

The Obama Timeline – Part II

The Doomed Presidency

May 2013

On May 1 the Associated Press reports, “A private survey shows U.S. companies added just 119,000 jobs in April, the fewest in seven months. The report Wednesday from payroll processor ADP suggests that government spending cuts and higher taxes could be starting to weigh on the job market. And new requirements under ...Obama’s health care law may be prompting some small and mid-size companies to hold back on hiring.” Reuters comments, “...[D]etails of the report remained consistent with a slowdown in economic activity. Construction employment fell for the first time since May, while manufacturing payrolls were flat. The average workweek pulled off a nine-month high, but average hourly earnings rose four cents...” [44606, 44607, 44609, 44632]

According to the Heritage Foundation, “Regulatory burdens on Americans increased by nearly \$70 billion during ...Obama’s first term in office, during which federal agencies imposed 131 new major regulations. In 2012 alone, the Administration issued a total of \$23.5 billion in new regulatory costs from 25 major rulemakings. Only two rules last year decreased burdens. Much more regulation is on the way, with another 131 major rules on the Administration’s agenda, including dozens more implementing Dodd–Frank and Obamacare. Action is needed by Congress, including requiring congressional approval of each new major regulation before it may take effect.” [44633, 44634]

TheBlaze.com reports that three additional suspects have been taken into custody in connection with the Boston Marathon bombing. “Azamat Tazhayakov and Dias Kadyrbayev, both of Kazakhstan, are charged with conspiring to obstruct justice. A third man, Robel Phillipos, is charged with making false statements to federal investigators after Tsarnaev was identified as one of the suspects in the April 15 attack that killed three people and injured more than 260. An FBI affidavit states Tazhayakov, Kadyrbayev and Phillipos all attended the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth together with Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. According to the affidavit, the three admitted that they removed Tsarnaev’s backpack from his dorm room on the night of April 18, the day investigators released images of the bombing suspects. ‘Kadyrbayev and Tazhayakov have admitted that they agreed to get rid of it after concluding from news reports that Tsarnaev was one of the Boston Marathon bombers,’ the affidavit states.” [44611, 44612]

Asked about Benghazi whistleblowers being blocked by the Obama administration, White House press secretary Jay Carney says, “Let’s be clear: Benghazi happened a long time ago. We are unaware of any agency blocking an employee who would like to appear before Congress to provide information related to Benghazi.” (A “long time ago” was September 11, 2012.) [44617]

Dailycaller.com reports, "...Obama's pick to head the Federal Housing Finance Agency once said that a 'majority of white voters' would never vote for a black candidate and that they should be excluded from 'the democratic process.' The White House announced Wednesday that Obama will nominate Democratic North Carolina Congressman Mel Watt to take over the FHFA, which regulates Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the country's government sponsored mortgage companies. Watt, the former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, has in the past accused white Americans of racism." [44620]

At FreedomOutpost.com Tim Brown reports, "Not that we are surprised, but now there are multiple copies of Barack Hussein Obama's 'real' birth certificate that are surfacing and they are clearly indicating fraud. In a rare move, the Alabama Democrat Party has submitted an amicus brief in the McInnish Goode v Chapman Appeal case. The reason being is most likely because the Alabama Supreme Court has Chief Justice Roy Moore presiding over it. The Alabama Democrat Party just submitted a completely different birth certificate than the one that was posted at the White House website in 2011. Larry Klayman, the plaintiff's counsel submitted the forgery of Barack Hussein Obama's birth certificate that was posted to whitehouse.gov on 4-27-2001... Fogbow/Jack Ryan obot group produced another bogus one. Still a third birth certificate has been submitted by Alabama Democrats to the Supreme Court. Remember, this court is being presided over by Chief Justice Roy Moore, who supported Lt. Col. Terry Lakin, when he believed Obama to be a usurper and denied following orders to deploy to Iraq until Obama proved his eligibility as part of keeping his oath (ironically Lakin was not supported by Mr. Oathkeeper Stewart Rhodes). Another justice on the court by the name of Tom Parker will also hear the case. He has stated in a previous case: 'McInnish has attached certain documentation to his mandamus petition, which, if presented to the appropriate forum as part of a proper evidentiary presentation, would raise serious questions about the authenticity of both the 'short form' and the 'long form' birth certificates of ...Barack Hussein Obama that have been made public.'" [51283]

Senator David Vitter (R-LA) releases additional emails from former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) head Lisa Jackson in which she used the alias "Richard Windsor" to communicate with environmental activists. Vitter states, "EPA has shown an absolute disregard for transparency with their email practices, but this one is pretty bizarre." [44621]

Newsmax.com reports, "Arrests of illegal immigrants crossing into the United States have nearly tripled in recent months in anticipation of Congressional efforts to enact comprehensive immigration legislation, border patrol agents told CBS News Wednesday. 'Once the first group gets across, they call their family, they call their friends and let them know, 'Hey the time is right, come on over,'" Border Patrol agent and union representative Chris Cabrera told CBS News. In March, 7,500 illegals were arrested in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas, which includes McAllen, Cabrera told CBS News. That's up from 2,800 in January." [44622]

At a news conference while visiting Mexico to push amnesty legislation, Obama states he is comfortable with revised FDA guidelines that allow over-the-counter sales of “morning after” pills to girls as young as 15. Obama claims the change from age 17 to 15 is based on “solid scientific evidence.” (For many Americans, of course, the issue is not the *science* of the drug, but the *morality* of allowing 15-year-olds to purchase it without the knowledge of their parents. Leftists want the age limit eliminated entirely. Left unsaid is how young teenagers will hide or explain to their parents the most common side effects of the drug levonorgestrel: heavier menstrual bleeding, nausea, lower abdominal pain, fatigue, headache, and dizziness.) [44625, 44648]

Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) responds to the morning after pill ruling with a Twitter message: “Democrats on health care: 15-year-olds who want birth control are adults. 26-year-olds who want health insurance are children.” [44652]

During his Mexico appearance at the Museo Nacional de Antropologia, Obama falsely claims that “most of the guns used to commit violence here in Mexico come from the United States. ...I think many of you know that in America, our Constitution guarantees our individual right to bear arms... But... I will continue to do everything in my power to pass common-sense reforms that keep guns out of the hands of criminals and dangerous people. That can save lives here in Mexico and back home in the United States. It’s the right thing to do. So we’ll keep increasing the pressure on gun traffickers who bring illegal guns into Mexico. We’ll keep putting these criminals where they belong: behind bars.” (Obama does not mention Operation Fast and Furious, or suggest that he will place Attorney General Eric Holder behind bars for the scheme that resulted in thousands of weapons being sent across the border into Mexico.) [44645, 44647]

The state legislature in South Carolina passes a bill declaring ObamaCare “null and void” and criminalizing its implementation. According to WashingtonTimes.com, “The state’s Freedom of Health Care Protection Act intends to ‘prohibit certain individuals from enforcing or attempting to enforce such unconstitutional laws; and to establish criminal penalties and civil liability for violating this article.’ The measure permits the state Attorney General, with reasonable cause, ‘to restrain by temporary restraining order, temporary injunction, or permanent injunction’ any person who is believed to be causing harm to any person or business with the implementation of Obamacare.” [44650]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer quotes Jay Carney: “‘Benghazi happened a long time ago.’ That’s the definition of chutzpah. This administration has stonewalled every inquiry and delayed its answers and not released names and told all kinds of stories is now saying, ‘Well, it’s an old story.’ I have argued from the beginning, the administration’s strategy has always been string it out over time and count on the mainstream media being uninterested in the story. And that’s worked up until now. It echoes what Hillary Clinton said at her hearings: ‘What difference does it make at this point?’ Well, because, if you wait that long the evidence will fade. But I think they will not get away with it. Because I think there are people in the State Department who want to testify and now that it’s out in the open, they are—at least the accusation is that the administration is threatening them. I think in cases like that, they are going to be allowed

to testify. And as we heard in the reports from [Fox News channel's] Adam Housley, there is stuff that happened there that contradicts—at least according to people who were there—the official story, and that is when the story of the unraveling of this will begin.” [44624]

On May 2 Obama nominates billionaire Penny Pritzker to head the Commerce Department. ChicagoTribune.com says the move “could prove controversial for the longtime political supporter and fundraising heavyweight. Pritzker is on the board of Chicago-based Hyatt Hotels Corp., which was founded by her wealthy family and has had rocky relations with labor unions. Her nomination, which still needs Senate confirmation, also could bring up questions about the failure of a bank partly owned by her family. ...[Pritzker] could also face scrutiny over the collapse of Superior Bank, which was co-owned by her family. The bank, based in Hinsdale, Ill., was involved in subprime mortgage lending, and its failure in 2001 stirred charges of fraud and mismanagement. Four years ago, Pritzker withdrew her name from consideration for the Commerce job, citing family obligations. At that time, the peak of the financial crisis, Pritzker was managing a large portion of the family's billions of dollars in assets. ...A major donor to Obama, Pritzker has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to Democrats and their state parties across the U.S. During Obama's 2008 run for the White House, she was a campaign 'bundler' who encouraged friends and associates to give and raised between \$200,000 and \$500,000 for him that cycle, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Pritzker also was an Obama bundler during the 2012 race, raising at least a half-million dollars for his re-election. A co-chair of Obama's first inauguration, Pritzker just gave \$250,000 to help pay for his second one in January, federal reports show.” [44623, 44627, 44630, 44638, 45220]

According to BuzzFeed.com, there is “no love lost” between Pritzker and Obama's closest advisor Valerie Jarrett. ...Indeed, Jarrett tried to torpedo the appointment, someone she made the case to told BuzzFeed. And their tense relationship could help define the administration's attempts to mend ties with the business world that frayed badly during the first term. ...A White House official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, discounted any suggestion that the women would clash.” [44630]

FoxNews.com reports, “On the night of the Benghazi terror attack, special operations put out multiple calls for all available military and other assets to be moved into position to help—but the State Department and White House never gave the military permission to cross into Libya, sources told Fox News. The disconnect was one example of what sources described as a communication breakdown that left those on the ground without outside help. ...Multiple sources spoke to Fox News about what they described as a lack of action in Benghazi on Sept. 11 last year, when four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens, were killed. ‘They had no plan. They had no contingency plan for if this happens, and that's the problem this is going to face in the future,’ one source said. ‘They're dealing with more hostile regions, hostile countries. This [type of] attack's going to happen again.’” [44628]

Fox also reports, “The State Department’s Office of Inspector General [IG] is investigating the special internal panel that probed the Benghazi terror attack for the State Department, Fox News has confirmed. The IG’s office is said by well-placed sources to be seeking to determine whether the Accountability Review Board, or ARB—led by former U.N. Ambassador Thomas Pickering and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen—failed to interview key witnesses who had asked to provide their accounts of the Benghazi attacks to the panel. ... This disclosure marks a significant turn in the ongoing Benghazi case, as it calls into question the reliability of the blue-ribbon panel that then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton convened to review the entire matter. Until the report was concluded, she and all other senior Obama administration officials regularly refused to answer questions about what happened in Benghazi.” [44629]

On May 3 the Department of Labor estimates that the economy added 165,000 jobs in April. The official unemployment rate is lowered to 7.5 percent. The unemployment rate for government workers falls to 3.3 percent. CNSNews.com reports, “There were 33,000 more ‘discouraged workers’ in April, according to the latest economic release from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The BLS defines discouraged workers as ‘persons not currently looking for work because they believe no jobs are available for them.’ In April, there were 835,000 discouraged workers, up from 803,000 discouraged workers in March.” The number of Americans of working age who are “not in the labor force” is 89,936,000. (That number includes individuals on welfare, receiving unemployment benefits, collecting disability benefits, etc.) Since Obama took office, 9.5 million Americans have left the work force. Only 58.6 percent of working-age Americans are actually working. [44635, 44636, 44637, 44638, 44641, 44649]

Politico reports that “Michelle Obama will headline a Democratic National Committee fundraiser in New York the same day she is due at a Boston fundraiser for the Senate campaign of Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.). The May 29 New York event is billed as the DNC’s LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual] Leadership Council 2013 gala and is to be hosted by Andy Cohen, the Bravo TV network executive and host. The DNC is asking donors for at least \$1,250 and up to \$32,400 per person for the Park Avenue reception...” [44642]

At MrConservative.com Katie Kieffer writes, “Retired Navy SEAL Billy Allmon is coming forward with a scorching testimony saying that ... Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton deliberately left Americans to die in the September 11, 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate and CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya. Allmon’s story supports and adds credibility to previous Benghazigate whistleblowers. Allmon wrote a column today for The Western Center for Journalism based on his sources that were on the ground during the Benghazi tragedy that left four Americans dead, including U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens who died in the first attack on the U.S. consulate and Navy SEALs Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty who died in the second attack on the CIA annex about a mile away from the consulate. Allmon says that ... Obama is directly to blame for the deaths of Woods and Doherty because the fight at the CIA annex lasted over four hours and he says there was aid nearby to call and, ‘Obama... is the ONLY one who can give

cross-border permission to any military command or unit to go into another country. Obama NEVER gave that permission.’ Apparently, Obama told Delta Force operators and a special Marine FAST unit (both Tier One Special Operations) to hold off on coming to the aid of Woods and Doherty. Woods also specifically requested aid from a nearby C-130 aircraft that was meant for deep firefights like the one at the annex. Inexplicably, Allmon says Obama also turned down this request. So, Woods and Doherty died at the hands of militants and the mortar round wounds on Woods’ body indicate that it was not a quick death—he likely spent the last two hours of his life bleeding profusely.” [44643]

According to BareNakedIslam.com, “Russia delivered to the Obama administration a list of the names of Syrian rebels who are members of al-Qaeda groups and who are receiving arms shipments coordinated by the U.S. ... The list, the officials added, demonstrates how the U.S. is failing in its due diligence of vetting the rebels being supported by the West for ties to al-Qaeda and other jihad groups. The information comes amid scores of news media reports that the Obama administration is aiding the rebels, including by coordinating Arab arms shipments.” [44644]

CNN reports that Israel recently launched an air strike against a chemical weapons cache in Syria. [44646]

On May 4 Kevin Glass writes at Townhall.com, “...Obama’s health care law was projected to spend \$898 billion over ten years when it was passed. That price tag largely masked the true ten-year cost because of the delayed implementation of the law, and the CBO revised its cost estimate in 2013 to show that the law will spend \$1.85 trillion in the next ten years. Obamacare is already experiencing cost overruns, and the Obama Administration expects the states to pick up the tab. One of Obamacare’s provisions, the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, has nearly run out of its \$5 billion budget, and HHS Secretary [Kathleen] Sebelius has proposed that the states that run the administration of the program find a way to pay for it themselves.” [44602]

Also at Townhall.com, Mike Shedlock reports, “Obamacare is behind the surge in part-time employment as corporations have been cutting hours worked and hiring more part-time workers to make up the difference. Part-time employment rose this month by a whopping 441,000 as private average weekly hours fell 0.2 to 34.4 hours and average weekly earnings fell from \$824.52 to \$821.13 due to fewer hours worked.” [44649]

The names of “Benghazi whistleblowers” set to testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on May 8 are released and reported by Fox News: “Gregory N. Hicks, the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Libya at the time of the terrorist attacks; Mark I. Thompson, a former Marine and the deputy coordinator for Operations in the agency’s Counterterrorism Bureau; and Eric Nordstrom, a diplomatic security officer who was the regional security officer in Libya, the top security officer in the country in the months leading up to the attacks.” (Hicks was reportedly the last American to see Ambassador Christopher Stevens alive.) [44651, 44655, 44706, 44707]

At WeeklyStandard.com Stephen F. Hayes reports, “Even as the White House strove last week to move beyond questions about the Benghazi attacks of Tuesday, September 11, 2012, fresh evidence emerged that senior Obama administration officials knowingly misled the country about what had happened in the days following the assaults. The Weekly Standard has obtained a timeline briefed by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence detailing the heavy substantive revisions made to the CIA’s talking points, just six weeks before the 2012 presidential election, and additional information about why the changes were made and by whom. As intelligence officials pieced together the puzzle of events unfolding in Libya, they concluded even before the assaults had ended that al Qaeda-linked terrorists were involved. Senior administration officials, however, sought to obscure the emerging picture and downplay the significance of attacks that killed a U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. The frantic process that produced the changes to the talking points took place over a 24-hour period just one day before Susan Rice, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, made her now-famous appearances on the Sunday television talk shows. The discussions involved senior officials from the State Department, the National Security Council, the CIA, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the White House.” Hayes’ detailed review of the talking points makes it clear that “they were changed to obscure the truth.” Hayes charges that Obama advisor Ben Rhodes was the chief architect of the Benghazi cover-up. (Conveniently for Obama, David Rhodes is the brother of Ben Rhodes and the president of CBS News. The president of ABC News is Ben Sherwood, whose sister, Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, is a Special Assistant to Obama. Additionally, CNN deputy bureau chief Virginia Moseley, is married to Tom Niles, a former Hillary Clinton deputy. On *Fox News Watch*, media commentator Richard Grenell says “There’s no question” that Rhodes, Sherwood, and Moseley are “covering” for Obama and Clinton. White House press secretary Jay Carney is married to ABC reporter Claire Shipman. White House lawyer Michael Gottlieb is married to NPR’s White House correspondent Ari Shapiro.) [44654, 44692, 44766, 44767, 44774, 44778, 45689]

Blogger Doug Ross posts a damning timeline of the Benghazi events which makes it clear that “a) Hillary Clinton lied under oath to Congress. b) Barack Obama went to sleep knowing that a U.S. Ambassador and other Americans were under terrorist attack. c) Barack Obama awoke refreshed the next day to begin fundraising. d) The entire Executive Branch lied repeatedly to the American people to save Obama’s chances for reelection.” [44686, 44687]

In Afghanistan, seven U.S. soldiers are killed by Taliban fighters. [44656, 44666]

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro says in a speech, “We are here defending our institutions, peace, democracy, the people of Venezuela... and we can sit down with anyone, even the grand chief of devils: Obama.” [44661]

Obama’s domestic terrorist pal William Ayers responds to a reporter who compares his Weather Underground bombing activities and the Boston Marathon bombers: “There’s no equivalence. Property damage. That’s what we did. ...How different is the [school]

shooting in Connecticut from shooting at a hunting range? Just because they use the same thing, there's no relationship at all." (Ayers ignores the fact that he was also involved in bombings that took the lives of innocent people.) [44668, 44683, 44697]

On May 5 Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) appears on *Face the Nation* and charges that the Obama administration's decision to blame the Benghazi attacks on an angry mob outraged over a video was purely political: "We can't find a classified reason for it. We can't find a diplomatic reason for it." Issa references anticipated "whistleblower" testimony at an upcoming hearing of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee he chairs. Issa calls Obama's Benghazi response "a misinformation campaign at best, and a cover-up at worst." [44660, 44663, 44671, 44677]

On Fox News, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says of the expected whistleblower testimony, "It's going to make you mad. It's going to make you upset. Come Wednesday [the May 8 hearing date], you're going to start hearing the truth about Benghazi." [44664]

Congressman Steve Lynch (D-MA) appears on *Fox News Sunday* and criticizes the Obama administration's narrative regarding the Benghazi attacks of September 11, 2012: "Well, it was scrubbed. It was totally inaccurate. There's no excuse for that. It was false information. And what they [administration officials] try to do is harmonize what happened in Benghazi with what happened everywhere else across the Middle East." [44662]

On *This Week*, Democrat strategist James Carville defends Obama and claims he remains relevant, but his Republican-strategist wife, Mary Matalin, calls Obama "soufflé. In six weeks, he's soufflé. He single-handedly wiped out the congressional majority in the last midterm [elections in 2010]. He set in place Republican dominance at the state level for decades because we picked up so many—7,000 legislators and 30 governors, in control of the legislatures in the states, which is the bench—back bench for rising stars. In this cycle, he's going to wipe out his Senate—if not the majority, certainly, the critical mass of the majority." Regular panelist Cokie Roberts, a Democrat, says, "[T]he truth is, [Obama] is a lame duck." [44672]

The New York Times reports, "A series of powerful explosions rocked the outskirts of Damascus early Sunday morning, which Syrian state television said was the result of Israeli missile attacks on a Syrian military installation. If true, it would be the second Israeli airstrike [sic; air strike] in Syria in two days and the third this year. The airstrike [sic] that Israeli warplanes carried out in Syria overnight on Thursday [May 2] was directed at a shipment of advanced surface-to-surface missiles from Iran that Israel believed was intended for Hezbollah, American officials said Saturday. That strike was aimed at disrupting the arms pipeline that runs from Syria to Hezbollah, the militant Lebanese organization, and it highlighted the mounting stakes for Hezbollah and Israel as Syria becomes more chaotic." [44667]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Mel Watt, ...Obama's nominee for director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, pushed government programs to help welfare recipients buy

homes during the creation of the subprime mortgage bubble. Watt, a 20-year Member of Congress from North Carolina's 12th district, also had a hand in programs allowing borrowers with poor credit to buy homes with no down payment. The American financial system was subsequently destroyed when millions of bad borrowers defaulted on their loans, setting off a market crash that wiped out nearly 40 percent of the net worth of Americans. In 2002, Watt teamed up with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, Bank of America, BB&T, and UJAMMA Inc., to announce Pathways to Homeownership, a pilot initiative designed to give home loans to welfare recipients." [44669]

In a commencement address at Ohio State University, Obama says, "I'm not going to offer some grand theory on a beautiful day like this—you guys all have celebrating to do. I'm not going to get partisan, either, because that's not what citizenship is about." He then encourages students to rely more on government programs and in a markedly partisan mode criticizes conservatives for warning that "tyranny is always lurking just around the corner." (Arguably, some conservatives warn that tyranny is not "just around the corner" but in the Oval Office.) Obama tells the graduates, "Unfortunately, you've grown up hearing voices that incessantly warn of government as nothing more than some separate, sinister entity that's at the root of all our problems; some of these same voices also doing their best to gum up the works. They'll warn that tyranny is always lurking just around the corner. You should reject these voices. Because what they suggest is that our brave and creative and unique experiment in self-rule is somehow just a sham which can't be trusted. ...The [Founding] Founders trusted us with this awesome authority. We should trust ourselves with it, too. Because when we don't, when we turn away and get discouraged and cynical, and abdicate that authority, we grant our silent consent to someone who will gladly claim it. That's how we end up with lobbyists who set the agenda; and policies detached from what middle-class families face every day; the well-connected who publicly demand that Washington stay out of their business—and then whisper in government's ear for special treatment that you don't get. That's how a small minority of lawmakers get cover to defeat something the vast majority of their constituents want. That's how our political system gets consumed by small things when we are a people called to do great things." [44670, 44675, 44684, 44685, 44694]

The New York Times strains credulity in another attempt to defend Obama for his statement that the use of chemical weapons in Syria crosses a "red line" by calling it only an "off-the-cuff" remark. (Author and columnist Ann Coulter responds, "It's very embarrassing. ...Oh, it's an off-the-cuff remark? This is more than just covering up. The media is now the Praetorian Guard to protect [Obama] from the dumb things he does, including this. And yeah, don't make the threat if you are not going to follow up. ...Not only has Obama allowed Iraq to disintegrate and that's a lot of the problem with Syria now, you have Iran trying to dominate Iraq and Syria to gang up together with Islamic lunatics. But we could have done something in Syria two years ago. This is what is so heartbreaking about Syria. When Assad first started slaughtering his people, the insurgents were just normal Syrians minding their own business, who were being murdered by this crazy dictator. If we had stepped in then we would have been aiding people who are not al-Qaeda, who are not Muslim Brotherhood. But, no, Obama goes out to get an ice cream and who steps in? Al-Qaeda. Now it's like North Korea under

Clinton. Now we are in a pickle. Now who do you help? The insurgents are allied with the Muslim Brotherhood.” [44691]

On May 6, James Rosen reports at FoxNews.com, “On the night of Sept. 11, as the Obama administration scrambled to respond to the Benghazi terror attacks, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and a key aide effectively tried to cut the department’s own counterterrorism bureau out of the chain of reporting and decision-making, according to a ‘whistle-blower’ witness from that bureau who will soon testify to the charge before Congress, Fox News has learned. That witness is Mark I. Thompson, a former Marine and now the deputy coordinator for operations in the agency’s counterterrorism bureau. Sources tell Fox News Thompson will level the allegation against Clinton during testimony on Wednesday before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee...” [44665]

Obama and Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) are bested by Senators Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and Bob Corker (R-TN) in a game of golf. (Despite his years of practice at the game, Obama has the highest handicap of the four players.) [44673, 44693]

CNSNews.com reports, “Granting amnesty to illegal immigrants would cost \$6.3 trillion, according to a new report by the Heritage Foundation. ‘Unlawful immigration and amnesty for current unlawful immigrants can pose large fiscal costs for U.S. taxpayers,’ states the report by Robert Rector and Jason Richwine, Ph.D. Not only would the federal deficit increase, but the cost of benefits and services to millions of newly minted citizens would reach nearly \$10 trillion. ‘Over a lifetime, the former unlawful immigrants together would receive \$9.4 trillion in government benefits and services and pay \$3.1 trillion in taxes,’ the report states. ‘They would generate a lifetime fiscal deficit (total benefits minus total taxes) of \$6.3 trillion.’” [44674, 44690]

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee states, “I believe that before it’s all over, [Obama] will not fill out his full term. I know that puts me on a limb. But this is not minor. It wasn’t minor when Richard Nixon lied to the American people and worked with those in his administration to cover-up what really happened in Watergate. But, I remind you, as bad as Watergate was, because it broke the trust between the president and the people, no one died. This is more serious because four Americans did in fact die. ...Now, here’s what I’m going to suggest will happen: as the information and facts begin to come out, it will become so obvious that there was a concerted and very, very deliberate attempt to mislead this country and its people to lie to Congress, as well as to you. ...The highest levels of people in the United States government all the way up to [Obama] knew that what they did tell us was not true, and they continued to tell it throughout an election season and beyond, and they’ve tried to change the subject. And when the facts come out, they will not be able to stand. They will have lost the right to govern. ...And as the facts come out, I think we’re going to see something startling. And before it’s over, I don’t think [Obama] will finish his term unless somehow they can delay it in Congress past the next three and a half years.” [44676]

At Breitbart.com Joel B. Pollak writes, “Ahead of Wednesday’s long-awaited hearings at the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee about the Benghazi terror attack of Sep. 11, 2012, Democrats have a clear agenda: protect Hillary Clinton at all costs. Clinton, the former Secretary of State and likely frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, could be severely damaged by testimony about the attacks, which occurred in part because of security lapses for which the State Department is primarily responsible. Past testimony about the attacks has also revealed that ...Obama did nothing once informed the attacks were under way, and that there was no communication among key members of the administration and military who could have responded. In her own testimony before Congress in January before leaving office, Clinton was evasive, famously shouting at Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), ‘What difference does it make?’ in reference to the question of who had edited the administration’s talking points to remove references to Islamist terror and emphasize a protest that never happened. The media applauded her performance, but her outburst left an impression of apathy about the four Americans who were killed that night in Benghazi, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens. ...With Obama safely re-elected, the goal is now to protect Hillary Clinton. ...On this past weekend’s Sunday shows, Democrats showed unusual willingness to criticize the Obama administration over Benghazi, acknowledging that the Benghazi talking points had been false. Yet that willingness to criticize may be a way of inoculating the party against further revelations to come; it may also be easier because new information about the Benghazi talking points has tended to implicate the White House rather than Clinton herself, even if State Department officials have also been listed among those involved.” (Democrats may be willing to throw Obama under the bus if that is the only way they can protect Clinton for her likely presidential run in 2016.) [44678]

Breitbart.com also reports, “On Monday, the Obama administration requested dismissal of a suit the government had filed against Bible publisher Tyndale House Publishers, which refused to implement the Obamacare mandate to provide employees’ birth control. ‘Bible publishers should be free to do business according to the book that they publish,’ Senior Legal Counsel for the Alliance Defending Freedom Matt Bowman told LifeSiteNews. ‘The government dismissed its appeal because it knows how ridiculous it sounds arguing that a Bible publisher isn’t religious enough to qualify as a religious employer.’ This marks the first wholesale legal loss for the Obama administration in its quest to force religious Americans to pay for services that violate their religious precepts.” [44681]

At CBSNews.com Sharyl Attkisson reports, “The deputy of slain U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens has told congressional investigators that a team of Special Forces prepared to fly from Tripoli to Benghazi during the Sept. 11, 2012 attacks was forbidden from doing so by U.S. Special Operations Command Africa. The account from Gregory Hicks [deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Libya at the time of the terrorist attacks] is in stark contrast to assertions from the Obama administration, which insisted that nobody was ever told to stand down and that all available resources were utilized. Hicks gave private testimony to congressional investigators last month in advance of his upcoming appearance at a congressional hearing Wednesday. According to excerpts released Monday, Hicks told investigators that SOCAFRICA commander Lt. Col. Gibson

and his team were on their way to board a C-130 from Tripoli for Benghazi prior to an attack on a second U.S. compound ‘when [Col. Gibson] got a phone call from SOCAFRICA which said, ‘you can’t go now, you don’t have the authority to go now.’” (Only Obama would have had the authority to order a cross-border attack, and arguably only Obama would have ordered a stand-down. At Breitbart.com Kerry Pickett writes, “[A] specific chain of command to gain verbal permission to move special forces in must have occurred. SOCAFRICA commander Lieutenant Col. Gibson would have contacted a desk officer at the time, asking for that permission. That desk officer would have called Marine Corps Col. George Bristol, then in command of Joint Special Operations Task Force-Trans Sahara. From there, Bristol would have made contact with Rear Admiral Brian Losey, then Commander of Special Operations Command Africa. Losey would have contacted four-star General Carter Ham, commander of U.S. AFRICOM at the time. ‘Ham answers directly to [Obama],’ said the source. It wasn’t a low-level bureaucrat making the call, the source adamantly added.”) [44682, 44698, 44708, 44720, 44721]

The Ulsterman Report comments, “In perhaps his most hyper-partisan and unpresidential speech since he first [entered the White House] over five years ago, Barack Obama declared to an audience at Ohio State University that Republicans view the U.S. political system as a ‘sham.’ He went on to offer up a conflicting, and at times, outright odd depiction of all those who oppose his own views on what America is—and isn’t, and told those there that in essence, being an American citizen is opposing those who oppose him. ... To tell a group of young Americans that they are not in fact true Americans unless they go out and work to defeat those who oppose HIS agenda is something I cannot recall coming from the mouth of any other president in American history—certainly not in the modern era of politics. The Founding Fathers, if they were somehow placed in the audience during this latest Obama speech, would be turning to one another with eyes wide and jaws set, clearly communicating to one another that something has gone terribly wrong that such a person was now engaged in being this nation’s president. Where the Founders feared Big Government, Barack Obama has embraced it. Where the Founders detested the necessity of politics, Barack Obama is nothing but politics on all issues great and small—the most important issue always being himself.” [44684]

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) states, “I think the dam is about to break on Benghazi. We’re going to find a system failure before, during, and after the attacks. We’re going to find political manipulation seven weeks before an election. We’re going to find people asleep at the switch when it comes to the State Department, including Hillary Clinton. The bond that has been broken between those who serve us in harm’s way and the government they serve is huge—and to me every bit as damaging as Watergate.” [44688, 44689, 44701]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “...Obama will travel this week to Austin [Texas] where the jobs market has been booming, to kick off a new focus on the middle class and economic growth. Obama is planning a campaign-style ‘Middle Class Jobs & Opportunity Tour’ across the country, beginning Thursday in Austin, a magnet for new tech jobs. The push seems designed to help jump-start [Obama’s] second term.” (At HotAir.com a skeptical Erika Johnsen comments, “Just what we’ve all been waiting for!

