kerry earned a D in history, twice, at Yale. But he has, unfortunately, been foisted on a hapless America as Secretary of State. Even should he be willing to give up junk food to shield his own grades from public view, The Lyin' King [Obama] might have looked into Kerry's political science grade at Yale before appointing Kerry: D. One can't blame Kerry for everything even if what passes for The Lyin' King's ludicrous foreign policy is right up his alley. But embarrassing himself is one thing; making America a perennial clown on the world's stage is another. And having Europe for company in the overcrowded clown car won't help should the elephants run amok. Diplomacy is an ineffectual bludgeon; wielding it hasn't worked throughout all of recorded history. Fear of an opponent's strength has. Proof of this is rapidly becoming evident. Friday, Kerry met with his Russian opposite number, Sergei Lavrov, in London. After five hours of implementing his sure-fire diplomatic strategy the Kremlin told Kerry to stick an onion-domed minaret where the sun don't shine. FOX News summed up Kerry's dismay in the aftermath: '...he said that he came with 'good faith with constructive ideas' to address the concerns of both Ukraine and Russia. But he said Putin is not backing down.' Who could have seen that coming? Europe and the free world used to rely upon America's military might for safety, allowing them the fantasy of overcoming evil with a Coke and a smile. The world's bad players may have dawning awareness, however, that America is becoming less of a threat and more Kool-Aid and a rictus grin." [56426]

John Bolton, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, tells Fox News, "I don't think [the proposed sanctions against Russia] will have much impact. I think the Obama administration and the Europeans are demonstrating weakness, these sanctions are pinpricks and, you know, we sent Secretary of State John Kerry to London to negotiate with Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov. That's like sending a cupcake to negotiate with a steak knife." [56427, 56455]

Muslim jihadists murder as many as 200 Christians in three villages in Nigeria. One man who survived tells PMNewsNigeria.com, "They fired into homes. As women and children scampered to escape, they were shot and later cut with machetes. They set our homes on fire. If you stayed inside, you were burnt. If you run out, they shot at you. The men stayed inside, so most of those burnt were men. But the villagers managed to kill some of the Fulani men, some of whom wore army uniform. I escaped but I have bullet wounds as I speak. I am at an hospital somewhere in Jos. I am told that about 45 people in my village were burnt. And 30 shot and cut with machetes." (Pamela Geller writes, "Shopping at the Gap, Obama was unavailable for comment." [56430]

At WSJ.com Edward P. Lazear writes, “Although it is often overlooked, a key statistic for understanding the labor market is the length of the average workweek. Small changes in the average workweek imply large changes in total hours worked. The average workweek in the U.S. has fallen to 34.2 hours in February from 34.5 hours in September 2013, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That decline, coupled with mediocre job creation, implies that the total hours of employment have decreased over the period. ...The labor market's strength and economic activity are better measured by the number of total hours worked than by the number of people employed. An employer who replaces 100 40-hour-per-week workers with 120 20-hour-per-week workers is contracting, not expanding operations. The same is true at the national level.” [56457]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “House Republican leaders are adopting an agreed-upon conservative approach to fixing the nation’s health-care system, in part to draw an election-year contrast with ...Obama’s Affordable Care Act. The plan includes an expansion of high-risk insurance pools, promotion of health savings accounts and inducements for small businesses to purchase coverage together. The tenets of the plan—which could expand to include the ability to buy insurance across state lines, guaranteed renewability of policies and changes to medical-malpractice regulations—are ideas that various conservatives have for a long time backed as part of broader bills. But this is the first time this year that House leaders will put their full force behind a single set of principles from those bills and present it as their vision. This month, House leaders will begin to share a memo with lawmakers outlining the plan, called ‘A Stronger Health Care System: The GOP Plan for Freedom, Flexibility, & Peace of Mind,’ with suggestions on how Republicans should talk about it to their constituents.” [56436, 56437]

The Obama administration claims the number of ObamaCare enrollees has topped five million—but still refuses to confirm the percentages that have actually paid premiums or did not previously have insurance. (There are estimates that only about 80 percent of those enrolled have actually paid for their coverage.) [56479, 56498]

Russian President Vladimir Putin claims the Ukrainian government is looking the other way as ethnic Russians in the country are terrorized. (The claim is a convenient excuse for Putin to send troops into Ukraine. Putin is also taunting Obama, essentially saying, “I’ve got plans for Ukraine, and I don’t expect you to stand in my way!”) [56441]

On March 17 Obama issues an executive order imposing sanctions on seven officials of the Russia government, in retaliation for Russian President Vladimir Putin’s actions in Crimea and Ukraine. The White House states, “The United States also will seek to hold accountable individuals who use their resources or influence to support or act on behalf of senior Russian government officials. We recognize that the Russian leadership derives significant support from, and takes action through, individuals who do not themselves serve in any official capacity. Our current focus is to identify these individuals and target their personal assets, but not companies that they may manage on behalf of the Russian state. ...Today’s actions send a strong message to the Russian government that there are consequences for their actions that violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of

Ukraine, including their actions supporting the illegal referendum for Crimean separation. The United States, together with international partners, will continue to stand by the Ukrainian government to ensure that costs are imposed on Crimean separatists and their Russian backers.” [56435, 56442, 56464, 56495]

The sanctions are arguably next to meaningless, as the Russian officials almost certainly had enough sense to withdraw their assets from western banks weeks ago. Additionally, it is unlikely that the inability of a few Russians to get travel visas to visit Disney World will prompt Putin to change his actions. Obama states, “Further provocations will do nothing except to further isolate Russia and diminish its place in the world. We can calibrate our response on whether Russia chooses to escalate or deescalate the situation.” (ABC notes that one of the seven Russians targeted by Obama is Elena Mizulina, “A senior lawmaker, she is considered one of the Kremlin’s morality enforcers in the parliament. She is perhaps best known as the co-author of last year’s homosexual ‘propaganda’ law which sparked outrage overseas.”) Rush Limbaugh quips, “That’s the real reason Obama is imposing sanctions. He’s not even doing it because of Ukraine and Crimea.”) [56435, 56442, 56464, 56495]

Putin responds to the absurdity by creating his own absurd list of Americans to be sanctioned, including Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), who co-authored a resolution criticizing Russia over its actions in Crimea. (One meaningful retaliatory action Russia might take would be to accept currencies other than U.S. dollars for its sales of natural gas to Europe. That would cause the value of the dollar to plummet, devastating the U.S. economy. International trade is typically conducted with dollars—but that could change overnight if Russia, China, or other nations chose to do so. A plummeting dollar means rising gold and silver prices. It would also mean a disaster for the Obama administration, which would have to drastically increase the rate of interest paid to lenders—and with a national debt of \$17+ trillion, even a one percent increase in the rate of interest would cause monumental fiscal problems for the U.S. government.) In addition to official sanctions by the Russia government, one restaurant in Moscow posts a sign that proclaims Obama “is not allowed to visit the Dolma Restaurant!” A store that sells honey posts a sign saying Obama “is banned from entering the shop.” [56465, 56775]

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin tweets, “I think some prankster prepared the draft of this Act [Obama’s executive order announcing sanctions against Russia].” He then sends another tweet: “Comrade @BarackObama what should do those who have neither accounts nor property abroad? Or U didn’t think about it?” [56467, 56468, 56474]

Obama also orders the closure of the Syrian embassy in Washington, D.C., and the expulsion of its diplomats. White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters the closure is unrelated to Russia’s action in Crimea and was “in consideration of the atrocities” committed by President Bashar al-Assad. (Why Obama thinks the mere closure of an embassy will prompt Assad to act differently is unclear. President George W. Bush had recalled his U.S. ambassador to Syria in 2005, after the regime was blamed for the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. When Obama entered the White House, he lifted sanctions against Syria and appointed Robert Ford as



ambassador—despite Syria’s support of terrorism, aid to al-Qaeda, and assistance with North Korea’s nuclear operations. Then-Senator John Kerry and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton mistakenly believed Assad was a “moderate,” and Obama likely believed he could cozy up to Syria as a way to put pressure on Israel to give more in negotiations with the Palestinians.) [1232, 1583, 9272, 56511, 56539]

In *The Wall Street Journal* Mitt Romney asks, “Why, across the world, are America’s hands so tied? A large part of the answer is our leader’s [Obama’s] terrible timing. In virtually every foreign-affairs crisis we have faced these past five years, there was a point when America had good choices and good options. There was a juncture when America had the potential to influence events. But we failed to act at the propitious point; that moment having passed, we were left without acceptable options. In foreign affairs as in life, there is, as Shakespeare had it, ‘a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood leads on to fortune. Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries.’ When protests in Ukraine grew and violence ensued, it was surely evident to people in the intelligence community—and to the White House—that President Putin might try to take advantage of the situation to capture Crimea, or more. That was the time to talk with our global allies about punishments and sanctions, to secure their solidarity, and to communicate these to the Russian president. These steps, plus assurances that we would not exclude Russia from its base in Sevastopol or threaten its influence in Kiev, might have dissuaded him from invasion. . . . Able leaders anticipate events, prepare for them, and act in time to shape them. My career in business and politics has exposed me to scores of people in leadership positions, only a few of whom actually have these qualities. Some simply cannot envision the future and are thus unpleasantly surprised when it arrives. Some simply hope for the best. Others succumb to analysis paralysis, weighing trends and forecasts and choices beyond the time of opportunity.” (HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey points out that Romney’s criticism also applies to European nations.) [56469, 56470]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports that a Russian television anchor recently stated that Russia can turn the United States into a pile of “radioactive ash.” Pavlich notes, “The United States has the capability to turn Russia into a radioactive pile of ash, too.” (Matt Drudge tweets, “Obama says [that] would be bad for climate change.”) [56438, 56443]

Obama welcomes Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to the White House, and tells reporters, “I have to commend President Abbas. He has been somebody who has consistently renounced violence, has consistently sought a diplomatic and peaceful solution that allows for two states, side by side, in peace and security—a state that allows for the dignity and sovereignty of the Palestinian people and a state that allows for Israelis to feel secure and at peace with their neighbors.” (The statement is total nonsense. Abbas has consistently supported and encouraged violence against Israel, and not only does not want Israel to “feel secure”—he seeks to destroy the Jewish state and even refuses to recognize its existence.) [56490]

According to the Monthly Treasury Statement for February, despite record tax revenue of \$1,104,947,000,000 during the first five months of fiscal year 2014 (October 2013

through February 2014), the federal government ran a deficit of \$377,379,000,000 during that period. [56462, 56486]

According to OpenMarket.org, “Obama has added 17,522 pages of regulations in his five years in office...” (The Code of Federal Regulations takes up 175,496 pages as of the end of 2013.) [56570, 56571]

Politico reports, “The White House is facing its second Democratic rebellion in less than two weeks over a nomination that’s drawn quick opposition from rural Democratic senators. Obama has enough trouble with the GOP, which is nearly united in opposing Vivek Murthy’s nomination to become surgeon general, but it’s his own party that is again in position to derail another presidential pick. Democratic Senate aides estimated on Monday that from eight to 10 Democrats may oppose Murthy’s nomination if the vote were to be held soon, mostly because of his left-leaning views on gun policy, which have attracted opposition from the National Rifle Association. An aide closely following the nomination described a vote for Murthy as carrying ‘very little political or policy gain but plenty of downside.’ ‘We’ve worked the nomination. We know that there are several Democrats who have issues,’ said Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois on Monday. ‘It would be problematic if it came up quickly. We need to work with some of our members.’” [56472, 56473]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “Americans buying health insurance outside the new Obamacare exchanges are being forced to swallow premiums up to 56 percent higher than before the health law took effect because insurers have jumped the cost to cover all the added features of the new Affordable Care Act. According to a cost report from eHealthInsurance, a nationwide online private insurance exchange, families are paying an average of \$663 a month and singles \$274 a month, far more than before Obamacare kicked in. What’s more, to save money, most buyers are choosing the lowest level of coverage, the so-called ‘bronze’ plans. ...The shocking surge in prices show what Americans not in Obamacare or covered by their employer are paying as they seek lower premiums. Typically, they are not eligible for the subsidies Obamacare offers those with low incomes. ‘Premiums are increasing primarily because of the new required provisions for 2014 Affordable Care Act compliant plans, including guaranteed issue, essential health benefits, modified community rating and minimum actuarial values,’ said Brian Mast, spokesman for eHealthInsurance. ‘It is also likely that health insurance companies expected additional risk in the risk pool, because people with pre-existing conditions could no longer be denied coverage, and may have priced their plans higher to accommodate for this risk,’ said Mast.” [56500]

ReviewJournal.com describes the ObamaCare nightmare faced by Larry Basich: “62, bought [an ObamaCare] plan through the state’s Nevada Health Link insurance exchange in the fall. He’s been paying monthly premiums since November. Yet the Las Vegas is stranded in a no-man’s-land where no carrier claims him, and his tab is mounting: Basich owes \$407,000 for care received in January and February, when his policy was supposed to be in effect. Instead, he’s covered only for March and beyond. Basich has begged for weeks for help from the exchange and its contractor, Xerox. But Basich’s insurance

broker said Xerox seems more interested in lawyering up and covering its hide than in working out Basich's problems. ...Basich said he began trying to enroll on Oct. 1, the day the exchange website went live. Like many consumers, he fought technical flaws during multiple sign-up attempts. In mid-November he finally got through and chose his plan: UnitedHealthcare's MyHPNSilver1. 'It was like reaching the third level of [the video game] Doom,' Basich said of the torturous sign-up process. Basich paid his first premium on Nov. 21, and within days the exchange withdrew the \$160.77 payment from his money-market savings account. Because Basich paid a month before the Dec. 23 deadline, his coverage was to begin Jan. 1. Weeks ticked by, but Basich received nothing to confirm he had insurance. Nevada Health Link kept telling him he was enrolled, but UnitedHealthcare said he wasn't in their system. Basich's predicament went critical on Dec. 31, when he had a heart attack. His treatment, which included a triple bypass on Jan. 3, resulted in \$407,000 in medical bills in January and February that no insurer is covering. ...Basich has sought help at virtually every level of the system, from the Xerox customer-service reps who answer the phones at the exchange's Henderson call center all the way to Gov. Brian Sandoval and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-NV]. Both Sandoval's and Reid's offices have told him they want to help, Basich said, but there's been no resolution so far." [56546, 56547]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments that Obama "is being ridiculed, by Russians especially, because the statement [of sanctions] and the policy are ridiculous. He doesn't have a lot of cards, but he has *some* cards, and if he thinks that sanctioning seven Russians, out of a population of, what, 150 million, is a sanction, he's living in a different world. The one thing that we could do is to respond to the Ukrainian request, when [its] president was here last week, they asked the Pentagon for weapons, and we said no, because somehow, to arm the victim of aggression is a provocation. So we said no, we're gonna offer them... rations. Well, that's gonna hold off Russian tanks, I'm sure. And, this response of, you know, we are now going to 'calibrate,' as if Putin is, they're going to sanction 11 Russians now, so I'll have to stop where I am, is really preposterous. Again, if you're going to do something, do it. Otherwise, say nothing, but this really is a humiliating response by [Obama], who can't even get the Europeans to join him in effective sanctions which we *could* do." [56468, 56496]

On the issue of ObamaCare, Krauthammer says, "By some estimates, from the insurers, only one in 10 of the people now enrolled are people who [had been] uninsured. So nine out of 10 had insurance [and have] had everything disrupted. So the original goal of this was to insure the uninsured. It's not doing that. It's disrupting all the other people who had it. And the second irony is, you look at the stack of the papers and all the bills and all the legislation and the regulation, but in fact nobody has any idea what the law is. Because it changes at the whim of [Obama] every Wednesday morning. So there really is no bill. It exists in his head." [56493]

On MSNBC's *All In*, Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) says, "Frankly the fact that we are here today with a very weak Russia, having the entirety of the Ukraine turn away and having engaged in a panicky reaction is partly a result of the United States' strength on this issue, standing with the protesters." (At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield quips,

“If Russia invades Alaska, just think how weak Putin will look then. ... Civilians might be a bit confused. Usually it’s the countries doing the invading who are strong and the countries standing there frowning impotently who are weak. But soft power advocates know that real strength comes from not invading countries and not doing anything to stop those who do. Obama’s minions trying to claim that supporting the protesters from a distance is strength is cynical and hypocritical. It’s the greatest show of strength from Obama Inc. since he eventually decided to sorta support the Iranian protesters, but eventually cut a deal with Iran to let it go nuclear anyway.” ) Murphy points out that Crimea has a small population of about two million, while the rest of Ukraine has about 43 million, and claims, “Ultimately, if the end result is that the other 43 million join the European Union, this is a huge loss for Putin, not a win.” (Putting aside the fact that Putin is probably not done with his plans for the region, Murphy’s statement is tantamount to saying that bank security guards were successful because the bank robbers got away with only \$2 million of the bank’s \$45 million.) [56488]

On March 18 Michelle Obama, her daughters, her mother, and an entourage of security personnel and aides prepare for a March 19–26 trip to China. The cost to the taxpayers is not known. Aide Tina Tchen says, “We are not discussing or disclosing information regarding the details of the logistics of the trip. ... You know, the first lady has talked about the importance of young people here in the United States learning about other cultures. She believes that about her own children, and has seen this as a really unique opportunity to share a very different part of the world with her two daughters and with her mother as well. ... I think that, frankly, the most powerful message we can deliver [to the Chinese] is one of the examples of not just the first lady’s life story but of America and our values. That alone I think speaks to things like respect for human rights that are interwoven into the DNA of the United States of America. The first lady’s story itself sends a powerful message about the ability of someone of a disadvantaged economic background from a minority group to ascend to the position that she did in private life and now as first lady.” (Michelle Obama most certainly does not have a “disadvantaged background.” Her father had a patronage job with the City of Chicago Water Department, was firmly in the middle class, and was able to send his two children to college.) [56478, 56489, 56521, 56531]

While most of the Obama family heads to China, “reliable sources” tell *The New York Times* that White House officials are already planning Obama’s August vacation in Martha’s Vineyard. [56552]

PatriotAction.net observes, “Michelle also plans to visit with high school and university students. The secret service has been placed on high alert, ready to grab Michelle if she tries to inspect the student’s lunch pails. During the March 19-26 trip, Michelle and her enormous entourage of cosmeticians, wig fitters, eyebrow painters and assorted other servants will visit Beijing, Xi’an and Chengdu and she is asking American students to follow her travels by tuning into the Global Learning and Diplomacy Blog. ... I am sure that many children in America whose parents do not have a job, have had their health insurance canceled, and are foraging for food in dumpsters will be fascinated with her concern for global issues, including poverty and education.” (Reporters are banned from

the trip. If that means it is solely a vacation, the taxpayers should not have to pay for any of the expenses. If, however, the Obamas claim that the trip includes “official” business—as a way of shifting some of the costs to the taxpayers—then the media should not be prohibited.) [56478, 56489, 56521, 56531, 56562, 56563, 56564]

NYTimes.com reports that Michelle Obama will “soon to lose her executive pastry chef, Bill Yosses. And she is partly to blame. ...Hired by Laura Bush in 2007, when he was already acclaimed in New York for the raspberry and pear soufflés he created at restaurants like Montrachet and Bouley, Mr. Yosses began moving beyond the traditional sugar sculptures and cookie plates after Mrs. Obama arrived at the White House. He was directed to make more healthful desserts, and in smaller portions, that were to be served only sparingly to the first family.” [56483, 56484, 56520, 56548]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Health insurance premiums have risen more after Obamacare than the average premium increases over the eight years before it became law, according to the private health exchange eHealthInsurance. The individual market for health insurance has seen premiums rise by 39 percent since February 2013, eHealth reports. Without a subsidy, the average individual premium is now \$274 a month. Families have been hit even harder with an average increase of 56 percent over the same period—average premiums are now \$663 per family, over \$426 last year. Between 2005 and 2013, average premiums for individual plans increased 37 percent and average family premiums were upped 31 percent. So they have risen faster under Obamacare than in the previous eight years.” [56526]

Vice President Joe Biden addresses the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and says, “You know, 11 million people live in the shadows. I believe they’re already American citizens. These people are just waiting, waiting for a chance to contribute fully. And by that standard, 11 million undocumented aliens are already Americans, in my view.” House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) later says, “I want this [illegal immigrant amnesty] bill desperately. I’m willing to make almost every compromise possible, but we cannot compromise on a pathway to citizenship. It cannot have a provision that prevents it from happening.” (In other words, she will make any compromise as long as the Democrats gains 11 million new voters.) [56863]

CampusReform.org reports, “Colorado Mountain College (CMC) is prohibiting adjunct professors from working over 30 hours per week to minimize the large financial impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA, often-called Obamacare, requires that large employers offer insurance to all employees who work more than 30 hours a week—but CMC will just cut hours to avoid having to pay for the insurance.” [56648, 56649]

Haveert.com reports, “Residents of the remote Maldives island of Kuda Huvadhoo in Dhaal Atoll have reported seeing... a ‘low flying jumbo jet’ at around 6:15am on March 8. They said that it was a white aircraft, with red stripes across it—which is what the Malaysia Airlines flights typically look like. Eyewitnesses from the Kuda Huvadhoo concurred that the aeroplane was travelling North to South-East, towards the Southern tip of the Maldives—Addu. They also noted the incredibly loud noise that the flight made

when it flew over the island. ‘I’ve never seen a jet flying so low over our island before. We’ve seen seaplanes, but I’m sure that this was not one of those. I could even make out the doors on the plane clearly,’ said an eyewitness. ‘It’s not just me either, several other residents have reported seeing the exact same thing. Some people got out of their houses to see what was causing the tremendous noise too.’” [56491]

In Moscow, President Vladimir Putin signs a treaty making Crimea party of Russia. Reuters reports, “In a fiercely patriotic address to a joint session of parliament in the Kremlin, punctuated by standing ovations, cheers and tears, Putin said Crimea’s disputed referendum vote on Sunday, held under Russian military occupation, had shown the overwhelming will of the people to be reunited with Russia. As the Russian national anthem played, Putin and Crimean leaders signed a treaty to make Ukraine’s region part of the Russian Federation, declaring: ‘In the hearts and minds of people, Crimea has always been and remains an inseparable part of Russia.’ Parliament is expected to begin ratifying the treaty within days.” Putin states, “We’re one nation. Kiev is the mother of all Russian cities”—which can easily be interpreted to mean, “We’re not stopping with Crimea.” [56492, 56527]

While Putin and Russia do what the Obama administration warned them not to do, Vice President Joe Biden visits Poland to assure east European nations the United States will not turn its back on them as well. Biden says, “We join Poland and the international community condemning the continuing assault on Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the blatant violation of international law by Mr. Putin and Russia.” Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski states, “We have to take these simple data about the gigantic increase of the level of funding of the Russian armed forces as a challenge as well as a lesson to be learned for the future of the whole NATO.” (In other words, “The United States should have seen Putin’s actions coming.”) Biden: “Russia has increased their [sic; its] budget. But I want to remind you that you have an ally whose [military] budget is larger than the next 10 nations combined. So while others may not have stood up to their responsibilities, the United States has more than stood up to its responsibilities. So don’t worry about where we are. ...Our intent is that NATO emerges from this crisis stronger and more unified than ever.” Estonian President Toomas Ilves says, “We and NATO must draw our conclusions from Russia’s behavior in the current crisis; we need and must conduct a review of the entire range of NATO-Russia relations. ...There is no more respect for territorial integrity, for transparency. ...The response must be more robust than it has been. The response should not be about the price of gas; it must be about common values and the price of not adhering to those common values.” Biden also says, “Fifteen years ago, I was honored, as the chairman of the [Senate] Foreign Relations Committee, to lead the fight for Poland’s admission into NATO.” (According to TheHill.com, Poland joined NATO in 1999, when the Republicans held the Senate and Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Although Biden eventually supported Poland’s entry into NATO, he certainly did not “lead the fight.”) [56511, 56518, 56519, 56532, 56591]

Author Peter Schiff, CEO of Euro Pacific Capital, tells Yahoo Finance he expects the price of gold to increase. “I think it’s just getting started. Everybody was bearish on gold

at the end of 2013, it ended the year right near the lows, and it's gone straight up ever since January 1st. ...The real reason gold is going up is because of inflation. The fed [Federal Reserve] has no way out of QE ["qualitative easing," or money supply expansion], the U.S. economy is slipping into back into recession. More people are starting to realize that, and accept the fact that the Fed is going to ramp up QE, not continue to taper; all of that is very bullish for gold." (*The Obama Timeline* owns both gold and silver investments.) [56497]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Airplane pilots cruising over southern California have been complaining about a 'nearly blinding' glare emanating from a massive government-funded solar thermal facility. The Ivanpah solar energy plant in San Bernardino County is the world's largest solar thermal plant and has 173,500 large mirrors that reflect sunlight onto boilers in three 459-foot towers. A feat of modern engineering—to green energy advocates, but a flying hazard to pilots. ... 'The FAA is aware of potential glare from solar plants and is exploring how to best alert pilots to the issue,' an FAA spokesman told The Daily Caller News Foundation." [56525]

At Doug Ross' blog, Jon Street notes the status of Vermont's 2011 attempt to create a single-payer health care system for the state: "Now, even Democrats say that plan, called Green Mountain Care, isn't ready for its proposed 2017 rollout, and Rep. Jim Condon told Vermont Watchdog it's time for Gov. Peter Shumlin to shelve the ambitious plan immediately. 'The deadlines for proposing financing have been missed two years in a row now, so to me that's very disappointing. It's becoming clearer and clearer that there is no financing plan,' Condon told Vermont Watchdog. As Vermont Watchdog reported, an independent report by the Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm Avalere Health concluded that the costs of Green Mountain Care would require Vermont to raise tax revenue roughly equal to the state's tax collections from all sources today. Condon, a Democrat from Colchester, said he thinks a single-payer system in Vermont would 'cost more' than a couple of previous estimates. Those estimates pegged the cost for single-payer at anywhere from \$1.6 billion to \$2.2 billion annually." (Of course, the state of Vermont cannot provide \$2.2 billion in benefits every year without also increasing taxes by \$2.2 billion per year—or about \$3,500 for each of the state's 630,000 residents. A husband and wife with two children would have to pay an additional \$14,000 per year in taxes in order to get "free" health care. If the tax were imposed on businesses, rather than individuals, companies would simply flee the state and relocate elsewhere.) [56501, 56515, 56540, 57550]

