

The Obama Timeline – Part II

The Doomed Presidency

May 2014

On May 1 former CNBC talk show host Donny Deutsch appears on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* and ridicules the notion that Obama advisor Ben Rhodes' Benghazi talking points email is meaningful. He says, "I want to put up a warning for the Republicans because obviously the Republicans are seizing on this and jumping in. I think this is fools gold for 2016. I do not think the Benghazi—I think if they focus on this—" Host Joe Scarborough interrupts, "What about the cover-up for the White House? I got [sic] everybody here [on the program's panel], I got [sic] everybody apologizing for the White House. ...What about a cover-up here, Donny? ...[W]hy are you jumping to political strategy instead of talking about what [White House press secretary] Jay Carney did, the double speak? ...So tell me, what's the politics of the White House lying about something that we all know they're lying about? When Jay Carney is saying it's not about Benghazi when you know it's about Benghazi? And we know it's about Benghazi." Deutsch: "If they're gonna run against Hillary Clinton on this, I think it's a bad political move." [58246, 58247, 58252, 58263, 58286]

Scarborough: "And [NBC's] Chuck Todd knows it's about Benghazi. And he [pointing to panelist and journalist Mike Barnicle] knows it's about—everybody watching knows it's about Benghazi. And you're talking about how the Republicans—you see the White House spokesperson lying on national television. You see an ABC News person [Jonathan Karl] shocked that he's lying and treating the press corps and Americans like they're stupid. He's says it's not about Benghazi. Republicans and conservatives have been called fools for a year now for saying this happened. They don't release it with the original the documents. They finally, reluctantly are forced to release it. Then you have the White House lying about it, saying it's not about Benghazi, and you're only reaction is, 'Hey, Republicans better not overreact to the cover-up?'" Deutsch: "My reaction is this, that we as voters understand both Republicans and Democrats are political animals and are going to manage a crisis in their situation to their favor. So what I am saying it's both." [58246, 58247, 58252, 58263, 58286]

Scarborough: "So, when Democrats cover something up, it's politics. ...When Republicans cover something up, it's a scandal. ...It would be on the front page of *The New York Times*. It would be on the front page of every newspaper in America. But when Democrats cover up, you think it's shrewd political gamesmanship. That's a disgrace, Donny. ...It's a disgrace. ...This is disgraceful." Deutsch: "...I am saying that if the Republicans bite, it's a stupid move. And what I just said I will stand by." Scarborough: "What about the media biting? What about the media doing their job? What about the media calling a cover-up a cover-up?" Deutsch: "The media has covered this..." Even liberal co-host Mika Brzezinski jumps on Deutsch: "Was he engaging in double speak or even a potential cover-up? ...Now, come on. It's either they were covering up something

or they forgot to release the email. The question we have now is whether they released other prep emails for Susan Rice and where Hillary Clinton stands on all of this. And [questioning] that may serve the Republicans very well if they [the White House spinmasters] don't have good answers." (Rice, of course, was selected to appear on the Sunday talk shows, rather than Hillary Clinton, precisely because Rice did *not* know anything about Benghazi beyond what she was told to say—and Rice was not planning to run for president in 2016. Clinton—who should have been on the talks shows instead of Rice—remained out of sight, avoiding questions.) [58246, 58247, 58252, 58263, 58286]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, begins a Benghazi hearing by stating, "The White House produced the talking points that [then-] ambassador [Susan] Rice used, *not* the intelligence community. In pushing the false narrative that a YouTube video was responsible for the deaths of four brave Americans, it is disturbing—and perhaps criminal that these documents—that documents like these were hidden by the Obama administration from Congress and the public alike, particularly after Secretary [of State John] Kerry pledged cooperation and [Obama] himself told the American people in November of 2012 that, quote, 'every bit of information we have on Benghazi has been provided.' This committee's job is to get to the facts and to the truth. I, for one, will continue to chip away at this until we get the whole truth. ...The Americans who lost their lives in Benghazi, those who were wounded, and the American people deserve nothing less. So today's hearing is critical for what our witnesses will give us, and I welcome you and I thank you for being here. But it comes in a week in which the American people have learned that you cannot believe what the White House says, you cannot believe what the spokespeople say, and you cannot believe what [Obama] says, and the facts are coming out that, in fact, this administration has knowingly withheld documents pursuant to Congressional subpoenas, in violation of any reasonable transparency or historic precedent, at least since Richard Milhous Nixon." [58256, 58264, 58330]

Retired Air Force Brigadier General Robert Lovell testifies before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich reports that Lovell "said the military should have and could have done more to help Americans who were killed in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. Lovell is the former deputy director for intelligence at Africa Command. His testimony today is the first testimony from a member of the military who was at Africa Command during the time of the Benghazi attack on the U.S consulate." Lovell tells the committee, "Many with firsthand knowledge have recounted the heroism displayed by the brave Americans in Benghazi that night. They fought the way they trained. That is in the record. Outside of Libya there were discussions that churned on about what we should do. These elements also fought the way they were trained. Specifically, the predisposition to interagency influence had the military structure—in the spirit of expeditionary government support—waiting for a request for assistance from the State Department. There are accounts of time, space and capability discussions of the question, could we have gotten there in time to make a difference. Well, the discussion is not in the 'could or could not' in relation to time, space and capability—the point is we should have tried." [58237, 58257, 58294, 58299, 58304]

“As another saying goes: ‘Always move to the sound of the guns. It is with a sense of duty as a retired General officer that I respectfully submit these thoughts and perspectives. ...The military should have made a response of some sort. ...We didn’t know how long this would last when we became aware of the distress nor did we completely understand what we had in front of us, be it a kidnapping, rescue, recovery, protracted hostile engagement or any or all of the above. But what we did know quite early on was that this was a hostile action. This was no [anti-video] demonstration gone terribly awry. To the point of what happened, the facts led to the conclusion of a terrorist attack.” (It is of course preposterous for Obama’s defenders to argue, “There was not enough time for a military response” because at the time of the attack no one could possibly have known how long it would last.) Lovell also states, “None of them think it’s a video. None of them. The military, the CIA, the CIA station chief, the State Department, all of them—the facts at the time, Mr. Chairman, the facts do not point to a video. That only comes from the White House.” [58237, 58257, 58294, 58299, 58304]

White House press secretary Jay Carney, prodded about the Benghazi cover-up, says, “What hasn’t changed is the effort by Republicans to claim a conspiracy when they haven’t been able to find one.” Republicans are “trying to politicize a tragedy. ...This is a conspiracy theory. How much time have we spent focused on talking points? ...There is an active investigation to find the people who are responsible. There is an active investigation into the details.” (The media has already interviewed at least one of the Benghazi attackers, who had made no effort to hide himself. The Obama administration is apparently less skilled than CNN at finding terrorists.) Carney is asked by a DailyCaller.com reporter if the instability in Libya that arose after Moammar Gaddafi was forced out of power is an example of the “broader failure of policy” suggested in the Ben Rhodes memo. [58236, 58261, 58289]

At NationalReview.com former terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy writes that “Obama’s ‘blame the video’ fraud started in Cairo, not Benghazi. ...When Benghazi comes up, the administration—...Obama, Hillary Clinton, Susan Rice, Jay Carney, et al.—loves to talk about the Cairo ‘protests.’ Why? Because the media, and thus the public, have bought hook, line, and sinker the fraudulent claim that those ‘protests’ were over the anti-Muslim video. Obama & Co. shrewdly calculate that if you buy ‘Blame the Video’ as the explanation for Cairo, it becomes much more plausible that you will accept ‘Blame the Video’ as the explanation for Benghazi—or, at the very least, you will give Obama officials the benefit of the doubt that they could truly have believed the video triggered Benghazi, despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary. You see, *the Benghazi fraud hinges on the success of the Cairo fraud*. If you are hoodwinked by the latter, they have a much better chance of getting away with the former. But ‘Blame the Video’ is every bit as much a deception when it comes to Cairo. Thanks to ...Obama’s policy of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamic supremacists in Egypt, post-Mubarak Cairo became a very hospitable place for jihadists. That included al-Qaeda leaders, such as Mohammed Zawahiri, brother of al-Qaeda emir Ayman Zawahiri; and leaders of *Gama’at al-Islamia* (the Islamic Group), the terrorist organization led by the Blind Sheikh—Omar Abdel Rahman, the terrorist I convicted in 1995 for running the jihadist cell that bombed the World Trade Center and plotted to bomb other New York

City landmarks. In the weeks before September 11, 2012, these jihadists plotted to attack the U.S. embassy in Cairo. In fact, the Blind Sheikh's son threatened a 1979 Iran-style raid on the embassy: Americans would be taken hostage to ransom for the Blind Sheikh's release from American prison (he is serving a life sentence). Other jihadists threatened to burn the embassy to the ground — a threat that was reported in the Egyptian press the day before the September 11 'protests.'" [58362]

"The State Department knew there was going to be trouble at the embassy on September 11, the eleventh anniversary of al-Qaeda's mass-murder of nearly 3,000 Americans. It was well known that things could get very ugly. When they did, it would become very obvious to Americans that ...Obama had not 'decimated' al-Qaeda as he was claiming on the campaign trail. Even worse, it would be painfully evident that his pro-Muslim Brotherhood policies had actually enhanced al-Qaeda's capacity to attack the United States in Egypt. The State Department also knew about the obscure anti-Muslim video. Few Egyptians, if any, had seen or heard about it, but it had been denounced by the Grand Mufti in Cairo on September 9. Still, the stir it caused was minor, at best. As Tom Joscelyn has elaborated, the Cairo rioting was driven by the jihadists who were agitating for the Blind Sheikh's release and who had been threatening for weeks to raid and torch our embassy. And indeed, they did storm it, replace the American flag with the jihadist black flag, and set fires around the embassy complex. Nevertheless, before the rioting began but when they knew there was going to be trouble, State Department officials at the embassy began tweeting out condemnations of the video while ignoring the real sources of the threat: the resurgence of jihadists in Muslim Brotherhood-governed Egypt, the continuing demand for the Blind Sheikh's release (which underscored the jihadists' influence), and the very real danger that jihadists would attack the embassy (which demonstrated that al-Qaeda was anything but 'decimated'). The transparent purpose of the State Department's shrieking over the video was to create the illusion that any security problems at the embassy (violent rioting minimized as mere 'protests') were attributable to the anti-Muslim video, not to ...Obama's policies and patent failure to quell al-Qaeda." [58362]

"Because there was a kernel of truth to the video story, and because the American media have abdicated their responsibility to report the predominant causes of anti-Americanism in Egypt, journalists and the public have uncritically accepted the notion—a false notion—that the video caused the Cairo rioting. That acceptance is key to the administration's 'Blame the Video' farce in connection with the lethal attack in Benghazi. At about 10 p.m. Washington time on the night of September 11—after they knew our ambassador to Libya had been murdered and while the siege of Benghazi still raged—Secretary of State Clinton and ...Obama spoke on the telephone. Shortly afterwards, the State Department issued a statement from Secretary Clinton blaming the video for the atrocity in Benghazi. That was the beginning of the fraud's Benghazi phase—the phase Susan Rice was prepped to peddle on nationwide television. But it wasn't the beginning of the fraud. Secretary Clinton's minions at the State Department had started spinning the video fraud hours earlier, in Egypt. The sooner Americans grasp that, the sooner they will comprehend the breathtaking depth of [Obama's] Benghazi cover-up." [58362]

Asked about claims that only about two-thirds of those who have enrolled in an ObamaCare plan have paid premiums and are actually covered Carney responds, “We dispute their numbers. We don’t have hard, concrete numbers, but we dispute them.” Carney also suggests that insurance company data cannot be trusted because they are “profit-making” companies. TruthRevolt.org comments, “They don’t have the answer, but they dispute the answer anyone else might have. That’s like having your cake and *denying* it, too.” [58238, 58239, 58245, 58248 58260]

At DailyCaller.com David B. Cohen writes, “White House Press Secretary Jay Carney, once a respected journalist, has been morphing before our very eyes into ‘Jay Isuzu.’ I refuse to call Carney a liar. But it’s clear that when he’s called upon to defend the indefensible, he stubbornly resists telling the truth. And with the White House press corps rediscovering some journalistic skepticism after years of credulous slumber, Carney is having to defend the indefensible with increasing frequency. The result isn’t pretty: Carney, like [1980s automobile commercial pitchman] Joe Isuzu, is not being taken seriously. ...Carney’s hapless tap-dancing act is becoming a daily event, as he struggles to explain away a relentless parade of ‘phony scandals.’ It is strange to think that Carney was once *Time* magazine’s Washington bureau chief, a vaunted position at the highest echelon of the mainstream media. More than any press secretary in recent memory, Carney has squandered the credibility and reputation that he brought with him to the job. It makes one wonder how many other mainstream journalists could flip so seamlessly from aggressive, skeptical reporter to partisan hack. I don’t think it’s plausible that Carney has changed so dramatically in just a few years. It’s more likely that when Carney was supposedly an objective reporter, he was secretly the same person he is today—deeply partisan, deeply biased.” [58295]

“...I suspect that mainstream journalists are generally cut from the same cloth as Carney, and would, like Carney, readily trade their ‘lofty journalistic ideals’ for the chance to flack for a liberal administration. And that attitude, I believe, finds its way into the journalism they produce before they get the call to join Team Obama—or Team Hillary. If the mainstream media are indeed full of Jay Carneys waiting to happen, then conservatives are right to distrust them. Under Jay Carney, the position of White House press secretary has become more partisan than ever. As Carney once again showed on Wednesday, he is intent not on disseminating the truth but on obstructing its dissemination. This raises a question: Why should taxpayers pay for a spokesman whose job is not to inform the public, but rather to spout partisan propaganda on behalf of the president’s party? Why should Republican taxpayers have to pay for a Democrat to constantly insult them, and why should Democrat taxpayers have to pay for a Republican to constantly insult them? Shouldn’t the president’s party, be it Democrat or Republican, pay the press secretary’s salary?” [58295]

Politico reports, “Sign-ups in Obamacare exchanges eclipsed 8 million by mid-April, and nearly 5 million people got Medicaid, according to official data released by the administration Thursday. About 2.2 million, or 28 percent of the exchange enrollees,

were young adults aged 18-34. A huge surge of young people signed up at the last minute. More than eight in 10 enrollees qualified for subsidies to help purchase health insurance on the exchanges. The report didn't say how many people had paid their premiums so far." (Five million new Medicaid enrollees means five million more people receiving government hand-outs. That more than 80 percent of ObamaCare enrollees are getting federal subsidies means another six million or so additional Americans are getting new taxpayer handouts. Some argue that was a primary goal of ObamaCare: get millions more Americans dependent on government and likely to vote for Democrats to protect their hand-outs.)

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) calls on Secretary of State John Kerry to testify before Congress about the Benghazi cover-up. "Someone needs to answer why this administration hid these documents—and tell the American people what else is being concealed. The House used its subpoena power to obtain documents, including emails, last year, but these emails didn't show up until now, after a court ordered their release to an outside watchdog group" [58267]

Former CIA director General Michael Hayden tells the Foundation for Defense of Democracies' annual forum in Washington that it was dangerous for Obama to draw a red line over chemical weapons in Syria and then take no action: "My raw emotion, watching it from the outside, was just embarrassment. Sometimes the certainty of an action is far more powerful than the severity of an action. We've made everything uncertain, which actually makes you appear weak at some times, but also then demands that when you want to appear strong, you may have to be overly severe to overcome the uncertainty. It's just bad all around." [58418]

According to CampusReform.org, "Officials at colleges in Illinois are warning that if the state hikes its minimum wage, it will have to cut hours for and even fire some student workers. The minimum wage in the state is already \$8.25—the third highest in the nation—but there is legislation pending to raise it to \$10.25. 'Right now, we are able to hire eight part-time student workers in the Athletic Department,' Mac Ingmire, athletic director at Lincoln Christian University, said in an interview with *Journal Standard*. 'If the minimum wage were to increase by two dollars or more, that number would be closer to four or five, and the hours we can offer to our students would be cut.' Western Illinois University Budget Director Matt Bierman said the hike would likely force the college to fire some of its nearly 1,500 student workers. 'We either have to raise fees or make reductions in student employment,' he said." (The city of Seattle, Washington is reportedly close to phasing in a minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour. Waiters and bartenders are less than thrilled with the proposal; they anticipate reduced tips as restaurants and bars raise prices to cover the cost of the wage increase. Seattle workers with limited skills can expect to lose their jobs.) [58271, 58317, 58321]

The U.S. Senate confirms four executives and judges selected by Obama. TheHill.com reports, "Theodore Chuang and George Hazel will serve as U.S. district judges for Maryland. The Senate voted 53-42 on Chuang's nomination and 95-0 on Hazel's. ...The

Senate also confirmed Janice Schneider to be an assistant secretary of the Interior on a 64-32 vote. Senators confirmed Suzan LeVine to be U.S. ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein by voice vote.” Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA), ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, states, “I can’t support [Chuang’s] nomination because of the central role Mr. Chuang played in the administration’s efforts to stonewall an investigation into the situation in Benghazi. These questions remain unanswered because the administration refuses to recognize the rights of congressional oversight.” [58341]

On Newsmax.tv Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says, “We need a joint select committee in the House. [White House press secretary Jay Carney] is misleading the public and clearly he’s lying.” Graham addresses Carney’s preposterous claim that Ben Rhodes’ email was not about Benghazi: “...Let’s call Ben Rhodes, the author of the document, and ask him what it was about and use common sense. Do you think they were worried about property damage to the embassy in Cairo from a protest? No. They were worried about the four dead Americans in Benghazi. What did Susan Rice get asked about on Sunday television? Benghazi and the four dead Americans. The third goal of the email [was] to reassure the American people that we will bring those to justice who harmed Americans. Well, nobody was harmed other than [in] Benghazi so the document itself clearly demonstrates they were worried about Benghazi. To suggest otherwise is insulting and disrespectful, but that’s the way they’ve been. And they’ve generally got away with it. ...The email is important because it shows that they’re not trying to explain what happened in Benghazi because all the evidence was of a coordinated terrorist attack and the story they wanted Susan Rice to tell was of a protest caused by a video that never happened. ...It’s sad, really, that our Democratic friends for the most part seem to have no interest in trying to uncover [the truth] about how four Americans died in the line of duty seven weeks before an election. It’s really sad for the country and let’s just remember this: remember when ...Obama told us as things become available about Benghazi, we will be transparent and share them with the American people? Remember that statement? This email, which is a smoking gun about how they drove the narrative toward a protest based on a video rather than a coordinated terrorist attack, came about through an independent judiciary. Thank God for an independent judiciary. This administration would have never provided this one document because they know how damning the document is.” [58287]

It was Rhodes who called Obama’s strikes on Libya a “kinetic military action,” rather than an act of war. He told reporters at the time, “I think what we are doing is enforcing a resolution that has a very clear set of goals, which is protecting the Libyan people, averting a humanitarian crisis, and setting up a no-fly zone.” Of course, Obama had no authorization to order military action to support a vague United Nations National Security Council resolution, and he failed at both protecting the Libyan people and averting a humanitarian crisis. Libya is today in shambles. In November 2012 Rhodes told reporters the White House did not edit the CIA talking points about Benghazi to remove references to a planned terrorist attack by al-Qaeda affiliate Ansar al-Shariah. Rhodes said, “The only edit that was made by the White House and also by the State Department was to change the word ‘consulate’ to the word ‘diplomatic facility,’ since the facility in Benghazi was not formally a consulate.” According to former CIA director David

Petraeus, the agency's talking points were changed by the time they were given to U.N. ambassador Susan Rice. According to Rhodes, they were not changed by the White House. Rhodes was lying. In May 2013 the *Weekly Standard's* Stephen F. Hayes charged that Rhodes was the chief architect of the Benghazi cover-up. Jofi Joseph, a former national security staffer, has suggested that Rhodes was the source of leaks of classified information about the Stuxnet virus, a U.S.-Israeli cyber warfare effort to sabotage Iran's nuclear centrifuge program. Joseph stated, "Gotta imagine Ben Rhodes is lawyering up now that a leak investigation is underway. If anyone in the Obama White House leaked, it was him." [18973, 18980, 18985, 19010, 19074, 19075, 40280, 40282, 40309, 44654, 44692, 44766, 44767, 44774, 44778, 45689, 50205, 50130, 50202, 50205, 50266, 50409, 58236, 58261, 58289]

On Hugh Hewitt's radio program CNN's Jake Tapper says, "Look, I'm a reporter and what I do is the opposite of what press secretaries do, quite often. Their job is to paint somebody in the most flattering light regardless of what the truth is, and my job is to... head right for the truth. ...To me, what bothers me most about these Benghazi emails, the newly-released ones, is that they should have been released a year ago... They [in the White House] have an interpretation of events that does not sit with what I think happened, um, but, you know, calling somebody [press secretary Jay Carney] a liar is, uh, it's, it's... not normally the kind of language I use. ...I think that... the comments that are being made... are dissembling... obfuscating... and often, you know, insulting... so I... I don't disagree with those who don't care for, uh, what's going on at the [White House] press conferences..." [58278, 58323, 58365]

On *Special Report*, former National Security Council Spokesman Tommy Vietor admits to host Brett Baier that Obama was not in the White House situation room as others met to respond to the news of the terrorist attack in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. Vietor states he does not know where Obama was—which is almost impossible to believe. (Former Secret Service Agent Dan Bongino writes on Facebook, "I worked within the walls of the 18 acre White House complex for many years and assure you that they absolutely know where [Obama] was. The answer is uncomfortable and therefore they ignore the question." Baier does not ask Vietor where National Security Advisor Tom Donilon was on September 11, 2012—or the next day, for that matter. Some might suspect that it was Donilon, a career political operative, who concocted the YouTube video cover story; it is unlikely that it originated with Ben Rhodes.) Asked about his changing the word "attacks" to "demonstrations" in the talking points, Vietor says he cannot remember, adding, "Dude, this was like, two years ago." (Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich comments: "[That] is apparently his version of 'what difference, at this point, does it make?' At this point, we still do not know where ...Obama was on the night of the attack or what exactly he was doing while four Americans fought for their lives in Benghazi.") Obama was not only not in the situation room, he also skipped his daily national security briefing the day after the attack—because he was flying to Las Vegas for a fundraiser. (Vietor's first Obama-related job was driving a press van while Obama was in the U.S. Senate. Somehow that led to him qualifying for a position with the National Security Council. In 2013 Vietor and former Obama speechwriter Jon Favreau formed a "political communications" firm. Whether they advise their clients to use the

word “dude” and ridicule questioners is not known.) [58277, 58278, 58284, 58298, 58303, 58305, 58309, 58318, 58322, 58325, 58327, 58328, 58433]

According to visitor logs, on September 11, 2012 Michael Donilon (Vice President Joe Biden’s legal counsel, now a partner at David Axelrod’s AKPD Message and Media), David I. Ginsberg (vice president in the Sales and Marketing Group at Intel Corporation), and lead debate coach Ron Klain (lawyer, political operative, and former chief of staff of Al Gore and Joe Biden) all visited the White House on September 11, 2012 for what was listed as “debate prep.” The entry, listed at Patterico.org, does not indicate the time of the visit. Whether Obama was practicing for his next debate with Mitt Romney, rather than dealing with the Benghazi attack, is not known. (After leaving his position with Biden, Klain—who was involved with the push for the failed Solyndra loan—became a lobbyist with U.S. Airways, Airborne Express, and ImClone. Michael Donilon is the brother of Tom Donilon, former Obama National Security Advisor—who had no military experience, and was a corporate lawyer and lobbyist who spent six years as a Fannie Mae executive. Tom Donilon worked for Jimmy Carter, Walter Mondale, Joe Biden, Michael Dukakis, and Bill Clinton. Donilon’s wife is Biden’s chief of staff. Donilon also worked to destroy Judge Robert Bork’s chances of being confirmed for the Supreme Court. According to Politico, Donilon left Fannie Mae as it was mired in an accounting scandal in 2005, three years before [its] spectacular collapse when the mortgage market imploded in 2008.” Secretary of Defense Robert Gates once stated that Donilon would be “a disaster” if given the position of National Security Advisor. General James Jones once told Donilon, “You have no credibility with the military.”) [1697, 1698, 1699, 4325, 4336, 4592, 4593, 5730, 5737, 7520, 8383, 8389, 8394, 14998, 15020, 15023, 15060, 15115, 15128, 15219, 25227, 25228, 25231, 25250, 26387, 29431, 29443, 58367, 58368, 58369, 58370, 58371]

On *The O’Reilly Factor*, host Bill O’Reilly says, “*The Wall Street Journal* editorialized today, quote, ‘Mr. Carney still insisted Ms. Rice had relied on points about the Benghazi attack that were produced by the CIA. He must think the press corps is stupid.’ While Carney may think the press corps is stupid, he knows the press corps doesn’t care, and that’s why he says these outrageous things. He knows the coverage will be minimal, except on Fox News. Last night, CBS Evening News didn’t cover Benghazi. NBC did a 30-second reader. ABC did a report with Jonathan Karl, the [reporter] you saw there who gave Carney a hard time, that was 10 minutes into the broadcast. ABC should have led with it. Most newspapers today either ignored or minimized the story, same thing yesterday. ...See, that’s what this story is all about, the failure of the U.S. Government to protect Americans under fire in Benghazi. And then after the fact, trying to say, ‘Oh, the killers weren’t organized terrorists.’ Are we all getting this? But, again, the national media won’t cover it. Does it get any worse than that in our democracy? ...The Obama administration was completely derelict in the Benghazi terror attack and was dishonest in the aftermath. And the national press doesn’t give a damn? Disgraceful.” [53892]

On *Hannity*, Pat Smith, mother of Benghazi victim Sean Smith, comments on the latest revelations of the cover-up and the fact that the U.S. military was never ordered to send

help, telling Sean Hannity, “I’ve got a pretty strong reaction [to] that. First of all, I keep flashing back on my son receiving the telephone call that says, ‘Sorry, there’s no help coming, you’re on your own.’ And I can picture his face as he... was about to die. And why didn’t our government and our military go in to help him and all of the others who were there? Nobody cared enough. They were covering their butts for something.” Smith says that when Obama and then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met her they told her “it was the fault of the video... and I said, ‘Please, I’ve got to know what happened.’ And they said they promised it was the video and if they found out any different they would get back to me and let me know. They did not get back to me, they just dis-acknowledged my existence.” Smith states that the day before the attack in which he lost his life her son telephoned her and said, ‘Mom, there’s [sic] people from the... hired security force that was out there taking pictures of everything.’ He said, ‘There’s something bad’s gonna happen. It’s building up, something really bad’s gonna happen.’ And he said he asked for more security and again—*again*—he got turned down. I want to know why he got turned down. What was the reason? They’ve got to have a reason for it, but nobody has given me any yet. Nobody wants to give me any because they’re covering... I don’t know why. They must be covering [up] something.” [58273]

On May 2, in response to a question about the violence in Ukraine, Obama says, “The notion that this is some spontaneous uprising in eastern Ukraine, uh, is belied by all the evidence of well organized, trained, armed militias, with the capacity to shoot down helicopters—generally, uh, local protestors, uh, don’t possess that capacity of surface-to-air missiles or, uh, whatever weapons were used to shoot down helicopters...” (Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) later tells *On the Record’s* Greta van Susteren, “If you did not know better, you would think that he was a Republican member of the House describing what happened in Benghazi. ...I am stunned that he said that about the Ukraine, when the evidence is just as good, if not better, with respect to the attack in Benghazi. I’m sure he would like to rephrase that answer to the question.”) [58335]

Peggy Noonan writes at WSJ.com, “You have to stand for something. You have to suffer for it. ([Pope] John Paul was shot and almost killed, and he spent the last third of his pontificate in constant physical distress. He kept showing up anyway.) You have to be brave. (He wasn’t afraid of any earthly power, not even the Soviet Union.) You have to stand by your beliefs as long as you know they are right; you have to speak and write the truth. Explaining what you believe involves trusting people to hear and consider; it assumes they will respond fairly and even with their highest selves. In this way you develop a relationship with people, an ongoing conversation between your articulations and their private thoughts. You are talking to them. When eventually they respond, they are talking to you. Great leaders are clear, honest, suffer for their stands and are brave. They conduct a constant dialogue. At the end, when they are gone, the crowd declares what they heard. When John Paul died, they issued their judgment: He was a saint. Popes aren’t presidents, and presidents aren’t saints. Both operate within wildly different realities and have wholly different obligations, so to compare the two isn’t quite just. And yet I couldn’t help think the past week of ...Obama, whom I started to think of as poor Obama—whose failings as a leader are now so apparent, and seem so irremediable, partly because they spring from not only his nature and personality but his misunderstanding of

what leaders do. Does he stand for something? I suppose he stands for many things, but you can't quite narrow it down and sum it up. A problem with his leadership is that there's always the sense that he's not quite telling you his core and motivating beliefs. There are a lot of rounded banalities. There are sentiments and impulses. But he isn't stark, doesn't vividly cut through. There's a sense he's telling people as much as he feels he can within the parameters of political safety, and no more." [58404]

"As for speaking truthfully, well, he speaks, in many venues and sometimes at great length. But rather than persuade the other side, he knocks down a lot of straw men and deploys no affection or regard for those who disagree with him. ...He is evasive about Benghazi and the other scandals. He winds up with polls showing Americans do not see him as a truth teller. That's treacherous for a leader. People give politicians a lot of leeway because they think so little of them. But they don't like it when they're being played. Is he brave? Well, he can take a punch. He's not afraid to be foolhardy, either in statements about red lines or in the U.S. role in Libya. But he seems increasingly passive. He is not passive when it comes to his political fortunes—he goes out and speaks and tries to rally the base—but even there, and certainly when it comes to governing, he seems bored, as if operating at a remove. Valerie Jarrett was once quoted saying he's so exceptionally gifted that he's been bored most of his life. It seems to me more likely an exceptionally gifted person would be exceptionally interested in and alive to the wonder and drama of things. I think her meaning was that only the most demanding and important of jobs would consistently arouse his engagement and focus. But he seems pretty bored [in the Oval Office]. He's not a dynamist. He doesn't seem excited about all the possibilities for America." [58404]