At last, yet another pivot to ‘jobs,’ because every other time ...Obama has gone out campaigning—oops, I meant, *jobs-touring*—he’s been so effective at producing wonderful, real-world economic results, and definitely not merely creating an opportunity to air his many grievances about those obstructionist Congressional Republicans spitefully thwarting his agenda. Sign me up! ...If, during what will undoubtedly be this miraculously effective endeavor at moving-and-shaking the economy out of near-stagnation mode, we happen to hear any actual new ideas instead of more and varied suggestions about the ways in which the federal government needs to ‘invest,’ i.e. spend more money, in order to kickstart jobs growth, I think I might faint.” [44695, 44696]

According to CNSNews.com, “When asked at a press briefing on Monday to say that two State Department officials set to testify in Congress on Wednesday about the Sept. 11, 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi are ‘credible people,’ State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell would not do it. The two officials are Greg Hicks, who was the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Libya, and Mark Thompson, who was the deputy coordinator for operations in the department’s counter-terrorism division.” Ventrell also refuses to identify the individual who told then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to claim that the Benghazi attack was nothing more than a response to an Internet video. [44699, 44700, 44708]

On May 7 Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) states, “‘The law-abiding citizens of this country shouldn’t have to pray for leniency from their own government. Last I checked, government existed to assist the public, not to antagonize it. Look, after ramming the law [ObamaCare] through Congress the way [Obama] did—ignoring the warnings that all these [negative] things would happen, ignoring the will of the American people—honesty and transparency is the very least ...Obama owes the American people at this point. What he really needs to do, actually, is join with Republicans in agreeing to repeal this job-killing law. He needs to acknowledge the need to scrap it and replace it with the types of common-sense reforms that will lower costs. Because it’s not working. ...When it comes to the implementation of Obamacare, I fear that some of the worst hit are likely to be small businesses and the Americans who work for them. ...[Obama] needs to be straight with the American people. He needs to prepare them for everything that’s coming—the wage cuts, the lost jobs, the higher premiums. Everything our country can expect as a result of Obamacare.” [44702]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Eli Lilly CEO John Lechleiter, who previously lobbied on behalf of Obamacare, said that one of ...Obama’s costly new health-care reforms would have ‘catastrophic’ consequences for innovation and that he plans to fight against it. ...Obama proposed in his 2013 State of the Union address a plan to require drug makers to offer the same tax rebates provided to Medicaid recipients to low-income Medicare recipients who are considered ‘dual eligibles’ because they are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.” [44711]

The number of Americans receiving disability benefits from the federal government reaches 10,815,197. CNSNews.com notes that the number exceeds the population of Greece. [44716]

FoxNews.com reports on the shortage of ammunition resulting from increased demand from gun owners and the federal government's unprecedented stockpiling of bullets. According to Fox, "Demand for guns and ammunition has cleaned out stores nationwide, leading to waiting lists and early morning lines outside of gun and sporting good stores for ammunition shipments. Common calibers routinely sell out within minutes of appearing on store shelves and prices have soared as much as 70 percent. After the Newtown elementary school massacre, gun enthusiasts, already anxious [over the expectation that] ...Obama's re-election would translate into harsh controls on gun ownership, have packed stores, buying as many firearms and as much ammunition as they can find. Moves to expand background checks and limit firearm and magazine sales have added to the hysteria. Massive government purchases, including a plan by the Department of Homeland Security to buy more than 1 billion rounds of ammunition, have further stoked fears—and suspicions." [44705]

On *America Live*, Fox News senior political analyst Brit Hume says, "There's really no way for [Hillary Clinton] to escape responsibility for this [Benghazi scandal] if this testimony does what we all expect now that it will do. Of course, over the years in Washington I've seen many a hype hearing fail to live up to expectations. But if it does live up, there's no way I think she can escape this. I think she recognized from the start that this was trouble. I don't think it was an accident that Susan Rice, the U.N. ambassador, who was kind of an unusual choice, was the person who went out on the Sunday shows to recite those talking points. I think then-Secretary Clinton knew that the talking points were shaky. She may have participated in making them shaky, but she did not want any of that mud on her shoes that might be caused. And Susan Rice, of course, has paid a price for being the one who recited them. But we also know... Victoria Nuland, the State Department spokeswoman was involved in the crafting of those talking points. She reports directly or indirectly to Hillary Clinton, and she was telling the other people that were crafting the points that 'my building,' that means Hillary Clinton's State Department, had a problem with this or that or the other thing and they were changed at her behest. Secretary Clinton cannot escape responsibility for that. ...Let's assume that she claims that she didn't have any responsibility for that. What does that say about her stewardship of her department at a moment when a terrible thing has happened to an ambassador whom we're to believe and she's given every indication she had great faith in and cared a lot about? The murdered ambassador there was her subordinate. The staff there at the embassy were her subordinates. So if she took a walk during this, that doesn't exactly recommend her for the person that will receive the middle of the night phone calls, does it?" [44719]

Hume continues, "I mean, I don't think there's any way for her to escape this even if she succeeds in arguing that she didn't have her fingerprints on it. If she didn't, she should have. And when she heard the talking points recited, she had to know they were wrong. If she didn't, that's dereliction. And if she didn't know they were wrong, she should have said something. So she's—I just don't think there's any way out, really. Look, she'll get a vast amount of forgiveness. She's an icon of the Democratic Party. A lot of people in the media will want to excuse her if they can, but the facts will prove too heavy. ...We'll

have to see how bad it gets, but it's certainly a weapon in the hands of her potential [2016] opponents, both within her party and in a general election if she gets that far. And the other thing... is this also contributes to another question, which is: was she really a very successful and special secretary of state? I think the case for that is pretty weak. There was no great Clinton doctrine in foreign policy. Are there any treaties that she forwarded and help negotiate that made a big difference? Is the situation in the Middle East—which has always been a tinderbox that every American secretary of state must deal with—is that markedly improved by virtue of her stewardship of the State Department? I think the answer to all of those questions is probably no. So is this really a great credential for her as the last job she held going into a presidential campaign?" [44719]

Republican Mark Sanford defeats Democrat Elizabeth Colbert Busch in South Carolina's 1st Congressional District special election. (The Democrats spent a small fortune in their unsuccessful attempt to win the Congressional seat.) [44710, 44713, 44714, 44715]

Obama attends a Democrat National Committee fundraiser for 25 guests, with tickets selling for between \$10,000 and \$32,400. [44703, 44704]

On May 8 Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters appears on *Fox & Friends* and says the Obama administration "put politics above the security of our diplomatic personnel [in Benghazi]. They make Nigerian phone scammers look like paragons of integrity. ...I personally believe it would have been very difficult, if not impossible to save those four lives, especially the ambassador, because of the timelines. But we should have tried. When people are under fire you don't sit back and say, 'Well, gee, I hope the smoke blows over.' ...The Obama administration's case was cowardly, duplicitous and they sacrificed American lives for politics. And the American people need to understand that, despite the fact that the establishment media would cover for Obama no matter what he did." [44722]

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee holds a hearing to listen to testimony from several whistleblowers reporting what they know about the Benghazi attacks and the subsequent Obama administration cover-up. Whistleblower Gregory Hicks, former deputy chief of mission in Libya, testifies that he was demoted for asking questions about the events in Benghazi of September 11, 2012. Hicks says, "I was stunned, my jaw dropped and I was embarrassed" after hearing that U.N. ambassador Susan Rice falsely claimed that the attack was not a planned act of terrorism but an angry mob's reaction to a YouTube video. Hicks also states he was instructed by State Department attorneys, including Hillary Clinton's chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, not to consent to an interview with Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT). (The mainstream media does its best to report as little about the hearing as possible.) [44717, 44718, 44725, 44729, 44730, 44783, 44736, 44737, 44739]

RealClearPolitics reports, "Hicks, the second highest ranking State Department official in Libya when the consulate was attacked on the 11th anniversary of 9/11, confirmed the following facts under oath: There were no protests outside the U.S. compound; the anti-

Islamic YouTube video denounced by the administration was a ‘non-event’ in Libya and had nothing whatsoever to do with the assault that night; Hicks’ team knew almost immediately that the attack was carried out by terrorists; and all of this information was relayed to Washington in the hours and days afterward. ...On Friday, Sept. 14, at a ceremony receiving the remains of the four slain Americans, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton mentioned the video as a proximate cause of the assault and suggested a ‘mob’ was behind the ‘violent acts.’ On Saturday, Sept. 15, talking points drafted by the intelligence community were heavily edited by officials in the White House and State Department, striking passages saying that the latter had been warned of threats in the region, references to other al-Qaeda-linked attacks in Benghazi, and the suggestion that al-Qaeda-linked extremists may have participated in the attack. On Sunday, Sept. 16, U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice now famously went on all five Sunday news shows and claimed the attack stemmed from violent protests inspired by the video. More than a month later she acknowledged no such protests took place. In the two weeks following the incident ...Obama himself singled out the video as a contributing factor to the attack on four separate occasions... We also know that members of the administration went to great lengths to avoid calling the Benghazi episode a terrorist act.” [44728]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Obama administration officials are finally letting the attorney for a Benghazi whistle-blower get a security clearance—but the clearance is at such a low level that it will probably slow the congressional probe of how the administration handled last year’s terrorist attack on the embassy in Benghazi, Libya. Victoria Toensing represents an unnamed government official who can help explain the reaction of top government officials to the jihadi attack on the U.S diplomatic site in Benghazi and killed four Americans last Sept. 11.” (In other words, the Obama administration is doing its best to block the whistleblowers from trying to report the truth.) [44712]

White House press secretary Jay Carney calls the Benghazi hearing nothing more than politicizing by the Republicans: “This administration has made extraordinary efforts to work with five different Congressional committees investigating what happened before, during, and after the Benghazi attacks. ...[M]uch of what the witnesses were expected to raise in the hearings today has already been addressed both in hearings and the Accountability Review Board report. This is a subject that has from its beginning been subject to attempts to politicize it by Republicans, when in fact what happened in Benghazi was a tragedy... That review board issued a report that was unsparing and highly critical in some areas... Given the remarkable level of cooperation that we’ve demonstrated with Congressional committees and investigators thus far, demonstrates again [sic] that we’re at a place where there are attempts to politicize this when that should not be the case. ...What remains the case is that the intelligence community, the CIA, drafted these talking points, and redrafted these talking points. The fact that there are inputs is always the case in a process like this, but the only edits made by anyone here at the White House were stylistic and non-substantive. ...Ultimately, this all has been disguised and reviewed and provided in enormous levels of detail by the administration to Congressional investigators and the attempt to politicize the talking points, again, is part of an effort to chase after what isn’t the substance here...” [44735]

Politico reports that CBS News “has grown increasingly frustrated with [investigative journalist Sharyl] Attkisson’s Benghazi campaign. CBS News executives see Attkisson wading dangerously close to advocacy on the issue, network sources have told POLITICO. Attkisson can’t get some of her stories on the air, and is thus left feeling marginalized and underutilized. According to *The Washington Post*, Attkisson says she has received ‘a tremendous amount of pushback’ from the White House as a result of her reporting on Benghazi and *Fast and Furious*. Among other things, she says, White House officials have called and written her bosses at CBS to complain about her work.” Attkisson states, “My goal is to report on untouchable subjects in a way that is fearless. ...I’m a political agnostic. I don’t think about who’s good and who’s bad. I just go where the story leads. ...People can say what they want about me, I don’t care. I just want to get the information out there.” (It is worth noting that CBS News president David Rhodes is the brother of Obama advisor Ben Rhodes, who was involved in developing the Benghazi talking points.) [44723, 44724, 44738, 44766, 44767, 45221]

Breitbart.com reports, “[A]n analysis by the Institute for Energy Research (IER) finds that since 2009, the Department of Energy’s (DOE) \$26 billion loan program created just 2,298 permanent jobs, at a cost of \$11.45 million per job created.” IER Policy Associate Alex Fitzsimmons comments, “The losers are the American workers who would otherwise be gainfully employed but for the tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars on the administration’s obsession with ‘green energy.’ As the economy continues to suffer and dollars for federal programs get harder to come by, it is getting increasingly difficult to defend a program that costs so much and produces so little.” [44734]

On May 9 Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson lists some of the revelations from the May 8 Benghazi hearing: (1) Murdered US Ambassador Chris Stevens’ second in command, Gregory Hicks, was instructed not to speak with a Congressional investigator by Sec. Hillary Clinton’s chief of staff, Cheryl Mills. Hicks said he’d ‘never’ faced a similar demand at any point during his distinguished 22-year diplomatic career. When he refused to comply with this request, the State Department dispatched an attorney to act as a ‘minder,’ who insisted on sitting in on all of Hicks’ discussions with members of Congress... (2) When Hicks began to voice strenuous objections to the administration’s inaccurate talking points with State Department higher-ups, the administration turned hostile... (3) Secretaries [Hillary] Clinton and [U.N. ambassador Susan] Rice... repeatedly stated that the attack arose from ‘spontaneous protests’ over an obscure YouTube video. This was never true. (4) A small, armed US force in Tripoli was told it did not have the authority to deploy to Benghazi in the midst of the attack. *Twice*. Flight time between the two cities is less than an hour. Members of the would-be rescue contingent were ‘furious’ over this obstruction...” (It is worth noting that Hicks’ testimony is not motivated by partisanship: he is a registered Democrat who voted for Obama.) [44709, 44794]

“(5) The US’ security chief in Libya, Eric Nordstrom, averred that Sec. Clinton ‘absolutely’ would have been briefed on his (and Stevens’) repeated requests for an increased security presence in Libya... (6) Amb. Stevens was stationed at the vulnerable Benghazi compound on a dangerous symbolic date at the behest of Sec. Clinton, who

wished to make that diplomatic mission a permanent outpost... (7) Nordstrom stated that elements of the lightly-armed Libyan militia group tasked with protecting the consulate were ‘certainly’ complicit in the attacks. No US Marines were present at the time. Hicks estimated that at least 60 terrorists swarmed into the compound during the attack... (8) A mortally wounded Amb. Stevens was taken to a hospital controlled by the Islamist extremist group (Ansar Al-Sharia) primarily responsible for the assault. Administration officials initially pointed to locals rushing Stevens to a local hospital as evidence of local goodwill from protesters who didn’t approve of the mob spinning out of control... (9) The US government did not seek permission from the Libyan government to fly any aircraft into Libyan airspace, aside from a drone. The witnesses testified that they believe the Libyan government would have complied with any such request.... (10) Despite committee Democrats’ repeated claims and leading questions, reduced funding or ‘austerity’ had absolutely nothing to do with the inadequate security presence on the ground...” [44709]

Obama visits Texas as part of a “Middle Class Jobs and Opportunity Tour.” Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) comments, “America is stuck with high unemployment and low GDP growth, so it’s encouraging to see [Obama] coming to Austin to talk about jobs—perhaps he will learn how to create some from the folks who know how. Texas is leading the nation in economic growth and job creation because of principled, conservative leaders who understand the keys to economic success are lower, flatter taxes, limited government and restrained spending. Texas has shown the country how it’s done, and we hope [Obama] will take some of these lessons back to Washington to bring true economic recovery to our nation.” [44740,44748]

The Amsterdam News reports, “...Malcolm Shabazz, grandson of Malcolm X, was killed in Mexico. Several reports around the circumstances of his death, still unconfirmed, have rumored that he died early Thursday morning, May 9, 2013 from injuries sustained after he was thrown off a building or shot as he was being robbed in Mexico. ...Family members have confirmed his death and that he was in Mexico but have not confirmed the exact location or circumstances of how Malcolm Shabazz died.” (Some have speculated that Obama’s biological father was Malcolm X—Malcolm Little—and not Kenyan socialist Barack Hussein Obama, Sr.) [44742, 44787]

Meanwhile, MrConservative.com reports, “Kenyans are telling American missionaries that ...Obama was born in their country. Whether you share Donald Trump’s skepticism on Obama’s birth certificate or not, it is very interesting to learn that Americans traveling to Kenya are being told by highly educated natives that Obama was born in their village. ...Lisa is an American missionary. She traveled with several members of her Baptist church to Kenya in August of 2012 and spent 10 days caring for the children in three different orphanages in a small village about three hours northwest of Nairobi. Lisa said that on three different occasions, in three different areas, highly educated Kenyans told her team that Obama is from Kenya.” [44743]

According to Bloomberg.com, “[T]he White House has told all Cabinet members and senior officials to use commencement speeches to drive home for graduating college

students and their parents the benefits they gain from a provision of the law that allows young adults to stay on their family's insurance plans until they turn 26." [44764, 44765]

General Michael Hayden, former director of the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency, gives NewsmaxTV.com his opinion on the Obama administration's Benghazi narrative, "I've been in these kinds of circumstances where if you've got a worldview, if you've got a narrative that you believe in, you try to make the facts presented to you fit the narrative. I fear there may have been some people in our government who kind of fell into that trap in the days after Benghazi, which is understandable and, frankly, forgivable, and then in the weeks after Benghazi, which is not understandable and is not forgivable. Anyone like me who saw those events would quickly conclude it was a terrorist attack. It was fairly complex, synchronized, direct and indirect fire weapons on multiple locations, and it took place in a part of Libya that was the heartland of the Libyan Islamic fighting group. I mean, the immediate explanation that this was a bad movie review, that just beggared comprehension." [44746]

Three families of Navy SEAL Team VI special forces servicemen, along with one family of an Army National Guardsman hold a press conference to disclose information about how and why their sons along with 26 others died in a fatal helicopter crash in Afghanistan on August 6, 2011, just a few months after the raid on the compound of Osama Bin Laden. The families state, "The areas of inquiry at the press conference will include but not be limited to: 1. How ...Obama and Vice President Biden, having disclosed on May 4, 2011, that Navy Seal Team VI carried out the successful raid on Bin Laden's compound resulting in the master terrorist's death, put a retaliatory target on the backs of the fallen heroes. 2. How and why high-level military officials sent these Navy SEAL Team VI heroes into battle without special operations aviation and proper air support. 3. How and why middle-level military brass carries out too many ill-prepared missions to boost their standing with top-level military brass and the Commander-in-Chief in order that they can be promoted. 4. How the military restricts special operations servicemen and others from engaging in timely return fire when fired upon by the Taliban and other terrorist groups and interests, thus jeopardizing the servicemen's lives. 5. How and why the denial of requested pre-assault fire may have contributed to the shoot down of the Navy SEAL Team VI helicopter and the death of these special operations servicemen. 6. How Afghani forces accompanying the Navy SEAL Team VI servicemen on the helicopter were not properly vetted and how they possibly disclosed classified information to the Taliban about the mission, resulting in the shoot down of the helicopter. 7. How military brass, while prohibiting any mention of a Judeo-Christian God, invited a Muslim cleric to the funeral for the fallen Navy SEAL Team VI heroes who disparaged in Arabic the memory of these servicemen by damning them as infidels to Allah..." [44755, 44756, 44757, 44758]

On *The O'Reilly Factor*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer says, "This [Benghazi] story isn't going to explode; this is a drip, drip, drip. And what the drip, drip, drip is about is this: the administration tried to suppress the truth about what happened in Benghazi and did that consistent and deliberately while[Obama]—at the same time—tried to say that his only objective was to collect the facts and to share them as they

receive them with the American people. Every piece of evidence that we heard yesterday [in the congressional hearing] contradicted that. Now, this is not a hanging offense, it is not a jailing offense; it's not a break-in, it's not a burglary. It is an administration trying to cover up what was not a criminal act that could have been misjudgments, and there were. But there was a lot of human error. You can have some sympathy, they might have made the wrong judgment about a rescue, or not. You have to balance it left and right. So it was not that great of a crime. But they decided, in the middle of an election, where [Obama] had proclaimed 'al Qaeda was gone, we've conquered all of this. The War on Terror is over. I'm a big hero. Osama is slain. GM is alive and Osama is dead.' In the middle of a campaign where they're pushing this, they decided to maintain that line—they would suppress the truth, they would demote a hero like [Gregory] Hicks. They would shout at him, they would threaten him, they would not allow him to meet with a Congressional delegation. All of these things, I think, are part of a cover-up." [44759]

On May 10 Obama's schedule includes only two tasks: receiving his daily briefing (10:45 a.m.) and giving a statement on ObamaCare (2:40 p.m.). [44803]

ABC's Jonathan Karl reports, "ABC News has obtained 12 different versions of the talking points that show they were extensively edited as they evolved from the drafts first written entirely by the CIA to the final version distributed to Congress and to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice before she appeared on five talk shows the Sunday after that attack. White House emails reviewed by ABC News suggest the edits were made with extensive input from the State Department. The edits included requests from the State Department that references to the Al Qaeda-affiliated group Ansar al-Sharia be deleted as well references to CIA warnings about terrorist threats in Benghazi in the months preceding the attack. That would appear to directly contradict what White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said about the talking points in November. ...The significant edits—deleting references to al Qaeda and the CIA's warnings—came after a White House meeting on the Saturday before Ambassador Susan Rice appeared on five Sunday shows." [44744, 44747, 44750]

The White House holds an "off the record" meeting on the Benghazi investigation with selected reporters. According to Politico, "The session was announced to reporters in the wake of an ABC News report showing that White House and State Dept. officials were involved in revising the now-discredited CIA talking points about the attack on Benghazi. Emails obtained by ABC News show that State Dept. spokesperson Victoria Nuland requested that the CIA scrub references to an Al Qaeda-linked group, which, Nuland told White House officials, 'could be abused by members [of Congress] to beat up the State Department for not paying attention to warnings.'" (In other words, the White House is attempting to get reporters to slant their stories so that they are less damaging to Obama and Hillary Clinton.) [44726, 44727, 44741, 44751]

In the *Washington Times*, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) writes, "The secretary of state's responsibility is to protect our diplomats. [Hillary] Clinton should have been relieved of her post for denying pleas for additional security. ... My office is currently seeking out the witnesses and survivors of Benghazi to testify before the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee. To date, the Obama administration has refused to let them testify. Too many questions remain unanswered. Now, there are too many new questions. The evidence we had in January already suggested that Mrs. Clinton ignored repeated requests for more security in Benghazi. The new evidence we have today—and that continues to mount—suggests that at the very least, Mrs. Clinton should never hold high office again.” [44731, 44732]

The mainstream media works to protect Obama and Hillary Clinton from the fallout from the Benghazi hearing. Dan Gainor writes at FoxNews.com: “NBC said there was an ‘obvious political undercurrent’ to the hearings and accused the GOP of going after the ‘most popular Democrat,’ Hillary Clinton. The New York Times public editor criticized her own paper’s Benghazi coverage and The Washington Post’s Twitter account inexplicably mocked those Tweeting about the case as ‘Chick-fil-A lovers.’ AP even called it a ‘GOP’ hearing, to make sure readers saw it as partisan. A Politico story about CBS showed the truly insidious nature of media bias on this story and how the network held back Emmy award-winning reporter Sharyl Attkisson. ...It hasn’t just been CBS that has been trying to corral this story. New York Times coverage might still damage the administration even though that paper has tried to prevent it. ...The Washington Post’s Dana Milbank treated the testimony as if witnesses were lying. His column called the sworn comments a ‘yarn’ and referred to our No. 2 diplomat in Libya as a ‘virtuoso storyteller.’ Milbank pushed the standard lefty response you can expect to see at least till November, 2016: ‘Hicks didn’t lay a glove on the former secretary of state Wednesday.’ ...Other liberal sites went even further, ignoring the hearing and the testimony entirely. The Nation, Alternet and Democracy Now had no visible coverage. ...It doesn’t really matter how they spin it, the news continues to get out. But if all major news outlets do is cover for the administration, they may well succeed in protecting their 2016 candidate.” [44745]

The Internal Revenue Service apologizes for targeting conservative groups during the 2012 election season and demanding that they provide additional information to justify their tax exempt status. According to the Associated Press, “IRS agents singled out dozens of organizations for additional reviews because they included the words ‘tea party’ or ‘patriot’ in their exemption applications, said Lois Lerner, who heads the IRS division that oversees tax-exempt groups. In some cases, groups were asked for lists of donors, which violates IRS policy in most cases, she said. ...Lerner said the practice was initiated by low-level workers in Cincinnati and was not motivated by political bias.” (How singling out groups because they are tea party-related is not political is not explained. Tea Party leaders refuse to accept the IRS apology and call its actions a “disturbing, illegal and outrageous abuse of government power.”) [44749, 44752, 44754, 44760, 44768]

Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin comments on the IRS persecution of Tea Party groups: “Today we learned that our government targeted and harassed conservative Americans who simply wanted to be involved in the national discussion. Is it any wonder why Americans are so distrustful of D.C.? I’m sure ...Obama is grateful for all the help the IRS gave his reelection campaign, but, still, you have to wonder how the bureaucrats

who tried to pull this off can sleep at night. ... This IRS revelation is another step in the unraveling of the Obama administrations self-proclaimed 'hope and change.' Between the Benghazi cover-up and the IRS targeting Obama's political opponents, we see the corruption at the heart of big government. Americans should remember that this same corrupt IRS will be in charge of enforcing Obamacare. And this same inept and corrupt government will supposedly secure our now unsecured borders in advance of immigration reform and will implement a completely ethical and non-political IPAB panel to make life and death health care decisions for you and your family. Forgive me for not trusting these big government promises any more than I trust the White House's latest Benghazi spin or the IRS' fairness. Despite all of this, I still believe that this 'fundamental transformation of America' is temporary. This attempted transformation into a disheartened, weakened, unrecognizable nation is so far below anything Americans deserve. It becomes permanent only if we throw up our hands and surrender to the corruption and cover-ups. We must demand more light shine on all that's transpiring in D.C.'s self-absorbed bubble. On the IRS scandal, we must have accountability and a full investigation. On Benghazi, [House] Speaker [John] Boehner must create a Select Committee with full investigative and subpoena authority to get to the bottom of the cover-up. Keep the faith, friends."

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) suggests that the timing of the IRS apology was intentional and meant to direct attention away from the Benghazi scandal. Bachmann tells WND.com, "There's no doubt this was not a coincidence that they dumped this story today, a Friday dump day. This is when they put their negative stories out. ... I was in that Benghazi hearing. I think the Obama administration is desperate to spin Benghazi, and they can't. I think they saved this [IRS] story up for a day like today so that conservatives would focus on this admission. [But] Conservatives can handle two shocking stories at the same time. Both are equally unconstitutional and call into question [Obama]." [44779, 44783]

HotAir.com lists some of the outrageous demands the IRS made of conservative political groups, including copies of direct and indirect communications with members of legislative bodies, information about members, resumes of past and present employees, lists of board members and officers and their relatives who have served any other organization, specific information about all rallies, events, and discussion groups the group has conducted, and a description of "any activities with the news media." The IRS also threatened the groups with revocation of their tax exempt status if the requested information was not received by a specific date. [44829]

DCClothesline.com reports, "Congresswoman and former United States Ambassador to Luxembourg Ann Wagner (R-MO) appeared on The Dana Loesch show and placed the blame, of the stand down order to those that could have offered assistance to Americans under attack, on none other than Barack Obama." [44753]

At NewYorker.com Alex Koppelman writes, "It's a cliché, of course, but it really is true: in Washington, every scandal has a crime and a coverup. The ongoing debate about the attack on the United States facility in Benghazi where four Americans were killed, and

the Obama Administration's response to it, is no exception. For a long time, it seemed like the idea of a coverup was just a Republican obsession. But now there is something to it. On Friday, ABC News's Jonathan Karl revealed the details of the editing process for the C.I.A.'s talking points about the attack, including the edits themselves and some of the reasons a State Department spokeswoman gave for requesting those edits. It's striking to see the twelve different iterations that the talking points went through before they were released to Congress and to United Nations Ambassador Susan Rice, who used them in Sunday show appearances that became a central focus of Republicans' criticism of the Administration's public response to the attacks. Over the course of about twenty-four hours, the remarks evolved from something specific and fairly detailed into a bland, vague mush." [44761]

At BBC.co.uk Mark Mardell writes, "There's new evidence, obtained by ABC, that the Obama administration did deliberately purge references to 'terrorism' from accounts of the attack on the Benghazi diplomatic mission, which killed four people including the US ambassador to Libya. Conservatives have long maintained that the administration deliberately suppressed the truth about the attacks. This is the first hard evidence that the state department did ask for changes to the CIA's original assessment. Specifically, they wanted references to previous warnings deleted and this sentence removed: 'We do know that Islamic extremists with ties to al-Qa'ida participated in the attack.' There's little doubt in my mind that this will haunt Hillary Clinton if she decides to run for president, unless she executes some pretty fancy footwork. State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland is directly implicated, and the fingerprints of senior White House aides Ben Rhodes and Jay Carney are there as well. ...However you read the motives, the State Department and apparently the White House did get the CIA to change its story. This is now very serious, and I suspect heads will roll. The White House will be on the defensive for a while." [44762, 44763]

The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight demands that the Internal Revenue Service turn over all documents related to its handling of the tax exempt status of Tea Party and other conservative groups. [44770, 44781]

Former Chicago Bulls basketball player Dennis Rodman tells TMZ.com he plans to return to North Korea in an effort to persuade Kim Jong-Un to release American prisoner Kenneth Bae. Rodman says, "I'm gonna try and get the guy out. ...It's gonna be difficult. ...We got a black [man in the White House who] can't even go talk to [Jong-Un]. Obama can't do shit; I don't know why he won't go talk to him." [44785, 44786]

CNSNews.com reports, "The federal government spent more than \$2 billion to provide food stamps to Puerto Rico in 2012, up to 25 percent of which is untraceable because it is distributed in cash and there is 'no way to verify that funds are spent on food,' according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The funds are used to supply more than one-third of the population of Puerto Rico with food stamps." (In 2009, \$165 million in Obama's "stimulus funds" was also given to Puerto Ricans for food stamps. How that created jobs in the United States is not known.) [44801]

On May 11, 2013 FoxNews.com reports, “House Speaker John Boehner [R-OH] is facing mounting pressure to create a special or select committee to investigate the Benghazi terror attacks in which four Americans were killed. The House resolution to form a special committee now has at least 139 co-sponsors who are putting Boehner in the difficult position of leading efforts to get the White House to release emails on Benghazi but not agreeing to the demands of many rank-and-file Republicans.” [44769]

CNN reports, “Officials at the Internal Revenue Service knew in June 2011 that their agents were targeting conservative groups for additional scrutiny on tax documents, an inspector general report to be released this week is expected to say, according to a congressional source familiar with the inquiry. Further, an early timeline of events compiled by the inspector general and obtained by CNN indicates the agency’s practice of singling out conservative groups began as early as March 2010, and in July of that year, unidentified managers within the agency ‘requested its specialists to be on the lookout for tea party applications.’ In August, specialists were warned to be on the lookout for ‘various local organizations in the tea party movement’ applying for tax-exempt status. The specific criteria would change several times over the next two years, according to a portion of the report.” [44771]

It is worth noting that in February 2012 WeeklyStandard.com reported, “The Richmond Tea Party group is blasting the IRS for allegedly failing to grant tax exempt status to the pro-limited government organization. ‘The Internal Revenue Service has served Richmond Tea Party (RTP) with unreasonable requests to obtain a tax-exempt status, fitting the pattern of the Federal Government’s forcing liberty groups to spend inordinate time and money complying with their demands during this critical 2012 election year,’ RTP claims in a press release.” The RTP stated, “This illustrates everything the American people find unacceptable from their government. A simple request for tax-exempt status should not take years to complete, involve hundreds of pages of documentation, require hundreds of volunteer hours, and request private information we should never have to disclose. This grants the Federal Government the dangerous power to selectively stymie those voices with which they disagree, bogging them down in endless paperwork and compliance costs so that they are unable to spend time serving the principles they founded their organization to advance.” (Among other unreasonable requests, the IRS demanded that the Richmond Tea Party provide a full list of donors and volunteers.) [29253, 29971, 44771]

At Time.com Joe Klein writes, “The Internal Revenue Service’s targeting of conservative groups is outrageous. Those who did this should be fired immediately. That’s obvious. ... Yet again, we have an example of Democrats simply not managing the government properly and with discipline. This is just poisonous at a time of skepticism about the efficacy of government. And [Obama] should know this: the absence of scandal is not the presence of competence. His unwillingness to concentrate—and I mean concentrate obsessively—on making sure that government is managed efficiently will be part of his legacy. Previous Presidents... have used the IRS against their enemies. But I don’t think Obama ever wanted to be on the same page as Richard Nixon. In this specific case, he now is.” [44780]

NationalReview.com reports, “Along with targeting tea-party groups, the IRS may also have given extra-special attention to the tax-exempt status of some Jewish groups for political reasons.” (Politico later reports, “A leader of one of the organizations involved, Lori Lowenthal Marcus of Z Street, said Monday [May 13] that she was convinced the added attention her group got was no accident. ‘I can’t believe it was just about Z Street, because it’s a tiny organization,’ Lowenthal Marcus said of the group, which has been critical of ...Obama for being too cozy with left-leaning Jewish groups like J Street and with pro-Palestinian entities. Z Street filed a lawsuit against the IRS in 2010 alleging that one of its attorneys were told its application for tax exemption was delayed and sent to a ‘special unit... to determine whether the organization’s activities contradict the Administration’s public policies.’”) [44789, 44790, 44845]

At WashingtonPost.com Karen Tumulty and Philip Rucker wonder if Obama will “Suffer the ‘second-term curse.’” They note that “...even some of Obama’s allies worry privately that his difficulties may be made worse by his lack of deep relationships on Capitol Hill, notwithstanding his round of dinners with members lately. His congressional liaison, Miguel Rodriguez, came to the job virtually unknown by lawmakers. [Obama] himself has a tendency to hunker down with a tight circle of loyalists. ‘I don’t think he has adequate people questioning him on these things,’ said one close Obama ally and Washington veteran.” Ken Duberstein, White House chief of staff during Reagan’s second term, observes, “The suggestions that Obama is in a deep ditch are probably premature. But when you get in a ditch, you need to stop digging. You need to put down the shovel.” [44772]

At the Iowa GOP’s annual Lincoln Dinner, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) excoriates former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton over her handling of the Benghazi terrorist attack and the Obama administration’s cover-up. Paul states, “First question to Hillary Clinton: Where in the hell were the Marines? ...It was inexcusable, it was a dereliction of duty, and it should preclude her from holding higher office.” [44773]

Judicial Watch announces that it has filed three Freedom of Information Act lawsuits related to the Benghazi terrorist attacks. One lawsuit seeks “all [State Department] videos and photographs” from Benghazi between September 10–13, 2012. Another seeks information regarding the security contract for the Benghazai facility, and a third lawsuit seeks “Any and all memoranda, assessments, analyses, and/or talking points regarding the September 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya and/or the killing of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens produced by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence between September 11, 2012, and September 20, 2012. This request includes, but is not limited to, the ‘speaking points’ memorandum referred to by Senator Dianne Feinstein during a televised interview on October 17, 2012...” [44775, 44776]

The *New Hampshire Union Leader* writes, “Last week was stunningly bad for the Obama administration. Whistleblowers testified before Congress that the administration misled the American people about the terrorist attacks that killed four Americans in Benghazi on

the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks last year. Then the IRS admitted to having targeted right-leaning non-profit groups for additional scrutiny in 2012. Were this a Republican President, demands for hearings and investigations (if not impeachment) would be on the lips of not only the far-left activists, but mainstream Democrats and many in the media. How these scandals affect ...Obama will be a test of the value of the Democratic brand in deflecting well-deserved scrutiny. First, Benghazi. When the No. 2 diplomat in Libya tells Congress that a) the attackers in a fatal assault that killed a U.S. ambassador were known immediately to be terrorists, b) he told superiors that, and c) they told him to keep his mouth shut, this is the stuff of genuine scandal.” [44810]

“Next, The Weekly Standard and ABC News revealed that the Benghazi talking points drafted by the CIA were changed by State Department officials to remove every reference to terrorism. White House spokesman Jay Carney had said the revisions were merely cosmetic in nature. That was not true. They made it appear that terrorists had no role in a fatal attack on a U.S. diplomatic installation, when everyone involved already knew it was an act of terrorism. This was done less than two months before the election. Then the IRS apologized for harassing [sic], during an election year, non-profit groups that had ‘tea party’ or ‘patriots’ in their name. Lois Lerner, head of the IRS division that oversees non-profit groups, confirmed that the IRS had targeted these specific right-of-center organizations for extra scrutiny. She blamed the ‘inappropriate’ behavior on low-level staff members in Cleveland. So in the months before a presidential election, IRS officials sought to undermine citizens’ groups that opposed [Obama’s] policies, and the administration tried to prevent the American people from learning that terrorists had attacked us. How is this not cause for more investigation?” [44810]

On *Huckabee*, Pat Smith, the mother of Sean Smith, one of the Americans killed in Benghazi, states, “I want to wish Hillary [Clinton] a Happy Mother’s Day. She has her child. I don’t have mine because of her.” [44777, 44788]

On May 12 Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) appears on *State of the Union* and addresses the Internal Revenue Service’s attacks on Tea Party groups: “It is absolutely chilling that the IRS was singling out conservative groups for extra review and I think that it’s very disappointing that [Obama] hasn’t personally condemned this and spoken out. ...This is truly outrageous and it contributes to the profound mistrust that the American people have in government. [Obama] needs to make crystal clear that this is totally unacceptable in America. ...I just don’t buy [the claim] that this was [done by] a couple of rogue IRS employees. After all, groups with ‘progressive’ in their names were not targeted similarly. If it had been just a small group of employees, then you would think that the high-level IRS supervisors would have rushed to make this public, fire[d] the employees involved and apologized to the American people and informed Congress.” On *Fox News Sunday*, Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI) says, “This is something we cannot let stand. It needs to have a full investigation. I don’t care if you’re a conservative, a liberal a Democrat or a Republican, this should send a chill up your spine. ...I don’t know where it stops or who’s involved. [The investigation] has to be external. It’s clearly shown that they can’t do it themselves. And I think Congress needs to have that oversight. ...We have had people come forward because of the [hearing] and say we would also like to

talk. I do think we're going to see more whistle-blowers. Certainly my committee has been contacted; I think other committees as well." On *Meet the Press*, Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) says, "This mea culpa [from the IRS] is not an honest one." [44781, 44782, 44793, 44798, 44802]

On *This Week*, George Will states, "A week ago [White House press secretary Jay] Carney—whose usefulness to this administration is diminishing rapidly—a week ago he said Benghazi was a long time ago as though it was the Punic Wars. ... We started out with three arguments. Was security lax in Benghazi? Demonstrably. Could forces have been got there to rescue them? Doubtful. Has the nation been systemically misled? Certainly. Now, we need a select committee in Congress because the State Department's misnamed accountability review board neglected to interview even the Secretary of State." With regard to the IRS scandal, Will says, "In response to a question at American Bar Association convention, a second-level IRS person said, 'Oh by the way, we did target these people [conservative groups].' The Tea Party people have known about this and were working on this. But they said—it was just some odd underlings out in Cincinnati who did this and there was no political motive whatever involved. Now the question is, how stupid do they [in the Obama administration] think we are? Just imagine... if the George W. Bush administration had an IRS underling, he's out in Cincinnati, of course, saying we're going to target groups with the word 'progressive' in their title. We'd have all Hell breaking loose." Will also notes that one of the impeachment charges against Richard M. Nixon was his discriminatory use of the IRS against political enemies. [44792, 44811, 44879]

Also on *This Week*, Jonathan Karl reports that then-CIA director David Petraeus found the final Obama administration talking points "useless," and stated, "I would just as soon not use them, but it's their [the White House's] call." (HotAir.com observes, "That would contradict the meme over the last few days that this was an intramural fight between State and CIA with the White House just serving as bystanders. The CIA Director called the 'demonstration' talking points useless *the day before Susan Rice went on five Sunday talk shows*, but the White House apparently disagreed. They, evidently, found the false narrative *very* useful." [44799]

On *Face the Nation* Thomas Pickering, who headed the "Accountability Review Board" that investigated the Benghazi situation, is asked why the board did not interview then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Pickering responds, "The decisions were made and reviewed at the level that we fixed responsibility for failures of performance. ... We knew where the responsibility rested." (In other words, the board decided in advance that Clinton and Obama would not be assigned blame and was content to interview people who would be made the "fall guys." But the board's final report did not even go that far, and essentially held no one accountable.) CBS investigative correspondent Sharyl Attkisson says, "I'm still learning new things [about Benghazi]. ... I also wonder if a pattern is emerging, now that we've seen all mention of terrorism, Islamic extremists, al-Qaeda, [and] Ansar al-Sharia removed from the talking points. ... Is there a pattern of someone wanting to avoid the terrorism narrative in exchange for, basically, the 'YouTube spontaneous demonstration' narrative." [44797, 44800, 44809]

At NationalReview.com Mark Steyn writes, "...In January, I noted that Hillary Clinton had denied ever seeing Ambassador [Christopher] Stevens's warnings about deteriorating security in Libya on the grounds that '1.43 million cables come to my office'—and she can't be expected to see all of them, or any. [But] Once Ambassador Stevens was in his flag-draped coffin listening to her eulogy for him at Andrews Air Force Base, he was her bestest friend in the world—it was all 'Chris this' and 'Chris that,' as if they'd known each other since third grade. But up till that point he was just one of 1.43 million close personal friends of Hillary trying in vain to get her ear. ...Are murdered ambassadors like those 1.43 million cables she doesn't read? Just too many of them to keep track of? ...What was Secretary Clinton doing [On September 11, 2012] that was more important? What was [Obama] doing? Aside, that is, from resting up for his big Vegas campaign event. A real government would be scrambling furiously to see what it could do to rescue its people. It's easy, afterwards, to say that nothing would have made any difference. But, at the time Deputy Chief [Gregory] Hicks was calling 9-1-1 and getting executive-branch voicemail, nobody in Washington knew how long it would last. ...Throughout the all-night firefight in Benghazi, Washington's priority seems to have been to do everything possible to deny that what was actually happening was happening at all. To send 'soldiers' on a 'mission' to 'fight' the 'enemy' was at odds with the entire Obama narrative of the Arab Spring and the broader post-Bush Muslim world. And so the entire U.S. military was stood down in support of [Obama's] fiction. ...The government dispatched more firepower to arrest [anti-Mohammed YouTube video producer] Nakoula Basseley Nakoula in Los Angeles than it did to protect its mission in Benghazi. It was such a great act of misdirection Hillary should have worn spangled tights and sawn Stevens's casket in half." [44784]