Congressman Jim McDermott (D-WA) sends a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to complain about the horrendous backlogs in the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals. The backlog of almost 357,000 cases means waits of up to two years for a decision. McDermott writes, "The agencies must review their administrative procedures and act now to protect seniors who are struggling to get Medicare payment appeals addressed." (At HotAir.com Bruce McQuain observes, "The bigger picture, however, is this is what 'single payer' would look like, most likely at its best. 2 year waits for an appeal process. As McDermott notes, that's a long time for a system designed to care for the elderly. Some may not survive the process and many are

on fixed incomes. That and the fact that providers shouldn't have to wait that long for resolution either. If it were a private insurance entity taking this time, they'd likely not be in business long as customers would endeavor to find a provider which was much more efficient in processing appeals. That's just a few of the benefits provided by incentive, competition and a profit motive. Government bureaucracies, of course, aren't motivated by any of those factors. And this is the result. Make no mistake, there are a large contingent of Democrats who would love to move us to a single payer system. Fair warning—this is a mild example of what the party which can't even build a functioning website in 2014 would inflict on the citizens of this country.” [56536, 56537, 56538]

At WashingtonExaminer.com Mark Tapscott writes, “It's Sunshine Week, so perhaps some enterprising White House reporter will ask press secretary Jay Carney why ...Obama rewrote the Freedom of Information Act without telling the rest of America. The rewrite came in an April 15, 2009, memo from then-White House Counsel Greg Craig instructing the executive branch to let White House officials review any documents sought by FOIA requestors that involved ‘White House equities.’ That phrase is nowhere to be found in the FOIA, yet the Obama White House effectively amended the law to create a new exception to justify keeping public documents locked away from the public. The Greg memo is described in detail in a new study made public today by Cause of Action, a Washington-based nonprofit watchdog group that monitors government transparency and accountability. How serious an attack on the public's right to know is the Obama administration's invention of the ‘White House equities’ exception? ‘FOIA is designed to inform the public on government behavior; White House equities allow the government to withhold information from the media, and therefore the public, by having media requests forwarded for review. This not only politicizes federal agencies, it impairs fundamental First Amendment liberties,’ Cause of Action explains in its report. ...The equities exception is breathtaking in its breadth. As the Greg memo put it, any document request is covered, including ‘congressional committee requests, GAO requests, judicial subpoenas and FOIA requests.’” (At HotAir.com Bruce McQuain writes, “This is what political subversion looks like. It is also a fairly common example of this administration saying one thing and actually doing the opposite. Most transparent administration ever. Another lie worthy of 4 Pinocchios.”) [56502, 56573]

Meanwhile, Democrat political operatives have filed a number of FOIA requests with the Environmental Protection Agency, seeking to find anything that can be used against Republican legislators in the 2014 mid-term election campaigns. According to WashingtonTimes.com, the Democrats are “seeking correspondence between Republicans and EPA officials—letters that operatives will scour for any hint that politicians' rhetoric doesn't square with how they conduct themselves outside of public view. Their findings help supply a steady flow of material for damaging news stories and campaign ads.” Although “EPA officials said they don't play favorites when it comes to handling requests... Twenty-eight of the Democrats' requests have been completed... [while] Republican political committees have filed just four requests since 2012, and none of those has been fulfilled.” (Additionally, in response to a FOIA request, the State Department claims it can produce no copies of emails between then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's personal spokesman, Philippe Reines, and journalists because *none*



*exist*. It is, of course, ridiculous to claim that no such emails exist. No reasonable person could accept that a person whose job was dealing with the media never exchanged emails with anyone in the media. Translation: Hillary Clinton is running for president in 2016 and she is ensuring that anything incriminating related to her and Benghazi never sees the light of day.) [56512, 56545]

IsraelNationalNews.com reports, “Following US State Department figures showing a steep 80% rise in US rejections of Israeli visa requests last year, Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) demanded answers from US Secretary of State John Kerry. A whopping 9.7% of Israeli visa applicants were refused in 2013, a radical increase from the 5.4% of the prior year. As recently as 2007, a mere 2.5% of the requests were denied. Meng, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, pressed Kerry in a letter dated last Friday [March 14] to reveal the rejection rate for young 21-27 Israeli visa applicants, seeking to travel in the US after their IDF [Israeli Defense Force] service. Further, she requested the number of Israelis who applied for and received visas, not just percentages. ...Sources in Israel’s Foreign Ministry charged that the increase in rejections stems from political motives, and was meant to remove Israel from the ‘white list’ of nations with a visa rejection rate of under 3%. Citizens of nations on the list do not need a visa to visit America. ...The rising rates of rejection come as Kerry’s pressure on Israel to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinian Authority (PA) has led to heightened tension between the two countries. Reports in January revealed Kerry as being behind European boycotts targeting Israel, and he has likewise called Israel’s demand for recognition as a Jewish state ‘a mistake.’” (The Obama administration is jam-packed with haters of Jews and Israel, among them National Security Advisor Susan Rice, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, CIA Director John Brennan, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett—and Obama himself. Obama’s anti-Semite pals include Khalid Abdullah Tariq al-Mansour (aka Donald Warden), professor Derrick Bell, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, Catholic priest Michael Pflugler, and former Jimmy Carter advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski.) [56510]

The Associated Press reports that it “is seeking to broaden independent news coverage of the White House under an administration that is hypersensitive about its image and which frequently bars the press from events involving ...Obama. ...The Obama White House routinely bars news media from meetings with foreign leaders and other events, then releases its own photos of those events—including a February meeting between Obama and the Dalai Lama. In doing so, it’s acknowledging that events barred to journalists are of public interest, the AP reporters said. ...The AP has a policy against using White House handout photos unless they are of significant news value and were shot in places to which the press does not expect access, such as private residence areas of the White House. The presidents of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the Associated Press Media Editors have urged their members to stop using White House handout photos and video, saying they amount to propaganda.” [56507, 56508]

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, White House advisor John Podesta—former head of the leftwing Center for American Progress—is working to organize weekly meetings to prepare for Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential run. On CNN, Peter Hamby says, “This

is heads exposing in the vice president's office. This is—it's not just Podesta. Remember Jim Messina, top presidential adviser recently left to, uh, advise a Super PAC that will ostensibly be supporting a presidential campaign for Hillary Clinton. Uh, that rankled [Joe] Biden and his allies. Uh, look, Biden, we don't know if he wants to run but he is certainly keeping his name in the conversation and I think he just wants a little bit of respect. And this has to uh, really, uh, uh, this really has to stick in his craw, I think." [56549, 56550, 56551]

On *Hannity*, retired Lieutenant General Thomas McInerney suggests that missing flight MH370 was hijacked and may have landed in Pakistan, to be later used for a terrorist act. According to FoxNewsInsider.com, "McInerney said that according to unverified reports, the plane could have been flying in the shadow of Singapore Airlines Flight 68 over India. He said a LIGNET report says that Boeing sources believe the plane is in Pakistan. McInerney said that most of the world's sensors are in that region, and that between Rolls-Royce, Boeing and the U.S. government, officials know a lot more than has come out. 'When the U.S. Navy quits their search, their ship search, they must know something in the Indian Ocean. When the Israeli defense forces, when they increase their defense alert, they must know something,' McInerney said. If McInerney's theory is right, the airplane would have landed at 5 a.m. Pakistan time, and it would have still been dark out." (LIGNET is the Langley Intelligence Group Network, "a Washington, DC-based service providing global intelligence and forecasting from former CIA, U.S. intelligence and national security officers, drawing on an international network of experts and sources.") Those who doubt that Pakistan would hide a Boeing 777 for nefarious purposes should be reminded that it hid and protected Osama bin Laden for years. [56503, 56504, 56505, 56524, 56628, 56994]

In an interview with Spanish language sports radio show Univision Deportes, Obama tells illegal immigrant listeners they can enroll their legal family members in ObamaCare and not worry about the information they provide being used to deport them: "Well, the main thing for people to know is that any information you get, you know, asked with respect to buying insurance, does not have anything to do with ...the rules governing immigration. And you know, you can qualify [for ObamaCare] if you're a legal resident, if you are ...legally present in the United States. You know, if you have a family where some people are citizens or legally here, and others are not documented, the immigration people will never get that information." (Some might argue that Obama's pledge aids and abets criminal behavior and is therefore illegal.) [56513, 56514, 56585]

Obama attends a Democrat National Committee fundraiser in Washington, D.C. (He also has a fundraiser March 20 in Orlando, Florida, followed by another in Miami.) [56499]

On March 19 Lignet.com reports, "The Malaysian government reportedly is investigating the possibility that missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 avoided radar detection and landed in Pakistan near the Afghanistan border inside Taliban-controlled territory, according to the UK Independent ...investigators confiscated a homemade flight simulator from the pilot's home to see if it reveals any useful information ...the Malaysian foreign minister told reporters that Malaysia asked several Asian countries for

assistance in its investigation, including Pakistan ...Pakistan dismissed the idea that a Boeing 777 could land undetected inside the country but promised to work with the Malaysian government in its search for the missing plane ...Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority stood by the government's denial that Flight 370 was in Pakistan, saying Tuesday that 'we have checked the radar recording for the period but found no clue about the ill-fated flight' ...retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Tom McInerney told Fox News host Sean Hannity on Friday and again on Tuesday that his connections have led him to believe that Flight 370 landed in Pakistan with the help of the flight's two pilots ...a LIGNET analyst received information from a source at Boeing that the company believes the plane did land in Pakistan ...Boeing spokesman Sean McCormack denied that Wednesday, telling LIGNET that 'the Boeing Company does not have information that substantiates your claim' ...Israel is taking the possibility of a terrorist attack seriously by mobilizing air defenses and giving extra scrutiny to approaching civilian aircraft, according to the Times of Israel ...a Boeing 777 requires a lengthy, 7,500-foot runway, and Pakistan has many of them, meaning Flight 370 could conceivably be hidden in a hangar inside the country ...U.S. surveillance of the area may be able to shed light on the theory through satellite imagery or signal intelligence." [56506, 56509]

At PJMedia.com J. Christian Adams reports, "Pennsylvania Democrats were caught on surveillance tape reportedly accepting cash bribes in return for opposing voter ID in the Pennsylvania legislature. Gifts of Tiffany's jewelry were also given to Democrat legislators from Philadelphia, reportedly in exchange for 'NO' votes on a Pennsylvania voter ID bill that passed in 2012. Despite this evidence, Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane has not charged any officials. Kane is a Democrat. Kane's excuse for her inaction? Racism: some of the legislators caught on tape accepting bribes were black Democrats from Philadelphia." Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams—who is black and also a Democrat—states, "I have seen racism. I know what it looks like. This isn't it. ...The notion that they would target anyone based on race is ridiculous. I am confident they are not racist, and it is regrettable that the attorney general would casually throw around such an explosive accusation." Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich adds, "Apparently in this case, lawmakers can get away with potential criminal activity so long as they have the right skin color. The investigation into these kinds of bribes started in 2010 under Republican Attorney General Tom Corbett but was quickly snuffed out as soon as Democrat Kathleen Kane took over the position. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder doesn't seem interested in filing criminal charges against Pennsylvania Democrats either despite the Department of Justice paying special attention to voter identification laws in the state." (HotAir.com later reports that Kane has "lawyered up." Her attorney states, "I intend to look at the investigation from the very beginning to the conclusion of it, and in terms of what has been published, by this paper and others, to take appropriate action on behalf of the attorney general against those responsible for the defamatory and the false publications that have been made." In other words, Kane, a white Democrat who charges "racism" when a black Democrat exposes black Democrat politicians for accepting bribes, will sue anyone who criticizes her and attempts to get to the truth.) The bribe-taking legislators are still in office, and Obama's Department of Justice has taken no action against them or Kane. [56516, 56517, 56522, 56606, 56624, 56671, 56745, 56973, 57230]

Obama pushes for an increase in the minimum wage in interviews with television stations from New England, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Dallas, Phoenix, and San Diego. [56528]

Obama tells NBC 7/KNSD San Diego, “We are not going to be getting into military excursion in Ukraine. What we are going to do is mobilize all of our diplomatic resources to make sure that we’ve got a strong international correlation that sends a clear message.” (Obama’s statement will be welcomed by most Americans. It will also be welcomed by Vladimir Putin.) He also says Putin is acting “out of weakness, not out of strength” in taking control of Crimea. Obama absurdly claims that Putin’s “strategic decisions are no way based on whether he thought that we might go to war over this. I think there’s a clear understanding that when it comes to our core interests or our NATO allies we can protect ourselves.” (How Obama can state “we can protect ourselves” just seconds after stating he will not is unclear.) Obama tells KSDK in St. Louis, “Obviously, you know, we do not need to trigger an actual war with Russia. The Ukrainians don’t want that. Nobody would want that.” [56530, 56580]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey later observes, “Politifact would rate this as *true*, because literally no one wants that. That’s not a Bidenesque *literally*, but a *literal* literally. No one wants it, no one would approve it, and for a couple of really good reasons—we have no national interest in who governs Crimea, and an attempt to start a war there would make Dieppe look well-considered. It’s in the Russian’s back yard. So why bother saying it at all? That’s the curious aspect of this. Obama has an annoying habit of attempting to present his critics’ arguments in his own fantasy *reductio ad absurdum* constructs that end up bearing no resemblance to the actual criticisms, all to paint himself as the voice of centrist reason. This, however, just makes him look as out of touch as the rest of his foreign policy—with an extra added dollop of weakness as the *a la mode* touch. ...At this point, it is more important to send signals of strength rather than offer nonsense statements about demands that no one is making. This administration won’t even make an explicit threat to kick Russia out of the G-8, as the UK finally did yesterday, or even permanently cancel its June meeting in response to the Russian invasion of Crimea. It’s certain that Putin’s not worried about military action or of much of anything else in a coordinated Western response. It’s time that Obama left the ‘fantasy’ world described by the Washington Post earlier this month and start dealing with the reality of global power.” [56569]

Obama reveals his picks for the NCAA basketball championship games. (Michigan State is his pick to win the national championship.) The mainstream media slobbers all over the story, as if it has an ounce of significance. (LauraIngraham.com comments, “[I]f only Obama could speak about the Crimean situation with as much fluency and historical understanding as he can pontificate on college basketball. For a man who devotes much time to manicuring his public profile on ESPN and the Ellen show, it could be useful to pick up a history book on Russian despotism or Iranian culture. ...Obama has not successfully picked an NCAA tournament winner since 2009, and this year his politically safe picks of top-tier bracket seeds seem to be calculated to avoid any sports-related criticism. The Administration probably hopes that a solid bracket will distract young

people from some of Obama's less-calculated decisions, such as mandating health care nationwide against the will of the American people.”) [56529, 56535, 56561, 56593, 56605]

At NYPost.com Michael Goodwin writes, “In many ways, Vladimir Putin’s grab of Crimea is as significant as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan 35 years ago. Then-President Jimmy Carter quickly understood he had been wrong to trust the Soviets, and shifted to offense. His January 1980, speech was defiant and bold. Compared to Obama’s timid rebukes of Putin, Carter sounded like Churchill rousing Great Britain against Hitler. Obama is still stuck in the belief that Putin is either crazy, or secretly looking for a way to save face and end the confrontation. He hasn’t accepted Putin for what he is because to do so would mean acknowledging that Obama’s whole approach to international relations has been a mistake. The world, meaning friend and foe alike, already knows [Obama] is uncomfortable with American power. The result is that his once-magical ability to inspire with words is now an international punch line because they are just words. He promised change and delivered disaster. From Syria and Iran to North Africa and North Korea, the abdication of American leadership is proving calamitous. And now Putin’s move in Europe demolishes once and for all any illusion that Obama’s election would herald a turning point for mankind. Instead of people the world over beating their swords into plowshares, the 21st century is turning out to be a chaotic and bloody mess. ‘The tide of war is receding,’ Obama insisted. Like so many of his pronouncements, he was confusing the ideas in his head with reality. It is not clear if he knows the difference. ...Putin is his most immediate test. [Obama’s] wrist-slap sanctions at a few functionaries were predictably dismissed, and widely regarded as a sign of weakness. That can only embolden the would-be czar. Even worse was the timing, with talks on Iran’s nuclear program starting again. Bet the farm the mullahs will take their cue from whether Putin pays a serious price for carving up a country. If he gets away with it, the Iranians won’t even bother to pretend to care what Obama says. Why should they?” [56783]

TheHill.com reports, “Health industry officials say ObamaCare-related premiums will double in some parts of the country, countering claims recently made by the administration. The expected rate hikes will be announced in the coming months amid an intense election year, when control of the Senate is up for grabs. The sticker shock would likely bolster the GOP’s prospects in November and hamper ObamaCare insurance enrollment efforts in 2015. ...[One] The insurance official, who hails from a populous swing state, said his company expects to triple its rates next year on the ObamaCare exchange. The hikes are expected to vary substantially by region, state and carrier. Areas of the country with older, sicker or smaller populations are likely to be hit hardest, while others might not see substantial increases at all.” [56533, 56534]

According to Breitbart.com, “The Oregon Obamacare exchange has received \$305 million in taxpayer-funded federal grants, spent \$160 million on its busted website, dropped \$10 million on hipster promotional ads, erroneously enrolled 4,000 illegal immigrants in full Oregon Health Plan coverage contrary to federal law, and has not enrolled a single Oregonian online. In short, the Oregon Obamacare exchange, known officially as ‘Cover Oregon,’ has become emblematic of the deeply unpopular

Obamacare program. ‘Cover Oregon is almost unmatched in its failure to deliver a working website,’ reported the *Wall Street Journal* on Monday. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) announced earlier this month it would launch a probe into Oregon’s failed Obamacare website. The roughly 146,000 Oregonians who have enrolled have had to do so through paper applications, and two thirds of those counted were enrolled in the state’s Medicaid welfare program.” [56594]

A federal judge rules that Kansas and Arizona can ask voters to provide evidence of U.S. citizenship. LATimes.com reports, “U.S. District Judge Eric Melgren in Wichita, Kan., ruled that the U.S. Election Assistance Commission had no legal authority to deny requests from the two states to add the citizenship requirement. In the ruling, released Wednesday, he ordered the commission to revise the national form immediately. Kansas and Arizona require new voters to provide a birth certificate, passport or other documentation to prove U.S. citizenship. The federal registration form, however, requires only that prospective voters sign a statement declaring they are citizens. The different requirements opened the possibility that residents of those states would have to register twice, using separate voter registration forms, if they wanted to vote in both state and federal elections. The fight also has political overtones. Republicans have generally argued in favor of tougher voting requirements, contending they prevent fraud. Democrats oppose the state standards, which they say can block their voters—including the young and the poor—from registering to vote.” Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne states, “Today’s decision is an important victory for the people of Arizona against the Obama administration, assuring that only Arizona residents and not illegals vote in Arizona elections.” At PJMedia.com Stephen Kruiser writes, “Predictably, there is the usual whining from Democrats about ‘voter suppression,’ which in modern leftist political parlance means, ‘having any rules for voting at all.’ They weave a sob-inducing tale of untold millions of American citizens who *just have no way of getting any identification or documentation by election day* here in the 21st Century. If that were actually the case, given the ID requirements for so many things in everyday life, the lefties would be screaming for a federal ID assistance program.” [56541, 56542, 56579, 56599, 56707]

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani tweets, “Iran’s uranium enrichment will go on.” [56554, 56555]

The Associated Press reports, “Russia may revise its stance in the Iranian nuclear talks amid tensions with the West over Ukraine, a senior diplomat warned Wednesday. Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said, according to the Interfax news agency, that Russia didn’t want to use the Iranian nuclear talks to ‘raise the stakes,’ but may have to do so in response to the actions by the United States and the European Union. The statement is the most serious threat of retaliation by Moscow after the U.S. and the EU announced sanctions against Russia over its annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea region.” (In other words, “If the United States does not let us have our way in Crimea and Ukraine, we will not stand in the way of Iran developing nuclear weapons.”) [56565, 56572, 56584]

While Russian President Vladimir Putin moves his eastern European chess pieces, Obama appears on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* to remind viewers that the ObamaCare enrollment deadline is March 31. Obama claims, “People will be pleasantly surprised [after they enroll in ObamaCare]. Uh, I’ve got a lot of folks who write me letters saying, ‘I didn’t vote for ya [sic], I’m pretty skeptical about ObamaCare, and I heard about all the problems on the web site, but when I actually signed up, uh, it turns out that I’m saving a hundred bucks, two hundred bucks, or I’m getting health insurance for the first time.” DeGeneres says ObamaCare is “doing very, very well... you’ve got 5 million people signed up so far. An enormous number of people have signed up, so it’s successful... Well, for people who are starting to applaud here, I think everyone’s very grateful that you did this. And I think it is important for people to sign up. It’s just better to be covered. You just never know.” [56566, 56589, 56607]

Federal Reserve board chairman Janet Yellen states, “The Committee will closely monitor incoming information on economic and financial developments in coming months and will continue its purchases of Treasury and agency mortgage-backed securities, and employ its other policy tools as appropriate, until the outlook for the labor market has improved substantially in a context of price stability. If incoming information broadly supports the Committee’s expectation of ongoing improvement in labor market conditions and inflation moving back toward its longer-run objective, the Committee will likely reduce the pace of asset purchases in further measured steps at future meetings.” (In other words, the Federal Reserve will continue to expand the money supply and prop up Wall Street by tens of billions of dollars every month until the economy improves.) The Dow Jones Industrial Average falls 210 points (and then recovers somewhat) after Yellen suggests she might begin increasing interest rates in six months. [56560, 56586, 56587, 56598]

CNSNews.com reports, “The federal government has increased its debt by \$811,699,611,000.51—borrowing \$7,057.89 per U.S. household—in the five months that have elapsed since Oct. 16, 2013. That is the day the House Republican leadership agreed to a deal with ...Obama to pass legislation ending a two-week partial government shutdown. The deal funded the government into January 2014 and suspended the legal limit on the federal debt into February 2014.” [56576, 56639]

At the University of California at Berkeley, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) receives multiple standing ovations from mostly-leftists students who agreed with his statements, “Your right to privacy is under assault” and “I am here to tell you that if you own a cell phone, you’re under surveillance. ...No one should be allowed to invade your privacy. That’s why I’m announcing today that when I return to Washington, I will push for a select committee styled after the Church Committee that investigated the abuses of power of the intelligence committee in the 70s. It should be bipartisan. It should be independent, and wide reaching. It should have full power to investigate and reform those who spy on us in the name of protecting us. It should watch the watchers.” Noting Senator Dianne Feinstein’s (D-CA) charge that the CIA has spied on a Senate investigatory committee, Paul says, “I don’t know about you, but I’m worried. If the CIA is spying on Congress, who exactly can or will stop them? I look into the eyes of senators and I think I see real

fear. I think I perceive fear of an intelligence community drunk with power, unrepentant and uninclined [sic; disinclined] to relinquish power.” (If Paul runs for president in 2016 the Democrats may have a lot to fear. He will not only attract the votes of Republicans and conservatives with his message of fiscal restraint, he will attract the support of many young people with his warnings about government abuse of privacy. Obama won in 2008 and 2012 largely because of the black vote and the youth vote, but Hillary Clinton will not attract the black vote as did Obama, and she therefore cannot afford to lose much of the youth vote.) [56556, 56557, 56567, 56568, 56577, 56603]

On the *Tonight* show, host Jimmy Fallon portrays Russian President Vladimir Putin in a skit in which Obama scolds him over his annexation of Crimea: “Look, don’t you see what you’re doing though? You’re forcing people to accept something that the majority of them don’t even want.” Putin/Fallon responds, “Yes. In Russia we have word for this: Obamacare.” [56558, 56623]

On March 20, on NBC’s *Today* show, Savannah Guthrie notes *Fortune* magazine’s list of 50 greatest leaders and says, “Bill Clinton comes in at number five and makes the cover. There are a lot of other notable names here. [I’ll] Tell you what, though, there may be some talk about one leader who did not make the list, the leader of the free world, ...Obama. *Fortune* tells us he was not overlooked, he just did not make the cut.” Matt Lauer adds, “Yeah, that’s surprising.” [56604]

Obama announces additional sanctions against Russia, saying, “Russia must know that further escalation will only isolate it further from the international community.” According to *WashingtonTimes.com*, “the U.S. is expanding sanctions to include wealthy oligarchs in Mr. Putin’s inner circle, more senior government officials and a Russian bank that provides ‘material support’ to the Russian leadership. The move freezes any assets they have in the U.S. and bars them from traveling to America.” [56574, 56575, 56583]

Russia responds by banning several U.S. legislators from visiting Russia, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), Senator John McCain (R-AZ), and three top Obama aides. [56583]

*Examiner.com* reports, “Four top GOP lawmakers are demanding that the Department of Homeland Security come clean on its proposed rescinding of the United States’ Libyan policy prohibiting citizens from that country from working in the aviation industry, according to a letter sent on Wednesday.” Congressmen Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), Darrell Issa (R-CA), Trey Gowdy (R-SC), and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) “wrote a scathing letter to the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson regarding their concerns with threats to U.S. national security that would result from this latest arbitrary decision by ...Obama and his administration. The four lawmakers characterized Obama’s revised Libya policy as being a ‘misguided and dangerous plan’ to allow Libyans to legally come to America to attend flight schools, to work as aviation maintenance workers, or any type of flight operations. The Obama administration is also allowing Libyan’s [sic; Libyans] to study nuclear science or seek training in the nuclear energy



industry, which continues to be vulnerable according to an Examiner report last year.” [56590]

Democrat Congressional candidates Mike Parrish (Pennsylvania’s 6th district) and Buffie McFadelyn (Colorado’s 3rd district) decide to drop out of their races. [56613]

Obama addresses an audience at Valencia Community College in Orlando, Florida, pushing ObamaCare, an increase in the minimum wage, and the proposed Paycheck Fairness Act—which would make it easier for women to sue employers for what they believe is pay inequity based on gender. (The Equal Pay Act of 1963 made it illegal to pay women less than men for the same work. The difference between the average male wage and the average female wage is largely based on career choices, however, and not gender discrimination. Women are simply more likely to choose careers that pay less than those that men choose. Elementary school teachers, for example, earn less than structural steel engineers—but far more men than women choose to be engineers.) Obama says, “And I want to make sure my daughters are getting the same chances as men. I don’t want them paid less for doing the same job as some guy is doing. When they have children, I want to make sure that they’re not having to quit their jobs [sic] or, you know, in some other fashion be hampered because we don’t have the kinds of policies in this country that support them.” (Obama’s daughters will certainly not have “the same chances as men.” They will have far greater opportunities, and they will likely be overpaid simply because they have the name Obama.) Obama calls for *paid* family leave for anyone who has to take care of a family member. (Needless to say, that would raise the cost of goods and services sky-high. No business can afford to continue paying employees their full salaries if they stay home to care for others. The existing *unpaid* family leave regulations have already caused considerable workforce problems. To force employer to pay non-working employees is absurd.) [56592, 56611]

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), celebrating the fourth anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act, chides reporters for using the term ObamaCare, saying, “It’s called the Affordable Care Act... There’s a reason—affordable. Affordable. Affordable. Affordable. ...It’s infinitely more affordable than the path that we’re on without it.” [56595, 56596, 56608, 56612]

Vice President Joe Biden says, “My boss, my friend ...Obama is an incredibly patient man. I suggested after going through the first couple weeks [of the ObamaCare rollout] that I would nominate him for sainthood, that he kept his patience. But you know, it got off to a slow start. [Obama] and I were as frustrated as anyone you ever knew. But, it’s [now] basically fixed.” [56601]

At Townhall.com Heather Ginsberg reports, “A new survey of 1,213 business owners found that unemployment would increase as would prices of goods and services” if the minimum wage is increased to \$10.10 per hour] “54% said they would reduce hiring and 65% said they would be increasing the prices... Additionally, the survey found that 38% of those employers would lay off workers if they had to follow a minimum wage increase. 213 of the survey’s respondents currently pay their employees minimum wage.