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, chaired by Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), subpoenas Secretary of State John Kerry to testify about Benghazi on May 21. Issa states, "The State Department's response to the congressional investigation of the Benghazi attack has shown a disturbing disregard for the Department's legal obligations to Congress. Compliance with a subpoena for documents is not a game. Because your Department is failing to meet its legal obligations, I am issuing a new subpoena to compel you to appear before the Committee to answer questions about your agency's response to the congressional investigation of the Benghazi attack. ...The fact that these [latest] documents [including emails from Obama advisor Ben Rhodes] were withheld from Congress for more than 19 months is alarming. The Department is not entitled to delay responsive materials because it is embarrassing or implicates the roles and actions of senior officials. ...Just weeks before taking over for outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, while serving as Chairman of the Senate Foreign relations Committee, you expressed a commitment to obtaining the full record of facts related to the deadly September 11-12, 2012, attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya. You said, 'From the very beginning of the Benghazi events, every member of this Committee has shared with [Obama] and Secretary Clinton our determination to get all of the facts about what happened and why in Benghazi.' You aligned yourself with a similar, previous commitment from [Obama]." [58276, 58314, 58319, 58342]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) issues a statement: “Americans learned this week that the Obama Administration is so intent on obstructing the truth about Benghazi that it is even willing to defy subpoenas issued by the standing committees of the People’s House. These revelations compel the House to take every possible action to ensure the American people have the truth about the terrorist attack on our consulate that killed four of our countrymen. In light of these new developments, the House will vote to establish a new select committee to investigate the attack, provide the necessary accountability, and ensure justice is finally served. The administration’s withholding of documents—emails showing greater White House involvement in misleading the American people—is a flagrant violation of trust and undermines the basic principles of oversight upon which our system of government is built. And it forces us to ask the question, what else about Benghazi is the Obama administration still hiding from the American people?” [58274, 58275, 58288, 58310, 58311, 58314, 58316, 58320, 58326, 58329]

“The House committees that have been investigating this attack have done extraordinary work, using their subpoena power, holding dozens of hearings, and conducting hundreds of interviews. Without this work we would not know much that we do today. But it’s clear that questions remain, and the administration still does not respect the authority of Congress to provide proper oversight. This dismissiveness and evasion requires us to elevate the investigation to a new level. I intend for this select committee to have robust authority, and I will expect it to work quickly to get answers for the American people and the families of the victims. Four Americans died at the hands of terrorists nearly 20 months ago, and we are still missing answers, accountability, and justice. It’s time that change.” (Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) will reportedly chair the committee. If the White House isn’t nervous, it should be. Gowdy is quick-witted and through, and does not suffer fools gladly. His tough questioning will likely provide the media with more than a few video clips that will not make the person being questioned look good. Gowdy tells *On the Record’s* Greta van Susteren, “Four Americans died at the hands of terrorists nearly 20 months ago, and we are still missing answers, accountability, and justice. It’s time that change. ...I have evidence that... not only are they hiding [documents], there’s an *intent* to hide it. I can’t disclose that evidence yet, but I have evidence that there was a systematic, intentional decision to withhold certain documents from Congress, and we’re just sick of it. So we’re gonna have him [Secretary of State John Kerry] come explain why we’re getting documents 20 months late.” An eager Gowdy says, “I will [even] volunteer to be a summer intern [on the committee], because I want the family members of those four victims—each of whom I promised, ‘I will get you the truth’—I want to be able to keep that promise.”) [58274, 58275, 58288, 58310, 58311, 58314, 58316, 58320, 58326, 58329, 58335, 58340, 58355]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) responds to the announcement of a select committee to investigate Benghazi: “Republicans are showing yet again that they have nothing to offer the middle class. Republicans care more about defending billionaires like the Koch brothers and trying to rekindle debunked right-wing conspiracy theories than raising the minimum wage or ensuring women receive equal pay for equal work. ...There have already been multiple investigations into this issue and an independent Accountability Review Board is mandated under current law. For Republicans to waste

the American people's time and money staging a partisan political circus instead of focusing on the middle class is simply a bad decision. While Republicans try to gin up yet another political food fight, Senate Democrats will remain focused on fostering economic growth for all hard-working Americans." [58296]

The Department of Labor reports that the economy added an estimated 288,000 jobs in April. The unemployment rate falls to 6.3 percent—mostly because 806,000 Americans stopped looking for work altogether and are no longer counted in the equation. The total number of working Americans actually *fell* by 73,000 in April, and there are still fewer Americans working in 2014 than in 2008. (As noted several times in this *Timeline*, the government's unemployment rate is deceptive because it does *not* count people who have dropped out of the workforce. If, for example, 95 people out of 100 are working and five are not, the unemployment rate would be 5.0 percent, or five out of 100. If two people give up looking for work in the following month, the "official" unemployment rate would actually go *down*, because there would be only three out of 98 not working, or 3.06 percent. Thus, the unemployment rate can go down even if no one has found a job. If only one million Americans were working and the remaining 315+ million were all on welfare, the unemployment rate would be zero—because those on welfare would not be counted in the equation.) The percentage of people in the workforce falls to 62.8 percent, the lowest level since March 1978. The unemployment rate notwithstanding, a record 92,594,000 Americans of working age were *not* in the workforce in April 2014. The figure includes a record high 55,116,000 women—up 428,000 from March. One out of six men between the ages of 25 and 54 are unemployed. (Arguably, the economy is getting worse—even though the unemployment rate is falling. Ironically, if the economy starts improving the unemployment rate can actually go up, as more people who had previously given up looking for work start seeking employment again—which places them back into the calculations.) [58290, 58301, 58302, 58315, 58324, 58332, 58333, 58386, 58388, 58484, 58504]

Actor and comedian Rob Schneider tells WPHT radio's Chris Stigall, "We are sliding very fast towards fascism. It's an ugly kind of thing. There's this kind of mob mentality that we have to be careful of. ... There's a polarization that's happening. You can look at government and go, 'Wow, it is out of control now,' and if you do criticize or tend to be not directly along a liberal stand, then, yeah, you can get murdered. ... We really don't have freedom of the press here. It's owned by about eight different companies, and it doesn't really necessarily express [the views of] or help the average American." [58357, 58423]

On *America's Newsroom*, retired Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters says, "[I]t's Orwellian how this administration lies and sticks to the lies and stonewalls, and the media is often complicit with it. Obama wasn't interested in saving American lives" during the Benghazi attack. "He didn't want to militarize the situation because that would call more attention to it. I mean, the White House made political calls, strategic calls, but not patriotic calls. ... First of all, this is a pattern for ... Obama. He can't make timely decisions. He has no courage. Whether it is Benghazi or Syria, or now Vladimir Putin, for

the first time in our history—we've had great presidents, terrible presidents, most somewhere in between—this is the first time we have [someone in the Oval Office] who's an outright coward." [58358, 58359]

German Chancellor Angela Merkel meets with Obama at the White House. At a joint press conference Obama is asked by a German reporter about his reaction to the execution of convicted killer Clayton Lockett in Oklahoma in which the lethal injection led instead to a briefly delayed death from a heart attack. Obama, who generally opposes the death penalty, calls the incident "troubling," and adds, "We have seen significant problems—racial bias, uneven application of the death penalty, situations in which there were individuals on death row who were later on were discovered to have been innocent ...and all these I think do raise significant questions about how the death penalty has been applied. I'll be discussing with [Attorney General] Eric Holder and others to get me an analysis of what steps have been taken. We do have to, as a society, ask ourselves some difficult and profound questions about these issues." (The Oklahoma killer, who was a black male, forced his teenaged victim, who was a white female, to watch him dig her grave before he buried her alive. Obama wants an investigation into the execution of a convicted killer, but fights investigations into what happened in Benghazi. At Takimag.com James E. Miller writes, "...Obama has ordered the Department of Justice to review the execution protocol. That's political speak for 'I don't feel like thinking about this now, so let's pretend to do something for six months.'") [58291, 58292, 58293, 58483, 58499, 58974]

Investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson reports, "A newly-released government email indicates that within hours of the Sept. 11, 2012 attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya; the State Department had already concluded with certainty that the Islamic militia terrorist group Ansar al Sharia was to blame. The private, internal communication directly contradicts the message that ...Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice and White House press secretary Jay Carney repeated publicly over the course of the next several weeks. They often maintained that an anti-Islamic YouTube video inspired a spontaneous demonstration that escalated into violence. The email is entitled "Libya update from Beth Jones." Jones was then-Assistant Secretary of State to Hillary Clinton. According to the email, Jones spoke to Libya's Ambassador at 9:45am on Sept. 12, 2012 following the attacks. 'When [the Libyan Ambassador] said his government suspected that former Qaddafi regime elements carried out the attacks, I told him the group that conducted the attacks—Ansar Al Sharia—is affiliated with Islamic extremists,' Jones reports in the email. ...Among those copied on the emails: Deputy Secretary William Burns; Under Secretary for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman; Jake Sullivan, then-Deputy Chief of Staff (now promoted to national security advisor to Vice President Joe Biden); Under Secretary of State Patrick Kennedy; Cheryl Mills, then-Secretary Clinton's Chief of Staff (now on the board of directors of the global investment firm BlackRock); and Victoria Nuland, then-State Dept. spokesperson (now promoted to Asst. Secretary of State)." [58297, 58638]

It is worth recalling that on September 25, 2012 Obama addressed the United Nations General Assembly and was still clinging to the lie that a spontaneous demonstration against a YouTube video caused the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi. He lectured, “The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam.” [58331]

According to FiveThirtyEight.com, former President George W. Bush’s recent favorable/unfavorable poll ratings average 49.3/46.3 percent. (Obama has no comment.) [58306, 58307]

Media analyst Howard Kurtz reports, “The story on Page 8 of yesterday’s New York Times amounts to an admission of journalistic error. It’s a conventional news report: ‘A newly released email shows that White House officials sought to shape the way Susan E. Rice, then the ambassador to the United Nations, discussed the Middle East chaos that was the context for the attack on the American diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, in 2012.’ But the Times waited until Thursday [and page 8] to publish a story that Fox News and others were blaring on Tuesday, because it was somehow deemed to be non-news. That position became untenable on Wednesday, when ABC’s Jonathan Karl and others were pressing White House spokesman Jay Carney on the spinning that took place in the wake of the Benghazi attack. By yesterday, CNN’s Jim Acosta and CBS’s Major Garrett were taking on Carney as well.” [58308]

Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) send Obama a letter that reads: “Over a year and a half has passed since the terrorist attacks, and the American people still do not have an accounting of your activities during the attack. ...[C]an you now confirm that Mr. [Tommy] Vietor’s account of your absence in the White House Situation Room is accurate?” (Obama did not need to be in the situation room. *The Obama Timeline* believes he was relaxing in the White House living quarters, waiting for a telephone call from Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi to announce that U.S. ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens had been captured, and that the prisoner exchange between Stevens and Omar Abdel Rahman—the “blind sheikh”—could proceed as planned. But Morsi’s thugs inadvertently killed Stevens, upsetting the plans. The YouTube video story then had to be used to cover four killings, rather than just a kidnapping.) [58334]

Aaron Klein reports at WND.com, “A just-released U.S. government email reveals a top Obama administration official was immediately concerned the Benghazi attack was a concerted effort to kidnap U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens. The night of the Sept. 11, 2012, attack, Eric Pelofsky, senior adviser to United Nations Ambassador Susan Rice, sent an email to Rice in which he expressed concern about a possible kidnap plot. The message was contained in the 112 pages of documents released to Judicial Watch as part of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. ‘Yes—I’m very worried. In particular, that he is either dead or this was a concerted effort to kidnap him,’ wrote Pelofsky at 9:06 p.m. Eastern the night of the attack. The email was sent after the initial assault at the U.S. special mission and just prior to the second assault at the nearby CIA annex, according to administration timelines. ...Has the Obama administration been suppressing evidence of

a kidnapping or attempted kidnapping of Stevens? As WND reported, the State Department's lead Benghazi investigator, Thomas Pickering, refused to deny there was a plan to kidnap Stevens. Pickering was the author of the 39-page report by the State Department's Accountability Review Board, or ARB, which largely absolved then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other top State officials of wrongdoing regarding the Benghazi attack. [Note that Pickering is a pal of Hillary Clinton.] At a House Oversight and Government Reform committee hearing on Benghazi in August, [Congresswoman] Cynthia Lummis [R-WY], asked Pickering about a potential kidnap plot. She asked, 'Is it true that they were planning to kidnap the ambassador and it went wrong?' 'I can't comment on that,' Pickering replied, followed by a long pause." [39292, 39293, 39294, 39295, 39305, 58345, 58346, 58374, 58638]

It warrants repeating that in one of the videos taken during the attack one gunman can be overheard saying, in Egyptian-dialect Arabic, "Don't Shoot us! We were sent by [Egyptian President Mohammed] Morsi!" There is no explanation for such a statement other than Morsi's involvement in the plan. At RenewAmerica.com, Joan Swirsky points out that "in August 2012, Morsi's de facto boss, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, the leader of al Qaeda, issued a Fatwa that was published worldwide and demanded that Muslims attack American citizens, interests, and military installations anywhere and everywhere for the purpose of freeing [Omar Abdel] Rahman." (Rahman, also known as the "blind sheikh," engineered the 1993 bombing of the World trade Center and is in prison in North Carolina.) Morsi possibly engineered the anti-video demonstrations in Cairo as a cover for the attacks. Some believe the Benghazi attack was, in fact, a kidnapping gone awry, and that Obama had arranged in advance with Morsi to have ambassador Christopher Stevens abducted and then traded for Rahman. Swirsky writes, "[T]he Benghazi facility had to be [left] unprotected [by Hillary Clinton] for the kidnapers to carry out their mission." If those accusations are true, Obama should not only be impeached, he should be tried for treason. [39292, 39293, 39294, 39295, 39305, 58345, 58346, 58374, 58638]

The *CBS Evening News* finally gets around to reporting on the Ben Rhodes Benghazi talking points email, and tells viewers that his brother David is the president of CBS News. [58391]

On *Hannity*, Charles Woods, the father of Benghazi victim Tyrone Woods, says, "The smoking gun out of this was document, was when they said, 'Emphasize that the protests were rooted in the Internet video.' ...The failure of Obama's policy was that the weapons and the material that was given to al-Qaeda resulted in the deaths of these four American heroes. ...For seven or eight hours they watched this battle happen. They didn't watch a video protest. They watched a battle with militants [who] were associated with al Qaeda." (House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has claimed that the families of two of the four Benghazi victims do not want the House to establish a select committee to investigate the attack and the cover-up. That is unlikely. In addition to Charles Woods, the mother of Sean Smith has appeared on Fox News several times and demanded answers about her son's death. The family of Glen Doherty has yet to receive any benefit payments from the government, and Doherty's friends, including Brandon Webb,

chipped in to pay for his burial expenses. On Facebook, Webb demands that “Patrick Kennedy (yes he’s a ‘Kennedy’), the DOS [Department of State] Undersecretary of management, be held accountable at State. His leadership resulted in denied security requests, and he purposely slowed down the follow on investigation at State. He left his people and Stevens in perilous danger, and his neglect, and lack of leadership (Lions led by Lambs at DOS) contributed to four dead Americans.” If the families of Woods, Smith, and Doherty believe their questions have not yet been answered, it is difficult to believe that Pelosi’s claim is valid.) [58336, 58586, 58587, 58588]

On May 3 FoxNews.com reports, “On Friday [May 2], Secretary of State John Kerry urged South Sudan’s warring government and rebel leaders to uphold a months-long promise to embrace a cease-fire or risk the specter of genocide through continued ethnic killings. South Sudan’s president tentatively agreed Friday to revitalize peace talks that have been stalled for months, taking what the U.S. described as a necessary step toward creating a new government and halting rampant bloodshed in the world’s newest nation. But it was not immediately clear whether President Salva Kiir’s main rival would participate in the talks, despite being urged by Kerry.” (Sudan has been rocked by violence for years. During the 2008 presidential campaign Obama criticized then-President Bush for not doing more to end the violence in Sudan and Darfur, and even promised, “I will make ending the genocide in Darfur a priority from day one.” Once in office, Obama essentially turned his back on the people in the region, and offered to deal with the murderous president of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, saying, “To advance peace and security in Sudan, we must engage with allies and with those with whom we disagree.” Obama’s “Sudan czar,” J. Scott Gration, naively said in 2009, “We’ve got to think about giving out cookies. Kids, countries, they react to gold stars, smiley faces, handshakes, agreements, talk, engagement.” It was Sudan that once offered to hand over Osama bin Laden to Bill Clinton. Susan Rice, along with Richard Clark, persuaded Clinton not to accept the offer. Despite her monumental lack of judgment, Obama made Rice his ambassador to the United Nations. Former Clinton staffer Mansoor Ijaz has 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.” The anti-Semite Rice, wife of ABC news producer Ian Cameron, also encouraged Clinton to do nothing to stop the Rwanda genocide.) [233, 234, 235, 236, 356, 360, 569, 628, 831, 819, 1282, 1311, 1377, 1679, 1680, 1681, 2197, 2467, 2505, 2618, 3528, 5476, 6246, 10556, 58343]

At NationalReview.com former terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy comments on retired Brigadier General Robert Lovell’s statements regarding the Benghazi attack: “His congressional testimony this week was somber—no faux ‘What difference, at this point, does it make?’ indignation, no ‘Dude, this was two years ago’ juvenilia for him. ... After saving over 30 of their countrymen, they [Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty] paid with their lives. The armed forces, General Lovell recalled, knew that terrorists were attacking them. Yet no one came to their aid. Lovell bears the burden of their abandonment with a heavy heart. His moving testimony made that clear. Still, his version of events is deeply unsatisfying. Why did AFRICOM fail to respond? ‘Basically,’ he stammered, ‘there was a lot of looking to the State Department.’ Unfortunately, we’re told Secretary Hillary

Clinton and her minions were unclear 'in terms of what they would like to have.' Come again? 'They didn't come forward with stronger requests for action.' ...Much as Hillary Clinton may desire to be the commander-in-chief of the United States armed forces, that job does not belong to the secretary of state. It was the solemn duty of [Obama] to come forward with not requests but commands for action. Why was AFRICOM hanging on the State Department's preferences? Why were our troops hamstrung by what Lovell described as 'deference to the Libyan people?' On the night of September 11, 2012, AFRICOM was not beholden to Mrs. Clinton or Tripoli. They answered to Barack Obama. Of course, no one can answer to a commander-in-chief who abdicates his command, a commander-in-chief who is AWOL. A commander-in-chief does not get to vote 'present.' Over 19 months have elapsed since terrorists savagely attacked the United States in Benghazi. Yet we are still waiting, ever waiting, for an account of where [Obama] was, what he was doing, and what if any directives he gave during the hours and hours during which Americans were being tormented and killed." [58592]

"...We know that less than a day after Ty Woods and Glen Doherty were martyred protecting Americans out of a sense of duty, the commander-in-chief in whom that duty is actually reposed was at a Las Vegas fundraiser, insouciantly repeating his campaign line: 'A day after 9/11, we are reminded that a new tower rises above the New York skyline, but al-Qaeda is on the path to defeat and bin Laden is dead.' Only hours before in Cairo, al-Qaeda operatives empowered by [Obama's] pro-Islamist policies had rioted outside our embassy, replacing the Stars and Stripes with their jihadist black flag and chanting, 'Obama, Obama, there are still a million Osamas!' Even fewer hours before, in Benghazi, the United States was dealt a humiliating defeat by the very jihadists Obama was still risibly claiming to have quelled. Yet for those hours, we to this day have no accounting of Barack Obama's whereabouts and activities. ...When AFRICOM abstains from battle, or Lois Lerner obstructs an investigation, or Eric Holder misleads Congress, or Michael Morell doctors talking points, or Susan Rice serially lies on national television, Barack Obama is responsible. It is his bidding that they do, and by failing to fire or discipline them he implicitly endorses their malfeasance. Outnumbered and fighting off wave after jihadist wave, Americans were left to die in Benghazi while administration officials huddled, not to devise a rescue strategy, but to spin the election-year politics. The most powerful and capable armed forces in the history of the world idled, looking not to their commander-in-chief but to a State Department that busied itself writing press releases about phantom Islamophobia. [Obama], the only constitutional official responsible for responding, was nowhere to be found. We are left with four dead Americans and an emerging paper trail of dereliction stretching from Benghazi to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Benghazi is not about what Hillary Clinton or Leon Panetta or Susan Rice or Ben Rhodes or Jay Carney or Robert Lovell did or didn't do. The only question is: What was ...Barack Obama doing, and not doing, during the critical hours when his sworn duty required decisive action? Mr. Obama owes Americans a detailed answer. Now." [58592]

At AmericanThinker.com James Lewis writes, "It is now clear that since Obama came to power, the U.S. government has overturned all the fundamental values that have characterized American policy from Thomas Jefferson onward. Under Obama we have

secretly joined the terrorist side in the Jihad War. That is the *strategic meaning* of Benghazi.” As evidence, Lewis notes, “(1) 500 million dollars in arms to al-Qaeda in Syria.” “(2) Active collusion with the fanatical Islamofascist Muslim Brotherhood sect in overthrowing the foremost pillar of stability in the Middle East, the Egyptian government of Hosni Mubarak, who was literally told by Obama to resign, in public. ...Obama deliberately undermined Hosni Mubarak, and Bill Ayers was even reported to be agitating against Mubarak in collusion with the Hamas gang in Gaza. It was widely understood that after the fall of Mubarak, the best organized political movement in Egypt was... the Muslim Brotherhood.” “(3) The same story is revealed by a huge money trail from the Moobs [Muslim Brotherhood] to big Democrats including the Clinton and Carter presidential centers.” “(4) We can never forget that it was Jimmy Carter who enabled the rise of the first big Islamofascist state, Khomeinist Iran, in 1978. ...And now we can plainly see that Obama has actually enabled the mullahs’ rush to nuclear weapons. The fact that Valerie Jarrett lived in Iran as a child and grew up in that kind of family is just another sign of radical Islamists penetration of this administration, at the very highest level.” “(5) It was the rise of the ancient and fanatical war theocracy in Iran that convinced characters like Osama Bin Laden that the time was ripe for reactionary Islamists to take over the whole Muslim world.” “(6) Obama’s closest ‘friend’ in the Middle East is said to be Turkey’s increasingly dictatorial Recep Erdogan, who peddles another throwback ideology to the horrific past, called ‘neo-Ottomanism.’” “(7) The NATO invasion of Libya was a clear violation of international law. When Mr. Obama was asked on TV about the need for Congressional approval of the Libyan invasion, he simply laughed.” [58640]

“In sum,” writes Lewis, “this administration has purposely made the world much, much worse. In Syria, for example, the al-Qaida-linked, U.S.-supported rebels can now steal chemical weapons from Assad. Putin’s invasion of Crimea and the Ukraine is a direct result of Obama’s perverse policy objectives: After all, if the U.S. can simply knock over Libya for no rational reason at all, why can’t Russia steal a march on the Ukraine? Today, China is snatching mineral-rich ocean territories claimed by Japan, the Philippines, and South Korea. All those thug regimes got the signal from Obama’s obsequious bows, and now they feel free to act on it. In response, Japan is now interested in nuclear weapons to defend against a nasty-sounding China. ...The biggest point is that the Big Benghazi Lie was not just a tactical Obama effort to cover up the explosive rise of el-Qaeda in the Muslim world. Killing Osama did not kill his ideology; it never does. Those lies and abuses of military command responsibility came from deliberate, long-term policy decisions—involving not just Obama, but very likely also the Clintons, all the way back to Jimmy Carter. The corporate media are of course in complete collusion with Obama’s program. A forty-year policy led by the Left to favor Islamic fascism is not, repeat not, an accident. We need to clean up our political mess, and the hypercorrupt media must be rejected by their audiences if we are ever to regain our self-respect as a nation. ...The United States is now clearly colluding with the same murderous enemies who slit the throats of American and United Airlines flight attendants with razor utility knives... Impeachment is now in the air. But this is not a personal matter. Obama himself is as much the product of the American radical left as he is its enabler. Today Obama might as well go back to Hawaii forever and play on the beach: The damage to the integrity and

truthworthiness of the United States has been done. The most important single thing is for the American people and the world to be fully informed of the perverse and immoral policies of this administration. We must face the truth. Once the truth is out, let the people decide.” [58640]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “A group of 11 terrorists with links to Al Qaeda were yesterday being interrogated on whether they are behind the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370. The suspects were arrested in the capital Kuala Lumpur and in the state of Kedah last week and are members of a violent new terror group said to be planning bomb attacks in Muslim countries. The interrogations come after international investigators, including the FBI and MI6, asked for the militants, whose ages range from 22 to 55 and include students, odd-job workers, a young widow and business professionals, to be questioned intensively about Flight MH370. Nearly two months after the Beijing-bound plane vanished soon after take-off from Kuala Lumpur, no trace has been found despite a huge sea search costing hundreds of millions of pounds. It is thought to have crashed into the Indian Ocean with 239 people on board. An officer with the Counter Terrorism Division of Malaysian Special Branch said yesterday the arrests had heightened suspicion that the flight’s disappearance may have been an act of terrorism. ‘The possibility that the plane was diverted by militants is still high on the list and international investigators have asked for a comprehensive report on this new terror group,’ the officer said. In interviews conducted so far, some suspects have admitted planning ‘sustained terror campaigns’ in Malaysia but denied being involved in the disappearance of the airliner, he added.” [58344]

Elizabeth Harrington, of the *Washington Free Beacon*, tells Fox News that Senator Jeff Session (R-AL) is investigating the loose Social Security Administration (SSA) rules for receiving disability benefits. Applicants are supposed to be U.S. citizens who are totally and permanently disabled in order to receive benefits, but the SSA is more likely to grant benefits for applicants with limited education and minimal English skills. Some applicants reportedly bring interpreters with them to eligibility hearings even though they do not need them, in a ruse to “score extra points.” (A person who does not speak English is not supposed to even be granted U.S. citizenship, let alone lifetime benefits funded by the taxpayers.) The abuse of disability benefits has increased dramatically, with applications increasing 230 percent over the last decade. (As people lose their jobs and are unable to find new employment, they suddenly suffer from difficult to diagnose maladies like bad backs and depression.) According to Harrington, after a factory with 300 workers closed down in Puerto Rico, “all of a sudden 290 of them applied for disability [benefits]... and they all got approved.” [58432]

Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the Miami Dade College graduation ceremony, saying, “The immigrant community represents something special we never talk about...” Interrupted by someone who yells, “Stop deportation!” Biden responds, “We’ll do that too, kid, but let me get finished my speech [sic].” (Biden is essentially promising the Obama administration will stop enforcing immigration law.) [58450]

Billionaire investor Warren Buffett tells an audience, “I will do anything that is basically covered by the law to reduce [my company’s] tax rate. For example, on wind energy, we get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That’s the only reason to build them. They don’t make sense without the tax credit.” Meanwhile, Obama continues to believe in “man-caused global warming” and threatens to enact executive orders and impose strict regulations without the approval of Congress—aided by White House advisor John Podesta, former head of the leftist Center for American Progress. (According to the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSDC), sea ice coverage in the Antarctic in April covered a record-breaking 3.5 million square miles.) [58446, 58447, 58459, 58687]

Las Vegas’ ReviewJournal.com reports, “Local business owners might be hoping the Affordable Care Act’s insurance mandates cover sticker shock. The law’s employer coverage mandate doesn’t take effect until 2015, but early plan renewals are starting to roll in. And for some businesses, the premium jumps are positively painful. Local insurance brokers are reporting spikes ranging from 35 percent to 120 percent on policies that renew from July to December. The increases are especially acute among employers with workforces made up of younger, healthier men. That’s because Obamacare prohibits offering lower rates to healthier groups. It also narrows the allowed premium gap between older and younger enrollees. ... The changes put as many as 90,000 policies across Nevada at risk of cancellation or nonrenewal this fall, said Las Vegas insurance broker William Wright, president of Chamber Insurance and Benefits. That’s more than three times the 25,000 enrollees affected in October, when Obamacare-compliant plans first hit the market.” [58420]

The Shoebat Foundation’s Walid Shoebat, Ben Barrack and Keith Davies report, “The ‘smoking gun’ email [from White House advisor Ben Rhodes] that reveals who instructed Susan Rice to blame the Benghazi attack on a video also exposes a recipient named Mehdi K. Alhassani. Alhassani was the leader of the Muslim Student Association (MSA), a Muslim Brotherhood front group and attended the sister mosque of the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC) mosque attended by the Boston Marathon bombers. It is a mystery how Alhassani slipped through the cracks to become a Special Assistant to the Office of the Chief of Staff, National Security Council Staff, and Executive Office of the President. It is unknown why a few hours before the Benghazi attack, Alhassani met in the White House with Samir Mayekar, a George Soros ‘fellow’ for an unscheduled visit. ... It is obvious that as a Muslim Brotherhood operative, Alhassani wanted to blame the video for the violence that erupted in the Middle East. As Shoebat.com reported just two days after the attacks, these forces had been hard at work on that very agenda. This aligned the Muslim fundamentalists with the Obama administration in at least one respect – each had a stake in blaming the video.” (Just as Alhassani is a Muslim Brotherhood operative in the White House, Hillary Clinton’s closest aide at the State Department was Huma Abedin, who is also associated with the radical Muslim Brotherhood. Abedin’s mother, Saleha Abedin, is a member of the Muslim Sisterhood—the Muslim Brotherhood’s “women’s division.” The Muslim Brotherhood has stated that their work in the United States “is a kind of grand jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within, and ‘sabotaging’ its miserable house by their hands and the hands of believers so that it is eliminated and God’s religion is made victorious over all

other religions.” Some might ask how it was possible for the State Department to give security clearance to Huma Abedin, considering her sensitive government position and the associations of her brother and her mother. Abedin, who has never been properly screened or vetted, has worked closely with Hillary Clinton since 1996.) [41, 43, 259, 380, 381, 382, 408, 558, 2668, 2669, 2271, 3041, 3376, 21554, 21590, 21989, 22049, 22052, 58352, 58353, 58374, 58524, 58535]

Shoebat continues, “As to Alhassani’s affiliations with Islamist groups, the proof is found in a document published by the Islamic Institute of Boston (IIB) entitled, Participants at the Citizen Dialogue Group. One of the participants of this U.S. State Department initiative was Mehdi Alhassani. In his bio, Alhassani is identified as a student of George Washington University (GWU) who was President of the Muslim Student Association (MSA) there from 2005 to 2006 and who served as an intern at both the White House and the U.S. State Department. There is overwhelming evidence that MSA is a Muslim Brotherhood front. . . . In addition to a work history that includes time at the State Department and White House, Alhassani has also worked at the Arab American Institute (AAI), which actively collaborates with the Arab American Action Network (AAAN) and CAIR. The AAAN was founded in Chicago by Rashid Khalidi, who was the Director of the PLO press agency at a time when the PLO was designated as a terrorist organization.” [58352, 58353, 58374, 58524]