At WorldTribune.com Jeffrey T. Kuhner writes, "...Obama is presiding over an administration that has engaged in the systematic abuse of power. This is the real meaning of the Benghazi tragedy. ...The hearing revealed another bombshell... An email was sent on Sept. 12, 2012—one day after the attack—to senior State Department officials by Elizabeth Jones, acting assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. Among those who received it was Mrs. Clinton's chief of staff, Cheryl Mills; State Department spokeswoman (and Clinton hack) Victoria Nuland, and Undersecretary of State for Management, Patrick F. Kennedy, a key Clinton adviser. The email's conclusion: Ansar al-Sharia, an affiliate of Al Qaida in Libya, was directly and solely responsible for the terrorist atrocities at Benghazi. This means the Obama administration knew from the beginning that Benghazi had nothing to do with a 'flash mob' or an anti-Muslim video. The entire narrative was concocted to preserve ...Obama's re-election. The central narrative of his campaign was that he had 'smashed' and 'defeated' Al Qaida. 'The tide of war is receding,' he said. Benghazi threatened to expose ...Obama's false claims. Rather than being on the run, Al Qaida was resurgent. ...Ultimately, Benghazi is considerably worse than Watergate. No one died in Watergate; the scandal revolved around the cover-up of a third-rate burglary. President Nixon's crimes paled in comparison to those of the Obama administration. ...Obama has violated his sacred trust with the American people. He has repeatedly misled the public. He has engaged in rampant abuse of power and gross dereliction of duty. He has sanctioned the deliberate

manipulation of intelligence. He has enabled his subordinates to commit perjury and obstruct justice in the investigation of the terrorist killing of four U.S. officials. ...Obama neglected his duties and Americans died.” [44806]

On May 13 Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) states, “The Obama effort to shut up opponents isn’t limited to the IRS. It applies to the FCC [Federal Communications Commission], SEC [Securities and Exchange Commission], FEC [Federal Elections Commission], HHS [Department of Health and Human Services]... And you remember, the Obama campaign last year published a list of eight businessmen who it believed were enemies. ...This [abuse by the IRS] is no little thing. This is a big thing. The good news about it is they finally got caught. They finally messed with an agency everybody fully understands. When they try to quiet the critics through other agencies, it doesn’t get attention. This does. Everybody understands the IRS and how powerful they are. This is just one example of an administration-wide effort to silence critics.” [44804]

TakiMag.com writes, “As far as weeks go, last week was really weak for Barack Obama. Or, as Elmer Fudd might say, it was a weally weak week for that wascally wabbit. We feel that we can say with impunity that Obama is beginning to show chinks in his armor, because the plain fact is that he is not Chinese. Not only was Obama’s administration rocked by the Benghazi hearings and revelations that the IRS during his reign has targeted Tea Party and “patriot” groups for extra scrutiny, it has become increasingly evident even to Obama’s Borg-like defenders that he may care more about appeasing his wealthy benefactors and toasting his celebrity friends than he does about uplifting the vanishing middle class and the squirming proletarian masses.” [44805]

The New York Times attempts to provide cover for Obama and Hillary Clinton on the issue of Benghazi, writing, “No matter how often Republicans denounce them, the initial talking points used by the White House to describe the attack in Benghazi, Libya are not the real point. But they have become a major political issue in large part because of the White House’s inept response to questions about how they were written. ...There is little doubt that the White House could have handled the talking points issue better. ...There are serious issues that need follow up, including the C.I.A.’s role in responding to the Benghazi attacks, stability in Libya, which is in disarray, and the status of diplomatic security reforms. But none of that seems to concern Republicans who are out for political vengeance.” (Intentionally misleading the American people is, from the *Times*’ perspective, not an issue. Apparently the *Times*’ only complaint is that the deception was not done more artfully.) [44817]

The Telegraph posts its 2013 edition of “Obama’s top ten insults against Britain.” “1. Siding with Argentina over the Falkland Islands” “2. Snubbing the funeral of Lady [Margaret] Thatcher” “3. Holding up a Senate Resolution honouring Lady Thatcher” “4. Lecturing Britain against leaving the EU [European Union]” “5. Throwing [the bust of] Churchill out of the Oval Office” “6. Placing a “boot on the throat” of BP” “7. Using a State Dinner for the British Prime Minister as a campaign event” “8. DVDs for the Prime

Minister” “9. Insulting words from the State Department” “10. Calling France America’s strongest ally” [44945, 44946]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Democratic Montana Senator Max Baucus is leading an investigation into why the Internal Revenue Service targeted conservative nonprofit groups for extra scrutiny despite the fact that Baucus once wrote a letter urging the IRS to do exactly that. Baucus, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, will head the committee’s investigation into the IRS, which apologized Friday for targeting groups with the terms ‘Tea Party’ and ‘Patriot’ in their titles for extra scrutiny of their nonprofit status as early as 2011. However, Baucus once wrote a letter requesting that the IRS engage in that very conduct. Baucus wrote a letter to then-IRS commissioner Douglas Shulman dated September 28, 2010 urging the IRS to investigate nonprofit conservative groups during the Tea Party-dominated 2010 midterm elections. ‘With hundreds of millions of dollars being spent in election contests by tax-exempt entities, it is time to take a fresh look at current practices and how they comport with the Internal Revenue Code’s rules for nonprofits,’ Baucus wrote in the letter. ...Baucus specifically named Americans for Job Security, which is described as a ‘pro-Republican organization,’ as a specific target for the IRS to investigate.” (Senators Carl Levin (D-MI), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Charles Schumer (D-NY), and Al Franken (D-MN) also pressured the IRS to investigate conservative non-profit organizations. Levin asked the IRS to investigate Americans for Prosperity, 60 Plus Association, Patriot Majority USA, and Club for Growth.) [44823, 44878, 44971, 45180, 45181]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Justice Department secretly obtained two months [April and May 2012] of telephone records of reporters and editors for The Associated Press in what the news cooperative’s top executive called a ‘massive and unprecedented intrusion’ into how news organizations gather the news. The records obtained by the Justice Department listed outgoing calls for the work and personal phone numbers of individual reporters, for general AP office numbers in New York, Washington and Hartford, Conn., and for the main number for the AP in the House of Representatives press gallery, according to attorneys for the AP. It was not clear if the records also included incoming calls or the duration of the calls. In all, the government seized the records for more than 20 separate telephone lines assigned to AP and its journalists in April and May of 2012.” [44807, 44812, 44813, 44827, 44834, 44837, 44838, 44839]

MyWay.com adds, “In a letter of protest sent to Attorney General Eric Holder on Monday, AP President and Chief Executive Officer Gary Pruitt said the government sought and obtained information far beyond anything that could be justified by any specific investigation. He demanded the return of the phone records and destruction of all copies. ‘There can be no possible justification for such an overbroad collection of the telephone communications of The Associated Press and its reporters. These records potentially reveal communications with confidential sources across all of the newsgathering activities undertaken by the AP during a two-month period, provide a road map to AP’s newsgathering operations and disclose information about AP’s activities and operations that the government has no conceivable right to know,’ Pruitt said.” (On May 3, 2012, while his Justice Department was surreptitiously obtaining AP phone records,

Obama said, “On this World Press Freedom Day, the United States honors the role of a free press in creating sustainable democracies and prosperous societies. We pay special tribute to those journalists who have sacrificed their lives, freedom or personal well-being in pursuit of truth and justice.” [44807, 44812, 44813, 44827, 44834, 44837, 44838, 44839]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “Other than press reports, we have no knowledge of any attempt by the Justice Department to seek phone records of the AP. We are not involved in decisions made in connection with criminal investigations, as those matters are handled independently by the Justice Department. Any questions about an ongoing criminal investigation should be directed to the Department of Justice.” [44824]

Obama addresses the IRS action, saying, “You don’t want the IRS ever being perceived to be biased and anything less than neutral in terms of how they operate. I’ve got no patience with it, I will not tolerate it and we will make sure we find out exactly what happened on this.” (Although Obama claims he had no knowledge of the IRS actions, the acting commissioner of the agency, Steven T. Miller, knew as early as May 2012 that Tea Party groups were being targeted.) In an attempt to deflect criticism, Obama calls the IRS “an independent agency.” The IRS is most certainly not an independent agency, however. [GOPTheDailyDose.com](#) notes that the IRS “is formally part of the Treasury Department and is headed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, who is appointed by the President. The Commissioner is accountable to the President reporting through the Treasury Secretary.” (White House press secretary Jay Carney has also erroneously called the IRS an “independent enforcement agency.” Even MSNBC Obama defender Chris Matthews understands the organizational chart. He states, “He does run the IRS. He runs the Treasury Department. He runs the United States government, and he is accountable for it, and this is nonsensical.”) [44815, 44819, 44833, 44842, 44893, 44942]

Of the Benghazi hearing, Obama says, “We dishonor [the victims of the terrorist attack] when we turn things like this into a political circus. What happened was tragic; it was carried out by extremists inside Libya; we are out there trying to hunt them down so it doesn’t happen again.” (The identities of some of the Benghazi terrorists are widely known and the individuals are roaming freely in Libya. Obama is not “hunting them down.”) “The whole issue of... talking points, frankly, throughout this process has been a sideshow. And the fact that this keeps on getting churned out, frankly, has a lot to do with political motivations.” Obama whines, “And the fact that this keeps on getting churned out, frankly, has a lot to do with political motivations. We’ve had folks who have challenged Hillary Clinton’s integrity, Susan Rice’s integrity, Mike Mullen[’s] and Tom Pickering’s integrity. It’s a given that mine gets challenged by these same folks. They’ve used it for fundraising.” (Obama fails to accept the possibility that the integrity of the people he named—his included—warrant being challenged.) [44815, 44819, 44833, 44842, 44893]

At [WashingtonPost.com](#) George Will writes, “[White House press secretary] Jay Carney, whose unenviable job is not to explain but to explain away what his employers say, calls

the IRS's behavior 'inappropriate.' No, using the salad fork for the entree is inappropriate. Using the Internal Revenue Service for political purposes is a criminal offense. ...Liberals, whose unvarying agenda *is* enlargement of government, suggest, with no sense of cognitive dissonance, that this IRS scandal is nothing more sinister than typical government incompetence. Five days before the IRS story broke, Obama... warned Ohio State graduates about 'creeping cynicism' and 'voices' that 'warn that tyranny is ...around the corner.' Well. He stigmatizes as the vice of cynicism what actually is the virtue of skepticism about the myth that the tentacles of the regulatory state are administered by disinterested operatives. And the voices that annoy him are those of the Founders. ...Episodes like this separate the meritorious liberals from the meretricious. The day after the IRS story broke, The [Washington] Post led the paper with it, and, with an institutional memory of Watergate, published a blistering editorial demanding an Obama apology. The New York Times consigned the story to page 10 (its front-page lead was the umpteenth story about the end of the world being nigh because of global warming). Through Monday, the Times had expressed no editorial thoughts about the IRS. The Times's Monday headline on the matter was: 'IRS Focus on Conservatives Gives GOP an Issue to Seize On.' So that is the danger." [44825]

Also at WashingtonPost.com, Ed Rogers writes, "Your government, as currently administered by ...Obama, doesn't like the word 'patriot.' If you associate yourself with an organization using that word, you may be investigated and prosecuted. Under Obama, government employees think they are doing what their superiors want them to do when they harass and menace political organizations that might oppose [Obama]. ...To say the least, this story has legs. ...There is already a huge appetite within the media to move this story. Many reporters feel they have been lied to by the White House on Benghazi, and they want to get this story right. And if Benghazi is any guide, the Obama White House will have a problem with telling the truth, sticking to its story and containing the fallout. ...For Obama—whose administration is devoid of any policy momentum, is struggling to get Benghazi out of the headlines and is dealing with a widespread belief that his second term is evaporating—the IRS scandal couldn't come at a worse time. And given that conservatives and a lot of moderates think of [Obama] as cool, arrogant and generally someone who looks down on people, this latest controversy plays to [his] negative stereotype. ...And unlike Benghazi, the Obama IRS scandal has the ability to drive votes in November 2014. There's too much about this scandal that confirms what people already think about Obama, his government and his political machine. The Obama forces know they have to deal with this one fast. I'm sure [Obama] would prefer to wait until after the inspector general's report is released, but that may be difficult. However, what can they do that doesn't make the situation worse? ...The next few days are high stakes and very dangerous for the Obama White House." [44826]

ProPublica.org reports, "The same IRS office that deliberately targeted conservative groups applying for tax-exempt status in the run-up to the 2012 election released nine pending confidential applications of conservative groups to [the left-leaning, George Soros-funded] ProPublica late last year. ...In response to a request for the applications for 67 different nonprofits last November, the Cincinnati office of the IRS [illegally, via Cindy Thomas, Program Manager of the Tax Exempt Division,] sent ProPublica

applications or documentation for 31 groups. Nine of those applications had not yet been approved—meaning they were not supposed to be made public. ... That scrutiny appears to have gone beyond Tea Party groups to applicants saying they wanted to educate the public to ‘make America a better place to live’ or that criticized how the country was being run, according to a draft audit cited by many outlets.” (The IRS has not explained why it sent confidential information about non-profit applications to a leftist activist organization. Internal revenue Code Section 7213 “makes the willful unauthorized disclosure of a return or return information a felony punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution. Upon conviction, officers or employees of the United States will also be dismissed from office or discharged from employment.”) [44851, 44876, 45112, 45113, 45123, 45202]

Breitbart.com reports, “True the Vote, a Houston-based nonprofit which focuses on election integrity issues, was formed by Catherine Engelbrecht and her King Street Patriots Tea Party group. True the Vote applied to the IRS for their 501(c3) non-profit status in July 2010, and almost immediately their problems began. Within two years, multiple federal agencies, along with an EPA-affiliated Texas state agency, began auditing True the Vote and its founders, visiting their group, their businesses, and asking questions of people who knew them. The IRS was not the only governmental agency involved.” Engelbrecht states, “We applied for nonprofit C-3 status early in 2010. Since that time the IRS has run us through a gauntlet of analysts and hundreds of questions over and over again. They’ve requested to see each and every tweet I’ve ever tweeted or Facebook post I’ve ever posted. They also asked to know every place I’ve ever spoken since our inception and to whom, and everywhere I intend to speak in the future.” The IRS and OSHA audited an Engelbrecht family business and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms demanded to see her family’s firearms. According to Breitbart.com, “The Democratic Party of Texas filed a lawsuit against her, as did an ACORN affiliated group. Both the FBI and the BATF continued to poke around her life, the lives of people in her Tea Party group, and her businesses.” Engelbrecht says, “This is what the beginning of tyranny looks like. My family and I have lived with great concern that we would be subject to even greater government abuses if we were vocal about what they were doing to us because of our political views and our efforts to increase governmental accountability. We are now convinced the only way to protect ourselves from our government is to speak out and bring our story straight to the American people. If such politically-motivated governmental abuses of power can happen to us, they can happen to anyone.” An example of an IRS letter that makes outrageous demands of an applicant can be found at Gardner.House.Gov. (It is worth noting that for more than 40 years the author of *The Obama Timeline* never had any dealings with the IRS beyond either paying taxes owed on April 15 or cashing refund checks. That changed after the *Timeline* was published.) [44852, 44903, 45091, 45092]

KMOV reporter Larry Connors reports at Facebook, “Shortly after I did my April 2012 interview with ...Obama, my wife, friends and some viewers suggested that I might need to watch out for the IRS. I don’t accept ‘conspiracy theories,’ but I do know that almost immediately after the interview, the IRS started hammering me. At the time, I dismissed the ‘co-incidence,’ but now, I have concerns... after revelations about the IRS targeting

various groups and their members. Originally, the IRS apologized for red-flagging conservative groups and their members if they had ‘Tea Party’ or ‘patriot’ in their name. Today, there are allegations that the IRS focused on various groups and/or individuals questioning or criticizing government spending, taxes, debt or how the government is run... any involved in limiting/expanding government, educating on the constitution and bill of rights, or social economic reform/movement. In that April 2012 interview, I questioned ...Obama on several topics: the Buffet Rule, his public remarks about the Supreme Court before the ruling on the Affordable Care Act. I also asked why he wasn’t doing more to help Sen. Claire McCaskill who at that time was expected to lose. The Obama interview caught fire and got wide-spread attention because I questioned his spending. I said some viewers expressed concern, saying they think he’s ‘out of touch’ because of his personal and family trips in the midst of our economic crisis. [Obama’s] face clearly showed his anger; afterwards, his staff which had been so polite ...suddenly went cold. That’s to be expected, and I can deal with that just as I did with President George H. Bush’s staff when he didn’t like my questions. Journalistic integrity is of the utmost importance to me. My job is to ask the hard questions, because I believe viewers have a right to be well-informed. I cannot and will not promote anyone’s agenda—political or otherwise—at the expense of the reporting the truth. What I don’t like to even consider... is that because of the Obama interview... the IRS put a target on me. Can I prove it? At this time, no. But it is a fact that since that April 2012 interview... the IRS has been pressuring me.” [44843]

The Wall Street Journal reports, “Leaders in Congress are questioning Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius’s solicitation of funds from private businesses and charities to help pay for public outreach on Obamacare to get prospective enrollees signed up for health exchanges. Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, ranking Republican on the Senate Health committee, told the New York Times he plans to ask the Government Accountability Office to check the legality of Sebelius’s actions, done after Congress denied the administration funds for public outreach in the 2014 budget. The Washington Post also said that Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, top Republican on the Finance Committee, questioned the legality of the action. The Times said Sebelius obtained \$10 million from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and \$500,000 from H&R Block for the effort. HHS officials said that Sebelius’s efforts would continue, after first denying they were soliciting funds for the effort. But a spokesman for Sebelius said a section of the Public Health Service Act allows her to encourage others to support those working to help carry out public health activities. Sebelius reportedly has sought donations for Enroll America, a private non-profit group that is working to get the uninsured covered under the 2010 health-care law.” (It is illegal for federal officials to solicit funds from any organization or business with whom they do business or regulate. Sebelius therefore violated federal law.) [44828, 45071]

Reuters reports, “The Obama administration is unlikely to make a decision on the Canada-to-Nebraska Keystone XL pipeline until late this year as it painstakingly weighs the project’s impact on the environment and on energy security, a U.S. official and analysts said on Friday [May 10]. The decision may not be made until November, December or even early 2014, said a U.S. official, as ...Obama will not rush the process,

which still has a number of stages to work through. One of those stages has not even begun yet and will run for months.” (The project has been pending for more than four years.) [44927, 44928]

According to the Treasury Department, the federal government collected \$406.7 billion in taxes in April 2012—the largest monthly amount since April 2008. (The total represents individual income taxes, corporate income taxes, excise taxes, Social Security and Medicare taxes, estate and gift taxes, customs duties, and other taxes.) [44840, 44841, 45009]

PatDollard.com reports that 59 Congressmen have sent Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel a letter demanding to know why Pentagon officials met with anti-Christian extremist Michael Weinstein, who has called Christians “monsters who terrorize their fellow Americans” and faith-based family groups “die-hard enemies of the United States Constitution.” [44860]

Reuters reports, “Higher-level Internal Revenue Service officials took part in discussions as far back as August 2011 about targeting by lower-level tax agents of ‘Tea Party’ and other conservative groups, according to documents reviewed by Reuters on Monday. The documents show the offices of the IRS’s chief counsel and deputy commissioner for services and enforcement communicated about the targeting with lower-level officials on August 4, 2011, and March 8, 2012, respectively. The two communications occurred weeks and months before Doug Shulman, then the commissioner of the IRS, told congressional panels in late March 2012 that no groups were being targeted for extra scrutiny by the tax agency.” [44835]

On C-SPAN, CBS reporter Sharyl Attkisson says, “That act [Freedom of Information Act] has now been used, instead of to facilitate the release of public information—which was its intention—it’s now in my opinion been used to withhold and delay the release of public information. I get pretty much zero response. That didn’t start under the Obama administration. He seems to have perfected it, he and the federal agencies. But this was true also under George Bush. [45026, 45027]

The Associated Press reports, “Cancer patients could face high costs for medications under ...Obama’s health care law, industry analysts and advocates warn. ...To try to keep premiums low, some states are allowing insurers to charge patients a hefty share of the cost for expensive medications used to treat cancer, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and other life-altering chronic diseases. Such ‘specialty drugs’ can cost thousands of dollars a month, and in California, patients would pay up to 30 percent of the cost. For one widely used cancer drug, Gleevec, the patient could pay more than \$2,000 for a month’s supply, says the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.” [44863, 44864]

The White House insider tells The Ulsterman Report, “I already told you it’s the CIA’s turn next [on the Benghazi cover-up] and it looks like that part is about to develop. Now here’s the thing about CIA. Those boys don’t play nice. You sh*t on them, they shove a

size 12 so far up your ass you can tie the laces with your teeth. ...Now I got at least three Dems ready to break from the pack here on Benghazi and one other issue.” [44859]

Comedy Central’s Jon Stewart excoriates the Obama administration over the IRS scandal. Stewart observes, “This has, in one seismic moment, shifted the burden of proof from the tin-foil-behatted to the government. The VA claims backlog and the bounced checks foreclosure clusterfuck had already given government-competence fetishists fits. ...And now this. In a few short weeks you’ve managed to show that when the government wants to do good things, your managerial competence falls somewhere between David Brent [an incompetent character in the BBC television program *The Office*] and a cat chasing a laser pointer. But when government wants to flex its more malevolent muscles, you’re fucking Ironman.” (*Time* magazine’s Joe Klein writes, “Yet again, we have an example of Democrats simply not managing the government properly and with discipline. This is just poisonous at a time of skepticism about the efficacy of government.” Former Obama political strategist David Axelrod defends Obama, saying, “[T]here’s so much underneath you that you can’t know because the government is so vast.” Stewart, Klein, and Axelrod are inadvertently supporting correct the conservative argument that the scope of government should be limited.) [44818, 44932, 44933]

CNN’s Piers Morgan, normally an Obama sycophant, rips into him for the Justice Department’s probe of Associated Press telephone records. Morgan states that Obama’s “whole transparency thing” is “crumbling.” [44856]

Obama attends fundraisers in New York City for the Democrat National Committee and its Senate and House campaign committees. According to TheAtlanticWire.com, at one of the fundraisers “Obama told donors like Jessica Biel, Justin Timberlake (who was wearing hipster glasses), and Tommy Hilfiger that Washington gridlock is pretty much Rush Limbaugh’s fault... Obama admitted that his theory—that after the 2012 election, the Republican ‘fever’ would break, and they’d decide to co-sign some of his agenda—was wrong. ‘My thinking was when we beat them in 2012 that might break the fever, and it’s not quite broken yet,’ Obama said, according to the White House pool report. This is because of a certain corpulent radio host. ‘I genuinely believe there are Republicans out there who would like to work with us but they’re fearful of their base and they’re concerned about what Rush Limbaugh might say about them. And as a consequence we get the kind of gridlock that makes people cynical about government.’” (Rush Limbaugh later comments, “[Obama] simply cannot get me off his mind. I live rent free in his head. And he is using me as his convenient excuse for not being able to get anything done. He really thinks the Republicans would work with him if it weren’t for me. So he’s telling these Hollywood people—and you gotta understand, they’re sitting there and they’re very sympathetic, and they love Obama, and they want Obama to succeed. I’m the guy who said, ‘I hope he fails.’ So Obama’s sitting there and he’s telling these Hollywood people, ‘You know, this Limbaugh guy, this Limbaugh guy... If it weren’t for this Limbaugh guy, Good Lord, look what I could get done!’ ...Now, let’s be honest, folks. Who am I? I’m a guy on the radio. I am your beloved host, El Rushbo. I’m a guy on the radio. The fact remains that the truth of the matter is, by his own admission, I am the opposition to Barack Obama.”) [44796, 44814, 44822, 44875]

At the \$34,000-per-person fundraiser in the mansion of Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, Obama strangely comments, “More than anything, what I will be striving for over the next three and a half years is to see if that spirit we saw in Boston [after the terrorist bombing] and West Texas [after a deadly industrial explosion], to see if we can institutionalize that [and] if we can create a framework where everybody’s working together and moving this country forward.” (Obama apparently wants to “institutionalize” fear and use it to boost public support for his agenda.) [44821]

On May 14 Watergate reporter Carl Bernstein appears on *Morning Joe* and comments on the administration’s access of Associated Press telephone records: “This is outrageous. It is totally inexcusable that this administration has been terrible on this subject from the beginning. The object of it is to intimidate people who talk to reporters. This was an accident waiting to become a nuclear event and now it’s happening. There’s no excuse for it whatsoever...” [44832]

Also appearing on *Morning Joe* is Associated Press executive editor Kathleen Carroll, who states, “We’re distressed that the Justice Department felt the need to seize our [telephone] records and not tell us about it, and certainly distressed... that the scope of the inquiry was so huge. I’ve been in this business more than 30 years, and our First Amendment lawyers and our lawyers inside the AP, and our CEO is also a well-known First Amendment lawyer—none of us have ever seen anything like this.” [44844, 44846]

On *This Morning*, Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) discusses the administration’s thuggish tactics at the IRS and comments, “How dare the administration imply that they’re going to get to the bottom of it. This was the targeting of [Obama’s] political enemies effectively and lies about it during the election year so that it wasn’t discovered until afterwards. The fact is this is the kind of investigation that has to be open and transparent to the American people.” [44830]

Jim Geraghty writes at NationalReview.com’s *Morning Jolt*, “When there is evidence of scandalous or bizarre behavior on the part of a political figure, and no reasonable explanation is revealed within 24 to 48 hours, then the truth is probably as bad as everyone suspects. ... You and I both know, in our guts, and based upon everything we’ve seen in Washington since we started our careers, that there’s no innocent explanation for the Obama administration’s actions before, during, and after the Benghazi attacks. ... What do we think is going on when Hillary Clinton’s chief of staff calls up the acting ambassador, and harangues him about the lack of a State Department lawyer for his conversation with Congress? Does anybody really believe it’s just her checking up to make sure protocol was followed? You can see what’s going on here. You may not *want* to see it, or *believe* it, but you can see it.”

Geraghty continues, “The federal government made awful, unforgivable wrong decisions about the security for its people in Benghazi. They compounded the error by failing to put together even the beginning of a rescue mission during the seven-hour assault. Perhaps those responsible for making the call had a fear of a ‘Black Hawk Down’ scenario, in

which the rescuers find themselves needing rescue, but whatever the reasoning, the net effect was the same: Our people were under fire, fighting for their lives, and nobody was coming to help. The decisions made that night make a mockery of the unofficial, but widespread motto of our armed forces: 'Nobody gets left behind.' The decisions made up until [that] point may or may not have involved [Obama] or then-secretary of state Clinton, but they sure as hell were involved in the decisions that came afterwards. The morning after the attack, the administration tried to offer the excuse that it was a completely unforeseeable event, randomly triggered by some YouTube video. And they sought to intimidate and punish anyone who would contradict their storyline."

"My friends in media, you know what is going on when you see ...Obama say this: 'The whole issue of talking points, frankly, throughout this process has been a sideshow. What we have been very clear about throughout was that immediately after this event happened we were not clear who exactly had carried it out, how it had occurred, what the motivations were.' You know what this is: Stop looking at what I did, and start looking at the people accusing me of wrongdoing. We've seen this tactic before: 'The vast right-wing conspiracy.' We know [Obama's] claim that there was confusion is false, because everyone on the ground was clearly telling their bosses that this was a terror attack from the beginning. No one in Benghazi or Libya was saying this was a protest as a result of a YouTube video. Where did that idea come from? Who within the administration decided to take accurate information and start inserting inaccurate information?"

DailyCaller.com notes, "Lois Lerner, the senior IRS official at the center of the decision to target tea party groups for burdensome tax scrutiny, signed paperwork granting tax-exempt status to the Barack H. Obama Foundation, a shady charity headed by [Obama's] half-brother [Abon'go "Roy" Malik Obama] that operated illegally for years. According to the organization's filings, Lerner approved the foundation's tax status within a month of filing, an unprecedented timeline that stands in stark contrast to conservative organizations that have been waiting for more than three years, in some cases, for approval. Lerner also appears to have broken with the norms of tax-exemption approval by granting retroactive tax-exempt status to Malik Obama's organization." [44795, 44976, 45068, 45086, 45316, 45397, 45402]

According to DailyCaller.com, "The 'charity' run by ...Obama's half-brother that was fast-tracked for IRS tax-exempt status is based at a Virginia UPS store, according to its website. The organization's IRS filings list another Virginia address that is actually a drug rehab center where the foundation does not appear ever to have been based." According to Shoebat.com, "The Barack H. Obama Foundation (BHOF) and Mama Sarah Obama Foundation (MSOF), are two entities claiming to be non-profit charities yet solicit funds from the United States. The money they claim is to build homes for widows, orphans and HIV/AIDS victims that are nowhere to be found. The only evidence where monies were spent involves a compound, which housed Malik's 12 wives with a restaurant including a mosque with a madrassa. While building mosques is legally considered charity, evidence shows that the entire funding came directly from entities and individuals from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain. There is nothing of charitable nature to show for all the funds Malik raises from the United States. To date, there is no

evidence for any accomplishments towards building homes for orphans, widows and AIDS victims in Kogelo or anywhere else in Kenya.” Additionally, according to Shoebat.com, “[T]he relationship between ...Barack Obama’s half-brother Malik Obama and Sudan’s President Omar Al-Bashir is much closer than previously thought. Malik is the Executive Secretary of the Islamic Da’wa Organization (IDO) as reported by all major Saudi press, including Okaz. ...The IDO has been created by the Sudanese Government, which is considered by the U.S. State Department as a terrorist state. This places Malik Obama in bed with terrorists and working as an official with a terrorist state.” Malik, who was best man at Obama’s wedding (and vice versa), has visited the White House on multiple occasions. [44795, 44976, 45068, 45086, 45397, 45402]

BostonHerald.com writes, “Outraged Bay State [Massachusetts] Democrats are blasting ...Obama for exhibiting a Nixonian abuse of power after the stunning news that the Department of Justice secretly obtained Associated Press phone records and the IRS targeted conservative groups—new scandals emerging against the backdrop of heightened Benghazi criticism. ‘There’s no way in the world I’m going to defend that. Hell, I spent my youth vilifying the Nixon administration for doing the same thing. If they did that, there should be hell to pay,’ U.S. Rep. Michael E. Capuano (D-Somerville) said about the IRS scandal. ‘Not only is it bad government and bad to society, it is horrendous politics. The worst thing you can do is give your opponent an easy hammer with which to hit you.’” (It is, of course, not a matter of, “*If* they did that” because the IRS has admitted that it targeted conservative non-profit organizations.) “‘It doesn’t seem to be a couple rogue employees. This appeared to be a systemic issue,’ said U.S. Rep. Stephen F. Lynch (D-South Boston), who wants to investigate the matter as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The committee already has scheduled a hearing on the issue for this week, Lynch said, adding, ‘No American should find themselves the target of the IRS or any other federal organization because of their political beliefs.’” [44820]

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announces that 800,000 civilian defense employees will be furloughed for 11 days to cover spending cuts required by the sequestration agreement demanded by Obama.