...Study after study keeps finding that this minimum wage hike would severely damage our unemployment rates. And there are more and more examples of employers saying they will find another way to make their products or provide their services with fewer employees if the minimum wage is increased.” (Obama and others who propose increasing the national minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour fail to consider that living expenses are not the same nationwide. A \$10.10 minimum wage may not seem like a lot in New York City, but in a small town in Arkansas or Mississippi that increase will simply price young workers out of the job market.) [56597]

At Terrible Truth, Martha Trowbridge argues that Obama’s birth name was Bari Malik Shabazz, his father was Malcolm Lee Little (the slain civil rights leader Malcolm X, also known as Malcolm X Shabazz and El-Hajj el Malik Shabazz), and his mother was Jo Ann Newman, also known as Elizabeth Ann Duke—a terrorist wanted by the FBI. (According to Montgomery Blair Sibley, in June 2009 the Obama administration acted to dismiss an indictment and arrest warrant against Duke, who was indicted in 1988 for bombing the U.S. Capitol on November 7, 1983. Duke has been a fugitive since 1985, when she failed to re-appear in court after she was released on bail. Sibley asks, “[W]hy did Magistrate Judge Deborah A. Robinson grant the government’s Oral Motion and enter an Order Dismissing the Indictment? Curiously, neither the Oral Motion nor the Order Dismissing the indictment gives any reason for this extraordinary action of dismissing an action against a dangerous felony fugitive.” Robinson also sealed her order granting dismissal of the indictment and arrest warrant against Duke. According to Trowbridge, Duke “is a long-time comrade of Weather Underground leader Bill Ayers and co-founder of May19CO, a New York City based communist organization dedicated to Malcolm X and Ho Chi Minh that advocated violent overthrow of the United States Government.” *The Obama Timeline* has been unable to confirm or disprove the various theories of Obama’s ancestry, but reports them so that readers can be as well-informed as possible. The entire truth may never be known—and Obama himself may not even know the truth.) [46769, 46770, 46771, 46772, 46835, 46869, 46870, 46985, 46997, 47179, 47180, 48713, 56600]

Immigration reform advocate Jose Diaz-Balart tells MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow, “I think [Obama is] going to wait until August,” and if Congress does not pass amnesty legislation by then, “I wouldn’t be surprised if he starts making some very controversial executive orders to mitigate the pain of millions of people who face deportation.” According to CNSNews.com, “Diaz-Balart suggested that Obama could scrap a Homeland Security program called Secure Communities, which allows state and local police to check the immigration status of people they detain for other reasons. “That has caused more than 150,000 people to be deported. And maybe [Obama] could tackle that specifically. That would mitigate immediately in local communities people who have minor traffic infractions and find themselves deported.” [56610]

According to Hollywood Reporter, Obama “is set to deliver remarks and receive an honor presented by Steven Spielberg at a USC Shoah Foundation event, the organization said Friday. The event, the 20th Anniversary Ambassadors for Humanity Gala, will be held May 7 in Los Angeles. [Obama] is also expected to attend at least one fundraiser for the Democratic party while he is in town... Spielberg will present Obama with the

Ambassador for Humanity Award.” (Pamela Geller comments, “I would like to believe that Steven Spielberg was outmaneuvering [Obama]. Giving him this most undeserved award to guilt him into being less anti-Israel and anti-Jewish. But I know that Spielberg isn’t that clever or smart, and it wouldn’t work on a conceited vassal like Obama. He’ll take the award and laugh about it with [Iranian] President [Hassan] Rouhani. It’s particularly galling that it’s a Shoah (Holocaust) event. If there is anyone who is doing all he can to embolden the annihilationists and Jew-haters, it’s ...Obama. Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel has voiced strong opposition to ...Obama’s overtures to the antisemitic, Islamic supremacist regime of Iran. A more worthy recipient would have been the Canadian Prime Minister, Steve Harper. But it’s not about that. Maybe it’s just about power and prestige. Another Hollywood gala with [Obama] as its honored guest. That’s a white hot ticket for the vicious crowd in LA. Sick.”) [56629]

Obama says Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick “would be a great president or vice president. Deval’s done a great job and I think signals that he could be very successful at the federal [level] as well. It’s wise for him not to foreclose it because he’s an enormous talent and I know he’s still got a lot of energy and vision left in him.” While running for governor in 2006 Patrick, a tax-and-spend leftist who happens to be black, told crowds, “I am not asking anybody to take a chance on me. I’m asking you to take a chance on your own aspirations.” Obama liked the line so much he stole it for his 2008 campaign. Patrick’s campaign guru was David Axelrod who, as he did with Obama, followed the “personality over policy” process to get Patrick elected. As governor, Patrick—who some claim is bisexual, like Obama—spent \$11,000 on new drapes, raised taxes, and implemented “RomneyCare”—while rejecting 235 of 274 requests for approval of premium increases from health insurers. Lora Pellegrini, president of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, said, “If we’re not going to be allowed to have our prices cover our costs... that will be a problem for the whole industry.” The insurers (three of which lost money in 2009) warn that the state is forcing them to operate at a financial loss, which will of course eventually put them out of business. Patrick vetoed legislation that would have prohibited the use of EBT [food stamp] cards for pornography, tattoos, jewelry, guns, and bail money. After the Boston Marathon bombing, Patrick refused to release information about welfare benefits paid to the terrorists Tamerlan Tsarnaev and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and their families. [842, p. 315; 3113, 3121, 4315, 4360, 4361, 4362, 10134, 10203, 11427, 11428, 11429, 11483, 11488, 11710, 13199, 13223, 29510, 32225, 32227, 32235, 32245, 32254, 32256, 32259, 32272, 32273, 32300, 35316, 35319, 35337, 35428, 35651, 39947, 44516, 44537, 52755, 56626]

Patrick has also met with more than one thousand Muslims and gave in to seven demands they presented, including Islamic “cultural awareness training” for law enforcement agencies and forcing private businesses to accommodate Muslims for their Friday afternoon prayers. Patrick told the Muslims, “Yours is a peaceful faith, and I know that. I know you are worried that others [do not] know that.” Patrick, like Obama, has no problem playing the “race card” and has charged that Republican opposition to Obama “is almost at the level of sedition. ...I think that the number of people in the Grand Old Party who seem to be absolutely committed to saying ‘no,’ whenever he [Obama] says ‘yes,’ no matter what it is, even if it’s an idea that they came up with, is just

extraordinary.” According to DailyCaller.com, Patrick “served on the board of a company that is widely blamed for helping start the subprime mortgage crisis in 2007. Beginning in 2004, Patrick served two years on the five-member board of ACC Capital Holdings, the parent company of Ameriquest Mortgage. ...[T]he mortgage company was the country’s ‘dominant subprime lender’ in the years preceding the housing crisis...” [842, p. 315; 3113, 3121, 4315, 4360, 4361, 4362, 10134, 10203, 11427, 11428, 11429, 11483, 11488, 11710, 13199, 13223, 29510, 32225, 32227, 32235, 32245, 32254, 32256, 32259, 32272, 32273, 32300, 35316, 35319, 35337, 35428, 35651, 39947, 44516, 44537, 52755, 56626]

Patrick’s wife is a partner in the law firm Ropes & Gray, which represented the Marxist group Demos (which Obama helped found) in a lawsuit related to its involvement in a scheme to use state tax dollars to send letters to welfare recipients urging them to register to vote—and thereby help Democrat Elizabeth Warren defeat Republican Senator Scott Brown. The chairman of Demos is Amelia Warren Tyagi—Elizabeth Warren’s daughter. Obama commuted the prison sentence of Reynolds Allen Wintersmith, Jr., a first cousin of Patrick. According to Politico, Wintersmith “was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted in Illinois federal court in 1994 of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute cocaine and cocaine base and possession with intent to distribute crack.” [842, p. 315; 3113, 3121, 4315, 4360, 4361, 4362, 10134, 10203, 11427, 11428, 11429, 11483, 11488, 11710, 13199, 13223, 29510, 32225, 32227, 32235, 32245, 32254, 32256, 32259, 32272, 32273, 32300, 35316, 35319, 35337, 35428, 35651, 39947, 44516, 44537, 52755, 56626]

The satire web site DailyCurreant.com posts this phony story: “Sarah Palin claimed today that Malaysia Flight 370 may have vanished because it mistakenly flew too high and ended up in heaven. During an appearance on Fox News last night, Sean Hannity asked the former vice-presidential candidate for her thoughts about the aircraft, which has been missing for nearly two weeks. The former Alaska governor stunned viewers with an unorthodox new theory that international investigators have so far ignored. ‘I see all these smarty pants people on CNN saying that it was terrorism or a fire in the cockpit,’ she explained to a bewildered Hannity, ‘but I don’t hear anyone talking about the God possibility. I mean what if they accidentally flew too high and got stuck in heaven? I’m no expert on international aviation. But I do know that God is up there looking down on us. And everyone knows that once you go to heaven you can’t come back. This would explain why we haven’t found any wreckage in the ocean and why no one saw the plane land.’” (The fake story is believed by many Palin-hating leftists, who immediately flood Twitter with declarations of her stupidity. Whether they also believe the site’s stories, “Feinstein Seeks Asylum after Revealing CIA Surveillance,” “Ukraine Deploys Gay Men to Scare Off Russians,” and “North Korean Leader Has Perfect NCAA Bracket” is not known.) [56699, 56700, 56701, 56702, 56703]

On March 21 Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, calls on Attorney General Eric Holder to turn over to the committee “All documents and communications referring or relating to the scope, timing, and scheduling of the DOJ’s [Department of Justice’s] interview of Lois Lerner”

and “All documents and communications between or among the DOJ, or other federal law enforcement agencies, and Lois Lerner or her counsel referring or relating to immunity for Ms. Lerner.” [56559, 56620, 56641, 56642]

A Twitter user posts a photograph of a Nashville, Tennessee billboard that reads, “Obamacare Games. Where the odds are never in your favor.” (The sign is sponsored by RefusettoEnroll.org. Yard signs are also available.) [56920, 56921, 56922]

At Spectator.org Ross Kaminsky makes the moral case for opposing ObamaCare—and other redistribution of wealth schemes. He writes, “[I]f theft is immoral (let’s just say ‘wrong’ since youth today are allergic to conversations about ‘morality’), then almost every Democratic economic and labor policy proposal is equally wrong. As Yaron Brook, president of the Ayn Rand Institute, likes to ask: What if a neighbor (with modest income and no real savings) has a sick child who needs \$50,000 for surgery, and the neighbor knows that I have cash in my safe at home? Would it be OK for him to rob me at gunpoint, taking my money because it’s to save a child? Obviously not. But what if the neighbor takes a vote of the people living on the block and 51% of them say that I have to give him the money? Would it then be acceptable, moral, or anything other than criminal, for the neighbor to come to my house and demand that I hand over the cash? What if 95 percent of my neighbors say so? If not, then why is it OK for those very same people to elect a politician to do the very same thing? Is theft more palatable with a middle-man? If not, then why is it OK for a United States Senator to take my earnings and give them to someone who ‘needs’ the money more than she believes I do, with a similar threat of violence or prison against me if I refuse to comply? In short, if theft is wrong then why do we elect Democrats? Because Republicans and conservatives don’t make a compelling moral case when it comes to economics, causing independents and moderates to give less credence to the overall economic message of capitalism and freedom. (Libertarians tend not to make this mistake in messaging; they just make other ones.) Just because a majority, even a large majority, might vote—out of a combination of ignorance and jealousy and perhaps even good intentions—to ‘soak the rich’ does not make it *morally* right, even separate from the fact that it cannot possibly succeed as an economic policy.” [56899]

According to the *Daily Mail*, “Michelle Obama and three of her family members are staying in a \$8,350-per-night Beijing presidential suite, but despite a 24-hour butler and other perks that come with the lodging, her entourage [of about 70 people] has inconvenienced ‘pretty much everyone’ and made the hotel staff ‘fed up,’ a well-placed hotel staffer has told MailOnline. The sumptuous pad at the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel—its website calls the room ‘an oasis of comfort’—is a 3,400-square-foot masterpiece including a private steam room, ‘corner sofas with silk pillows,’ and in-room dining for six. But the Obamas’ stay has already affected staff and guests at the hotel, with the Westin front-desk veteran alleging that Mrs. Obama’s mother Marian Robinson has been ‘barking at the staff since she arrived.’” (The taxpayers will likely have to pay more than \$1 million for the “official” trip. According to WashingtonTimes.com, “Mrs. Obama is supposed to use her visit for soft diplomacy only, and shy from the more controversial topics that plague U.S.-China relations, namely human rights and

economics.” Deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes tells reporters, “The nature of her visit is really quite different. What the first lady really brings is the power of her own story, the power of American values.”) Some conspiracy theorists suggest that Michelle Obama’s trip is for the purpose of delivering a secret message to the Chinese president—a message that even his staffers and the U.S. intelligence agencies would know nothing about. (Townhall.com’s Carol Platt Liebau later notes that on a recent visit to China, Vice President Joe Biden stayed at the St. Regis hotel, rather than the Westin: “In other words, a hotel that was too expensive for the Vice President—on an official visit—is A-OK for the First Lady and her family on a trip that has been deemed, in essence, private (i.e., of no official news interest to the American people).”) [56581, 56618, 56619, 56620, 56621, 56706]

Meanwhile, Michelle Obama tells reporters , “It’s very rare that I have the opportunity to travel outside of the United States, and it’s even more rare to have the opportunity to travel with three generations—with my daughters, and with my mother. And it is no accident that one of our first trips as a family is here to China.” (According to Americac2c.com, “By July 3, 2013, Michelle Obama had traveled to Britain, France, Germany, Czech Republic, Russia, Italy, Vatican, Ghana, Denmark, Norway, Haiti, Mexico, Spain, Indonesia, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Ireland, Botswana, South Africa, The Bahamas, Senegal, and Tanzania—a total of 14 trips abroad by mid-2013.” Before her husband entered the White House, she had traveled to Kenya twice and to Bali, Indonesia—and perhaps elsewhere.) [56643, 56682, 56683]

Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio tells Fox News’ Neil Cavuto he does not trust the Obama administration’s deportation claims. “I always had a feeling that a lot of these people that we put on hold—turn over to ICE—really were not being deported. I did a survey in the last three months and found out that of the over 1,200 illegal aliens in our jails, one-third, or about 400, that were released in the past have criminal records. And they’re still being booked back into the jail! “Six, seven, eight times. Keep coming back! How come they’re not being deported? That’s where they should be, they’re high-level violators. They’re rounded up, they’re booked into my jails for criminal violations, we put holds on them, they’re turned over to ICE. And how come they keep coming back in the last several years? They should be back where they came from, or they’re being let out the back door! You can’t have it both ways. How come they keep coming back to jail? If you’re talking about the interior of the United States which is enforced by ICE, when you take the 11 million allegedly here, ICE has locked up one percent when you look at the figures. So it’s smoke and mirrors going on, that has been going on.” [56602]

WND.com reports, “One of the last remaining court battles over Barack Obama’s presidential eligibility has gone down in flames in a 7–2 decision by the Alabama Supreme Court to render ‘no opinion.’ However, the dissenting minority of Justice Tom Parker and Chief Justice Roy Moore concluded the case [*McInnish v. Chapman*] has serious constitutional significance, warranting an investigation of the qualifications of 2012 presidential candidates by Alabama’s secretary of state. Moore wrote in his dissent that the circuit court should have granted the plaintiffs’ request to order the state secretary of state ‘to implement the natural-born-citizen requirement of the presidential-

qualifications clause in future elections. Although the removal of a president-elect or a president who has taken the oath of office is within the breast of Congress, the determination of the eligibility of the 2012 presidential candidates before the casting of the electoral votes is a state function,' Moore argued. He said the case was of 'great constitutional significance in regard to the highest office in our land. Should he who was elected to the presidency be determined to be ineligible, the remedy of impeachment is available through the United States Congress, and the plaintiffs in this case, (Hugh) McInnish and (Virgil) Goode, can pursue this remedy through their representatives in Congress." (The court did *not* rule that Obama is eligible to serve as president. It ruled that it had no jurisdiction in the issue because his election has already taken place" "Alabama state courts are without power to regulate the conduct of a presidential election after the President-elect has been selected." Documents submitted in the case included an affidavit from Cold Case Posse lead investigator Mike Zullo confirming that Obama's birth certificate is a forgery.) [56614, 56617]

Breitbart.com reports, "Ohio Democrats, still pushing their phony 'voter suppression' meme, kicked off a campaign tonight to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot. They even brought in Al Sharpton for support." (Also appearing onstage: Melowese Richardson, a Hamilton County poll worker who was convicted and jailed for vote fraud after casting at least six ballots for Obama in the 2012 election. Why Ohio Democrats felt obligated to "honor" Richardson is not clear. Meanwhile, MSNBC's Joy Reid claims, "There's [sic] a lot of studies that show that you're literally more likely to be beamed up into a UFO or be struck by lightning than to find in-person voter fraud.") [56615, 56622, 56722]

Breitbart.com reports, "Venezuelan deputies claim to have found new evidence that President Nicolas Maduro was born in Colombia and presented the nation with a fake birth certificate, according to one of Spain's largest newspapers. ABC reports today that deputy Walter Marquez, who initially revealed his concerns that Maduro was not legally able to run for president last autumn. While Marquez and fellow deputy Abelardo Diaz had accused Maduro of lying about his birthplace in the past, they revealed the results of a year-long research project on Thursday. They interviewed relatives and witnesses and concluded that Maduro not only has dual citizenship, but gained his Colombian citizenship at birth. ...Article 41 of the Venezuelan Constitution explicitly prohibits foreigners from running for president." (Obama has no comment.) [56616]

On Carl Gallups' *Freedom Friday* radio program, Cold Case posse lead investigator Mike Zullo says he and Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio will soon hold a press conference to release more proof that Obama's birth certificate is a forgery. According to ThePostEmail.com editor Sharon Rondeau, "A 'target date' for the presser [press release] was reportedly set for March, although Zullo and Arpaio hinted that it could take place later. 'There's no room for error in this,' Zullo said, stating that there are legal and other ramifications involved regarding that which will be divulged. 'It's a battlefield; it's a minefield, and you've got to get it right,' Zullo said." [56618]

Will Pitt, an Obama-supporting leftist journalist at TruthOut, changes his tune after signing up for ObamaCare. Pitt writes, “What I’ve learned after a three-month war with these fiends: the ACA says the insurance companies cannot deny coverage to those with pre-existing conditions, which is true as far as it goes. But they can deny coverage for the life-saving medications necessary to treat those conditions. The insurance company I signed up with through the ACA exchange just denied coverage of my wife’s multiple sclerosis medication. We’re ‘covered,’ to the tune of \$700 a month... just not for what she really needs. A cozy loophole, that. F— you, insurance industry. F— you, Mr. [Obama], you piece of sh\*t used-car salesman. From my heart and soul, f— you.” [56625]

The Drudge Report’s Matt Drudge tweets, “Just paid the Obamacare penalty for not ‘getting covered’ ...I’M CALLING IT A LIBERTY TAX!” (WashingtonTimes.com notes, “A few minutes later, Jason Lee, the Director of Progressive Media at the White House, tweeted a response, saying Mr. Drudge’s tweet was a, ‘flat lie, no fee for previous year. Scary how much influence he once had.’ ...What each critical tweeter and pundit failed to realize was that Mr. Drudge, as the self-employed proprietor of The Drudge Report, files taxes as a small business on a quarterly basis. The IRS requires self-employed business owners to file annual returns and pay estimated quarterly taxes. When entrepreneurs like Mr. Drudge file their 2014 first quarter taxes, they have to pay the individual health care mandate if they are not getting Obamacare coverage. The IRS form also allows adding the mandate to the section labeled ‘other taxes,’ hence Mr. Drudge’s chosen name ‘Liberty tax.’ A Senate Budget Committee aide told Breitbart News, ‘It is true that thousands of small businesses will be forced to pay Obamacare taxes quarterly in 2014.’” Drudge then tweets, “Obama media team knows they will not get audited for avoiding taxes. I don’t have this luxury. So they mock, ridicule.”) [56637, 56692, 56693, 56729, 56735]

WND.com reports, “As the world remains riveted on Moscow’s annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, Russian President Vladimir Putin is shifting gears to Latin America. As first outlined by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu last February, Putin now plans to keep the United States off-balance as Moscow sets up actual military bases and massive arms sales in the Latin American region. ...While published reports say Putin is looking to establish military bases in Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, all of whom are close allies of Moscow, WND’s informed sources say the Russian president’s focus will be on Nicaragua, which is relatively politically and economically stable.” [56644]

According to CNSNews.com, Obama’s “policies ‘have become progressively more hostile toward Christian civilization,’ Cardinal Raymond Burke, head of the highest court at the Vatican, said in a recent interview. Cardinal Burke added that Obama wants to restrict religious freedom and force the individuals, outside of his or her place of worship, ‘to act against his rightly-formed conscience, even in the most serious of moral questions.’ ...Cardinal Burke, who heads the Apostolic Signatura, the highest court at the Vatican, said: ‘It is true that the policies of [Obama] have become progressively more hostile toward Christian civilization. He appears to be a totally secularized man who aggressively promotes anti-life and anti-family policies. Now he [Obama] wants to



restrict the exercise of the freedom of religion to freedom of worship; that is, he holds that one is free to act according to his conscience within the confines of his place of worship but that, once the person leaves the place of worship, the government can constrain him to act against his rightly-formed conscience, even in the most serious of moral questions. Such policies would have been unimaginable in the United States even 40 years ago. It is true that many faithful Catholics, with strong and clear leadership from their Bishops and priests, are reacting against the ever-growing religious persecution in the U.S.” [56651, 56652, 56750]

DailyCaller.com reports, “One of the founders of Occupy Wall Street says she wants ...Obama to be removed from office and replaced by Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt. Justine Tunney, who began working for Google after the Occupy movement which she helped organize lost steam, issued a petition calling for the change, which she says will ‘prevent further American decline.’ Besides replacing Obama with Schmidt, a donor and former adviser to [Obama], Tunney calls for a national referendum to transfer power to the tech industry and to retire all federal employees with full pensions.” [56666]

Addressing a George Polk Awards audience, *New York Times* reporter James Risen calls the Obama administration “the greatest enemy of press freedom that we have encountered in at least a generation.” According to DailyCaller.com, “In a speech kicking off the conference, Risen claimed that the Obama administration wants to ‘narrow the field of national security reporting’ and ‘create a path for accepted reporting.’ Those who stray from that path, he cautioned, ‘will be punished.’” [56711, 56712, 56771]

On March 22 Bill Tatro writes at Townhall.com, “When you were a little child and didn’t want to go to school, you simply pulled the covers up over your head and said ‘mommy I don’t feel well.’ A sympathetic mother would let you stay home and put off the woes of your world for another day. It was TV from morning to night and you were all smiles. Every day the real woes of the world, many self-inflicted, come home to roost on the plate of Barack Obama. ...Each day the Obama woes keep mounting, until one day the pressure is too much to bear. It seems, every year at this time, ...Obama reaches his breaking point, much like the little child desiring to stay home from school. Coincidentally it also is the same time as March Madness when basketball junkies are in their heaven, especially the first weekend. Unfortunately most Chief Executives don’t have the luxury of putting the world on hold and saying I’ll get back to you later. As the so-called leader of the so-called free world, issues that have to be addressed are a ...continuing responsibility, regardless of the time of year. [Obama] however has learned the woes of the world can be equally balance with a round of golf. The woes and the golf all go out the window the first weekend of the ‘frenzied 64.’ Sanctions, annexations, assassinations, foreclosures, unemployment, Obamacare, all take a back seat to [Obama’s] primary responsibility which is watching the ‘Diaper Dandies’ strive to put the ball in the hoop. I can almost hear the annual ritual now. ‘Michele, I don’t feel so well.’” [56621]

In an interview with Voice of America, Secretary of State John Kerry is asked to comment on Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei’s fatwa banning the

possession, development, and use of nuclear weapons. Kerry responds, “Well, I have great respect for a fatwa. A fatwa is a very highly regarded message of religious importance. And when any fatwa is issued, I think people take it seriously, and so do we, even though it’s not our practice. But we have great respect for what it means. And, but the trick here, the trick, the art, the requirement here, is to translate the fatwa into a legally binding, globally recognized, international understanding. And so I hope that’s achievable. And I think it’s a good starting place. And ...Obama and I both are extremely welcoming and grateful for the fact that the supreme leader has issued a fatwa declaring that. That’s an important statement. But now we need to take that and put it into a sort of understandable legal structure, if you will, that goes beyond an article of faith within a religious belief or a process into a more secular process that everybody can attach a meaning to.” (The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) later notes, “While U.S. administration officials affirm, praise, and frequently refer to a fatwa issued by Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei that bans nuclear weapons, this fatwa has never been seen, and as a number of MEMRI reports have pointed out, the fatwa in fact does not exist. Additionally, the U.S. administration has never even requested to see this fatwa or sought to have it published in a public forum.” In other words, Kerry and Obama are being played for fools. Pamela Geller writes, “Is this the same Obama administration that just claimed that the greatest threat the US faces is a nuclear attack on NYC? ...Is this US strategy? Counting on a non-existent fatwa? On a side-note, Kerry expressed ‘great respect for a fatwa. A fatwa is a very highly regarded message of religious importance.’ Does he respect the death fatwa for apostasy? Blasphemy? Adultery? This is astonishing and scary.”) [57155]