As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Rashid Khalidi is a close friend of Obama. Khalidi, an Obama fundraiser and former PLO operative who justifies Palestinian terrorism as contributing to “political enlightenment,” taught at a university in Beirut, Lebanon in the 1970s and frequently spoke to reporters on behalf of terrorist Yasser Arafat’s Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). From 1976 to 1982 Khalidi was director of the Palestinian press agency, Wikalat-al-Anba al-Filastinija (WAFa), which was operating in exile from Beirut with the PLO. In the 1990s, Khalidi advised the Palestinian delegation during peace negotiations. He is currently a professor of Arab studies at Columbia University. Khalidi also taught at the University of Chicago, lived near the Obamas in Hyde Park, and was their friend and frequent dinner companion. While Obama served on the board of the Woods Fund, it approved (in 2001) a \$40,000 grant to the Arab American Action Network (AAAN). A second grant, for \$35,000, was approved in 2002. President of the AAAN is Mona Khalidi, Rashid Khalidi’s wife. The AAAN calls the founding of Israel a “catastrophe,” supports liberal immigration reform in the United States, and encourages giving drivers licenses to illegal aliens. [85, 384, 387, 395, 416, 418, 419, 438, 439, 440, 521, 10566]

In 2003, Obama attended a dinner held in honor of Khalidi. (Obama has consistently denied a close relationship with Khalidi, even though the Obamas have dined more than once at the home of Khalidi and his wife, Mona, and used them as occasional babysitters.) Obama praised Khalidi during the decidedly anti-Semitic event. William Ayers also attended the dinner, and both Ayers and Obama signed Khalidi’s guest book. One speaker at the dinner, which was sponsored by the AAAN, remarks that if Palestinians cannot secure a return of their land, Israel “will never see a day of peace.” The *Los Angeles Times* has a videotape of the Khalidi dinner but refuses to make it public. It is

assumed the tape's contents are damaging to Obama, likely because the event included anti-Semitic sentiments and Obama heaping praise on Khalidi. Further, appearing as entertainment at the Khalidi dinner was a children's dance group, the Sanabel AlQuds Dabka troupe. The Milwaukee-based Muslim children's dance group typically performs the "debka," a Middle-Eastern dance. The group's performances have been known to include simulated beheadings with fake swords, and stomping on American, Israeli, and British flags. It has been alleged that, in his speech at the Khalidi dinner, Obama stated "Israel has no God-given right to occupy Palestine," and there has been "genocide against the Palestinian people by (the) Israelis." [85, 384, 387, 395, 416, 418, 419, 438, 439, 440, 521, 10566]

Newsmax.com reports, "Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has backed out of delivering the commencement address at Rutgers University following protests by some faculty and students over her role in the Iraq War. Rice said in a statement Saturday that she informed Rutgers President Robert Barchi that she was declining the invitation to speak at the graduation. 'Commencement should be a time of joyous celebration for the graduates and their families,' Rice said. 'Rutgers' invitation to me to speak has become a distraction for the university community at this very special time.' The school's board of governors had voted to pay \$35,000 to the former secretary of state under President George W. Bush and national security adviser for her appearance at the May 18 ceremony. Rutgers was also planning to bestow Rice with an honorary doctorate. But some students and faculty at New Jersey's flagship university had protested, staging sit-ins and saying Rice bore some responsibility for the Iraq War as a member of the Bush administration. Barchi and other school leaders had resisted the calls to disinvite Rice, saying the university welcomes open discourse on controversial topics. The news of Rice's decision came a day after Barchi spoke with students protesting Rice's planned speech and told them the board of governors would not rescind its invitation." (Photographs of the bearded and head-covered student protestors suggest the opposition was mostly from Muslims. In 2011 "reality TV star" Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi was paid \$32,000 for a speaking appearance at Rutgers. Among her words of wisdom: "Study hard, but party harder.") The protests against Rice, following a decision by Brandeis University to disinvite author Ayaan Hirsi Ali, demonstrate the excessive influence of Muslims and the Council on American Islamic Relations on free speech. Colleges and universities invite far more leftists than conservatives to address students, and school administrators "pull the plug" on the latter at the first sign of resistance from Muslims and "progressives." (Far from being institutions of free speech and thoughtful debate, America's colleges and universities are becoming leftist indoctrination and Islam propaganda centers.) [58376, 58377, 58378, 58379, 58394]

Obama dons a tuxedo to attend the White House Correspondents' dinner—an annual event at which members of the media, Hollywood celebrities, and politicians gather to celebrate themselves. HollywoodReporter.com writes, "[W]hen it comes to celebrities, Washingtonians are as starstruck as folks from Des Moines. That's why the ...dinner has assumed an outsized importance on the capitol social calendar and one of the reasons many locals are feeling let down by this year's dearth of A-list actors and film figures. Apart from Robert De Niro, who is promoting a documentary on his artist father, there

will only be a smattering of high-wattage names at Saturday night's edition of the annual event. A number of those involved with the dinner told the *Washington Post* this week that reduction in the number of celebrity guests is deliberate, reflecting a desire to put the evening's focus back on the journalists who cover the White House. However, one Hollywood insider, who asked not to be identified, tells *The Hollywood Reporter* that the lack of swoon-worthy A-list movie stars shows that the lure of the event 'has faded dramatically.' ...One longtime DC political consultant, who also declined to be named, told THR that there's probably less celebrity enthusiasm for this year's dinner as opposed to the 2013 event because ...Obama was fresh from his re-election victory, and many of those who attended that star-studded evening had raised funds for [him]." [58337, 58339]

At the dinner "roast," a comedian named Joel McHale tells Obama, "[Y]ou have to admit, and you already have, the launch of healthcare.gov was a disaster. Look, I don't even have an analogy because the website is now the thing people use to describe other bad things. But, thanks to Obamacare ...millions of newly insured young Americans can visit a doctors office and see what a print magazine actually looks like." McHale's other "jokes" include: "[T]he Kardashians...are Republicans. And I know that because they're always trying to screw black people." Obama ridicules Fox News, saying, "You'll miss me when I'm gone. It'll be harder to convince the American people that Hillary was born in Kenya." (Fox News has, like the other networks, done its best to avoid discussing the Obama birth controversy.) Red Eye's Greg Gutfeld calls the audience "saggy bags of chuckling toadies," and tweets that the event "might be the best reminder of why we hate these people." (At PJMedia.com Rick Moran writes, "Face it, Dems. Obama doesn't do humor—at least the kind of self-deprecating humor that presidents like John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan were famous for. Obama's humor is mean-spirited. His zingers aimed at others feel like twisting the knife rather than a good-natured nudge. While there is always some measure of exaggeration when it comes to zinging an opponent, Obama's premise is usually false to begin with. This makes his humor self-serving and decidedly unfunny.") [58347, 58348, 58349, 58350, 58351, 58356, 58360, 58361, 58363, 58372, 58401, 58412, 58413, 58414]

On May 4 Senator Al Franken (D-MN) appears on ABC's *This Week* and says of his past life as a comedian, "When I would make fun of politicians, only because they were screwing up in some way, and I don't think I could find anything frankly [about myself to now criticize] ...I'd be a really hard subject to satirize because I've just been impeccable. ...I've made some small mistakes, I suppose." [58364, 58396]

On *Face the Nation*, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says, "So if we're [we Republicans are] playing politics with Benghazi, then we'll get burned. [But] If our Democratic friends are shielding the administration and trying to protect them, and if the administration tried to protect themselves—the re-election—because they couldn't stand the truth about Benghazi, then they'll get burned. ...If it were up to the White House you would have never known about this [Ben Rhodes] email. Congress subpoenaed all documents related to Benghazi in August. So 20 months later they're hiding things. And

when they say this email doesn't matter, these are the same people that tried to hide it." [58366]

On *Fox News Sunday*, former Congresswoman Jane Harman, a California Democrat, tries to downplay the latest Benghazi uproar, saying, "This was an intelligence failure. It wasn't a conspiracy. And there aren't aliens in Area 51 and Vince Foster wasn't murdered. And it's time to move on and focus on the real problems in Libya and other problems that affect the voters." (Using ridicule and the "it's time to move on" excuse are prime methods for dealing with an argument one is losing.) Fox senior political analyst Brit Hume responds, "There wasn't a conspiracy in the United States to mount the Benghazi attack. That's not the question. The question was whether in the aftermath of the attack, when the administration sent its U.N. ambassador out to explain it to everybody, and she [Susan Rice] did so falsely, that there wasn't a conspiracy to create the false talking points that she used. I'm not talking about the CIA talking points. I'm talking about the talking points used on that program that day, which were monumentally misleading and were—and have since been shown to be false and based on no intelligence of any consequence that we know of." Harman: "All right, and my answer to that is no, there wasn't a conspiracy. They didn't turn out to be accurate—" Hume: "Well how'd it happen? Well how did it happen?" Harman: "I think that people made, at the time, their best guess at the facts." Hume: "But wait a minute, where did the idea that the video had anything to do with Benghazi come from?" Harman: "Where did it come from? I think it came from people who weren't sure about it." Hume: "Well, can you identify anybody? Can you identify any CIA information? Can you identify any source?" Harman: "My view is, having been around at the time, that this was not deliberately misleading. It turned out to be wrong, but it was not deliberately misleading." [58383, 58419]

Trish Causey, a Democrat running for Congress in Mississippi's 4th district, tweets, "As part of National Masturbation Month, Republicans like screaming the name of their fluffer, Ben Ghazi, when they orgasm." (The likelihood of Causey defeating incumbent Republican Congressman Steven Palazzo are close to zero. Palazzo won 64.1 percent of the vote in 2012; his Democrat challenger won a mere 28.8 percent. If Causey were to win, however, she could challenge Congressman Alan Grayson (D-FL) for the "most vile and disgusting comments from a House Member" award.) [58480, 58481]

Politico releases the results of its survey of members of the White House press corps: "They are split 50/50 on whether the White House has lied to them. Least helpful office: The First Lady's. Only 5% consider the Obama administration to have been more forthcoming than the Bush administration. 61% have been sworn at by an Obama staffer (no names given) 68% say that Obama has received the coverage he deserves. 58% say the next President will be Hillary Clinton." [58373]

Mideast media analyst Tom Gross reports, "The U.S. State Department is listed as a 'cultural partner' of the 24th Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, which is currently being held (from April 30 to May 5). Among the anti-Semitic publications on display at the fair

(in both English and Arabic)—books which paved the way for The Holocaust—are ‘The International Jew,’ ‘Mein Kampf’ and ‘The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion.’ ‘The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion’ is now reported to be the second most widely published book in the Arab world. It promotes anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that Jews are planning global domination. Then other ‘cultural partners’ for this year’s Abu Dhabi International Book Fair include the French government TV channel France 24, National Geographic magazine, and the French Embassy. (There are, it should be noted, many other titles on display at the book fair, which are not anti-Semitic or have nothing to do with Jews.) Several senior diplomats at the U.S. State Department, as well as a number of French Foreign Ministry employees (not those stationed in Abu Dhabi) subscribe to this website email list and one would hope they would take steps to have the Book Fair’s organizers remove the anti-Semitic titles.” [58474, 58475]

Breitbart.com reports that Egypt’s counterterrorism efforts have been “undermined” by the Obama administration’s insistence on supporting the radical Muslim Brotherhood: “On a recent trip to Egypt with a delegation of national security experts and journalists we had the opportunity to meet with senior-level Egyptian security officials, as well as several members of the country’s various religious and civil society movements. The message being disseminated in the Western press about Egypt is contrary to the reality on the ground. ...Having spent an extensive amount of time in Egypt since the removal of President [Mohamed] Morsi last June, I can say with confidence that ‘anti-American sentiment’ is currently at a dangerously high level, but not for the reasons many in the press cite. The animosity stems from America’s policies of not backing the Egyptian people and their war on terrorism. On our recent trip, members of Egypt’s civil society, that very backbone which any future democratic polity must be built on, asked us why Washington is supporting terrorism and not supporting the Egyptian people and military in their fight against terrorism. Many everyday Egyptians simply don’t understand why the U.S. cannot perceive the political reality on the ground.” [58375]

“There is a clear campaign in the Western media and in many Western think-tanks and policy organizations to turn the Egyptian military into the enemy and the terrorist organization of the Muslim Brotherhood into the innocent, democracy-loving victims. This narrative is deceitful and needs to be countered. The Egyptian military is America’s ally and has been since 1973, and the Muslim Brotherhood is America’s enemy. ...What sense does it make to not support Egypt—and therefore push them towards Russia and risk losing our strongest ally in the Arab world and assist Russia in gaining a new strategic ally? ...There are reports of training camps in Libya run by the ‘Free Egyptian Army’ seeking to wage war against the Egyptian security forces. The Egyptian military may have no other choice but to use military force in Libya to control their borders and protect their country. ...Obama’s war in Libya has created an Al Qaeda safe haven which will have dire consequences for the region and also the United States. The United States can no longer turn a blind eye to the chaos and anarchy in Libya. Militants are killing Libyan security forces and civilians every day in Libya, and instead of the Obama Administration taking any action to clean up the mess they created, they have instead embraced the Muslim Brotherhood, the terrorists, in Libya. ...The United States has been consistently pressuring Egypt to be ‘all inclusive’ with members of the Brotherhood.

Why should any nation strive to be inclusive of a movement that believes in destroying all opposition and diversity?” (Pamela Geller comments, “It’s a war. And Egypt knows that Obama threw everything he had behind Morsi. After supporting the ouster of our 30-year ally [Hosni] Mubarak, Obama applied intense pressure to expedite the Muslim Brotherhood takeover of power in Egypt. Without thought, statecraft or strategy, he turned the keys of our 30-year ally over to the 80-year-old Islamic terrorist group, banned in Egypt for decades. Despite the will of the people of Egypt who refused Brotherhood bloody rule, Obama, like the dictators he supports, is forcing them to accept these savages.”) [58375]

DailyCaller.com reports, “For the last several days, rumors have been circulating about the use of federal financial services regulators to harass and intimidate banks and financial service providers who maintain relationships with legal but so-called ‘high risk’ merchants or businesses. These businesses are said to include, among others, payday lenders, escort services, producers of pornography, gaming interests, and purveyors of drug paraphernalia. By leaning on the banks, so the theory goes, the regulators will cause them to sever relationships with these businesses, thereby choking off their cash flow and forcing them out of the market. While the early phase of the operation has reportedly focused on payday lenders and pornography interests, eventual targets are said to include sellers of firearms and ammunition.” The National Rifle Association “is aware of episodes in which banks have severed their relationships with customers in the firearm industry, as well as the policies of various online services—such as Google Shopping, eBay, Craigslist, and PayPal—to refuse to host listings for, or process sales of, firearms or ammunition.” [58387]

Weeks after the April 14th kidnapping of more than 200 mostly Christian schoolgirls in Nigeria by the Sunni Muslim terrorist group Boko Haram, the only response Hillary Clinton can muster is a milquetoast tweet: “Access to education is a basic right & an unconscionable reason to target innocent girls. We must stand up to terrorism. #BringBackOurGirls.” (Whether radical Islamists will be frightened by a hashtag and an old hag remains to be seen, but the next day the leader of the al-Qaeda-related group Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, says in a video, “I abducted your girls. I will sell them in the market, by Allah. There is a market for selling humans. Allah says I should sell. He commands me to sell. I will sell women. I sell women.”) [58402, 58403, 58436, 58454, 58538, 58597]

It is worth noting that the State Department, under Hillary Clinton, refused to designate the Boko Haram group a terrorist organization—even after it bombed a United Nations building in the Nigerian capitol of Abuja in 2011, killing 21 and injuring 60. Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich writes, “But Clinton’s failure on behalf of our girls doesn’t start or end with Boko Haram. Before leaving her position as Secretary in February of 2013, Clinton failed to hold people inside the State Department accountable for the abuse of young girls overseas, which means it will happen again. ... Take for example the case of a State Department security official stationed in Beirut who was accused of engaging in multiple sexual assaults, or the U.S. ambassador who was accused of regularly ditching

his 'protective security detail in order to solicit sexual favors from both prostitutes and minor children.' Or how about the fact that many of Clinton's security detail were accused of regularly hiring young female prostitutes in foreign countries during official State Department trips." (Obama appointed Washington lawyer Howard Gutman U.S. ambassador to Belgium as a reward for his having raised more than \$500,000 for his campaign. Gutman has been condemned for telling an audience that Muslim hatred of Jews is justified because it "stems from the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians." Gutman denies allegations of soliciting "sexual favors from both prostitutes and minor children." A spokesman for Clinton provided an excuse for her lack of leadership: "We learned of it from the media and don't know anything beyond what's been reported.") [356, 1583, 2966, 3270, 4039, 6329, 27022, 27023, 27047, 27089, 33600, 33601, 45664, 45665, 58509, 58514, 58520, 58537, 58538, 58558, 58571, 58575, 58591, 58637]

It was not until November 13, 2013 that the State Department designated Boko Haram a foreign terrorist organization. The State Department press release stated, "These designations are an important and appropriate step, but only one tool in what must be a comprehensive approach by the Nigerian government to counter these groups through a combination of law enforcement, political, and development efforts, as well as military engagement, to help root out violent extremism while also addressing the legitimate concerns of the people of northern Nigeria." Pamela Geller comments, "Boko Haram originated in northern Nigeria, where there is strong support for the imposition of Islamic law—which is also Boko Haram's goal. The idea that a devout Muslim group that slaughters in the cause of Islam practically every day and whose very name means 'Western education is sinful' has 'legitimate concerns' exposes the dangerous motives of the pro-jihadist Obama administration. Boko Haram sets schools ablaze. Boko Haram targets teachers and doctors, but above all, Christians. They murdered over 2,596 people in the first three months of 2014. What possible legitimate concerns could these savages have? Imposing Islam is not a legitimate concern. 'Legitimate concerns'—was the Obama administration referring to CIA director John Brennan's notorious statement that 'jihad is a legitimate tenet of Islam?'" (For the last two years, the leftist web site MoveOn.org included a petition calling for Boko Haram *not* to be designated a terrorist organization. On May 9 the petition is removed.) More accurately, in the Hausa language of central Nigeria, the name Boko Haram means "non-Muslim teaching is forbidden." Author Ayaan Hirsi Ali writes, "But little attention has been paid to the group's formal Arabic name: Jam'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-da'wa wal-Jihad. That roughly translates as 'The Fellowship of the People of the Tradition for Preaching and Holy War.' That's a lot less catchy than Boko Haram but significantly more revealing about the group and its mission. Far from being an aberration among Islamist terror groups, as some observers suggest, Boko Haram in its goals and methods is in fact all too representative." [356, 1583, 2966, 3270, 4039, 6329, 27022, 27023, 27047, 27089, 33600, 33601, 45664, 45665, 58509, 58514, 58520, 58537, 58538, 58558, 58571, 58575, 58591]

Secretary of State John Kerry says, "The kidnapping of hundreds of children by Boko Haram is an unconscionable crime, and we will do everything possible to support the Nigerian government to return these young women to their homes and to hold the

perpetrators to justice. I will tell you, my friends, I have seen this scourge of terror across the planet, and so have you. They don't offer anything except violence. They don't offer a health care plan, they don't offer schools. They don't tell you how to build a nation, they don't talk about how they will provide jobs. They just tell people, 'You have to behave the way we tell you to,' and they will punish you if you don't. Our responsibility and the world's responsibility is to stand up against that kind of nihilism." (The word nihilism does not mean what Kerry thinks it means. Islamists certainly do not believe that all values are baseless; they believe that all values that are not part of Islam are baseless.) [58417]

Kerry also says, "And there's so much that can be done. I have to tell you, I'm filled with a sense of wow, I wish I had more time. I only have two years and three quarters left as the Secretary, provided I don't screw up in the next few months, and I have to tell you that I'm looking at all of these opportunities everywhere I go and the changes that are coming." [58440]

On May 5, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) officially announces that Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) will serve as chairman of the select committee to investigate the Benghazi attack and cover-up. Boehner says, "With four of our countrymen killed at the hands of terrorists, the American people want answers, accountability, and justice. Trey Gowdy is as dogged, focused, and serious-minded as they come. His background as a federal prosecutor and his zeal for the truth make him the ideal person to lead this panel. I know he shares my commitment to get to the bottom of this tragedy and will not tolerate any stonewalling from the Obama administration. ... This is a big job, but Representative Gowdy has the confidence of this conference, and I know his professionalism and grit will earn him the respect of the American people." Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, says, "Speaker Boehner could not have chosen a member more committed to getting the full truth about the before, during, and after of the Benghazi terrorist attacks than Congressman Trey Gowdy. Trey has been an integral contributor to the Oversight Committee investigation and takes the knowledge we have gained, through subpoenas and individual testimony, to his new role leading the new Select Committee. I look forward to continuing to work with him as he leads the effort, across committee jurisdictions, to find facts, accountability, and needed reforms." [58381, 58397, 58398, 58421, 58426, 58457, 58568]

Some Democrat members of the House, including Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA), urge House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to refuse to appoint any Democrats to the select committee, in order to make it easier for the media to portray the investigation as a racist and sexist witch hunt against Obama and Hillary Clinton. [58384, 58390, 58398, 58416]

White House press secretary Jay Carney comments on the select committee, "We have always cooperated with legitimate oversight... I'm not going to go further than that"—suggesting asking any more questions about Benghazi would not be legitimate and the

White House might refuse to cooperate with the committee. “I think if you look at what even some Republicans have said, it certainly casts doubt on the legitimacy of an effort that is so partisan in nature. You know, at some point, you just have to assume that Republicans will continue this because it feeds a political objective of some sort. At the same time you have to ask, ‘What about the American people who want to see Congress work for them?’” (The White House, which apparently believes it can decide what oversight is legitimate and what is not, will continue to insist it has nothing to hide—and Obama will then hide it by claiming “executive privilege.”) [58421, 58422, 58425, 58430, 58449, 58452, 58468]

HotAir.com writes, “[I]f your [Democrats’] goal is to delegitimize the proceedings, there’s no clearer way to make that point (especially to your friends in the media, who undoubtedly share your contempt for this) than to skip it entirely. The counterargument is that the average low-information voter watching soundbites of the day’s hearings at 10 p.m. on cable either won’t know or won’t care about the boycott. All he’ll know is that Trey Gowdy is pounding the table and seems utterly convinced that there’s a cover-up, and that the witness he’s grilling seems shifty and nervous. If you’re a Dem, maybe it’s better to have people on the committee pounding the table about what a farce this all is so that the news networks have something for the ‘counterpoint’ part of the sound bite highlight reel. ...[W]ould their absence actually backfire by signaling to the public that they didn’t care enough to find the truth? Political actors don’t like uncertainty and Pelosi’s dealing with a lot of uncertainty right now. ...What would it mean for the White House to not ‘cooperate’ with the committee? I assume that means claiming executive privilege over documents that Gowdy wants, which has worked so far in other contexts to hinder GOP investigations but would look awfully shady in this case, especially with the White House bleating that this is all much ado about nothing. Would they, or could they, refuse to send witnesses too? Even [John] Kerry and Hillary [Clinton] routinely appear/appeared before Congress. It’d look suspicious if the key players suddenly clammed up now.” [58399]

Vice President Joe Biden panders to a Cinco de Mayo audience, saying, “I know I was criticized for saying, a couple months ago in Florida, that these 11 million folks in the shadows [illegal immigrants] are already Americans. And I got pretty roundly criticized for that. But you know, they are Americans. They may not be citizens, but they are Americans. The definition of Teddy Roosevelt, who said, ‘Americanism is not a question of birthplace or creed, or line of descent, it’s a question of principles, idealism and character.’ And I would argue that those 11 million folks who are here, breaking their neck, working hard, they are Americans.” (Biden conveniently skipped some very meaningful words in the rest of Theodore Roosevelt’s 1907 statement: “In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person’s becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an America. ...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn’t an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag. ...We have room for but one language

here, and that is the English language. ...And we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is loyalty to the American people.”) [58407, 58408]

While Biden pretends that illegal immigrants are U.S. citizens, the U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear a lawsuit filed by the ACLU and the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund in opposition to a Fremont, Nebraska ordinance that bans the renting of homes to illegal immigrants. According to TopRightNews.com, “The Fremont ordinance requires renters to get a \$5 permit and swear that they have legal permission to live in the United States. The high court... let stand an appeals court ruling that found the ordinance doesn’t discriminate against Latinos or interfere with federal immigration laws. The number of Hispanics—mostly here illegally—has more than tripled in Fremont in just ten years, according to 2010 data. The resulting strain on social services mirrors damaging effects of illegal immigration across the country. In California, for example over 60 hospitals have closed in the past 10 years as a result of unpaid medical bills from illegal aliens.” [58536]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Voters are more pro-GOP now than they were before the 2010 tea party wave drowned much of the progressives’ agenda in the November 2010 elections, according to a new survey. Forty-seven percent of registered voters lean toward the GOP, compared to 44 percent who leaned toward the GOP in March 2010, according to the April survey by the Pew Research Center and USA Today. That 47 percent rating puts them four points ahead of the Democratic Party’s current 43 percent support, said the report, titled ‘Midterm Election Indicators Daunting for Democrats.’ Historically, this “lean” question has skewed Democratic, and the GOP has won elections even when it has a lower score than the Democratic score. ...Only 31 percent of Democratic voters say they’ll vote in November to support ...Obama. That’s a big drop from his 47 percent support in 2010.” [58382, 58428]

According to the Pew Research poll, a record-high 55 percent of Americans oppose ObamaCare—up from 54 percent in December 2013. (Of the 55 percent, 43 percent strongly disapprove of ObamaCare.) Independent voters are leaning Republican by a 48–33 percent margin. Hillary Clinton will not be pleased to learn that by a more than two-to-one margin (65–30), Americans want the next president to pursue different policies and programs than did Obama. [58385, 58400, 58405, 58409, 58415, 58439]

BizPacReview.com writes, “Taking chutpah [sic; chutzpah] to a new level, ...Obama’s senior adviser Valerie Jarrett apparently thought it would be a hoot to pose with the stars of ABC’s ‘Scandal.’ Obama’s top adviser effectively stuck her thumb in America’s eye at Saturday’s White House Correspondents Dinner when she tweeted a photo of herself with Tony Goldwyn and Bellamy Young, who play the U.S. president and first lady on the show, Twitchy reported. Staying true to the administration’s promise of the hashtag, the caption reads: ‘Tina and me with our #Scandal bosses.’ Never mind that America is reeling from one scandal after another at the hands of the Obama administration, from the IRS targeting conservative groups to the Benghazi cover up.” [58395]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “Despite \$32 million in federal stimulus funds and status as one of Obama’s favorite ‘green’ companies,” Smith Electric Vehicles “has halted production, having built just 439 of the promised 510 vehicles. It has also left a trail of broken promises and unpaid bills. Smith created just a quarter of the jobs it initially promised the state of Missouri it would create in return for \$1.4 million in tax credits. Meanwhile, it has also stiffed the Missouri University of Science and Technology, the state government, and a local electrical supply company, as well as its landlord, the Kansas City city government, for hundreds of thousands of dollars... An American subsidiary of a British firm, Smith Electric stopped production at the end of last year, a fact that was made public only last month.” [58406]

At Breitbart.com John Sexton reports that on September 12, 2012 CBS News president David Rhodes, addressing the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, said, “Our government thinks that, you know, there’s a really good chance this [Benghazi attack] was not just a spontaneous mob reaction to what some thought was an offensive film but actually a coordinated effort timed to the 9/11 anniversary.” Notes Sexton, “And yet, two days later, Obama’s spokesman Jay Carney was pushing the video as an explanation for what happened in Benghazi and Ben Rhodes (David’s brother who is an adviser to [Obama]) was sending an email suggesting [ambassador] Susan Rice should tell Americans the protests were about a video not a failure of foreign policy.” HotAir.com asks, “What changed between the time his brother said this on September 12th and the time he sent that e-mail on September 14th? Sharyl Attkisson asked a similar question last week, noting that an e-mail chain at the State Department shows that the feds’ earliest suspicions after the attack had focused on Ansar al-Sharia, the jihadi group that had claimed responsibility for it online, rather than a mob driven to fury by the Mohammed video. Somehow the conventional wisdom shifted from the ‘planned attack’ to the ‘spontaneous protest’ theory in 48 hours. And since, it seems fair to assume, David Rhodes’s knowledge of what ‘our government’ thinks was relayed to him at least in part by his brother Ben, it’s more accurate to say that Ben Rhodes’s thinking in particular shifted during those 48 hours. Why?” [58410, 58411]

In *Greece v. Galloway*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that brief prayers at the beginning of government meetings are not a violation of the First Amendment. [58427, 58458, 58493]

Political analyst Dick Morris notes the striking similarities between the language of Ben Rhodes’ September 14 Benghazi talking points memo and a statement made by then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on September 13.

Clinton’s statement: “...Let me state very clearly... that the United States Government had absolutely nothing to do with this video. We absolutely reject its content and message... This video is disgusting and reprehensible... here is no justification, none at all, for responding to this video with violence.”

Rhodes' email: "We've made our views on the video crystal clear. The United States Government had nothing to do with it. We reject its message and its content. We find it disgusting and reprehensible. But there is no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence."