The Associated Press reports, “The Obama administration has never fined or prosecuted a wind farm for killing eagles and other protected bird species, shielding the industry from liability and helping keep the scope of the deaths secret, an Associated Press investigation has found. More than 573,000 birds are killed by the country’s wind farms each year, including 83,000 hunting birds such as hawks, falcons and eagles, according to an estimate published in March in the peer-reviewed Wildlife Society Bulletin. Each death is federal crime, a charge that the Obama administration has used to prosecute oil companies when birds drown in their waste pits, and power companies when birds are electrocuted by their power lines. No wind energy company has been prosecuted, even those that repeatedly flout the law.” [45304, 45305]

The CBS affiliate in Boston reports, “Shortly after midnight Tuesday, seven people were caught trespassing at the Quabbin Reservoir. State Police say the five men and two

women are from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore, and ‘cited their education and career interests’ for being in the area. The men told police they were chemical engineers and recent college graduates. The Quabbin, in Belchertown, is one of the country’s largest man-made public water supplies. Boston’s drinking water comes from the Quabbin and the Wachusett Reservoirs. State Police say there were no warrants or advisories on any of the individuals and ‘there was no evidence that the seven were committing any crime beyond the trespassing.’” [44910, 44911, 45025]

WND.com reports, “[T]he IRS also put an organization in its bull’s-eye that wanted to do nothing more than share its pro-life message with churches. Cherish Life Ministries was created to be a non-profit [organization] under the IRS 501(c)3 provision so that churches would feel comfortable working together. Peter Shinn founded the group... [and] said the IRS contacted him regarding his application for nonprofit status, and was told he didn’t qualify. ‘The representative was telling me I had to provide information on all aspects of abortion, I couldn’t just educate the church from the pro-life perspective,’ he said. ‘Every time I pressed her on this issue and asked her to clarify her position, she would state that it wasn’t what she was saying, and then, she would repeat it almost the same way. ...She did get nervous though in the end when I pressed her that I wanted specific information about why I had to educate from a pro-abortion perspective not just pro-life. I explained to her that the Pro-Life Action League even has pro-life in their title and they certainly don’t teach pro-abortion topics and they are still 501(c)(3). I also told her that Planned Parenthood does not teach about pro-life issues yet they are also still a 501(c)(3).’ (The IRS also denied tax-exempt status to “Coalition for Life of Iowa” and told its leaders that the status would be granted only if the group agreed never to protest or picket in front of Planned Parenthood facilities.) [44865, 44866, 44894, 44999, 45463]

Attorney General Eric Holder, asked about the Justice Department’s secret monitoring of telephone records of Associated Press reporters, says, “I’m not sure how many of those cases... I have actually signed off on. I take them very seriously. I know that I have refused to sign a few [and] pushed a few back for modifications.” [44816, 44874]

CNN’s Jessica Yellin asks White House press secretary Jay Carney, “You have to understand and hear how it sounds like the administration might be hiding something. Can you just say plainly, does [Obama] believe [the IRS] is being truthful and does he think that the leadership there needs to change?” Carney responds that Obama is still waiting for an official report to read, and claims Obama and the White House learned “everything we know about this from what we see in your [media] reports.” [44853, 44858]

The White House releases a statement from Obama: “The federal government must conduct itself in a way that’s worthy of the public’s trust, and that’s especially true for the IRS. The IRS must apply the law in a fair and impartial way, and its employees must act with utmost integrity. This report [of IRS activities regarding conservative groups] shows that some of its employees failed that test.” Treasury Secretary Jack Lew states, “While the Inspector General found no evidence that any individual or organization outside the IRS influenced the decision to use these criteria, these actions were

inappropriate and did not reflect the high standards which I expect and the public deserves. Like the American people, I have zero tolerance for any action that could undermine public confidence in the impartial and non-partisan administration of the tax code.” [44862]

Franklin Graham, president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and the international humanitarian organization Samaritan’s Purse, states that the IRS was conducting a ‘review’ of their activities for tax year 2010. According to Politico, “With the IRS admitting it gave extra scrutiny to conservative political organizations, Graham says he now believes that the review was part of an Obama administration effort of ‘targeting and attempting to intimidate us. ... While these audits not only wasted taxpayer money, they wasted money contributed by donors for ministry purposes as we had to spend precious resources servicing the IRS agents in our offices. I believe that someone in the administration was targeting and attempting to intimidate us. This is morally wrong and unethical—indeed some would call it ‘un-American. ... I do not believe that the IRS audit of our two organizations... is a coincidence—or justifiable.” [44857]

At AmericanClarion.com Gina Miller writes, “While Obama’s leftist ideology is on display daily, it’s getting terribly old hearing conservative commentators complaining that Obama and his administration are ‘incompetent’ and that they are ‘mishandling’ situations. They are not incompetent mishandlers. They are malicious. They are lawless. They are anti-American. It is plain to see that they are purposely destroying this nation’s military and defense structure, its economy and the freedoms of the American people with assaults on our God-given rights to freedom of religion, association and self-defense. They are abolishing our borders. They are deliberately overloading the welfare, disability and other ‘entitlement’ programs in order to break us (just as [Richard] Cloward and [Frances Fox] Piven taught them), as they work to impose their communist agenda. ... No, Obama is not incompetent. He’s an enemy of America who is occupying our presidency. He’s malicious, and he belongs in prison for the numerous crimes he has committed before and after being installed in the White House.” [44836]

PJMedia.com provides “A Quick Guide to the Four Major Scandals that May Bring Down the Obama Administration.” They are: “1. Health and Human Services soliciting funds from the health care industry for the implementation of ObamaCare... 2. Benghazi... 3. The Department of Justice secretly obtained the phone records of 20 lines at or connected to the Associated Press” and “4. The IRS targeted conservative Tea Party groups, and Jewish groups favorable toward Israel...” (A potential fifth scandal involves the Environmental Protection Agency, which “stands accused today of showing favoritism toward liberal groups over conservative groups.” According to WashingtonExaminer.com, “Conservative groups seeking information from the Environmental Protection Agency have been routinely hindered by fees normally waived for media and watchdog groups, while fees for more than 90 percent of requests from green groups were waived, according to requests reviewed by the Competitive Enterprise Institute.” The EPA waived fees for 92 percent of “green groups,” but denied waivers for 93 percent of requests from the Conservative Enterprise Institute.) [44847, 44848, 44849, 44872, 44935]

According to WashingtonExaminer.com, “Internal cost estimates from 17 of the nation's largest insurance companies indicate that health insurance premiums will grow an average of 100 percent under Obamacare, and that some will soar more than 400 percent, crushing the administration’s goal of affordability. New regulations, policies, taxes, fees and mandates are the reason for the unexpected ‘rate shock,’ according to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which released a report Monday based on internal documents provided by the insurance companies. The 17 companies include Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Kaiser Foundation.” [44873, 44905]

At Politico.com, Mike Allen and Jim Vandehei write, “The town is turning on ...Obama—and this is very bad news for this White House. Republicans have waited five years for the moment to put the screws to Obama—and they have one-third of all congressional committees on the case now. Establishment Democrats, never big fans of [Obama] to begin with, are starting to speak out. And reporters are tripping over themselves to condemn lies, bullying and shadiness in the Obama administration. ...Obama’s aloof mien and holier-than-thou rhetoric have left him with little reservoir of good will, even among Democrats. And the press, after years of being accused of being soft on Obama while being berated by West Wing aides on matters big and small, now has every incentive to be as ruthless as can be. This White House’s instinctive petulance, arrogance and defensiveness have all worked to isolate Obama at a time when he most needs a support system. ‘It feels like they don’t know what they’re here to do,’ a former senior Obama administration official said. ‘When there’s no narrative, stuff like this consumes you.’ ...The dam of solid Democratic solidarity has collapsed, starting with New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd’s weekend scolding of the White House over Benghazi, then gushing with the news the Justice Department had sucked up an absurdly broad swath of Associated Press phone records. ...One Democrat who likes Obama and has been around town for many years said elected officials in his own party are no different than Republicans: They think [Obama] is distant and unapproachable. ...Once the dogs are released, they bark, they bite and it takes a very long time to calm them down. Bill Clinton got hit early and often, and George W. Bush never really recovered from it.” [44861]

FoxNews.com reports, “An attorney for a Tea Party group that believes the IRS targeted it for special scrutiny while applying for nonprofit status said an IRS analyst told him over a year ago that the agency had a ‘secret working group’ devoted to investigating conservative organizations. Attorney Dan Backer, whose client TheTeaParty.net has been trying to obtain tax-exempt status since 2010, said an IRS analyst mentioned the alleged working group during a phone conversation about one of Backer’s other client organizations. ‘More than a year ago, one of these guys, really a slip of the tongue, [said] ‘Yeah we have this new working group that’s really looking at all these conservative organizations,’” Backer said. ‘And that’s when we knew it was gonna be a problem.’” [44831]

Newsmax.com reports, “Cleta Mitchell, one of Washington’s most respected elections attorneys, told Newsmax she has tangible proof that high-ranking IRS officials in Washington were fully aware of the agency’s campaign to target conservative groups for heightened scrutiny, despite their denials. And she thinks [Obama] knew about the practice, too. If proven, she said, it could be an impeachable offense. Mitchell... said she was told by a Cincinnati IRS agent that applications by two of her conservative clients were being processed by—and would ultimately be approved or denied in—Washington. She said she also is aware of nearly 100 other conservative groups that were being targeted by Washington. ‘There were nearly 100 groups across the country that got the very egregious set of letters from the IRS that were almost identical and they came from offices all over the country so I know of at least 85 to 90, maybe more, organizations,’ said Mitchell, who represents six groups which say they have been targeted, including the King Street Patriots and True the Vote. ‘If they had the name ‘tea party’ or they had the word ‘patriots’ or if their mission was smaller government or study the Constitution, believe it or not, that would cause the IRS to say, ‘Oh, we [had] better investigate these groups.’” [44854, 44999, 45192]

Mitchell continues, “...I’ve thought for some time that this is politically motivated and that’s the reason it was happening. ...I’ve been doing this for more than 20 years and I’ve never seen anything like this until 2009, 2010. And the only thing that changed was we had a different administration. We know the White House used the Department of Health and Human Services to try to silence critics about Obamacare. So if we know they used HHS, why wouldn’t they also use the IRS or other federal agencies to try to silence political critics? ...[T]he fact is, the IRS has lied and covered up, even to the members of Congress. The problem is they’ve had hearings—the IRS commissioner basically lied to Congress last year when he appeared before Congress and they asked him about this targeting conservative groups and he said it wasn’t true. Well, no, we find out yes, it was true. They may try to say it was low-level people. It was not low-level people. They weren’t [only] in Cincinnati. It was being directed out of Washington, and I have them on record saying that.” [44854]

Julian Bond, chairman emeritus of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, appears on MSNBC and says the IRS was right to target Tea Party groups because they are “overtly racist” and the “Taliban wing of American politics. ...I

don't think there's a double standard at all. I think it's entirely legitimate to look at the tea party." [44896]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments, "...It's clear that that the press has turned [on Obama]. I'm not sure how permanent it will be... but this is surely different than what we've seen over the four years. The acolytes and cheerleaders have been supine. And the reason I think... is the accumulation of scandals all at once and the remarkable coincidence that [Obama] was speaking early on about conspiracies and 'don't worry about government, tyranny,' you know, the IRS scandal, which is essentially the use of the second most powerful agency in government as an agent of suppression of political speech [and that] is almost a definition of tyranny. But that's number one. The second is this: they [journalists and reporters] really feel they were swindled by [Obama] and by [White House press secretary] Jay Carney on the [Benghazi] talking points. Whether it's the most material thing in the world is now irrelevant, but they were told again and again by Carney and then last week he repeated it that there was no editing from the White House and from the State Department. And he only could do that by redefining the word 'edit.' These are journalists who know what editing is. If somebody outside of your editor said 'strike that line,' and you strike it, Carney would say there was no editing because you handed in the final edition. Everybody understands that is absurd, ridiculous, patronizing and insulting. And they were on the receiving end of that and that will cause a big change in how you look at the White House and how you hear every word that [Obama] or Carney says." [44808]

Comedy Central's Jon Stewart, noting Obama's lack of knowledge about his own administration's scandals, quips, "I wouldn't be surprised if ...Obama learned Osama bin Laden had been killed when he saw himself announce it on television." [45020, 45021]

On May 15 Attorney General Eric Holder testifies before the House Judiciary Committee, which asks for explanations of the Justice Department's secret confiscation of Associated Press telephone records. Holder's testimony is full of excuses: "I was not the person involved in that decision." "No, what I'm saying is that I can't say as a matter of fact. I have to assume, I say I would probably [be] 95 percent, 99 percent certain the deputy attorney general acting in my stead was the one who authorizes the subpoena [of the telephone records]." "I'm not sure [when I recused myself], I think it was towards the beginning of the matter. I don't know exactly when but it was towards the beginning of the matter." (Holder responds, "I don't know" at least 20 times.) [44850, 44886, 44887, 44888, 44889, 44981]

Asked why the Justice Department did not inform the Associated Press it was reviewing its telephone records, as required by law, Holder responds, "I do not know why that was or was not done. I simply don't have a factual basis to answer that question." Asked why his department did not ask the AP for cooperation in gathering documentation it needed, Holder says, "I don't know what happened there. I was recused from the case." To various questions Holder responds, "I don't have a factual basis to answer the questions that you have asked, because I was recused." "I don't know. I don't know." "I would not want to reveal what I know." "I don't know why that didn't happen." "I know nothing, so

I'm not in a position really to answer.” (Dana Milbank writes at WashingtonPost.com, “Holder seemed to regard this ignorance as a shield protecting him and the Justice Department from all criticism of the Obama administration’s assault on press freedoms. But his claim that his ‘recusal’ from the case exempted him from all discussion of the matter didn’t fly with Republicans or Democrats on the committee, who justifiably saw his recusal as more of an abdication.”) [44919]

Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) tells Holder, “Mr. Attorney General, I think that this committee has been frustrated for at least the last two and a half years—if not the last four and a half years—that there doesn’t seem to be any acceptance of responsibility in the Justice Department for things that have gone wrong. Now, may I suggest that you and maybe [Deputy Attorney General] Mr. [James] Cole and a few other people go to the Truman Library and take a picture of the thing that he had on his desk that said that ‘The buck stops here,’ because we don’t know where the buck stops. And I think to do adequate oversight we’d better find out how this [Justice Department seizure of Associated Press telephone records] happened.” [44909]

Asked by Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ) if the Justice Department has ever prosecuted anyone under the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, Holder responds, “I don’t know.” Franks asks, “So will you enforce the Born Alive Infant Protection Act as attorney general, and will you consider carefully what’s happening in clinics across the country like happened in the clinic that Kermit Gosnell ran? ...I guess I hear the mantra so often that somehow this [late-term abortion issue] is choice, but to stand by in silence while the most helpless of all children are torturously and agonizingly dismembered day after day after day, year after year, Mr. General, is quite honestly a heartless disgrace that really can’t be described by the vocabulary of man, and I hope you’ll consider that carefully sir.” [44944]

Fox19 interviews several Cincinnati IRS workers who claim they “simply did what their bosses ordered” in targeting conservative and Tea Party groups. (That contradicts the Obama administration claim that “rogue employees” in Cincinnati acted on their own.) [44867, 44868, 44883, 44884, 44924]

CNSNews.com reports, “Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), the ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee, has joined Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI), the committee chairman, in demanding that the Internal Revenue Service answer by next Tuesday thirteen questions posed by the committee relating to IRS discrimination against conservative and pro-Israel groups and, where relevant, provide all internal agency documents and communications substantiating the answers. The committee’s bipartisan demand for documents includes all communications between the IRS and the White House about the IRS’s targeting of conservative groups. The committee also warns the IRS in the letter not to destroy, modify or remove any of the records the committee is seeking.” [44877]

DailyCaller.com reports, “IRS managers delayed approval of tea party requests for routine tax exemptions by assigning all of them to a single employee in Cincinnati for

special review, according to footnote 14 of the blockbuster Inspector General report. The single employee was the only person working on the reviews for at least 18 months. ...[T]he bottleneck ensured that many tea party groups' requests were extensively delayed, hindering their political activity and curbing their fundraising throughout 2010, 2011 and 2012." [44871]

TheBlaze.com reports, "In the midst of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) scandal, individuals and groups, alike, are continuing to come forward with ever-startling allegations. On Wednesday, Dr. Anne Hendershott, a devout Catholic and a noted sociologist, professor and author, exclusively told TheBlaze that she believes she may have been one of the IRS's targets. According to Hendershott, the IRS audited her in 2010 and demanded to know who was paying her. While they did not ask directly it seemed as though the agent wanted to know about the leanings of these particular organizations." [44880]

MinuteManNews.com mocks Obama's "I didn't know" excuse for the current scandals plaguing the White House: "The White House is responsible for nothing and they don't know about anything going on in their government. They didn't know about the DOJ's covert seizure of the Associated Press's phone records until Monday. Jay Carney, the White House press secretary, said in a statement Monday evening that the phone records story was purely a Justice Department affair. White House officials didn't even know about it until they read press accounts Monday afternoon, Carney said. ...The White House also didn't know about the IRS targeting conservatives, people who want limited government or disagree with the government. ...Obama didn't know. He found out Friday with the rest of us. ...Obama didn't know that Benghazi was an al Qaeda attack. He thought it had something to do with a video protest gone awry even though the intelligence community knew it was a terror attack on the night of the attack. The White House didn't know the Talking Points were changed. The White House didn't know that terror training camps were sprouting up all around the Benghazi consulate and they didn't know about the 200+ attacks in Libya prior to the 9/11 attack. The White House didn't know about the security requests. ...Obama didn't know his BFFs Jay-Z and Beyonce were going to Communist Cuba on holiday. He doesn't know how they got the visa to go." [44881]

WhiteHouseDossier.com calls for a special prosecutor to investigate the IRS actions against conservative groups. Veteran White House reporter Keith Koffler writes, "Obama may be trying to show standard operating procedure can handle this so that he can avoid the appointment of a special prosecutor. A special prosecutor, though nominally working for the attorney general, would have the kind of independence needed to really go down all the pathways that are going to emerge as corruption at the IRS—and perhaps elsewhere in the administration—is uncovered. Surely Attorney General Holder can't credibly collaborate with the FBI, as he has vowed to do, to perform the investigation. Nobody who is a Republican trusts Holder. This investigation has to be viewed as unimpeachable to both sides. ...Surely not Jack Lew, widely regarded within the GOP as a political animal installed at Treasury to reliably handle for Obama just this kind of problem. ...The IRS has fearful sway over our lives, power that surely was never

intended by the Founders. If it's using this power to slay [Obama'] enemies, then we need to know who was involved and who needs to be punished." [44897]

WesternJournalism.com posts an affidavit submitted by "cold case posse" lead investigator Mike Zullo in *Hugh McInnish, et al. v. Beth Chapman, Secretary of State, et al.*, an Alabama lawsuit challenging Obama's eligibility to appear on the state's ballot. The affidavit provides details confirming that Obama's birth certificate is a forgery. [44882]

The Ulsterman Report points out the inconsistency of Obama administration responses regarding its access of Associated Press reporter telephone records. On the one hand, Attorney General Eric Holder claims seizing the records was based on "A very, very serious leak. Among the most serious leaks—it put American people at risk." On the other hand, White House press secretary Jay Carney claims Obama did not know about the action and "found out about the news reports yesterday on the road." Ulsterman writes, "So please now consider this reader—the Attorney General of the United States of America publicly informs the media that there was such a significant threat to American security that it required the Department of Justice to revoke the First Amendment rights of a significant media source. And yet, despite that significant threat to American security, the White House then indicates Barack Obama HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT THREAT or the attempt to remedy that threat. That he in fact just learned of his own Department of Justice's potentially illegal actions against the Associated Press. NO WAY. The Obama White House is placing lies atop lies now at such a pace they cannot even coordinate them on a daily basis. Either Barack Obama did in fact know of his DOJ's actions against the media, and then had his administration lie about it, or he has an administration that does not even bother to inform him of a significant threat to the United States. So which is it Obama White House? And at this point does it even matter? You have now made it clear to the American people you are a repeated liar, an absolute incompetent—or both." [44885]

Politico reports, "The White House on Wednesday released what it calls a complete set of [partially redacted] emails and documents totaling 100 pages showing the evolution of the administration's talking points about the Benghazi attack. The emails, ranging from Sept. 14 to Sept. 15, indicated that CIA Deputy Director Mike Morell requested that references to Al Qaeda, an Al Qaeda linked terrorist group operating in Eastern Libya, and prior terrorist attacks in the area be scrubbed from public talking points—hours before State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland made a similar request, as previously reported. But the documents also include a significant discrepancy in the process for drafting the document between the office of United Nations Ambassador Susan Rice and Morell, according to senior administration officials." The terrorist attack took place on September 11, 2012. *Therefore, emails from the first two days were not included in the "complete set."* The first email released by the administration occurred 67 hours after the attack began. (If Richard Nixon was forced to resign partly over 18 missing minutes of White House recordings, Obama should arguably be held accountable for 67 hours of withheld emails.) [44915, 44926, 44934, 44957, 44963]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Under growing pressure, the White House on Wednesday released emails that showed the talking points crafted to explain the deadly terrorist attack in Benghazi last year were changed at the behest of a State Department worried about political fallout. The 100-page cache of email printouts shows that during the editing process references to the fact that U.S. intelligence agencies believed al Qaeda-linked extremists may have been involved in the attack were removed, as were references that the CIA had received general warnings about the worsening security situation in Benghazi, Libya’s second-largest city. The talking points were originally drafted by the CIA, but the references to terrorist groups and the security situation were stripped after ‘deep concerns’ were raised by the ‘leadership’ at the State Department, the emails show. It wasn’t only the State Department, though. The emails show that several changes were made at the behest of White House officials, including John O. Brennan, Mr. Obama’s top counterterrorism adviser at the time who is now director of the CIA. That contradicts repeated statements by White House press secretary Jay Carney.” [44902]

Obama announces that Treasury Secretary Jack Lew requested and accepted the resignation of Steven Miller, the acting director of the IRS. (Miller had planned to leave in June anyway. His resignation is next to meaningless.) Under Miller, during a 27-month period starting in February 2010, the IRS did not approve any applications for tax-exempt status from conservative or Tea Party groups, even though it approved many from leftist and “progressive” groups. Yahoo News reports that after Drew Ryun ran into more than eight months of obstacles trying to obtain tax-exempt status for Media Trackers, a “non-partisan investigative watchdog dedicated to promoting accountability in the media and government,” he resubmitted the application and referenced its connections to the liberal-sounding “Greenhouse Solutions.” He received approval within three weeks. *USA Today* lists several of the “progressive” groups that received tax-exempt status from the IRS during that 27-month period: “Bus for Progress,” “Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment,” and “Progress Florida.” [44898, 44914, 44920, 44921, 44964]

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) tells Newsmax.TV the IRS not only cannot be trusted to implement ObamaCare, “I don’t think we ought to have ObamaCare. We ought to pull it out root and branch, if we possibly can. And, certainly, the IRS part of administering ObamaCare, particularly in the wake of this IRS scandal with regard to suppressing the views of Americans who were critical of the IRS, raises further suspicions about their involvement in the administration of ObamaCare.” (There are 47 provisions of the ObamaCare legislation that involve the IRS.) “We’ll find out the answers to all these questions [about the IRS targeting scandal]. It may take a while, but the finger-pointing stage is going on now. Everybody’s pointing the finger at someone else. But the truth always comes out—and it will come out here as well.” [44899]

ForeignPolicy.com reports that Obama’s ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, will be rewarded for her Benghazi incompetence with the promotion to the position of National Security Advisor after Tom Donilon leaves the position. [44890]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “Letters from the IRS to tea party-related organizations in Oklahoma City and Albuquerque, New Mexico show that IRS headquarters in

Washington, D.C., and two satellite offices in California, were directly involved with sending harassing letters to conservative organizations that sought tax-exempt status. The IRS has acknowledged only the involvement of its Exempt Organizations office in Cincinnati, Ohio, which typically makes most decisions about granting or denying tax-exempt status to non-profit organizations.” [44891]

On the floor of the U.S. Senate, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) says, “So in the span of four days, [there were] three major revelations about the use of government power to intimidate those who are doing things that the government doesn’t like. These are the tactics of the third world. These are the tactics of places that don’t have the freedoms and the independence that we have here in this country. And it is shocking to Americans that this would come to light in the way that it has. I would submit to you, however, that none of this is new. That what we see emerging here is a pattern, a culture, a culture of intimidation, of hardball politics that we saw both on the campaign trail and now through the apparatus of government.” [44892]

The YidWithLid blog asks, “Since The Media Is Now Paying Attention-Will They Investigate These 20 OTHER OBAMA SCANDALS?” and provides a list: “Going to war in Libya without first seeking congressional approval.” “The administration’s screwing of the primary GM investors so he could give the company to his buddies in the UAW.” “Offering Joe Sestak a White House job to drop out of the Senate race against Arlen Specter.” “Offering Andrew Romanoff a White House job to drop out of the Senate Race against Michael Bennett.” “Dropping an already won case against the New Black Panthers.” “Refusing to prosecute African Americans for Civil Rights violations.” “Ignoring a court order to ease up on restrictions against deep water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, instead issuing tougher restrictions.” “Circumventing the Senate by setting up a ‘shadow cabinet’ of Czars.” “Obama’s Justice Department’s refusal to defend the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Ignoring his constitutional responsibility to defend laws passed by Congress.” “Firing (and slandering) AmeriCorps inspector general Gerald Walpin after because he was investigating Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson a friend of the Obamas.” [44895]

The list continues: “Practicing crony capitalism and wasting taxpayer money with Green energy loans to Solyndra and other failing companies.” “No bid contract given to a company owned by major Obama donor for a small pox vaccine that doesn’t work.” “Fast and Furious: Giving guns to Mexican drug cartels in an attempt to take away guns from law abiding Americans.” “Making recess appointments when Congress was not in recess.” “Trampling on the Catholic Church’s first amendment rights by forcing them to pay for procedures and drugs that their faith bans.” “The GSA and Secret Service scandals neither of which should be blamed on Obama directly, both of which show his poor management of the federal government.” “Receiving foreign donations for his 2012 campaign.” “Slashing the pensions of Delphi’s non-union employees leaving the UAW employees’ pensions alone.” “The Administration purchasing bullets to drive up costs/empty supply.” “Prosecuting Thomas Drake, NSA whistle-blower who leaked unclassified information about government waste and fraud.” [44895]

On the Hugh Hewitt radio program Congressman Devin Nunes (R-CA) reveals that in addition to Associated Press telephone records, Obama's Justice Department also accessed the telephone records of the Capitol Building's Press Gallery. Nunes says, "I don't think people are focusing on the right thing when they talk about going after the AP reporters. The big problem that I see is that they actually tapped right where I'm sitting right now... So when they went after the AP reporters, right? Went after all of their phone records, they went after the phone records, including right up here in the House Gallery, right up from where I'm sitting right now. So you have a real separation of powers issue that did this really rise to the level that you would have to get phone records that would, that would most likely include members of Congress..." [44901, 44929, 44967]

CNSNews.com reports, "The outstanding balance for all of the direct student loans the federal government has issued topped \$600 billion in April, according to newly released data from the U.S. Treasury. The total balance hit \$600.457 billion by the end of April, says the Treasury, up from \$592.142 billion at the end of March. The Federal Direct Student Loan Program already has built-in debt forgiveness plans for people who end up earning low incomes or for those who entered lines of work preferred by the government. In January 2009, when Obama was inaugurated, the balance was \$119.803 billion and has since increased more than fivefold. The \$480.654 billion increase since January 2009 in what is owed to the Treasury in direct student loans represents a climb of about 250 percent in just over four years." [44908]

In the *Chicago Sun-Times* Michael Sneed writes that "Attorney General Eric 'Fast and Furious' Holder's days are numbered" and that "...Obama, who is this/close to Holder, has set his sights on Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick as a possible replacement 'when the heat dies down on the latest hot-button scandals to hit the U.S. Justice Department,' said a top White House source." A "top Dem source" says Obama "will wait until the heat dies down—and a little time has passed beyond that—before he does anything to Holder because Holder is a close pal, and that's a big deal in the White House. Holder is also a close buddy of Obama's senior adviser Valerie Jarrett. Obama knows a change has to be made, but he wants Holder to leave with his reputation intact." [44900, 44923]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Amid a firestorm about the Internal Revenue Service's targeting conservative groups and wide concern that the tax service will be administering Obamacare, the IRS is also the subject of a class action lawsuit alleging that 15 of its agents improperly seized 10 million Americans' medical records. Attorney Robert Barnes filed the lawsuit in mid-March on behalf of a John Doe Company and individuals whose records were seized in California Superior Court, according to a report from the Courthouse News Service. 'This is an action involving the corruption and abuse of power by several Internal Revenue Service ('IRS') agents (collectively referred to as 'Defendants' herein) during a raid of John Doe Company, in the southern district of California, on March 11, 2011,' the complaint, quoted by Courthouse News, reads. 'In a case involving solely a tax matter involving a former employee of the company, these agents stole more than 60,000,000 medical records of more than 10,000,000 Americans, including at least 1,000,000 Californians.'" [44918]

At AmericanThinker.com Thomas Lifson writes, "...Obama is shattering the illusions of his supporters, and eyes are opening, even among his former media allies. As if waking from a slumber, a newly aggressive White House press corps yesterday raked Jay Carney over the coals over various lies and evasions, prompting Megyn Kelley of Fox News to quip, 'What's happened? Who are these reporters who showed up here?' They are disillusioned and angry liberals who are starting to grasp that they have been lied to, who realize that a skeptical stance is necessary when examining a narrative offered by team Obama on Benghazi or the IRS scandal. Even worse, the media have discovered that they are themselves targets of government abuse, just like those Tea Partiers the IRS was picking on. ...Right now, there's a lot of cognitive dissonance going on in the punditocracy: how could a constitutional law professor turn on the free press? Obama's just not behaving like the good guy they thought him to be. Awkward questions of character are being raised in their minds. The love they offered Obama all those years has not been reciprocated. ...As with many scorned lovers, they are ripe to reframe their understanding of their ex-amour in a more negative light. The illusion of Obama the godlike light-bringer, the man who could bring us together, has dissolved into an uncomfortable, soon to be angry, memory." [44922]

"And therein lies serious peril for ...Obama. Once it becomes accepted that his narratives are false, a Pandora's Box opens. To a remarkable degree, the biographical narrative he offered to the media when he suddenly appeared on the national scene, and which they accepted and aggressively defended, was built on illusion. Serious questions about Frank Marshall Davis, Bill Ayers, his authorship of *Dreams from my Father*, and his academic transcripts once were rudely brushed aside as racism and paranoia. ...The problem is that not only is Obama a liar; he is a phony. And bit by bit, the evidence is becoming clearer to more and more of the people who were taken in. ...Some on the right are already talking impeachment, which is a big mistake. Others counsel speed. Instead, Obama's opponents would be wise to focus on discovery of facts, taking all the time necessary to staff up a highly capable select committee or two, issuing subpoenas and using congressional hearings to ferret out the truth of Benghazi and the suppression of conservative groups taking advantage of the Citizens United decision and setting up nonprofit counterparts to Media Matters and other progressive groups. ...Let the Committee Democrats decide which side they want to be on. Already, the signs are that House Democrats are not about to defend the IRS or obstruct the inquiry in any way. Having thrown the CIA under the bus on the Benghazi talking points, the Obama administration has delivered a message to potential witnesses and fall guys: you're expendable. Once upon a time, Barack Obama rode as high as a politician can get, at least as the big media portrayed him. It's a long way down." [44922]

MSNBC's Chris Matthews predictably blames Obama's scandal problems on racism: "The problem is there are people in this country, maybe ten percent, I don't know what the number, maybe twenty percent on a bad day, who want [Obama] to have an asterisk next to his name in the history books, that he really wasn't president. ...They can't stand the idea that he's [in the White House], and a piece of it is racism. ...It's the sense that the white race must rule, that's what racism is, and they can't stand the idea that a man

who's not white is [in the Oval Office]. That is real, that sense of racial superiority and rule is in the hearts of some people in this country. Not all conservatives, not even all right-wingers, but it always comes through with this birther crap and these other references and somehow trying to erase ObamaCare, erase his record in history, and a big part of it is bought into by people like [House Speaker] John Boehner, who's not a bad guy, but he knows the only way he can talk to the hard right is talk their language.” [44925]

Charles Krauthammer observes that Obama's announcement of the resignation of IRS head Steven T. Miller “was a holding operation. That was the absolute minimum he could have done. He relieves one person. He obviously had to. He had to relieve at least one person. And he chose, of course, the acting commissioner. But, I would have expected more. The other actions he announced are up to now meaningless. Obama and this administration have said a hundred times they're going to hold x, y, z accountable for all kinds of behavior—in Benghazi, regarding a lot of other scandals. He even speaks about you know, Syrian generals will be held accountable. It means nothing. ...And then he says there will be an investigation from the Treasury. Well, that just means the left hand of the government investigating the right hand. He did say he'll cooperate with Congress, but then he has the chutzpah to essentially warn Republicans not to make this into a political event when what we're talking about is the IRS applying political criteria inexcusably, unconstitutionally, probably criminally in deciding who it's going to investigate. So I found this the bare minimum. It'll hold him for 12 hours but no more.” [44917]

On May 16 the *Daily Mail* reports, “Internal emails among U.S. military officers indicate that no American sailors watched Osama bin Laden's burial at sea from the USS Carl Vinson...” [44855]

The Steady Drip blog posts a story that surfaces on the Internet from time to time: “British National Archives show a son was born to Obama Sr. in 1961 in Kenya. ...On April 18, 2012, the BNA released the first batch of thousands of ‘lost’ colonial-era files believed to have been destroyed, including files on Britain's former colony of Kenya. Reporters at the UK's The Guardian were among the first who looked at some of the newly released colonial files. They found that the name of Barack Obama (henceforth, Obama Sr.), the father of the POS [piece of shit] in the White House, is on the top of a list of names revealed in a hitherto secret British colonial file of Kenyans studying in the United States. But it's not just UK journalists who can access the British National Archives; anyone can. In May 2012, someone conducted a search of the Archives using the search term ‘Obama’ and found that an unnamed son of Obama Sr. was born in Kenya in 1961. Since the POS in the White House is the only known son of Obama Sr. born after 1960 and before 1963 when Kenya became officially independent from the UK, it is reasonable for us to conclude that the POS is that unnamed son of Obama Sr. born in Kenya in 1961. And in fact, the claimed birth date of the POS is August 4, 1961.” (*The Obama Timeline* has been unable to confirm this claim.) [45166, 45167]

ABCNews.com reports, “The Internal Revenue Service official in charge of the tax-exempt organizations at the time when the unit targeted tea party groups now runs the IRS office responsible for the health care legislation. Sarah Hall Ingram served as commissioner of the office responsible for tax-exempt organizations between 2009 and 2012. But Ingram has since left that part of the IRS and is now the director of the IRS’ Affordable Care Act office, the IRS confirmed to ABC News today.” (Townhall.com’s Guy Benson comments, “If you’re waiting for a rim shot, give it up. Smell the reality, friends. And In case you were curious, yes of course Ms. Ingram raked in more than \$100,000 in taxpayer-funded bonuses as she oversaw her office’s... abusive targeting scheme Now she’s off to bigger and better things; namely, *monitoring and enforcing your healthcare arrangements.*” According to WashingtonExaminer.com, “Ingram received a \$7,000 bonus in 2009... then a \$34,440 bonus in 2010, \$35,400 in 2011 and \$26,550 last year, for a total of \$103,390. Her annual salary went from \$172,500 to \$177,000 during the same period.” Awards of \$25,000 or more require White House approval.) [44869, 44870, 44941, 44943, 44995]

DailyCaller.com reports, “IRS Exempt Organizations Division director Lois G. Lerner, who has been described as ‘apolitical’ in mainstream press coverage of the IRS scandal, is married to tax attorney Michael R. Miles, a partner at the law firm Sutherland Asbill & Brennan. The firm is based in Atlanta but has a number of offices including in Washington, D.C., where Miles works. 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.” (Lerner cancels her plans to deliver a May 18 commencement address at Western New England University Law School. She was to have been given an award for outstanding public service—which may or may not include discriminatory IRS treatment of conservative groups.) [44912, 44913]

CNN’s Jake Tapper reports, “The U.S. Marshals Service lost two former participants in the federal Witness Security Program ‘identified as known or suspected terrorists,’ according to the public summary of an interim Justice Department Inspector General’s report obtained by CNN. The Marshals Service has concluded that ‘one individual was and the other individual was believed to be residing outside of the United States,’ according to the summary.’ [44930]

Politico reports, “A second appeals court has joined the D.C. Circuit in ruling that ...Obama’s recess appointments to the National Labor Relations Board were unconstitutional, concluding that some board actions taken in the wake of those appointments were also invalid. The issue has far-reaching implications for both the NLRB and other boards, including Obama’s Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has been a frequent target of conservatives and whose director was a recess appointment. The 2–1 decision Thursday from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit found that the presidential recess appointment power is limited to breaks between sessions of Congress, not breaks within sessions or other adjournments during which the Senate might meet in pro forma sessions. The reasoning mirrors that in a ruling of the D.C. Circuit Court in January.” [44931, 44966, 45213]

Obama is asked by Bloomberg reporter Julianna Goldman, “I want to ask you about the IRS. Can you assure the American people that nobody in the White House knew about the agency’s actions before your counsel’s office found out?” Obama avoids the question, responding, “Let me make sure that, uh, uh, uh, I answer the specific question. Um, uh, I can assure you that, uh, I certainly did not know anything about the IG [the IRS Inspector General] report before the IG, uh, report had been leaked through the press, uh, through the press...” On *America Live*, Fox News host Megyn Kelly, an attorney, comments, “In a court of law... what we would say is, ‘objection, non-responsive.’ He is not responding, that is not what she asked. ...[Obama’s] wording is not accidental and it still leaves open a major question, which is, ‘Did he know? Did he know what the IRS was doing? Did anyone at the White House know what the IRS was doing?’” (The IRS question comes during a press conference with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The event is held outside at the White House, and Obama calls for U.S. Marines to hold umbrellas for them—a direct violation of military rules, which prohibit male Marines from carrying umbrellas. Sarah Palin Tweets, “Mr. [Obama], when it rains it pours, but most Americans hold their own umbrellas...”) [44936, 44940, 44950, 44955, 44965, 44968, 44982, 44996, 45162]

During the press conference Obama asks Congress to provide more money for embassy security. Obama states, “I’ve directed the Defense Department to ensure that our military can respond lightning quick in times of crisis. But we’re not going to be able to do this alone. We’re going to need Congress as a partner.” Obama dodges questions, blames Congress for the Benghazi “incident,” refuses to apologize for the Justice Department’s secret seizure of Associated Press telephone records, and “knows nothing” about IRS abuses beyond what he has read in the press. Obama says, “And I also appreciate the advice [Erdogan] he gives me, because he has two daughters that are a little older than mine—they’ve turned out very well, so I’m always interested in his perspective on raising girls.” (Obama is closer to the Jew-hating Erdogan than any other foreign leader. Whether Obama agrees with him on the issues of Muslim honor killings, female genital mutilation, forced marriages, and child marriages is not known.) [44951, 44955]

Obama tells reporters “I have complete confidence in Eric [“I don’t know”] Holder as Attorney General. He’s an outstanding attorney general and he does his job with integrity. I expect he will continue to do so.” [44958]

The House of Representatives votes 229–195 to repeal ObamaCare. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) calls the vote “a clear waste of time.” (The Senate, of course, will not vote to repeal the legislation, and even if it did Obama would veto the repeal bill.) [44954]

Senator Rand Paul; (R-KY) introduces a resolution condemning the IRS for its targeting of Tea Party and other conservative organizations. Senate Democrats block the resolution. Paul states, “This resolution is not about Republican versus Democrat or conservative versus liberal. It is about arrogant and unrestrained government versus the rule of law. The First Amendment cannot and should not be renegotiated depending on which party holds power. Each senator took an oath to uphold and defend the

Constitution, yet Senate Democrats chose to block my resolution and thus refused to condemn the IRS for trampling on our First Amendment rights. I am incredibly disappointed in Washington's party politics and I am determined to hold the IRS accountable for these unjust acts." [45012]

WesternJournalism.com reports, "The revelations about the IRS targeting voices opposed to Barack Obama's political agenda came of no surprise to filmmaker Joel Gilbert. His private financial accounts were hacked into, and the information was used by a George Soros-linked journalist (Seth Rosenfeld) before the presidential election. Gilbert wants to know who provided Rosenfeld with his private bank records. Was it someone at the IRS? Or at the White House?" Gilbert, director of the film *Dreams From My Real Father*, which claims Obama's father was his communist mentor, Frank Marshall Davis, says the IRS reopened his 2009 tax return in 2012 and denied *all* his business expenses—despite proper documentation. Gilbert told Accuracy in Media, "My accountant said he had never seen anything like it in 30 years of experience with the IRS. To resolve the issue, my accountant met the IRS auditor in Los Angeles, and reported that she had a print-out of the home page of the 'Dreams from My Real Father' official film website on her desk. Despite the re-submission of the 2009 expenses, the IRS has still not closed the case, and my accountant continues to meet with them every few months. The next meeting is set for May 19th. I believe I have been illegally targeted by the IRS because my films and interviews have run contrary to ...Obama's official narrative of who he is and what his policies really are for America. The fact that the IRS targeted me indicates they were afraid of me and the information in my film." [44937]

At Newsmax.com the Catholic League's Bill Donahue writes, "The problems with the IRS extend beyond playing politics with conservative groups seeking a tax-exempt status. I have never made this public before, but given the heightened interest in the way the IRS has conducted itself, the time has come to disclose what happened. Just weeks after Barack Obama was elected... in 2008, I was notified by the IRS that the Catholic League was under investigation for violating the IRS Code on political activities as it relates to 501(c)(3) organizations. What the IRS did not know was that I had proof who contacted them to launch the investigation: Catholics United, a George Soros-funded Catholic organization. The IRS was contacted on June 5, 2008, to launch a probe of the Catholic League, and the letter sent to me was dated Nov. 24, 2008. The June 5 letter was sent to the IRS by lawyers from Catholics United; it was mailed to Director Marsha Ramirez, director of Exempt Organizations Examinations, and to Lois G. Lerner, director of EO Division. ...The timing is not coincidental. On Oct. 20, I issued a news release, 'George Soros Funds Catholic Left,' and on Oct. 23, I wrote another one, 'Catholic Left Scandal Mounts;' both mentioned Catholics United. The same day, Oct. 23, I was asked to go on CNN, and when Catholics United found out, they contacted the station trying to spike the interview. ...So the problem extends beyond the IRS. It extends to left-wing activists, funded by left-wing tycoons, all for the purpose of silencing conservatives. It's time someone was held accountable for this obscene political game." [44938]

By a vote of 97–0 the U.S. Senate confirms MIT physics professor Ernest Moniz as the new head of the Department of Energy. Moniz replaces Steven Chu.