According to FreedomOutpost.com, “Idaho Governor Butch Otter(R) signed into law S1332, a bill which will effectively nullify federal gun laws. The nullification legislation will prohibit state enforcement of any future federal act that relates to firearms, accessories or ammunition. S1332, or as it is commonly referred to as the Idaho Federal Firearm, Magazine and Register Ban Enforcement Act, passed both the house (68–0) and senate (34–0) unanimously. According to the legislation, it will: ‘Protect Idaho law enforcement officers from being directed, through federal executive orders, agency orders, statutes, laws, rules, or regulations enacted or promulgated on or after the effective date of this act, to violate their oath of office and Idaho citizens' rights under Section 11, Article I, of the Constitution of the State of Idaho.’ It also criminalizes any action by employees of the state that violate the legislation. ...The legislation rests on a well-established legal principle known as the anti-commandeering doctrine. Simply put, the federal government cannot force or coerce states into implementing or enforcing federal acts or regulations—constitutional or not. The anti-commandeering doctrine rests primarily on four Supreme Court cases dating back to 1842. *Printz v. US* serves as the cornerstone. According to that doctrine: ‘The Federal Government may neither issue directives requiring the States to address particular problems, nor command the States’ officers, or those of their political subdivisions, to administer or enforce a federal regulatory program... such commands are fundamentally incompatible with our constitutional system of dual sovereignty.’” (Whether Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder will challenge the Idaho law remains to be seen.) [56627]

According to *The Oregonian*, dissatisfaction with Obama and ObamaCare has resulted in an increase of eight percent in Republican Party registrations in Oregon. More than 30 percent of the state's voters now do not list themselves as affiliated with either the Democrats or the Republicans. [56636]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports that Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Rand Paul (R-KY) “will work to block a \$1 billion Ukraine aid package unless Senate Majority Harry Reid (D-NV) strips out a controversial measure funding the International Monetary Fund. The lawmakers told Reid they ‘intend to object to any floor consideration of Ukraine aid legislation’ until the IMF language is pulled from the bill. Rand and Cruz united on the issue just days after tensions ran high between them because of their disagreements on foreign policy. ‘As we understand it, this reform would double the funds the IMF can loan, involving a doubling of the United States’ contribution from its current level of \$63 billion, while simultaneously reducing U.S. influence over how these funds are directed—and increasing that of Russia,’ they wrote to Reid in a March 13 letter released late Friday. ‘Regardless of the magnitude of this change, this idea is antithetical to the driving purpose of the underlying legislation.’ ...Conservatives oppose the IMF provisions because they increase the amount of taxpayer money that can be used to bail out foreign countries and diminish U.S. control of the organization.” (On March 24 the Senate approves the legislation 78–17, without making changes to satisfy Paul and Cruz.) [56638]

BizPacReview.com reports, “Federal spending—mainly by the State Department—on liquor, wine and beer in the fourth year of the Obama administration was about \$1.3 million, according to the Washington Times. That’s about four times as much as it was at the same point of the Bush presidency. ...The State Department spent about \$400,000 on alcohol in 2013.” [56640]

Video poster Mark Dice’s YouTube channel is removed by the web site, but restored a few hours later after complaints. Examiner.com reports, “It is unknown at this time what violations prompted YouTube’s actions, but the move has some wondering if government agents might have been involved. ...Dice attributed the move to censorship ‘and nothing else.’ ...Dice’s channel is well known for exposing the ignorance of Obama supporters with false petitions supporting outrageous ideas. One petition, for example, supported infanticide, while another called on signers to help Barack Obama repeal the Bill of Rights.” [56650]

The Associated Press reports, “Libya, where hundreds of militias hold sway and the central government is virtually powerless, is awash in millions of weapons with no control over their trafficking. The arms free-for-all fuels not only Libya’s instability but also stokes conflicts around the region as guns are smuggled through the country’s wide-open borders to militants fighting in insurgencies and wars stretching from Syria to West Africa. The lack of control is at times stunning. Last month, militia fighters stole a planeload of weapons sent by Russia for Libya’s military when it stopped to refuel at Tripoli International Airport on route to a base in the south. The fighters surrounded the plane on the tarmac and looted the shipment of automatic weapons and ammunition,

Hashim Bishr, an official with a Tripoli security body under the Interior Ministry, told The Associated Press. ...Since [the] fall and death [of Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi] in the 2011 civil war, the instability has only spiraled. The rebel brigades that formed to fight him have turned into powerful militias, many based on tribe, region, city or even neighborhood, that often battle each other as they carve out zones of control. Some have hard-line Islamist or even al-Qaida-inspired ideologies.” Pamela Geller comments, “More of Obama’s Libya legacy. Two years after Obama’s pointless, thoughtless and dangerous intervention in Libya, what has his foreign policy wrought? The enemedia never discusses it.” [56660, 56661]

On *Real Time*, host Bill Maher asks Muslim Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN), also known as Keith Hakim, “Why doesn’t your party come out against the Second Amendment? It’s the problem.” Ellison responds, “I sure wish they would. I sure wish they would.” [56686, 56687]

On March 23 Mitt Romney appears on *Face the Nation* and states, “There’s no question but that [Obama’s] naiveté with regards to Russia, and his faulty judgment about Russia’s intentions and objectives, has led to a number of foreign policy challenges that we face. And unfortunately, not having anticipated Russia’s intentions, [Obama] wasn’t able to shape the kinds of events that may have been able to prevent the kinds of circumstances that you’re seeing in the Ukraine, as well as the things that you’re seeing in Syria. We really need to understand that Russia has very different interests than ours. This is not Fantasyland, this is reality where they are a geopolitical adversary. They’re not our enemy, but they are certainly an adversary on the world stage.” [56630, 56631]

According to Newsmax.com, “Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon have reportedly ordered the military to continue preparing for a possible strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities. Three Knesset members who were present at Knesset joint committee hearings on Israel Defense Forces plans said that at least 10 billion shekels (\$2.89 billion) of the defense budget would be allocated this year for preparations for the strike on Iran, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported. After an interim accord between Iran and six world powers was reached, Netanyahu stressed that Israel will not consider itself bound by it. Netanyahu in fact is again making implied threats about a possible unilateral Israeli strike. ‘My friends, I believe that letting Iran enrich uranium would open up the floodgates,’ Netanyahu said at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference in Washington earlier this month. ‘That must not happen. And we will make sure it does not happen.’” [56639]

Meanwhile, at a rally in Gaza, Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniya says, “We yearn for martyrdom for the same goal for which our leaders died, just as the others love their seats of power. Out of the ruins, we shall rock Tel Aviv. ...All the decision-makers within Palestine and abroad must understand the message conveyed by this rally: Yes, we are a people that yearn for death, just as our enemies yearn for life. We yearn for martyrdom for the same goal for which our leaders died, just as the others love their seats of power.” The crowd responds with chants of “Strike, strike Tel Aviv,” according to Memri.org. [56914, 56915]

At [WeeklyStandard.com](http://WeeklyStandard.com) Daniel Halper writes, “According to a pool reporter who was at the Great Wall of China for Michelle Obama’s visit there today, ‘Chinese authorities made sure, for a day, that Mutianyu [a section of the Great Wall] was visibly free of Obama-Mao t-shirts.’” (The shirts show Obama wearing a Chairman Mao-style hat.) [56645, 56670]

On ABC’s *This Week*, statistician Nate Silver says the Republicans have a 60 percent chance of winning the Senate in the November mid-term elections. “We give them a 70 percent chance of winning in Arkansas. Louisiana is about 55 percent. North Carolina is a purple state so that’s about as 50-50 as it gets.” Silver predicts Republicans will pick up six Senate seats, but could win as many as 11. (Not surprisingly, Democrat strategists quickly argue that Silver—who also predicted in 2012 that the GOP would win the Senate—is wrong. On the other hand, Democrats need their donors to believe that Silver may be right—in order to frighten them into ponying up more campaign cash.) [56646, 56667, 56680, 56723, 56736]

On *Meet the Press*, former President Jimmy Carter says, “I have felt that my own communications are probably monitored [by the NSA]. And when I want to communicate with a foreign leader privately, I type or write the letter myself, put it in the Post Office and mail it, because I believe if I send an email, it will be monitored.” Asked if Obama ever seeks advice from him, Carter replies, “Unfortunately, the answer is no.” (Newsbusted’s Jodi Miller quips, “That’s because ...Obama is quite capable of opposing Israel and being humiliated by Vladimir Putin all by himself.”) [56647, 56662, 56681, 56688, 56900]

Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, tells *Meet the Press* host David Gregory that NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden is “under the influence of Russian intelligence services today. For the investigators, they need to figure out: When did that influence start? And was he interested in cooperating [with Russian intelligence agencies] earlier than the [currently known] timeline would suggest?” [56673]

Breitbart.com reports that Obama “has spent more time traveling abroad than any ...U.S. president in history at this point in their presidencies, according to a forthcoming study from the National Taxpayer Union Foundation (NTUF) provided exclusively to Breitbart News ahead of its public release. ...After five years in the White House, Obama has taken 31 trips for a total of 119 days abroad. At that point in George W. Bush’s presidency, Bush had taken 28 trips for 116 days, while Bill Clinton had taken 27 trips for 113 days. Ronald Reagan, after five years, had taken 14 trips for 73 days while Richard Nixon had taken 12 trips for 60 days after five years in the White House and Lyndon Johnson took 10 trips for 34 days at the half-decade mark. Dwight Eisenhower took 8 trips for 31 days after five years in the White House.” (Air Force One costs an estimated \$228,000 per hour to operate.) [56653, 56669]

According to RT.com, “Employees of Israel’s Foreign Ministry went on an all-out strike Sunday for the first time in the country’s history over a dispute surrounding workers’ salaries and conditions. The dispute has been going on for nearly two years. Seven months of negotiations ended on March 4, when workers rejected a proposal by the Finance Ministry. Israeli ambassadors abroad will not go to work, no consular services will be available, and Israel will not be represented at any international gatherings during the strike. Even the Foreign Ministry’s political leadership and management will be locked out. The strike is indefinite and will affect everyone, including employers bringing foreign workers to Israel for work, immigrants, and anyone who wants to travel to Israel—including foreign dignitaries.” (Some may believe that the work stoppage is a “cover” related to a possible Israeli attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities.) [56639, 56654, 56655]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “The captain of missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 received a two-minute call shortly before take-off from a mystery woman using a mobile phone number obtained under a false identity. It was one of the last calls made to or from the mobile of Captain Zaharie Ahmad Shah in the hours before his Boeing 777 left Kuala Lumpur 16 days ago. Investigators are treating it as potentially significant because anyone buying a pay-as-you-go SIM card in Malaysia has to fill out a form giving their identity card or passport number. ... They found that it had been bought ‘very recently’ by someone who gave a woman’s name—but was using a false identity.” (Authorities have yet to question Shah’s wife.) [56656, 56657]

In Kenya, Muslim terrorists storm a church near Mombasa, killing four Christians and wounding others. Reuters reports, “One witness said the gunmen shouted out in a foreign language before shooting indiscriminately at the congregation. Blood-spattered Bibles and overturned plastic chairs lay strewn across the church’s floor after the attack. ‘Both carried big guns and began shooting all over the place. I fell to the ground and could hear screams,’ said Lilian Omondi, who was leading a prayer recital at the time. Another bystander said the assailants walked unhurriedly out of the church and opened fire on people standing outside. An Interior Ministry official later said they escaped.” Pamela Geller writes, “The paternal fatherland owes so much to the half-Kenyan [Obama]. It was Obama who helped finance a new Constitution in Kenya that instituted the sharia. It was Obama who helped usher in a jihad-riddled Libya. It was Obama who supported the Muslim supremacist-aligned Odinga. Yes, the Kenyans have much to thank Obama for. The jihadists who tortured and slaughtered mall shoppers at the Nairobi mall, a popular destination spot for Westerners, are still at large. As are the jihadists who slaughtered our Ambassador and attaches in Libya. This is the world under Obama.” [56658, 56659]

As noted in Part I of this *Timeline*, then-Senator Obama visited Kenya in 2006 to give support to Raila Odinga, a Muslim socialist candidate for president who had ties to both al-Qaeda and Libya’s Moammar Gaddafi, was educated in communist East Germany, and who hopes to get Shari’ah Muslim law established. Odinga is a cousin of Obama; Odinga’s mother is the sister of Obama’s father. (Odinga named his first son Fidel after Fidel Castro.) During his Kenya visit, Obama delivered a speech to university students in Nairobi. In the speech, Obama criticized the existing pro-American Kenyan government,

rallied the students against it, and talked of the need for change. Obama's actions were logically seen as an endorsement of Odinga, the existing Kenyan president's opponent. By making his speech, supporting Odinga, and standing beside Odinga at rallies, Obama 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. [126, 127, 207, 208, 271, 293, 294, 313, 329, 452, 1449, 56659]

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. In support of Odinga, Obama raised approximately \$950,000. The cash for Odinga came from private meetings in 2006 arranged for Odinga by Mark Lippert, a foreign policy advisor on Obama's staff. Odinga visited Obama during three separate trips to Washington in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Odinga promised his supporters in Kenya that he would "re-write the Constitution of Kenya to recognize Shari'ah as the only true law sanctioned by the Holy Quran for Muslim declared religion." In early 2006, Lippert was sent by Obama to Kenya, at taxpayer expense, on a "fact-finding" mission, and to do advance work for Obama's later visit. Odinga made the following pledges to his supporters: re-write the constitution of Kenya to recognize Muslim Shari'ah law for Muslim regions; facilitate the establishment of a Shari'ah court in every Kenyan divisional headquarters; order every primary school to conduct daily Madrassa classes; impose a total ban on open-air Christian gospel crusades; outlaw gospel programs on KBC radio; impose a total ban on the consumption of alcoholic beverages; and impose an immediate ban on women's public dressing styles that are considered immoral and offensive to the Muslim faith. (Some might argue that many of the Christians in Kenya who were murdered by Muslims might still be alive had Obama not interfered in that nation's internal politics.) [126, 127, 207, 208, 271, 293, 294, 313, 329, 452, 1449, 56659]

On March 24 Jimmy Carter appears on *Morning Joe* to push his latest book, *A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power*, and blames the Pope and the Catholic Church for abuse of women because they are not allowed to be priests and in the United States "we discriminate against women grossly every day. And where there are multiple rapes and sexual abuses on the campuses of our great universities and in the military, as you well know." Carter finds far less fault with Islam in that regard, saying, "You know, I've studied very carefully the Koran... and there are very few verses in the Koran that doesn't [sic] say men and women are equal, but in local interpretations particularly in remote areas of Africa and so forth, women are horribly abused, with honor killings and with genital mutilation." (Carter's ignorance is astounding. Muslim abuse of women is most certainly *not* limited to "remote areas of Africa." For example, the rate of female genital mutilation (FGM) exceeds 90 percent in Egypt. With increasing numbers of Muslims living in Great Britain, France, and other European nations, the brutal practice has also spread—along with honor killings, which have also taken place in the United States. Pamela Geller points out that France has successfully prosecuted more than 100

cases against practitioners of FGM, and Great Britain is finally getting around to doing so—after ignoring such abuses for decades. WND.com reports, “Under pressure from political correctness, authorities have allowed Muslim pedophile gangs in the United Kingdom to groom underage girls for sexual abuse for decades, victimizing as many as 10,000 schoolgirls, according to a report by an organization calling for an investigation. ‘What we believe is required is a full-scale public inquiry,’ the Law and Freedom Foundation said in the conclusion of its 300-plus page report, ‘Easy Meat: Multiculturalism, Islam and Child Sex Slavery.’ The group said the public inquiry ‘must look into the failures of national agencies, child-care charities, and academics to study this problem.’”) [56684, 56685, 56694, 56751, 56752, 56999, 57000]

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak responds to possible wreckage from Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 spotted by surveillance planes southwest of Australia: “This is a remote location far from any possible landing sites, it is therefore with deep sadness and regret that I must inform you that according to this new data [the flight] ended in the southern Indian Ocean.” [56672, 56676, 56695]

European leaders meet in the Netherlands and temporarily suspend Russia from participation in the G-8 economic group of nations. (There is no indication that Russia will be ejected from the G-20 group.) They also agree to move the June G-8 (now G-7) meetings from Sochi, Russia to Brussels, Belgium. Russia’s foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, responds, “[The] G8 is an informal organization that does not give out any membership cards and, by its definition, cannot remove anyone. All the economic and financial questions are decided in G20, and G8 has the purpose of existence as the forum of dialogue between the leading Western countries and Russia. [Russia is] not attached to this format and we don’t see a great misfortune if it will not gather. Maybe, for a year or two, it will be an experiment for us to see how we live without it.” Obama says, “Europe and America are united in our support of the Ukrainian government and Ukrainian people. We are united in imposing a cost on Russia for its actions so far. ... [T]he growing sanctions [will] bring significant consequences to the Russian economy, and I’ll be meeting with my fellow G-7 leaders later today, and we’ll continue to coordinate closely with the Netherlands and our European partners as we go forward.” (HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “Obama has to convince his European allies to get tougher on sanctions. No one has the stomach for war to prevent the rest of Ukraine from being overrun by Russia, nor could the West organize a military response to stop it short of threatening nuclear war—the logistics for a conventional-weapons defense are impossible, and the value of Ukraine to the West doesn’t merit the attempt. That calculation would change for Baltic states and perhaps for Moldova as well, but the first line of defense has to be to freeze Russia in place by economic sanctions. A handful of personal sanctions is not going to do it, and Obama has to find a way to get Europe to get past its need for Russian energy in order to get tougher sanctions in place to stop Vladimir Putin from rolling forward in Ukraine. Obama may have a tougher time overcoming skepticism at home, even in the American media.”) [56674, 56675, 56677, 56678, 56689, 56690, 56724, 57045]



Russia might not be too concerned with being ousted by the G-8. At PJMedia.com Bridget Johnson notes, “Russia, meanwhile, found a new group of old friends to hang out with: BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). The foreign ministers of this bloc met on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague today, and apparently told Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov that they understood why Russia took Crimea. ‘As far as a meeting of the BRICS foreign ministers is concerned, we have heard the understanding of the current situation and of historic aspects of the whole situation here in The Hague, and we are thankful to our partners for this,’ Lavrov said at a press conference.” [56724]

In an interview with Dutch newspaper *de Volkskrant*, Obama says, “The United States does not view Europe as a battleground between East and West, nor do we see the situation in Ukraine as a zero-sum game. That’s the kind of thinking that should have ended with the Cold War. The Ukrainian people do not have to choose between East and West.” (HotAir.com asks, “Does anyone still believe that?” Syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer comments, “When [Obama] says that’s the kind of thinking that *should* have ended with the Cold War, he is admitting to the world that he’s living in a fantasy world. It did not end with the Cold War. [Russian President Vladimir] Putin gave a speech... last week... and he said essentially, ‘Russia was swindled at the end of the Cold War, swindled of its empires, swindled of its colonies, swindled of its own territory, and I’m here to get it back.’ And he’s announced that, and [Obama] still having not learned the lesson, pretends that this doesn’t exist because it shouldn’t exist. The fact is, it does exist. ...[The sanctions on Russia imposed by Obama are] a speed bump on the highway to a return to Russian greatness. ...[Sanctions] are not going to stop [Putin]. However, we now know Putin is poised on the frontiers on the rest of eastern Ukraine, and the question is, is he going to go in and take it or not. It’s his for the taking if he wants. He’s got to make a calculation. It’s not going to be as easy as Crimea was... because they [the Ukrainians] would fight. But he has to make a calculation, is it worth it? And unless we show that we’re willing to arm the Ukrainians and support them, I think we’re going to make the calculation easier for Putin.” (The Obama administration has already denied a Ukrainian request for weapons.) [56677, 56679, 56705]

According to WashingtonExaminer.com, “Reporters say that they have been blocked from events [involving Michelle Obama during her visit to China], screamed at by officials, held back with red tape and told not to move from prepositioned lookouts, possibly to avoid taking embarrassing photos. On Monday, the New York Times filed a pool report about [her] tour of Xi’an, a city dating to the 14th century. ‘Event below marred for press by obnoxious Chinese advance man screaming and shoving us behind his ever moving red tape line,’ said the report. ...And for that photo opportunity on the Great Wall, reporters and photographers were prepositioned to catch the first family walking toward them. ‘Photographers and reporters covering the visit were sent ahead to Tower 15, and told they could not move from the top of the tower until told to do so. After a while, we could see Ms. Obama, Malia and Sasha walking down the steps, through Tower 14 and down toward Tower 15,’ wrote McClatchy’s Beijing bureau chief. ‘Had photographers been able to shoot from Tower 14 as the family walked north, the photographs would have captured them walking the wall with a massive rock inscription

on the hillside above them to the north, which read in Chinese characters, ‘Loyal to Chairman Mao,’” he added.” (Although there are reporters in China covering the Obama trip/vacation—usually from a distance—none were allowed on the flight.) [56691, 56713]

Judicial Watch tells Iowa, Colorado, and the District of Columbia it will file lawsuits against them if they do not clean up their voter registration files to remove the names of individuals who have died. (All three areas have more registered voters than people eligible to vote.) According to BizPacReview.com, the letter from Judicial Watch states, “We write to bring your attention to violations of Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act (‘NVRA’) ... This letter serves as statutory notice that Judicial Watch will bring a lawsuit against your office if you do not take specific actions to correct these violations of Section 8 within 90 days. In addition, by this letter we are asking you to produce certain records to us which you are required to make available under Section 8(i) of the NVRA. We hope that litigation will not be necessary to enforce either of these claims.” Section 8 of the law requires that ineligible voters be routinely purged from the files of registered voters. Judicial Watch senior attorney Robert D. Popper states, “There has been to my knowledge a demonstrated lack of interest in the Justice Department in pursuing these lawsuits. In fact, the one claim that had anything to do with this list maintenance coming out of this Justice Department concerned the lawsuit that it commenced and then lost, in which it tried to force the state of Florida to stop removing non-citizens who are on the voter rolls in the run-up to the 2012 elections. Other than that, the Obama administration has no interest in pursuing Section 8 lawsuits.” (Leaving the names of dead people on the lists allows others to vote using their names—especially in states that do not require photo ID for voting. Activists routinely obtain names from obituary columns in order to facilitate the fraud. Newsday.com reported in October 2013 that there are “about 6,100 deceased people still registered to vote in Nassau County [New York].” Evelyn E. Burwell, who died in 1997, is “among roughly 270 people that records show voted in Nassau County after dying, a group that includes a man who voted 14 times since his death.”) [56715, 56811]

According to DCClothesline.com, Obama’s plan to give \$1 billion in aid to Ukraine violates the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, which prohibits foreign aid to any nation whose legitimately elected government has been overthrown by a military coup or an unlawful decision. “Indeed, the lawfully elected president of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, was overthrown by a mass insurrection... which began as protests in November 2013, after Yanukovich refused to sign an association agreement with the European Union, describing it as disadvantageous to Ukraine. The protesters called for the resignation of Yanukovich and his government. Violence escalated after January 16, 2014, when the government accepted Bondarenko-Oliynyk laws, also known as anti-protest laws. Anti-government demonstrators occupied government buildings in Ukraine’s capital of Kiev. The protests turned into violent riots, which left 98 dead and thousands injured. Opposition members of Parliament moved to vote to impeach Yanukovich; the speaker of Ukraine’s parliament resigned; most of the government’s ministers disappeared; and President Yanukovich himself fled the country.” (It is widely

believed that the Obama administration worked behind the scenes to help Yanukovych's opponents oust him.) [56716]

Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett tells KCBS-TV, "What we've seen over the last four years since our healthcare plan was passed is [that] we've had less increase [sic] in premiums than ever before in the last 50 years. And so, we are beginning to, as we say, reduce those costs and that is a big part of the Affordable Care Act is that we want to emphasize outcomes. Not just how many tests a physician orders, but how can we actually have patients, Americans be healthier." (Jarrett's claim is absurd. According to a Kaiser study, between 2009 and 2012 premiums have increased, on average, about \$2,370 for families with employer-provided health insurance. For many Americans with individual policies, the premium increases have been even more substantial—and many are seeing double-digit increases in 2014.) [56719, 56720]

Reuters reports, "The head of the organisation overseeing the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile said he still hoped Damascus could meet a final deadline of June 30 but it might miss that target. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government agreed to destroy its chemical weapons arsenal by mid-year as part of a U.S.-Russian agreement negotiated after a chemical attack last August that killed hundreds of people around Damascus." [56721]

FreeBeacon.com reports that Obama "is seeking to abolish two highly successful missile programs that experts say have helped the U.S. Navy maintain military superiority for the past several decades. The Tomahawk missile program—known as 'the world's most advanced cruise missile'—is set to be cut by \$128 million under Obama's fiscal year 2015 budget proposal and completely eliminated by fiscal year 2016, according to budget documents released by the Navy. In addition to the monetary cuts to the program, the number of actual Tomahawk missiles acquired by the United States would drop significantly—from 196 last year to just 100 in 2015. The number will then drop to zero in 2016. The Navy will also be forced to cancel its acquisition of the well-regarded and highly effective Hellfire missiles in 2015, according to Obama's proposal. The proposed elimination of these missile programs came as a shock to lawmakers and military experts, who warned ending cutting these missiles would significantly erode America's ability to deter enemy forces." Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, states, "The administration's proposed budget dramatically under-resources our investments in munitions and leaves the Defense Department with dangerous gaps in key areas, like Tomahawk and Hellfire missiles. Increasing our investment in munitions and retaining our technological edge in research and development should be a key component of any serious defense strategy." Seth Cropsey, director of the Hudson Institute's Center for American Seapower, says, "It doesn't make sense. This really moves the U.S. away from a position of influence and military dominance." If someone wanted to "reduce the U.S. ability to shape events" in the world, "they couldn't find a better way than depriving the U.S. fleet of Tomahawks. It's breathtaking." The cuts are "like running a white flag up on a very tall flag pole and saying, 'We are ready to be walked on.'" [56725, 56754, 56767, 56873]

On *The Five*, Greg Gutfeld states, “[T]here’s a report out of Britain claiming that 15,000 fetuses were incinerated at NHS [National Health Service] hospitals, and used sometimes to heat the hospitals, as part of a waste-to-energy program. I know—it’s unreal. It reminds me of a movie I saw as a kid called *Soylent Green*. It’s about an ugly future where humans survived off processed food made from people. *Soylent Green* was the food—it was us—a solution to mass poverty [starvation]. So, what’s England’s excuse? How did they get to this point? And what does this say about humanity, when flesh becomes fuel for those lucky enough to live? And what constitutes waste these days? Waste is a substance without value. If you abort a healthy child as a choice, do you forfeit the right to care about where it goes next? Once you remove moral values, sadness over its usage becomes absurd. It’s like mourning the loss of a tumor. Finally, I wonder how many media types who believe in waste-to-energy think fossil fuels are evil? Out with the old, in with the new—I can see the headline: ‘U.K. Discovers New Source of Green Energy to Undercut Putin.’ *Soylent Green* is energy.” (According to the Media Research Center, the scandal “has yet to receive wide coverage in the United States.” The rabidly pro-abortion Obama administration has no comment.) [56810, 56919]

Although the incinerated babies report pertains to Great Britain, it is worth noting that there are few regulations in the United States related to abortion disposal methods. At WND.com Greg Corombos quotes Americans United for Life attorney Jeanneane Maxon: “There are no regulations that really discuss and deal with how to dispose of bodies properly. There’s [sic; there are] only five states in the United States that currently have regulations of abortion clinics in the same manner that you would see of any other ambulatory surgical center. You’re going to be better protected going in for a knee surgery than you are for a surgical abortion. ... Many [U.S.] abortion clinics have incinerators so babies would be burned after they are aborted. There are examples... where babies have been born alive and then killed or, of course, burned. In the case of the late-term abortionist Kermit Gosnell up in Philadelphia—who was convicted of murdering three children born alive—he was cutting off body parts and storing them and flushing them down toilets to the degree where they had to call in plumbers to unplug their plumbing because it was full of aborted baby body parts. So there are horrifying examples in our country of how the bodies of these little babies are mistreated and disregarded.” [56852]

On *On the Record*, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld tells Greta Van Susteren, “Our relationship with [Hamid] Karzai and with Afghanistan was absolutely first-rate in the Bush administration. It has gone down hill like a toboggan ever since the Obama administration came in.” Rumsfeld notes that Obama was unable to even negotiate a Status of Forces Agreement with Karzai, and remarks, “A trained ape can get a status of forces agreement. It does not take a genius. And we have so mismanaged that relationship. ... And what happened is, the United States government—and I realize these are tough jobs, being president or secretary of state. But, by golly, they have trashed Karzai publicly over and over and over—[Richard] Holbrooke, the special envoy did, Vice President [Joe] Biden did, Secretary [of State] Hillary Clinton has. [Obama] has been unpleasant to him [Karzai]. And it seems to me they pushed him in[to] a political box where he really has very little choice. I think there is probably not a politician in the

world who dealing with the United States, instead of having the United States deal with him privately through private diplomacy, came out repeatedly, publicly, in an abusive, unpleasant, manner. And I personally sympathize with him to some extent.” [56739, 56748, 56952]

On *The Kelly File*, Megyn Kelly reports that some Democrats are calling for Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg to retire as soon as possible—to give Obama the opportunity to replace her with a far younger leftist before the Republicans take control of the U.S. Senate.