Morris writes, "[F]rom the outset, it may have been Hillary who injected the idea that the video caused the attack. Then, it appears, that it was her language that Rhodes copied in instructing Susan Rice on how to handle the issue during her appearances on all the Sunday talk shows. But Hillary knew that was not the case. Because at 9:45 on the morning immediately after the attack, Assistant Secretary of State Beth Jones sent an email to Hillary Clinton reporting on a conversation she had with the Libyan Ambassador in which she told him that terrorists were responsible for the attack. There was no mention of any protest, demonstration, or video." Jones' email, which does not mention any YouTube video, reads, "When [the Libyan Ambassador] said his government suspected that former Qaddafi regime elements carried out the attacks, I told him the group that conducted the attacks—Ansar al-Sharia—is affiliated with Islamic extremists." Morris concludes, "So the decision to blame the video may have not originated in the bowels of the State Department or in the White House, but it may have stemmed directly from the Secretary of State herself. Hillary Rodham Clinton." [58429]

It is worth noting that just one day after the attack, there were already U.S. media reports making it clear that the attack in Benghazi was not prompted by a YouTube video. On September 12, 2012 USA Today.com reported, "Days of planning and online promotion by hard-line Islamist leaders helped whip up the mobs that stormed the U.S. Embassy in Egypt and launched a deadly attack on the U.S. Embassy in Libya that killed an ambassador and three others. As the U.S. tightened security worldwide at embassies and Libya's president apologized for the attack, details emerged of how the violence began, according to experts who monitor Egyptian media. ... The killings in Libya followed demonstrations in front of Cairo's U.S. Embassy, where protesters tore down the U.S. flag and scaled the embassy's wall. The protest was planned by Salafists well before news circulated of an objectionable video ridiculing Islam's prophet, Mohammed, said Eric Trager, an expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. The protest outside the U.S. Embassy in Cairo was announced Aug. 30 by Jamaa Islamiya, a State Department-designated terrorist group, to protest the ongoing imprisonment of its spiritual leader, Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman [the 'blink sheikh']. He is serving a life sentence [for his participation] in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center." [58431]

At WND.com Bob Unruh writes, "The news that Barack Obama will accept an award Tuesday from filmmaker Steven Spielberg for his humanitarian work on behalf of the Jewish people is evoking a strong reaction from Israel supporters and critics of [Obama]. Spielberg's decision to honor Obama shows he is out of touch with the problems the Jewish people face, according to commentator and author Pamela Geller of Atlas Shrugs. 'With all the work Steven Spielberg has done in increasing awareness of the Holocaust, and not just 'Schindler's List' but his Shoah project as well, he just doesn't get it. It's astonishing,' she told WND. She contends Obama has allowed Iran, which has vowed to

wipe out Israel, to continue to pursue its nuclear-weapon ambitions, ‘paving the way for the next holocaust.’ Her comments, and others joining her perspective, came after it was announced that Spielberg, through the USC Shoah Foundation, will honor Obama with its Ambassador to Humanity Award. ...Spielberg was one of the top donors to Obama’s political advancement, with \$1 million given in 2012.” Geller writes, “It’s the late thirties all over again. Then, too, the record of the establishment American Jews was shameful. Then, too, Jewish leadership in America went along with the delusion that keeping the Jews out of Israel was the best course—because FDR said so. The American Jews went along then and they are going along with Obama now. Shame on Steve Spielberg for rendering ‘never again’ an empty slogan, devoid of meaning.” (Ridiculing the award, posters appear at Los Angeles bus stops promoting a fake movie called, “Saving Barack Obama”—a reference to Spielberg’s film, *Saving Private Ryan*.) [58434, 58435, 58472, 58473, 58554]

Writing at FrontPageMag.com, Daniel Greenfield later comments on the Steven Spielberg event: “Obama slipped in after his DNC fundraiser with Barbara Streisand and Jeffrey Katzenberg to shake hands with a bunch of studio heads, Jewish and non-Jewish, and accept an award [from Spielberg] as Ambassador for Humanity. There was no explanation as to what an Ambassador for Humanity does. Maybe he reaches out to space aliens. Or tries to commune with fish. Last summer, Obama had forced Israel to release the murderer of Isaac Rotenburg, an elderly Holocaust survivor who had escaped a death camp and reached Israel, only to be killed by a member of Palestinian Authority leader Abbas’ Fatah party. Flanked by Spielberg and [Bruce] Springsteen, Obama told an audience of notables such as Kim Kardashian, Tyler Perry, Tom Cruise, Samuel L. Jackson and Robert Downey Jr. about the importance of Holocaust survivors and how he would like to help the Nigerian girls kidnapped by an Islamic terrorist group that his administration fought to keep off the terrorist list, but he just can’t. It’s hard to find the time to fight Nigerian Islamic terrorists when you’re so busy forcing Israel to free Islamic terrorists. Cruise had delivered the introduction to the 2005 event at which Steven Spielberg appointed Bill Clinton as Ambassador for Humanity. Last year George Clooney, currently marrying a woman eager to defend every Muslim thug and terrorist, became Ambassador for Humanity. Before that it was the CEO of Walt Disney, the CEO of Comcast and Spielberg’s pal Jeffrey Katzenberg. To be appointed Ambassador for Humanity you have to run a Hollywood studio or be a top Democrat. If Hillary Clinton isn’t named Ambassador for Humanity next year, it will only be because the world ended.” [58698]

Pamela Geller posts video from a Hamas television program in which little children are instructed to “shoot Jews.” (Although Obama and Hillary Clinton saw to it that action was taken against the producer of the YouTube video that they claimed sparked the Benghazi attack, the odds that they will do—or even say—anything about the Hamas video is close to zero. From their perspective, urging children to kill Jews is apparently less abominable than insulting Mohammed in a movie virtually no one has seen.) [58438]

FoxNews.com reports, “The FBI reportedly is probing the failed launch of Oregon's ObamaCare insurance exchange, joining several other agencies looking into the multimillion-dollar program that was scrapped last month. ... The law enforcement arm of the Department of Health and Human Services’ inspector general also is involved, according to The Oregonian. The state exchange, called Cover Oregon, stood out as perhaps the worst-run of all the ObamaCare exchanges. The state decided last month to abandon the system and default to the federally run insurance exchange, on HealthCare.gov. The Wall Street Journal reports that the FBI has interviewed several people as part of the inquiry. The Oregonian reported that the bureau held a 90-minute meeting with a former Republican lawmaker who detailed potential wrongdoing—including suspicions that the state showed the feds a misleading demonstration to keep money flowing.” Townhall.com’s Guy Benson observes, “That’s probably not a development Oregon Democrats are too excited about. Gov. John Kitzhaber (D) oversaw the Cover Oregon Chernobyl and appears to have misled the public about the extent to which he was aware of its imminent, \$300 million collapse. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D) merely voted for the unpopular law, falsely reassuring concerned citizens that they would be able to keep their preferred plans and doctors. Both Kitzhaber and Merkley could be beatable this November—and Beaver State Republicans have a decent shot at retaking the Senate in Salem, too.” [58462, 58463]

On May 6 Democrat strategist Bob Beckel tells Fox News’ Martha MacCallum he was told by Tom Donilon, then-National Security Advisor, that he was also not in the White House situation room on the night of the Benghazi attack. (Former National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor has already stated that Obama was not in the situation room. Nor was then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Nor was Donilon. No doubt there were Department of Defense officials, such as then-Secretary of Defense Leo Panetta, but they could not order a response to the attack without cross border authority—something that only Obama could give.)

The CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C. reports, “The State Department said Monday that Secretary of State John Kerry would not appear before the House Oversight Committee on May 21 to talk about Benghazi—as demanded in a subpoena from the panel’s chairman, [Congressman] Darrell Issa [R-CA]. Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said Kerry planned to travel to Mexico at that time and officials would discuss alternative options with the committee.” [58441, 58455]

According to StandardMedia.co.ke, Obama’s aunt, Zeituni Onyango Obama, “has been laid to rest in Kisumu [Kenya] under the Muslim religion traditions.” (Obama’s aunt was living in the United States illegally, received taxpayer-funded welfare and disability benefits, and reportedly never had a job. Ordered deported in 2003, Zeituni Onyango Obama filed an appeal, lost the appeal, and was ordered deported in 2004, but she failed to leave. After her nephew entered the White House she was eventually granted asylum—even though she was under no threat of persecution in Kenya. According to the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, asylum is granted only to persons who face persecution in their home country based on race, religion, nationality, or membership in a

particular social group, or political opinions. As the aunt of Obama, Onyango would have a difficult time arguing to an immigration judge that she would be subject to persecution in Kenya—but she apparently found such a judge. She illegally donated \$260 to Obama’s 2008 campaign, and also attended one of his inaugural balls—accompanied by her immigration attorney, Margaret Wong. Like her nephew, Zeituni used a stolen Social Security number. She used a number issued in Indiana, a state where she never lived or worked.) [40, 329, 427, 441, 918, 968, 1032, 1789, 2186, 6696, 6763, 11254, 11259, 13953, 14574, 14601, 14642, 14840, 24292, 25934, 25935, 25936, 25968, 26405, 58823, 58824, 58825]

TheHill.com reports, “Three out of five healthcare benefit decision makers think ObamaCare will raise the cost of health care at their company, according to a new survey. In a poll of 266 industry decision makers, such as chief financial officers, human resources executives, and benefit managers, 60 percent say the Affordable Care Act will up healthcare costs, according to PlanSource, a healthcare software provider.” (Obama claimed that the Affordable Care Act would lower premiums by an average of \$2,5000 per family.) [58443, 58444]

At a Senate Finance Committee hearing, Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) rails against Senators who oppose an increase in the federal tax on gasoline, saying, “It’s an American characteristic that you don’t do anything which displeases the voters, because you always have to get reelected here. I understand part of it. It has to do with—for some, it’s just we don’t want anything good to happen under [Obama], because he’s the wrong color.” (In Rockefeller’s view, it is apparently racist to not want to increase the cost of gasoline for consumers. He may not be aware that black people buy gasoline.) [58541, 58987]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Climate scientists have said the White House’s National Climate Assessment (NCA) resembles pseudoscience more than actual science. The National Climate Data Center released its third NCA on Tuesday, which warns of an ever-worsening environment and extreme temperature rises due to man-made carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels. But it has been panned in some quarters. ‘This National Assessment is much closer to pseudoscience than it is to science,’ wrote scientists Patrick Michaels and Paul Knappenberger of the libertarian Cato Institute in their comments submitted to the Obama administration. ‘It clearly believes that virtually everything in our society is tremendously dependent on the surface temperature, and, because of that, we are headed towards certain and inescapable destruction, unless we take its advice and decarbonize our economy, pronto,’ Michaels and Knappenberger added. ...The NCA suggests a slew of regulatory solutions from cap-and-trade to green energy subsidies to mitigate global warming. ‘It is to provide cover for a massive regulatory intrusion, and concomitant enormous costs in resources and individual liberty,’ Michaels and Knappenberger wrote. ‘History tells us that when scientists willingly endorse sweeping governmental agendas fueled by dodgy science, bad things soon happen.’ Michaels’ and Knappenberger’s 75-page critique of the NCA points out the many weak points and flaws present in the government’s analysis of the impact of global warming. For example, the NCA relies on not only peer-reviewed scientific literature, but

also non-peer reviewed work from environmental activist groups—which the government did not disclose. ...Michaels and Knappenberger also pointed out that the measure of climate sensitivity used by the report is 40 percent higher than what more recent scientific literature points to.” [58445, 58489, 58494]

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) states she is open to Democrats serving on the select committee on Benghazi: “If this review is to be fair, it must be truly bipartisan. The panel should be equally divided between Democrats and Republicans as is done on the House Ethics Committee. It should require that witnesses are called and interviewed, subpoenas are issued, and information is shared on a bipartisan basis. Only then could it be fair.” (Of course, when Pelosi was Speaker of the House, she often saw to it that committees had more Democrats than Republicans. DailyCaller.com notes that House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) “is not expected to appoint as many Democrats as Republicans on the committee. In response to Pelosi’s statement Tuesday, his office pointed out that in 2007, Pelosi thought a 9-6 ratio of Democrats and Republicans was ‘fair’ when she established a Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. Political maneuvering, therefore, may be at play: Pelosi’s request for an equal number of Democrats and Republicans on the committee may be about giving her an excuse not to appoint any Democrats at all if she doesn’t get her way.” Having Democrats on the committee, of course, means they will be privy to information as soon as it is gathered, giving them an opportunity to better help the Obama administration defend itself from fallout.) Pelosi also argues that Benghazi has already been investigated enough: “There has been a review at the State Department by the Accountability Review Board. There were two bipartisan reviews in the United States Senate, and four partisan reviews in the House of Representatives.” (Of course, the State Department merely investigated itself, and the Accountability Review Board was run by people appointed by Hillary Clinton and who did not even bother to interview her and other key persons.) [58448, 58453, 58461, 58479]

Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD) tells CNN, “If they [Republicans] want to have a substantive effort, it ought to be an equally balanced [select] committee [on Benghazi] so this is not an exercise in partisanship. But we’ll see whether that’s the case.” (In other words, “We want as many Democrats as Republicans on the committee so we can vote to block any progress they are making in the investigation.” Democrats on the committee will almost certainly work to warn the White House of “what’s coming next” as the investigation proceeds.) [58453, 58456, 58485]

CNN.com then reports, “House Republicans have decided the select committee to investigate the Benghazi terror attack will include seven Republicans and five Democrats, according to two senior House GOP leadership aides. The House is expected to vote on the legislation establishing the panel later this week.” [58468, 58469, 58485]

Meanwhile, Capitol Police have an “active, open investigation” into threatening emails sent to Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC), who will chair the select committee on Benghazi. [58465, 58466]

The *Chicago Tribune*—which apparently forgot that it endorsed Obama in 2004, 2008, and 2012—argues that “Congress should press for answers on Benghazi. ... We’ve instead... in six editorials, and reiterate today, that U.S. decisions made before, during and after assaults on two outposts in Benghazi have to be fully and honestly explained to the American people—the grieving families of Smith, Stevens, Doherty and Woods included.” [58451]

The Associated Press reports, “Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the former military chief who removed Egypt's Islamist president and who is now poised to win the post in elections this month, says the Muslim Brotherhood will never return as an organization, accusing it of using militant groups as cover to destabilize the country. El-Sissi spoke in the first TV interview of his campaign, aired late on Monday, vowing that restoring stability and bringing development are his priorities. The comments were a seemingly unequivocal rejection of any political reconciliation with the Brotherhood, which was Egypt’s most powerful political force until el-Sissi removed President Mohammed Morsi, a member of the group, last summer. Since ousting Morsi, el-Sissi has been riding an overwhelming media frenzy lauding him as Egypt's savior, and his status as the country's strongest figure all but guarantees him a victory in the May 26-27 election. El-Sissi’s only opponent in the race is leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi, the third-place finisher in the 2012 election won by Morsi.” [58582]

Reuters reports, “A car that trailed a motorcade carrying ... Obama’s daughters on to Pennsylvania Avenue prompted a security lockdown at the White House on Tuesday. A Secret Service spokesman said the car entered the security checkpoint at 17th Street and Pennsylvania and was immediately stopped by Secret Service uniformed officers. The male driver was arrested and Washington police checked the car for explosives. The Secret Service identified the driver as Mathew Evan Goldstein, 55. He was arrested and charged with unlawful entry and was transported to city police for processing. Goldstein was identified as an employee of the Internal Revenue Service. People were unable to leave or enter the White House grounds while the car was being checked out. After more than an hour, the security lockdown was lifted.” [58464]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Just one of Obamacare’s many taxes could cost the U.S. hundreds of thousands of jobs over the next decade, according to an industry report published Tuesday. The National Federation of Independent Business projects that between 152,000 and 286,000 jobs will be lost by 2023 due to Obamacare’s health insurance tax. NFIB, a nonprofit association of business owners, actively supports the repeal of the tax. The health insurance tax has proved to be one of Obamacare’s more controversial fundraising measures. The tax targets insurance companies, charging each one proportional to their market share—the more health plans sold, the more insurers are required to pay. The report found that the tax will cause a spike in the cost of employer-sponsored health coverage, which will lead primarily small businesses to cut jobs. NFIB estimates that 57 percent of the job losses will come from small businesses—firms with under 500 employees, according to the federal Small Business Administration.” [58487]

DailyCaller.com also reports, “The administration will invite at least 100,000 extra foreign workers to man jobs in the U.S. over the next four years, according to a May 6 statement by Alejandro Mayorkas, the deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. ... In June 2012, during the 2012 presidential campaign, Obama began granting work permits to young illegal immigrants. Since then, he has given work-permits to 521,815 illegal immigrants, who compete for the jobs sought by the 4 million Americans who turn 18 each year.” Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) responds, “This will help corporations by further flooding a slack labor market, pulling down wages. It is good news for citizens in other countries who will be hired... [but] for struggling Americans, it will only reduce wages, lower job opportunities, and make it harder to scrape by.” [58491]

According to HollywoodReporter.com, “Lionsgate will distribute Dinesh D’Souza’s next movie, which opens wide July 2 after a limited release June 27, insiders said Tuesday. The movie, originally called *America* though now called *America: Imagine a World Without Her*, was set for wide release on July 4 to take advantage of Independence Day, though Lionsgate moved the date up two days, insiders say. *America* is the follow-up to the right-leaning *2016: Obama’s America*, which is the second-most-successful political documentary in U.S. history after 2004’s *Fahrenheit 9/11*, the left-leaning Michael Moore film also distributed by Lionsgate.” [58503]

At TheDailyBeast.com Eli Lake writes, “In the nearly 20 months since the September 11, 2012 Benghazi attacks, al Qaeda operatives and allied terrorists have flocked to Libya, making the fragile North African country a hub for those seeking to wage jihad from north Africa, current and former U.S. counterterrorism officials tell The Daily Beast. Not only does al Qaeda host Ansar al-Sharia, one of the militias responsible for the Benghazi attacks that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. But U.S. intelligence now assesses that leaders from at least three regional al Qaeda affiliates—al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and members of the organization of Al-Mulathameen Brigade loyal to Algerian terrorist, Mokhtar BelMokhtar—have all established havens in the lawless regions of Libya outside the control of the central government. One U.S. military contractor working on counterterrorism in Africa summed up the situation in Libya today as simply, ‘Scumbag Woodstock.’ The country has attracted that star-studded roster of notorious terrorists and fanatics seeking to wage war on the West. An American counter-terrorism official used a different metaphor to describe the situation. ‘Libya today plays host to members and associates of several AQ-allied groups, in some ways becoming a jihadist melting pot,’ this official told The Daily Beast. ‘These groups haven’t united under the same banner, but the ad hoc links and intermittent cooperation among them are worrisome, especially as some of these groups have made no secret of their desire to conduct attacks beyond Libya’s borders.’” (The disaster called Libya is the direct result of Obama’s eagerness to oust Moammar Gaddafi, apparently without having a clue as to who or what would replace him. When Obama advisor Ben Rhodes wrote that the goal of his Benghazi talking points was “To underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy,” the broader failure of policy to which he was referring

may have meant Libya.) [58180, 58181, 58182, 58185, 58189, 58199, 58212, 58221, 58249, 58262, 58272, 58437, 58495]

Examiner.com, noting Obama's reference to his alleged Kenyan birth during the White House Correspondence Dinner, writes, "Although both of Obama's birther comments referred to 'Kenya,' the main goals in current court challenges involving Obama's concealed records do not stress a Kenyan birth. Rather, allegations of using a Social Security number which was not issued to him, a fabricated Selective Service registration form and a fabricated on-line Certificate of Live Birth are detailed in the court cases. ...One current case, Taitz vs. Colvin, Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, Case #1:13-cv-01878-ELH, U.S. District Court in Baltimore, Maryland, filed by Dr. Orly Taitz, Attorney, seeks a court order to obtain the SS-5 application for the Social Security number which is currently being used by Barrack Obama. Taitz alleges that the Connecticut number was issued to Harrison J. Bounel in Connecticut. Taitz vs. Colvin... is a Freedom of Information Act request—the same court request which was used by Judicial Watch to recently obtain old Benghazi e-mails." (*The Obama Timeline* believes Obama's SS-5 form cannot be released because it does not exist. He has used multiple stolen Social Security numbers over the years.) [58477]

"Another current court challenge awaiting a decision is Taitz vs. Donahue, Postmaster General, Case #1:13-cv-01020-RCL, Washington D.C., U.S. District Court, filed by Dr. Orly Taitz, Attorney. Explaining the Donahue case, which also contains a FOIA request, Taitz states, 'This case is against the Postmaster General and Inspector General for the USPS. It demonstrates that a year ago Attorney Orly Taitz provided them with information, a sworn affidavit of the Chief investigator of the Special Investigations unit of the U.S. Coast Guard, showing that Obama's Selective Service certificate is a forgery, and it contains a fabricated postal stamp. For a year, they covered it up and did not take any action. I filed a FOIA request. They did not respond within 20 days as required; a legal action was filed. After the case was filed, a letter arrived showing that the Inspector General sent the complaint by Taitz to the fraud division and demanded action and report within 30 days. There was no report and Inspector General did not take any action for a year...' [58477]

Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC), who will chair the select committee on Benghazi, tells Fox News' Martha MacCallum the committee will have more Republicans than Democrats: "It's not going to be evenly constituted. We're in the majority and we're in the majority for a reason." Noting that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) gave committees a Democrat advantage when she was Speaker of the House, Gowdy adds, "I find it interesting that people's ability to do math changes when they go from being speaker to being minority leader. There are more Republicans than Democrats [in the House]. There are consequences to elections." [58513]

Gowdy is the author of H.R. 4138, the "Executive Needs to Faithfully Observe and Respect Congressional Enactments of the Law Act of 2014" (the "ENFORCE the Law Act of 2014"). The Center for Individual Freedom explains, "At only two-and-a-half

pages, the ENFORCE the Law Act nonetheless stakes out an ambitious claim, styling itself as a bill ‘To protect the separation of power in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes.’ The bill does this by allowing either house of Congress, or both together, to sue the president or one of his officers for implementing a policy contrary to law. Gowdy and other House Republicans deem the bill necessary to check ...Obama’s historic abuse of discretion. ...To a prosecutor like Gowdy and many others, the actions of ...Obama and his subordinates come dangerously close to violating the constitutional oath of office to ‘faithfully execute the laws’—that is, laws passed by Congress and signed by the president. ...Due to a judicially crafted requirement for lawsuits called standing, Members of Congress aren’t usually allowed to sue the president and his officers for violating the law. ...Because non-enforcement undermines the traditional rationale for barring inter-branch lawsuits, giving each house of Congress standing to sue the president and his subordinates may be the only way to maintain the integrity of laws the Obama administration seems determined to render null and void. Left unsaid during the House’s debate and passage of the ENFORCE the Law Act is the reality that if Gowdy’s bill fails—and ...Obama has already said he will veto the measure if it reaches his desk—then the only remedy left for stopping this lawless dereliction of duty is impeachment. By proposing the ENFORCE the Law Act, Trey Gowdy is actually throwing Barack Obama a political lifeline. No president wants to undergo an impeachment proceeding, but Obama’s actions to date seem to lead straight toward such a fate if he continues flaunting the law and Republicans win control of Congress in the midterm elections later this year. A smart president would see Gowdy’s bill as an opportunity to make peace with the opposition by throttling back on arbitrary rulemaking. But that kind of calculation doesn’t appear to be Obama’s strong suit.” [58995]

On *The Kelly File*, Fox News’ Catherine Herridge reports, “a seven-page email circulated at the highest levels of the White house apparently to come up with a media strategy to deal with [a September 2012] Fox News report [about Benghazi] is being withheld by the State Department citing executive branch deliberations.” The subject line of the email reads, “Fox News: US officials knew Libya attack was terrorism within 24 hours, sources confirm.” According to Examiner.com, the email “was circulated September 27th and September 28th 2012 [and] concluded the intelligence community knew Benghazi was terrorism within 24 hours.” Among the emails recipients were Denis McDonough, Obama’s deputy national security adviser during the Benghazi terrorist attack; John Brennan, former White House counterterrorism adviser, and later CIA Director; then-deputy director of the CIA Michael Morell; and Obama aide Ben Rhodes. Chris Farrell, the key investigator for Judicial Watch, states, “A 7-page dialogue concerning one Fox News report to me demonstrates an alarm bell situation where they are reacting to and trying to shape a response or commentary to react to or to shut down reporting.” (The seven-page email about how the administration should deal with Fox reporting of Benghazi may be more of a significant talking points memo than Ben Rhodes’ talk show directives for Susan Rice. If it were not, the White House would not be trying to hide it.) [58460]

In the North Carolina primary, state house speaker Thom Tillis wins the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate. He will face off against Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) on November 4. (The odds that Tillis will defeat Hagan are good, as are the chances that the GOP can win control of the Senate. A desperate Hagan—who won only 77 percent of the vote in the Democrat primary—ran deceptive campaign ads against Tillis even before the primary.) [58478, 58490]

On May 7 Obama heads to California for five fundraisers over three days. According to FreeBeacon.com, “Obama will ... attend a Democratic fundraiser at the home of Alan Horn, the chairman of the Walt Disney Studios, with tickets going as high as \$64,000 per couple.” (In between fundraisers, Obama squeezes in a speech on energy efficiency—in order to make the trip “official” and pass the travel costs on to the taxpayers.) [58442, 58472, 58473, 58556]

At one fundraiser, Obama says, “Here’s what’s more disconcerting. Their [Republicans’] willingness to say no to everything—the fact that since 2007, they have filibustered about 500 pieces of legislation that would help the middle class just gives you a sense of how opposed they are to any progress—has actually led to an increase in cynicism and discouragement among the people who were counting on us to fight for them.” (*The Washington Post* gives Obama “four Pinocchios” for his monumental 500-filibuster lie, and states, “On just about every level, this claim is ridiculous.” There have been 133 successful filibusters since 2007, and 86 dealt with judicial and executive nominees, *not* legislation. Obama is inflating a number that was lower than 50 to 500. Obama’s claim that the legislation would “help the middle class” is also debatable. His declaration that a bill would help the middle class does not mean it will.) [58559, 58565, 58683]

In the village of Gamboru, Nigeria, radical Islamists kill at least 200 people. China.org reports, “The attackers stormed the town when some of the residents were fast asleep, setting ablaze houses while shooting at residents who tried to escape from the fire. ... Residents blamed Boko Haram for the attack, although there was no immediate claim by the group for the mass killing.” [58470, 58471]

Secretary of State John “head in the sand” Kerry, addressing a Council of the Americas conference in Washington, D.C., says fighting poverty in Africa will help stop terrorist groups like Boko Haram from being formed: “They [African leaders] all talked about poverty and the need to alleviate poverty, and that much of this challenge comes out of this poverty where young people are grabbed at an early stage, proffered a little bit of money. Their minds are bended, and then the money doesn’t matter anymore. They’ve got the minds, and they begin to direct them into these very extreme endeavors.” (Osama bin Laden was quite wealthy. For Kerry to believe that poverty, not Islam, is the major driver of terrorism is both naive and dangerous.) [58539]

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius fails to show up for a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing to discuss her department’s budget. FoxNews.com reports, “According to Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), the secretary skipped the hearing

not due to a scheduling problem, but because ‘she doesn’t want to’ testify. ‘Her absence speaks volumes about transparency,’ Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE) said, adding he was ‘astonished, absolutely blown away that she is not here today.’ Sebelius’ absence was unusual as heads of departments typically speak at such hearings to defend their agency’s budget requests. In her place, leaders from each department of HHS testified on their specific budget allocations.” [58476]

Michelle Obama tweets a “sad duck face” photo of herself with a holding up a hand-lettered sign that reads, “#BringBackOurGirls.” (Whether the radical Islamists of Boko Haram who kidnapped more than 200 girls in Nigeria care one whit about Michelle Obama or her Twitter messages remains to be seen.) At TruthRevolt.org Caleb Howe writes, “This is another example of the self-indulgent culture of the left, concerned primarily with gestures. Like [Barack] Obama suggesting that [Vladimir] Putin would cave before the condemnation and peer pressure of being on the ‘wrong side of history.’ It is a culture that believes everyone craves approval from the cool kids. ...Obama yesterday promised to send a team to Nigeria to try and help secure the rescue of the kidnapped girls. That is policy. Tweeting for what we want is no substitute for real talk, and real action. For someone in a position of power, it’s pretty far on the silly side.” (“Tweet foolishly but carry a dumb sign” is not exactly what Teddy Roosevelt had in mind when he suggested how to deal with the nation’s enemies. On Facebook, Leona Plato Coyne asks, “Where is Mrs. Obama’s hashtag for the Marine held captive in Mexico? Where is Mrs. Obama’s hashtag for Pastor Saeed Abedini?”) FoxNews.com reports, “A small team of U.S. military personnel will arrive in Abuja, Nigeria, in the coming days to help find hundreds of schoolgirls kidnapped by Islamic terrorists, the Pentagon said Wednesday. The team will be composed of roughly 10 uniformed soldiers from AFRICOM headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. They will be logistics and communications experts who will assess the situation and advise Nigerian officials, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said. Warren also made clear the U.S. military has no plans to carry out a rescue mission.” [58482, 58501, 58502, 58512]

At Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson reports that many of ObamaCare’s alleged eight million enrollees are nothing more than duplicates, because the problems with Healthcare.gov prompted the government to suggest that applicants apply a second time. “What is almost certainly the case,” writes Benson, “is that the genuine enrollment figure is seven figures lower than the White House-touted one. ...The existence of some significant number of duplicate enrollments isn’t a surprise to anyone who’s been following Obamacare’s implementation process. While Healthcare.gov’s front end was collapsing over the first few months, many would-be enrollees’ sign-ups were sucked into the website’s black hole. Unsure about whether any of their information had been transmitted, consumers were encouraged to go through the process again. Some did so multiple times.” The reason the counting of duplicates has not been resolved is simple: “The online ‘reconciliation’ system that would perform this Herculean task through automation is still under construction—and may not be ready for months (beyond the eight months that have already elapsed). That’s why the administration’s enrollment statistics are useless in the aggregate. They just manufactured the largest-sounding number possible and heralded it as exciting proof that the ‘law is working’ and the

‘debate is over.’ Much of the media blindly repeated the number, some going so far as to pant excitedly about an Obamacare ‘winning streak.’” [58486]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) releases a list of 76 lawless actions by Obama. According to DailyCaller.com, the list includes: 1. “Obama implemented portions of the DREAM Act by executive action” 2. “Ended some terror asylum restrictions” 3. “Recognized same sex marriage in Utah despite a Supreme Court stay on a court order allowing the institution” 4. “Illegally revealed the existence of sealed indictments in the Benghazi investigation” 5. “Illegally delayed Obamacare verification of eligibility for healthcare subsidies” 6. “Ordered Boeing to fire 1,000 employees in South Carolina and shut down a new factory because it was non-union” 7. “Terminated the pensions of 20,000 non-union Delphi employees in the GM bankruptcy.” 8. “Government agencies are engaging in ‘Operation Choke Point,’ where the government asks banks to ‘choke off’ access to financial services for customers engaging in conduct the Administration does not like—such as ‘ammunition sales.’” [58488, 58511, 58521, 58581, 59314]