Politico reports that Obama will appoint Daniel Werfel as the acting commissioner of the IRS. Since October 2009 Werfel has been the controller of the Office of Management and Budget. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) reacts: “With trust in the federal government at an all-time low, placing a White House insider [Werfel] in charge of an agency whose leadership willfully misled Congress and targeted American people for exercising free speech does absolutely nothing to restore the public’s confidence in Washington.” [44952]

Politico reports that Joseph Grant, the commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service’s tax exempt and government entities division, will retire on June 3. [44941, 44964]

Newsmax.com reports, “A 180-year-old Baptist newspaper said on Thursday that it was targeted by the Internal Revenue Service for extra scrutiny. The Biblical Recorder, published by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, said it was singled out by the agency in March, Fox News reports. Last summer, the Recorder gained national attention after Allan Blume, its editor, published an interview with Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy. In the interview, Cathy said that he was ‘guilty as charged’ in his support of traditional family values. The Recorder also published ads from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association—which also was targeted by the IRS—that backed North Carolina’s marriage amendment. The newspaper then received a telephone call from the IRS, Fox reports. ‘It raised some red flags and made me wonder why we were being targeted for an audit when we have been around since 1833 and have never been audited before,’ Blume told Fox News. ‘Putting it all together made me wonder.’” [44948]

Matt Kibbe, president and CEO of FreedomWorks, says of the IRS scandal, “We want to make sure every American understands what tyranny looks like and what we can do as citizens to regain our voice, to regain our rights, to ensure that this administration or the next one after it never does this again.” The Dallas Tea Party’s Katrina Pierson asks,, “How many scandals is it going to take for the American people to stand up and take back what is rightfully theirs?” DailyCaller.com reports, “Toby Marie Walker, president of the Waco Tea Party, told of her group’s IRS struggles, applying for 501(c)(4) status in 2010 and not hearing back until February 2012 when the group was asked about relationships with public officials and candidates, lists of volunteers and all the news stories in which the group had been mentioned. She said the request was so onerous that if they had complied with all of the demands, the group would have needed a ‘U-haul truck of about 20 feet.’” Walker says, “This should happen to no one. If it happens to one organization in America, we should all be outraged. We shouldn’t wait until it happens to hundreds.” [44953]

FoxNews.com reports, “Hundreds of illegal immigrants with criminal records were released earlier this year as the Obama administration prepared for budget cuts, according to newly released data that challenged claims the program involved ‘low-risk’ individuals. Immigration and Customs Enforcement released the figures to two top senators, after a three-month delay and under the threat of congressional subpoenas. Of the 2,226 detainees that were released in February, the department revealed, ‘622 have

been identified as having some type of criminal conviction.” (Thirty-two of the 622 have multiple felony convictions.) [44949]

At TheHill.com Lanny Davis writes, “I’ve been told today by several reporters that ...Obama’s White House counsel, Kathryn Ruemmler, knew for several days—perhaps weeks—that some Internal Revenue Service officials were engaging in political targeting of conservative groups, and that she did not tell [Obama] as soon as she knew even partial reports about the story. With all due respect to someone who has impeccable legal credentials, if she did have such foreknowledge and didn’t inform [Obama] immediately, I respectfully suggest Ms. Ruemmler is in the wrong job and that she should resign.” (HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey comments, “The story itself would be huge—making a connection earlier than the IG report’s first leak, which came from Lois Lerner herself at the IRS. Don’t forget that Obama yesterday parsed his response *very carefully* when it came to knowing about the targeting at the IRS. He would only say that he first became aware of the IG report last Friday; he left open the question of when he first knew about the targeting. If Ruemmler knew about it earlier than that, it becomes a much bigger problem for Obama. First, just as with the IRS chief counsel’s briefing on the matter in August 2011, it’s almost impossible to believe that the lawyers wouldn’t immediately tell their bosses what was going on, unless they had good reason to believe their bosses already knew about it. If Obama found out a few weeks before the IG report came out, why didn’t he act then to clean house at the IRS? And it then also prompts the Watergate-ish question: What did [Obama] know, and when did he know it?”) [44961, 44962, 45042, 45157]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) tells Fox News, “I think one thing that’s sort of fascinating is we’ve had several statements from Hillary Clinton saying she wasn’t involved [in Benghazi]. Now it turns out her spokesman was involved. Ms. [Victoria] Nuland was writing statements saying ‘You know what? Politically, this isn’t going to look good.’ So it sounds like Hillary Clinton’s fingerprints are all over these talking points and you know, really her resignation was the beginning but she never really fully accepted culpability. ...[The talking point revisions suggest there were] A lot of misgivings about what they were going to say. I still don’t understand their motivation, unless it was purely political not to call this terrorism. But really, you know the fact that the State Department was intimately involved in this and they were taking out factual information because they were worried about the political ramifications of that, I think that’s a pretty important point.” [44963]

Fox News Latino reports that the IRS also targeted conservative Hispanic groups. [44967]

On May 17 Watergate journalist Bob Woodward appears on MSNBC’s *Morning Joe* and states, “You were talking earlier about kind of dismissing the Benghazi issue as one that’s just political and [Obama] recently said it’s a sideshow. But if you read through all these e-mails, you see that everyone in the government is saying, ‘Oh, let’s not tell the public that terrorists were involved, people connected to al-Qaeda. Let’s not tell the public that there were warnings.’ I hate to show, this is one of the documents with the

editing that one of the people in the state department said, ‘Oh, let’s not let these things out.’ And I have to go back 40 years to Watergate when Nixon put out his edited transcripts to the conversations, and he personally went through them and said, ‘Oh, let’s not tell this, let’s not show this.’ I would not dismiss Benghazi. It’s a very serious issue. As people keep saying, four people were killed. You look at the hydraulic pressure that was in the system to not tell the truth, and, you know, we use this term and the government uses this term, talking points. Talking points, as we know, are like legal briefs. They’re an argument on one side. What we need [is] to get rid of talking point[s] and they need to put out statements or papers that are truth documents.” [44959, 44960]

NBC’s Lisa Myers reports that the IRS deliberately kept secret its targeting of conservative groups until after the November 2012 election, stating that the agency’s commissioner “has known for at least a year that this was going on and that this had happened. And did he share any of that information with the White House? But even more importantly, Congress is going to ask him, why did you mislead us for an entire year? Members of Congress were saying conservatives are being targeted. What’s going on here? The IRS denied it. Then when—after these officials are briefed by the [inspector general] that this is going on, they don’t disclose it. In fact, the commissioner sent a letter to Congress in September on this subject and did not reveal this. Imagine if we—if you can—what would have happened if this fact came out in September 2012, in the middle of a presidential election? The terrain would have looked very different. ...[T]his administration has a history of, of really, uh, coming down on people who talk to reporters in any capacity. I mean, if someone has the audacity to say something critical of ObamaCare, uh, they take it, usually take it back fairly quickly or don’t speak to reporters, uh, at all again because there is such a focus on keeping the storyline and narrative the way the administration wants it, and sometimes these efforts can become excessive, and it may be that what we’re seeing from the Justice Department is really the embodiment of that mentality. [44970, 44986, 44998]

Outgoing IRS head Steven T. Miller testifies before the House Ways and Means Committee and whines that the use of the term “targeted” for the agency’s discriminatory actions against conservative groups is “pejorative” and “loaded.” He refuses to identify the person or persons responsible, saying, “I don’t have names for you,” and also denies that the IRS even targeted any groups. Townhall.com’s Guy Benson reports, “Under intense questioning from several members, Miller said he doesn’t know who was responsible for the agency’s inappropriate conduct. He wasn’t even sure who investigated it within the organization. No names. Over and over again, he said that he didn’t know answers to questions. He also claimed to have become aware about certain aspects of the scandal (such as the auditing of conservative donors and the leaking of private information to outside groups) through the news media. ...Incredibly, Miller said that Sarah Hall Ingram—the woman who was in charge of the division that chiefly responsible for the targeting program, and who now runs the IRS’ Obamacare office—is a ‘superb public servant.’ He added that the division she ran provided ‘horrible customer service here.’” (Miller will be allowed to keep his pension and apparently faces no criminal charges—even though he headed the IRS division that broke the law by targeting conservative groups. According to WND.com, Ingram visited the White House

165 times since 2011, and critics are expected to believe that she and Obama never discussed targeting conservative groups even though she served as commissioner of the office responsible for tax-exempt organizations.) [44904, 44941, 44972, 44977, 44985, 45676]

An IRS “determinations staffer” in Cincinnati tells *The Washington Post*, “We’re not political. We people on the local level are doing what we are supposed to do. ... That’s why there are so many people here who are flustered. Everything comes from the top. We don’t have any authority to make those decisions without someone signing off on them. There has to be a directive.” (In other words, “We are not ‘rogue employees.’”) [45023, 45024]

CBS investigative reporter Sharyl Attkisson reports, “Obama administration officials who were in key positions on Sept. 11, 2012, acknowledge that a range of mistakes were made the night of the attacks on the U.S. missions in Benghazi, and in messaging to Congress and the public in the aftermath. The officials spoke to CBS News in a series of interviews and communications under the condition of anonymity so that they could be more frank in their assessments. They do not all agree on the list of mistakes and it’s important to note that they universally claim that any errors or missteps did not cost lives and reflect ‘incompetence rather than malice or cover up.’ Nonetheless, in the eight months since the attacks, this is the most sweeping and detailed discussion by key players of what might have been done differently. ‘We’re portrayed by Republicans as either being lying or idiots,’ said one Obama administration official who was part of the Benghazi response. ‘It’s actually closer to us being idiots.’ ... Thursday [May 16], an administration official who was part of the Benghazi response told CBS News: ‘I wish we’d sent it.’ (“It” is “FEST,” the Foreign Emergency Support Team which is the government’s only “interagency, on-call, short-notice team poised to respond to terrorist incidents worldwide.”) ... The official said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s deputy, Patrick Kennedy, quickly dispensed with the idea. ... As soon as word of the Benghazi attack reached Washington, FEST members ‘instinctively started packing,’ said an official involved in the response. ‘They were told they were not deploying by Patrick Kennedy’s front office... In hindsight... I probably would’ve pushed the button.’” [44907, 44983, 44989]

Scandals and sequestration notwithstanding, the White House announces an event in late May to honor singer and songwriter Carole King. Entertainment for the evening will include Gloria Estefan, Billy Joel, Jesse McCartney, Emeli Sandé, James Taylor, and Trisha Yearwood. [44916, 44990]

Politico reports, “Huma Abedin—Hillary Clinton’s longtime aide and the wife of all-but-declared New York mayoral candidate Anthony Weiner—spent her final months at the State Department working as a part-time consultant with the agency who at the same time was allowed to represent outside clients...” [44939]

FreedomWorks.org reports, “The National Treasury Employees Union, NTEU, which represents the IRS employees who harassed and delayed tea party and conservative

groups, has come out against the proposal to put federal workers into exchange-based health insurance. Fancy that: the people in charge of deciding whether you go into an [ObamaCare] exchange, and who decided it doesn't matter whether your state doesn't want one, don't want to be in one themselves." [45136]

In *The Wall Street Journal* Peggy Noonan writes, "We are in the midst of the worst Washington scandal since Watergate. The reputation of the Obama White House has, among conservatives, gone from sketchy to sinister, and, among liberals, from unsatisfying to dangerous. No one likes what they're seeing. The Justice Department assault on the Associated Press and the ugly politicization of the Internal Revenue Service have left the administration's credibility deeply, probably irretrievably damaged. They don't look jerky now, they look dirty. The patina of high-mindedness [Obama] enjoyed is gone. ...[Obama], as usual, acts as if all of this is totally unconnected to him. He's shocked, it's unacceptable, he'll get to the bottom of it. He read about it in the papers, just like you. But he is not unconnected, he is not a bystander. This is his administration. Those are his executive agencies. He runs the IRS and the Justice Department. ...And why—in the matters of the Associated Press and Benghazi too—does no one in this administration ever take responsibility? Attorney General Eric Holder doesn't know what happened, exactly who did what. [Obama] speaks in the passive voice. He attempts to act out indignation, but he always seems indignant at only one thing: that he's being questioned at all. That he has to address this. That fate put it on his plate." [44947]

Noonan continues, "The IRS case deserves and calls out for an independent counsel, fully armed with all that position's powers. Only then will stables that badly need to be cleaned, be cleaned. Everyone involved in this abuse of power should pay a price, because if they don't, the politicization of the IRS will continue—forever. If it is not stopped now, it will never stop. And if it isn't stopped, no one will ever respect or have even minimal faith in the revenue-gathering arm of the U.S. government again. And it would be shameful and shallow for any Republican operative or operator to make this scandal into a commercial and turn it into a mere partisan arguing point and part of the game. It's not part of the game. This is not about the usual partisan slugfest. This is about the integrity of our system of government and our ability to trust, which is to say our ability to function." [44947]

At NationalReview.com John Fund writes, "The recent spate of Washington scandals has some liberals finally confessing in public what many of them have said privately for a long time. The Obama administration is arrogant, insular, prone to intimidation of adversaries, and slovenly when it comes to seeing that rules are followed. Indeed, the Obama White House is a strange place, and it's good that its operational model is now likely to be finally dissected by the media. ...[I]f Obama is not fully engaged, who does wield influence in the White House? A lot of Democrats know firsthand that [Valerie] Jarrett, a Chicago mentor to both Barack and Michelle Obama and now officially a senior White House adviser, has enormous influence. ...A senior Republican congressional leader tells me that he had come to trust that he could detect the real lines of authority in any White House, since he's worked for five presidents. 'But this one baffles me,' he

says. ‘I do know that when I ask Obama for something, there is often no answer. But when I ask Valerie Jarrett, there’s always an answer or something happens.’ ...No one doubts that ...Obama has the White House management structure he wants; he has populated it with trusted aides such as Jarrett whose loyalty he can count on. But it’s increasingly clear that this structure—supported by functionaries who are often highly partisan and careless—hasn’t served the country well and hasn’t received sufficient scrutiny from the media. That’s why many liberals are openly expressing concern over the ‘mini-Politburo’ at the White House—the small number of people who have centralized White House decision-making.” [44956]

White House press secretary Jay Carney, in an interview with Piers Morgan on CNN, says, “I dismiss the premise, the idea that these [Obama administration scandals] are scandals.” Carney calls the Benghazi cover-up a “total concoction by Republicans,” and the IRS abuses only “inappropriate behavior” by IRS employees. [44969]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Last week, Lois Lerner, head of the tax exempt division of the Internal Revenue Service dropped a bombshell: The IRS had been applying extra scrutiny to conservative groups claiming tax exempt status. The revelation came seemingly out of the blue, in response to a question during a panel at an American Bar Association conference, leaving the audience baffled, according to reports. As it turns out, it was not a spontaneous revelation. The question, said outgoing IRS Commissioner Steven Miller in testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee Friday, was planted, as part of a prepared strategy for the IRS to release this information to the public. Under questioning from Republican Rep. Devin Nunes [R-CA], Miller said it was a ‘prepared Q and A,’ and the question, which came from tax lawyer Celia Roady had been discussed in advance as well. Roady told U.S. News and World Report later Friday afternoon that Lerner had personally contacted her and requested she ask the specific question. Roady said she did not know at the time what Lerner’s answer would be. Later, Miller, questioned by Rep. Peter Roskam [R-IL], explained that the disclosure had been made to coincide with the conclusion of the inspector general’s report.” [44974, 45001]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The 1851 Center for Constitutional Law, a conservative nonprofit group, filed a FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] request in 2010 through investigative journalist Lynn K. Walsh seeking all IRS documents related to the agencies tax-exempt division specifically mentioning the Tea Party. IRS headquarters responded in 2011 that it ‘found no documents specifically responsive to your request.’” Maurice Thompson, Executive Director of the 1851 Center, states, “Either IRS Headquarters was entirely incompetent in maintaining awareness of prominent policies and documents within the IRS, or it deliberately covered up the existence of anti-conservative IRS policies. Either is terrifying. Legal action is necessary to ensure that the IRS does not lie to taxpayers in this manner in the future.” [44978]

Breitbart.com reports, “Two Congressmen are asking the Treasury Department if it inappropriately scrutinized conservative-owned businesses the same way it targeted Tea Party groups filing for tax-exempt status. Republicans Mike Kelly (PA-03) and Jim Renacci (OH-16) circulated a letter Thursday requesting Treasury Secretary Jack Lew to

release documents detailing the process and methodology the Automotive Task Force used to shut down General Motors dealerships in 2009 during the automotive industry crisis.” (As noted previously in *The Obama Timeline*, the vast majority of auto dealers closed after the government rescue of General Motors were businesses that donated to Republican campaigns.) [44984]

At FoxNews.com Chris Stirewalt explains why the Obama administration went after Associated Press telephone records: To punish the organization for not cooperating on a story that was intended to make Obama look good. “In a move familiar to reporters covering covert operations, the CIA had asked the AP to hold off on the May 2012 scoop about a foiled effort by Islamist militants in Yemen to try another underwear bomb, like the one a militant botched in 2009. The Washington Post reports today that after sitting on the story for five days, AP got the all clear from the CIA on national security on May 7, 2012. But there was a still a problem: the White House was planning to announce the operation the next day and the AP story would step on the big announcement. The spy agency then made a proposal: wait one more day and then the AP could have the story as an exclusive for an hour. The Post says that while the news service was mulling the idea, a White House official called and nixed the one-hour exclusive, telling AP that they could have five minutes of exclusivity before the administration started pushing out the story. Remember the timing here. This was just after ...Obama had celebrated the one-year anniversary of the killing of Usama bin Laden and the administration was or would soon be pushing out stories about kill lists and a decimated al Qaeda. As Republican Mitt Romney was trying to mount his general election challenge, Team Obama was very much focused on burnishing [Obama’s] commander-in-chief credentials. ...AP said no, and went with the story anyway. By the time John Brennan, now Obama’s CIA director but then [Obama’s] top counterterrorism adviser, could make it to ABC News to trumpet the operation, the story was quickly becoming old news. The strong inference from the AP is that it was not national security but election-year public relations that led to the fight with the White House and that the secret, unprecedented (we think) raid on Associated Press records was something of a reprisal for not playing ball on the timing of the announcement.” [45003]

Michelle Obama tells graduates of Bowie State University, a black college, “Today, instead of walking miles every day to school, they’re sitting on couches for hours playing video games, watching TV. Instead of dreaming of being a teacher or a lawyer or a business leader, they’re fantasizing about being a baller or a rapper. ...Right now, one in three African-American students are dropping out of high school. Only one in five African-Americans between the ages of 25 and 29 has gotten a college degree—one in five. ...Take a stand against the media that elevates today’s celebrity gossip instead of the serious issues of our time. Take a stand against the culture that glorifies instant gratification instead of hard work and lasting success.” (By “baller” it is assumed Obama means “basketball player.” By “rapper” it is assumed she means someone who has no singing talent who instead talks fast in contorted rhymes.) [44992]

At FoxNews.com economist and University of Maryland professor Peter Morici writes that “...Obama’s hard left agenda requires him to treat the Constitution and Congress as

mere inconveniences—expediency is his ethical standard. For example, unable to obtain Congressional ascent, even among moderate Democrats, for limits on CO2 emissions and other environmental goals, the EPA—at his public behest—has written regulations imposing new and onerous requirements on business. The Obama Credo of Management: We'll do as we please, stop us if you can. His failure as a CEO, now with grave political consequences, was to impose no limits on managers' behavior and implement adequate controls—mechanisms for the CEO to monitor the performance of units and head off emerging threats to the survival of the organization. Regarding the latter, of paramount importance is to insulate [Obama] from any fallout from their actions. ...Cabinet secretaries and agency heads took their cues from the boss—at State, Justice and the IRS senior management would have had us believe they were unaware of what was happening in Benghazi, with the Associated Press, or at the Cincinnati Office of the IRS. And [Obama] only learns about many problems when reported in the news? ...Obama simply has been too busy giving speeches, raising money, and trying to turn every event to political advantage to keep tabs on his managers, as any good CEOs would do. ...Obama has a lot in common with one predecessor, Jimmy Carter—both failed as CEOs. The man from Plains is a decent and ethical man but micromanaged too much, whereas Mr. Obama acquired his moral compass in the Windy City and simply can't manage at all. ...Obama came to Washington with profound campaign skills but virtually no record as a legislator or manager. ...Americans never observed ...Obama running anything, other than a campaign. He had not been a governor or a congressional committee chair. In military terms, we made him a five star general before even serving as a lieutenant. By his own actions, he is arrogantly ambitious but sadly incompetent. He has corrupted the foundations of our Republic, and for that he gets a failing grade.” [45002]

On Reuters TV, James Goodale, who represented the New York Times in the Pentagon Papers case, tells Reuters Global Editor-at-Large Sir Harold Evans that ...Obama is worse than Nixon when it comes to defending freedom of the press. [45007]

At InfoWars.com Jon Rappoport writes, “When [MSNBC's] Chris Matthews files for divorce from Barack Obama, you know the world is upside down. When the liberal online rag, Politico, features a clip of Matthews saying, ‘[Obama] obviously likes giving speeches more than he does running the executive branch,’ we're through the Looking Glass. ...The current press virus is: Obama is Nixon. What's going on? Who's giving liberals the order to go after Obama? Who shifted the political wind overnight? Yesterday, I examined Watergate from the perspective of Nixon's betrayal of the Rockefeller family. That was the key to his ouster from the presidency. The Washington Post was used as the attack dog. Are we looking at something similar here? Has Obama failed to live up to his promises to people far more powerful than he is? If so, what is his betrayal? Is it simply the fact that the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations have chosen Hillary Clinton as the next president—and in order to make that happen, major diversions have to guide the press and public away from her role in the Benghazi catastrophe? Is that why we're suddenly seeing the IRS and DOJ scandals erupting?” [45016]

Rappoport continues, “Rockefeller’s Trilateral Commission (TC) certainly wields enough power to torpedo Obama, if they want to. And they surround Obama. Patrick Wood, author of *Trilaterals Over Washington*, points out there are only 87 members of the Trilateral Commission who live in America. Obama appointed eleven of them to posts in his administration. ...The TC is the hand that feeds Obama. Has he bitten it? ...[I]f the Trilateral Commission wanted to sink Obama’s presidency, they could call that shot. They could radically influence [his] press coverage... [and] they could pull strings and end the worshipful celebration of Obama as the great prophet. They could bring hard doom to him. ...The clue here, again, is the sudden and boggling liberal press turnaround, their all-out assault on Obama. This kind of thing doesn’t happen by accident. It certainly doesn’t happen from the bowels of [Obama’s] rabid worshipers. But it is happening. That means marching orders. That means screws have been turned by people who expect and demand and can count on obedience. Those people are players who live far above government. Government is their mechanism, as is the press, when it needs to be. And right now, it needs to be.’ [45016]

At FamilySecurityMatters.org *Sparrowhawk* author Edward Cline writes, “...I don’t think I’m putting my life at risk by stating, without apology, regret, hesitation, or trepidation that: Obama is *evil*. Even if he never committed another evil action, he is irredeemable. As irredeemable as Richard Speck or Charles Manson. And by *evil* I do not mean *evil* by accident, or by omission, by hypocrisy, by happenstance, by character flaw, by insanity, or even by criminal negligence. I mean: Consciously, purposefully, determinedly *evil*. Obama is a public figure. His policies and actions are fair game for observation, examination, and evaluation. They’re there for all to see. His private life also has been made public, from his closeness to America-hating Reverend Jeremiah Wright to his frequent golfing outings to his numerous lies and cover-ups. There is not a single speech of Obama’s, not a single public gesture of his or a piece of legislation he has signed or vetoed, that has not telegraphed his malevolent motives and intentions. ...So, I’m going the extra mile by saying what must be on everyone’s minds: Obama is evil. So are former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Attorney General Eric Holder, and all the other policy makers and advisors in his administration. The recurring leitmotif in all their actions and policies from the very first day of Obama’s first term in office has been: Destroy for the sake of destruction. Out of destruction will come construction of a world more to our liking. Sacrifice your own allies, if necessary, such as Ambassador Christopher Stevens in Benghazi, if it will sustain the falsehood and allow us to continue to destroy without obstruction or surcease.” [45017, 45018]

“But Clinton, Holder and all the others have merely been enabled by Obama. They are his vindictive flying monkeys, the stinking, badgering Harpies of Hussein. ...You cannot accuse [Obama] merely of fiddling while Rome burns, even though it is becoming apparent that he ordered the arson. After all, Obama is not blindfolded and whacking a stick at a piñata to see what falls from it once he’s smashed it. He stuffed the piñata himself, presented it to the country as a gift, and dropped it in the country’s lap. It has broken open and what has spilled from it is offal and excrement and toxic bile. ... What must be understood by Americans is that, whether it’s Benghazi or the Afghanistan Seal Team killings or what he’s done to this country economically and politically since taking

office in 2009, is that *he doesn't mind these things happening*. The 'perfect' world message propagated by Obama and his stooges in the MSM [mainstream media] isn't possible. He knows this [even] if his stooges don't. His perfect 'transformed' America is a continent lying in ashes, overrun by Third World illiterates and religious barbarians picking through the ruins and savaging the survivors. At the present, the only thing he might be worried about is how a full-blown Congressional investigation of Benghazi might hurt his being able to continue doing what he's been doing. He is only afraid of being found out. And the only thing that might worry Clinton is how it might sink her chances of running for president in 2016. But, down deep, that hatred of existence, and of this country, and of us, is her driving force, as well. It just isn't as obvious. Obama is more obviously evil. That is the long and short of it." [45017, 45018]

On *Hannity*, Charles Krauthammer says, "I think the IRS scandal is the one scandal that people have a visceral sense about. ...It is the one institution, besides the military, that can do you the most harm, it can wreck your life, and thus it has to be treated with utmost respect because it has to show integrity. And the fact that it could be deliberately targeting people on the [political] right is a violation that everybody, left or right, understands is utterly inexcusable. ...But if there's any indication that there were people in the White House who knew, who orchestrated, who encouraged, whatever, then it can be a fatal problem." [44996]

Mitt Romney appears on *The Tonight Show* and tells host Jay Leno, "I'm not a fan" of Obama. Romney addresses the Benghazi, IRS, and Associated Press scandals. (Leno opens the program by joking, "As you know, it's casual Friday, which means at the White House they're casually going through everyone's phone calls and records. It's a casual Friday. I'm sure you heard by now ...Obama fired his acting IRS commissioner. Apparently he was fired for acting like Richard Nixon's IRS commissioner. That's why he got fired. Well, you know, love him or hate him, you got to admit ...Obama is a new kind of Democrat. I mean, think about it. He's embroiled in three scandals, not one of them involves sex. That has never happened before. That has never happened before. It's been a tough week for ...Obama. In fact, this morning he called Mitt Romney and said, 'Look, if you still want the job.' Let me tell you how bad it's gotten: Fox News has changed its slogan from 'Fair and Balanced' to 'See, I Told You So!'") [44994, 45004, 45005, 45006, 45008]

On May 18 Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal addresses the Virginia GOP Convention and refers to Obama's IRS scandal: "You cannot take the freedom of law-abiding Americans, whether you disagree with them or not, and keep your own freedom. When you do that, you go to jail." [44987]

According to Joe Miller, former U.S. Senate candidate from Alaska, the Pakistani doctor who helped the United States find Osama bin Laden was denied asylum by the Obama administration. [44988]

RealClearPolitics.com reports, "Senior Treasury officials were made aware in June 2012 that investigators were looking into complaints from tea party groups that they were

being harassed by the Internal Revenue Service, a Treasury inspector general said Friday, disclosing that Obama administration officials knew there was a probe during the heat of the presidential campaign. J. Russell George, the Treasury inspector general for tax administration, testified alongside ousted IRS head Steven Miller, who did little to subdue Republican outrage during hours of intense congressional questioning. Both defiant and apologetic, Miller acknowledged agency mistakes in targeting tea party groups for special scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status, but he insisted that agents broke no laws and that there was no effort to cover up their actions.” (It is worth noting that George once dated Michelle LaVaughan Robinson (Obama).) [44991, 45000, 45139, 45156]

Satirist Andy Borowitz writes that Obama “used his weekly radio address on Saturday to reassure the American people that he has ‘played no role whatsoever’ in the U.S. government over the past four years. ‘Right now, many of you are angry at the government, and no one is angrier than I am,’ he said. ‘Quite frankly, I am glad that I have had no involvement in such an organization.’ [Obama’s] outrage only increased, he said, when he ‘recently became aware of a part of that government called the Department of Justice.’ ‘The more I learn about the activities of these individuals, the more certain I am that I would not want to be associated with them,’ he said. ‘They sound like bad news.’ Mr. Obama closed his address by indicating that beginning next week he would enforce what he called a ‘zero tolerance policy on governing.’ ‘If I find that any members of my Administration have had any intimate knowledge of, or involvement in, the workings of the United States government, they will be dealt with accordingly,’ he said.” [44993]

DailyCaller.com reports, “U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, reportedly the leading contender to be ...Obama’s next national security adviser, failed during the 1990s to prevent unnecessary deaths in Rwanda, provide adequate security prior to the bombings of the embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, or deal effectively with the Robert Mugabe’s dictatorship in Zimbabwe. A former State Department military adviser to Africa thought Rice’s ‘inexperience’ caused President Bill Clinton’s feckless response to the Rwandan genocide when she served as National Security Council director for International Organizations and Peacekeeping. And documents sent to The Daily Caller from the National Legal and Policy Center show Rice failed to take seriously repeated Islamist threats against the U.S. embassies in the prelude to deadly bomb attacks.” (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, the anti-Israel Rice, then the assistant secretary of state under Bill Clinton, and Richard Clark, persuaded Clinton *not* to accept Sudan’s offer to hand over Osama bin Laden to the United States. Former Clinton staffer Mansoor Ijaz stated that efforts to capture or kill Osama bin Laden were “overruled every single time by the State Department, by Susan Rice and her cronies, who were Hell-bent on destroying the Sudan.” Rice and Clark also authored the controversial Presidential Decision Directive 25, which some argue was incredibly naïve and led to the 1993 Somalia fiasco—the “Blackhawk Down” incident—in which American troops were killed and dragged through the streets by an angry mob. Clinton’s non-response to that incident allegedly led Osama bin Laden and others to believe terrorist attacks would weaken the resolve of the American people and allow greater progress by the radical Islamists. Rice has been

considered “wildly incompetent” by some Washington insiders, and one critic who has worked with her states, “She doesn’t know what she doesn’t know. And she doesn’t tolerate dissenters. To have her head the U.S. mission to the U.N. is a mind-boggling decision. It is frightening.” Rice is married to ABC news producer Ian Cameron.) [233, 234, 235, 236, 356, 360, 568, 569, 590, 628, 670, 819, 831, 1282, 1377, 1679, 1680, 1681, 2197, 2467, 2505, 2618, 5476, 6246, 10556, 17282, 30277, 30315, [45036]

On a Fox News panel, actor, author, and attorney Ben Stein states, “With great respect to my colleagues, Benghazi is not incompetence. Benghazi is frank outright malfeasance, lying, criminal cover-up. ...There’s perjury and there’s obstruction of justice. Those are crimes.” [45019]

Former terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy writes at NationalReview.com, “...I am puzzled why so little attention has been paid to the Obama-Clinton phone call at 10 p.m. on the night of September 11. Even in the conservative press, it has become received wisdom that ...Obama was AWOL on the night of September 11, after first being informed by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, in the late afternoon, that the State Department facility in Benghazi was under attack. You hear it again and again: While Americans were under attack, the commander-in-chief checked out, leaving subordinates to deal with the crisis while he got his beauty sleep in preparation for a fundraising campaign trip to Vegas. That is not true ...and the truth, as we’ve come to expect with Obama, is almost surely worse. There is good reason to believe that while Americans were still fighting for their lives in Benghazi, while no military efforts were being made to rescue them, and while those desperately trying to rescue them were being told to stand down, [Obama] was busy shaping the ‘blame the video’ narrative to which his administration clung in the aftermath. We have heard almost nothing about what Obama was doing that night. Back in February, though, CNS News did manage to pry one grudging disclosure out of White House mendacity mogul Jay Carney: ‘At about 10 p.m., the president called Secretary Clinton to get an update on the situation.’ Obviously, it is not a detail Carney was anxious to share. Indeed, it contradicted an earlier White House account that claimed [Obama] had not spoken with Clinton or other top administration officials that night. ...We do not have a recording of this call, and neither Clinton nor the White House has described it beyond noting that it happened. But we do know that, just a few minutes after Obama called Clinton, the Washington press began reporting that the State Department had issued a statement by Clinton regarding the Benghazi attack. In it, she asserted: ‘Some have sought to justify this vicious behavior as a response to inflammatory material posted on the Internet. The United States deplors any intentional effort to denigrate the religious beliefs of others. Our commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation.’ Gee, what do you suppose Obama and Clinton talked about in that 10 p.m. call?” [45054]

Saturday Night Live ridicules Obama’s ignorance of the goings-on in his administration: “And, really Obama you found out about this scandal from TV? You found out from TV? Really? I don’t want to live in a world where you have the same sources as my aunt! ...Really, IRS, you gotta spread the scrutiny around a little. Even the TSA pulls a white

guy out of the [airport] security line once in a while. You know, just to make it look good.” [45011]

On May 19 Newsmax.com speculates, “The surprising admission by a high-ranking Internal Revenue Service official that the agency targeted tea party and other conservative groups could be seen as a tactical move designed to stave off a deeper investigation of the scandal. Washington insiders said the Obama administration was engaged in a classic tactic called a ‘modified limited hangout’ or MLH—a term that dates back to the Nixon presidency. An MLH is a public relations or propaganda technique that involves the release of previously hidden information in hopes of ending a probe and preventing exposure of more important or damaging information. The idea is to admit to some wrongdoing, but not all, in hopes of deflating press and public demands for more investigations. ...But the move backfired—the admission... only served to spark public outrage and encourage investigators to dig deeper. And, powerful evidence suggests the IRS activities involved high-ranking IRS officials in D.C., and hundreds of conservative organizations—not ones simply with ‘tea party’ or ‘patriots’ in their organization names.” [45009]

On *Meet the Press* journalist Bob Woodward states, “Well, I think on the whole Benghazi thing, you look at those talking points and... the initial draft by the CIA very explicitly said, ‘We know that activists who have ties to Al-Qaeda were involved in the attack.’ And then you see what comes out a couple of days later and there is no reference to this. This is a business where you have to tell the truth and that did not happen here. ...This is not Watergate, but there are people in the administration who have acted as if they want to be Nixonian.” [45014, 45034]

On *Fox News Sunday*, senior White House advisor Dan Pfeiffer says Obama’s whereabouts on the night of the Benghazi attack are not important: “I don’t remember what room [Obama] was in on that night, and that’s a largely irrelevant fact.” (The answer may be that Obama was in his bedroom sleeping, in advance of his campaign fundraising trip to Las Vegas the next morning.) [45010, 45039, 45051, 45057]

Pfeiffer also appears on *Face the Nation* (and three other talk shows) and is confronted by host Bob Schieffer, who asks, “Why are you here today? Why isn’t the White House Chief of Staff here to tell us what happened? ...You know, I don’t want to compare this in any way to Watergate. I do not think this is Watergate by any stretch. But you weren’t born then I would guess, but I have to tell you that is exactly the approach that the Nixon administration took. They said, ‘These are all second-rate things. We don’t have time for this. We have to devote our time to the people’s business.’ You’re taking exactly the same line they did.” After Pfeiffer goes through his talking points, Schieffer responds, “But Mr. Pfeiffer, and I don’t mean to be argumentative here, but [Obama] is in charge of the executive branch of the government. It’s my, I’ll just make this as an assertion: when the executive branch does things right, there doesn’t seem to be any hesitancy of the White House to take credit for that. When Osama bin Laden was killed, [Obama] didn’t waste any time getting out there and telling people about it.” [45013, 45022, 45033]