On March 25 Democrat pollster Celinda Lake admits that the November elections may be very bad for her party, telling reporters, “There is always a challenge in turnout in an off year, but it’s really dramatic this time.” (Of particular concern for Democrat candidates will be voter turnout because people who have been angry over ObamaCare will be more inclined to get out and vote, while many Democrats—particularly blacks—have nothing to make them enthusiastic about voting.) [56776, 56779]

Michelle Obama tells a group of school children in China, “And my story isn’t unusual in America. Some of our most famous athletes, like LeBron James, and artists, like the singer Janelle Monae, came from struggling families like mine [Michelle Obama came from a middle class family that sent her to Princeton University], as do many business leaders—like Howard Schultz. He’s the head of a company called Starbucks, which many of you may have heard of. When Mr. Schultz was a boy his father lost his job, leaving their family destitute. But Mr. Schultz worked hard. He got a scholarship to a university, and eventually built the largest coffeehouse company in the world. And then there’s this other guy I know who was raised by a single mother who sometimes struggled to afford food for their family. But like me, this guy got scholarships and loans to attend universities. He became a lawyer and a professor, and then he was a state senator and then a national senator. ...This guy I’m talking about is my husband, Barack Obama.” [56732]

“These stories are the stories of so many Americans, and of America itself. Because in America, we believe that no matter where you live or how much money your parents have, or what race or religion or ethnicity you are, if you work hard and believe in yourself, then you should have a chance to succeed. We also believe that everyone is equal [Americans believe that all individuals have equal rights—not that all individuals are equal], and that we all have the right to say what we think and worship as we choose, even when others don’t like what we say or don’t always agree with what we believe. But [be] warned that not everything is perfect. Now of course, living up to these ideals isn’t always easy. And there have been times in our history where we have fallen short. Many decades ago, there were actually laws in America that allowed discrimination against black people like me, who are a minority in the United States. But over time, ordinary citizens decided that those laws were unfair. So they held peaceful protests and marches. They called on government officials to change those laws, and they voted to elect new officials who shared their views. And slowly but surely, America changed. We got rid of those unjust laws. And today, just 50 years later, my husband and I are [now in the White

House]. And that is really the story of America—how over the course of our short history, through so many trials and struggles, we have become more equal, more inclusive, and more free.” [56732]

Obama’s favorite foreign leader, Turkey’s Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, bans the use of Twitter. On March 27 Erdogan blocks access to YouTube. [56749, 56856, 56857]

At NationalReview.com Victor Davis Hanson writes, “China and Russia are no more impressed with empty bluster today than Japan was in 1941. ...China will not be impressed that we talk confidently even as we cut defense—just as imperial Japan was not awed when aged American battleships were ordered westward to Pearl Harbor as a gesture. ...Obama’s pivot [to Asia] has now joined his stable of deadlines, red lines, step-over lines, and ‘I don’t bluff’ and ‘I’m not kidding’ assertions. The problem with such rhetoric is not just that it is empty, but that it is predictably empty. If Obama cannot lead, can he at least keep quiet about it? A Russia, China, North Korea, or Iran is not just unimpressed but encouraged, seeing such sermonizing as an assurance of nothing to follow. Obama’s threats are like a gambler’s involuntary tic, which astute poker players read always as a forewarning of a bluffed empty hand to follow. ...The Japanese, Taiwanese, South Koreans, Filipinos, and Australians are more likely to assume their democracies are safe when they see a U.S. carrier that means business than when they hear [Obama] or his secretary of state lecture an aggressor about its unacceptable 19th-century behavior, the Third World about its homophobia, or the world about the dangers of climate change. ...Our relationship with Russia is far worse now than during the Bush administration. Vladimir Putin is not just not deterred—who would be, after the U.S. fickleness in Libya, Egypt, and Syria, and in dealing with Iran?—but quite eager in the Crimea and Ukraine to show the world how to deflate American moralistic sermonizing. Putin believes that his amoral show of power impresses others who admire not his strength—for in truth he has little of it—but the simulation of strength that wins him support at home and a sort of sick admiration abroad. Being weak is sometimes dangerous. Being loud, self-righteous, and weak is always very dangerous indeed.” [56934]

David Stockman, former budget director under President Ronald Reagan, de-bunks the Federal Reserve’s claim that inflation is not only under control, the nation risks deflation. According to government’s own Consumer Price Index (CPI), “the cost of living has actually risen by 2.4% per year or 39 percent” since January 2000. (The Federal Reserve has a “target” of two percent inflation—which “mathematically result[s] in the theft of half of a working man’s savings over his lifetime.” Stockman lists some inflation rates since January 2000: barrel of oil (increased by 314.80 percent); gallon of gas (176.40 percent); dozen eggs (106.20 percent); ground beef (96.30 percent); electricity per Kwh (59.50 percent); natural gas per therm (51.40 percent); postage stamp (48.50 percent); average monthly rent (40.20 percent). (*The Obama Timeline* has previously noted that significant price inflation lies ahead, The Federal Reserve has expanded the money supply by trillions of dollars since 2008. Most of that new cash is being held by corporations and banks, which is why consumers have not seem more dramatic price

inflation. But when the corporations and banks start spending and lending those trillions, prices will shoot through the roof—because there will be trillions more dollars in the private economy chasing after the same amount of goods and services. In anticipation of those increases, *The Obama Timeline* owns gold, silver, and property.) [56858]

The Supreme Court hears oral arguments in *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby*. Katie Pavlich notes at Townhall.com, “In short, the company is arguing the mandate requiring contraception coverage violates their First Amendment Rights to religious freedom. Companies Mardel and Conestoga Wood Specialties have joined Hobby Lobby in their lawsuit and many other companies have submitted amicus briefs in support of the suit. ...[T]his case isn’t about women’s rights, gay rights or corporate rights as the [mainstream] media would like us to believe, but is instead about whether the government can force companies to drop their religious beliefs as soon as they go into business. ...[B]usinesses have been operating based on their religious beliefs for decades, this case will determine whether they are allowed to continue that practice.” (Media leftists inaccurately claim that a ruling in favor of Hobby Lobby would mean its employees would be denied contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization. In fact, Hobby Lobby’s existing insurance plan does cover 16 of the 20 types of contraceptives approved by the FDA, but the owners object to the abortifacients. Such a ruling would only mean that Hobby Lobby cannot be forced to pay for such services. No employee would be prohibited from obtaining them on her own. To argue that not paying for someone else’s contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization means they have been denied access to them is tantamount to arguing that if a company does not buy each of its employees a gun and ammunition they are being denied their Second Amendment rights.) [56697, 56698, 56704, 56709, 56710, 56714, 56717, 56726, 56731, 56738, 56769, 56770, 56772, 56802, 56898]

During the proceedings, Justice Sonia Sotomayor suggests, “Those employers could choose not to give health insurance and pay not that high a penalty—not that high a tax.” (In other words, Hobby Lobby should cancel its employee insurance and dump its employees on Healthcare.gov to fend for themselves as a way of avoiding the religious conflict forced upon the company by ObamaCare. The “not that high a tax” would cost Hobby Lobby about \$26 million per year—or \$2,000 per year for each of its 13,000 employees. Because the \$26 million penalty would not be a tax deductible business expense—according to ObamaCare rules—the penalty would actually mean Hobby Lobby would have to earn an additional \$43 million or so in revenue to cover the tax.) Spectator.org’s David Catron notes that “Paul D. Clement, who appeared on behalf of the two companies challenging the Obamacare contraception mandate, was repeatedly interrupted and badgered by justices Sotomayor, Kagan, and Ginsburg.” Some court observers believe the “swing vote” will be that of Justice Anthony Kennedy, with the other eight justices likely being split evenly—with the leftists eventually voting against Hobby Lobby and the conservatives voting in favor of religious freedom. [56697, 56698, 56704, 56709, 56710, 56714, 56717, 56726, 56731, 56738, 56769, 56770, 56772, 56802, 56898, 56907]

At Scotusblog.com Lyle Denniston writes, “The Supreme Court, in a one-hour, twenty-eight-minute session Tuesday, staged something like a two-act play on a revolving stage:

first the liberals had their chance and Justice Anthony M. Kennedy gave them some help, and then the scene shifted entirely, and the conservatives had their chance—and, again, Kennedy provided them with some support.” That is, some of Kennedy’s questions seemed to support one side of the argument, and other questions seemed to support the other. Lori Windham, counsel for Hobby Lobby with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, states afterward, “We are encouraged by the arguments today. The justices seemed deeply skeptical of the government’s arguments that Americans who open a closely held family business give up their right to religious freedom and can be subject to the mandates that they do. The Green family has long operated Hobby Lobby consistently with its religious beliefs and religious principles. They hope to be able [to continue] doing so.” [56697, 56698, 56704, 56709, 56710, 56714]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey observes, “For individuals or for corporations, the government can only intrude on constitutionally-protected rights for a compelling state interest. Hobby Lobby/Conestoga can point to the August 2010 CDC study that shows even without forcing employers to pick up the tab for contraception, 99% of sexually active women who wished to avoid pregnancy between 1980 and 2008 used contraception to do so. Access is such a non-issue that the CDC doesn’t even bother to address it. Furthermore, Hobby Lobby already offers coverage for 16 forms of birth control, only refusing to cover those that the owners consider abortifacients rather than contraception. ...If the goal was ‘assuring access,’ then the CDC’s study should say mission accomplished. Thus, there is no compelling government interest in forcing businesses to provide birth control for free, no more than there is for forcing them to provide food, groceries, or heating oil for free for their personal use, either. Businesses are free to do so if they wish now, but they should be free to choose not to do so if their values oppose it.” [56714]

MSNBC’s Joy Reid whines that the Supreme Court cannot be trusted to make a wise decision on the Hobby Lobby case because six of the nine Justices are Catholic. Ed Morrissey responds, “It’s worth noting that the six Catholic justices on the Supreme Court rarely reach any kind of consensus, unless it is a consensus shared by the whole court. Reid bases her argument of religious bias on literally nothing at all but her own prejudice. One suspects it’s because of the desperation the Left has over the Hobby Lobby case and the HHS mandate in general, but it may just be that Reid has a bias against Catholics in public life apart from this, too.” [56718]

According to DailyCaller.com, “A California nonprofit involved in the Obama administration’s ‘promise zone’ initiative failed to disclose that it spent \$140,000 lobbying the White House and other federal agencies. Records show that in 2009 and 2010 Youth Policy Institute (YPI), which provides training and education services to low-income Los Angeles residents, hired Bryan Cave LLC to lobby the [White House] and federal agencies such as the Department of Education and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for ‘Federal Support for social services for the Los Angeles Metro Area.’ That lobbying, which was not reported by YPI, comes to light as Los Angeles area politicians have expressed concern over the lack of transparency in the awards process for Obama’s promise zone initiative. ...Under federal law, non-profit



organizations are allowed to lobby politicians. But they must report the activities on their 990 forms. On its IRS 990 forms for the period, YPI answered ‘No’ to the question in Part IV of the form that asked ‘Did the organization engage in lobbying activities?’ YPI also did not file Schedule C forms which are required of lobbying 501(c)3 organizations.” Because the bulk of YPI’s revenues come from the federal government, the assumption is that it illegally used some of those funds to lobby the government for even more funds. Dan Epstein, executive director for Cause of Action, states, “The fact that the organization failed to disclose its lobbying or political activities may be circumstantial evidence that it may have used federal dollars for impermissible purposes.” YPI’s executive director, Dixon Slingerland, raised nearly \$750,000 for Obama’s 2008 and 2012 campaigns, and has visited the White House a dozen times since 2009. YPI has already received tens of millions of dollars in federal grants—and Slingerland’s 2012 salary was \$295,000. [56761]

DailyCaller.com also reports, “The Federal Election Commission wants to know why Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-NV] paid out over \$16,000 in campaign funds to his granddaughter for ‘holiday gifts’ to ‘donors and supporters.’ The sketchy expenditure was first flagged by Nevada reporter Jon Ralston. According to the FEC reports filed last year by Reid’s campaign committee, Friends for Harry Reid, the campaign paid ‘Ryan Elisabeth’ \$5,416.93 on October 7 and \$11,370 on October 23. Both payments are listed as ‘holiday gifts’ on the FEC report. According to Ralston, Reid’s office eventually confirmed to him that Ryan Elisabeth’s full name is Ryan Elisabeth Reid, and that she is the Senator’s granddaughter and a jewelry maker. Reid’s office was not originally forthcoming about this information, however, and only confirmed that Ryan Elisabeth was a relative after repeated prodding and speculation from Nevada journalists. The gifts, Ralston reports, were passed on to ‘donors and supporters.’” (FEC rules allow candidates to give gifts of “nominal value” to family members.) On March 27 the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reports that another payment to Reid’s granddaughter has been identified—in the amount of \$14,481. Reid states, “This has gone too far and it needs to stop now. I deeply regret any role I had in creating this situation but now, as a grandparent, I say enough is enough. Landra [Reid’s wife] and I are extremely proud of our granddaughter, we love her very much and we regret any unwanted attention that these stories have brought to her.” Jahan Wilcox, a Republican National Committee spokesman, states, “It’s pretty brazen for Sen. Harry Reid to funnel... campaign funds to his granddaughter for ‘holiday gifts.’ One of these days Reid will learn that Nevadans don’t appreciate him using campaign money as his personal slush fund.” (Whether Reid’s granddaughter paid income tax on the “holiday gifts” is not known. According to IRS.gov, “[T]he gift tax usually does not apply until the value of the gifts you give that person exceeds the annual exclusion for the year. For 2011 and 2012, the annual exclusion is \$13,000.” Reid’s payments to his granddaughter exceeded that amount.) [56800, 56814, 56815, 56816, 56869, 56918, 56936, 56937, 56973]

In Brussels, Belgium, Obama tells reporters that Russia’s annexation of Crimea is “not a done deal in the sense that the international community by and large is not recognizing the annexation of Crimea. You know, obviously the facts are—on the ground are that the

Russian military controls Crimea.” (Obama may not be aware that Russia does not care much about the international community.) [56708, 56727]

ABC’s Jonathan Karl asks Obama, “In China, in Syria, in Egypt, and now in Russia we’ve seen you make strong statements, [and] issue warnings that have been ignored. Are you concerned that America’s influence in the world—your influence in the world—is on the decline, and in the light of recent developments, do you think Mitt Romney had a point when he said that Russia is America’s biggest geopolitical foe; if not Russia, who?” Obama replies, “Well, Jonathan, um, I think, if the premise of the question is that, uh, whenever the United States objects to an action, uh, and, uh, other countries don’t immediately do exactly what we want, uh, uh, that that’s been the norm, uh, that would pretty much erase most of twentieth century history. [Karl shakes his head to indicate that was certainly not the premise of his question.] Uh, I think that, uh, there’s a distinction between us being very clear about what we think is an appropriate action, what we stand for, the principles we believe in, uh, versus, uh, I guess what is implied in the question, uh, that we should, uh, engage in some sort of military action to prevent something.” (Karl was also not implying that military action should be taken.) [56730]

“Um, you know, the truth of the matter is that, uh, the world’s always been messy, and what the United States has consistently been able to do and we continue to be able to do is to mobilize the international community around a set of principles and norms, and where our own, uh, self-defense may not be involved, uh, we may not act militarily, that does not mean that we don’t steadily push against those forces that would violate those principles and ideals that we carry. Uh, so, uh, yes, you’re right, uh, Syria, the Syrian civil war is not solved. Uh, and yet Syria has never ever been more isolated. Uh, with respect to the situation in Ukraine, uh, we have not gone to war with Russia, uh, I think there’s significant precedent to that in the past, uh, that does not mean that, uh, Russia is not isolated. In fact, Russia’s far more isolated in this instance than it was, uh, five years ago with respect to Georgia, and more isolated than it was certainly during most of, uh, the twentieth century, uh, when it was part of the Soviet Union.” [56730]

“Uh, the, the point is that, uh, there’re always gonna [sic] be bad things that happen around the world. Uh, and the United States is, uh, the most powerful nation, uh, in the world, understandably, uh, is looked to for solutions to those problems and what we have to make sure we’re doing are, that we are putting all elements of our power behind finding solutions, working with our international partners, standing up for those principles and ideals in a clear way, uh, there are gonna [sic] be moments where, uh, military action is appropriate. There’re gonna be some times where, uh, that’s not in the interests, national security interests of the United States, or some of our partners, uh, but that doesn’t mean that we’re not gonna [sic] continue to make the effort or speak clearly about what we think is right and wrong, and that’s what we’ve done.” [56730]

“Uh, with respect to Mr. Romney’s assertion, uh, that, uh, Russia’s num—our number one geopolitical foe, the truth of the matter is that, uh, America’s got a whole lotta [sic] challenges. Uh, Russia is a regional power that is threatening some of its immediate neighbors, not out of strength, but out of weakness. [Russia is so “weak” that it took

Crimea without firing a shot, and it is most certainly not a mere “regional power.”] Eh, Ukraine has been a country in which Russia had enormous influence for decades, since the break-up of the Soviet Union, uh, and we have considerable influence on our neighbors, we generally don’t need to invade them in order to, uh, have a strong cooperative relationship with them. Uh, the fact that Russia felt compelled to go in militarily and laid, uh, bear these violations of international law, uh, indicates less influence, not more. And, eh, so my response then, uh, continues to be, uh, what I believe today, which is: Russia’s actions are a problem. They don’t pose the number one national security threat to the United States. Uh, I continue to be much more concerned when it comes to our security with the prospect of, uh, a nuclear weapon going off in Manhattan, which is part of the reason why, uh, the United States showing its continued international leadership, uh, has organized, uh, a forum over the last several years that’s been able to help eliminate, uh, that threat in a consistent way.” (Obama’s long-winded response does not answer Karl’s question—not that anyone would have expected Obama to say, “Yes, I have been an ineffective leader and Mitt Romney was right.” If Obama were actually concerned about “a nuclear weapon going off in Manhattan,” he might want to re-impose sanctions on Iran and work to block its nuclear weapons progress. His comment was probably the result of his having just engaged in a nuclear war game exercise with other leaders at the summit.) [56730, 56743, 56747, 56756, 56757, 56768, 56801, 56805]

According to TheGuardian.com, Obama arrived in Belgium “with a 900-strong entourage, including 45 vehicles and three cargo planes. Advance security teams orchestrating every last detail have combed Brussels already, checking the sewers and the major hospitals, while American military helicopters were last week given the green light for overflights. The city hosts at least four EU summits a year, with each of these gatherings costing €500,000 in extra police, military and transport expenses. ‘But this time round, you can multiply that figure by 20,’ said Brussels mayor, Yvan Mayeur.” [56728]

The Obama administration extends the March 31 deadline for ObamaCare enrollment for people who have had trouble finishing enrollment. According to Politico, “The ‘special enrollment period’ will be targeted at people who begin the process before the deadline but who encounter problems or who have complicated family situations, officials said.” According to WSJ.com, “Details are still being hammered out, including how long the so-called special-enrollment period would last and what documentation people might need to offer as proof they were blocked by glitches, say people familiar with the matter. If the final days of enrollment go well, the administration could opt to forgo the backup plan, one person said.” (On March 19 Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen services assured Congress that the March 31 deadline would not be extended. On another occasion she said, “We don’t believe we have legal authority to do that”—but the administration did it anyway.) Media sycophants defend the delay, claiming a “surge in enrollment” that “could cause a computer traffic jam.” [56740, 56741, 56744, 56758, 56760, 56766, 56773, 56780, 56792, 56794, 56806, 56810, 56866]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) responds to the deadline delay: “Whet the hell is this, a joke? ...[Y]et another delay of Obamacare, another deadline made meaningless.

[As] If he hasn't put enough loopholes into the law already, the administration is now resorting to an honor system to enforce it. This is part of a long term-pattern of this administration manipulating the laws for its own convenience, and it's not hard to understand why the American people question this administration's commitment to the rule of law." (NBC and ABC do not even report the extended deadline in their evening newscasts. CBS calls it "fluid.") [56799, 56866, 56887]

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) comments, "Isn't it a wonderful world? The administration gets to have it any way they want to have it. All their promises about ObamaCare completely hypocritical, they didn't come through. And now this, more of the same. Unfortunately it is the continuation of lawlessness from the administration. And I feel sorry, honestly, for the people who are trying to be the administrators of ObamaCare. How in the world do they know what to comply with? Do you either follow the law as it's written, or are you responsible for watching [White House press secretary] Jay Carney's press conferences to figure out what the law is? ... This is all outcome-based legislating from the administration. And let's face it, this has one thing in mind. It's about ... Obama trying to keep the Senate in Democrat hands in 2014. That's it. ... And let's face it, this is an admission of failure. This is not working, the sign-up for Obamacare. And it's a program that will never pay for itself." [56809]

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who also heads the Democrat National Committee, tweets, "A woman's health care decisions should be made by her and her doctor. Period." (It does not take long for Twitter users to recognize Wasserman Schultz's inadvertent anti-ObamaCare message. If a woman and her doctor are the sole decision makers, the government should be out of the equation.) [56763, 56764]

Governing.com reports, "Under a deal announced Monday by several voting-rights groups, the state [of California] will send voter registration cards to nearly 3.8 million Californians who have applied for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act." (Rush Limbaugh and others predicted months earlier that ObamaCare would be used as a massive voter registration tool.) [56733, 56734]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "Three Secret Service agents responsible for protecting ... Obama in Amsterdam this week were sent home and put on administrative leave Sunday after going out for a night of drinking, according to three people familiar with the incident. One of them was found drunk and passed out in a hotel hallway, the people said." [56742, 56765, 56795]

Pamela Geller reports, "Michael Wilner, Washington bureau chief for the J[erusalem] Post, had planned to cover ... Obama's visit to Saudi Arabia this week. The Saudis denied his visa. The Jewish reporter is American and has never lived in Israel. He was banned because he was a Jew. Further proof that Israel and Jew are interchangeable and the Islamic hatred of Israel is just Muslim Jew-hatred. The difference now is that Obama has so diminished our standing in the world and our relationship with the Saudis that they have publicly disrespected [him] and all Americans who stand for freedom and equality for all before the law. Saudi Arabia previously has granted visas to journalists working

for Israeli or Jewish news outlets. But Obama's scorched-earth foreign policies have left America something like a broken man, reduced to a shadow of our former self." Bernadette Meehan, spokeswoman for the National Security Council, states, "We are deeply disappointed that this credible journalist was denied a visa. We will continue to register our serious concerns about this unfortunate decision." (Obama *should* cancel the trip in protest, but he will not.) [56746]

NYDailyNews.com reports, "Playing the role of First Lady has squelched Michelle Obama's spirit, and she's turned the East Wing into the 'worst wing,' a former White House aide claims. The First Lady's office has become a 'confining, frustrating, even miserable place to work,' according to Reid Cherlin, a former West Wing assistant press secretary, who provided a rare account of the inner workings of the East Wing department in an essay for *The New Republic*. Cherlin, who worked for the Obamas from 2007 to 2011 but has since become a writer, dished about the First Lady's high expectations and staffers' sense that everything has to be just right. 'The First Lady having the wrong pencil skirt on Monday is just as big of a f--k-up as someone speaking on the record when they didn't mean to or a policy initiative that completely failed,' Cherlin wrote, quoting an unnamed former colleague. ...Obama, some of her subordinates told Cherlin, was good at setting a high bar but bad at conveying specific details she desired to see executed—a contradiction one former staffer said created a lot of 'friction.' Team members are constantly under pressure to plan her events months in advance and her entire operation is guided by the mantra, 'Don't do it if it's not going to be perfect'—a saying that often created 'paralyzing' anxiety among staffers." [56774, 56804]

On *Hannity*, Mitt Romney says, "It's hard to name a single country that holds America in more esteem and respect than when [Obama] took office five years ago. It has not been a time of building America's respect and admiration and esteem and frankly our soft power or our hard power around the world and [Obama] has to account for that. I think ultimately the historians will. ...The real reason that we choose someone to be a leader is because we believe they have the capacity to see down the road further than we might, or they actually have the capacity to get something done that we might not be able to do, a doer if you will, and part of being the leader of the free world is the capacity to see what might happen in the future and to take action to shape the future. With regards to Ukraine, [Obama] should have been able to see this coming. I'm sure many advisers told him that Russia might try and grab a piece of Ukraine." [56777]

On March 26 *DailyCaller.com* reports, "The Obama administration's immigration policies have provided a de facto amnesty for most of the illegal immigrants living in the United States, according to Alabama Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions. 'Under the guise of setting 'priorities,' the Administration has determined that almost anyone in the world who can enter the United States is free to illegally live, work and claim benefits here as long as they are not caught committing a felony or other serious crime,' Sessions said Wednesday in conjunction with a three-page report, obtained by *The Daily Caller*, detailing the administration's immigration 'lawlessness.' Sessions' three-pager labeled 'DHS Enforcement Data Reveals Administrative Amnesty Much Broader Than