At Breitbart.com Pamela Geller writes, “The Democrats are threatening to boycott the select committee on the Benghazi jihad attack on September 11, 2012. The media is cheering their subterfuge on, hoping to normalize glaring un-Americanism, so that [Obama] can easily follow suit. ...The emails make it perfectly clear that it was known from the outset that Islamic terrorists planned and coordinated the attacks on our consulate in Benghazi. Treason is the accurate term for the actions of the Obama administration in the aftermath of Benghazi. [Obama] knew within 24 hours that it was Islamic terror. And yet in the post-Benghazi fallout, Obama continued to attack and blame free speech for the Benghazi slaughter. Obama, along with Hillary Clinton, starred in a paid advertisement condemning the video insulting Islam. These paid advertisements (funded with American taxpayer dollars) ran in Pakistan. This presidential attack on our freedom and our Constitution was the Obama administration’s primary response to the deadly Islamist attack on September 11, 2012. He knew. He knew from the very first. ...[J]ust minutes after the American consulate in Benghazi was attacked, senior defense officials, both civilian and military, were told that it was a ‘terrorist attack.’ So why did the Obama White House promote a false narrative, and why didn’t defense officials speak out about this false claim? ...In an email on September 11, 2012 at 6:17 PM, Alex McPhillips, Press Officer at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, advised [Susan] Rice that Ansar Al-Sharia was attacking the consulate. The first reports came into the White House between 4:00 and 5:00 PM that day. ...The frenzy was not to save our beloved countrymen. The frenzy was to save Obama’s election—this while our boys were in the firefight of their lives. And where was Obama on the night of September 11, 2012? ...I await more of Judicial Watch’s documents in the hope that they might shed more light on what happened on that fateful day. But what we know already is enough to begin impeachment proceedings.” [58505]

Executives from health insurance companies WellPoint, Aetna, and Blue Cross Blue Shield tell the House Energy and Commerce Committee that 10–20 percent of ObamaCare enrollees have yet to make any premium payments and are therefore not

insured. Committee member Cory Gardner (R-CO) States on his web site, “It was also disclosed [at the hearing] that millions more Americans will see their plans canceled when [Obama’s] healthcare law is fully enforced.” [58492, 58517, 58532, 58533]

FoxNews.com reports that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) “was accused Wednesday of tolerating waste, fraud and ‘criminal conduct’ in its own ranks, as a House committee hearing aired allegations of employee misconduct that have cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. The inspector general’s office—the official watchdog tasked with overseeing the agency—also claims it’s being blocked from doing its job by a unit within the EPA. ‘I’m very concerned that vital information regarding suspected employee misconduct is being withheld from the OIG [Office of Inspector General],’ Patrick Sullivan, assistant inspector general, testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. ...The committee revealed several startling allegations and cases shared by the inspector general’s office. In one case, an employee was getting paid for one or two years after moving to a retirement home, where the employee allegedly did not work. When an investigation began, the worker was simply placed on sick leave. In another case, an employee with multiple-sclerosis was allowed to work at home for the last 20 years. However, for the past five years, she allegedly produced no work—though she was paid roughly \$600,000. She retired after an investigation. In yet another case, an employee was accused of viewing pornography for two-to-six hours a day since 2010. An IG probe found the worker had 7,000 pornographic files on his EPA computer.” [58496, 58518, 58566]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “Despite adding more than 8 million people to the working-age population since 2007, total employment has declined by half a million, according to an analysis by the Senate Budget Committee. Before ...Obama took office 259.7 million people were part of the working-age population, or between ages 16 and 65. Now, the number has risen to 267.7 million. However, in the same time period, total employment declined from 146.3 million to 145.7 million. In other words, 531,000 fewer people have jobs. ‘This statistic highlights an alarming trend that has embodied [Obama’s] economic policies: more and more people are leaving the workforce entirely,’ according to the analysis, which was released by Ranking Member of the Senate Budget Committee Jeff Sessions (R-AL). ‘There are 58 million working-age people who are not working, and the labor force participation rate stands at 62.8 percent, the lowest level in 36 years.’” (The poll of potential workers includes Americans age 16 through 64, and excludes people in jail, mental institutions, or in the Armed Forces.) [58497]

WorldTribune.com reports, “Iran has been rocked by huge explosion near a nuclear facility. The Iranian media have reported an explosion in the northern Iranian city of Qazvin. The blast, reported on May 6, was said to have taken place near a secret nuclear enrichment facility in Abyek. ‘The explosion took place in a storage facility,’ Iran’s semi-official Fars News Agency, which reported at least 50 injured, said. Officials said nobody was killed in the explosion. But they acknowledged a huge fire that was sweeping the industrial city, about 130 kilometers north of Teheran. ...Iranian opposition

sources said scores of people were killed in the blast. They said Iranian Army and security forces closed much of Qazvin, with a population of 1.1 million.” [58531]

The House of Representatives votes 231–to–187 to hold former IRS official Lois Lerner in contempt of Congress for refusing to testify about the agency’s discrimination against conservative organizations that applied for tax-exempt status. Six Democrats join the Republicans in voting for the charge. The case will proceed to the Department of Justice, which will likely refuse to do anything—although Lerner could conceivably face up to one year in prison and a fine of \$100,000. (House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) does not cast a vote. According to TheHill.com, “She was... at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee fundraiser attended by [Obama] and roughly 90 guests at the home of Disney Chairman Alan Horn in Bel Air, Calif...”) [58498, 58500, 58506, 58507, 58508, 58510, 58522]

The House also votes 250–168 to ask the Department of Justice to appoint a special counsel to investigate the IRS’ abuse of power. (The request will be ignored.) [58498, 58506, 58510]

At USAToday.com Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) writes, “Benghazi matters because four of our fellow citizens were murdered under terrifying circumstances. Benghazi matters because a diplomatic facility emblematic and representative of our country was attacked and burned on the anniversary of 9/11. Benghazi matters because Americans deserve to know the truth from those entrusted to lead and govern. House Speaker John Boehner [R-OH], is right to convene a select committee devoted to uncovering all relevant facts connected to Benghazi, just as the House committees of jurisdiction were right to investigate Benghazi before this. Despite the passage of 20 months, there remain unresolved questions. Why was security for our facility in Libya inadequate, and why were repeated calls for additional security unheeded and, indeed, explicitly rejected? Was our military response during the pendency of the siege sufficient? And in the days and weeks after the attack, was the Obama administration transparent and forthright with our fellow Americans in describing the impetus behind the attack? Moreover, no one has been arrested, prosecuted, or punished for the murders of our fellow Americans. These outstanding questions, and others, are legitimate, and seeking the answer to these questions should be an apolitical process. Facts are neither Republican nor Democrat. While our fellow citizens are free to draw varying conclusions and inferences from the facts, surely there can be consensus that every relevant fact must be uncovered. There are still witnesses whose testimony has not been heard. Just last week, we learned the administration has withheld relevant documents from Congress, despite a subpoena request. Some produced documents are so heavily redacted as to be meaningless. The select committee should strive to uncover every relevant witness, document or other piece of evidence so our fellow citizens can know the facts and the full truth. ‘May justice be done, though the heavens fall.’ That adage governed my time as a prosecutor in state and federal court, and it would serve us well as we uncover the truth about Benghazi.” [58542]

On May 8 ABC's Robin Roberts interviews Hillary Clinton, asking decidedly weak questions, such as, "Benghazi. The new investigation. Are you satisfied with the answers and are you content with what you know what [sic] happened?" "[W]ere you to run for president in 2016, would you consider Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren or San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro as a running mate?" and "When I look at your Twitter page, you, the last thing you list, is saying you're a glass ceiling cracker. And no one feels it would be better to crack that glass ceiling than to have a woman as president. And many believe that should be you." [58563]

While Mrs. Clinton faces softball questions in sycophantic interviews, former George W. Bush advisor Rove tells a California conference audience questions should be asked about the injuries she suffered in a December 2012 fall. Rove says, "Thirty days in the hospital? And when she reappears, she's wearing glasses that are only for people who have traumatic brain injury? We need to know what's up with that." Newsmax.com clarifies that Clinton "was actually hospitalized for only three days after the fall to undergo tests. Doctors said there was a blood clot between her brain and skull." (Although Clinton was not hospitalized for long, she did use her injury/illness as an excuse to avoid testifying before Congress about Benghazi. Rove's comment is arguably not a message to voters but a direct warning to Clinton: "Don't think your 2016 campaign will be easy. You're not the shoo-in you think you are." Predictably, Rove's question prompts Democrats to suggest it is "ageist" and "sexist" to bring up the issue of Clinton's health—even though they brought it up with Ronald Reagan in 1980 and 1984 and with John McCain in 2008. But Rove understands that the more the Democrats protest, the more voters will wonder, "What is Clinton hiding?"—even if there is nothing to hide. Rove is pummeled by media leftists for claiming Clinton has brain damage. Although Rove technically does not say Clinton suffered "brain damage," his comment manages to get journalists to use the phrase—which may have been his goal.) [58631, 58644, 58655, 58658, 58665, 58666, 58707, 58723, 58777, 58815, 58868, 58908, 58955]

Euro Pacific Capital's Peter Schiff writes, "Far more significant than the number of jobs that were created in April [an estimated 288,000] were the far greater number of jobs that were lost (806,000) because chronically unemployed Americans gave up on their fruitless quests to find work. This trend has been ongoing for years. The latest exodus of workers pushed the labor force participation rate down from 63.2% to 62.8%, an unusually sharp monthly drop. Apart from October and December 2013, also at 62.8%, the rate now is at the lowest level since March 1978. Each individual who drops out of the job market creates another lost taxpayer and another individual who is more likely to receive government support. But the media coverage of the jobs data treated this stunning development as a mere afterthought. What should have been of particular concern, but was not even mentioned, was that more than 80% of the 288,000 jobs came from birth/death assumptions the government makes about the net number of new companies that formed during the month and the number of people those companies would have been expected to hire. For some reason the statisticians always assign a disproportionately high number of these assumed jobs to April and May. The rationale for this is likely buried deep within bureaucratic small print, so we have to take that number with a grain of salt. But what if only 100,000 new jobs were added as a result of birth/death

assumptions, as was averaged in February and March? ...The story even gets worse when you consider the types of jobs that are being added. As has been the case for years, the new hires are heavily weighted to the lower end of the spectrum, particularly in low-paying service sector and retail jobs. The drop in the labor participation rate would not be so alarming if those who remained working were finding jobs that could support families. But that is not what is happening. We are replacing good jobs with bad jobs and getting poorer with each passing month.” [58504]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “Who *didn’t* see this coming? According to Kaiser Health News, employers are increasingly looking at the benefits of getting out of the health-insurance delivery process. Fueling this interest are ObamaCare-related spikes in health-insurance premiums, plus the opportunity to fix costs and reduce vulnerabilities presented by employees who develop serious health issues. ...We have pointed out these perverse incentives in the employer mandate since before Democrats put the [Affordable Care Act] up for a vote. Barack Obama and his supporters insisted that ‘if you like your plan, you can keep your plan,’ based in large part on the assumption that businesses would simply eat the exploding costs of mandate health insurance. That, however, ignores the efficiency process and cost-benefit analysis that any business with a survival instinct uses. If it’s cheaper to pay the fine and dump the coverage, the only incentive that employers have to do otherwise is strictly competitive. And that will only last as long as the competition doesn’t make the same move. Once the first few employers looking to gain a tactical advantage on costs make the decision to get rid of that overhead, everyone else will follow to negate that advantage—and to push those costs off onto the federal government. That will make a hash of the carefully managed cost analyses offered by ObamaCare supporters, and subsidy payments will explode far past the ability of revenues within the ACA to keep pace.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes the Obama administration knows full well that thousands of employers will dump employees into the ObamaCare exchanges, and that it *wants* that to happen—because Obama’s goal is to destroy the private health insurance industry and have American “covered” by, and dependent on, the federal government.) [58519]

The National Federation of Independent Business’ Research Foundation estimates that ObamaCare’s Health Insurance Tax may cause the loss of 286,000 jobs, with the greatest losses (23,000), coming in California. Wisconsin business owner Ron Winter tells *The Wall Street Journal*, “Our 440-employee business just received its initial premium from United Healthcare for our July 1 renewal. The renewal premium represents a 29% increase over the current premium. UHC indicated that our premiums are going up 11% to bring our deductibles and out of pocket maximums in line with the provisions of the ACA [Affordable Care Act]. In other words, without the ACA, our premiums would be going up approximately 18%, not 29%.” [58618]

BayouBuzz.com reports, “[B]ased on a survey of 600 likely Louisiana voters conducted April 28-30, 2014, Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) continues to drop, with her positive rating now hitting an all-time low of 39% and her negative numbers skyrocketing to 58%. ...Senator Landrieu’s job performance rating continues to deteriorate. Her positive

ratings have dropped to an all-time low of 39% in this current poll. Her negative ratings have increased by 30 percentage points in a little over a year and a half (from 28% in September 2012 to 58% in this current poll).” That Landrieu is chairman of the Senate Energy Committee seems not to be helping her: “59% of the voters thought electing someone new was more important than keeping her in office. Landrieu’s seniority does little to sway voter choice for the U.S. Senate. Of the voters who responded they were undecided in the U.S. Senate trial heat question, 72% were of the opinion that electing someone new was more important than keeping her in office.” [58724, 58725]

The House Veterans Affairs Committee votes to subpoena Obama’s Veteran Affairs Secretary, Eric Shinseki, and his staff to obtain documents and emails related to the revelations that the veterans hospital in Phoenix, Arizona maintained “secret lists” to hide the fact that veterans were being denied prompt medical care. There are also accusations that VA officials in Colorado, Wyoming, Illinois, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Texas have falsified appointment data to hide long wait times. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich calls for Shinseki’s resignation, stating, “It is impossible to look at the range of scandals and believe that he [Shinseki] could possibly fix it. ...General Shinseki had a long career—an honorable career—in the Army but he doesn’t seem to understand the difference between serving in the Army and being a cabinet officer. Cabinet officers have a genuine, immediate obligation to report to the Congress.” (Democrats will—at least initially—be reluctant to criticize Shinseki because he opposed the war in Iraq, and they and the mainstream media frequently quoted Shinseki in 2003 in an effort to discredit President George W. Bush. Democrat members of Congress will likely be watching the polls closely, and will either defend Shinseki in order to protect Obama from yet another scandal, or call for his resignation if they think that is what the voting public wants.) [58515, 58516, 58555, 58573, 58656, 58701, 58785, 58805, 58853, 58881, 58889]

Obama’s nominee to replace Kathleen Sebelius as Secretary of Health and Human Services, Sylvia Burwell, appears before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Burwell tells the committee, “I am part of [Obama’s] administration. I am honored to be appointed. First and foremost, I serve the American people. I believe that [Obama] and his policies are aligned with that and will work, but I’m here to serve the American people. ...[Y]ou have my commitment that if I am confirmed, the two ...principles that will guide me with regard to information are transparency and accuracy. Those are the two things, and I will work to do that in due course in terms of speed as well.” [58519, 58523, 58529, 58567]

The House of Representatives votes 232–186 to establish a select committee to investigate the Benghazi cover-up. (Seven Democrats vote with the Republicans to establish the committee.) WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Democratic leadership was encouraging members of their caucus to vote no on the creation of the panel, and a caucus meeting is scheduled for Friday morning to determine the party’s next steps on whether or not Democrats will participate. Republicans are expected to announce the rest of their appointments to the committee on Friday. The panel is to be comprised of seven

Republicans and five Democrats.” Congressman Steve King (R-IA) “said that if Democrats oppose the makeup of the House committee, they could set up a similar one in the Senate. ‘They could set up their select committee in the Senate and run it just the way we are going to run one in the House,’ Mr. King said.” [58527, 58552, 58560]

Before the vote, Congressman Tom Cotton (R-AR) says on the floor of the House, “A couple lessons I learned in the Army were, you move to the sound of gunfire, and the most important step in the troop-leading procedures is to supervise the execution of your orders. When Americans were fighting for their lives in Benghazi, Barack Obama did neither. He sent no quick-reaction force, and he didn’t even stay in the Situation Room to supervise the execution of his orders.” Addressing Democrat criticism that the Benghazi committee is nothing more than a partisan political exercise, Cotton says, “When I was leading troops in Iraq in 2006, men and women who were being shot at and blown up by al-Qaeda, where was the outrage as they [Democrats] fundraised endlessly off the Iraq war? Where was the outrage as they viciously attacked our commanders? Where was the outrage when they [Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)] said soldiers were war criminals? Where was the outrage when they [Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)] said the war was lost? Where was the outrage when they [then-Senator John Kerry (D-MA)] said only high school dropouts join the Army?” [58557]

Federal Reserve Board chairwoman Janet Yellen tells Congress increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour will cause job losses, although she declines to estimate the number that may be lost. She also states that the economy is “looking at a significant reduction on the amount of drag we’re expecting to see from fiscal policy”—meaning that the government is spending and borrowing far too much. Yellen states that if current federal policies continue, deficits “will rise to unsustainable levels.” (Why she does not believe they are not already at unsustainable levels is not clear.) Yellen also says, “In light of the considerable degree of slack that remains in labor markets and the continuation of inflation below the two percent objective, a high degree of monetary accommodation remains warranted.” (English translation: “Because unemployment is still high and we are all pretending that inflation is below two percent even though it is most certainly not, the Federal Reserve will continue to create money out of thin air and pump it into the stock market in the hope that it will somehow create jobs and save the jobs of elected officials of both parties.”) Yellen does not admit that the “official” inflation rate is kept artificially low. That is done in order to avoid paying out higher benefits to Social Security recipients. The “pretend” inflation rate also allowed the government to claim first quarter GDP growth was 0.1 percent, when it was almost assuredly negative. The numbers will probably continue to be manipulated in order to avoid an “official” recession—which is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative GDP growth. The nation may be in a recession, but Obama does not want anyone to realize the truth. Former director of the Office of Management and Budget David Stockman asks, “So how can another month of ZIRP [zero interest rate policy] accomplish what the first 67 months evidently haven’t?” [58525, 58526, 58540]

The White House condemns a long racist statement by North Korea's Central News Agency that called Obama a "clown," "dirty fellow," and somebody who "does not even have the basic appearances of a human being. ...It would be perfect for Obama to live with a group of monkeys in the world's largest African natural zoo and lick the breadcrumbs thrown by spectators. ...He is a crossbreed with unclear blood. ...[Obama] still has the figure of a monkey while the human race has evolved through millions of years." [58535]

Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) issues a statement: "DOJ [Department of Justice] officials reported that one DOJ component—the U.S. Parole Commission—implemented a reduction in force of one employee to achieve partial savings required by sequestration in fiscal year 2013. Despite relentless warnings about the dire consequences of sequestration's budget cuts, it appears sequestration resulted in only one layoff. While that's good news for federal employees and other workers, it is devastating to the credibility of Washington politicians and administration officials who spent months—and millions of dollars—engaging in a coordinated multi-agency cabinet-level public relations campaign to scare the American people. Taxpayers expect us to root our predictions in fact, not ideology and spin. The facts seem to say the experts underestimated sequestration's impact by between 99,999 and 1,599,999 jobs, according to two frequently-cited estimates by Goldman Sachs and the Congressional Budget Office." At Townhall.com Daniel Doherty writes, "The breathless politicians and administration officials who tirelessly warned that teachers, firefighters, policemen and federal workers would receive pink slips as a consequence of sequestration turned out to be wrong. Said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell [R-KY] the day before sequestration took effect: 'Imagine if the sequester occurred, and it had very little impact on most Americans?' Well, my friends, the sequester *did* occur and it had almost zero impact on federal and state workers. Remember this the next time the White House makes bogus and outrageous claims without any evidence." [58543, 58544, 58553, 58564]

TheHill.com reports, "Schools cannot require students or their parents to provide Social Security numbers, birth certificates or other documentation showing citizenship status as a condition of enrollment under formal Obama administration guidance issued Thursday. The directive to all public school districts, meant to ensure equal access to education for the nation's illegal immigrants, comes amid reports that some children have wrongfully been denied enrollment. Attorney General Eric Holder said such policies 'have a chilling effect on student enrollment, raising barriers for undocumented children and children from immigrant families who seek to receive the public education to which they are entitled.' 'Public school districts have an obligation to enroll students regardless of immigration status and without discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin,' Holder said. 'We will vigilantly enforce the law to ensure the schoolhouse door remains open to all.'" [58545, 58546, 58574]

According to the Media Research Center, "Not even a full vote by the House of Representatives to hold Lois Lerner in contempt can shake the broadcast networks out of

their slumber in covering the IRS scandal. On Wednesday the House voted 231-178... to hold Lerner in contempt for refusing to testify about the IRS's targeting of conservative groups. Total coverage by ABC, CBS and NBC? Just a 15 second brief on Thursday's edition of ABC's *Good Morning America*. However the Big Three networks did find the 110x more time this week to tout the 'dire' and 'alarming' findings from the White House climate change report. In total ABC, CBS and NBC (from Tuesday morning through Wednesday morning) spent a whopping 27 minutes and 37 seconds on the Obama administration's climate change scare-mongering." Additionally, "Soon after the House voted to create a special select committee to investigate the Benghazi attacks, ABC ignored the story on Thursday evening. NBC spent just 27 seconds on the development, and CBS focused its report on Democratic disgust with the 'partisan' move. ABC's *World News* instead spent over two minutes reporting on former teen star Jason Patric's custody battle and another two minutes on how online stores vary their prices for different customers." [58561, 58562]

At NationalReview.com terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy says of Hillary Clinton's refusal to designate Boko Haram a terrorist organization, "The excuses now being offered in explanation of Clinton's dereliction are specious. ...Clinton's State Department claimed that Boko Haram was merely a local group with parochial grievances that was not a threat to the United States. Have a look, though, at the State Department's list... Several of the listed groups are waging local terrorist campaigns that do not threaten our country—the Basque ETA, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the Real Irish Republican Army, etc. A significant reason for having the list is to promote international cooperation against terrorism and discourage its use against anyone anywhere. The fact that a terrorist organization may have only local grievances and may not directly imperil the U.S. has never been thought a reason to exclude it from the list. Fox News has further reported another rationale of Clinton apologists: Hillary did not want to raise Boko Haram's profile and assist its recruiting which, they reason, would be the effect of designation by the Great Satan. That is ridiculous. The main point of having the list, and the sanctions that accompany a terrorist designation, is to weaken the organization by depriving it of assets and material support. The logic of what Clinton supporters are claiming is that U.S. counterterrorism law—*much of which was put in place by the administration of President Bill Clinton*—does more harm than good. Does anyone think they really believe that?" (If designating a group a terrorist organization is unwise because it helps it recruit new members, then no group should be the list.) [58591]

McCarthy continues, "What happened here is obvious, although the commentariat is loath to connect the dots. Boko Haram is an Islamic-supremacist organization. Mrs. Clinton, like the Obama administration more broadly, believes that appeasing Islamists—avoiding actions that might give them offense, slamming Americans who provoke them—promotes peace and stability. ...Furthermore, if you are claiming to have 'decimated' al-Qaeda, as the Obama administration was claiming to have done in the run-up to the 2012 election, the last thing you want to do is add jihadists to the terror... It is very simple. Most of us on the national-security right recognize that Islamic supremacism is an ideology rooted in Muslim scripture—a strict, literal, ancient interpretation of

Muslim scripture. Essentially, it advocates the adoption of sharia, Islam’s legal code and societal framework. It is not the only way of construing Muslim scripture... but Islamic supremacism is far more mainstream than the West likes to admit, particularly in the Middle East and growing swaths of Africa. It is an ideology that endorses violent jihad, the treatment of women as chattel, sex slavery, child marriages, and the other horrible stuff that outfits like Boko Haram are into. ...The Left, by contrast, seems to believe that ‘Islamists’—adherents of Islamic supremacism (though the Left would not refer to ‘Islamic supremacism’)—are motivated not by an ideology derived from scriptural commands but by American policies that promote national defense, pursue other U.S. interests, and regard Israel as a key ally. Indeed, progressives like Mrs. Clinton are anti-anti-terrorists in the sense that they portray the national-security right as a greater threat than Islamic supremacism. Mrs. Clinton and her cohort do not deny that there are terrorists motivated by Islam. But they see *terrorists* and *Islamists* as separate categories, not united by a single ideology.” [58591]

“Mrs. Clinton and ...Obama have convinced themselves that they know more about Islam than Muslim terrorists do, and that the peaceful, pliable, progressive Islam they have concocted somehow renders the jihadists’ Islam false. This means, abracadabra, that Muslim terrorist groups can be miniaturized: They’re not really Islamic, not really united by an ideology that seeks global conquest, and therefore should be seen as isolated, standalone, ragtag cabals whose grievances are strictly local. The Left has even done this with al-Qaeda: The organization heretofore regarded as global is now atomized into something they call ‘core al-Qaeda’—which Obama purports to have ‘decimated’ by killing Osama bin Laden—and a bunch of regional franchises (al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, etc.). We are supposed to see these franchises not as tentacles of an international terror network but as local gangs trying to make themselves look bigger and more threatening than they really are by adopting the ‘al-Qaeda’ brand name. ...[T]he Left not only marginalizes terrorists but divorces them from Islamists. Mrs. Clinton and [Obama] accept Islamists as authentic Muslims but see them as evolving beyond Islamic scripture and toward the progressive Islam of the Left’s imagination. The mental gymnastics at work here require (a) studiously ignoring what Islamists actually believe and the fact that it squares with what Islamic terrorists believe; and (b) belittling, suppressing, and framing as an ‘Islamophobe’ anyone who has the audacity to point out what Islamists actually believe.” [58591]

“Having imposed the premise that the Islamists’ version of Islam should not trouble us in the slightest, Mrs. Clinton and the Left posit that what really animates Islamists against the West are aspects of American policy—which, conveniently, just happen to be the same aspects of American policy opposed by the Left. If only we’d change these policies—less emphasis on American security and interests, more distance from Israel—we’d alter the perception that America is “at war with Islam.” This will make Muslims like us better, promoting peace and stability. So that’s the plan: pretend terrorists and Islamists are unconnected, miniaturize terrorists, and appease Islamists with the Left’s policy preferences. It’s the plan that convinces you not to put Boko Haram on the terrorist list—that way, you can pretend that the jihadists are not really that important while telling the Islamists, ‘See? We’re going to treat them like a local criminal gang—the fact

that they're Muslims citing scripture in support of their murder, mayhem, kidnapping and misogyny is irrelevant. No 'war on Islam' on our watch." [58591]

On *The Kelly File*, attorney Cleta Mitchell tells host Megyn Kelly that some tea party groups unknowingly complied with illegal IRS requests for donor lists, and the agency then used them to pick taxpayers to audit. Kelly notes, "And now if you happen to be on one of those lists, your odds of getting audited go up from 1 percent to 10 percent." [58608]

On May 9 House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) announces the names of the Republicans who will be on the select committee on Benghazi: Susan Brooks (IN), Trey Gowdy (SC), Jim Jordan (OH), Mike Pompeo (KS), Martha Roby (AL), Peter Roskam (IL) and Lynn Westmoreland (GA). Boehner states, "This investigation is about getting answers for the families of the victims and for the American people. These members have each demonstrated a commitment to this goal, and I have confidence that they will lead a serious, fact-based inquiry. As I have expressed to each of them, I expect this committee to carry out an investigation worthy of the American lives lost in Benghazi. I also urge my Democratic colleagues to treat this tragedy with the proper respect and appoint members so that we can finally, on a bipartisan basis, get answers, provide accountability, and help deliver justice. It is critical that this committee do its work in a focused, timely manner, so that the House can continue to make the economy and job creation its priorities." [58547, 58605, 58609]

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) urges her fellow Democrats to appoint only one person to the Benghazi committee. She states, "Such a participant could maintain Democratic access to committee proceedings and material, question witnesses, monitor the House Majority's activities and provide a powerful voice to raise issues and make appropriate public comments." (In other words, "If we protest the committee by appointing no Democrats, we will not have a spy.") [58549]

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) tells reporters, "[E]ither people have gotten tired about [sic; of] Benghazi or they never knew about it in the first place." [58547, 58572]

In a letter to House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), Pelosi states the Democrats will appoint no one to the Benghazi committee. [58550]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports, "IRS officials have agreed to turn over all emails belonging to former head of tax exempt groups Lois Lerner as the Congressional probe into improper targeting of conservative groups by the agency gets deeper." DailyCaller.com adds, "New IRS commissioner John Koskninen previously said that it could take years to provide all of Lerner's emails to congressional investigators. But *Ways and Means*' referral of criminal charges against Lerner to the Department of Justice, coupled with the House of Representatives' holding Lerner in contempt of

Congress Wednesday, has changed the tenor of the investigation into the IRS conservative targeting scandal.” (*The Obama Timeline* suspects the IRS is lying and will hold back Lerner’s more incriminating emails, simply pretending that they do not exist.) [58548, 58551]

Mark Steyn, noting Michelle Obama’s limp “#BringBackOurGirls” Twitter post, responds with a column titled, “#BringBackOurBalls.” He writes, “It is hard not to have total contempt for a political culture that thinks the [Michelle Obama] picture... is a useful contribution to rescuing 276 schoolgirls kidnapped by jihadist savages in Nigeria. Yet some pajama boy at the White House evidently felt getting the First Lady to pose with this week’s Hashtag of Western Impotence would reflect well upon the Administration. The horrible thing is they may be right: Michelle showed she cared—on social media!—and that’s all that matters, isn’t it? Just as the last floppo hashtag, #WeStandWithUkraine, didn’t actually involve standing with Ukraine, so #BringBackOurGirls doesn’t require bringing back our girls. There are only a half-dozen special forces around the planet capable of doing that without getting most or all of the hostages killed... So, unless something of that nature is being lined up, those schoolgirls are headed into slavery, and the wretched pleading passivity of Mrs Obama’s hashtag is just a form of moral preening. ...As [blogger Daniel] Payne notes, these days progressive ‘action’ just requires ‘calling on government’ to act. But it’s sobering to reflect that the urge to call on someone else to do something is now so reflexive and ingrained that even ‘the government’—or in this case the wife of ‘the government’—is now calling on someone else to do something.” [58579]

At NationalReview.com Nina Shea suggests “The Obama State Department’s understanding of Boko Haram was even more delusional than [was] thought.” “In 2012,” writes Shea, “the State Department was declaring that Boko Haram was motivated not by Islamic extremism, but by anger at ‘poor government service delivery’ and ‘poverty’ generally. Its policy was to actively oppose Nigerian military involvement and support greater American aid and investment to the country, particularly to the areas giving rise to Boko Haram militants. ...The State Department attributed the phenomenon of Boko Haram to the poverty and low levels of literacy in the north, rather than the other way around. ...The U.S. State Department’s delay in giving ‘terrorist’ designation to Boko Haram had real policy consequences. It helped the Obama campaign narrative that al-Qaeda was on the run. But it didn’t help Nigeria, whose girls and boys, men and women, Christians and Muslims are now paying with their lives and living in dread of a larger, more powerful Boko Haram.” [58671]