Schieffer continues, “But with all of these things, when these things happen, you seem to send out officials many times who don’t even seem to know what has happened. And I use as an example of that Susan Rice who had no connection whatsoever to the events that took place in Benghazi, and yet she was sent out, appeared on this broadcast, and other Sunday broadcasts, five days after it happens, and I’m not here to get in an argument with you about who changed which word in the talking points and all that. The bottom line is what she told the American people that day bore no resemblance to what had happened on the ground in an incident where four Americans were killed.” Pfeiffer claims the IRS scandal is not a scandal because Obama was not involved: “What would be an actual real scandal in Washington would be if [Obama] had been involved or had interfered in an IRS investigation.” Pfeiffer says Obama will not allow Republicans to “drag Washington into a swamp of partisan fishing expeditions, trumped up hearings and false allegations.” [45013, 45022]

Another *Face the Nation* guest, Gary Pruitt, president and chief executive officer of the Associated Press, condemns the government’s monitoring of its telephone records and says “...if they restrict that apparatus... the people of the United States will only know what the government wants them to know and that’s not what the framers of the Constitution had in mind when they wrote the First Amendment. ...It’s too early to know if we’ll take legal action but I can tell you we are positively displeased and we do feel that our constitutional rights have been violated. They’ve been secretive, they’ve been overbroad and abusive—so much so that taken together, they are unconstitutional because they violate our First Amendment rights.” [45030, 45040]

At the conclusion of the program Schieffer calls the Watergate break-in “dumb” and the IRS targeting of Tea party groups “dumber.” “We heard,” says Schaeffer, “that [Obama] said that he didn’t find out about it until last week—last week, which qualified him for Washington’s fastest-growing club: the longer and longer list of officials who suddenly don’t know much about a lot of unpleasant things, from Benghazi to the Associated Press investigation. At this point, just spare me the talking points and the excuses. No matter whether Republicans or Democrats are doing this kind of thing, this stuff is not just wrong, it’s really stupid. And it will take more than firing a few temps and low-level bureaucrats to fix it. [Obama] won reelection with a smart political team. But the election is over. Maybe he should look now for people of substance who know about other things who could help him govern.” [45015, 45043]

On ABC’s *This Week*, Pfeiffer says Republicans owe U.N. ambassador Susan Rice an apology for saying she disseminated incorrect information about Benghazi. (Rice appeared on five Sunday talks shows to falsely claim the Benghzai attacks were merely a mob reaction to a YouTube video.) Pfeiffer claims the emails released by the White House prove she is guiltless. (He does not mention that no emails from the first 67 hours after the attack were released.) [45028]

On CNN’s *State of the Union*, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) says, “I absolutely stick by them [criticisms of Hillary Clinton]. You know, in Bill Clinton’s administration, when [Secretary of Defense] Les Aspin did not provide security in Mogadishu, the famous

Black Hawk Down [incident], he was asked to resign, and he left and admitted he made tragic errors. ...I've done it [criticized Hillary Clinton] in every state and every stop, because I think it's pretty important that she accept blame for not providing security. She was asked repeatedly to provide security in Benghazi on several occasions, including direct cables, and she says she never read the cables on security. I find that inexcusable and a dereliction of duty. Whether it has political overtones or not, it really goes to the heart of who you are as secretary of state if you do not provide security for an embassy that's begging for it. That's absolutely a dereliction of duty, and she should have resigned and accepted blame for it." (Some may suspect that Paul expects to run against Clinton for president in 2016 and will therefore continue to excoriate her every chance he gets. Meanwhile, The Washington Post reports, "Howard Wolfson, the 2008 communications director for Hillary Rodham Clinton, has said he will not return for a 2016 presidential campaign. Neither, for that matter, will Neera Tanden, the campaign's policy director. Ditto for Mark Penn, the chief strategist, and Patti Solis Doyle, the embattled campaign manager.") [45041, 45046]

Newsmax.com reports, "A new poll found that Americans by a large margin believe that Congress is not overreacting to the burgeoning scandals plaguing the Obama administration. A CNN/ORC poll found that 54 percent of Americans don't believe that Congress is overreacting to the IRS scrutiny of conservative groups, while 42 percent said that it is. By an even larger margin, 59 percent to 37 percent, respondents said Congress is making the right moves on the administration's actions regarding the Benghazi terror attack." [45032]

NYTimes.com reports, "The Obama administration's efforts to raise private money to carry out [ObamaCare] have provoked such a strong partisan uproar that potential donors have become skittish about contributing, according to several people involved in the fund-raising program. White House officials said they did not sign off on the fund-raising calls made by Kathleen Sebelius, the secretary of health and human services, but were generally aware that she would be seeking support from outside groups. Two House committees have begun investigating the solicitations. Five senior Republicans from the Senate and the House have asked the comptroller general of the United States, Gene L. Dodaro, to investigate the actions of Ms. Sebelius to determine if she was improperly circumventing spending limits imposed by Congress. ...Reports emerged this month that Ms. Sebelius had urged business executives and nonprofit groups to assist Enroll America, a private nonprofit organization that will encourage millions of Americans to sign up for insurance this fall. Enroll America is led by veterans of the Obama White House and Mr. Obama's presidential campaigns and will use campaign-style techniques to locate the uninsured. A federal health official said potential donors had become 'gun-shy' because of the onslaught of Republican criticism of the administration's fund-raising practices. A person involved in raising money for Enroll America said that many corporations and philanthropies 'are risk-averse and do not want to be involved in anything controversial.'" [45035, 45158]

According to *The Washington Post*, "When the Justice Department began investigating possible leaks of classified information about North Korea in 2009, investigators did

more than obtain telephone records of a working journalist suspected of receiving the secret material. They used security badge access records to track the reporter's comings and goings from the State Department, according to a newly obtained court affidavit. They traced the timing of his calls with a State Department security adviser suspected of sharing the classified report. They obtained a search warrant for the reporter's personal e-mails. The case of Stephen Jin-Woo Kim, the government adviser, and James Rosen, the chief Washington correspondent for Fox News, bears striking similarities to a sweeping leaks investigation disclosed last week in which federal investigators obtained records over two months of more than 20 telephone lines assigned to the Associated Press." [45037, 45038, 45044, 45050, 45055, 45058, 45081, 45110, 45115, 45120, 45121, 45199]

Michael Clemente, Executive Vice President of Fox News, later responds, "We are outraged to learn... that James Rosen was named a criminal co-conspirator for simply doing his job as a reporter. In fact, it is downright chilling. We will unequivocally defend his right to operate as a member of what up until now has always been a free press." Another Fox executive tells Mediaite.com, "The Obama White House is starting to make the Nixon administration look like *Sesame Street*." Fox News senior political analyst Brit Hume states that the Obama administration wants to "treat ordinary news-gathering activities of reporters from government sources as a crime." In addition to Rosen, the Obama administration also read emails and tracked telephone records of Fox News reporter William LaJeunesse and Fox News producer Mike Levin. (According to NBC News, "In a 2010 affidavit in support of the search warrant, an FBI agent named Rosen as a possible 'co-conspirator' in the case because he 'asked, solicited and encouraged' Kim to give him information." In other words, Rosen was doing what reporters do. Richard M. Nixon would not have resigned had Watergate reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein not "asked, solicited and encouraged" their sources to provide information.) [45037, 45038, 45044, 45050, 45055, 45058, 45081, 45110, 45115, 45120, 45121, 45199]

Obama delivers a commencement address at Morehouse College. He tells the graduates, "So yes, go get that law degree. But if you do, ask yourself if the only option is to defend the rich and powerful, or if you can also find time to defend the powerless. Sure, go get your MBA, or start that business, we need black businesses out there. But ask yourself what broader purpose your business might serve, in putting people to work, or transforming a neighborhood." [45029, 45079, 45105]

Obama attends a Democrat Senate fundraiser in Atlanta. [45029]

On May 20 White House press secretary Jay Carney admits to reporters that top-level officials—including his chief of staff, Treasury Secretary, and White House counsel—knew about the Inspector General's investigation of the Internal Revenue Service's conservative targeting program but left Obama in the dark about it. At Townhall.com Guy Benson writes, "Obama has intimated that his first whiff of the entire scandal came in the form of media reports two Fridays ago. Even if Obama wasn't aware of the scheme before the election (I'm not fully convinced of this), doesn't it seem suspicious that

virtually everyone around him did know about the impending IG findings, yet he was scrupulously frozen out of the loop? Carney acknowledged that Obama has repeatedly met with in-the-know subordinates over the last month, insisting that none of them breathed a word about it... If that's the case, it looks like the White House has been working awfully hard to insulate [Obama] from some real nastiness... Cloistered aloofness doesn't look great on [anyone in the Oval Office]; it's possible that the White House has concluded it's still the least damaging posture for him to adopt." [45031, 45069]

Breitbart.com reports, "News reports from the time indicate the now-chief counsel of the IRS, William Wilkins, helped a church connected to ...Obama's friend Rev. Jeremiah Wright get out of an IRS probe in 2008 while working as a private attorney. ...William Wilkins, then a WilmerHale law firm partner, said, We were so interested in the case we offered to do it pro bono.' ...When...Obama nominated Wilkins to be the IRS's chief counsel on April 17, 2009, his White House cited Wilkins' experience as an attorney on issues relating to tax-exempt status organization. 'He has a broad tax practice that includes counseling nonprofit organizations, business entities, and investment funds on tax compliance, business transactions, and government investigations,' according to the White House release announcing Wilkins' nomination." Reuters reports, "Wilkins' office was made aware of the targeting of conservative groups as early as August 2011, according to the inspector general report. The report does not make clear whether Wilkins—who reports to the Treasury Department's general counsel—himself knew of the targeting in 2011, or when he first learned of it." (Obama rewarded Wilkins with a key position at the IRS for helping out his pal Wright. Wilkins then paid back the favor by keeping quiet about the agency's targeting of conservative groups.) [45045]

Breitbart.com also reports, "The Department of Justice (DOJ) Inspector General published a new report Monday that confirms former U.S. Attorney for Arizona Dennis Burke leaked a document intended to smear Operation Fast and Furious scandal whistleblower John Dodson. The DOJ IG said it found 'Burke's conduct in disclosing the Dodson memorandum to be inappropriate for a Department employee and wholly unbecoming a U.S. Attorney.'" (BizJournals.com reports that the State Bar of Arizona is conducting an investigation of Burke's actions.) [45047, 45053, 45110, 45161]

At Spectator.org Jeffrey Lord asks if Obama is "directly implicated in the IRS scandal? Is the White House Visitors Log the trail to the smoking gun? The stunning questions are raised by the following set of new facts. March 31, 2010. According to the White House Visitors Log... the president of the anti-Tea Party National Treasury Employees Union, Colleen Kelley, visited the White House at 12:30 pm that Wednesday noon time of March 31st. ...The very next day after her White House meeting with [Obama], according to the Treasury Department's Inspector General's Report, IRS employees—the same employees who belong to the NTEU—set to work in earnest targeting the Tea Party and conservative groups around America. ...In short: the very day after the president of the quite publicly anti-Tea Party labor union—the union for IRS employees—met with ...Obama, the manager of the IRS 'Determinations Unit Program agreed' to open a 'Sensitive Case report on the Tea Party cases.' As stated by the IG report. The NTEU is

the 150,000 member union that represents IRS employees along with 30 other separate government agencies. Kelley herself is a 14-year IRS veteran agent. The union's PAC endorsed ...Obama in both 2008 and 2012, and gave hundreds of thousands of dollars in the 2010 and 2012 election cycles to anti-Tea Party candidates." [45048, 45049, 45100, 45153, 45168, 45303, 45464]

Brandon Darby reports at Breitbart.com, "Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) asked Attorney General Eric Holder to investigate election integrity org True the Vote and its associated Tea Party group, King Street Patriots, immediately before the IRS and DOJ began targeting the group in June 2010." [45091, 45092]

USNews.com reports, "A major Tea Party group is planning protests at Internal Revenue Services nationwide Tuesday [May 21] following revelations earlier this month that the tax agency had flagged organizations with the words 'tea party' or 'patriot' for additional scrutiny. The protests were originally scheduled only for Cincinnati, where the IRS has said employees responsible for the targeting were based. But Tea Party Patriots head Jenny Beth Martin [said] she received requests to protest across the country. A call to action on the group's web site tells supporters that 'the IRS is out of control' and so it is 'calling for anyone and everyone to protest the IRS' complete abuse of power' on Tuesday at noon. The site helpfully includes a map of local IRS offices for protesters, as well as sample protest signs (such as 'Abolish the IRS') and a form for those who believe they were inappropriately reviewed by the IRS to fill out and get help." [45052, 45087, 45096, 45114]

TheDailyBeast.com reports, "Following the attack in Benghazi, senior State Department officials close to Hillary Clinton ordered the removal of a mid-level official who had no role in security decisions and has never been told the charges against him. He is now accusing Clinton's team of scapegoating him for the failures that led to the death of four Americans last year. Raymond Maxwell was placed on forced [but paid] 'administrative leave' [by Clinton's chief of staff Cheryl Mills] after the State Department's own internal investigation, conducted by an Administrative Review Board (ARB) led by former State Department official Tom Pickering. Five months after he was told to clean out his desk and leave the building, Maxwell remains in professional and legal limbo, having been associated publicly with the death of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other American for reasons that remain unclear. ... 'The overall goal is to restore my honor,' said Maxwell, who has now filed grievances regarding his treatment with the State Department's human resources bureau and the American Foreign Service Association, which represents the interests of foreign-service officers. The other three officials placed on leave were in the diplomatic security bureau, leaving Maxwell as the only official in the bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA), which had responsibility for Libya, to lose his job. 'I had no involvement to any degree with decisions on security and the funding of security at our diplomatic mission in Benghazi,' he said." [45056, 45080]

The Virginian-Pilot reports, "Two members of the FBI's elite counterterrorism unit died Friday while practicing how to quickly drop from a helicopter to a ship using a rope, the FBI announced Monday in a statement. The statement gave few details regarding the

deaths of Special Agents Christopher Lorek and Stephen Shaw, other than to say the helicopter encountered unspecified difficulties and the agents fell a ‘significant distance.’” According to DCClothesline.com, the “FBI agents killed in copter crash were investigating Boston [Marathon] Bombing.” [45250, 45251]

According to a CNN/ORC poll, 37 percent of those surveyed have a favorable opinion of the Tea Party—up from 28 percent in March. [45059]

Senate Democrats block several Republicans amendments to the illegal immigrant amnesty legislation that, according to DailyCaller.com, “would have improved current enforcement measures, curbed financial aid to illegal immigrants and excluded many criminals from the proposed amnesty.” [45066]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) demanded information about conservative groups’ college-aged interns, prompting outrage from one of the country’s top conservative activist organizations and leading one former intern to wonder whether his family’s pizza parlor would be endangered. The IRS requested, in an audit, the names of the conservative Leadership Institute’s 2008 interns, as well as specific information about their internship work and where the interns were employed in 2012, according to a document request the IRS sent to the Leadership Institute, dated February 14, 2012.” [45063]

After a massive tornado devastates Moore, Oklahoma, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) takes to the floor of the Senate to blame global warming and Republicans. (Even the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change finds Whitehouse’s remarks absurd. Agency head Rajendra Pachauri states, “[O]ne really cannot relate an event of this nature to human-induced climate change. It’s just not possible. Scientifically, that’s not valid.”) [45064, 45132]

Two former diplomats tell PJMedia.com (PJM) additional whistleblowers will come forward to reveal information about the Benghazi cover-up. Roger L. Simon reports, “According to the diplomats, what these whistleblowers will say will be at least as explosive as what we have already learned about the scandal, including details about what really transpired in Benghazi that are potentially devastating to both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. The former diplomats inform PJM the new revelations concentrate in two areas—what Ambassador Chris Stevens was actually doing in Benghazi and the pressure put on General Carter Ham, then in command of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and therefore responsible for Libya, not to act to protect jeopardized U.S. personnel. Stevens’ mission in Benghazi, they will say, was to buy back Stinger missiles from al-Qaeda groups issued to them by the State Department, not by the CIA. Such a mission would usually be a CIA effort, but the intelligence agency had opposed the idea because of the high risk involved in arming ‘insurgents’ with powerful weapons that endanger civilian aircraft. ...Regarding General Ham, military contacts of the diplomats tell them that AFRICOM had Special Ops ‘assets in place that could have come to the aid of the Benghazi consulate immediately (not in six hours).’ Ham was told by the White House not to send the aid to the trapped men, but Ham decided to disobey and did so

anyway, whereupon the White House ‘called his deputy and had the deputy threaten to relieve Ham of his command.’” (Ham retired in April 2013.) [45067, 45077, 45098, 45179]

On Laura Ingraham’s radio talk show, Fox News Channel’s Bill O’Reilly talks about Obama’s “daddy issues.” “It’s all about control,” says O’Reilly, “and I think that that’s a hallmark of Barack Obama’s personality. I don’t want to be a psychiatrist here, but when you’re a kid raised in a real turbulent situation like he did with no guiding force in the house, no authoritative figure, no father, all of that—when you get to be an adult, the chances are you’re going to want to control your environment. And that’s the hallmark of his administration, is that Barack Obama wants control. He wants loyalty... But he [also] doesn’t like anything that is happening that he can’t tell you to say ‘yes’ or ‘no.’ It’s absolute power. ...Most of his acolytes give him that. I mean, they just bow down to Barack Obama. I don’t think he’s got a lot of people in there telling him, ‘Hey you’re wrong.’ I think maybe his wife can do that and perhaps Valerie Jarrett, but that’s about it. So when a story appears and they see it and they don’t like it because they don’t know who’s giving it up, they go after them. So it might be a little thing to... Ronald Reagan for example—I don’t think he would have cared. But it’s a big thing for Obama.” [45065]

On May 21 the Associated Press reports, “The U.S. has identified five men who might be responsible for the attack on the diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, last year, and has enough evidence to justify seizing them by military force as suspected terrorists, officials say. But there isn’t enough proof to try them in a U.S. civilian court as the Obama administration prefers. The men remain at large while the FBI gathers evidence.” (Townhall.com’s Guy Benson comments, “Consider the implications of this report: Our government/military/intelligence community has the information and capacity to haul in at least five of the suspected Benghazi terrorists, but eight months after the deadly raid, they remain free men entirely because of the Obama administration’s ideological obsession with furnishing foreign terrorists with civilian trials. Will the American people stand for this?”) 45061, 45062]

NBC’s Dallas/Fort Worth affiliate reports that Fort Hood terrorist Major Nidal Malik Hasan “has now been paid more than \$278,000 since the Nov. 5, 2009 shooting that left 13 dead and 32 injured. The Army said under the Military Code of Justice, Hasan’s salary cannot be suspended unless he is proven guilty.” (The death toll was, in fact, 14 because one of Hasan’s victims was pregnant, and while Hasan continues to receive his paychecks, some of his injured victims struggle with medical bills because the Obama administration has classified the attack as “workplace violence” rather than a terrorist attack—which would provide them with better benefits.) [45070, 45101]

According to Reuters, “Lois Lerner, the Internal Revenue Service official at the center of a scandal about the targeting of conservative groups for extra tax scrutiny, plans to assert her constitutional right not to answer questions from a congressional committee on Wednesday.” (“Pleading the Fifth” is arguably not the best way for Lerner to convince others that she did nothing wrong or illegal.) [45072, 45082, 45089]

At the White House, Obama and Vice president Joe Biden meet with three illegal immigrants, apparently to discuss “comprehensive immigration reform.” Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) responds, “The fact that [Obama] and the vice president are hosting illegal immigrants in the White House while constricting citizen tours and refusing to meet with immigration officers says it all. The White House will not even grant ICE officers a low-level White House meeting but invites illegal immigrants into the Oval Office.” [45208, 45218]

Fifty-six percent of Americans surveyed in a Washington Post/ABC News poll believe the IRS deliberately targeted Tea Party groups for discriminatory treatment, while 31 percent believe it was merely an “administrative mistake.” Twenty percent believe the IRS action was acceptable. Fifty-five percent of those polled believe the White House is covering up the facts about Benghazi. [45073, 45074, 45075, 45078]

TheHill.com reports, “Months after [Obama’s] reelection, a variety of unions are publicly balking at how the administration plans to implement the landmark [ObamaCare] law. They warn that unless there are changes, the results could be catastrophic. ... Union anger on multi-employer plans has been percolating for months. In January, The Wall Street Journal reported that UNITE HERE [hotel workers union] and the Teamsters were pressing the administration. UFCW [United Food and Commercial Workers union] was also mentioned in that report.” Another union with ObamaCare concerns is the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers union. (Labor union opposition to ObamaCare could cause a number of Democrat Senators and Congressman to lose their seats in the November 2014 elections.) [45076, 45196]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, states, “We are interviewing *lots* of people [about Benghazi], most of them under oath. ... We’re going to go through... that so that if we bring Secretary Clinton back, we bring her back when we have a lot of questions, including who told her what, or, more importantly, who didn’t tell her something, and why.” Of Obama’s whereabouts on the night of the Benghazi attack, Issa says, “From what we can tell he went to the [White House] residence. From what we can tell, between 5:00 in the evening and when he got on a plane for fundraisers in Las Vegas, he pretty well ignored his responsibilities as commander-in-chief. And by the way, I’m not accidentally saying ‘ignored his responsibilities as commander-in-chief.’ George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney would have required constant, periodic—you know, every hour—reporting. I use George W. Bush because he’s the most recent in people’s memories. George W. Bush, if he said ‘use all measures necessary,’ he’d want to make sure we use all measures necessary. [Under Obama,] Clearly we didn’t use any measures.” [45083]

At the White House, Obama hosts Thein Sein, the president of Burma—and refers to the country as Myanmar, the name preferred by that nation’s military. (The official U.S. policy is to use the name Burma. Obama apparently has taken the side of the jihad-waging Muslims over the Buddhists in that nation.) [45084, 45189]

CBS News investigative reporter Sharyl Attkisson tells Politico, “I can confirm that an intrusion of my computers has been under some investigation on my end for some months but I’m not prepared to make an allegation against a specific entity today as I’ve been patient and methodical about this matter. I need to check with my attorney and CBS to get their recommendations on info we make public.” (Attkisson is one of the few mainstream media reporters who dared to report details of the Operation Fast and Furious scandal, and has been a thorn in Obama’s side over the Benghazi cover-up. Pamela Geller observes at AtlasShrugs.com, “If the rest of the clueless and compromised enemedia were doing its job, reporters would be besieging the White House with questions about why Sharyl Attkisson was targeted.”) [45085, 45099, 45221]

Obama notes the tornado in Oklahoma that took at least 24 lives: “Our prayers are with the people of Oklahoma today, and we will back up those prayers with deeds for as long as it takes. As a nation, our full focus right now is on the urgent work of rescue, and the hard work of recovery and rebuilding that lies ahead. The people of Moore should know that their country will remain on the ground, there for them, beside them, as long as it takes.” [45088, 45090]

Leftist journalists Jonathan Capehart, Josh Marshall, and Ezra Klein are seen entering the West Wing of the White House. The purpose of their meeting and the person they are meeting with is not known—although Marshall and Klein both then call for IRS bureaucrat Lois Lerner to resign. (AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller comments, “Fascist jackbooted quislings file in for their marching orders from der leader.” No one should be surprised if the three journalists all begin regurgitating variations of this message: “Nothing to see here; keep moving; there is no scandal.”) [45093, 45097, 45198]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The man who led the Internal Revenue Service when it was inappropriately scrutinizing conservative groups’ applications for tax-exempt status said Tuesday that he intentionally kept himself in the dark about those kinds of decisions because he thought, as a political appointee, he should keep his distance. Douglas H. Shulman, who was commissioner from 2008 to 2012, told the Senate Finance Committee that he didn’t learn details of the agency’s political targeting until the inspector general released a blockbuster report last week. Mr. Shulman becomes the second IRS official to testify in the burgeoning scandal, which has the agency reeling and has the White House trying to explain how much it knew.” (In early 2009 Shulman appeared at an event with Congressman Charles Rangel and said, “He’s one of the leaders in this country on tax policy issues. I work closely with him every day, and I’m honored to be on this stage with him.” For failing to pay income taxes on rental property for 17 years, Rangel was forced to leave his post as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. He was not prosecuted.) [45102, 45520]

ABCNews.com reports, “The first groups that claim they were unfairly scrutinized by the Internal Revenue Service have filed suit against the agency in federal courts, seeking damages and the granting of their long-delayed tax-exempt status application. True the Vote, a Houston-based voter watchdog group, filed a complaint in federal court in Washington, D.C., today over what it is calling ‘unlawful actions by the IRS in the

processing of its application for exempt status.’ The group was founded in June of 2010 and is affiliated with the King Street Patriots, a Tea Party group started in December of 2009. The group says it has been waiting three years for its tax exempt status to either be granted or denied, first applying in July of 2010. During that time, the group’s president Catherine Engelbrecht told ABC News she has been personally audited and even visited by agents from the Bureau of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The group wants the IRS Review Policy declared unconstitutional under the First Amendment and it is asking the court to ‘permanently enjoin the IRS from further implementing and applying the IRS Review Policy and any other similar policies.’ Damages sought include the awarding of \$1,000 for ‘each unauthorized inspection of its return information.’” (Among the many outrageous demands of Engelbrecht made by the IRS was that she provide every Facebook and Twitter post she had ever written.) The NorCal Tea Party has also filed a lawsuit against the IRS. [45094, 45095]

Meanwhile, the IRS misses the May 21 deadline imposed by the House Ways and Means Committee for the disclosure of all communications between the agency and the White House that relate to the Tea Party targeting program. [45125]

Tea Party protesters demonstrate at IRS offices across the country. (In St. Louis, the IRS is protected by armed guards from the Department of Homeland Security.) [45129]

According to Breitbart.com, “The US Attorney for the District of Columbia, Ronald C. Machen—the man responsible for the aggressive surveillance and phone record scrutiny at Fox News—is also a big donor to the Obama Campaigns.” [45106]

Ben Stein writes at Spectator.org, “[I]f you criticize Mr. Obama, you are a racist. Thus, *quod erat demonstrandum*, Mr. Obama cannot be criticized. So, he did not for a moment know that his IRS was tormenting the political movement that laid him low in 2010. And, if you doubt it, you’re a Klansman. ...God help us. Who would have ever dreamed things could go so wrong? And if Mr. Obama can never be held accountable because his father was a Kenyan, when does this ever stop?” [45170]

At RedFlagNews.com J. R. Elliott writes, “Two sources close to the inner circle of the Obama White House have communicated exclusively to RedFlag News that during the night of Benghazi, ...Obama was ‘incapacitated’ due to ‘staggering, inapt activities’ between the hours of 1800 and 2300. In light of the clear culture of intimidation by the Obama Administration, our sources are not in any position to come forward; however, they made clear that if the White House Press Corps and other journalist organizations would aggressively pursue all their ‘available contacts within the POTUS bubble,’ the ‘most damaging story in American presidential history’ will advance from those higher up who are itching to blow the whistle. We implore all journalists and members of Congress with ‘non-political’ career contacts inside the White House to dig deeper for the real story of what Obama was, or was not, doing the night of September 11, 2012. We need timelines for where Obama was every minute between 1500hrs on September 11th and 0900hrs on September 12th... We need to see the White House visitors log for September 11–12, 2012.” [45178]

On May 22 Lois Lerner, who heads the IRS division that oversees tax-exempt groups, appears before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and pleads the Fifth Amendment—after reading a self-serving statement in which she claims she did nothing wrong. (Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) points out that a witness cannot provide a statement and also refuse to answer questions. He states, “She just waived her Fifth Amendment right to privilege; you don’t get to tell your side of the story then not be subjected to cross examination. That’s not the way it works. She waived her right to Fifth Amendment privilege by issuing an opening statement. She ought to stand here and answer our questions.” Despite her trying to have it both ways, the committee fails to force Lerner to testify or hold her in contempt of Congress.) It is worth noting that Lerner previously headed the Federal Elections Commission’s Enforcement Office, where she allegedly harassed conservative groups such as the Christian Coalition—going so far as to demand that Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North explain the content of prayers he shared with evangelist Pat Robertson. While at the FEC Lerner did nothing about the millions of dollars in illegal foreign campaign contributions collected by Obama and reported in the early summer of 2008 by AtlasShrugs.com. According to Buzzfeed.com, in 1998 Lerner also “failed to investigate Democratic fundraiser Howard Glicken, who was accused of soliciting contributions from a German national named Thomas Kramer, because of his affiliation with Gore.” [45102, 45117, 45122, 45124, 45126, 45127, 45133, 45135, 45138, 45146, 45154, 45160, 45214, 45219]

Congressman Vern Buchanan (R-FL) remarks via Twitter, “Pleading the fifth is a direct slap in the face of every American taxpayer betrayed by the IRS’s gross abuse of power.” CNBC’s John Harwood observes, “Lerner taking 5th is worst hearing outcome for WH [White House]: hint of potential criminality to screw-ups IG [inspector General] didn’t find partisan, much less criminal.” (Harwood is apparently unable to entertain the possibility that Lerner knows a lot more about the abuses than the IG and that crimes may have been committed.) [45107, 45108, 45109]

At Townhall.com Michelle Malkin warns that an Obama crony and top campaign donor, Judy Faulker, is CEO of Epic Systems—“which will soon store almost half of all Americans’ health information. ...Obama’s federal electronic medical records (EMR) mandate is government malpractice at work. The stimulus law provided a whopping \$19 billion in ‘incentives’ (read: subsidies) to force hospitals and medical professionals into converting from paper to electronic record-keeping systems. Penalties kick in next year for any provider who fails to comply with the one-size-fits-all edict. ...Epic Systems—the dominant EMR giant in America—is notorious for its lack of interoperability. Faulkner’s closed-end system represents antiquated, hard drive-dependent software firms that refuse to share data with doctors and hospitals using alternative platforms” yet “Obama... named billionaire Democratic donor Faulkner as the only industry representative on the federal panel overseeing the \$19 billion EMR ‘incentives’ program from which her company benefits grandly.” Malkin explains: “Epic employees donated nearly \$1 million to political parties and candidates between 1995 and 2012—82 percent of it to Democrats.” [45103]

In Orlando, Florida a federal agent shoots and kills Ibragim Todashev—a Chechen immigrant who was being questioned about his relationship with the Boston Marathon bombers. According to USNews.com, “Todashev, 27, allegedly attacked an agent with a knife while confessing to [a 2011 triple homicide]. He was not suspected of having played any role in the bombing that killed three people and injured scores more in April, but he did confess to being involved in a brutal Boston-area slaying two years ago, investigators said.” The FBI states, “The agent, two Massachusetts State Police troopers, and other law enforcement personnel were interviewing an individual in connection with the Boston Marathon bombing investigation when a violent confrontation was initiated by the individual. During the confrontation, the individual was killed and the agent sustained non-life threatening injuries.” [45104, 45118, 45145, 45149, 45165, 45317]

Obama dips to -17 in Rasmussen’s daily approval index, with 24 percent of those surveyed strongly approving of his performance and 41 percent strongly disapproving. (He has not been at -17 since September 26, 2012.) Obama’s total approval rating is 46 percent; his disapproval rating is 53 percent. In a Fox News poll, Obama’s approval rating falls to 45 percent, while 51 percent disapprove of his performance. By contrast, in a Washington Post/ABC News poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings are 51/44. [45111, 45116, 45137]

At WeeklyStandard.com Mark Hemingway points out that all six of the “low-level employees” at the Cincinnati IRS office (Mitchel Steele, Carly Young, Joseph Herr, Stephen Seok, Liz Hofacre, and a woman identified as Ms. Richards) who supposedly “went rogue” in targeting Tea Party and conservative groups all “have different individual and territory managers” but Cindy Thomas, the Program Manager of the Tax Exempt Division, “is one manager they all have in common. Cindy Thomas’s name is significant, because Thomas is the woman who leaked nine tax documents to the journalism outlet ProPublica last year. The leaking of pending tax documents is a clear violation of the law. After having uncovered the nature of Thomas’s involvement, FOX19 looks at her place in the IRS chain of command: Former Acting IRS Commissioner Steven Miller... retires. Joseph Grant, Commissioner of Tax Exempt and Government Entities... retires. Lois Lerner, Head of Exempt Organization... says she will invoke her 5th amendment right to not incriminate herself when called before Congress on Wednesday [May 22]. Holly Paz, Director of Exempt Organizations, subpoenaed to Washington to be interviewed by members of Congress. All of this IRS leadership, in Washington D.C. Then one level down is Cindy Thomas, the highest ranking employee in Cincinnati in this Tax Exempt and Government Entities Department that no one in Congress is talking to... yet.” (Amazingly, Paz—an Obama campaign donor—reportedly sat in on 36 of 41 interviews with IRS employees conducted by the Inspector General. An Inspector General can hardly expect employees to be forthright if one of their bosses is in the room during their interview.) [45112, 45113, 45119, 45123, 45128, 45202, 45222, 45299]

WhiteHouseDossier.com reports, “With scandal swirling about the White House... Michelle Obama may be considering an extended exit from Washington this summer, fleeing for weeks to the Obamas’ traditional summer haven, Martha’s Vineyard. ...The

White House has not commented on the Obamas' vacation plans. The Obamas are said to be eying a house in Farm Neck on the Vineyard. If they land there, [Obama] will have easy access to the lovely Farm Neck Golf Club and Cafe." [45130, 45131]

Two Muslims behead a British soldier on the streets of London's Woolwich area. According to *The Times of London*, the attackers shout, "Allahu Akhbar" during the savage attack. One of the killers states, "We [Muslims] swear by almighty Allah we will never stop fighting you [non-Muslims]. We must fight them as they fight us. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. I apologize that women have had to witness this today, but in our land our women have to see the same. You people will never be safe. Remove your government, they don't care about you." One witness states, "They were hacking at this poor guy, literally chopping him, cutting him, like it was a piece of meat. We thought they were trying to remove his organs. They were oblivious to anything, they were more worried about having their photo taken, running up and down the road. ...In my opinion, they were waiting for the police to arrive to be shot." The two attackers are eventually shot and wounded by the police, who took 20 minutes to arrive at the scene. Remarkably—and disgustingly—more than a dozen onlookers did nothing to stop the attack, but took photos with their cell phone cameras.) [45134, 45141, 45147, 45148, 45187, 45188, 45190, 45227]

Attorney General Eric Holder acknowledges in a letter to Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) that four Americans have been killed by drone strikes since Obama entered the Oval office: Anwar al-Awlaki, Samir Khan, Jude Kennan Mohammed, and Awlaki's 16-year-old son Abdulrahman Anwar al-Awlaki. (National Review Online's Greg Pollowitz Tweets, "Obama has killed more US citizens than foreigners waterboarded under Bush.") [45140, 45159]

KMOV announces it has fired reporter Larry Connors for expressing his personal political opinions on one of the station's Facebook pages. KMOV president Mark Pimental states, "Larry's departure has nothing to do with the particular position he took, but it does have to do with our belief that his actions made it impossible for him to report for KMOV on certain political matters going forward without at least an appearance of bias. Bringing you accurate and unbiased reporting is the reason we exist." According to TheBlaze.com, "Connors recently claimed that the IRS started "hammering" him shortly after his tough [April 2012] interview with Obama. Here are some excerpts of the Facebook message he posted earlier this month: 'I don't accept "conspiracy theories", but I do know that almost immediately after the interview, the IRS started hammering me.' 'At the time, I dismissed the "co-incidence", but now, I have concerns...'" [45142, 45143]

NaturalNews. Com reports, "Practically everything you have been told by the mainstream scientific community and the media about the alleged detriments of greenhouse gases, and particularly carbon dioxide, appears to be false, according to new data compiled by NASA's Langley Research Center. As it turns out, all those atmospheric greenhouse gases that Al Gore and all the other global warming hoaxers have long claimed are overheating and destroying our planet are actually cooling it, based on the latest

evidence. As reported by *Principia Scientific International* (PSI), Martin Mlynczak and his colleagues over at NASA tracked infrared emissions from the earth's upper atmosphere during and following a recent solar storm that took place between March 8-10. What they found was that the vast majority of energy released from the sun during this immense coronal mass ejection (CME) was reflected back up into space rather than deposited into earth's lower atmosphere. ...According to the data, up to 95 percent of solar radiation is literally bounced back into space by both CO₂ and NO [nitric oxide] in the upper atmosphere. Without these necessary elements, in other words, the earth would be capable of absorbing potentially devastating amounts of solar energy that would truly melt the polar ice caps and destroy the planet. ...'The shock revelation starkly contradicts the core proposition of the so-called greenhouse gas theory which claims that more CO₂ means more warming for our planet,' write H. Schreuder and J. O'Sullivan for PSI. '[T]his compelling new NASA data disproves that notion and is a huge embarrassment for NASA's chief climatologist, Dr. James Hansen and his team over at NASA's GISS.'" (It also should be a huge embarrassment for Al Gore, Obama, and everyone else who has fallen for the man-made global warming argument—but it likely will not because the mainstream media will downplay or ignore the story.) [45144]

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Aetna, UnitedHealth Group, and Cigna have decided not to participate in California's ObamaCare health insurance exchange. [45163, 45164]

Snopes.com posts a confirmation of the story that the federal government is selling 56 buildings that are no longer used by the U.S. postal service and the sales will be handled solely by CBRE Group, Inc. CBRE's chairman is Richard C. Blum, and his Blum Capital is one of the firm's largest shareholders. Blum, who will make a fortune from the deal, is the husband of Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Her office issues a statement, "Sen. Feinstein is not involved with and does not discuss any of her husband's business decisions with him. Her husband's holdings are his separate personal property." [45308]

At Spectator.org Peter Ferrara encourages Republicans to "go for the jugular" and defund ObamaCare, writing, "The IRS scandal provides Republicans and conservatives with the opportunity to repeal and replace Obamacare now. The House Republican majority should refuse to fund the expansion of the IRS necessary to manage Obamacare. Without that funding, and hiring thousands of additional agents, the IRS cannot even begin to manage Obamacare. ...Obama may throw a fit. He may refuse to sign funding bills to keep the federal government open. No matter. Let him close his government down if he wants. Nobody wants the IRS playing political games with their health care and health records, like it did with the constitutional rights to freedom of speech and Equal Protection of Tea Party and conservative organizations. Contribute to the Republican Party? Attend a Tea Party protest? Good luck getting your Obamacare health insurance tax credit application approved. Good luck finding a doctor the government will pay to do that operation your kid needs. Obama can flail away all he wants. The public will now back the Republicans in this fight, just as it did in the sequester battle." [45169]

On May 23 Gateway Pundit charges that Attorney General Eric Holder lied under oath when he told the House Judiciary Committee, “In regard to potential prosecution of the press for the disclosure of material, this is not something I’ve ever been involved in, heard of, or would think would be wise policy.” In fact, according to NBC News, Holder “signed off on a controversial search warrant that identified Fox News reporter James Rosen as a ‘possible co-conspirator’ in violations of the Espionage Act and authorized seizure of his private emails, a law enforcement official told NBC News on Thursday.” [45150, 45151, 45176, 45200, 45205]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Although White House Chief Counsel Kathryn Ruemmler claims to have learned about the IRS audit scandal only last month, she had three unprecedented one-on-one meetings last year with the Treasury Department’s chief lawyer, who has known about the inspector general’s investigation of the Internal Revenue Service’s targeting of conservative nonprofits since at least June 2012. The Treasury lawyer in turn has a long history of extreme left-wing agitation. Christopher J. Meade, Treasury Chief Counsel, met with Ruemmler on September 27th, December 11th, and December 13th, 2012, according to White House Visitor Records requests. The two had never met one-on-one prior to these meetings. Meade was one of the first members of ...Obama’s administration to find out about the IRS investigation in June 2012, when he became the Treasury Department’s acting general counsel. The two also met with fifteen other people on July 2nd, 2012 and with fifteen other people on July 17th. The unusual timing of the meetings suggest[s] that Ruemmler and potentially other White House members may have known of the IRS Inspector General Report months earlier than has been reported.” [45155]

During a foreign policy speech at Fort McNair’s National Defense University Obama refers to Founding Father “Jane Madison.” He again calls for the closure of the terrorist detention facility at Guantanamo, Cuba and says he will release Yemeni prisoners and return them to their homeland. (According to a Fox News poll, 63 percent of voters want the Guantanamo facility kept open, while 28 percent would like to see it closed and the terrorists transferred to U.S. facilities. The poll did not ask how many would like to see the terrorists released to Yemen.) Obama also blames the Internet for increased threats of terrorism: “[T]his threat is not new, but technology and the Internet increase its frequency and lethality. ...Today, a person can consume hateful propaganda, commit themselves to a violent agenda and learn how to kill without leaving their home. ...The best way to prevent violent extremism is to work with the Muslim American community—which has consistently rejected terrorism—to identify signs of radicalization and partner with law enforcement when an individual is drifting towards violence. And these partnerships can only work when we recognize that Muslims are a fundamental part of the American family.” [45171, 45172, 45185, 45186, 45194, 45216, 45244]

Obama naively states, “This war [on terror], like all wars, must end.” (Columnist Charles Krauthammer later calls Obama’s sentiment a “Nice thought. But much as Obama would like to close his eyes, click his heels three times, and declare the War on Terror over, war is a two-way street. ...This is John Lennon, bumper-sticker foreign policy—‘Imagine World Peace.’ Obama pretends that the tide of war is receding. But it’s demonstrably not.