Previously Understood' shows even future visa overstays and illegal immigrants will not face any repercussions. '[A] review of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICS) published enforcement statistics for 2013 reveals a shocking truth: DHS has blocked the enforcement of immigration law for the overwhelming majority of violations—and is planning to widen that amnesty even further,' the document reads. The review of the 2013 ICE data revealed that less than 0.2 percent of the approximately 12 million illegal immigrants and visa overstays who were not convicted of a serious criminal offense were placed in removal proceedings. Further, merely .08 percent of the 12 million who were not convicted of a serious crime or a repeat immigration offender were placed in removal proceedings. Thus, 99.92 percent of illegal immigrants and visa overstays without serious crime convictions or repeat immigration offenses did not face deportation." [56759, 56796]

WhiteHouse.gov posts information on how raising the minimum wage will help women. One graphic notes that "women make up nearly three quarters of all workers in predominantly tipped occupations" (jobs in which the workers rely heavily on tips), and lists servers, barbers, personal appearance workers, hairdressers, bartenders, gaming services (casino workers), and massage therapists. (Whether Mitt Romney is aware that he might have gained more votes in 2012 had he campaigned for the "massage therapist vote" is not known.) [57196]

According to Judicial Watch, "Behind closed doors the U.S. government is giving Russia free military equipment—also used to train American troops—even after ... Obama announced punitive sanctions against Moscow and, more importantly, a suspension in military engagement over the invasion and occupation of Ukraine. The secret operation was exposed this week by members of Congress that discovered it in the process of reviewing the Fiscal Year 2014 budget and the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget request. It turns out that the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has been providing the Russian Federation with the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES), the federal legislators say. The U.S. military uses MILES for tactical force-on-force training because it has a system of lasers and dummy ammunition to simulate ground combat. It's a crucial, military-grade technology that's similar to a 'laser tag' available in some commercial markets, according to one of the outraged lawmakers (Oklahoma Republican Jim Bridenstine) that [sic; who] helped uncover the scandal. Bridenstine, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, has joined forces with Ohio Republican Mike Turner, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, to demand an end to the program. Along with about a dozen other House colleagues they penned a letter to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, who oversees the agency carrying out the 'irresponsible military equipment transfers' to Russia." [56996, 56997, 56998]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) tells reporters Democrat priorities "reflect the priorities of the middle class" and that ObamaCare has "dropped way down in significance" for the voters. "In Nevada and around the country, we have people sitting at their kitchen tables or in their living rooms expecting us to do something to help them." Even though polls showed voters in the recent special election in Florida's 13th district

considered ObamaCare a significant issue when they elected Republican David Jolly, Reid says, “That was a district that was very, very white and quite old. It’s a district that had been Republican for 60 years.” (Obama won the district in both 2008 and in 2012.) Reid says the extension of the March 31 ObamaCare enrollment deadline is necessary because people “are not educated [on] how to use the Internet.” Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) adds, “Concerns of the middle class can trump the Republican attacks on the Affordable Care Act, because what Americans really care about is making their lives better, so we’re going to answer those concerns, and we believe those will prevail in November. We are going on offense in the months ahead. In addition to defending the Affordable Care Act and correcting Republican falsehoods, at the top of our list will be focusing like a laser on pushing legislation that will provide every American with a fair shot. ...Each one of these issues—if you work 40 hours a week, you should have a fair shot at getting out of poverty. If you’re a woman, and you do equal work to a man, you should have a fair shot at getting equal pay. If you’re a family that has a kid who deserves to go to college, you should have a fair shot at being able to pay for it. We want a fair shot for everybody, and that’s what we stand for.” (Senate Democrats have apparently chosen “fair shot” as their 2014 campaign theme. Because Democrats believe the average voter is stupid, Americans expect to hear the words “fair shot” repeated until election day. They will push for an increase in the minimum wage, describe the GOP as the party of the rich, and say Republicans are waging a “war on women.”) [56820, 56821]

In a cliché-filled speech in Brussels, Belgium Obama says, “Each of us has the right to live as we choose. ...Together, we’ve condemned Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and rejected the legitimacy of the Crimean referendum.” (Via the referendum, the citizens of Crimea stated that they *chose* to be annexed to Russia. If “each of us has the right to live as we choose,” why do Crimeans not have the right to choose Russia over the European Union?) “...Make no mistake, neither the United States nor Europe has any interest in controlling Ukraine.” (Why, then, did the Obama administration work behind the scenes to support anti-government protesters in Kiev? And what did Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland discuss with Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt who the Obama administration wanted running the next Ukrainian government?) “Understand as well, this is not another Cold War that we’re entering into. After all, unlike the Soviet Union, Russia leads no bloc of nations, no global ideology. The United States and NATO do not seek any conflict with Russia.” (As is typical of Obama, he presents straw men for the sole purpose of knocking them down. Obama might just as well have said, “Make no mistake, the United States has no designs on Monaco or New Zealand.” To declare that the United States and NATO seek no conflict with Russia is pointless. Everyone already knows that they seek no conflict, but the very act of mentioning it provokes Russia. It is like a 98-pound weakling telling a bully, “I don’t want to hurt you.” Obama—who was apparently never taught it is not a good idea to taunt a schoolyard bully—can make all the pronouncements he likes about not entering another Cold War, but that is irrelevant if Russia still considers itself in one and acts in accordance with those beliefs.) [56859, 56860, 56895]

In the Brussels speech, Obama says, “Kosovo only left Serbia after a referendum was organized not outside the boundaries of international law, but in careful cooperation with

the United Nations and with Kosovo's neighbors. None of that even came close to happening in Crimea." (At LewRockwell.com Daniel McAdams calls that Obama's attempt "to justify placing the US on war footing with Russia over the recent referendum in Crimea," but "Of course anyone who even remotely followed the Kosovo fiasco knows that never happened. There was no such thing. Made up. The Kosovo parliament declared independence unilaterally backed up by US/NATO military power to ensure the change of borders.) Obama says, "[I]n the 21st century, the borders of Europe cannot be redrawn with force, that international law matters, that people and nations can make their own decisions about their future." (McAdams: "But that is just what the United States did 15 years ago this week via the 78 day bombing of Serbia to change the borders and extract Kosovo as an independent (though profoundly dysfunctional) state. The US bombing of Serbia was inarguably outside international law, as was US invasion and occupation of Iraq, attack and invasion of Afghanistan, invasion of Libya, bombing of Pakistan, Yemen, etc.") [57006]

In New York City, Sulaiman Abu Ghaith—one of Osama bin Laden's many sons-in-law and an al-Qaeda spokesman—is found guilty of conspiring to kill Americans. (He faces a potential life sentence.) Attorney General Eric Holder comments, "I want to especially note that this verdict has proven that proceedings such as these can safely occur in the city I am proud to call home, as in other locations across our great nation. It was appropriate that this defendant, who publicly rejoiced over the attacks on the World Trade Center, faced trial in the shadow of where those buildings once stood. We never doubted the ability of our Article III court system to administer justice swiftly in this case, as it has in hundreds of other cases involving terrorism defendants. It would be a good thing for the country if this case has the result of putting that political debate to rest. This outcome vindicates the government's approach to securing convictions against not only this particular defendant, but also other senior leaders of al Qaeda." [56786, 56787, 56824, 56933]

At PJMedia.com former terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy comments, "This statement is by turns disingenuous, specious, and improper... which is what we've come to expect from Mr. Holder, throughout his Clinton and Obama stints at the Justice Department. No one doubted that this terrorism trial in Manhattan, like the many before it dating back to 1993, would occur safely. The question was whether the heavy expense and burden involved in keeping it safe were worth bearing under circumstances where a perfectly safe trial facility is available at Guantanamo Bay. ...No sensible person questions the capacity of the civilian federal courts to administer justice in terrorism cases. Terrorism trials over the last 20-plus years have been models of due process, and federal judges have generally done a superb job presiding over them. ...[T]he issue has never been whether we could convict culpable terrorists in fair proceedings. The issue involves the national-security downsides of civilian trials for enemy combatants during wartime—very much including the downside that, under due process discovery rules, prosecutors must provide the enemy with lots of our intelligence about the enemy. That is, the national security concerns outweigh the benefit derived from the convictions—but no one doubts that prosecutors can get the convictions." [56824]



At ThePostEmail.com editor Sharon Rondeau reports on a recent interview with The People's Cube web site's Oleg Atbashian, who emigrated from Russia to the United States in 1994. Atbashian states that Russian President Vladimir Putin "is playing Obama easily, because Obama is not as competent as we were promised. We were promised that he would fill the government with the brightest, most advanced thinkers, that we would have a great economy and prosperity, complete peace and sunshine. That all turned out to be a big utopia, pie-in-the-sky, a dream that never happened and never can happen, because all those people that he put in charge were overrated. The ones running the State Department are incompetent. It started with Hillary [Clinton] and now it's John Kerry. Victoria Nuland, who's handling Eurasian relations, is also incompetent. Obama himself was described as the 'voracious consumer of intelligence' by one of his sycophants. Apparently, that is not true, because as you can see, Putin has outclassed him and outplayed him on the international stage easily. One of Putin's main instruments is propaganda. ...They [the Soviets] had a developed work of distributing information, lies, and distortions. It subsided for a while, but now Putin has brought it back, even doubling down with Ukraine. They have also mastered the internet and social media. So Russian stories have been planted all over the Western media." [56762]

Atbashian says of the Russian propaganda, "They come up with all kinds of different conspiracy theories. For instance, all of the accusations of neo-Nazis in the Ukraine and how Jews need to leave the country now for their safety because the fascists and internationalists in power now are not true. Jews are not worried at all. ...It's also not a conflict between Russians and Ukrainians or Russian speakers and Ukrainian speakers. ...There were people from all over supporting the Ukrainian revolution including Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Lithuanians, and even Russians, and they officially thanked the people who came from Russia during their victory at Independence Square, saying, 'This is great; we need more Russians to support us and perhaps to spread this to Moscow,' and that is something that scares Putin most of all—that a 'color revolution' will come to Moscow. That's his biggest fear, so he needs to quench the Ukrainian Revolution. ...For people who do not know, in central and eastern Ukraine, it doesn't matter what language you speak; a lot of people identify themselves as Ukrainian anyway. In Ireland, all of them speak English, but they don't identify themselves as English. It's a similar thing." Asked if Obama reminds Atbashian of a dictator, he responds, "He would like to be; America is not ready for dictatorship yet. Obama may talk all he wants about democracy and nice, good-natured ideas, but he knows very well that they cannot be implemented without dictatorial intervention. So at times he acts dictatorially with his executive orders or he behaves in a certain way to influence the public and pressures people to achieve a certain result." [56932]

Atbashian says Obama "is no match for Putin. Obama is actually a joke inside the Russian government. ...They call him a 'comrade;' they call his [Democrat party] organization the 'Regional Communist Party Committee' in Washington, and it's interesting that right now they [in Russia] are less communist than the current Obama administration. They distanced themselves from that and, for them, communism is now a joke. They say that Obama is picking up those ideas—maybe not exactly communist, but still Marxist-oriented—and to them it's ridiculous and stupid, and the way Obama acts

now is also similar to how the original party bosses acted, not in Moscow, but in the [outer Soviet] regions.” [56932]

IRS Commissioner John A. Koskinen appears before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) calls on him to release the emails of former IRS official Lois Lerner—documents that were subpoenaed months earlier. Issa tells Koskinen, “Unfortunately you’ve been more concerned with managing political fallout than complying with this Committee,” and warns that if he fails to comply he could “potentially be held in contempt.” Koskinen responds that it could take “years” to comply with the various document requests. (It can be assumed that an American being audited by the IRS would not be given “years” to comply with its requests.) The process would take years *only* if the IRS insists on first examining every document in an effort to hold back any that could be used against Lerner or the administration; it would not take years to provide all documents. Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH) asks Koskinen, “What part of ‘all’ don’t you understand? We don’t care what you think is relevant. We want every single email in the time period of the subpoena that was sent to you.” Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) is particularly combative in his questioning of Koskinen, and explains that Lerner emails from January 2010 forward are critical. (That was the month Obama, in his State of the Union address, excoriated the Supreme Court for its *Citizens United* decision—a decision which likely prompted the White House to ask Lerner to begin her discrimination against conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status.) Koskinen also insists that IRS was not “targeting” conservative groups; it was only using “inappropriate criteria... to select organizations for further review.” [56778, 56791, 56793, 56803, 56807, 56825, 57162]

Obama arrives in Rome for a March 27 visit with Pope Francis. [56784]

In the AP-GfK poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings are 41/59 percent, with 59 percent a record high disapproval rating. Support for ObamaCare is at a mere 26 percent. According to a Fox News poll, 52 percent of voters believe the country is weaker and less powerful than it was before Obama took office. Obama’s job approval/disapproval ratings are 40/53 in the Fox poll, and 43/50 in a CBS poll. [56781, 56782, 56785, 56797, 56819, 56831, 56865, 56881]

According to a Morning Consult national poll, support for ObamaCare is at 41 percent and opposition is 53 percent. Except for Democrats and blacks, ObamaCare is “underwater” with all voting groups—even among Hispanics. Even 56 percent of *uninsured* Americans oppose the health care legislation, and a whopping 65 percent of likely but undecided voters object to ObamaCare. [56818, 56819]

In an interview with Breitbart News, Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) lambastes a media “shield law” proposed by Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY). Cornyn says, “This is a bad idea and one whose time has not come. Believe me, we [Republicans] will not be rolled over.” Breitbart.com’s Matthew Boyle writes, “Schumer’s proposal would exempt a ‘covered journalist’ from subpoenas and other legal requirements to expose their confidential sources in leak investigations and other areas.” But, says Cornyn, “They [in

the Obama administration] want to pick and choose which journalists are covered. In other words, if you're a blogger they might not cover you, but if you work for the *New York Times* they might. Given the changes in the way we get information and the way we consume news, that really smacks to me in essence of government licensing who's an official 'journalist' for the purposes of a shield law and who's not. If there is one thing I can glean from the First Amendment, it is that government should not be in the business of licensing the news media. ...My antennae are always very sensitive whenever [Schumer] is on the march. ...Well, you remember, a few years ago there was a discussion about the Fairness Doctrine, and whether they [Democrats] would go after talk radio. Talk radio, I think, the left feels as a threat. Now, you know, you start to put the dots together and the FCC's recent discussion about placing monitors in newsrooms, you begin to see that this administration wants to control the information that people get and particularly any information that might be critical of them—which is... the function of a free press: to give people unbiased and factual information they can use to make their own decisions, not to collaborate with government in squashing speech that people find unfavorable.” (Even if Schumer's proposal were to pass in the Senate it would never be approved in the House. But the fact that it is even being proposed should give Americans some idea of how Democrats would further restrict their freedoms if they were to maintain control of the Senate and recapture the House.) [56790]

DailyCaller.com reports, “In the aftermath of the latest Obamacare extension, the administration is refusing to reveal any details about restrictions on allowing customers to apply for coverage after the statutory deadline of March 31. So far, all that's known about the latest delay is that applicants will be able to check a blue box on HealthCare.gov, stating that they attempted to sign up before what was a March 31 deadline. ...[D]uring Obamacare administrator the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) official announcement of the delay on a Wednesday conference call with reporters, officials refused to say exactly how long the extended enrollment will last and what restrictions have been placed on who can sign up after the original deadline.” [56806, 56835]

Richard Grenell, former Bush administration director of communications and public diplomacy for the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, tweets, “Obama Doctrine: tweet with overwhelming force.” [56817]

CNSNews.com reports, “For ...Obama and his family to visit Africa in June 2013 and then Honolulu in December 2013, the cost to taxpayers for flight costs alone were \$15,885,585, according to Air Force records obtained through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by the government watchdog Judicial Watch. The flights to, from, and around Africa in June-July 2013 totaled 35.5 hours at a cost of \$228,288 an hour, which totals \$8,104,224, reported Judicial Watch in a press release. The flights for the 17-day Christmas vacation in Honolulu in December 2013-January 2014 totaled 36.9 hours at a cost of \$210,877 per hour, which totals \$7,781,361. Combined, flight costs for those two trips were \$15.8 million.” [56822]

At Breitbart.com Joel B. Pollak writes that a “137-page, FBI-sworn affidavit against California State Sen. Leland Yee, a Democrat who is also running for Secretary of State, and over two dozen other individuals reads like a crime thriller. Beyond the widely reported stories of alleged wire fraud, money laundering, corruption, and bribery, the affidavit contains tales of alleged murder-for-hire plots involving a political consultant close to Yee, as well as large international weapons trafficking operations. Indeed, while the media have fixated on the hypocrisy of a gun-control advocate—Yee sponsored legislation against detachable magazines, for example—alleged involvement in gun smuggling, few reports delve into the kind of weapons with which Yee was allegedly involved. The FBI affidavit describes conversations about shipments of automatic weapons and talk of heavier weapons, including shoulder-fired missiles and artillery. One arms trafficker Yee allegedly discussed sourced weapons from Russia. Another trafficker, in an alleged meeting with Sen. Yee, political consultant Keith Jackson, and the FBI informant on March 11, 2014, allegedly discussed arms to be obtained from the Philippines. The affidavit claims the arms trafficker claimed personal relationships with Islamic rebels in the Philippines, though the weapons were supposedly to be obtained from sources inside the Philippine military. Throughout the document, a portrait emerges of a politician who is not only allegedly cavalier about campaign finance limits but who allegedly associates with violent criminals and drug traffickers.” [56827, 56828, 56833, 56834, 56838, 56843, 56844, 56877, 56883, 57075, 57075, 57322]

Meanwhile, Patrick Cannon, the Democrat mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, faces up to \$1.5 million in penalties and 50 years in prison if found guilty of corruption, theft, bribery charges. According to the *Charlotte Observer*, Cannon told “undercover FBI agents he could use his clout with the White House to win funding for Charlotte’s controversial streetcar line” and “boasted to the undercover agents about an upcoming trip to Washington during a meeting in the mayor’s office. He said he would use his clout to push for Charlotte streetcar funding. ‘So, you know, Friday I’m meeting with [Obama]. [He] will be asking what my priorities are. I’m gonna say the Gold Lynx Line’s a priority and I want to see that through.’ (ABC, CNN, MSNBC, and PBS all report the story, but choose not to tell viewers that Cannon is a Democrat.) [56827, 56828, 56833, 56834, 56838, 56843, 56844, 56877, 56883, 57075, 57076, 57322]

Author and columnist Michelle Malkin suggests the indictments against Democrats are to get them out of the way and out of the headlines before the November elections. Obama’s FBI is “clearing the decks before midterms.” Malkin also predicts: “Obama/Holder’s DOJ is saving up FBI goods on GOP corruptocrats for release right before election for maximum distraction/damage.” [56853, 56854, 56909]

On *On the Record*, billionaire real estate developer Donald Trump says of Obama’s statement that he is “much more concerned when it comes to our security with the prospect of... a nuclear weapon going off in Manhattan,” “It was one of the dumbest statements I have ever heard... He just put a big target on Manhattan. ...I don’t know if this man knows what he’s doing at all anymore. He was tired. He looked just exhausted. He’s not a natural leader. It’s very hard for him to lead. He had never done it before in his life. But when he starts talking about nuclear weapons going off in Manhattan, saying this

is a target, do it here—it’s so incredible that [Obama] should make that statement.” Trump predicts the GOP will win control of the Senate in the November mid-term elections: “I think the Republicans are going to have a huge victory because ObamaCare is a total disaster that is hurting a lot of people. The Republicans are going to pick up a lot of Senate seats. And in January people are going to make a lot of decisions, and I certainly am looking at it, and I will make a decision [about running for president in 2016].” [56837, 56847]

On March 27 Obama meets with Pope Francis. (Obama presents the Pope with a box of seeds from the White House garden—which is arguably somewhat more useful than an iPad loaded with Obama’s speeches.) Yahoo.com reports, “The talks included ‘discussion on questions of particular relevance for the Church’ in the United States, including ‘the exercise of the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection,’ a Vatican statement said.” At Townhall.com Daniel Doherty writes, “Pope Francis is very popular with the American electorate. Thus, [Obama’s] papal visit couldn’t come at a better time for him given his ever-sinking poll numbers. Perhaps he’ll even benefit from the Pope’s popularity. After all, I’m sure that’s what he’s hoping for.” [56798, 56812, 56813, 56823, 56832, 56836, 56839, 56840, 56841, 56845, 56862]

Reports differ on what Obama and Pope Francis discussed. According to WashingtonTimes.com, Obama’s version “downplayed the Catholic Church’s concerns about religious freedom in the United States and Obamacare’s mandate to pay for contraception. ‘We actually didn’t talk a whole lot about social schisms in my conversations with His Holiness,’ Mr. Obama said at a press conference in Rome. ‘In fact, that really was not a topic of conversation.’ ... The Vatican, however, issued a statement after the meeting saying [Obama’s] discussions with Francis and two other top Vatican officials focused ‘on questions of particular relevance for the [Catholic] Church in [the United States], such as the exercise of the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection’—issues that have fueled divisions between Mr. Obama and the church.” (*Timeline* readers can decide for themselves whether Obama or the Pope should be believed. But it is worth noting that Obama later said, “I explained to him [Cardinal Pietro Parolin] that most religious organizations are entirely exempt [from ObamaCare’s contraception requirement]. Religiously affiliated hospitals or universities or [nongovernmental organizations] simply have to attest that they have a religious objection, in which case they are not required to provide contraception—although employees of theirs who choose are able to obtain it through the insurance company.” Obama’s claim is meaningless. Even if an organization attests that it has a religious objection to providing contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization, any health insurance it provides for its employees *is still required to provide them*. The organization is therefore still paying for and indirectly providing something to which it objects, even if it is not directly dispensing it. Obama’s claim is tantamount to arguing that a product will be “shipped free”—when everyone knows that the shipping cost has simply been built into the product’s price.) [56864, 56889, 56893]

Obama tells reporters he and Pope Francis “spent a lot of time talking about the challenges of conflict and how elusive peace is around the world. There was some

specific focus on the Middle East where His Holiness has a deep interest in the Israeli-Palestinian issue, but also what's happening in Syria, what's happening in Lebanon, and the potential persecution of Christians, and I reaffirmed that it is central to U.S. foreign policy that we protect the interests of religious minorities around the world.” In a letter to Obama, Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) questions his wording: “I think most would agree that there is not simply ‘potential persecution’ of Christians, and I would add other vulnerable religious minorities. There is a very real threat posed to these ancient faith communities throughout the region as evidenced by the discrimination, violence and even death that is a daily reality.” (In fact, around the world, Christians are persecuted more than followers of any other religion. Obama is apparently unaware that what he calls a “potential” became reality decades ago.) According to CNSNews.com, “Wolf is the author of legislation to establish a special envoy focusing on the rights of religious minorities in the Middle East and South Central Asia regions, with priority given to Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. It passed by overwhelming margins in mid-2011 and again last September, and a companion bill was unanimously approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last December. The Obama administration opposes the legislation, and the earlier version died in the Senate after a Democratic senator placed a hold on it in 2012...” [56890]

WashingtonTimes.com also reports, “Before nightfall in Rome, Mr. Obama got a private tour of the Colosseum, the ancient Roman amphitheater where gladiators battled and Christians were executed. [Obama] marveled that the structure is ‘bigger than some current baseball stadiums.’ As he walked with his tour guide, Mr. Obama asked her, ‘Let’s say someone is on the ground. He didn’t have to kill them, did he?’ Reporters couldn’t hear the guide’s answer.” (Obama apparently believes that gladiators did not “fight to the death” and merely knocking down one’s opponent was enough to secure victory. That may explain his inability to deal effectively with Syria, North Korea, and Vladimir Putin.) [56864]

The Media Research Center’s Kyle Drennen writes, “Thursday’s network morning shows tripped over themselves in their rush to fawn over ... Obama meeting Pope Francis for the first time at the Vatican. At the top of ABC’s *Good Morning America*, co-host Robin Roberts touted how [Obama] ‘feels a special bond with the Pontiff.’ On NBC’s *Today*, chief White House correspondent Chuck Todd spoke of an ‘ideological comfort level’ between the two leaders, while on CBS *This Morning*, White House correspondent Major Garrett described their ‘genuine connection.’” Todd also says, “I think that [Obama], particularly right now where his own approval ratings are not so hot, just being seen with the Pope, particularly in some places where there are a lot of Catholic voters in the United States, it’s not gonna hurt. So, yes, I think the White House sees this as a potential political up side.” [56874, 56875, 56876]

Islamist rebels attack the Christian town of Kessab in Syria, killing 80 (at least 13 by beheading) and forcing about 3,000 others to flee for their lives. (Syrian rebels have been supported by the Obama administration, as well as Turkey—under the leadership of Obama’s favorite prime minister, Recip Tayyip Erdogan.) Obama has no comment. [56946, 56947, 56948, 57233, 57234]

Environmental Protection Agency employees and FBI agents raid ammunition manufacturer USA Brass, reportedly over “environmental violations.” At FreedomOutpost.com Michael Bastasch later writes, “It’s unclear exactly what the environmental violations were, but USA Brass has come under fire from federal agencies before for lead exposure. USA Brass cleans and resells used ammunition casings, and NBC Montana reports that local health officials found elevated levels of lead in the blood of 22 current and former employees.” (There may very well be environmental and health concerns, but some Second Amendment supporters likely believe that the Obama administration will do everything in its power to prevent Americans from owning guns and ammunitions. If it cannot outlaw guns and ammunition, it can work to prevent their manufacture. There are so many thousands of laws on the books that virtually every American can be indicted or harassed for violating a regulation. If the government wants to stop John Doe from doing something, it can find an excuse to target John Doe.) [56916, 56970]

TimesUnion.com reports, “Waterford [Connecticut]-based Yankee One Dollar stores will be gone within the next five months, its owner told the Post Star of Glens Falls. Keith Flike blamed the Affordable Care Act and the increase in the state’s minimum wage for the decision to shut down. Each store has six to 10 employees, he told the Post Star. Yankee One Dollar has 23 stores, down from a peak of 39.” (LegalInsurrection.com credits the *Times Union* for providing the real cause of the closures: ObamaCare and an increase in the minimum wage. Other newspapers obfuscated the issue by using less specific terms like “damaging legislation,” “an increasing cost of doing business,” and “a reflection of the times.”) [56923, 56924, 56925, 56926]