After the Ukrainian government shoots and kills 20 or more demonstrators, a U.S. State Department spokesman says, “We condemn the outbreak of violence caused by pro-Russia separatists.” (Some might argue that the soldiers wielding the weapons caused the violence.) [58632]

On May 10 NYTimes.com reports, “Details emerged of a shooting last month [April 24] in which the Obama administration said two Americans killed two armed Yemeni

civilians who were trying to kidnap them. ...While much about the encounter remains unclear, a Yemeni official said the two civilians were part of a Qaeda-linked cell that had planned and executed several attacks on foreigners in the country. Whether by design or chance, the official said, the Americans had disrupted a kidnapping ring that government officials blame for killing a Frenchman last week, kidnapping a Dutch couple last year, trying to assassinate a German diplomat last month, and attacking the central prison in Sana in February, freeing 19 inmates.” [58569, 58570]

Obama’s sanctions notwithstanding, reports Bloomberg.com, Russia “shipped 2 percent more gas to Europe in the first three months of 2014 than it did in the same period last year, government data show. Diesel output for export increased, while cargoes of grains, palladium and nickel either climbed or were about the same. Russia’s crude oil exports fell 0.2 percent from last year. ... ‘Investors are paying more for those commodities where there’s perceived to be a greater risk of supply disruption,’ said Caroline Bain, an analyst at Capital Economics in London. ‘The data prove it hasn’t happened yet, and if tensions subside, those risk premiums could diminish.’ Last year, Russia produced 42 percent of the world’s palladium, used in pollution-control devices [catalytic converters] in cars, and was the second-largest source of refined nickel, a component in stainless steel. At the same time, China was the world’s biggest metal importer.” According to ZeroHedge.com, Russia’s Rosneft may also soon “join forces with Indian state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp to supply oil to India over the long term... Russia is the world’s top oil producer, pumping over 10 million barrels per day...” [58577, 58583]

According to *The Telegraph*, “The wife and two children of a retired police officer have been abducted by Boko Haram, and 3,000 people have fled the town of Liman Kara, after yet another attack. Three thousand people have fled their homes in northern Nigeria, and the wife and two children of a retired policeman have been abducted, as Islamist militants launch another attack on the embattled region. As the hunt for the missing 276 schoolgirls taken on April 14 continued, suspected Boko Haram militants continued their campaign of terror unabated.” [58578]

Obama’s weekly radio/Internet address is delivered by his wife Michelle, who notes the kidnapping of school girls in Nigeria and says, “In these girls, Barack and I see our own daughters. We see their hopes, their dreams—and we can only imagine the anguish their parents are feeling right now. Like millions of people across the globe, my husband and I are outraged and heartbroken. This unconscionable act was committed by a terrorist group determined to keep these girls from getting an education—grown men attempting to snuff out the aspirations of young girls. ...I hope that any young people in America who take school for granted—any young people who are slacking off or thinking of dropping out—I hope they will learn the story of these girls and recommit themselves to their education. ...We know that girls who are educated make higher wages, lead healthier lives, and have healthier families. And when more girls attend secondary school, that boosts their country’s entire economy. So education is truly a girl’s best chance for a bright future, not just for herself, but for her family and her nation.” (Pamela Geller observes that Obama is “hiding behind his wife’s skirt. It demeans the issue for

Obama to throw Michelle out there—this isn't about school obesity.”) Mrs. Obama's comments are farcical. She blames “grown men” rather than the *real* cause of female suppression and suffering in the Muslim world: Islam. She then proposes her “solution”: stay in school and don't slack off, rather than annihilating the Islamist terrorists around the world—as if staying in school in the United States will somehow keep Nigerian thugs from engaging in horrific acts of violence.) [58578, 58617, 58838]

It is worth noting that Michelle Obama and Hollywood leftists expressed no outrage in February, when Boko Haram killed more than 90 people in the mostly Christian village of Izge, Nigeria. They were also silent when Boko Haram murdered 59 school boys that same month. Some were shot and others were burned alive in their dormitory in the town of Buni Yadi. In April, members of the terrorist group killed 71 and wounded 124 at a bus station in Abuja, Nigeria. It was only after more than 200 school girls were kidnapped that the Obama administration and Hollywood appeared to pay any attention. (Murdering Christians and boys apparently warrants no outrage.) [55155, 55156, 55462, 55544, 55545, 55655, 55656, 57552, 57553, 57607, 57608]

At JihadWatch.org, Robert Spencer writes, “While world leaders and mainstream media commentators continue to insist that Boko Haram, the Congregation of the People of the Sunnah for Dawah and Jihad, have nothing to do with Islam, the only people not to have gotten the memo are the members of Boko Haram itself.” [58599]

According to *The Washington Post*, “Top Secret Service officials ordered members of a special unit responsible for patrolling the White House perimeter to abandon their posts over at least two months in 2011 in order to protect a personal friend of the agency's director... The new assignment, known internally as Operation Moonlight, diverted agents to a rural area outside the southern Maryland town of La Plata, nearly an hour's drive from Washington. Agents were told that then-Director Mark Sullivan was concerned that his assistant was being harassed by her neighbor, the three people said. Two agents were sent twice a day, in the morning and the evening, to monitor the home of the assistant, Lisa Chohey. The trips began June 30, 2011, and extended through the summer before tapering off in August, according to people familiar with internal shift records. The agents were members of a surveillance team code-named Prowler, which patrols the outskirts of the White House compound and responds to reported problems. The unit is also tasked with monitoring the southern side of the White House whenever crowds gather to watch [Obama] and first family travel via motorcade or helicopter. Agents inside the Washington field office were concerned that Operation Moonlight increased security risks to the compound and [Obama], two people familiar with the discussion said. ...The agents thought the reassignment was a potentially illegal use of government resources. They were concerned enough about their own liability that they kept records of their involvement and their superiors' instructions.” (HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes, “The basic issue here is that *this was none of the Secret Service's business*. This was a matter for the local police and court to adjudicate; the employment of the assistant did not give Sullivan any writ or authority over the situation.”) [58593, 58615]

On May 11 Newsmax.com reports, “Fast-food restaurants operating on military bases are in a bind: Due to an executive order signed by ...Obama, they are being forced to raise worker's compensation, but they can't raise prices to compensate. As a result, hundreds of fast-food outlets could close, eliminating thousands of jobs, the Washington Examiner reported. Obama on Feb. 12 signed the executive order raising the minimum wage for employees of federal contractors from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour. ...The order doesn't take effect until January 2015. But it is already having an impact. Military Times reported in late March that three McDonald's restaurants and another food outlet will soon close on Navy bases, while other national-name chains have 'asked to be released from their Army and Air Force Exchange Service contracts to operate fast-food restaurants at two other installations.' In addition to the increased minimum wage, fast-food employers must also pay a 'health and welfare' payment that the administration has now raised from \$2.56 to \$3.81 an hour. Fast-food operators in the past did not have to make the health and welfare payment, but the Obama Labor Department ruled last fall that they must. So between the increase of \$2.85 an hour in the minimum wage and the health and welfare payment, employers must pay \$6.66 more per hour to each employee. But 'military contracting laws do not allow businesses to raise their prices above the level prevailing in the local community,' the Examiner's Byron York noted. 'The fast-food operators can't charge more to make up their losses.'” [58554, 59117]

Obama's minimum wage increase also applies to private companies that provide services to nursing home facilities for veterans, and may force some of them to cease operations. Americac2c.com reports, “Sandy Franks, public affairs officer at Shreveport's [Louisiana] Overton Brooks V. A. Medical Center, explains that nursing homes that have contracts for subsidized care from the Veterans Administration become federal contractors. If they refuse to raise their wages [in accordance with Obama's executive order], their contracts will not be renewed. ...Shreveport Manor is owned by Gamble Guest Care. Their Chief Operating Officer [COO] says if they raise wages for workers there, they have to do that at all eight of their facilities. In a statement, Gamble COO Matt Machen said, in part, ‘The additional labor expenses are simply unaffordable. As such, many long term care providers have indicated that they will no longer seek or renew V.A. contracts.’ Franks at the V.A. agrees that this has the potential to be a national problem as more V.A. contracts with nursing homes expire.” An increase from \$7.25 to \$10.10 per hour represents almost \$6,000 per year for a full-time employee. The nursing homes cannot pay the increases out of increased revenues because they cannot even consider increasing their fees until their federal contract expires—and there is no guarantee the next contracts will cover the increased costs. The Obama administration is essentially telling the facilities, “You must pay more money, but we will not give you more money.” (It is tantamount to telling fast-food restaurants they must pay their workers more but are prohibited from raising prices to offset the increased costs.) The directive to increase wages means that some nursing homes will simply close their doors, and the aging veterans will be left to fend for themselves any way they can. [58585, 58781]

In the *New York Post* Michael Goodwin writes, “Not since Jimmy Carter was held hostage by Iran has the Oval Office seemed so inconsequential against the forces of

international darkness. The mismatch is particularly striking because smallness has been Obama's choice. ...[Obama's] estrangement from the demands of global leadership is giving a green light to tyrants and malevolent opportunists everywhere. His preference for navel gazing over action was on full display last week. As Russia and China menaced their neighbors and Islamist terrorists set off bombs in a half-dozen countries, Obama accepted an award from Hollywood pal Steven Spielberg for fighting genocide. Passing up a chance to give a full-throated defense of freedom and Western civilization, [Obama] lapsed into what The New York Times called a 'meditation' on the limits of his power. That's far too kind. It was a white flag of surrender and more proof that Obama lacks the capacity to shoulder the responsibilities that have belonged to the Oval Office for 100 years. The speech sounded like that of a man who is shocked to find that evil still roams the Earth, and doesn't have a clue what to do about it. ... 'We cannot eliminate evil from every heart, or hatred from every mind,' he said. 'But what we can do, and what we must do, is make sure our children and their children learn their history so that they might not repeat it. We can teach our children the hazards of tribalism. We can teach our children to speak out against the casual slur. We can teach them there is no 'them,' there's only 'us.' There you have it. We can teach our children warm and fuzzy things—assuming they and we are not killed by madmen first. In which case, there's nothing we can do. The speech reflects how little Obama has grown in office. He initially viewed American power as a problem that needed to be checked if the world was to find lasting peace and harmony. By and large, he followed that bad prescription by deliberately shrinking America's global footprint, and the result is the astonishing chaos we see around us. The vacuum is being filled not with democratic movements but by al Qaeda, China, Russia and other authoritarian regimes eager to take advantage of our retreat." [58845]

Obama "congratulates Michael Sam, the Rams & the NFL for taking an important step forward today in our Nation's [sic; nation's] journey. From the playing field to the corporate boardroom, LGBT Americans prove everyday [sic; every day] that you should be judged by what you do and not who you are." (Sam, an openly gay football player, is selected by the St. Louis Rams in the seventh round of the annual NFL draft. Why a fuss must be made about Sam's choice of sexual partners is unclear. Why it is relevant to his playing ability is also unclear—his being chosen in the final rounds says enough about his abilities. Obama does not explain the nature of the "journey" the nation is on.) Obama breaks with tradition and does not tweet a photo of himself to "commemorate" the occasion. (To argue that people should be judged by what they do and not who they are incorrectly suggests that "who they are" has no relation to "what they do." If a man wears a dress to work and wants to use the women's bathroom, he should most certainly expect to be judged by "what he does.") [58646, 58647]

On *Fox News Sunday* Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA) suggests that House Democrats may participate in the select committee on Benghazi is "fair and balanced"—yet House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has demanded that Democrats sign off on all subpoenas issued by the committee. (An investigation can hardly be fair and balanced if the Democrats block the Republicans from subpoenaing relevant documents or calling for testimony from key participants, such as then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, then-ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice, or any of the survivors of the

attack.) On a Fox News panel later in the evening, the Benghazi scandal is discussed by Democrat strategists Pat Caddell and Doug Schoen, and former Republican Congressman John Leboutillier. According to Leboutillier, the survivors of the Benghazi attack have not only been ordered by the Obama administration not to talk about what happened, but have been subjected to monthly lie detector tests to affirm that they have not been doing so. There have also been accusations that some survivors have been given aliases in order to hide them. Those who believe the issue has been investigated thoroughly need to explain why the administration is afraid to have survivors testify. One of those who survived the attack is reportedly a State Department employee, diplomatic security agent David Ubben, who was severely injured and has been forbidden by the Obama Administration from speaking publicly. The select committee should subpoena Ubben and have him testify. The nation can then perhaps learn why the Obama administration is *afraid* to have him speak.) [58603, 58609, 58610, 58638, 58649, 58650]

On *The McLaughlin Group*, leftist Daily Beast columnist Eleanor Clift says, “I would like to point out that Ambassador [Christopher] Stevens was not ‘murdered’ [in Benghazi], but died of smoke inhalation in a safe room in that CIA installation... It was an opportunistic terrorist attack that... grew out of that video... If you’re gonna put people on trial we should put [former CIA director] David Petraeus on trial, not Hillary Clinton.” (Clift appears to have swallowed the initial talking points hook, line, and sinker and neglected to acquaint herself with any reports after September 12, 2012. Clift does not elaborate on the manner in which the three other Americans died in Benghazi. One Twitter user writes, “I guess Mary Jo Kopechne wasn’t left to drown, she just inhaled too much water.”) [58589, 58590, 58600, 58602, 58604, 58607, 58614]

Reuters reports, “Israel offered Nigeria help... in locating 200 schoolgirls abducted last month by Islamist rebel group Boko Haram in an attack that has drawn global condemnation and prompted some Western powers to provide assistance. ‘Israel expresses deep shock at the crime against the girls,’ Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office quoted him as telling Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan by phone. ‘We are ready to help in finding the girls and fighting the cruel terrorism inflicted on you.’ The statement did not elaborate on how Israel might enlist in the search, with which British and U.S. experts are also helping. A spokesman for Israel’s Foreign Ministry said he knew of no cooperation efforts under way. Israel has defense ties with Nigeria, and has provided it in the past with surveillance drones. Last September, Israel was among several countries that sent advisers to Kenya to assist in a stand-off with Islamist gunmen who attacked a mall in Nairobi.” (Whether Netanyahu’s wife will post a fear-inducing hashtag on Twitter remains to be seen.) [58596]

Apparently not cowed by Hillary Clinton’s and Michelle Obama’s Twitter messages, Boko Haram blows up a bridge, kills more villagers, and abducts the wife and children of a retired police officer. NYPost.com reports, “News of the ongoing carnage came as a team of French intelligence experts landed in the country, joining American and British teams with hopes of rescuing 276 school girls kidnapped more than three weeks ago by the terrorist group. Details were murky on the latest child captives, taken Friday as Boko

Haram converged on the town of Liman Kara on the Cameroon border, driving 3,000 people from their homes. Officials and residents said they fled the carnage without having time to count their dead.” [58643]

In Ukraine, voters in two eastern regions (Donetsk and Luhansk) vote in support of self-rule and some degree of breaking away from the Ukrainian government. The European Union and the Obama administration state they will not recognize the results of the referenda. [58611]

According to a May 2–4 CNN/ORC International poll, only 12 percent of Americans want ObamaCare left “as is.” Forty-nine percent want to “make some changes,” 18 percent call for “repeal and replace,” and 20 percent want full repeal. [58633, 58634]

The Wall Street Journal reports that health insurers in Virginia plan to increase premiums in 2015 by as much as 16.6 percent. “[T]he Anthem HealthKeepers Inc. plan offered by a unit of WellPoint said it would raise premiums by an average of 8.5% across its individual plans in Virginia, which cover about 110,000 people and are sold on the online insurance exchange set up by the health law, as well as directly to consumers... The Virginia filings show other health plans proposing rate increases ranging from 3.3% for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc., with around 10,000 members in the state, to 14.9% for CareFirst BlueChoice Inc., which said it had about 32,000 members... For HealthKeepers policyholders, the impact of the 8.5% increase varies across the different individuals’ plans being sold in Virginia. Some consumers could see an increase of 16.6%, while others will see their rates go up only 0.5%, the company’s filing says.” [58634, 58635, 58653, 58789]

On May 12 Guy Benson writes at Townhall.com, “A... salient question about the administration’s oft-touted [ObamaCare] enrollment totals is how many of those ‘newly insured’ consumers actually lacked coverage prior to the advent of Obamacare? Due to the ongoing dysfunction of Healthcare.gov, we lack solid government numbers on this question, but several credible organizations have pursued answers via... independent analyses. McKinsey, Goldman Sachs and the RAND Corporation all determined that among ‘new’ Obamacare enrollees, more than two-thirds previously had health coverage. McKinsey released updated results over the weekend, and their new numbers barely budged. Just 26 percent of Obamacare exchange enrollees lacked prior coverage. ...Health wonk Avik Roy runs these new findings against the administration’s inflated enrollment totals and draws the following data-based conclusion: ‘Combining all of this data: of the 8 million sign-ups on the exchange, we can only be confident that around 1.7 million are previously uninsured and enrolled. We can add another 865,000 or so for those purchasing coverage off the exchange, for a total of 2.6 million previously uninsured individual-market enrollees.’ Fewer than three million genuinely new and previously-uninsured enrollees thanks to Washington’s multi-trillion-dollar scheme that literally requires people to obtain coverage. Congratulations on that glittering success, Democrats. The American people are profoundly impressed and grateful.” [58606]

At HuffingtonPost.com leftist activist Sandra “I demand free contraceptives” Fluke makes the astounding claim that “One in five women will survive a rape or attempted rape by the time she graduates college. That means of the approximately 966,000 women at the bachelor’s degree level who will graduate this year, 193,200 will be survivors of rape or attempted rape while in college.” At DailyCaller.com Robby Soave responds, “If this claim were true, it would mean that colleges have anomalously high rape rates. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the general rape rate is 1.8 per 1,000 women each year. Fluke’s 1-in-5 statistic equates to about 200 per 1,000 women every four years, or 50 women each year. If Fluke were correct, the campus sexual assault rate would have to be more than 25 times higher than the rate for the general population. The data underpinning the 1-in-5 statistic has repeatedly been called into question by those who study the issue, such as the American Enterprise Institute’s Christina Hoff Sommers. According to Sommers, the study that produced the 1-in-5 statistic polled a small group of women at two colleges, and inferred that they had been raped based on their answers to questions about drinking and sex.” [58693, 58694]

AFP reports, “The leader of Nigeria’s Boko Haram said in a video Monday that he would free more than 200 kidnapped schoolgirls in exchange for the release of militant prisoners. In a recording obtained by Agence France-Presse, Abubakar Shekau claimed the girls had been converted to Islam. Dozens of girls were shown wearing full veils and praying in the video, whose contents could not immediately be independently verified by NBC News. ‘These girls have become Muslims,’ Shekau said in the 17-minute recording, according to a translation from AFP. ‘We will never release them until after you release our brethren.’” (An al-Qaeda flag is visible in the video.) [58612, 58613, 58661]

At TheDailyBeast.com Dean Obeidallah writes, “Attention members of the media: Kindly stop referring to the Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram as ‘Islamic terrorists,’ ‘Islamists’ or anything else involving the word ‘Islam.’ The despicable acts taken by this militant group—from kidnapping schoolgirls to slaughtering people at churches and mosques—have absolutely nothing to do with Islam.” (Attention Obeidallah: Boko Haram kidnapped Christian schoolgirls and forced them to wear full-body burquas, convert to Islam, and recite the Qu’ran. To most thinking people, that means the acts of Boko Haram—which means “non-Islamic education is evil”—do indeed have “something to do with Islam.”) At Breitbart.com Pamela Geller writes, “The Daily Beast is doing an end run for Islamic jihad when these girls’ lives hang in the balance. That is a different kind of savagery. The Beast is more worried about Islam’s PR than it is in educating the public on the most grave threat to freedom, not just in Nigeria but across the world.” [58677, 58678]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Immigration officials knowingly released dozens of murderers back into the U.S. in 2013, according to Obama administration statistics detailing all of the criminal convictions of the more than 36,000 immigrants released from custody last year. The numbers show that the criminals released by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement had amassed more than 15,000 drunken-driving convictions, 1,317 domestic violence convictions and even four that the statistics listed as

‘treason, sabotage.’ There were also convictions for homicide, another 43 for negligent manslaughter, 14 convictions of voluntary manslaughter and one classified as ‘homicide-willful kill-public official-gun.’ The immigrants were in deportation proceedings, meaning ICE was trying to remove them from the country and could have held them in detention, but released them anyway, according to the Center for Immigration Studies, which obtained the numbers and published a report Monday morning. The Washington Times also obtained the statistics. Jessica Vaughan, policy studies director at the center, said the numbers undercut the Obama administration’s own argument that it’s trying to keep its enforcement efforts targeted at dangerous criminals.” [58616, 58668]

Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner reveals in his new book, *Stress Test*, that the White House asked him to lie on television talk shows in order to downplay the significance of Social Security deficits. According to the *Daily Mail*, Geithner states, “I remember during one Roosevelt Room prep session before I appeared on the Sunday shows, I objected when Dan Pfeiffer wanted me to say Social Security didn’t contribute to the deficit. It wasn’t a main driver of our future deficits, but it did contribute. Pfeiffer said the line was a ‘dog whistle’ to the left, a phrase I had never heard before. He had to explain that the phrase was code to the Democratic base, signaling that we intended to protect Social Security.” (In 2010 the Social Security Administration paid out \$49 billion more in benefits than it collected in taxes. The deficit was about \$45 billion in 2011, and \$55 billion in 2012. According to SSA.gov, “The Trustees project that this cash-flow deficit will average about \$75 billion between 2013 and 2018 before rising steeply as income growth slows to the sustainable trend rate after the economic recovery is complete and the number of beneficiaries continues to grow at a substantially faster rate than the number of covered workers.” In other words, the system is in major trouble and will be able to continue paying benefits only if the government continues to borrow or print money—either of which is a recipe for fiscal disaster.) [58619, 58620, 58621, 58641, 58645, 58682, 58772]

Obama’s job approval/disapproval ratings are a dismal 36/54 percent in New Hampshire. Support for ObamaCare is underwater as well, at 34/58. (Although Obama will not be on the ballot in November, his terrible ratings may help Republican Scott Brown defeat incumbent Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH).) [58622, 58659]

According to DailyCaller.com, “The CEO of Colorado’s Obamacare exchange was given a \$14,000 bonus and a 2.5 percent cost of living raise on Monday, even as the exchange struggles for ways to pay its bills in the coming years. Patty Fontneau is now the third-highest paid director of a state-run Obamacare exchange, earning more than \$195,300, according to Health News Colorado. She raised hackles after her request for the raise and bonus came to light in October, when the exchange was performing miserably and not hitting even its worst-case scenario goals for enrollment.” Only 127,000 residents of Colorado have enrolled in ObamaCare. “That’s about 10,000 below the number that exchange managers estimated would be needed for it to be self-sustaining once federal dollars run out.” State Representative Owen Hill tells the *Colorado Observer*, “They’re so tight on money that they’re talking about doing a \$13 million unconstitutional tax on

health-insurance plans. This [fee] is going to hit every Coloradan, whether you buy through the [ObamaCare] exchange or not. So they're taxing Coloradans \$13 million because they're in such dire financial straits, yet they're giving the CEO of their broken system another \$14,000 a year?" [58654, 58692]

In a May 4–6 McLaughlin and Associates poll in Florida, Obama's approval/disapproval percentages are 43/53. SunshineStateNews.com observes, "The poll finds Obama's poor standing can impact the Florida gubernatorial race because only 39 percent say they want a governor cut from Obama's mold while 50 percent would rather see a Republican governor push back against the White House." (Republican Governor Rick Scott leads Republican-turned-independent-turned-Democrat opponent Charlie Crist by four points in the poll.) [58648]

At the White House, Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx calls for more taxes to fund his agency, claiming, "This may be the most dire moment the American transportation system has faced in decades. Unless Congress acts, up to 700,000 Americans will lose their jobs over the next year." Road and bridge construction projects "may be delayed or shut down completely. ...And by the way, your morning commute will be longer because the roads you're driving on will crumble, and no one will show up to fix it [sic; them]. ...America is hungry and starving for more infrastructure investment, and we have a responsibility to articulate that as an agency because America is growing, whether we're investing or not." (Foxx wants \$3.6 trillion in new spending by the end of the decade.) [58662, 58696]

BirtherReport.com reports, "DC Reporter Randy Foreman today obtained a copy of Doug Vogt's sealed filing now at the US Supreme Court which includes the list of people Doug Vogt believes forged Obama's long-form birth certificate. The list includes Johanna Ah'Nee, Kevin Davidson (Dr. Conspiracy), Loretta Fuddy, and Alvin Onaka..." Johanna Ah'Nee was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on August 23, 1961. Ah'Nee's father was reportedly a long-time union worker in Hawaii and may possibly have known Obama's communist mentor, Frank Marshall Davis, who was a fervent supporter of the labor union strikes. Kevin Davidson is a "retired software developer" who calls himself "Dr. Conspiracy" and maintains a web site devoted to ridiculing Obama opponents and "birthers." Loretta Fuddy is the former Director of Hawaii's Department of Health, who was the only person killed in a mysterious plane crash in Hawaii in December 2013. Document expert Douglas Vogt has questioned Fuddy's sudden acquisition of a large amount of money between 2011 and 2012 after which she reduced her mortgage and debt by about \$78,000. Alvin Onaka is Hawaii's registrar of vital statistics, whose signature stamp appears on the forged Obama birth certificate. (Not surprisingly, a few days later the U.S. Supreme Court denies Vogt's petition for a grand jury to investigate the crime of Obama's birth certificate forgery.) [53444, 58623, 58624, 58625, 58626, 58627, 58628, 58629, 58630, 58642, 58673, 58745, 59044, 59089, 59090]

Although *The Obama Timeline* believes Obama's short-form and long-form birth certificates are forgeries, some of Vogt's accusations are unsubstantiated and wildly

speculative. Johanna Ah’Nee reportedly provided her birth certificate to Obama critics so they would know what an original document of the time period looked like. Mike Zullo, lead investigator on the Maricopa County, Arizona’s “cold case posse” that has been investigating the Obama forgeries, says he “absolutely does not agree with” many of Vogt’s conclusions, but insists the information and evidence his own team has gathered is “ironclad” and cannot be refuted. Miki Booth, who Vogt also recklessly names in his documents, also disagrees with Vogt’s conclusions. (Booth has worked against Obama and to prove that he is a fraud. It is ludicrous for Vogt to suggest that she was complicit in the forgery scheme.) [53444, 58623, 58624, 58625, 58626, 58627, 58628, 58629, 58630, 58642, 58673, 58745, 59044, 59089, 59090]

At RenewAmerica.com Joan Swirsky posts an open letter to Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) and his select committee on Benghazi. Swirsky calls on the committee to call as a witness David Ubben, a State Department diplomatic security agent who “was gravely injured while under attack” in Benghazi and who “like other survivors... has been forbidden by the Obama Administration from speaking publicly about his ordeal.” Swirsky writes, “A kidnapping plan was ostensibly formulated and financed by then-President of Egypt Mohamed Morsi who, for three months prior to the attack, had been loudly demanding the release of the ‘Blind Sheik’ Omar Abdel Rahman, now serving a life sentence in North Carolina for his role as the mastermind of the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993. In fact, Morsi assured hundreds of thousands of his supporters in Cairo that he would exact Rahman’s release, a promise he repeated just one week before the Benghazi assault. ...The objective of Morsi’s plan was to grab Ambassador Stevens, make sure that he was unharmed, and then exchange him for the blind sheik. The result, of course, would be that Morsi would get his sheik and Obama would hold an elaborate Rose Garden ceremony in which he’d be seen as ‘heroic’ for ‘saving’ our ambassador—just weeks before the 2012 election! ...Does this not also explain why, on the most provocative day of the year—September 11th—and in one of the most dangerous hotspots on earth, there was not only a complete lack of security in the Benghazi compound, but no rapid-response teams were sent immediately after the powers-that-be in the White House were notified of the attack?” [58638, 58639, 58640]

“...The American Thinker’s James Lewis says that most people are still missing the strategic meaning of Benghazi. ‘Under Obama we have secretly joined the terrorist side in the Jihad War. That is the strategic meaning of Benghazi... a forty-year policy led by the Left to favor Islamic fascism is not, repeat not, an accident.’ ...Further, Lewis makes this connection: ‘Huma [Abedin] was Hillary’s closest aide as Secretary of State, and therefore privy to numerous secrets. You can bet that Mohammed Morsi in Egypt knew all about the inner workings of Hillary’s State Department. Hillary was in charge during the Benghazi debacle. Just connect the dots.’ ...In addition, it is well known that Barack Obama, Valerie Jarrett, Sec. of State Hillary Clinton, and her chief-of-staff Huma Abedin enthusiastically supported Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood election and have worked vigorously against the Egyptian military that launched the successful coup d’état that deposed Morsi in July of 2013. In fact, Abedin not only edited a Muslim Sisterhood magazine, but has close ties through her family to the Muslim Brotherhood. ...During the attack in Benghazi, no military force came to the rescue of Ambassador Stevens and the

three other Americans who died. Was the military given orders to stand down? While there are plenty of denials about this, including from our military, Chad Miller at www.dcclothesline.com has written that it might be none other than Valerie Jarrett who issued such an order.” [58638, 58639, 58640]

At WSJ.com Eliot A. Cohen, former State Department counselor, calls the current temporary occupants of the White House “a selfie-taking, hashtagging teenage administration,” writing, “Often, members of the Obama administration speak and, worse, think and act, like a bunch of teenagers. When officials roll their eyes at Vladimir Putin’s seizure of Crimea with the line that this is ‘19th-century behavior,’ the tone is not that different from a disdainful remark about a hairstyle being ‘so 1980s.’ When administration members find themselves judged not on utopian aspirations or the purity of their motives—from offering ‘hope and change’ to stopping global warming—but on their actual accomplishments, they turn sulky. As teenagers will, they throw a few taunts ([Obama] last month said the GOP was offering economic policies that amount to a ‘stinkburger’ or a ‘meanwich’) and stomp off, refusing to exchange a civil word with those of opposing views. In a searing memoir published in January, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates describes with disdain the trash talk about the Bush administration that characterized meetings in the Obama White House. Like self-obsessed teenagers, the staffers and their superiors seemed to forget that there were other people in the room who might take offense, or merely see the world differently. Teenagers expect to be judged by intentions and promise instead of by accomplishment, and their style can be encouraged by irresponsible adults (see: the Nobel Prize committee) who give awards for perkiness and promise rather than achievement.” [58670, 58706]