It's metastasizing to Mali, to the Algerian desert, to the North African states falling under the Muslim Brotherhood, to Yemen, to the savage civil war in Syria, now spilling over into Lebanon and destabilizing Jordan. Even Sinai, tranquil for 35 years, is descending into chaos.") [45171, 45172, 45185, 45186, 45194, 45216, 45244, 45334]

Obama's claim that the "Muslim American community" has rejected terrorism is absurd. It is in mosques that many American Muslims are radicalized, and Muslims who denounce violence and terrorism are certainly not vocal enough to be noticed. According to a study by Sharia lawyer David Yerushalmi and Professor Mordechai Kedar, "A random survey of 100 representative mosques in the U.S. was conducted to measure the correlation between Sharia adherence and dogma calling for violence against non-believers. Of the 100 mosques surveyed, 51% had texts on site rated as severely advocating violence; 30% had texts rated as moderately advocating violence; and 19% had no violent texts at all. Mosques that presented as Sharia adherent were more likely to feature violence-positive texts on site than were their non-Sharia-adherent counterparts. In 84.5% of the mosques, the imam recommended studying violence-positive texts. ...Fifty-eight percent of the mosques invited guest imams known to promote violent jihad." [45171, 45172, 45185, 45186, 45194, 45216]

Obama, who never speaks of victory over radical Islamists, says in his address, "Victory will be measured in parents taking their kids to school; immigrants coming to our shores; fans taking in a ballgame; a veteran starting a business; a bustling city street." Obama intentionally downplays the role of Islam in terrorism, using examples of violent actions by non-Muslims: "Finally, we face a real threat from radicalized individuals here in the United States. Whether it's a shooter at a Sikh Temple in Wisconsin; a plane flying into a building in Texas; or the extremists who killed 168 people at the Federal Building in Oklahoma City..." Obama brags, "After I took office, we stepped up the war against al Qaeda, but also sought to change its course. We relentlessly targeted al Qaeda's leadership. We ended the war in Iraq, and brought nearly 150,000 troops home. We pursued a new strategy in Afghanistan, and increased our training of Afghan forces. We unequivocally banned torture, affirmed our commitment to civilian courts, worked to align our policies with the rule of law, and expanded our consultations with Congress. Today, Osama bin Laden is dead, and so are most of his top lieutenants. There have been no large-scale attacks on the United States, and our homeland is more secure. Fewer of our troops are in harm's way, and over the next 19 months they will continue to come home. Our alliances are strong, and so is our standing in the world. In sum, we are safer because of our efforts." (Arguably, the nation is not more secure, and that there have been no "large-scale attacks" in the United States hardly matters to the victims of the many "small-scale attacks"—such as the Boston Marathon bombing.) [45184, 45194, 45210, 45216]

Obama's speech is interrupted by a heckler from Code Pink. When Obama says, "There is no justification, beyond politics, for Congress to prevent us from closing a facility that should have never been opened," Medea Benjamin, co-founder of the leftist group, yells out, "It's not Congress. It's you, sir. ... You are commander-in-chief. You can close Guantanamo today." (In June 2009 Benjamin brought Obama a letter from the terrorist

group Hamas. In September 2009 Benjamin and fellow Code Pink activist Jodie Evans met with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in New York, when he gave a speech at Columbia University.) [215, 220, 395, 6160, 6163, 6322, 6481, 6523, 45191, 45211, 45212]

IRS official Lois Lerner is placed on paid administrative leave. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) notes, “My understanding is the new acting IRS commissioner asked for Ms. Lerner’s resignation, and she refused to resign. She was then put on administrative leave instead. The IRS owes it to taxpayers to resolve her situation quickly. The agency needs to move on to fix the conditions that led to the targeting debacle.” [45173, 45193, 45206]

Stephen F. Hayes reports at WeeklyStandard.com, “As the investigation into the Obama administration’s handling of the attacks on U.S. facilities in Benghazi intensifies, lawmakers on Capitol Hill are seeking to conduct transcribed interviews with thirteen top State Department officials in the coming weeks in order to learn more. Those named in the letter include a wide range of current and former State Department personnel, from senior advisers to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to mid-level career officials with responsibility for diplomatic security. Among those officials: Jacob Sullivan, then deputy chief of staff and director of policy planning (and currently national security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden); Victoria Nuland, then State Department spokesman; Raymond Maxwell, deputy assistant secretary of state for near east affairs; Patrick Kennedy, undersecretary of state for management; and Eric Boswell, former assistant secretary of state for diplomatic security.” (Obama has nominated Nuland for the position of Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs. At her Senate confirmation hearing she can expect to be aggressively questioned about her role in developing the Benghazi talking points.) [45175, 45201, 45209, 45215]

Today.com posts a 1979 photograph of Obama with three friends on the night of his high school senior prom. Sporting an Afro hairdo, Obama is wearing a white dinner jacket and has a white, blonde girlfriend, Megan Hughes. Classmate Kelli Allman also provides *Time* magazine with a copy of Obama’s yearbook note to her: “You are extremely sweet and foxy. I don’t know why [fellow student] Greg [Orme] would want to spend anytime [sic] with me at all! You really deserve better than clowns like us; you even laugh at my jokes! I hope we can keep in touch this summer, even though Greg will be gone. Call me and I’ll buy you lunch sometimes [sic]... Anyway, good luck in everything you do, and stay happy. Your friend, Love, Barry Obama.” (Jay Leno later quips, “*Time* magazine found a picture of ...Obama at his high school prom back in 1979. Let me tell you how long ago that was. Back then, Obama had to ask a girl for her phone number. He couldn’t illegally obtain it through the Justice Department.”) [45177, 45195, 45231]

NationalReview.com reports, “A series of letters suggests that senior IRS official Lois Lerner was directly involved in the agency’s targeting of conservative groups as recently as April 2012, more than nine months after she first learned of the activity. ...Lerner has denied involvement in the targeting, which she has blamed on a few ‘front-line people’ in the agency’s Cincinnati field office.” Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, comments, “One thing is clear: this correspondence shows

[Lerner's] direct involvement in the scheme. Further, sending a letter from the top person in the IRS Exempt Organization division to a small Tea Party group also underscores the intimidation used in this targeting ploy." [45197]

On May 24 Michelle Malkin writes at Townhall.com, "Gird your loins, America. ...Obama intends to empty out Guantanamo Bay and send scores of suspected Muslim terror operatives back to their jihadist-coddling native countries. Goaded by anti-war activists and soft-on-terror attorneys (including those from Attorney General Eric Holder's former private law firm), Obama announced Thursday that he'll lift a ban on sending up to 90 Yemeni detainees home and will initiate other stalled transfers out of the compound. ...A little more than three years ago, the White House assured Americans that it would not release Yemeni detainees back to their al-Qaida-infested land. In January 2010, international press outlets reported that at least a dozen former Guantanamo Bay prisoners had rejoined al-Qaida to fight in Yemen. ...Which side are Obama and his lawyers on, anyway? As I reported in 'Culture of Corruption,' Covington and Burling, the former private law firm of Close Gitmo crusader and Attorney General Eric Holder, has provided dozens of Yemeni Gitmo detainees hundreds of hours of pro bono legal representation and sob-story media relations campaigns. While these bleeding-heart lawyers dismiss the perils of Gitmo recidivism, the numbers don't lie. ...The office of the Director of National Intelligence reports that 27.9 percent of the 599 former detainees released from Guantanamo were either confirmed or suspected of later engaging in jihadist attacks. One of those Gitmo recidivists still on the loose is Ansar al-Sharia leader Sufyan Ben Qumu a.k.a. Abu Sufian bin Qumu, the suspected plotter of the 9/11/12 Benghazi attack. How much more American blood and treasure will this reckless, feckless game of jihadi catch-and-release cost?" [45152]

In Sweden, Muslims riot for the fourth night in a row. (Obama has no comment. At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, "And still the media is crippled by its own self-censorship—beheadings in the streets of London, bombings in Boston, thousands of burning cars, Sweden under siege, but still the media cannot say the M word. For those who don't speak media, 'Asian,' 'immigrant,' 'youth,' 'immigrant youth,' 'North African,' and 'Moroccan' all mean the same thing. The prohibited M word—blasphemy under the sharia. 'Do not offend Islam.' Social exclusion is to blame. Housing is to blame. Disrespect for the police (non-sharia authority) is to blame. Everything and anything is to blame except what's actually to blame. And Sweden is getting swallowed whole.") [45182, 45183]

Obama boards the Marine One helicopter and neglects to return the salute of the Marine standing at the steps. (After realizing his error, Obama heads back down the steps and shakes the Marine's hand. Newsbusted's Jodi Miller quips, "Apparently [Obama] didn't realize the man was a Marine because he wasn't holding an umbrella.") [45207, 45337]

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) tells reporters there are not enough votes in the Senate to pass the "Gang of Eight's" illegal immigrant amnesty legislation, despite the fact that it was approved by a 13–5 vote in the Senate judiciary Committee. [45217]

Newsmax.com reports, “The Justice Department begged a federal judge to not tell Fox News reporter James Rosen that it was tracking his telephone calls and emails in a probe regarding a national security leak. U.S. Attorney Ron Machen argued in 2010 that the traditional 30-day notice period did not apply to Rosen as Justice secretly monitored his Gmail account, according to new exhibits unsealed this week and disclosed by The Hill. ...The prosecutor had demanded to see all of Rosen’s emails—including deleted messages, emails in his trash folder and all attachments sent to and from him. The original warrant in the Rosen case was signed personally by Attorney General Eric Holder, NBC News reported this week.” [45223]

On May 25 FoxNews.com reports that Obama “is trying once again to get the Senate to confirm his pick for top lawyer of the National Labor Relations Board. Obama is re-nominating the agency’s acting General Counsel Lafe Solomon to serve as the top NLRB lawyer for a four-year term. Solomon is perhaps best known for signing off on an unfair labor practice complaint the agency filed against Boeing Co. in a union dispute, setting off months of backlash from Republicans and business groups who said the agency exceeded its authority and was trying to bolster labor unions, according to The Wall Street Journal. ...Solomon has been serving as acting counsel since June 2010. [Obama] had nominated him once before, in January 2011, but the Senate didn’t act.” [45224]

In *The Kansas City Star* Steve Rose writes, “What Barack Obama has lacked from the beginning is humility, and what he has displayed consistently is arrogance. He could have nipped the Benghazi fiasco in the bud, but Obama apparently decided that since only Fox News was beating the drums for the truth, he could finesse the ugly matter. Instead of coming clean from the get-go, that this was an act of terrorism, Obama stone-walled. Now, he has a bonafide [sic] scandal on his hands. ...We know for certain the ‘talking points’ following the attack corrupted the truth. We were told Benghazi was a spontaneous mob protest over a video rather than a planned act of terrorism. It was sheer arrogance that turned a tragedy into a scandal. This same arrogance bled into an Internal Revenue Service politically motivated witch hunt on Obama’s watch. ...But as bad as these examples look, the poster child for arrogance is, appropriately enough, Obamacare. It was obvious almost from day one, when Obama rammed through Obamacare—a 2,000-page law with now 20,000 pages of regulations—that he would ignore anyone who disagreed with him, whether non-partisan experts or partisan critics. Only he knew the truth, and everyone else was either on board or misguided. ...Perhaps these recent jolts—from Benghazi, to the IRS, to the AP—will bring [Obama] down to earth, where he will become less aloof and less arrogant. At least, we can hope.” [45225]

Fox News Channel reporter Martha MacCallum asks, “As a ‘national security risk’ who got more time and attention [from the Obama administration], [Fox reporter James] Rosen or [Boston Marathon bomber] Tsarnaev?” [45228]

Television and radio host Tavis Smiley claims the Obama administration pressured sponsors to withdraw support for his shows because of his criticism of Obama over his failure to deal with rising black unemployment and other issues. Smiley says, “This administration does not like to be criticized. And the irony of it is, there’s nothing I have

tried to hold [Obama] accountable on that my white progressive colleagues have not. They're labeled courageous critics, but if I say it, I'm an 'Obama critic.' There's race at play in the very question." (Some might argue that Smiley's problem is that he is a black liberal—and black liberals cannot be labeled racists as can Tea Party members or other white critics of Obama.) [45229, 45230]

On May 26 Face the Nation host Bob Schieffer tells viewers, "People have often asked me, of all the administrations you've covered, which was the most secretive and manipulative? The Nixon administration retired the trophy, of course. Since then, my answer has always been: whichever administration is currently in power. Information management has become so sophisticated, every administration learns from the previous one. Each finds new ways to control the flow of information. It's reached the point that if I want to interview anyone in the administration on camera, from the lowest level worker to a White House official, I have to go through the White House press office. If their chosen spokesman turns out to have no direct connection to the story of the moment, as was the case when UN Ambassador Susan Rice was sent out to explain the Benghazi episode, that's what we, and you the US taxpayer, get, and it usually isn't much. So I am glad [Obama] has asked the Attorney General to review whether his investigations into leaks is having a chilling effect on journalists, but he shouldn't stop there. [Obama] needs to rethink his entire communications policy top to bottom. It is hurting his credibility and shortchanging the public. And to head the review, how about someone other than the Attorney General whose department is so deeply involved? That makes no sense to me." (HotAir.com comments, "That may come off as fairly mild compared to some of the things we'd like to ask the White House these days, but coming from Face the Nation, it's pretty much a boot to the face. It also manages to raise the question—in civil language—of why Eric Holder is going to wind up investigating himself. I'm sure that's one that we'd all like to hear [Obama] address personally. The answer should be a real hoot.") [45204, 45233]

Obama visits tornado-ravaged Moore, Oklahoma.

On ABC's *This Week*, Dennis Blair, Obama's former Director of National Intelligence, says that information leak investigations "have been directed, the ones that I knew about, mostly against the U.S. government employees who were talking with reporters—which is where I think they should be directed. I know of no institution in America better able to defend itself than the press. So I think that will work out okay. But what I think is that the leaking at the top of this administration... is what sets the tone for those below. And I think that most of the—most of what administration spokesmen should talk about with reporters should be talked about on the record, with their names attached to it. To set an example so that those further down the line don't think that leaking is the way it's done, the way it should be done." [45226]

Also appearing on *This Week* is Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), who says, "I don't know whether people were targeted [by the IRS] for conservative religious values or just conservative political values and sometimes there's an overlap. I think we have to get to the bottom of this. I think the constellation of these three scandals ongoing [IRS

targeting, Benghazi cover-up, and spying on telephone records of Associated Press reporters] really takes away from [Obama's] moral authority to lead the nation. Nobody questions his legal authority, but I think he's really losing the moral authority to lead this nation. And he really needs to put a stop to this. I don't care whether you're a Republican or Democrat, nobody likes to see the opposite party punishing you for your political beliefs. ... The main woman from the IRS [Lois Lerner] that's involved has taken the Fifth Amendment. She's no longer cooperating, so I have called for her suspension. [Obama] did respond to that and he has suspended her. However, he's still paying her, so I don't want that to go on forever. I think there needs to be a speedy resolution on this, and I think [Obama] is in danger of losing his moral authority to lead the nation if we don't get to a resolution. Now he says he's going to listen to his commissioner—new IRS commissioner—in 30 days. Well, the investigation's been going on over a year now, so I would think it wouldn't take very long. If he goes beyond 30 days and if no one is fired over this, I really think it's going to be trouble for him trying to lead in the next four years.” [45232, 45234]

On CNN's *State of the Union*, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich lambastes Obama's foreign policy address: “I think it's just stunningly, breathtakingly naïve. He says at one point ‘wars have to end.’ Well, [Leon] Trotsky said, ‘you may not care about war, but war cares about you.’ I mean, right after you have somebody beheaded in London, you have a bomb go off in Boston, you have the Iranians... every day trying to penetrate our system with cyber [attacks], you have an Iranian nuclear program underway and [Obama] announces cheerfully, ‘the war's going to end because I'm not happy being a war president.’ ... You have problems in northern Nigeria. You have the Chinese volunteering to send troops to Mali. You have problems in Libya. Well, it is—this is part of the problem we've had in two administrations now. No one wants to talk honestly about the fact that there is a radical Islamism on offense. It is on offense across the planet. It is what killed people in Boston. It's what just killed a soldier in London. I just saw a thing in which there was an attack in Paris today. This stuff's going on everywhere. And we will never be at peace in the pre-1941 sense that we are not threatened and that we don't have to actively take measures all the time. So [Obama's] speech in that sense—and by the way the last administration, the Bush administration had the same problem—no one wants to talk honestly about how big the threat is, how widespread it is, how fanatic it is and how in its own mind it is totally legitimate.” [45241]

Also appearing on *State of the Union* is Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX), who comments, “I think this [was] the most significant foreign policy address ever given by [Obama]. At the same time I found many parts to it disturbing for many reasons. ... I think the rhetoric sort of defies the reality in terms of the threat level that we've all been briefed on. I mean, the [Obama] narrative is sort of that, ‘you know, al-Qaeda is on the run, they're defeated, let's claim victory, war's over.’ And then let's go back to a pre-9/11 mentality.” [45242, 45243]

On *Fox News Sunday* Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) comments on Obama's foreign policy speech and his foreign policy in general: “At a time we need resolve the most, we are sounding retreat. Our enemies are emboldened all over the planet. Al-Qaeda is

coming back with vengeance. In Libya you saw Al-Qaeda groups in Yemeni and Libya working together. Our friends are uncertain Syria is falling apart; we are talking about helping the rebels but doing nothing about it. Iran is marching toward a nuclear weapon. The challenge of our time is to keep weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of radical Islamists and we are failing in my view. Syria is about to fall apart. ...Israel is very threatened by Syria. Iran is marching toward a nuclear weapon. And we show this lack of resolve talking about the war being over, what do you think Iranians are thinking? At the end of the day this is the most tone-deaf [commander in chief] I ever could imagine, making such a speech at a time when our homeland is trying to be attacked [sic] literally every day. Changing the standards of when you can go after someone with a drone; it has to be a continuing imminent threat to the American people with no chance of civilian casualties, virtually no chance of civilian casualties. I think we are diminishing our national security infrastructure. Sequestration is dismantling the military when we need it most. I have never been more worried about the national security than right now. The speech did not help.” (Of course, if the terrorists understand that the Obama administration policy is to rule out a drone attack whenever there is a risk of civilian casualties they will respond by surrounding themselves with civilians.) [45246, 45264]

On May 27 the nation celebrates Memorial Day, honoring members of the U.S. Armed Forces who died in service to their country. Obama lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery and manages to make the day about him, rather than America’s heroes, by bragging that he ended the war in Iraq: “Last Memorial Day, I stood here and spoke about for the first time in nine years Americans were no longer fighting and dying in Iraq. Today, a transition is underway in Afghanistan, and our troops are coming home. Fewer Americans are making the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan, and that’s progress for which we are profoundly grateful. And this time next year, we will mark the final Memorial Day of our war in Afghanistan.” [45238]

Sequestration spending cuts notwithstanding, according to WashingtonTimes.com, since “...March 4, the government has posted openings for 4,300 federal job titles to hire some 10,300 people. The median position has a salary topping out at \$76,000, and one-fourth of positions pay \$113,000 or more, according to an analysis by The Washington Times of federal job listings. Altogether, the jobs will pay up to \$792 million per year. Including job postings that have been open since before sequestration, the government is in the market for 27,000 employees who will make up to \$1.8 billion a year. ...The jobs posted since sequestration include 10,195 positions at the Department of Agriculture, 2,800 at the Department of Veterans Affairs and 1,611 the Department of Health and Human Services. ...Nearly 200 positions related to Army-run bowling alleys are also open. One position in Hawaii pays up to \$110,000—plus a 12 percent cost-of-living adjustment—to oversee such recreation facilities.” [45378]

In London, police arrest a 10th suspect in connection with the beheading of a British soldier in Woolwich. Breitbart.com reports, “The latest arrest came as around 1,000 supporters of a far-right group marched through central London protesting the killing, clashing with a smaller group of anti-fascist demonstrators. Police have already taken

nine other suspects into custody, including the two main ones who were shot and wounded by officers at the scene of Wednesday's [May 22] killing. Michael Adebolajo, 28, and Michael Adebowale, 22, remain under armed guard in separate London hospitals. Four other men remain in custody at a London police station. ...Kenyan officials have confirmed that Adebolajo was arrested in Kenya in 2010 with five others near the country's border with Somalia. Police believed Adebolajo was going to work with Somali militant group al-Shabab." (AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller comments, "It does appear that the Brits might be taking this murderous ideology seriously. Once again the 'lone wolf' meme is blown to smithereens. Lone-wolf jihad is an oxymoron. All jihadists are part of the ummah (worldwide Muslim community). All jihadists wage holy war in the cause of Islam. All jihadists use the same playbook (the Quran). All jihadists cite the same chapter and verse. Apparently this invading army had a plan when they said 'We want to start a war in London tonight.'") Obama has no comment. [45253, 45254]

The Guardian reports, "The Obama administration has warned British officials that if the UK leaves Europe [that is, if Great Britain leaves the European Union] it will exclude itself from a US-EU trade and investment partnership potentially worth hundreds of billions of pounds a year, and that it was very unlikely that Washington would make a separate deal with Britain. The warning comes in the wake of [Prime Minister] David Cameron's visit to Washington, which was primarily intended as a joint promotion of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with Barack Obama, which the prime minister said could bring £10bn a year to the UK alone, but which was overshadowed by a cabinet rebellion back in London." (In other words, Obama is blackmailing Great Britain. Meanwhile, Obama shows support for Turkey's inclusion in the TTIP, even though it is not a member of the EU. Obama therefore wants to punish the British for daring to attempt to protect their own economy, while offering trade advantages for his Muslim pal in Turkey, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan. Pamela Geller observes, "[Obama] kowtows to the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the jihadists in Libya, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, etc., and alienates solid allies again and again. His delusional arrogance is lethal.") [45255, 45256, 45257]

PressTV.ir reports, "Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz is reported to be clinically dead as the monarch is not recently seen in the public. A Saudi journalist working for London-Based Asharq Alawsat says the Saudi monarch has been clinically dead since Wednesday [May 22]. He also quoted medical sources in Saudi Arabia as saying that the king's vital organs, including his heart, kidneys and lungs, have stopped functioning. Doctors are said to have used a defibrillator on him several times. He is also reported to be alive with the help of a ventilator." [45235]

Gateway Pundit reports that Attorney General Eric Holder and the Department of Justice "went judge shopping with criminal warrants for [Fox News reporter] James Rosen. Two separate judges refused to offer DOJ the ability to secretly search the contents of Rosen's e-mail account. A third judge, Royce C. Lamberth, appealed the decision and overturned the order of the two judges. ...Lamberth was the third judge approached by the DOJ. He appealed two previous judges' decision and allowed the DOJ to secretly snoop on ...James Rosen." [45236]

At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen writes, "...Obama's ~~lecture~~ commencement speech to the Naval Academy graduates on Friday [May 24] left behind such a poor and lingering aftertaste, I thought [the] commencement speech from Sen. Ted Cruz [R-TX] to the graduates of Hillsdale [College] might make a nice sort of belated palate cleanser. Sen. Cruz's message was all about the inherent virtues of freedom, the American meritocracy, and the accompanying economic mobility, in which people's rises and falls are directly related to their 'talent, passion, perseverance, and willingness to fight for the American dream.' The best part about it all, of course, is that by pursuing and developing your own unique talents and interests, you are helping to contribute to the type of robust economic growth that is truest and most efficient method for lifting people out of poverty, no matter how much big-government progressive types will extoll [sic] the virtues of collectivism and 'shared sacrifice' and equality of outcomes. Those fake virtues are inhibitors to economic growth, and 'more and more government is not the answer. To say otherwise is to ignore the fact that all major European nations have higher levels of public spending than the United States does, and that all of them are poorer. Human beings are not happiest when they're taken care of by the state. Areas under the yoke of dependency on government are among the least joyish parts of our society. The story of Julia is not an attractive utopia. We all flourish instead when afforded opportunity, the ability to work and create and accomplish. Economic growth and opportunity is the answer that works.'" [45237]

Thomas Drake, a former senior executive of the National Security Agency and a whistleblower who was prosecuted by the Obama administration, tells DailyCaller.com, "[R]eporters have shared with me privately that some of their most trusted sources within government are increasingly afraid to speak with them, even off-the-record, for fear that they will be monitored and surveilled [sic; subject to surveillance]. That's self-censorship." Drake, who was "singled out by the Obama administration for indictment and prosecution" for "pass[ing] along unclassified information about wasteful spending on the development of the National Security Agency's post-9/11 secret surveillance program," calls the government's targeting of journalists a "soft tyranny." [45240]

On May 28 former Obama campaign strategist David Axelrod appears on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* and says, "I do think there are real issues regarding the relationship with the media on this leak matter. The notion of naming a journalist [James Rosen] as a co-conspirator for receiving information is something that I find very disturbing. We have to figure out ...how we deal with national security leaks and how we protect the freedom of the press and the freedom of reporters to operate. And certainly this Rosen case raises some very disturbing issues." (In other words, "I have less confidence in Attorney General Eric Holder than does Obama.") [45239]

Politico quotes the media poll report from an Obama visit to New Jersey: "The motorcade drove down Route 71 through Brielle to Point Pleasant. Crowds lined the street and grade-school age students on the street held a banner from Brielle Elementary. A guy in front of a bait and tackle shop in Point Pleasant was giving the motorcade the finger as it rolled past. His sign had 'Obama' with a slash through it. Obama and [Governor Chris]

Christie then paid an unannounced visit to the Point Pleasant boardwalk... to an arcade called 'TouchDown Fever' to try and win a stuffed bear by tossing a football through a tire. Obama tried and missed a few times. Christie then threw the ball through the tire, on his first and only try. Obama gave him a high five ending in a clasp. And said, 'That's because he's running for office.' ...The skies were cloudy and it drizzled on them the whole time." [45245]

While in New Jersey, Obama says his administration will "be there" for the "folks in Monroe, Oklahoma after the devastation of last week." (The tornado struck *Moore*, Oklahoma.) [45247]

At TownCrierDubuque.com Cynthia Lee Meyers, a cousin of one of the four Americans killed in Benghazi on September 11, 2011, writes, "Here is my story. A week out the Embassy in Tripoli began receiving multiple tips about an Al Qaeda cell in the area planning an attack on 9/11 in response to the killing of Bin Laden. For the next several days, the state dept and WH [White House] were asked for a security force and were denied at least six times. Ambassador [Christopher] Stevens and his team were given the all clear that the Consulate in Benghazi was safe and there was no need for a security force other than his 3 personal guards (One being my cousin) and a few Libyans who were not armed. Then the attack and murders occurred. Immediately the WH claimed it was a protest gone bad over a you tube video. Obama made a quick speech in the Rose Garden on Sept. 12 before catching a plane to Vegas to campaign. He made a generic statement at the end of his speech after placing the blame on an overheated protest over the video. He said 'No act of terror will shake the resolve of America.' Later that day and over the next 2 days, the liberal media began saying Ambassador Stevens and the other 3 men died of smoke inhalation. This was not the case. Out of respect for my cousin, I'm not going to be specific about his murder. However, Ambassador Stevens was brutally murdered. His genitals were cut off, he was sodomized and beaten and cut and stabbed and burned. He was dragged through the streets and left for dead. This is eyewitness testimony of a local Dr. who found the Ambassador in a ditch and tried to save his life. He had no idea who he was. The other 3 men, including my cousin, met similar fates. And deaths due to smoke inhalation is a 100% fabricated LIE. The next week I drove my aunt and Uncle and 2 others to DC to receive his body. We met with Hillary [Clinton], [Leon] Panetta, and Susan Rice. ALL of whom apologized and said it was a protest gone bad over a video and exited the area. Next Obama entered with the same story and didn't apologize and wasn't sympathetic. My aunt cried to this man and all he did was hand her flowers and walk away. I tried to get his attention, but didn't. I got upset and yelled liar to him, he kept walking. Then a secret service agent grabbed my arm and led me to a room where I was held till the proceedings were over. America, I saw firsthand how cold this man is. What kind of liar he is. Most of you haven't a clue about this tyrant and yet you support him. And act like every word he says is Gospel. These murders and the fast and furious cover ups make water gate look like, a kid who told his bff's secret to the class. We must stop this man, and please pass this story along." [47954]

Gallup reports, "More U.S. small-business owners report letting employees go than hiring them on average over the past year, for a net hiring index of -12 in April, according to

the Wells Fargo/Gallup Small Business Index survey. This is on par with –10 in January and –9 in April 2012.” [45248]

According to NBCNews.com, “Additional scrutiny of conservative organizations’ activities by the IRS did not solely originate in the agency’s Cincinnati office, with requests for information coming from other offices and often bearing the signatures of higher-ups at the agency, according to attorneys representing some of the targeted groups. At least one letter requesting information about one of the groups bears the signature of Lois Lerner, the suspended director of the IRS Exempt Organizations department in Washington. Jay Sekulow, an attorney representing 27 conservative political advocacy organizations that applied to the Internal Revenue Service for tax-exempt status, provided some of the letters to NBC News. He said the groups’ contacts with the IRS prove that the practices went beyond a few ‘front line’ employees in the Cincinnati office, as the IRS has maintained.” Sekulow states, “We’ve dealt with 15 agents, including tax law specialists—that’s lawyers—from four different offices, including [the] Treasury (Department) in Washington, D.C. So the idea that this is a couple of rogue agents in Cincinnati is not correct.” [45249]

GovtSlavesInfo.com reports, “A former insider at the World Bank, ex-Senior Counsel Karen Hudes, says the global financial system is dominated by a small group of corrupt, power-hungry figures centered around the privately owned U.S. Federal Reserve. The network has seized control of the media to cover up its crimes, too, she explained. In an interview with *The New American*, Hudes said that when she tried to blow the whistle on multiple problems at the World Bank, she was fired for her efforts. Now, along with a network of fellow whistleblowers, Hudes is determined to expose and end the corruption. Hudes tells *The New American*, “What is really going on is that the world’s resources are being dominated by this group [of central bankers and financial institutions]. They’re being allowed to do it. ...I realized we were now dealing with something known as state capture, which is where the institutions of government are co-opted by the group that’s corrupt. The pillars of the U.S. government—some of them—are dysfunctional because of state capture; this is a big story, this is a big cover up. ...[T]he Federal Reserve secretly dominated the world economy using secret, interlocking corporate directorates, and terrorizing anybody who managed to figure out that they were having any kind of role, and putting people in very important positions so that they could get a free pass.” [45252]

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee issues a subpoena for all State Department documents related to the development of the Benghazi “talking points.” Committee chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) states, “The State Department has not lived up to the administration’s broad and unambiguous promises of cooperation with Congress.” WashingtonTimes.com notes, “The White House released some emails two weeks ago that showed [department spokesperson Victoria] Nuland expressing reservations about some of the information in early versions of the talking points, which then were edited to delete references to al Qaeda. Mr. Issa said those emails only raise more questions about who else was involved in the editing process.” The Republican National Committee

submits a Freedom of Information Request for Benghazi-related emails between the State Department and Obama's re-election campaign. [45258, 45263, 45270]

Leftist George Washington University law professor Jonathan Turley writes in USA Today, "I am neither a Republican nor conservative, and I believe [Attorney General Eric] Holder should be fired." [45274]

After Secretary of State John F. Kerry meets in Paris with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss Syria's civil war, Russia announces it will provide President Bashar al-Assad with an S-300 anti-aircraft missile system. State Department deputy spokesman Patrick Ventrell responds, "We disagree with and we condemn the continued supply of Russian weapons to the [Assad] regime." WashingtonTimes.com reports, "With Israel threatening to strike such air-defense systems if delivered to Syria, White House spokesman Jay Carney said Russia's announcement 'does not bring us closer to the political transition that Syria deserves.'" (Some might argue that Russia's motives are not at all unreasonable. President Vladimir Putin has already seen the results of Obama's interference in Egypt and Libya: a power takeover by the Muslim Brotherhood. Putin may be helping Assad not so much for the sake of helping Assad, but to prevent the Muslim brotherhood from expanding its reach even further. Dealing with a brutal dictator like Assad may be far more palatable to resisting millions of radical Islamists Hell-bent on establishing a world caliphate and overthrowing every government standing in its way.) [45259, 45296]

TheDailyBeast.com reports, "The White House has asked the Pentagon to draw up plans for a no-fly zone inside Syria that would be enforced by the U.S. and other countries such as France and Great Britain, two administration officials told The Daily Beast." [45271]

In Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Vice President Joe Biden whines that 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States "are required to constantly live in fear." (That, of course, is the logical consequence of entering the nation illegally.) Biden calls for passage of immigration reform legislation (that is, amnesty), to give the illegal immigrants "the dignity they deserve." (Biden stops short of demanding dignity for thieves, rapists, murderers, and other law breakers.) [45273]

According to Frontline News, Dr. Benjamin Carson—an outspoken critic of ObamaCare and other Obama policies—reports that he is being audited by the Internal Revenue Service. (Whether the audit is a direct result of Carson's criticism of ObamaCare at February's National Prayer Breakfast is not known.) [45265, 45266]

Breitbart.com reports, "The day after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry set forth a \$4 billion plan to boost the Palestinian economy in exchange for concessions on Israeli/Palestinian peace talks, Palestinian Authority (PA) economic adviser Mohammad Mustafa said: 'The Palestinian leadership will not offer political concessions in exchange for economic benefits.' ... The investment plan laid out on May 26 would have been overseen by former British PM Tony Blair; according to Kerry, it could have 'cut unemployment by almost two-thirds and [raised] average wages by 40%.' He described

the plan as ‘groundbreaking,’ saying it would ‘transform the fortunes of a future Palestinian state.’” (With 12 million or more Americans unemployed, the Obama administration is offering bribes to the Palestinians that would reduce their unemployment rate.) [45286, 45287]

On *Special Report*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer “The fact that [Attorney General Eric Holder] he says that the gravity of the situation [the investigation of Fox News reporter James Rosen] didn’t sink in until yesterday makes you wonder if he was anesthetized. I mean everybody in town understood when we heard from the Justice Department last week that he not only signed off on the search warrant but he discussed it. If he’s only signed off, he could have done a Hillary and said, on the stuff about the security in Benghazi, she signed it but she never read it. It’s true there’s a lot of stuff that a secretary signs and doesn’t read. So it’s plausible. But, if you discussed it, it’s not plausible. So, either he lied, or, the other explanation is he forgot. But if he forgot, then he is utterly incompetent and if he goes and speaks about this under oath and doesn’t check into the past into what he had done is a couple of years before, it’s more incompetence. ...I’m not sure how he escapes this. And to the extent that he involves [Obama], who stands with him and says, ‘I have all the confidence in him,’ and [Obama] puts Holder in charge of ...the investigation. I think if you hurt [Obama] then you’re truly a liability.” [45268]

On May 29 Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) announces she will not seek reelection to a fifth term in 2014. She states, “The law limits anyone from serving as president of the United States for more than eight years, and in my opinion, well, eight years is also long enough for an individual to serve as a representative for a specific Congressional district.” In Rhode Island, Governor Lincoln Chafee, a former Republican elected as an independent in 2010, announces he will join the Democrat party. [45269, 45279]

Author and columnist Michelle Malkin writes at Townhall.com, “U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius controls a \$54 million slush fund to hire thousands of ‘navigators,’ ‘in-person assisters’ and counselors who will propagandize and enroll Obamacare recipients in government-run health insurance exchanges. This nanny-state navigator corps is the Mother of all Community Organizing Boondoggles. It’s also yet another Obama threat to Americans’ privacy. ...Obamacare navigators will have access to highly personal data from potential ‘customers’ to assess their ‘needs.’ That means income levels, birthdates, addresses, eligibility for government assistance, Social Security numbers and sensitive medical information. They’ll be targeting both individuals and small businesses. ...Who’s getting the navigator grants and training? ‘Community groups’ in 33 states that naturally include socialized medicine-supporting unions and Saul Alinsky-steeped activist outfits. ...The Obamacare navigator corps smacks of ACORN redux, stocked with demographically tailored Democratic Party recruitment operatives, not objective, informed insurance experts. ...Sebelius’ corruptocracy runs deep. While she was governor of Kansas, an independent inspector general reported that her appointed health policy board had ‘applied pressure to alter an audit report, restricted access to legal advice and threatened to fire her for meeting independently with legislators,’ according to

the Topeka Capital-Journal. Team Sebelius was also embroiled in a ruthless vendetta and obstruction campaign against then-GOP Attorney General Phill Kline, who unearthed damning evidence that the Sebelius administration had shredded key documents related to felony charges against Sebelius' abortion racketeering friends at Planned Parenthood. ...You can't trust sleazy Sebelius to navigate anything with her broken ethical compass. This is worse than the fox guarding the henhouse. She has unfettered authority and a bottomless budget to weaponize legions more foxes who will serve as Obamacare's eyes and ears on the ground. The snitch brigade lives." [45260]

DailyCaller.com reports, "...Obama met with Socialist Party of Albania leader Edi Rama at a recent San Francisco campaign fundraiser. Rama is currently using a picture of the two politicians to help win next month's Albanian elections and take over as prime minister. Rama's Socialist Party, which has been Albania's largest opposition party since 2005, is reportedly expected to win the country's June elections and unseat Democratic Party prime minister Sali Berisha, who has led the country since 2005." [45267]

CNSNews.com reports, "The total number of people in the United States now receiving federal disability benefits hit a record 10,978,040 in May, up from 10,962,532 million in April, according to newly released data from the Social Security Administration. The 10,978,040 disability beneficiaries in the United States now exceed the population of all but seven states. ...The record 10,978,040 total disability beneficiaries in May, included a record 8,877,921 disabled workers (up from 8,865,586 in April), a record 1,939,687 children of disabled workers (up from 1,936,236 in April), and 160,432 spouses of disabled workers." For 196 consecutive months the number of Americans collecting federal disability benefits has increased. There are "13 Americans working full-time for each worker on disability." In December 1968 "there were about 51 full-time workers for each worker collecting disability." [45272]

At the daily White House briefing, Fox News reporter Ed Henry asks press secretary Jay Carney, "Was he [Attorney General Eric Holder] not telling the truth on that point [that he was not involved in the investigation of reporter James Rosen]? He was involved in it." Carney plays dumb: "Involved in what?" Henry: "He signed off on the search warrant! Are you not involved after signing off on the search warrant?" Carney: "You guys are conflating the subpoena with prosecution." (In his congressional testimony Holder clearly left the impression that he had nothing at all to do with the targeting of Rosen. Carney's feeble attempt to claim Holder did not mislead Congress is laughable.) [45284]

At CanadaFreePress.com Marinka Peschmann writes, "The immediate concern for the Obama-Clinton regime after the attack in Benghazi was to cover up the connection with Iran and Syria to Ansar al Sharia and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), according to my Benghazi whistleblower source. The attack in Benghazi that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens, was not a terrorist attack; it was a nation-state attack, an escalation of war, and an opening of a new front in the tit for tat conflict with Iran and by extension their proxy partner Russia that is now being fought in Syria. ...Normally, if the FBI is trying to track down bad guys who are possibly involved

in something like a terrorist attack that killed Americans, the FBI offers some sort of reward for any information that will lead to their arrest. Notice how that did not happen with the men in Benghazi? Where's the incentive for anyone to cooperate? As my source explained, 'The game was given away when they gave that picture [of three Benghazi suspects] out. They did the same thing with the Boston Marathon bombers—played dumb, even though we now know they knew who these guys were all along. They are doing the same thing with the Benghazi guys. Saudi intelligence and Western intelligence agencies are very aware of who they are.' It was these Iranian-backed men in the FBI photos, Ansar al Sharia, who went to Benghazi to build up a militia and radicalized some locals. As my source explained, 'when you have an Iranian funded group sent into Benghazi to radicalize the locals that means you are in a proxy battle with the war in Iran.'" [45276, 45277]

Peschmann continues, "...Because the attack in Benghazi was a nation-state attack, with the 2012 elections coming up the Obama-Clinton regime did not want American voters to know that thanks to their under-handed policies of gunrunning into Syria to overthrow Assad with the Saudis that America was in a proxy war with Iran, and by extension their proxy partner Russia. Do you think American voters would have re-elected ...Obama had they known that America is about to be pulled into another major conflict? Nine months later, the administration still doesn't want the public to know the truth about Benghazi which is why, as the Associated Press reported last week, despite the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) identifying five men who might be responsible for the attack no arrests have been made. 'The men remain at large while the FBI gathers evidence'—the same FBI that the Obama-Clinton regime denied access to Benghazi for almost a month after the attack—the perfect way to thwart evidence collection and skew official conclusions...' ...This is also why ...Obama, last week during his speech at Ft. McNair's National Defense University in Washington, called the attack in Benghazi a 'localized' threat. Obviously he doesn't want you to see the bigger picture that is literally unfolding in the Middle East before your eyes as you read this that his administration is responsible for, the so-called Arab Spring. What is happening in America is the final stages of the run up to the next major military conflict coming up in the Middle East. But unlike Iraq and Afghanistan or the smaller operations in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, Syria won't implode; it will explode and spread throughout the region in an epic bloody, deadly Sunni-Shiite conflict. Christians, people of all faiths, non-believers will be persecuted if not outright slaughtered. Think Islamic Caliphate time." [45276, 45277]

In Fairfax County, Virginia Charles Ziller Hagel—the son of Obama's Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel—has possession of marijuana charges against him dismissed by Judge Thomas E. Gallahue. [45278]

At WeeklyStandard.com John McCormack asks if, in August 2010, then-economic advisor to Obama Austan Goolsbee questioned the corporate taxes paid by Koch Industries based on information illegally provided to the White House by the IRS. McCormack writes that Goolsbee made his statements "at the same time that top Democrats, including ...Obama himself, were demonizing Charles and David Koch, the owners of Koch Industries, for giving money to Tea Party groups. Goolsbee's remark led

to a federal investigation, the results of which have never been released. ...[I]n light of the recent IRS scandals—involving not just the targeting of conservative groups for extra scrutiny but also the sharing of confidential tax information—the administration doesn't exactly deserve the benefit of the doubt.” [45281]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the Republican Insider, who states, “All of us are being very careful regarding off the record disclosures. The situation keeps shifting right under us. Will let you know of a morning meeting this week involving members of the White House Legislative Affairs Office and members of the Senate Majority Office, the Senate Minority Office, the House Speaker's Office, and the House Minority Office. Meeting lasted nearly an hour. I have confirmed four things from this meeting that I can share with you. One, the primary subject of this meeting was the future status of Attorney General Eric Holder. A secondary topic was Obamacare related. ...Two, direct discussions regarding Eric Holder's departure and possible replacement. Both sides wanted plenty of notice and prep time if and when that transition was to take place. Three, negotiations for Eric Holder to stay on was presented by White House reps. This negotiation was apparently shut down by both the Senate Office reps. I find that very interesting and if I were Eric Holder, very troubling for his future employment status with the DOJ. He's losing the support of his own party. Four, House Speaker's Office demanded a decision regarding Attorney General Holder's status by June 14th. Not sure if that is a bluff or they are serious. Also don't know what they would do if the White House ignores the request. Up to now they have pretty much done nothing, right? I asked if there was anyone from DOJ at the meeting. Was told no. Not sure why not as normally someone from DOJ would have been included given what the situation is, unless the entire upper DOJ administration is at risk? Or can't be trusted? That is speculation on my part there, but I found that to be a little odd and there has been some whispering of many at DOJ who are quietly 'lawyering up.' I have not personally confirmed that though.” [45283]

The Republican Insider continues, “Now please do not take this information as 100% certainty that Attorney General Holder's position at the DOJ will not survive this current challenge. I recall a similar meeting to this early last year when the possibility of Holder being pushed out before the 2012 Election was circulating. I think [the White House insider] told you something about that. Whatever plans for that were being discussed they were effectively terminated by the White House. I would guess it was [Obama advisor Valerie] Jarrett's call that Eric Holder remain on at DOJ. When [the White House insider] called Jarrett the 'de-facto president' a few years back it seems he has since then been proven correct many times by various other media reports that have made similar claims. The power and influence she wields is no longer questioned by any of us. She is feared. What I'm not sure about at this point is if she is willing to override Democratic Party leaders who now want Eric Holder gone before his scandals negatively impact them during the 2014 Midterms. ...Obama is now entering Lame Duck territory, so Jarrett's influence will be much more diminished now than it was before the 2012 Election. Hopefully the Republican leadership understands this and will push back with the right force. They remain my biggest challenge when it comes to getting the right things done

though. As far as I'm concerned, they remain way too incompetent and untrustworthy. I'm really hoping 2014 can change some of that." [45283, 45331, 45332]

Michelle Obama attends a fundraiser in Massachusetts. According to NYTimes.com, "rich donors... paid up to \$37,600 per ticket at the Taj Boston Hotel" for a lunch of "roasted Chilean sea bass with a fricassee of asparagus." [45293]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Publicly released records show that embattled former IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman visited the White House at least 157 times during the Obama administration, more recorded visits than even the most trusted members of [Obama's] Cabinet." (Mark Everson, Shulman's predecessor at the IRS, visited the White House only once during four years in the Bush administration.) Political strategist and former Clinton advisor Dick Morris later comments, "The incredible frequency of the White House visits—essentially weekly—indicate that Obama must have been deeply involved with the inner workings of the audits and harassment of conservative groups. If Schulman was in the White House every week, what was he there to talk about? Not ObamaCare. Not without having HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in attendance, you wouldn't. About Treasury issues? Deficit reduction? Not without Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner. The obvious reason is that Obama was following the IRS audits with an obsessive, personal involvement. Apparently, the Citizens United scandal so galvanized him into action and tapped so deeply into his psyche that he was determined personally to supervise the castration of the wealthy people and groups whose access to the political system was opened wide by the Court. To see a man who held a subordinate, non-policy making position 157 times, you have to be... on a mission. It transforms one's sense of the scandal from a rogue agency to a rogue president using the agency as his personal instrument. An instrument of vengeance, or self-defense, and of political influence. ...Now we realize that the IRS audits and the harassment of conservative groups went very very deep in Obama's priority system. This scandal will destroy him. Or, as the Greeks said in ancient times: 'Those whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad with power.'" [45288, 45294, 45311, 45315, 45340]

Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) calls on the Obama administration to explain its 2011 raids on Gibson Guitar Corporation: "The recent scandals surrounding this administration raise a number of questions about who they choose to target and why. The arrogance and lack of transparency displayed by [Obama] and his cabinet officials in events such as the raids on Gibson Guitar and the IRS targeting of conservative groups show a complete disregard for the rule of law." (DailyCaller.com explains, "In 2011, federal agents raided Gibson's facilities in Nashville and Memphis in response to the company's alleged use of wood that is illegal to obtain in India. The company was charged under the Lacey Act, which made the transportation and sale of plants and wildlife that were illegally obtained overseas a crime. Gibson's facilities were also raided in 2009 under suspicion of illegal wood from Madagascar. Last week Investor's Business Daily highlighted the fact that Gibson CEO Henry Juszkiewicz has contributed to Republican politicians, including Blackburn. It further noted that the CEO of C.F. Martin & Co—one of Gibson's competitors, which has used the same type of Indian wood with impunity—is a long-time Democratic donor.") [45290]

USOfArn.com reports, “In 1996 Lois Lerner, the IRS official at the center of the harassment of Tea Party groups seeking tax exempt status, was head of the enforcement division of the Federal Elections Commission(FEC). That year Al Salvi was the Republican nominee for the US Senate from Illinois, his Democrat opponent was then congressman Dick Durbin. During the final weeks of the campaign Salvi loaned himself over a million dollars to buy ads in the Chicago media market. This in turn prompted the Democrat party’s campaign arms to file complaints with the FEC and in kind the FEC, specifically Lois Lerner, filed charges against Al Salvi. That is when Mr. Salvi contends Lois Lerner made him the following offer, ‘Promise me you will never run for office again, and we’ll drop this case.’ Al Salvi refused that offer and would fight the FEC complaint against him for several more years before a Judge tossed out the complaint.” [45300, 45301, 45302, 45325]

Nabil Naim Abdel Fattah, a former bodyguard for Osama bin Laden, claims U.S. Navy SEALs did not kill the al-Qaeda leader in the 2011 raid on his compound in Pakistan. Instead, according to Fattah, bin Laden wore an explosive belt and blew himself up: “He insisted on never handing himself over to the Americans. The American intelligence had planned to capture him alive, but they miscalculated. He blew himself up to avoid being captured because he wanted to protect his secrets until death.” [45291, 45326]

At Breitbart.com Colonel David Hunt (retired) writes, “When the American mission in Benghazi, Libya was attacked on September 11th, 2012, only one person had the positional authority, legal mandate, and communications apparatus to give the order to defend our personnel on the ground: [Obama]. [He] did not give that order, and four Americans died in Benghazi that day. All the rest of the nonsense to which we have been treated—from prepared talking points, congressional hearings, and finally to the outright lies—matter not when compared to the ignominious moments in which [Obama] refused to do his job. That same day, two other American embassies in the Middle East were also under attack in Sana, Yemen and Cairo, Egypt. As a result, our intelligence systems were on high alert. When the calls, satellite and drone feeds, faxes, and reports began bombarding every command center from Germany to the United States, our nation, already at war for eleven years, was again under siege. Staffs from Africa Command, European Command, the National Military Command Center, the CIA Operations Center, the State Department Operations Center, and the White House Situation Room were fully operational. ...All [Obama] had to say within the first two hours while being briefed by the Secretary of Defense was, ‘Send in a response force.’ This command, followed by his signature on a paper called Cross Border Authority, would have ordered the Department of Defense to do everything and anything to save lives in Benghazi, Libya.” [45309]

Hunt continues, “...When the first shot was fired in Benghazi, no one knew how long the fight would last. Subsequent government claims saying we could not get there within the seven-plus hours that the tragedy lasted are specious at best and an outright lie at worst. We did not even care enough to try; that fact alone should make all Americans who mourn the loss of four of our countrymen very angry. ...There is one simple point to be

made about Benghazi: the President of the United States is the only human being on the planet that can order a bullet, a missile, a plane, a drone, a boat, a helicopter, a soldier, sailor, spy, or push cart with a squirt gun attached to go into another country and perform an aggressive action. On September 11, 2012, we know [Obama] failed to give that order. We don't know where he was, what he was doing, or why he failed to act. But we do know he failed to act, and that inaction cost the lives of four brave Americans." [45309]

State Department spokesperson Jennifer Psaki tells reporters, "[W]e are taking stock of this recent subpoena [for Benghazi documents] and determining the next appropriate steps." (That is, the administration is trying to avoid complying with the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's subpoena of all emails related to the Benghazi talking points.) [45313, 45314, 45330]

On *The O'Reilly Factor* Charles Krauthammer observes, "I think there is a bigger [Benghazi] story here, and here's the one that will in time come out. The biggest scandal of all, the biggest question is: What was [Obama] doing in those eight hours? He had a routine meeting at five o'clock. He never after, during the eight hours when our guys had their lives in danger, he never calls the Secretary of Defense, he never calls the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, he never calls the CIA Director. Who does he call? About five hours in he calls the Secretary of State [Hillary Clinton]. And after the phone call she releases a statement essentially about the video and how we denounce any intolerance. It looks as if the only phone call was to construct a cover story at a time when the last two Americans who died were still alive and fighting for their lives. There's the scandal, and that I think has got to be uncovered." [45282]

Some have speculated that Obama was "high as a kite" on cocaine the night of the Benghazi attack. At HillBuzz.org Kevin DuJan writes, "...[O]nce you take drugs you are pretty much on another astral plane for however long it takes for the drugs to leave your system. I've sadly watched a lot of incredible people in the nightlife scene ruin their lives with cocaine over the years, and once these people got high they stayed high until the drugs metabolized enough for them to function. ...The [Benghazi evening] timeline... fleshed out perfectly fits a scenario where Barack Obama retired to his private quarters (perhaps with Reggie Love... or maybe one of the other low-ranking young men who are forever suspiciously palling around with [Obama]...) sometime around 6pm EST or so on 9/11/12. He then seems to have taken drugs (which I believe most likely involved cocaine). Hillary Clinton either showed up to kill his buzz or she kept calling on the phone over and over again until he answered at 10pm. I'm sure he hung up on her as fast as he could, because the woman scares him (and no doubt scolds his sorry ass every chance she gets). From then until the staff was finally able to rouse, dress, and make him presentable enough for the public at 1030am the next day Barack Obama appears to have been out of his mind high on drugs." [45345, 45346]

Obama attends a fundraiser at the Chicago Hilton for the Democrat Congressional Campaign Committee, followed by another fundraiser at the home of Bettylu and Paul Saltzman—who, in the early 1990s, introduced Obama to campaign strategist David Axelrod. (Obama's air travel on Air Force One costs the taxpayers about \$180,000 per

hour. He has attended at least 15 fundraisers since his reelection—three times the rate of former President George W. Bush.) [45280, 45293, 45324, 45360]

Demonstrators from across the political spectrum protest Obama’s appearance in Chicago. They include pro-life groups, Sierra Club members who oppose the Keystone XL pipeline, illegal immigrants demanding open borders, anarchists, communists, military veterans, and American Indians. [45356]

On May 30 Ann Romney appears on *This Morning* and comments, “I think it’s hard with what the country is going through right now. There’s been a breach of trust that we, as all Americans, feel with our government. If we look at the three scandals that are going on right now, and in particular, I saw the polling numbers with how people are upset with the IRS scandal. We have to have trust in our government. We have to believe that they’re doing right for us. When we feel like they’re breaking our trust, it’s deeply troubling.” [45298]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “Last night, [Attorney General Eric] Holder offered to meet with reporters off the record to discuss the balance between national security and the First Amendment. In response, Holder received a thanks but no thanks from nearly every media outlet that was invited.” Associated Press media relations manager Erin Madigan White states, “If it is not on the record, AP will not attend and instead will offer our views on how the regulations should be updated in an open letter.” *New York Times* executive editor Jill Abramson states, “It isn’t appropriate for us to attend an off-the-record meeting with the attorney general.” Huffington Post Washington bureau chief Ryan Grim says, “A conversation specifically about the freedom of the press should be an open one. We have a responsibility not to betray that.” Pavlich quips, “It seems that if Holder really wants to know how reporters feel about leaks and how DOJ handles them, he could just read reporters’ emails and listen to their phone calls.” (Politico’s editor in chief and *The Washington Post*’s executive editor—apparently eager for off-the-record advice on how to slant the news in the Obama administration’s favor—will reportedly attend Holder’s meeting.) [45261, 45262, 45285, 45289, 45297, 45323, 45329]

A day after reporting a record number of Americans receiving federal disability benefits, CNSNews.com reports, “A record 72,600,000 were enrolled in Medicaid for at least one month in fiscal 2012, up from 71,700,000 in fiscal 2011... The 72,600,000 enrolled in Medicaid in the United States in 2012 was more than the 65,630,692 people who lived in France last year, according to data published by the Census Bureau, or the 63,047,162 people who lived in the United Kingdom. In fact, if Medicaid was a country rather than a U.S. government program it would be the twentieth most populous nation in the world, ranking just ahead of Thailand, which had 67,091,089 people in 2012, and just behind the Congo, which had 73,599,190 people in 2012.” (The population of the United States is approximately 314 million. Almost one out of every four Americans is therefore receiving Medicaid benefits—paid for by the Americans who are working and paying taxes.) [45275]

On Dennis Miller's radio program, columnist Charles Krauthammer comments, "It is amazing, and there are two parts to that [lowered expectations for the U.S. economy]. The first is, 'You didn't build it.' This is the ideology of, you know, 'I built the roads, I gave you your grade school.' And thus, if you invent the iPad, I did it, you didn't—which is just preposterous. And the other part of this is that liberals measure success in their sort of compassion ratings by the number of people on food stamps, welfare. The larger the number, the more compassionate you are, whereas a conservative says the smaller the number, the more successful the society. This is kind of elementary, nine-year old stuff—it's not complicated. ... This is the ideology that this wizard, and [Obama] is—he has sort of an hypnotic effect on at least the left in the country—has spun over the last four-and-a-half years. He came in as this sort of messianic guy who was going to reform everything. And his acolytes are so deeply invested in this theology of Obama that they can't let it go even though, every day, the empirical evidence is that this guy is a fraud; he's a Wizard of Oz; what he preaches doesn't work, and it has very little effect. There may be a turn, I think: By the end of his second term, he will be debunked. But it's taken a hell of a long time." [45327]

Bloomberg.com reports, "Three-quarters of U.S. voters want a special prosecutor to investigate the Internal Revenue Service's targeting of Tea Party groups, according to a poll that showed a drop in ... Obama's approval and trust ratings. In the survey released today by Hamden, Connecticut-based Quinnipiac University, registered voters favored a special prosecutor by 76 percent to 17 percent. Those backing such a move included 63 percent of Democrats. ... The spotlight on the controversies has taken a toll on Obama's standing. In the latest survey, 49 percent disapproved of his performance in office, with 45 percent approving. In a Quinnipiac poll released May 1, he received a 48 percent job-approval rating, with 45 percent disapproving. Asked if they consider Obama honest and trustworthy, 49 percent respond positively and 47 percent negatively; the percentages were 58 and 37, respectively, in September 2011. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's favorability rating has fallen from 61 percent in February 2013 to 52 percent, with 48 percent blaming her at least in part for the death of U.S. ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens. [45292, 45307, 45328, 45333, 45338]

The government lowers its estimate of first quarter GDP growth from an annualized rate of 2.5 to 2.4 percent. [45295]

The Secret Service confirms that a letter containing the poison ricin was sent to Obama but intercepted at the White House screening facility. Secret Service spokesman Edwin Donovan tells Politico, "This letter has been turned over to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for testing and investigation."

FreeBeacon.com reports, "A Washington Free Beacon investigation has identified at least five pro-Israel organizations that have been audited by the IRS in the wake of a coordinated campaign by White House-allied activist groups in 2009 and 2010. These organizations, some of which are too afraid of government reprisals to speak publicly, say in interviews with the Free Beacon that they now believe the IRS actions may have been coordinated by the Obama administration." [45306]

In Phoenix, Arizona an attempt to recall Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio fails for lack of the necessary 335,000 signatures. (Arpaio has been a thorn in Obama's side because he dares to enforce immigration laws, and because his "cold case posse" has been investigating Obama's forged birth certificate.) [45310]

According to GlobalResearch.ca, Ibragim Todashev was shot six times by the FBI during questioning about his relationships with the Boston Marathon bombers. Todashev's father, Abdulbaki Todashev, who claims his son was unarmed, states, "I want justice and I want an investigation to be carried out, I want these people [FBI agents] to be put on trial in accordance with US law. They are not FBI officers, they are bandits. I cannot call them otherwise, they must be put on trial. ...They tortured a man [my son] for eight hours with no attorney, no witnesses, nobody. We can only guess what was going on there, until there is an official investigation." (One "official" story is that Todashev pulled a knife on the federal agents who were questioning him and they shot him in response. It is unclear why they had to fire six bullets—or why multiple agents could not restrain one man without the need to use their weapons. OrlandoSentinel.com reports, "[T]he Council on American-Islamic Relations' Florida chapter on Wednesday cited unnamed sources within the FBI as saying Todashev was not armed at the time of the shooting." Why the FBI would provide information to the terrorist-related CAIR is not explained.) [45312, 45317, 45318, 45319]

At TheDailyBeast.com Nick Gillespie writes, "Eric Holder may not be the worst attorney general in American history, but he is the most recent—which amounts to nearly the same thing. Despite its exalted status as the nation's 'top cop,' the job is best understood as a dumping ground for intermittently competent bulldogs who take out the president's trash and act as his public-relations human shield. ...There's no reason to believe that Holder will be sent packing anytime soon or that he's somehow at cross-purposes with [Obama]. Obama has voiced nothing but support for his attorney general, which means that there's every reason to keep questioning Holder's truthfulness. ...It's daunting to remember that Holder served as a deputy attorney general in Janet Reno's Justice Department during the Clinton years. What lessons in self-preservation and executive-branch overreach might he have learned under Reno, the second-longest-serving attorney general in American history and surely one of the worst?" (Many might argue that Holder cannot be fired by Obama because he "knows where the bodies are buried" and has "too much dirt" on Obama.) [45322, 45344]

Judicial Watch reports, "In its latest effort to protect followers of Islam in the U.S. the Obama Justice Department warns against using social media to spread information considered inflammatory against Muslims, threatening that it could constitute a violation of civil rights. ...[A]n upcoming Tennessee event ('Public Disclosure in a Diverse Society') ...will feature the region's top DOJ official, who serves as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and an FBI representative. The goal is to increase awareness and understanding that American Muslims are not the terrorists some have made them out to be in social media and other circles, according to a local newspaper report. The June 4 powwow is sponsored by the American Muslim Advisory Council of

Tennessee. The area's top federal prosecutor, Bill Killian, will address a topic that most Americans are likely unfamiliar with, even those well versed on the Constitution; that federal civil rights laws can actually be violated by those who post inflammatory documents aimed at Muslims on social media. 'This is an educational effort with civil rights laws as they play into freedom of religion and exercising freedom of religion,' Killian says in the local news story. 'This is also to inform the public what federal laws are in effect and what the consequences are.'" (At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller responds, "How is this any different than Islamic law in, say, Turkey (Obama's favorite and most trusted ally)? In October, 43-year-old Fazil Say went on trial in Turkey for 'denigrating' Islam for a series of tweets earlier that year. In one of his messages he had retweeted a verse from a poem by Omar Khayyám, in which the 11th-century Persian poet attacks pious hypocrisy. This is the same thing. ...Note to the Justice Department—we will fight you on this every step of the way. We will drag your dhimmi asses all the way to the Supreme Court. This is sharia enforcement, and we are not going to stand for it.") [45347, 45348]

On May 31 the Department of Justice argues that Attorney General Eric Holder did not lie to a Congressional committee when he said under oath he had nothing to do with the targeting of Fox News reporter James Rosen—even though Holder signed off on the search warrant authorizing a secret review of Rosen's emails. Holder stated, "That is not something I've ever been involved in, heard of, or would think would be wise policy." The department's lawyerly statement meant to protect Holder is that he was not involved in the "potential prosecution of the press for the disclosure of material." (In other words, Holder only approved *spying* on Rosen, not *prosecuting* him.) [45320, 45231]

The Ulsterman Reports lists the "Top Twenty Obama White House Scandals." [45335]

Mike Flynn writes at Breitbart.com, "On Friday [May 31], the Commerce Department reported that consumer spending unexpectedly fell in April. On Thursday, the agency reported a slight downward revision in its initial estimate of 1st Quarter GDP growth, and noted a dramatic drop in corporate profits. Amid this backdrop of disappointing news, on Friday, Politico trumpeted that the 'rising economy' would alter the 2014 midterm elections. While littered with caveats, the feature article predicts a newly robust economy will lift Democrat fortunes next year. ...[But] Earnings are flat and the job market is weak. Record numbers of Americans are unemployed or out of the workforce, on food stamps or earning disability payments. American households have only recovered 45% of the \$16 trillion in wealth lost during the recession. In a few months, the individual and employer health care mandates of ObamaCare take effect. While their precise impact is arguable, it is unlikely to lead to a boost of hiring activity. Most economists are revising downward their forecasts for 2nd Quarter GDP growth to 1.5–2%. JP Morgan announced on Friday that even that estimate seems now overly optimistic. Even reaching that level, however, is not likely to spark the job growth the economy needs to really grow. [Politico's] article is an admirable piece of political spin. Looking at current economic news and conjecturing about the political implications of a 'rising economy,' though, is a fantasy wrapped in a fable, inside a myth." [45355]

Mitt Romney tells *The Wall Street Journal*, “Even more disappointing than the controversies has been the lack of any clear agenda in the first 100 days. ... We are now over 100 days, and we have yet to see any particular agenda. That is my view, that the extraordinary disappointment of [Obama’s] second term is where the opportunity was greatest, he has proposed the least. He continues to campaign as if there is another election, and there isn’t.” [45336]

Even though the U.S. Senate voted in March not to ratify the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty—which violates the Second Amendment rights of U.S. citizens—it is reported that Obama will sign it on June 3. [45339]

Breitbart.com reports, “The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) declined Friday afternoon to meet a Senate Finance Committee deadline for answering detailed questions about the origins of the IRS scandal. The questions had been submitted jointly nearly two weeks ago by Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-UT).” [45341]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Internal Revenue Service has told House GOP investigators they have identified 88 IRS employees who may have documents relevant to the congressional investigation into targeting of conservative groups, according to a congressional source familiar with the investigation.” (The claim that the IRS conservative-targeting scandal involved only a few “rogue employees” in Cincinnati becomes less believable as time passes.) [45342]

Meanwhile, DailyCaller.com reports, “Former Internal Revenue Service commissioner Douglas H. Shulman, a frequent White House guest during the period when the IRS was targeting conservative nonprofits, is married to the senior program advisor for Public Campaign, an ‘organization dedicated to sweeping campaign reform that aims to dramatically reduce the role of big special interest money in American politics.’ ... Shulman’s wife Susan L. Anderson is the senior program advisor for the Washington-based nonprofit organization Public Campaign, which claims that it ‘is laying the foundation for reform by working with a broad range of organizations, including local community groups, around the country that are fighting for change and national organizations whose members are not fairly represented under the current campaign finance system.’” (In other words, Anderson opposes conservative organizations that raise large amounts of money.) According to WeaselZippers.us, “[It] Turns out, [Anderson] also was working for Organizing For America, the Obama political arm. OFA, of course, apparently had no trouble with the IRS targeting its application for exempt status, when it became an ‘independent’ (cough-cough) organization (while still promoting Barack Obama), and applied for its exempt status. She also tweeted, attacking [Mitt] Romney and raising the Harry Reid questioning of Romney’s taxes. Makes one wonder again about the ‘source’ of Reid’s so-called information. When her husband was questioned during hearings, he claimed not to know how Reid came by any such information.” Anderson also demonstrated with “Occupy DC.” Anderson’s boss at Public Campaign is Nick Nyhart, a frequent White House visitor—including, according to DailyCaller.com, “two visits with ... Obama around the time that the Internal Revenue

Service was targeting conservative groups for extra scrutiny.” [45343, 45379, 45380, 45401, 45436, 45439]

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) tells Newsmax “there’s not much doubt” that the targeting of tea party and conservative groups by the IRS “reached high levels in the Obama administration. They claim [Obama] didn’t know anything about it. It’s hard to believe, since people in the White House did. It’s pretty difficult to believe. It’s a serious set of problems. It never should have happened. But that’s what happens when you have partisans running the bureaucracy—and in this particular case, it’s pretty apparent that these are partisan Democrats. ...[M]ost of the bureaucracy are Democrats, so the question is, Can we keep them from being partisan? ...It’s very surprising because the IRS is really one of the most chilling organizations in government. Everybody’s afraid of the IRS, afraid of being unjustly accused of something. It’s a chilling experience to have the IRS taking sides in anything. The IRS is supposed to be totally above any kind of politics. Unfortunately, it looks to us as though not only have they not been above politics, they’ve done some things that really are suspect and are just plain wrong—and probably illegal—but we’ve got to get all the facts before we can draw all of those conclusions.” [45349]

CBC News reports, “A Canadian shipment of relief goods bound for storm-ravaged Oklahoma has been stopped at the Canada-U.S. border in Windsor, Ont. American officials will not allow the 20,000 kilograms of food, blankets and diapers into the country until every item on board is itemized in alphabetical order and has the country of origin of every product noted. Dennis Sauve, the volunteer co-ordinator for Windsor Lifeline Outreach and the food bank co-ordinator at the Windsor Christian Fellowship, the two organizations that gathered the goods, said it’s a ‘physical impossibility’ to do the paperwork required in time to get the perishable food to Oklahoma before it spoils.” [45352]

Breitbart.com reports that “...Boeing announced plans to transfer 300 engineering jobs from Washington state to nonunion locations in Long Beach, California and North Charleston, South Carolina...Boeing’s decision to shift work to the nonunion South Carolina location comes on the heels of its April announcement that it would make a \$1 billion investment in its South Carolina operations.” [45354]

TheTower.org reports, “Lawlessness has become so endemic in Egypt that the U.S. Embassy this week warned Americans [to stay] away from visiting the country’s famed pyramids. An academic teaching at the American University in Cairo received an email from the embassy warning of ‘aggressiveness [that] in some cases is closer to criminal conduct... with angry groups of individuals surrounding and pounding on [vehicles]... and in some cases attempting to open the vehicle’s doors.’ ...Security in Egypt has been plummeting amid blackouts that have heightened public anger against the Muslim Brotherhood-linked government of Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi.” (Pamela Geller writes at AtlasShrugs.com, “Miss [Hosni] Mubarak yet? Buh bye, pyramids. Thankyouverymuch, Obama.”) [45358, 45359]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), a possible 2016 presidential candidate, delivers an address at the Reagan Library, Paul states, “I’m not against all government. I’m actually for \$2.6 trillion dollars worth. I’m for spending what comes in, but nothing in excess of what comes in.” [45361, 45362, 45420]