Charles Krauthammer writes in *The Washington Post*, “‘The United States does not view Europe as a battleground between East and West, nor do we see the situation in Ukraine as a zero-sum game. That’s the kind of thinking that should have ended with the Cold War.’ — Barack Obama, March 24. Should. Lovely sentiment. As lovely as what Obama said five years ago to the United Nations: ‘No one nation can or should try to dominate another nation.’ That’s the kind of sentiment you expect from a Miss America contestant asked to name her fondest wish, not from the leader of the free world explaining his foreign policy. The East Europeans know they inhabit the battleground between the West and a Russia that wants to return them to its sphere of influence. Ukrainians see tens of thousands of Russian troops across their border and know they are looking down the barrel of quite a zero-sum game. Obama thinks otherwise. He says that Vladimir Putin’s kind of neo-imperialist thinking is a relic of the past—and advises Putin to transcend the Cold War. Good God. Putin hasn’t transcended the Russian revolution. Did no one give Obama a copy of Putin’s speech last week upon the annexation of Crimea? ... Putin’s irredentist grievances go very deep. Obama seems unable to fathom them. Asked whether he’d misjudged Russia, whether it really is our greatest geopolitical foe, he disdainfully replied that Russia is nothing but ‘a regional power’ acting ‘out of weakness.’ Where does one begin? Hitler’s Germany and Tojo’s Japan were also regional powers, yet managed to leave behind at least 50 million dead. And yes, Russia should be no match for the American superpower. Yet under this president, Russia has run rings around America,

from the attempted ingratiation of the ‘reset’ to America’s empty threats of ‘consequences’ were Russia to annex Crimea. Annex Crimea it did. For which the ‘consequences’ have been risible. Numberless 19th- and 20th-century European soldiers died for Crimea. Putin conquered it in a swift and stealthy campaign that took three weeks and cost his forces not a sprained ankle. That’s ‘weakness?’” [56910]

“Indeed, Obama’s dismissal of Russia as a regional power makes his own leadership of the one superpower all the more embarrassing. For seven decades since the Japanese surrender, our role under 11 presidents had been as offshore balancer protecting smaller allies from potential regional hegemon. What are the allies thinking now? Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines and other Pacific Rim friends are wondering where this America will be as China expands its reach and claims. The Gulf states are near panic as they see the United States playacting nuclear negotiations with Iran that, at best, will leave their mortal Shiite enemy just weeks away from the bomb. ...In his major Brussels address Wednesday, the very day Russia seized the last Ukrainian naval vessel in Crimea, Obama made vague references to further measures should Russia march deeper into Ukraine, while still emphasizing the centrality of international law, international norms and international institutions such as the United Nations. Such fanciful thinking will leave our allies with two choices: bend a knee—or arm to the teeth. Either acquiesce to the regional bully or gird your loins, i.e., go nuclear. As surely will the Gulf states. As will, in time, Japan and South Korea. Even Ukrainians are expressing regret at having given up their nukes in return for paper guarantees of territorial integrity. The 1994 Budapest Memorandum was ahead of its time—the perfect example of the kind of advanced 21st-century thinking so cherished by [Obama]. Perhaps the captain of that last Ukrainian vessel [seized by Putin’s forces] should have waved the document at the Russian fleet that took his ship.” [56910]

Fleckenstein Capital’s Bill Fleckenstein tells CNBC that stock prices are vastly overpriced. “There can be no debate about absurd valuations. And you can’t use zero percent interest rates as a justification, because the only reason rates are at zero percent is because of the same Fed [Federal Reserve] that has caused the stock market to be infected with lunacy again. ...When you get to a place where groups of securities can get wildly overvalued, usually that continues until they exhaust themselves, or until some monetary phenomenon upsets the apple cart.” [56826]

TheHill.com reports, “An internal review ordered by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) absolves him and most of his senior staff of direct involvement in the lane closures on the George Washington Bridge last year. After reviewing more than 250,000 documents—including personal texts and emails of the Governor and his senior staff—and conducting interviews with more than 70 witnesses, the firm investigating the closures found no evidence Christie knew about the closures. ‘From our examination of these records, other available documents, and our 126 interviews of Governor Christie and others who corroborated his account, we conclude that Governor Christie had no knowledge of the lane realignment before September 9, 2013, and no role in the lane realignment decision,’ reads the report from Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. It also found that Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmerman’s claims that the Christie administration withheld Superstorm Sandy



aid from her town as an act of political retribution were ‘demonstrably false in material aspects.’” Democrats call the investigation and the report an “expensive sham.” [56829, 56830]

The Senate votes 65–34 to again extend unemployment benefits. (House Republicans will likely oppose the measure because it contains no significant job-creation provisions.)

Obama claims more than six million people have enrolled in ObamaCare. (He does not cite the number who have paid premiums and are therefore actually covered. Nor does he mention that at least that many Americans have seen their health insurance policies canceled as a result of ObamaCare. Nor does he state whether those six million enrollees are predominantly old and sick or young and healthy.) [56861, 56884, 56891, 56892]

Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Mark Begich (D-AK), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Joe Manchin (D-WV), and Angus King (I-ME) propose adding a “copper” benefit level to ObamaCare’s existing bronze, silver, gold, and platinum plans. The copper plan would have lower premiums but higher out-of-pocket expense limits than the existing plans. (In essence, the copper plan would be a form of catastrophic-only plan—the type of affordable plan Obama and his fellow Democrats have been slamming for months as inferior.) According to FoxNews.com, the Senators also “proposed numerous other fixes, including restoring startup funds for ‘consumer-driven health insurance cooperatives’ and directing state regulators to look at allowing insurance to be sold across state lines [a proposal Republicans have been advocating for years]. Plus, they called for sparing employers with fewer than 100 workers from being required to offer health insurance to their staff.” [56939, 57187]

At WesternJournalism.com Kris Zane reports, “According to former child sex slave Virginia Roberts and a class action lawsuit against convicted billionaire pedophile Jeffrey Epstein, former President Bill Clinton was present during sex parties involving up to twenty underage girls at Epstein’s secluded island in the Caribbean. That flight records show Clinton was flown on numerous occasions to the island on Epstein’s private jet. Clinton had a close relationship with an employee of Epstein’s who compiled thousands of photos of nude young girls posed in lewd positions. And these photos were used as a catalog for Epstein to loan out his girls to powerful politicians and British royalty, including Bill Clinton. According to the lawsuit: ‘...Clinton was friends with an unnamed woman who ‘kept images of naked underage children on her computer, helped to recruit underage children for Epstein... and photographed underage females in sexually explicit poses.’ While Epstein was indicted and jailed for his pedophilia, Bill Clinton oddly has remained unscathed, more than likely by having friends in high places. If Bill Clinton is in fact a pedophile, will the American people demand that he be put away for a very long time so that he can’t hurt any more children? Or will having friends in high places exempt him from the rule of law? Time will tell.” BeforeItsNews.com adds, “Bill Clinton had many trips to Little Saint James, Jeffrey Epstein’s private island in the Caribbean, where underage girls were sex slaves, forced to participate in orgies with politicians, businessmen, princes, and professors. Clinton has been a close friend of a madam who kept images of naked underage children on her computer, helped to recruit underage

children for Epstein and Clinton, and photographed underage females in sexually explicit poses. This woman was one of the guests at Chelsea Clinton's 2010 wedding. Clinton adds drama to the story by openly posing for photos with prostitutes." [56846, 56847, 56848, 56849, 56850]

On the floor of the Senate, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) says, "[T]he junior Senator from Wyoming has come to the floor several times recently talking about the fact that examples that he and other Republicans have given, dealing with ObamaCare, examples that they think are bad, I've called lies. ... [T]hat is simply untrue. I have never come to the floor, to my recollection, and I never said a word about any of the examples that Republicans have given regarding ObamaCare and how it's not very good." (On February 26, 2014, Reid said—on the floor of the Senate—"We heard about the evils of ObamaCare, about the lives it's ruining in Republicans' stump speeches and in ads paid for by oil magnates, the Koch brothers. But in those tales, turned out to be just that: tales, stories made up from whole cloth, lies distorted by the Republicans to grab headlines or make political advertisements." [56885, 56886]

FoxNews.com reports, "A federal appeals court on Thursday upheld Texas' tough abortion restrictions that have led to the closure of nearly 20 clinics around the state, saying the new rules don't jeopardize women's health. A panel of [three female] judges at the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower court judge who said the rules violate the U.S. Constitution and served no medical purpose. Despite the lower court's ruling, the appeals court already had allowed some rules to go into effect while it considered the case. The latest decision means more regulations will begin later this year, as scheduled, and sets the case up for a likely appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. In its opinion, the appeals court said the law 'on its face does not impose an undue burden on the life and health of a woman.'" Among other things, the new law requires that abortionists have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. Planned Parenthood calls the ruling "terrible" and states that "safe and legal abortion will continue to be virtually impossible for thousands of Texas women to access." (Some might argue that requiring that abortionists have hospital admitting privileges would make the procedure safer. A patient whose doctor has been refused admitting privileges might be wise to find a new doctor.) [56851, 56903]

On her radio program, Laura Ingraham asks syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer, "Do they have anyone there, in the Obama administration, who knows the Russian psyche? Because... [if] you insult them and call them a 'regional power,' it probably makes Putin dig in even further." Krauthammer responds, "That's probably what Obama thinks. It undoubtedly... enraged Putin, and, if anything, adds to his calculations on the side of going ahead and really humiliating Obama, and it also points to the fact that Obama has surrounded himself in this term, in this kind of second-term arrogance, with midgets. There is nobody in the high command who had the stature of Bob Gates, for example, or even a Hillary Clinton, when he came into office at that point, being in office he had to pretend to take advice from seniors, elders. [But] He doesn't consult anyone. This is a one-man foreign policy run by someone with an adolescent view of what the

international system is like and it is a very dangerous time for precisely that reason.” [56896]

On *The O'Reilly Factor*, Democrat strategist James Carville says Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) should “probably not” be seen with Obama if she wants any chance of being reelected in November. [56870]

Planned Parenthood presents House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) with its Margaret Sanger Award in recognition of her support for abortion. Pelosi—who is allegedly a practicing Catholic—ridicules Americans who are opposed to abortion, telling the audience, “When you see how closed their minds are or oblivious or whatever it is—dumb—then you know what the fight is about. Whatever happens with the [Supreme] Court [with regard to the Hobby Lobby ruling]... we must remember these battles will not be the end of the fight.” (Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, was an anti-Semitic and a racist who believed black people were “human weeds” that should be exterminated. She once said, “The most merciful thing that a family does to one of its infant members is to kill it.” Adolph Hitler was a fan of Sanger, and soon after he came to power the Nazis quickly legalized abortion. As many as 500,000 were performed in 1933 alone. When Hillary Clinton received the Margaret Sanger Award she said, “Yet we know that Margaret Sanger’s work here in the United States and certainly across our globe is not done.”) [2061, 2657, 12790, 12825, 12835, 12862, 12866, 12922, 12927, 13057, 29142, 29300, 56917, 56971]

On March 28 BizPacReview.com reports, “In an apparent attempt to beef up enrollment numbers, Obamacare navigators are now peddling their overpriced, inadequate health insurance on what is technically foreign soil—in Mexican consulates. Citizenship not required. One activist called the ploy ‘our responsibility.’ ‘Whether they’re Mexican nationals or whether they’re United States citizens or whether they’re in transition—and if they’re there it is our responsibility within all of America to educate on the Affordable Care Act,’ Enroll America field organizer Jose Medrano told Breitbart News on Wednesday. Mexican nationals and U.S. citizens alike were encouraged to sign up for coverage under the Obamacare exchange at a ‘health fair’ hosted by the Mexican Consulate in Brownsville, Texas, last week.” Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) states, “Promoting Obamacare at a Mexican consulate raises three major policy concerns. One, the possibility that illegal immigrants could fraudulently access federal subsidies; two, that such promotions provide a financial inducement to unlawfully enter the U.S. [or overstay a visa] by offering households headed by illegal immigrants federal subsidies through their legal relatives or dependents; and three, that these activities widen an existing flaw in our legal admissions process by continuing to subvert the principle that those seeking to lawfully enter the U.S. should be financially self-sufficient.” [56867]

Rioting members of the Obama-supported radical Muslim Brotherhood attack a Coptic Christian church in a Cairo suburb, killing four. According to RaymondIbrahim.com, “One of the slain, a young Coptic woman, was savagely mauled and molested before being murdered—simply because her cross identified her as a Christian to the Brotherhood rioters.” (Obama has no comment.) [57050]

Andriy Parubiy, chairman of Ukraine's national security council, states, "Almost 100,000 [Russian] soldiers are stationed on the borders of Ukraine and in the direction ... of Kharkiv, Donetsk. Russian troops are not in Crimea only, they are along all Ukrainian borders. They're in the south, they're in the east and in the north. ... [W]e might see a huge attack on the territory of continental Ukraine and we are getting ready for it." [56871, 56872]

Obama, on his way to Saudi Arabia, tells CBS *Evening News* anchor Scott Pelley, "What we need right now to resolve and de-escalate the situation would be to Russia, for Russia to move back, uh, those troops." An incredibly naive Obama also expresses surprise that Putin has been "willing to show a deeply held grievance about what he considers to be the loss of the Soviet Union. You would have thought that after a couple of decades that there'd be an awareness on the part of any Russian leader that the path forward is not to revert back to the kinds of practices that, you know, were so prevalent during the Cold War but, in fact, to move forward with further integration with the world economy and to be a responsible international citizen." (Obama has clearly not been paying attention. It is not as if Putin has kept his feelings about restoring the Russian empire to its former glory a secret. Additionally, why does Putin's "deeply held grievance" even surprise Obama? Does Obama think Putin should *not* regret the breakup of the former Soviet empire? Did Abraham Lincoln not do everything in his power to prevent the breakup of the United States? Victor Davis Hanson later asks at NationalReview.com, "What exactly does Obama mean when he says, of Putin, 'what he *considers* to be the loss of the Soviet Union?' 'Considers?' Did we miss something here? Did not the Soviet Union disappear from the map?") [56871, 56872, 56880, 56894, 56897, 57048]

Obama continues, "What I have repeatedly said is that he may be entirely misreading the West. He's certainly misreading American foreign policy. We have no interest in encircling Russia and we have no interest in Ukraine beyond letting the Ukrainian people make their own decisions about their own lives." (At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey writes, "Putin seems to be reading the West just fine at the moment. Obama, on the other hand, still doesn't appear to grasp Putin. The seizure of Crimea wasn't to parry the West, nor will be the seizure of eastern Ukraine when it happens. It will be to reabsorb as many Russian enclaves back into a 'Greater Russia' as Putin thinks he can without prompting a military response from the West. When might a military operation cross the border into eastern Ukraine? It may not happen today, but look for a Friday night/Saturday morning move that takes Western leaders off guard. That was the strategy in Crimea.") [56871, 56872, 56880, 56894, 56897, 57048]

At Heritage.org James Carafano comments on Obama's interview with CBS anchor Scott Pelley: "It was one of the poorest performances by a world statesman since [former British Prime Minister] Neville Chamberlain's press comments after returning from Munich in 1938. Obama's odd remarks included some amateur psychoanalysis of the Russian strongman, Vladimir Putin. [Obama] conjectured, '[t]here's a strong sense of Russian nationalism and a sense that somehow the West has taken advantage of Russia in the past and that he [Putin] wants to, in some fashion, reverse that or make up for that.'

The problem, as [Obama] explained it, is that Putin doesn't understand how the world is supposed to work—an assessment that offers cold comfort to Ukrainians, a people with tens of thousands of Russian troops massing on their border. [Obama] has an easy answer for that as well: Putin should just pull some troops out of Crimea. It is hard to think of a more useless a suggestion for the 'leader' of the Free World to make. Putin may or may not decide to send his troops to take more than Crimea—but right now he very much wants everyone in the world to know he 'can' send them if he wants to. ...All Obama did in suggesting Putin pull back is to demonstrate what a strong hand the troop presence gives Moscow. It is also possible Putin may go big and just take more territory. Obama ought to focus more on that reality, rather than hoping Putin just goes back to playing nice. [Obama] continues to downplay the seriousness of the collapse of his 'Russian reset' policy. The invasion of the Ukraine doesn't mean we are going back to the Cold War. However, the U.S. isn't returning to 'normal' relations with Russia either. Obama is in for something much worse." [56963]

According to TimesofIsrael.com, Obama "reportedly reassured his wary ally King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia on Friday that the US would not accept a bad nuclear deal with Iran. During a visit to the king's desert oasis, the two leaders discussed 'tactical differences' in their respective approach to certain issues, but agreed that their countries remained strategically aligned, Reuters quoted a senior US official as saying. ...Despite its decades-long alliance with the United States, Saudi's royal family has become increasingly anxious in recent years over Obama's nuclear talks with Iran and his tepid involvement in the Syrian civil war. During his evening meetings with the king, Obama's task was to reassure Saudi Arabia that the US is not abandoning Arab interests despite troop withdrawals from Iraq and Afghanistan, greater energy independence back home and nuclear talks with predominantly Persian Iran. White House officials and Mideast experts say the Saudi royal family's main concern is Iran. They fear Iran's nuclear program, object to Iran's backing of the Bashar Assad regime in Syria and see the government of Tehran as having designs on oil fields in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain." (Some might argue that Obama has already accepted a "bad nuclear deal" with Iran by lifting sanctions and allowing it to continue its nuclear program essentially unabated. Pamela Geller writes, "Who is Obama trying to kid? ...This is more O-baloney, sliced and diced. Apparently he has the same contempt for the Saudi King, before whom he once bowed, that he has for us. The Iran deal was nothing but bad, and King Abdullah and Obama both know it. The Middle East is embarking on a nuclear arms race, thanks to Obama's dangerous Islamophiliac misadventure in Geneva. The Iran nuke deal was another Obama abject failure—complete and utter fail. The beclowned quising in the White House gave over \$20 billion in economic relief to Iran, and for what? American officials have admitted that they vastly underestimated the economic benefits Iran would get from the deal.") [56904, 56905, 56906, 56981]

Obama reportedly says nothing to the Saudis about human rights violations. (The Obama administration is extremely tolerant of human rights abuses in select countries. Although Secretary of State John Kerry recently blasted Uganda over its increased penalties for homosexual behavior, countries like Saudi Arabia and Kenya generally escape criticism.) [56988]

Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, announces he will not seek reelection. (Rogers will instead embark on a radio talk show career, where he believes he will “have a bigger voice... to communicate ideas that are important.”) [56878, 56879, 56908]

WeeklyStandard.com reports that close Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett is in Los Angeles trying to persuade movie and television producers to include positive references to ObamaCare in their scripts. (That is, she is promoting propaganda.) [56901]

CNN responds to complaints that the network was not covering the arrest of California State Senator Leland Yee on charges of illegal arms trafficking and bribery, stating, “It’s in line with us covering state senators & state secretary of state races just about never. You see another conspiracy?” Breitbart.com points out, “That standard did not apply to Texas state Sen. Wendy Davis, whom CNN covered relentlessly. This was long before she even considered a gubernatorial run after filibustering a bill to ban abortions after 20 weeks and make those conducted before then safer. ...In just one of many stories on CNN about Wendy Davis, the network gushed over and played up her biography—without even vetting it—after her filibuster made her their heroine. That bill eventually became law, and an appeals court upheld the law last week. Davis also appeared on many of CNN’s primetime shows in 2013 as it blanketed its airwaves and online real estate with puff pieces about Davis, the state senator, long before she was even a gubernatorial candidate. As Weasel Zippers noted, CNN has also covered the California state Senate candidacy of Sandra Fluke and Yee on many occasions. The difference between Davis and Yee is that Davis is a female Democrat who was standing up for a liberal cause that could help liberals gin up the ‘war on women’ rhetoric. Yee, on the other hand, is a minority Democrat indicted on corruption charges that could tarnish the image of Democrats and liberals that CNN desperately tries to protect as one of the left’s most dogged palace guards.” [56942, 56943]

Russian President Vladimir Putin telephones Obama to discuss the situation in Ukraine. BBC.com reports, “According to the Kremlin, Mr Putin suggested examining how the situation could be stabilised,” while “Obama suggested that Russia put a concrete response in writing...” State Department spokesperson Jan Psaki responds with a “selfie” of her holding a hand-printed sign, “United for Ukraine.” Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-A) calls her action “amateur hour.” [56902]

Former Democrat U.S. Senator from Nebraska Bob Kerrey tells the *Daily Mail*, “After the 2012 election, what [Obama] needed was somebody to say, ‘Mr. [Obama], I’m thrilled you won. You stand for all the things I support. But honestly, you won this election [only] because you sucked less than [Mitt] Romney.’” Kerry also says Obama had to know he was “misleading” audiences when he said they could keep their health plans if they liked them. “And affordable? Forget about it. ...We’re robbing from the future to pay for the past. We just are.” Obama’s “self-delusion moment comes in a single declaratory sentence, which is, ‘If they just get to know me, they’ll vote for me.’ It’s just self-delusion. Some of us are good at it, and some of us are bad.” [56929, 56978]

On March 29 IsraelNationalNews.com reports, “The pan-Arab London-based newspaper *Al-Hayat* has reported that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told US Secretary of State John Kerry that his governing coalition may fall apart if Israel goes ahead with the fourth planned tranche in the terrorist release that it agreed to as a ‘goodwill gesture’ toward the Palestinian Authority. *Al-Hayat* said that Kerry has asked PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas to extend negotiations even if Israel fails to release [26] additional terrorists. Abbas, for his part, told Kerry he would not discuss continuing negotiations until the terrorists are freed, including 14 Israeli Arabs. According to another report, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu refuses to release any more terrorists until the PA recognizes Israel as a Jewish state. The leadership of Hamas said that Israel’s refusal to carry out the fourth tranche is ‘a ringing slap in the cheek’ to the PA. Hamas said that the way to free terrorist prisoners is by abducting Israeli soldiers—and not in a deal that involves a PA commitment not to take action against Israel in the UN.” (The previous release of prisoners has generally resulted in nothing more than more rockets lobbed into Israel.) Pamela Geller comments, “Gd [God] bless Netanyahu for having the courage to speak common sense and truth to Secretary of State Thurston Howell III and the O-bumbler in the White House. Obama is desperate to weaken Israel drastically before he leaves office; we can be grateful that Netanyahu is having none of it.”) [56911, 56912, 56913]

At NationalReview.com Andrew C. McCarthy writes, “‘What matters is the intent. And we don’t have a sense of that.’ That is what one of Washington’s legion of anonymous ‘senior government officials’ told the *Wall Street Journal* about the Russian military forces now massing on Ukraine’s border—complemented, of course, by the tens of thousand more Russian troops stationed in what, until just a few days ago, used to be... Ukraine. Clearly, our Beltway gurus have refined a bit of ancient wisdom: If you cannot remain silent and proceed to remove all doubt that you are a fool, at least remain anonymous. Let us pretend for a moment that our senior official is right, and that Vladimir Putin’s intent, rather than America’s strategic perception, is ‘what matters.’ Is the Kremlin’s intent really so shrouded in mystery that our \$50-plus billion per year intelligence community doesn’t quite ‘have a sense’” of it? ...Russia now has upwards of 50,000 troops in position for an invasion of heavily Russian sections of Eastern Ukraine. The Kremlin claims to be engaged in military exercises, under circumstances where there are many thousand more troops than training exercises would justify and where the ‘we’re just doing exercises’ pretext is shopworn. Russia’s claim that it has no hostile designs on Eastern Ukraine echoes its false assurances regarding Crimea and Georgia. Moreover, as the *Wall Street Journal* report elaborates, the gathering Russian forces are making active efforts to conceal their positions and their equipment along the Ukrainian border. They are establishing supply lines that would be essential to an invasion and prolonged occupation. So what do you suppose Putin’s intent might be? Sure is tough to get a sense of it, no? ...Let’s say a cop on the beat in a high-crime area in the dead of a summer night sees a man in a ski mask, screwdriver in hand, eyeing an apartment window. He would not be a cop for long if he turned his back because, after all, you never know what the masked man’s intent might be. But he would still qualify for a front-office job at the National Intelligence Directorate—perhaps analyzing ‘largely secular’ organizations

like the Muslim Brotherhood. ... Today's Russia is no Soviet Union, at least not yet. But it will grow stronger, and its behavior more provocative, until we devise economic, diplomatic, and defense policy on the assumption that it is an enemy. The longer we wait to 'reset' in accordance with reality, the more painful the reckoning will be." [57226]

After enrolling in ObamaCare, a California couple receives in the mail a voter registration card with the "Democrat" party affiliation already checked. According to 10News.com, "Covered California began mailing out voter signup cards to nearly 4 million enrollees last week after being threatened with a lawsuit by voting rights groups. But that does not explain the pre-filled out voter registration card." Covered California blames the Secretary of State's office. (Many believe a major objective of the ObamaCare scheme was to use the enrollment data for voter registration. DailyCaller.com later reports, "The couple who brought a pre-filled out Obamacare voter registration card to the attention of the media, has not stepped forward because they fear government retribution. ... The wife told The Daily Caller Tuesday in a phone interview that she knows of at least two other people who have received similar letters—one in San Ysidro [and] the other in Chula Vista Urbana—but she said they are too scared to step forward. 'They're actually waiting for me to be audited, harassed,' she said, adding they want to see what happens to her before they say anything. According to the wife, the reason she and her husband want to stay unnamed is also due to fear. 'The thing is I'm a gun owner and Armor Guns just raided this last month by ATF, even after a restraining order was in place. They were after the clients lists,' she said, noting that she has also heard rumors that doctors have asked patients about gun ownership. She also expressed fear about the IRS coming after her. 'We've got the IRS, gun owning, ObamaCare, they are all interlocked now and it is just getting tighter and tighter and tighter around our necks,' she explained.") [56930, 56931, 56966, 57056]

West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin—a Democrat who ran on a pro-life platform—vetoes legislation that would have prohibited abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy (HB 4588, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act). Tomblin claims the law is unconstitutional—despite the fact that a similar Texas law has been upheld by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. [56958, 56959]

According to FoxNews.com, "Maryland officials are reportedly planning to abandon its glitch-ridden ObamaCare website and replace the health exchange with technology from Connecticut's marketplace." (Maryland has also spent at least \$125.5 million on its flawed system, or about \$21 for each person in the state. Only about 49,000 residents of Maryland have enrolled in ObamaCare. Each enrollment therefore cost the state's taxpayers—so far—about \$2,500.) [56940]

NBC's *Saturday Night Live* mocks the Obama administration's attempts to get young Americans to enroll in ObamaCare, with a skit involving a White House visit from actors portraying Kim Kardashian and Justin Bieber—who kisses Obama on the lips. [56928, 56950]