“If the United States today looks weak, hesitant and in retreat, it is in part because its leaders and their staff do not carry themselves like adults. They may be charming, bright and attractive; they may have the best of intentions; but they do not look serious. They act as though Twitter and clenched teeth or a pout could stop invasions or rescue kidnapped children in Nigeria. They do not sound as if, when saying that some outrage is ‘unacceptable’ or that a dictator ‘must go,’ that they represent a government capable of doing something substantial—and, if necessary, violent—if its expectations are not met. And when reality, as it so often does, gets in the way—when, for example, the Syrian regime begins dousing its opponents with chlorine gas, as it has in recent weeks, despite solemn deals and red lines—the administration ignores it, hoping, as teenagers often do, that if they do not acknowledge a screw-up no one else will notice. The Obama administration is not alone. The teenage temperament infects our politics on both sides of the aisle, not to mention our great universities and leading corporations. The old, adult virtues—gravitas, sobriety, perseverance and constancy—are the virtues that enabled America to stabilize a shattered world in the 1940s, preserve a perilous order despite the Cold War and navigate the conclusion of that conflict. These and other stoic qualities are worth rediscovering, because their dearth among our leaders is leading them, and us and large parts of the globe, into real danger.” [58670, 58706]

On the *Tonight Show*, Jimmy Fallon jokes, “This Thursday is the deadline for Iran to meet a series of measures to delay its nuclear program. Yeah, and then Iran said, ‘You mean *deadline*, deadline? Or *sign up for Obamacare* deadline? Because that thing had extensions—it was like a long deadline. I mean, that thing had more extensions than ‘The Real Housewives of Atlanta.’” [58652]

On May 13 former Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) writes, “Why are people protesting in eastern Ukraine? Because they do not believe the government that came to power after the US-backed uprising in February is legitimate. They do not recognize the authority of an unelected president and prime minister. The U.S. sees this as a Russian-sponsored destabilization effort, but is it so hard to understand that the people in Ukraine may be annoyed with the U.S. and EU for their involvement in regime change in their country? Would we be so willing to accept an unelected government in Washington put in place with the backing of the Chinese and Iranians? The U.S. State Department provided much assistance earlier this year to those involved in the effort to overthrow the Ukrainian government. The U.S. warned the Ukrainian government at the time not to take any action against those in the streets, even as they engaged in violence and occupied government buildings. But now that those former protesters have come to power, the U.S. takes a different view of protest. Now they give full support to the bloody crackdown against protesters in the east. The State Department spokesperson said last week: ‘We continue to call for groups who have jeopardized public order by taking up arms and seizing public buildings in violation of Ukrainian law to disarm and leave the buildings they have seized.’ This is the opposite of what they said in February. Do they think the rest of the world does not see this hypocrisy? ... The real question is why the U.S. government is involved in Ukraine in the first place. We are broke. We cannot even afford to fix our own economy. Yet we want to run Ukraine? Does it really matter who Ukrainians elect to represent them? Is it really a national security matter worth risking a nuclear war with Russia whether Ukraine votes for more regional autonomy and a weaker central government? Isn’t that how the United States was originally conceived? Has the arrogance of the U.S. administration, thinking they should run the world, driven us to the brink of another major war in Europe? Let us hope they will stop this dangerous game and come to their senses. I say let’s have no war for Ukraine!” [58632]

Congressman Paul Gosar (R-AZ), co-sponsor of the “If Our Military Has to Fly Coach Then so Should Congress Act (H.R. 4632),” says, “This bill is a continuation of my efforts to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in the federal government. It’s a very simple bill. All it does is prohibit members of Congress from using taxpayer funds to purchase first class airfare. At a time of massive deficits and with a national debt in excess of \$17 trillion, members of Congress should not be using taxpayers’ hard-earned money to buy luxury airline seats. If members of our military can’t fly first class using taxpayer funds, neither should members of Congress.” [58636, 58667]

To commemorate “Small Business Week,” Obama tweets a photo of himself at a restaurant. The text reads, “We renew our commitment to helping these vital enterprises thrive.” (Obama has done three things that harm small businesses: increase capital gains

taxes, increase income taxes, and enact ObamaCare. What he may have done to help small businesses is not clear.) [58721, 58722]

Obama tells a law enforcement audience it is a waste of time for them to enforce immigration laws: “You’ve got to spend time dealing with somebody who is not causing any other trouble other than the fact that they were trying to make a living for their families [sic]. That’s just not a good use of our resources. It’s not smart. It doesn’t make sense. ...[Illegal immigrants] are folks who are woven into the fabrics of our communities. Their kids are going to school with our kids. Most of them are not making trouble; most of them are not causing crimes. And yet, we put them in this tenuous position, and it creates a situation in which your personnel, who have got to go after gang-bangers and need to be going after violent criminals and deal with the whole range of challenges, and who have to cooperate with [the federal government] around our counterterrorism activities.” (“Their kids” are, of course, not only “going to school with our kids;” many of them are joining gangs, dealing drugs, and committing acts of violence. Additionally, *we* Americans did not “put them in this tenuous position;” *they put themselves* into their positions by crossing the border illegally or illegally overstaying their visas.) [58651, 58676, 58697, 58711, 58739]

While Obama tells police officers not to bother enforcing U.S. immigration laws, at a separate event House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) says, “As a country, we cannot, let me say, we cannot prohibit a path to citizenship. ...I don’t think we as a country want to be a country that says, ‘You can do our work, but you can’t have the rights of a citizen in our country. It’s more about who we are as a nation.” (Pelosi’s remarks are absurd. Virtually no nation on earth allows foreigners to enter illegally and then grant them citizenship, and many countries do allow foreign workers who are never given citizenship rights.) Pelosi also says that illegal immigrants want to be “relieved of deportation.” (Bank robbers would like to be relieved of jail sentences as well, but that does not make changing the law a good idea.) [58720]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “Former CIA Director and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has a piece of advice for House Democrats, as does former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell. If they’re thinking about boycotting the select committee on Benghazi, they shouldn’t. Both Panetta and Morell expressed confidence at a press conference that a full investigation would show that the intelligence community didn’t politicize the Benghazi analysis, but agree with Republicans that a full and unified probe into what happened is legitimate for the House...” Panetta states, “Obviously there is a concern whether it’s going to be a political effort to target an issue for a campaign. [But] I hope Democrats participate, and it really is a legitimate effort.” Morell states, “A lot of people have looked at this, but the polls show that the American people still have questions. I want to make sure that all of those questions are cleared up. There are still some questions about the role of the agency. And there are still questions about my own personal role and I want to clear that up. It might be surprising for you to hear me say this, but I am a supporter of the creation of this committee because I want all the facts to come together in one place and be presented as one—by one entity as one thing, so the

American people can see all of this. I am hopeful that at least getting the facts on the table will be helpful.” (WashingtonExaminer.com notes that on August 15, 2013 U.S. security officers held an “emergency meeting” to discuss the increasing violence in Benghazi, and concluded that the facility could not defend itself “in the event of a coordinated attack, due to limited manpower, security measures, weapons capabilities, host nation support, and the overall size of the compound.” The next day, Ambassador Christopher Stevens sent a cable to Hillary Clinton to “raise a red flag” about the security concerns. The select committee should find out why the State Department chose to ignore the warnings—and who made that decision.) [58657, 58916]

CNSNews.com reports, “Days before the National September 11 Memorial Museum opens in New York, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is stepping up its campaign to urge organizers to edit a video presentation on al-Qaeda, to remove terms such as ‘Islamist extremism’ and ‘jihadism.’ ...CAIR said in a statement that the use in the video of terms like ‘Islamist extremism’ and ‘jihadism’—and the ‘generalizing’ way in which they are used—‘conflate Islam and terrorism and carry the risk of misinforming museum visitors, particularly those unfamiliar with Islam.’ ‘After repeated requests to correct misrepresentations, the film ignorantly implies a religion, rather than a group of criminals, was to blame for the September 11 attacks,’ said CAIR-NY board member Zead Ramadan. ‘Instead of unifying all Americans against evil-doers, this film continues to offensively cast suspicion on faith rather address the terrorist act.’” [58660, 58719]

Palestinian terrorists near Hevron, Israel firebomb a bus full of sixth-grade Jewish schoolgirls. There are no injuries—because the bus was bulletproofed and was accompanied by an armed guard. (Obama has no comment.) [58811]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry will introduce liberal megadonor George Soros at an open forum on Tuesday, the latest evidence of the billionaire using his political connections to benefit his investments and foreign policy goals, critics say. Kerry will introduce Soros at the 1:30 p.m. forum on May 13 at the George C. Marshall Center, the Germany-based security and defense studies institute jointly operated by the U.S. Department of Defense and German Defense Ministry, according to a State Department event notice. ...Soros, a New York City hedge fund manager who amassed great wealth through his company Soros Fund Management, has used his foundation network—known as the Open Society Foundations (OSF)—to dispense more than \$11 billion to groups abroad as well as numerous left-leaning U.S. groups in the last three decades. He is perhaps the Democratic Party’s most famous donor, contributing almost \$24 million to advocacy groups that supported Kerry’s failed presidential bid in 2004, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. He also donated \$1 million to the Priorities USA Action Super PAC that helped reelect ...Obama in 2012.” (Pamela Geller calls Soros “one of the most dangerous and politically powerful individuals on earth.” The American Enterprise Institute’s Michael Rubin says hosting Soros—who once wrote that “the main obstacle to a stable and just world order is the United States”—is the “diplomatic equivalent of prostitution.” State Department lackey Marie Harf says criticism of Soros are “wholly ridiculous and have no basis in fact

whatsoever.” Harf may not be aware that in 2002 Soros was convicted of insider trading by a French court and fined 2.2 million euros—or she and Kerry do not mind associating with and defending criminals.) [58663, 58674, 58675]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The IRS is still paying more than \$10 billion a year in bogus payments to the poor under the Earned Income Tax Credit, the agency’s auditor said in a new report released Tuesday that says about a quarter of all payments are improper. Despite a 2010 law requiring agencies to crack down on improper payments, the Internal Revenue Service is still deeply in arrears, the Treasury’s Inspector General for Tax Administration said. In 2013, the agency paid out between \$13.3 billion and \$15.6 billion in bad payments, accounting for up to 26 percent of all Earned Income Tax Credit payments.” [58664]

At FoxNews.com Dan Gainor reports that Obama’s billionaire supporter Warren Buffet—who made a fortune from the TARP bailouts in late 2008 and early 2009—has donated more than \$1.2 billion to abortion organizations from 2001 to 2012. That’s equal to the cost of roughly 2.7 million first-trimester abortions—more than twice the number of abortions that occur in an entire year in the United States.” Gainor notes, “If you give \$1,000 to a ballot initiative to defend traditional marriage, that’s controversial. If you give \$1.25 billion to promote abortion, journalists, who are wildly pro-abortion, don’t dare see any controversy.” (On April 3 Brendan Eich, the inventor of JavaScript and CEO and co-founder of Mozilla, was forced to resign after pressure from leftists over his \$1,000 donation to support California’s Proposition 8—a 2008 statewide referendum that called for limiting marriage to a man and a woman. The referendum passed but was struck down by the courts. Eich’s donation was public knowledge only because the IRS illegally leaked a copy of the National Organization for Marriage’s 2008 tax return to a gay-advocacy group—which then used it for retaliation against donors.) [57094, 57095, 57096, 57097, 57109, 57163, 57164, 57181, 57182, 57183, 57184, 57191, 57192, 57201, 57206, 57211, 57220, 57221, 57225, 57241, 57252, 57262, 58680, 58682]

Speaking at the State Department alongside Secretary of State John Kerry, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius declares, “We have 500 days to avoid climate chaos, and I know that ...Obama and John Kerry himself are committed on this subject and I’m sure that with them, with a lot of other friends, we shall be able to reach success in this very important matter.” (CNSNews.com notes that Fabius is “referring to the next big United Nations climate conference, scheduled to open in Paris, France in November 2015, or in 565 days’ time.” [58710]

At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield writes, “Leftist policy is the search for the root cause of evil. Everything from a street mugging to planes flying into the World Trade Center is reduced to a root cause of social injustice. Throw poverty, oppression and a bunch of... buzzwords into a pot and out come the suicide bombings, drug dealing and mass rapes. It doesn’t matter whether it’s Boko Haram, the Islamic terrorist group that kidnapped hundreds of Nigerian schoolgirls, or a drug dealer with a record as long as his tattooed arm. Obama and Hillary [Clinton] resisted doing anything about Boko Haram

because they believed that its root cause was the oppression of Muslims by the Nigerian government. ...Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton haven't championed #BringBackOurGirls because it's a hashtag in support of the kidnapped girls, but because it undermines the Nigerian government. They aren't trying to help the kidnapped girls. They're trying to bring down a government that hasn't gone along with their agenda for appeasing Boko Haram and Nigerian Muslims. The hashtag politics aren't aimed at the terrorists. They're aimed at helping the terrorists. There's a reason why the media and so many leftists have embraced the hashtag. #BringBackOurGirls isn't a rescue. It denounces the Nigerian government for not having already gotten the job done even as the State Department stands ready to denounce any human rights violations during a rescue attempt. Obama and Boko Haram want to bring down the Nigerian government and replace it with a leadership that is more amenable to appeasement. It's the same thing that is happening in Israel and Egypt." [58669]

"...Boko Haram's kidnapping of the schoolgirls is both convenient and inconvenient for Obama and the State Department. On the one hand it has brought negative attention to their stance on Boko Haram, but on the other hand it may end up toppling the Nigerian government and empowering Muslims. And they see a more flexible Nigerian government as the only means of coming to terms with Boko Haram. This isn't just their strategy for Nigeria. It's their universal approach to Islamic terrorism. It's why [Secretary of State John] Kerry blamed Israel for the collapse of the peace talks with the PLO. It's why Egypt is being pressured to free its Muslim Brotherhood detainees. And It's why the United States is never allowed to defeat Al Qaeda. Obama is trying to bring down governments that fight Islamic terrorism, whether in Egypt, Israel or Nigeria, and replace them with governments that appease terrorists. This shared goal creates an alliance, direct or indirect, open or covert, between Obama and the Muslim Brotherhood, Obama and the PLO and Obama and Boko Haram." [58669]

FoxNews.com reports, "The head of Russia's space program says Moscow will reject the United States' request to use the International Space Station [ISS] beyond 2020—the latest twist in a standoff between the two countries over the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who leads Russia's defense industry, made the announcement Tuesday. He also said Russia will block Washington from using Russian-made rocket engines to launch military satellites, according to Reuters. The moves come after the U.S. slapped sanctions on Russian President Vladimir Putin's allies—who include Rogozin—for Russia's intervention in Ukraine. The U.S. also denied export licenses for high-tech items that could aid Russia's military. 'These sanctions are out of place and inappropriate,' Rogozin said at a news conference Tuesday. ...The U.S. wants to keep the ISS in use until at least 2024, according to Reuters. But as of now, Russian Soyuz spacecraft are the only way American astronauts can get to the ISS. NASA is working to restore U.S. transport to the station by 2017." (Obama's sanctions against some prominent Russians prevents them from visiting Disney World. Russia responds by blocking access to the space station. Obama is playing checkers. Russia is playing chess.) [58672, 58681]

DailyCaller.com comments on the Obama administration's questionable "Operation Choke Point," in which the Department of Justice and the Treasury Department illegally strong-arm banks into refusing to serve selected businesses: "Regardless of where you are on the ideological spectrum, Operation Choke Point should greatly disturb you. You may not like payday lenders, pornography, or guns and ammunition, but it should worry anyone that the power of the federal government could operate in a manner that circumvents due process and is exercised with almost no accountability. Operation Choke Point works like this: the inter-agency group selects an industry target, let's say, an at-home business that sells cosmetics. Agents working on Operation Choke Point then contact the financial institutions where these entrepreneurs both have their bank accounts and process their payments, informing them that the federal government considers this industry 'risky' and potentially 'fraudulent.' The government then 'encourages' these financial institutions to cease doing business with individuals within that industry, which are mostly independent small business owners. If the financial institution does not cease doing business with them, then the full weight of federal regulatory power (DOJ, Treasury, FDIC, CFPB) will be brought to bear on the bank or payment processor. Not wanting to be buried under red tape, these financial institutions then close bank accounts and refuse to process credit card payments for the business even if no impropriety has ever been alleged by any agency or legal entity. The end result is that the flow of cash to and from these businesses is 'choked off' and the business dies. Whole industries can be destroyed using this method. This is the new American judicial system. No need for cumbersome new legislation or regulations. No need for a public debate on the merits, or an accounting of the impact of this operation through the normal regulatory processes. The federal government merely pushes a button and these businesses are destroyed." [58695, 58852, 59249, 59314]

CNSNews.com reports, "Federal tax revenues continue to run at a record pace in fiscal 2014, as the federal government's total receipts for the fiscal year closed April at \$1,735,030,000,000, according to the Monthly Treasury Statement. Despite this record revenue, the federal government still ran a deficit of \$306.411 billion in the first seven months of the fiscal year, which began on Oct. 1, 2013 and will end on Sept. 30, 2014." [58709]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "Vice President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, has accepted a position with Ukraine's largest private gas producer, but that in no way means the White House signed off on or endorses his hiring, [White House press secretary] Jay Carney said Tuesday. Burisma Holdings announced Tuesday that Hunter Biden, Biden's youngest son, would serve on the company's board of directors. The company in a news release on its website said Hunter Biden will be in charge of the Burisma's legal unit and will 'provide support' among international organizations. The Moscow Times first reported the news Tuesday." Carney tells reporters, "Hunter Biden and other members of the family are obviously private citizens and where they work is not an endorsement by [Obama] or [the] vice president." Another member of the Burisma Holdings board is Devon Archer, who *The Wall Street Journal* notes was the college roommate of Christopher Heinz—the step-son of Secretary of State John Kerry and heir to the Heinz ketchup fortune. (Kerry is married to Christopher's mother, Maria Teresa Theirston

Simoes Ferreira Heinz, the widow of former Senator John Heinz III.) [58712, 58735, 58736, 58737]

Conservative, Tea Party-backed Ben Sasse wins the Republican primary for the U.S. Senate in Nebraska. (Unless Democrats manage an upset in November, Sasse will succeed retiring Senator Mike Johanns.) [58689, 58702, 58705]

Politico reports that Democrat Secretary of State Natalie Tennant and Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) “easily won their primaries in the West Virginia Senate race on Tuesday and will face off in the November general election. Both are running to replace retiring Democratic Sen. Jay Rockefeller. Capito starts the race as the favorite, polls show, as Republicans seek to regain control of the Senate next year.” [58704]

On May 14 Michelle Malkin writes, “According to at least one Obamacare paper-pusher, employees at an application-processing center in Wentzville, Mo., are getting paid to sit around and do nothing. Investigative reporter Chris Nagus of the St. Louis television station KMOV News 4 spoke to the whistleblower. ‘They want to hire more people even though we still don’t have work to keep the people that we have busy,’ the worker revealed. ‘There are some weeks that a data entry person would not process an application.’ The worker—or rather, shirker—also spilled the beans on how his colleagues are ‘told to sit at their computers and hit the refresh button every 10 minutes.’ Another former worker at the processing facility added that the company ‘is a JOKE! There is nothing to do—NO WORK.’” The company, Serco, “won a \$1.2 billion contract with the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid last summer to ‘support’ the beleaguered Obamacare health care exchanges. ... Serco is just the latest in a parade of shady federal health care contractors—from fraud-riddled Seedco to feckless CGI Federal—who are ripping off American taxpayers. While the White House amuses itself with selfies and hashtags, the Obamacare clunker keeps burning up our billions to pay do-nothings and destroyers. It’s the slush fund from hell.” (Serco employees are paid to enroll in ObamaCare people who are unable to do it themselves. More employee were hired than were needed because so few people enrolled. Additionally, the employees no longer serve any purpose because the ObamaCare enrollment deadline has already passed. Employees are therefore being paid—by the taxpayers—to do nothing.) [58679, 58685, 58708]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports, “New documents obtained and released through a Judicial Watch lawsuit show the targeting of tea party and conservative groups came directly out of Washington D.C., not a rogue IRS office in Cincinnati. On July 6, 2012, former Director of the IRS Rulings and Agreements Division and current Manager of Exempt Organizations Guidance Holly Paz sent an email to IRS Attorney Steven Grodnitzky asking for an explanation of how tea party group applications were being handled. Grodnitzky responded by confirming the cases were being handled in Washington. ‘EOT [Exempt Organization Technical unit] is working the Tea party applications in coordination with Cincy. We are developing a few applications here in DC and providing copies of our development letters with the agent to use as examples in

the development of their cases. Chip Hull [another lawyer in IRS headquarters] is working these cases in EOT and working with the agent in Cincy, so any communication should include him as well. Because the Tea party applications are the subject of an SCR [Sensitive Case Report], we cannot resolve any of the cases without coordinating with Rob,' Grodnitzky wrote. When the IRS targeting scandal broke last year, officials in Washington immediately pinned the blame on the Cincinnati office. This documentation proves not only that direction was coming out of Washington, but that Washington instructed Cincinnati about how to handle tea party applications." (In other words, the Obama administration lied when it claimed the targeting of conservative groups was the fault of "rogue" employees in the Cincinnati IRS office, and Obama lied when he claimed there was not a "smidgen" of corruption in the IRS.) [58684, 58686, 58699, 58700, 58729, 58734, 58742]

Pavlich continues, "A new email from Lois Lerner also details how BOLO lists (be on the look out) were specifically created for tea party groups or groups with issues related to government spending, debt, taxes and 'how the country is being run.' ...Judicial Watch also found the IRS put red and orange alert symbols on tea party issues for heightened awareness. ...Further, documents show the IRS responded to 'intense' requests from Democrat Senator Carl Levin to come down on conservative tax exempt groups in an effort to get rid of them, specifically the groups working against his reelection campaign. Emails released by Judicial Watch last month show former head of taxpayer groups Lois Lerner was in contact with the Department of Justice about the potential criminal prosecution of conservative groups. In her emails about DOJ, Lerner noted that putting one person from a conservative organization in jail would create an example and 'shut the whole thing down.'" [58684, 58686, 58699, 58700, 58729, 58734, 58742]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The Obama administration still hasn't directed states on how to pay for \$37 billion in Obamacare taxes that will hit state Medicaid programs and potentially put them afoul of federal law, according to a letter from an industry trade group. The Medicaid Health Plans of America [MHPA] is asking the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to clarify whether state taxpayers must foot the bill for billions in Obamacare's new taxes on Medicaid plans. If not, Medicaid plans will be at risk for failing to meet federal requirements and could be pushed out existence. ...Obamacare's massive tax boost will push Medicaid plans into actuarially unsound territory, according to the MHPA, and [state] Medicaid programs will have to pay their insurers more to make up for the difference. State taxes will go to Medicaid insurers so that they can pay federal taxes to keep Obamacare afloat. The problem gets worse. That extra funding states have to give to Medicaid insurers is taxable income. According to MHPA federal policy director Amy Ingham, for every dollar states will have to give Medicaid plans to cover Obamacare's original tax, they'll have to pay another 54 cents to cover the federal excise tax placed on the Obamacare tax." [58688]

Rush Limbaugh wins the Children's Book Council author of the year award for *Rush Revere and the Brave Pilgrims: Time-Travel Adventures with Exceptional Americans*, which has received excellent reviews and has been on the best-seller lists for months.

(Leftists are, not surprisingly, outraged that an Obama-critic could be praised for anything—especially a book written without the assistance of William Ayers.) [58797, 58802]

Appearing at the Women’s Foreign Policy Group in Washington, D.C., National Security Advisor Susan Rice is asked by PBS reporter Judy Woodruff, “What more is there that the administration has done or said that we’re not aware of [with regard to Benghazi]?” Rice replies, “Dang if I know. I mean, honestly. We—the administration has produced, I think, 25,000 pages of documents or 25,000 individual documents. They have supported, participated in, contributed to the investigation of seven, I think, different committees. We have had an accountability review board by a very distinguished group of outsiders. House and Senate committees have pronounced on this repeatedly. So it is hard to imagine what further will come of yet another committee.” (Providing 25,000 documents means little, of course, if thousands more have not been provided. The Ben Rhodes email was, conveniently for Rice and Obama, not one of those 25,000 voluntarily released by the administration—which certainly can lead reasonable observers to wonder how many other damaging documents are being hidden by the administration.) [58690, 58828]

DailyCaller.com and various other media outlets bring attention to Benghazi-related remarks made by Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) at a late 2013 press conference. *The Obama Timeline* posted his statement in December and repeats it here because of the sudden interest in Gowdy’s questioning skills: “Can you [reporters] tell me why [Ambassador] Chris Stevens was in Benghazi the night that he was killed? Do you know? Does it bother you whether or not you know why Chris Stevens was in Benghazi? Do you know why we were the last flag flying in Benghazi, after the British had left and the Red Cross had been bombed? Do you know why requests for additional security were denied? Do you know why an ambassador asking for more security days and weeks before he was murdered and those requests went unheeded? Do you know the answer to why those requests went unheeded? Do you know why no assets were deployed during the siege? And I’ve heard the explanation, which defies logic, frankly, that we couldn’t have gotten there in time, but you know [that] they [in the Obama administration] didn’t know when it was going to end. So how could you possibly cite that as an excuse?” [52082, 58691, 58901]

“Do you know whether [Obama] called any of our allies, and said, ‘Can you help, we have men under attack?’ Can you answer that? Do any of you know why [then-U.S. ambassador to the U.N.] Susan Rice was picked? The Secretary of State [Hillary Clinton] did not go. She said she doesn’t like Sunday talk shows; that’s the only media venue she does not like—if that’s true. Why was Susan Rice on the five Sunday talk shows? Do you know the origin of this mythology that it was spawned as a spontaneous reaction to a video? Do you know where that started? Do you now how we got from no evidence of that to that being the official position of the administration? In conclusion, Congress is supposed to provide oversight; the voters are supposed to provide oversight; and you [journalists] are supposed to provide oversight. That’s why you have special liberties, and that’s why you have special protections. I am not surprised that [Obama] called this a

phony scandal. I'm not surprised that Secretary Clinton asked, 'What difference does it make?' I'm not even surprised that [White House press secretary] Jay Carney said that Benghazi happened 'a long time ago.' I'm just surprised at how many people bought it." (DailyCaller.com observes that Gowdy's questioning of the press "Shows why Democrats have every reason to hate and fear Trey Gowdy, and why normal people have every reason to believe he'll finally uncover the truth about what happened in Benghazi, Libya on the night of September 11, 2012.") [52082, 58691, 58901]

Attorney Orly Taitz (*Taitz v. Obama*, et al.) writes Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) a "Request to lodge in Benghazi Select Committee records evidence of fraud committed by Mr. Barack Obama, which relates to findings of the committee." Taitz includes with her letter evidence of Obama's use of stolen Social Security numbers, forged birth certificate, forged Selective Service registration, and other information that she states "sheds light on his motivation for not aiding US Ambassador [Christopher Stevens] and others in Benghazi and his numerous other actions, which can be best described as anti-American and/or treasonous. Fraud committed by Obama in getting into the White House with fabricated IDs, is a sufficient ground for his impeachment and removal from office as well as criminal prosecution." [58718]

Obama's nominee to replace Kathleen Sebelius as head of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Sylvia Burwell, faces questions from Senator John Thune (R-SD) at her confirmation hearing. Thune asks, "In the interest of transparency... would you agree to submit, when you get them from the insurance compan[ies], the new filing rates that they file for next year? Because, you know, the enrollment date's been delayed now until later this year, the date at which plans get approved has been delayed until right, I think, the day before the election, which is very convenient [for the Obama administration and Democrat candidates]. We know there's going to be a real-world impacts on these things, and in the interest of transparency which you've talked a lot about, would submit to us those rates when you get them from the insurers?" Burwell responds, "With regard to the specifics of what HHS receives when and how, that's something in my current role I'm not familiar with and would want to get to the department. [What] I will say is, 'Senator, if I am confirmed, that's something that I'll want to understand and work with you on.'" (In other words, "Don't count on me giving you what you are asking for.") Thune also tries—unsuccessfully—to get Burwell to admit that the reinsurance tax waiver the administration gave to labor union insurance plans will result in higher taxes for those entities. Burwell is not asked one question about ObamaCare's court-challenged contraceptive/abortifacient/sterilization requirement. But she is asked by socialist Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) if she supports a single-payer system for his state. Burwell replies, "Senator, if I am confirmed, I look forward to working on that issue with you and the state." (In other words, she supports socialized medicine and has no problem with Vermont residents being denied a choice in how they receive health care.) [58731, 58943]

On the heels of Karl Rove's questions about Hillary Clinton's health, Bill Clinton tells an audience she "required six months of very serious work to get over" a "terrible

concussion.” (DailyCaller.com notes, “On January 7, 2013, just a month or so after Hillary’s serious head injury, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland assured reporters during a briefing that she was already a picture of health. ‘Judging by the woman we saw this morning and the workload that she’s got, she seems to be fully recovered,’ Nuland said then, according to ABC. In direct contradiction to Bill Clinton’s remarks on Wednesday, State Department officials also specifically said at the time the concussion ‘was not severe.’” The State Department initially claimed that Hillary Clinton had fainted because she was “fatigued and dehydrated.” It was then reported that she had stomach flu, fell, and suffered a concussion. For a brief period she wore eyeglasses with a left fresnel prism lens, which may indicate correction for hemianopia (reduced vision) or diplopia (double vision) caused by a stroke or concussion.) [41929, 41930, 41931, 41937, 41938, 41955, 58732, 58744, 58787, 58796]

CanadaFreePress.com reports, “Soon after John Kerry took over as Secretary of State, the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Terence P. McCulley, accused the Nigerian government of butchery during a confrontation with Boko Haram terrorists in Baga, a Nigerian town on the shores of Lake Chad, and in May 2013 threatened to withdraw U.S. military aid from the West African nation. Boko Haram militants attacked a Nigerian military outpost in April 2013 outside Baga, killing one soldier. Following the three-day battle human rights activists, including the George Soros-funded and liberal aligned Human Rights Watch, which is not exactly known for its impartiality when it comes to reporting on Islamic issues, claimed the Nigerian military wantonly slaughtered 183 civilians and burned down over 2,000 homes and businesses. The Nigerian government denied the claims saying the death toll and destruction had been vastly overstated by its enemies, and in fact 30 Boko Haram terrorists, 6 civilians and one soldier, had died in the fighting. Reports from the Baga clinic, which treated 193 people following the battle, but only 10 with serious injuries, seemed to back up the Nigerian government claim that no large-scale massacre had occurred. The U.S. Nigerian Ambassador, blindly believing any Islamist sob story that crossed his path, responded in a May 2013 meeting with human rights activists by defending Boko Haram: ‘Mr. Terrence announced to the activists that the US congress had previously passed a law that bars the United States from rendering military assistance to any government that violates basic rights of citizens. He said the Obama-led US government has therefore ceased to assist Nigeria militarily in obedience to the law.’” (In other words, the Obama administration told the Nigerian government to “take it easy” on Boko Haram.) [58740, 58741, 58763]