On March 30 Newsmax.com reports, “A U.S. State Department spokeswoman said it would be ‘unconscionable’ for Egypt to carry out the death sentences a court handed down to 529 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, warning that the executions would ‘impact’ American aid. The court sentenced the members of the outlawed Islamist group on Monday after a two-day mass trial, the Jerusalem Post reported. Most of the defendants at the hearing were detained during clashes that erupted in the southern province of Minya after the forced dispersal of two Muslim Brotherhood protest camps in Cairo in August. They were accused of murder and other offenses. The death sentences ‘represent a flagrant disregard for basic standards of justice,’ said the State Department’s Marie Harf. ...Said Harf: ‘We are determining if this assistance will stay suspended, if more will be suspended, if some will be brought back on line. And suffice it to say, things like [these] outrageous, shocking, unconscionable actions that the Egyptian government is taking will, of course, have an impact on that decision.’” [56927]

At NYPost.com Michael Goodwin writes, “Obama’s sixth year in the White House is shaping up as his worst, and that’s saying something. He’s been in the Oval Office so long that it is obscene to blame his problems on George W. Bush, the weather or racism. Obama owns the world he made, or more accurately, the world he tried to remake. Nothing important has worked as promised, and there is every reason to believe the worst is yet to come. [Obama’s] casual remark the other day that he worries about ‘a nuclear weapon going off in Manhattan’ inadvertently reflected the fear millions of Americans have about his leadership. Not necessarily about a bomb, but about where he is taking the country. We are racing downhill and he is stepping on the gas. Will he stop before the nation crashes? ...Obama hasn’t figured out the difference [between campaigning and governing]. Even more alarming, he shows no signs of trying to learn. In the ways of the world, he remains a know-it-all rookie. ...Obama’s foreign-policy record is unblemished by success. From east to west and north to south, America’s standing and influence have declined universally. ...The frequent reports that Putin laughs when Obama warns of consequences can’t be far from the truth. Otherwise, Putin would be cautious instead of carving up neighbors and massing his military. It was also noteworthy that, after their Friday phone talk, Putin copied the Vatican and put out his own version of the discussion. Two can play the spin game, he seemed to be saying. ...A Caesar at home and a Chamberlain abroad, Obama manages to simultaneously provoke fury and ridicule. He bullies critics here while shrinking from adversaries there. He divides the country and unites the world against us, diminishing the nation in both ways. His reign of error can’t end soon enough, nor can it end well.” [56935, 57028]

On *This Week*, former White House advisor David Plouffe says of ObamaCare, “The law’s working. You’re going to have—by the way, if you count people who are going directly to private insurance companies, Medicaid, children’s health care—we’re talking well more than 10 million people have health care, tens of millions more have security... This law is working. And I think the Republican playbook of just ‘repeal Obamacare, repeal Obamacare, repeal Obamacare’ gets tougher as more and more people get health care. I think smart Republicans understand that.” The *Weekly Standard*’s Bill Kristol disagrees, saying, “No actual Democratic senator running for reelection sounds like David Plouffe. They are not saying this law is working. They’re saying, ‘Oh my God, we

can fix it. Here's [sic] some new proposals.' Senator Mark Warner, Mark Begich is out there, unveiled a whole bunch of proposals to, quote, 'fix Obamacare' this week. ...I don't think the Democrat Senate will do it. I don't think the Obama administration supports those proposals. They've resisted every attempt to do minor fixes and delays in ObamaCare except for the ones they unilaterally decide on." [56980]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) expresses skepticism of Obama's claim that six million Americans have enrolled in ObamaCare: "I don't think it means anything. They are cooking the books on this. ...I've looked at this 10 different ways. This health care law is unfixable." Senator Angus King (I-ME) claims 6.5 million have enrolled. He also claims, "There is no such thing as ObamaCare. You can't sign up for Obamacare. You sign up for an Anthem policy or an Aetna policy or a WellPoint policy. It's private insurance." (Private insurers sell the policies, but the government defines what they must cover, and they must be purchased through an ObamaCare exchange web site in order for the enrollee to receive the taxpayer-paid subsidy.) [56938, 56941, 56972, 56982]

Dr. Toby Cosgrove, CEO of the Cleveland Clinic, tells Fox News financial analyst Maria Bartiromo "about three quarters" of those who have enrolled in ObamaCare "find that their premiums are higher than they had been previously with other insurance." Additionally, because of ObamaCare, "hospitals are going to be paid less for what they do." [56953, 56991]

NBCNews.com reports, "According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 150,000 to 200,000 girls in the U.S. are at risk of being forced to undergo cutting [the Islamic practice of female genital mutilation, or FGM]. The CDC says 'at risk' because there are no actual records of the practice, only estimates—and old estimates at that. Its latest data date to 1997, the year after it was banned in the U.S. But citing anecdotal evidence from health professionals and frontline workers, experts who work with victims and their communities say FGM is on the rise." (More than 90 percent of women in Egypt have been subjected to the brutal procedure. The illegal practice has increased in the United States with the growing numbers of Muslims allowed into the country by the Obama administration.) "In Phoenix, Arizona, a staggering 98 percent of Somali women being treated at the Refugee Women's Health Clinic have been circumcised, founder Dr. Crista Johnson said. She estimates the Somali community is at least 12,000-strong." [56999, 57000]

TheGuardian.com reports, "Russia on Sunday night repeated its demand that the US and its European partners accept its proposal that ethnic Russian regions of eastern and southern Ukraine be given extensive autonomous powers independent of Kiev as a condition for agreeing [on] a diplomatic solution to the crisis over its annexation of Crimea. Sergei Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, told reporters Ukraine could not function as a 'unified state' and should become a loose federation. He made the remarks after an inconclusive meeting with John Kerry, the US secretary of state, at the Russian ambassador's residence in Paris following a day in which tensions over Ukraine deepened appreciably. Lavrov called the talks 'very, very constructive.' Kerry told

reporters the US and Russia agreed on the need for a diplomatic solution but made clear there had been no breakthrough, saying the Russian troop build-up along the border was creating a climate of fear and intimidation in Ukraine and was not helpful. He called for Russia to pull back its forces and said talks on the country's future must include Kiev's leaders. 'We will not accept a path forward where the legitimate government of Ukraine is not at the table. This principle is clear. No decisions about Ukraine without Ukraine.'" [56975]

At PJMedia.com Ron Radosh writes that "the political elites have spoken" and they want the 2016 presidential race to be between Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush. "Apparently, whoever makes up this somewhat mysterious Republican 'establishment' fears that their former hope, Gov. Chris Christie, is damaged goods. Secondly, they fear that unless they intervene quickly behind a chosen candidate, Sen. Rand Paul [R-KY] could win the nomination and, in a time of the necessity of strong actions abroad by the United States, could push their party and the country in an isolationist direction. ...As for the Democratic Party, its equivalents in the big-money community have anointed Hillary as their preferred candidate. Like Jeb Bush, she has not said she is going to run, but is already taking all the steps to have the money ready to flow and the organizations on the ground should she decide to take the step. Hillary Clinton also has obvious vulnerabilities: Benghazi, Benghazi and Benghazi for a start, followed by the 'Russian reset' with which she is identified. And nationally, Hillary would do all she could to counter her negatives by resurrecting the charge that Republicans are 'waging a war on women,' and by arguing that nothing could destroy their goal more than putting the first woman president in the White House. ...So we have the possibility of a Clinton nomination on the Democratic side and a Bush nomination on the Republican side, and the chance that in both parties, mavericks dissatisfied with that choice will favor an independent run of their own. For now, all bets are off, but a third-party run—either by a disenchanted Democrat [such as Socialist Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont] or a conservative or libertarian Republican—always hurts the party they broke from and more likely ensures the political victory of a candidate they all disdain." (*The Obama Timeline* agrees that the "establishment" would like to see a Clinton-Bush contest—because Wall Street and the big banks will be winners regardless of who is elected. Neither Clinton nor Bush will "rock the boat" and slash federal spending or dramatically change the way government does business.) [56984, 56985]

On March 31, the last "official" day for ObamaCare enrollment, tens of thousands of Americans try to access Healthcare.gov and cause the site to fail shortly after noon. The displayed message: "We're currently performing maintenance. Please try again later." (Americans who choose to go without health insurance are subject to a tax penalty. However, a "hardship" exemption allows many individuals to escape the penalty. Conveniently for the Democrat presidential candidate in 2016, the exemption has been extended through October 2016. Additionally, according to Laurence M. Vance at LewRockwell.com, non-compliant insurance policies can be continued through 2017—also for the convenience of Democrats seeking election or reelection.) Among the situations that may qualify an individual for a "hardship exemption: are: homeless; evicted in the prior six months or facing eviction of foreclosure; experienced domestic

violence; utility company shut-off notice; bankruptcy; and non-payment of medical bills. [56944, 56945, 56949, 56951, 56954, 56955, 56956, 56964, 56974, 56977, 56979, 56989, 56990, 57007, 57010]

It is worth noting that missing the ObamaCare enrollment deadline has little practical effect on whether one can later obtain insurance. According to the Heritage Foundation, “If you don’t have Obamacare-compliant health insurance by today [March 31], you could pay the penalty for this year—depending on the amount of flexibility the administration decides to offer in its latest delay—or you could still purchase a policy anytime in the individual market outside the Obamacare exchanges. The amount of time you go without coverage determines your penalty—or as the IRS calls it, your ‘shared responsibility payment.’” (In other words, an individual can still go without insurance after March 31 and simply buy an ObamaCare policy *after* he gets sick or injured—because there are no pre-existing condition restrictions. The individual mandate tax penalty will still apply, but that is far cheaper than the cost of insurance—and cannot practically be collected by the IRS unless it is deducted from a future tax refund. But if the individual adjusts his W-4 form to ensure that he does not overpay his taxes, there will be no refund for the IRS to go after. Finally, the odds of the tax penalty ever being strictly enforced are close to zero. There will be a massive voter outcry once it is imposed, and no 2016 presidential candidate will be foolish enough to support the penalty.) [56962]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “We’re confident that we’re going to be where we need to be [with ObamaCare enrollments]. We will be significantly above six million ... [even though] we were in a bad place in October and November. ... [I]t is a hard case for Republicans to make that in a better world ... all those millions of Americans didn’t have insurance.” (Carney is suggesting that “all” the ObamaCare enrollees did not previously have health insurance, when the likelihood is that many of them signed up for ObamaCare only because the Affordable Care Act caused their previous policies to be canceled. The exact numbers are not known, however, because the Obama administration is not bothering to record the number of ObamaCare enrollees who had been without insurance. DailyCaller.com points out, “In February, a survey by McKinsey & Co. estimated that only 27 percent of new enrollees lacked health care prior to the Democrats’ creation of Obamacare.”) Asked if there are enough healthy young people enrolled in the system to cover the costs of the older sick people who enrolled, Carney says, “We are very comfortable. ... [We have] the kind of [demographic] breakdown that we needed demographically for the marketplaces to function effectively.” Carney gloats, “We’re achieving something today that has our critics gnashing their teeth. More than 6 million people have signed up [for ObamaCare]. No one expected us to come back from the brink or to surpass the revised CBO projection that 6 million consumers would sign up in year one, but we have. And I think that merits noting in your reports. ... [But] this is not a victory lap. All this is about is providing benefits to the American people. It’s really not about the midterm [election] cycle or, you know, what a critic in the Senate or the House says versus what we say. It’s about delivering on a promise that the Affordable Care Act embodies and that [Obama] made and that many... prior to him tried to make.” (Obama has not delivered on any of his promises: to insure

all uninsured Americans, to bend the health care cost curve downward, to save the average family \$2,500 per year on health care costs, and to ensure that all Americans can keep their policies and doctors if they like them.) [57012, 57031]

Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy signs legislation increasing the state's minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour effective January 17, 2015. (How many jobs will be lost is unknown.) [56987]

JewishPress.com reports, "In Sunday's vote across Turkey, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's increasingly Islamist and imperialistic 'Justice and Development' AK party appeared to receive an overwhelming majority of the votes cast. The elections were for heads of localities, but the party makeup of those running is seen as a referendum on the future of Turkey. This is the first national election since the anti-regime riots last year, during which thousands of people were injured and nearly a dozen died. The vote also took place in the immediate aftermath of the government banning both Twitter and YouTube, and threats to also ban Facebook." (Erdogan is considered to be Obama's closest friend among foreign leaders—despite his efforts to move Turkey from a relatively secular nation to a strict Islamist state. Pamela Geller observes, "Erdogan is dragging the Turks back to Sharia savagery. And apparently that is where they want to be.") [57001, 57002]

According to JTA.org, "New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie reportedly apologized to casino magnate Sheldon Adelson for referring to the 'occupied territories' in a speech to the Republican Jewish Coalition. Christie met with Adelson, a major GOP donor, privately on Saturday afternoon in Adelson's Las Vegas office in the Venetian Resort Hotel Casino, which hosted the RJC meeting, Politico reported, citing an unnamed source. During his speech on Saturday, Christie spoke of his family's trip to Israel in 2012. 'I took a helicopter ride from the occupied territories across and just felt, personally, how extraordinary that was to understand the military risk that Israel faces every day,' he said. Christie's remark upset some of the conference's attendees." (Labeling parts of Israel "occupied territories" is tantamount to saying that Americans "occupy" San Antonio and Mexico is still the rightful owner of Texas. It is a statement that Israel is not entitled to territory it captured in the 1967 war and that the Palestinians deserve the areas. Christie's statement will not win him Jewish-American votes. On the other hand, the Obama administration is strongly anti-Israel and chock full of anti-Semitism, yet Obama won the Jewish vote in both 2008 and 2012.) [57004, 57005]

March 31 is also "International Transgender Day of Visibility." (Whether Obama plans to commemorate or celebrate the day is not known.) [56986]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports, "According to a new report from the Center for Immigration Studies by Director of Policy Studies Jessica Vaughn, the Obama administration has allowed tens-of-thousands of violent illegal aliens to go free inside the United States and without deportation. An analysis of Immigration and Customs Enforcement data shows 68,000 convicted criminals were released in 2013. According to Department of Homeland Security policy, an individual is only determined to be a

criminal alien if they have a criminal *conviction*...” The report also notes, “The recent campaign by advocacy groups to portray [Obama] as a tough immigration enforcer at the helm of a system that is producing ‘record’ deportations bears no resemblance to the reality of immigration enforcement today. Interior immigration has declined significantly and ICE is ignoring hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens, including tens of thousands with criminal convictions, who are encountered by ICE officers and agents.” A former acting director of ICE tells *The New York Times*, “If you are a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are close to zero—it’s just highly unlikely to happen.” Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio comments at Newsmax.TV, “You know, two weeks ago I had a press conference regarding this situation. I had the real facts because I analyzed the 1,300 inmates in our jails presently and out of 1,300, over 31 percent have come back multiple times. Over and over they come back on serious crimes, so evidently the Homeland Security and ICE are letting them out the back door, or they’re deporting them, and they keep coming back, so there’s a problem. ...I’ll tell you one thing, if I don’t run for governor, I’m running for sheriff [again] in 2016. I’m against amnesty, and I come right out and say it. We should enforce the laws... But I’m going to keep doing my job. I’m the only one going into businesses and locking up people that are here illegally with fake identification, and there’s been some court decisions against me, but we’ll see what happens in the future.” [56957, 56965, 56992, 57035, 57139]

HotAir.com later asks, “What if the truth about Obama’s deportations was leaked to the Times by ...the White House itself? Remember, the politics of these numbers are tricky for them. On the one hand, they want to reassure amnesty opponents that the law’s being enforced so that Republicans will have more freedom to join with O on comprehensive immigration reform. On the other hand, they want amnesty supporters to know that Obama’s on their side. The more they reassure border hawks by touting artificially beefy numbers about deportation, the angrier immigration activists get at the ‘deporter-in-chief.’ Maybe the heat from the latter group is now so intense, with so much political damage to Democrats being done by it... that Obama feels he needs to do something to get them to back off. Result: Tipping an LA paper, which serves a large population of Mexican-American readers, to the fact that his ugly deportation numbers aren’t so ugly after all. Hmmmmm.” [57139]

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) comments, “The preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that immigration enforcement in America has collapsed. Even those with criminal convictions are being released. DHS is a department in crisis. Secretary [Jeh] Johnson must reject [Obama’s] demands to weaken enforcement further and tell him that his duty, and his officers’ duty, is to enforce the law—not break it. As Homeland Secretary, Mr. Johnson is tasked with ensuring the public safety and the rule of law. But Secretary Johnson is not meeting these duties. ...American citizens have a legal and moral right to the protections our immigration laws afford—at the border, the interior and the workplace. The Administration has stripped these protections and adopted a government policy that encourages new arrivals to enter illegally or overstay visas by advertising immunity from future enforcement. Comments from top Administration officials, such as Attorney General [Eric] Holder’s claim that amnesty is a civil right, or

Vice President [Joe] Biden’s claim that those here illegally are all U.S. citizens (apparently including someone whose visa expired yesterday), demonstrate the Administration’s increasing belief in an open borders policy the American public has always rejected. The Administration’s lawless policies have not only impaired public safety but increased economic suffering for millions of vulnerable Americans by depriving them of their jobs and wages. Unfortunately, Congressional Democrats continue to empower this lawlessness. Republicans must work to end it.” [56957]

In an interview with Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, KWTW’s Stan Miller reporter notes, “At last check, 64 percent of Oklahomans aren’t buying into the health care plan; they don’t like ObamaCare, and they’ve been pretty vocal about it. Now, that’s still going to continue to be a tough sell, but we’ll see how that plays out over the coming months.” He waits for a response from Sebelius, who stares vacantly into the camera and says nothing for what seems an eternity, prompting him to say, “I think we’ve probably lost sound here...” She says she can hear him and ends with, “Thanks for having me.” [56960, 56961, 56967, 56989, 57016]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A group of scientists and climate experts has released a counterpoint to the United Nations’ most recent climate report. The UN claims that global warming will harm human livelihood and ecosystems worldwide. But researchers with the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) argue that humans only have negligible impact on global climate and that ‘any warming that may occur as a result of human carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions is likely to have little effect on global temperatures, the cryosphere (ice-covered areas), hydrosphere (oceans, lakes, and rivers), or weather.’” Meanwhile, “As part of its plan to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, the Obama administration is targeting the dairy industry to reduce methane emissions in their operations. This comes despite falling methane emission levels across the economy since 1990. The White House has proposed cutting methane emissions from the dairy industry by 25 percent by 2020. Although U.S. agriculture only accounts for about 9 percent of the country’s greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, it makes up a sizeable portion of methane emissions—which is a very potent greenhouse gas. Some of these methane emissions come from cow flatulence, exhaling and belching—other livestock animals release methane as well.” (How the Obama administration expects ranchers and farmers to keep their livestock from belching or otherwise passing gas is not known.) [56968, 56969, 57026]

Meanwhile, according to FT.com, “Two of the world’s leading climate researchers have clashed over a report on the impact of global warming and rising sea levels. The chief author of the study by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said an economist drafting a key chapter had made ‘meaningful errors’ that had to be fixed and was on the ‘fringe’ of the scientific community’s thinking. Chris Field, professor of environmental studies at Stanford University in California, made the comments about Professor Richard Tol of the University of Sussex in the UK, a senior author of the report’s chapter on climate change’s economic impacts. Professor Tol revealed last week that he had asked for his name to be removed from the study’s summary—the most

widely read section of the IPCC report—because he believed it was too ‘alarmist’ and included ‘silly’ statements about the vulnerability of people in war zones to climate change.” [57020, 57021]

CNN.com reports, “North and South Korean artillery batteries exchanged hundreds of shells across their western sea border Monday, a day after North Korea warned it was preparing to test another nuclear device. About 100 of the 500 shells North Korea fired into the Yellow Sea strayed across the line separating the two rivals’ territorial waters, the semiofficial South Korean news agency Yonhap reported. Yonhap quoted the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff as saying the South responded by firing about 300 shells into North Korean waters and dispatching fighter jets to the boundary, known as the Northern Limit Line.” Heritage.org reports, “The regime declared it has a ‘more diversified nuclear deterrence’ to be used for hitting medium- and long-range targets ‘with a variety of striking power.’ Pyongyang also warned that ‘If the U.S. considers this a provocation, we are fully ready to take steps that the enemy can hardly imagine... The United States should not act rashly and it will bear all responsibility in the event of a catastrophic event on the Korean Peninsula.’ ...Pyongyang is likely signaling it will test a uranium nuclear weapon—previous tests used plutonium. A successful uranium test would demonstrate that North Korea had developed a parallel path to augment its nuclear arsenal. Recent satellite imagery showed significant excavation activity at North Korea’s nuclear test site but no indication of an imminent test.” [56976, 56983, 57046]

Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI), chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, announces he will not run for reelection. [56993]

Television cooking show host Rachel Ray interviews Vice President Joe Biden (via satellite) and says, “You have the most glowing, perfect skin of any person I’ve ever seen. I really want to know what moisturizer you use. Would you tell me what moisturizer you use?” (How Ray knows the nature of Biden’s skin from a television monitor is not known. Whether she is trying to get a job as the next White House pastry chef is also not known.) Ray also praises ObamaCare because it will supposedly be beneficial for her brother—who has an autoimmune disease but apparently cannot count on his millionaire sister to help him but is eager to rely on taxpayer assistance. [57033, 57036, 57037]

FoxNews.com reports, “Former American hostage Barry Rosen, held by student extremists at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran for more than a year, said Monday it would be an ‘outrage’ and ‘disgrace’ if Washington gave a visa to one of the militants recently named by Iran as its new U.N. ambassador. ‘It may be a precedent but if [Obama] and the Congress don’t condemn this act by the Islamic Republic, then our captivity and suffering for 444 days at the hands of Iran was for nothing,’ Rosen said. ‘He can never set foot on American soil.’ Iran wants to send Hamid Aboutalebi to New York as its new U.N. ambassador. He may be a 56-year-old veteran diplomat, but it turns out that Aboutalebi was apparently a member of the hard-line Muslim student group that in 1979 took over the U.S. embassy in Tehran for 444 days and held American diplomats hostage. ‘It’s a disgrace if the United States government accepts Aboutalebi’s visa as Iranian



Ambassador to the U.N.,' Rosen said." Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX comments, "It is unconscionable that, in the name of international diplomatic protocol, the United States would be forced to host a foreign national who showed a brutal disregard for the status of our diplomats when they were stationed in his country." (Former Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was also one of the student hostage-takers. The Obama administration approved Ahmadinejad's visas for visits to the United States, one of which was to deliver a speech at Columbia University—and to meet with Obama's Code Pink friends Medea Benjamin and Jodie Evans.) [215, 220, 395, 6160, 6163, 6322, 6481, 6523, 56995, 57003, 57011, 57085]

New York City's communist mayor, Bill de Blasio (aka Warren Wilhelm, Jr.) is booed by New York Mets fans as he enters the field to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. (Obama has enough sense not to appear at any baseball games.) [57009, 57029]

DailyCaller.com reports, "A new study by the free-market American Action Forum found that states with minimum wages higher than the federal minimum suffer from higher unemployment. Researchers looked at labor data from both the nineteen states that as of 2013 had enforced minimum wages above \$7.25 per hour and the thirty-one states that had minimum wages equal to \$7.25. Overall, they found that just a \$1 increase in the minimum wage was 'associated with a 1.48 percentage point increase in the unemployment rate,' and a '0.18 percentage point decrease in the net job growth rate.' A higher minimum wage thus led to the unemployment of 747,700 workers and a job growth reduction of 83,300 jobs, the study claims. The study noted that minimum wage hikes especially took a toll on the employment opportunities for young and low-skill workers. Focusing in on 16-to-19-year-olds, researchers found that the 'mean annual average teenage unemployment rate in states with minimum wages above \$7.25 per hour in 2013 was 22.5 percent, which was 2.0 percentage points above the 20.5 percent mean annual average unemployment rate in states with minimum wages at \$7.25 per hour.' Furthermore, 'In high minimum wage states, the net job growth rate for teenagers was actually negative in 2013, with a mean annual average rate of -0.5 percent.'" [57013]

Newsmax.com reports, "In a possible breakthrough, high-level sources are saying the United States may release convicted spy Jonathan Pollard in return for Israeli concessions in the peace talks with the Palestinians. Reuters, The Associated Press, and The New York Times all ran stories Monday evening citing sources close to the negotiations stating that a deal involving Pollard could be in the offing. Israeli publication Haaretz says the deal is 'nearly sealed.' Everyone emphasizes substantial, ongoing diplomacy would be required to work out an arrangement suitable to all sides. ...Reuters reports that Pollard could be released in mid-April as part of a three-way deal that would also see 27 Palestinians go free. In return, peace talks would be extended past the current drop-dead date of April 29." (According to HotAir.com, Pollard is the only American ever to have been given a life sentence for passing classified information to an ally. Even Bradley Manning, who leaked military information to Julian Assange of WikiLeaks, did not receive a life sentence.) HotAir.com's Jeff Dunetz calls the proposal to release Pollard a "sign of John Kerry desperation." General Michael Hayden, former director of both the CIA and the NSA, says, "On so many levels, this just doesn't feel right. This is just

weird. It looks like it smacks of desperation on the part of the United States and our secretary of state to do anything in order to keep this peace process alive. You know, that's a really unsettling fact." (It is no secret that the Secretary of State wants a Nobel Peace Prize, and the only way he will possibly have a chance of getting one is to broker a deal between Israel and the Palestinians—who would likely violate the deal within minutes of its signing.) [57015, 57017, 57018, 57061]

According to a new ABC/Washington Post poll, support for ObamaCare has increased to 49 percent, with 48 percent disapproving. The Heartland Institute's Ben Domenech explains that the sudden surge may simply be because the poll question was *not*, "Do you support ObamaCare?" Instead, the question was, "Overall, do you support or oppose the federal law making changes to the health care system?" (One could also receive different results in a poll that asked, "Do you think it is proper to allow poor children to starve?" rather than, "Do you think actions should be taken to eliminate fraud in the food stamp program?") [57022, 57023]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) send a letter to B. Todd Jones, head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), asking why several individuals involved in Operation Fast and Furious have not been fired—despite the fact that Jones previously affirmed they were no longer employed by the agency. Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich notes, "Although many agents and supervisors involved in the deadly operation have retired or resigned since 2010 when Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was killed with a gun trafficked to Mexican cartels during the program, not a single person has been fired. ...According to the letter, ATF continues to employ Case Agent Hope MacAllister, Group Supervisor David Voth, and Special Agent in Charge William Newell. All three were major players during Fast and Furious in the Phoenix Field Division. Not only were they involved in the operation, but also retaliated against whistleblowers like John Dodson for speaking out against their tactics. Newell's corrupt and reckless history in particular goes far beyond Operation Fast and Furious and into cases like *Dobyns v. USA*." [57040]

Obama's propaganda arm, Organizing for Action (OFA), tweets, "Not covered? Got a sugar daddy/momma to pay for those medical bills? Just wondering ofa." (Suggesting that the federal government—i.e., the taxpayers—would make a great "sugar daddy" for those who don't have one of their own to pay their health insurance premiums is something Obama supporters believe is a reasonable argument.) The tweet is later deleted by OFA. [57064]