The White House releases a video narrated by Vice President that pushes infrastructure spending. WhiteHouseDossier.com’s Keith Koffler asks, “WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE?? What is this? I’m asking you. Please take a look at this video, released by the White House Tuesday, and tell me if it doesn’t look to you like a campaign commercial for Vice President Biden.” [58754]

Obama travels to New York City to dedicate the 9/11 museum and for two fundraisers, making what Mark Knoller of CBS notes is his 1,000th trip on Air Force One. (The size of Obama’s “carbon footprint” is not calculated.) At one of his New York City

fundraisers, Obama jokingly suggests moving “excess” Democrats from the northeast to the midwest in order to defeat Republicans. [58713, 58753]

On May 15 NBC journalist Chuck Todd, appearing on MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*, says, “I’ll hear from Republicans who will say, ‘but there are unanswered questions [about Benghazi].’ Well, no, all the questions have been answered. There’s [sic; there are] just some people who don’t like the answers—that wishes [sic; wish] the answers were somehow more conspiratorial.” (Townhall.com’s Guy Benson poses some questions for Todd: “Why were multiple requests for additional security assets denied by the State Department in the lead-up to the Benghazi attacks? Indeed, why was a security team removed from Libya, over the objections of our security personnel on the ground?” “Why did the State Department renew its inadequately-protected diplomatic mission’s lease with special security waivers in the summer of 2012—following previous attempted attacks against the compound, and as other Western nations and organizations began to withdraw from the rapidly-deteriorating city?” “At what point was it determined that the US could not have deployed a (full-scale) rescue mission in time to save American lives in Benghazi? How could this determination have been made when the duration of the attack was unknown?” “Where was [Obama] during the hours-long raid? ... With an ambassador missing, a consulate under attack, and American lives hanging in the balance, why wasn’t he actively managing the US response?” “During the attack, a rapid-response, investigative “FEST” team was reportedly told to stand down. Is that true, and if so, why?” “Since the CIA never linked the Benghazi bloodshed to an internet video, how and why was that false linkage repeatedly cited by top administration officials days, and even weeks, later?” (In addition to these questions and others raised by Benson, it can be assumed that Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) will have quite a few of his own when his select committee begins interviewing administration officials.) [58747]

Although Chuck Todd may believe all Benghazi questions have been answered, according to a Fox News poll 67 percent of Americans approve of the formation of the select committee to investigate the terrorist attack, and only 38 percent believe the Obama administration has been honest about Benghazi. (*The Obama Timeline* would like the White House to explain why one of the Benghazi attackers was heard yelling, in Egyptian-dialect Arabic, “Don’t Shoot us! We were sent by [Egyptian President Mohammed] Morsi!”) [39292, 39293, 39294, 39295, 39305, 58345, 58346, 58374, 58638, 58748, 58749, 58750]

Cecilia Munoz, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, announces that on May 29 Obama “will host a White House summit on youth sports safety and concussions.” (Rush Limbaugh muses, “I wonder if Hillary [Clinton] is gonna attend Obama’s concussion summit. I mean, that would be a kick in the head, wouldn’t it?”) [58803, 58804]

According to ZeroHedge.com, Russia has “dumped a record \$26 billion [in U.S. Treasury debt], or some 20% of all of its holdings, bringing its post-March total to just over \$100 billion—the lowest since the Lehman crisis.” Meanwhile, a “mystery buyer” has, acting

through Belgium, purchased as much as \$381 billion in Treasury debt over a number of months, including \$40 billion in March alone. “The question remains: who? Who has bought a whopping \$200 billion in Treasuries using Belgium as a proxy since October?” Author and economist Peter Schiff observes, “What is clear is that this is not likely the government of Belgium, or private Belgian capital, that is doing the buying. The numbers are just too large. This is particularly true in the First Quarter of 2014 when the buying averaged a stunning \$41.5 billion per month (January was the biggest month with \$54 billion). In all likelihood, the only European buyer with a wallet that big would be the European Central Bank (ECB) itself. But why would the ECB buy when the Federal Reserve was supposed to be tapering?” (Meanwhile, George Soros’ Soros Fund Management LLC, has, according to Bloomberg.com, “sold out of its positions in JPMorgan Chase & Co. (JPM), Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America Corp., according to a [May 15] regulatory filing... JPMorgan has dropped 12 percent since March 31 and Bank of America has slid 15 percent.”) [59036, 59037, 59107, 59135, 59136]

Former Assistant Treasury Secretary Paul Craig Roberts comments on the Treasury debt purchases via Belgium: “There is only one source. The money came from the US Federal Reserve, and the purchase was laundered through Belgium in order to hide the fact that actual Federal Reserve bond purchases during November 2013 through January 2014 were \$112 billion per month. In other words, during those 3 months there was a sharp rise in bond purchases by the Fed. The Fed’s actual bond purchases for those three months are \$27 billion per month above the original \$85 billion monthly purchase and \$47 billion above the official \$65 billion monthly purchase at that time. (In March 2014, official QE was [allegedly] tapered to \$55 billion per month and to \$45 billion for May.) Why did the Federal Reserve have to purchase so many bonds above the announced amounts and why did the Fed have to launder and hide the purchase? Some country or countries, unknown at this time, for reasons we do not know dumped \$104 billion in Treasuries in one week. ... We know that there was a withdrawal, a sale, a drop in the Federal Reserve’s ‘Securities held in Custody for Foreign Official and International Accounts,’ an inexplicable rise in Belgium’s holdings, and then the bonds reappear in the Federal Reserve’s custodial accounts. What are the reasons for this deception by the Federal Reserve?” (Interestingly, three prominent Americans resisted the idea of the creation of the Federal Reserve: Benjamin Guggenheim, Isador Strauss, and John Jacob Astor IV. All three died on the RMS Titanic in April, 1912, In December 1913 the Federal Reserve came into existence.) [59132, 59133, 59134, 59135, 59136]

“...A hundred billion dollar sale of US Treasuries is a big sale. If the seller was a big holder of Treasuries, the sale could signal the bond market that a big holder might be selling Treasuries in large chunks. The Fed would want to keep the fact and identity of such a seller secret in order to avoid a stampede out of Treasuries. Such a stampede would raise interest rates, collapse US financial markets, and raise the cost of financing the US debt. To avoid the rise in interest rates, the Fed would have to accept the risk to the dollar of purchasing all the bonds. This would be a no-win situation for the Fed, because a large increase in QE would unsettle the market for US dollars. ... That the Fed believed that it could not buy the bonds outright but needed to disguise its purchase by laundering it through Belgium suggests that the Fed is concerned that the world is losing

confidence in the dollar. If the world loses confidence in the dollar, the cost of living in the US would rise sharply as the dollar drops in value. Economic hardship and poverty would worsen. Political instability would rise. If the dollar lost substantial value, the dollar would lose its reserve currency status. Washington would not be able to issue new debt or new dollars in order to pay its bills. Its wars and hundreds of overseas military bases could not be financed. The withdrawal from unsustainable empire would begin. The rest of the world would see this as the silver lining in the collapse of the international monetary system brought on by the hubris and arrogance of Washington.” [59132, 59133, 59134, 59135, 59136]

The problem faced by the federal government was apparently that it could find no new buyers for \$104 billion in new bonds to replace those that had just been redeemed. When China or Russia (or some other bondholder) redeemed \$104 billion in bonds, the Treasury Department had no choice but to hand over \$104 billion in cash. But the Treasury Department also has to pay the government’s bills—and it does not have \$104 in cash sitting around collecting dust. It therefore quickly had to raise \$104 billion to replace the lost assets. The Federal Reserve secretly came to the rescue, essentially creating money out of thin air with new bond purchases. As Roberts suggests, the Obama administration did not want the markets to know that the situation was dire. If the Federal Reserve did not buy the debt, the Treasury Department would have had to offer a higher interest rate to attract a normal buyer. But the government cannot afford to pay higher interest rates. It already pays hundreds of billions of dollars per year in interest on the national debt—and that is at historically low interest rates. If interest rates were to climb by even a point or two, the deficit would increase substantially. The episode shows how precarious the finances of the U.S. government are. With \$17 trillion in debt, the government’s entire house of fiscal cards could collapse if too many holders of that debt came forward and demand their portion to be paid off. (The situation is tantamount to a family with massive credit card debt, living from paycheck to paycheck. It makes a minimum payment on one card, and then another, and makes new purchases with still others. For the U.S. government, the Federal Reserve is the new credit card that arrives in the mail. But that new card does not *solve* the problem; it merely delays the inevitable day of reckoning. The Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department have no idea how to solve their problem. All they can do is juggle their credit cards.)

WND.com reports, “Criminal illegal aliens released by the Obama administration [who were arrested] between 2008 and 2011 went on to be charged with 19 murders, three attempted murders and 142 sex crimes, a House Judiciary Committee report previously documented. The statistics pose a grim outlook for the 36,007 additional criminal illegal aliens reportedly released last year by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, or ICE. A 2012 House report reviewed the effectiveness of the Secure Communities program, a project initially launched by the Bush administration to build databases that identify illegal aliens who qualify for deportation. The data covered arrests from October 2008 through July 2011. The report analyzed data on 159,286 legal and illegal immigrants arrested by state or local police, including 7,283 illegal aliens who could have been deported but who were not taken into custody by ICE despite being identified as living in the country unlawfully. The data shows that along with drunk-

driving charges, the released illegals went on to commit 16,226 new crimes, including 19 murders, 142 sex offenses, 1,420 drug crimes, 682 cases of burglary or theft and 48 firearms charges. On Monday, a Center for Immigration Studies report found that in 2013, ICE again released violent criminals, this time including murderers, rapists, kidnappers and drug dealers. The offenders were among the 36,007 criminal illegal aliens released last year who committed 87,818 crimes, including 15,635 for driving while intoxicated. The statistics show ICE released illegals jailed for 9,187 dangerous drug infractions, 426 sexual assault convictions, 303 kidnapping convictions, 193 homicide convictions, 1,317 domestic violence convictions and 1,075 aggravated assault convictions.” (According to the Media Research Center, “So far none of the Big Three (ABC, CBS, NBC) networks have yet to report these stunning statistics.”) [58714, 58715, 58784]

Meanwhile, Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) writes to Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Jeh Johnson, stating, “Unfortunately, your Department’s release of more than 36,000 criminal aliens in FY 2013 has done great damage to [the laws passed by Congress]. ...Because aliens who have committed serious crimes face a high probability of deportation at the conclusion of their removal proceedings, the detention of criminal aliens also ensures that these individuals are unable to abscond and further avoid immigration enforcement by disappearing in the United States.” Cornyn notes that the DHS is authorized to “detain criminal aliens during their removal proceedings when they have been previously convicted of offenses involving moral turpitude, aggravated felonies, controlled substances offenses, firearm offenses, and other dangerous crimes,” and asks Johnson, “Will your department commit to providing Congress with quarterly reports on the number of criminal aliens released from DHS custody pending the outcome of their removal proceedings? ...What is the total number of criminal aliens released by your Department last year who were released as a result of changes to your Department’s prosecutorial discretion policies since 2011? ...Do these numbers suggest that your Department is employing ‘catch and release’ enforcement tactics?” Breitbart.com reports that Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) offices have refused to comment on the issue of the 36,000 criminals—who have committed 88,000 crimes. Greg Palmore, an ICE spokesman in Texas, admits to Breitbart, “We were given specific instructions not to comment on that report.” [58733, 58743, 58755]

FreeBeacon.com reports that although “Obama has increased the Department of Veterans Affairs’ budget each year since he took office... an analysis of records show the agency has spent close to \$500 million on office furniture under the Obama administration. ...The VA has spent a total of \$489 million to upgrade conference rooms, buy draperies, and purchase new office furniture during the past four-and-a-half years. ...The VA spent \$10.7 million in the past five fiscal years on curtains and draperies.” (The VA budget has increased by 76 percent since Obama took office, and 92.2 percent over 10 years, yet the problems have gotten worse. The 2013 VA budget was about \$140 billion. Obama’s 2015 budget proposal asks for \$163.9 billion. There are about 20 million living veterans in the United States. Most are not disabled, and many are employed and have private health insurance and never access VA hospitals.) [58996, 58997, 59010, 59021, 59025, 59074, 59076, 59078]

Conservative activists head to Washington, D.C. for “Operation American Spring,” a May 16 event planned by retired Army Colonel Harry Riley, who calls for “the removal of Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Harry Reid, Mitch McConnell, John Boehner, Nancy Pelosi, and Eric Holder as a start toward constitutional restoration.” Riley states, “For more than five years, We the People have been writing, calling, faxing Congress, the media, screaming in town halls, marching, rallying, demonstrating, petitioning, all to no avail. Every branch of government looks at We the People, whom they have taken an oath to serve, as pests, interfering with their political agenda, cramping their self-serving, greedy agenda. ...[People of] Every political persuasion, rich, poor, every color, all ages, men, women, liberal, conservative, independent, unemployed, et al., are now mobilizing to participate in this peaceful, non-violent, cause in the search for constitutional restoration for America.” [58716, 58717]

At FreedomOutpost.com Dean Garrison writes, “Doug Vogt recently did a short interview with *Honest American News* involving the contents of his recently unsealed affidavit [about Obama’s forged birth certificate]. Among other bombshells Doug dropped in the interview was his opinion that [House Minority Leader] Nancy Pelosi [D-CA] will hang for her role in ‘worst crime in American History.’ Mr. Vogt explains that current Hawaii [U.S.] Senator Brian Schatz, who was Chair of the State Democratic Party in 2008, refused to certify Barack Obama as eligible to be president of the United States. Vogt’s claim is that Schatz knew there was no long form ‘certificate of live birth’ (COLB). Nancy Pelosi made the certification and thus by Vogt’s logic is guilty of treason.” (In 2008 Pelosi signed two versions of the Official Certifications of Nomination for Obama and Biden at its August 2008 nominating convention. One read, “This is to certify that at the National Convention of the Democratic Party of the United States of America, held in Denver, Colorado on August 25 through 28, 2008, the following were duly nominated as candidates of said Party for President and Vice President of the United States respectively and that the following candidates for President and Vice President of the United States are legally qualified to serve under the provisions of the United States Constitution.” The second version omitted the words that followed “respectively.” Both notarized documents were signed by Pelosi, as chairwoman of the convention, and Alice Germond, secretary of the convention. Hawaii received the longer first version; the other 49 states received the truncated version. The implication is that Schatz—and perhaps other officials in Hawaii—knew Obama was ineligible and they did not want to be held accountable. As a result, they demanded changes to the document, thereby shifting the accountability to Pelosi. It is worth noting that Schatz was supported by Obama’s half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, in his successful campaign for the position of Lieutenant Governor; Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie was a friend of Obama’s alleged father, Barack Hussein Obama, Sr.) [4624, 4631, 4632, 4633, 4705, 4812, 16603, 16607, 16793, 18289, 18290, 20129, 41059, 41065, 41075, 41374, 58792, 59126]

After Secretary of State John Kerry informs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that he cannot testify about Benghazi on May 21, committee chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) issues Kerry a subpoena demanding that he testify on May 29. Issa states, “I lifted the subpoena requiring Secretary Kerry to testify on May 21

because the State Department made reasonable arguments for an accommodation and told our Committee they were seeking a suitable alternative date for his testimony on a voluntary basis. But soon after I lifted the subpoena, the State Department back tracked—stating publicly that we should accept ‘a more appropriate witness’ and refusing to commit to making Secretary Kerry available. With this State Department’s slippery tactics, it’s no wonder our friends in the world are losing faith in us and our adversaries doubt our credibility. The State Department had discussed May 29 as a possible alternative date and that’s when Secretary Kerry will be obligated to appear—further accommodation will not be possible. Absent an assertion of executive privilege, the State Department has a legal obligation to fully and completely comply.” [58726]

Veterans Affairs Secretary John Shinseki testifies before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee about reports that various veterans facilities have “cooked the books” to make it appear that veterans did not have to wait long to be treated. The uncomfortable Shinseki’s responses to questions include a fair number of versions of “I am not aware” and “I can’t remember.” Asked if anyone in his agency should be fired over the illegal bookkeeping, Shinseki replies, “I don’t know whether that’s the appropriate level of punishment or not.” (Veterans Administration employees have shredded documents to cover up their schemes—and Shinseki *doesn’t know* whether they should be fired. Most Americans—and all veterans—certainly know.) Although Shinseki manages to say he is “mad as Hell” about the situation, Michelle Malkin later writes that his “perfunctory tone echoed a jaded 411 operator: ‘City and state, please?’” Malkin notes, “Shinseki interjected that a whopping 3,000 VA workers, including senior managers, had been ‘involuntarily removed’ for misconduct last year—only to admit that an unknown number of those had simply been reassigned or allowed to retire. In true paper-pusher form, the VA’s top brass have ordered yet another study to assess how and why the VA ignored years of other studies, reports and audits of the department’s waste, fraud and abuse.” The *Daily Show*’s Jon Stewart remarks that Shinseki’s “mad as Hell” face looks a lot like an “oh, we’re out of orange juice” face. [58727, 58728, 58738, 58751, 58752, 58756, 58764, 58766, 58783, 58790, 58799, 58936]

CNN’s Jake Tapper interviews Obama’s chief of staff, Denis McDonough, and pounds him on the Veterans Administration scandal: “How many stories like this, how many letters like this, how many dead veterans do you need before somebody asks the question within the White House, ‘Maybe this guy [VA head Eric Shinseki] isn’t the best steward of these veterans?’” McDonough responds, “The question Jake is, ‘Are we doing everything every day to get the veterans the care and the opportunities that they deserve... and we have been working aggressively to ensure that not only is health care expanded, opportunities made more, uh, ready to our vets, but that, uh, people are held to account...” [58788, 58814]

At the dedication of the 9/11 museum in lower Manhattan, Obama noted one victim, Welles Crowther: “In those awful moments after the South Tower was hit some of the injured huddled in the wreckage of the 78th floor. The fires were spreading, the air was filled with smoke, it was dark and they could barely see. It seemed as if there was no way

out. And then there came a voice: clear, calm, saying he had found the stairs. A young man. In his 20s. Strong. He emerged from the smoke and over his nose and his mouth he wore a red handkerchief. He called for fire extinguishers to fight back the flames. ... They didn't know his name and they didn't know where he came from. But they knew their lives had been saved by the man in the red bandana. ... Here at this memorial, this museum, we come together. We stand in the footprints of two mighty towers, graced by the rush of eternal waters. We look into the faces of nearly 3,000 innocent souls—men and women and children of every race and every creed from every corner of the world. We can touch their names and hear their voices. Here we tell their story so that generations yet unborn will never forget,” he said. And in spite of the tragedy, he added, America is a stronger and more resilient nation. [This] nation [stands] tall and united and unafraid because no act of terror can match the strength and character of our country. Like a great wall and bedrock that embraces us today, nothing can ever break us. Nothing can change who we are as Americans. Those we lost live on in us. In the families who love them still. In the friends who remember them always. And in a nation that will honor them now—and forever.” [58746, 58760, 58771]

In Sudan, a Muslim judge condemns a pregnant Christian woman to flogging and death by hanging because she refused to convert to Islam. According to WND.com, the U.S. State Department issues a statement: “We are deeply disturbed over the sentencing today of Meriam Yahya Ibrahim Ishag to death by hanging for apostasy. ... We continue to call upon the government of Sudan to respect the right to freedom of religion, a right which is enshrined in Sudan’s own 2005 Interim Constitution as well as international human rights law.” Human rights advocate Robert Spencer states, “It’s possible that the Obama administration could put pressure on the Sudanese government to release this woman and give her protection from Shariah vigilantes, but because of the administration’s willful ignorance regarding jihad and Shariah, it will certainly not do that. ... No significant force is standing against the Muslim organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that claim that any defense of people like this woman would be Islamophobic.” (The woman’s husband is a south Sudanese national who also has U.S. citizenship. Whether his dual citizenship will encourage the U.S. government to take action remains to be seen. Whether Michelle Obama will tweet a “FreeMeriam hashtag also remains to be seen.) Pamela Geller notes, “Apostasy carries the death penalty in Islam. But the mainstream media does its best to obscure that. [The media rarely] says that the death penalty for apostasy is mandated by Muhammad and Islamic law—but it is. Until the West has the courage to confront the root causes of things like this, they will keep happening.” [58757, 58761, 58762, 58778, 58794, 58795, 59045, 59174]

According to Breitbart.com, Meriam Ibrahim is “a physician who graduated from the University of Khartoum Medical School” and “is married to Daniel Wani, an American citizen from South Sudan who came to the United States in 1998. She is in her ninth month of pregnancy with the couple’s second child. Their firstborn, Martin, 20 months, is imprisoned with his mother—Sudanese authorities prohibit the Christian man from caring for his son. Wani has been prevented from seeing his wife and child since she was arrested along with her toddler son, but reports that she has not received proper medical care for complications from her pregnancy. ... Ibrahim and Wani were married in Sudan

in December 2011. Soon afterwards Wani began the process of applying for a spousal visa to bring his bride to the safety of the United States, but he still had not received the visa when Ibrahim was arrested and charged with adultery in August 2013. According to Amnesty International, a distant relative reported her to the authorities. The court added the further charge of apostasy in February 2014 when Ibrahim asserted that she was a Christian and not a Muslim and provided them with her marriage certificate indicating her Christian faith and the location of her wedding in a church in Khartoum. ... On Thursday State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf released a statement that was almost word for word the tepid statement released by the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum on May 13. 'We understand that the court sentence can be appealed,' meekly says the State Department. Perhaps they need to be reminded of the following facts, omitted from their statement: This is the wife of an American citizen. Her toddler, also imprisoned, is an American citizen. Her unborn baby will be an American citizen. Concerned citizens should also point out that the U.S. State Department, eager as it is to indiscriminately provide visas in some cases, has made it impossible for a Christian American citizen to bring his wife to the United States by not providing a spousal visa in a timely manner (nor, indeed, at all yet, as of this writing)." [58794]

The Media Research Center (MRC) announces "it has filed a motion in US District Court [*Media Research Center v. Sebelius, et. al*] for a preliminary injunction seeking to block enforcement of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate, which forces people of faith to subsidize health insurance plans that include abortion inducing drugs, contraception, and sterilization. A hearing has been set for June 6. 'This lawsuit is about religious freedom and the conscience rights of individuals to operate their enterprises free from government coercion, reprisal, or punishment,' MRC Founder and President Brent Bozell said. 'The Obamacare mandate destroys the ability of free people to practice their faith in their everyday lives and forces them to either reject their faith or face crippling government imposed fines and punishment; in our case over \$4.5 million dollars per year. We do not stop being religious, moral people the moment we walk out of our houses of worship.' The MRC contends that under ACA rules it has self-certified as a religious organization and is therefore exempt from the mandate. The MRC is the first organization that has asked the court to affirm its 'self-certification.'" [58758, 58765]

KSDK in Missouri reports on employees of Serco who were hired to process paper ObamaCare applications and who claim they did little more than one week's worth of work over a five month period. One former employee, Lavonne Takatz, says, "We got assigned to our cubicles, and from that day forward we sat. We literally were told the first two week, 'Do not click [your computer mouse], do not click.' ... When CMS [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service would come through, doing their inspections and things, ... we were told to act like we were busy." Another Serco/ObamaCare worker in Wentzville, Missouri tells KMOV they "stare at their computer screens all day long" because there are not enough applications to process. "Their goals are set to process two applications per month, and some people are not even able to do that." One worker states, "I think for the entire month of December I processed six applications and that was pretty good," and to kill time "We played Pictionary on a very dry erase board; we played 20

questions,” and “You could be completely sane and work there for seven months and leave there and want to check yourself into a mental hospital it was that bad.” [58759, 58773, 58789]

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reports that close Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett “told a conference of investors and elite political donors in Las Vegas that the White House believes it can get Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform this summer. ... ‘I think we have a window this summer, between now and August, to get something done,’ Jarrett said. ‘We have a commitment from [House] Speaker [John] Boehner, who’s very frustrated with his caucus.’” (The news will not sit well with many conservative Republicans, who will not appreciate any suggestion that Boehner may be making a secret illegal immigrant amnesty deal.) [58774, 58775, 58806]

At IJRview.com Larry O’Connor reports that former Bill Clinton official Lanny Davis “Davis will be heading up something he calls ‘The Truth Squad,’ and will position himself right outside the committee room where Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) will be conducting his investigations into the events of the Sept 11th Benghazi attacks.” NationalReview.com’s Jim Geraghty comments at Morning Jolt, “Okay, that’s not surprising, a Democratic spin doctor sets up shop to ‘fact check’ the findings and questioning of Gowdy’s special committee. But a guy like Davis—who’s represented the Clinton White House, some unsavory foreign clients, and Redskins owner Daniel Snyder—doesn’t come cheap. So who’s putting all this together? Davis said his partner in the effort is an advocacy group called ‘Correct The Record,’ which is funded by the American Bridge 21st Century PAC”—a leftist political action committee funded in part by Obama’s billionaire buddy George Soros. The PAC’s president is Rodell Mollineau, “a former staffer” of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). The group’s chairwoman is Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (one of Robert F. Kennedy’s daughters). Geraghty writes, “Two lessons from this. First, never believe Lanny Davis when he tells you he’s working for ‘a great organization’ ‘funded by thousands of grassroots people all over the country’ ‘because all they do is put facts out.’ Second, the Clinton team must be worried about Gowdy’s special committee, because if they were certain that the panel wasn’t going to find anything, or that it was inevitably going to be seen as a silly, time-wasting partisan circus, they wouldn’t be putting resources into this spin operation right outside Gowdy’s committee room.” (It is almost guaranteed that for every piece of news the select committee on Benghazi releases that harms Hillary Clinton will be countered by a Lanny Davis spin statement eagerly given to—and eagerly accepted by—the mainstream media. Davis’ job will be to put out fires.) [58779]

At a Senate hearing, Deputy Secretary of State for African Affairs Robert Jackson says of the kidnapping of hundreds of Christian girls from a school in Nigeria, “This is not about Islam...Boko Haram’s philosophy is not an Islamic philosophy.” Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) responds, “I agree, and I’m glad that you made that point. Clearly, um, we need to make sure that, um, Islam is not confused with some of these horrible terrorist acts that, um, have been and continue to be perpetrated by terrorists groups.” (At WeeklyStandard.com Michael Warren writes, “The Boko Haram organization seeks to

overthrow the government of Nigeria and install an Islamic state. As the BBC notes, the group ‘promotes a version of Islam which makes it ‘haram,’ or forbidden, for Muslims to take part in any political or social activity associated with Western society.’ Republican Scott Brown, who is challenging Shaheen for her seat, said in a statement that it is ‘naive’ to say Boko Haram has nothing to do with Islam. The Brown campaign has also pointed out that when he represented Massachusetts in the Senate, Brown introduced a bill in 2012 that would have designated Boko Haram as a terrorist organization, though it died in committee. The senator also sent a letter to then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urging her to do the same.”) [58798, 58812]

Meanwhile, residents of the Nigerian village of Rann fight back when attacked by Boko Haram terrorists. At Shoebat.com Theodore Shoebat reports, “a certain militia, awaiting for their attackers, rose up with their guns and bravely attacked the jihadists. Four hundred Muslim fighters arrived at around 3:00 AM, and they stormed the village, only to be counterattacked by the militias who came on the attack with guns and bows and arrows. By the end of the violent struggle, the militia managed to slaughter 200 jihadists. ...The situation in Nigeria will lead to a civil war. This is why a society must have the right to bear arms. A people who do not bear arms, will eventually be killed off by those do.” [58819]

On May 16 “Operation American Spring” is a failure, with attendees in the hundreds—rather than the millions hoped for by its organizer, retired Colonel Harry Riley. [58791, 58793, 58808, 58810, 58816, 58817, 58831, 58832, 58833]

WIBX reports, “Officials at Remington Arms confirmed today that the Bushmaster and R1 Automatic hand gun manufacturing lines will be moving from Ilion [New York] to the new Huntsville, Alabama plant, according to media reports. The move is expected to cost about 80 or more local jobs, although that hasn’t yet been confirmed by Remington. Media reports say it could cost as many as 200 Herkimer County jobs. Company officials say they’re working to keep as many of these production jobs in Ilion as possible. Congressman Richard Hanna [R-NY] blames New York’s Safe Act.” [58834, 58870, 58913]

The New York Times reports that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has “set up an emergency shelter” at Texas’ Lackland Air Force base to cope with increasing numbers of illegally immigrant minors who are crossing the border without parents. “The flow of child migrants has been building since 2011, when 4,059 unaccompanied youths were apprehended by border agents. Last year more than 21,000 minors were caught, and Border Patrol officials had said they were expecting more than 60,000 this year. But that projection has already been exceeded. By law, unaccompanied children caught crossing illegally from countries other than Mexico are treated differently from other migrants. After being apprehended by the Border Patrol, they must be turned over within 72 hours to a refugee resettlement office that is part of the Health Department. Health officials must try to find relatives or other adults in the United States who can care for them while their immigration cases move through the courts, a search that can take several weeks or

more.” Texas Governor Rick Perry argues that using the base for a shelter only encourages more illegal immigrants. [58902]

Hillary Clinton addresses the New America Foundation in Washington, D.C., with what some may suggest is her first campaign speech. At WashingtonExaminer.com Byron York writes that Clinton “repeatedly criticized economic and social conditions under ...Obama, barely mentioning the accomplishments of the man who appointed her secretary of State. Clinton’s address... was a broad indictment of the country’s current leadership, with exactly one—[only] one—note of praise for [Obama]. ...In remarks focused almost exclusively on domestic economic concerns, Clinton began by noting what she called ‘the basic bargain of America.’ ‘No matter who you are or where you come from,’ she said, echoing her husband’s campaigns from the 1990s, ‘if you work hard and play by the rules, you’ll have an opportunity to build a good life.’ But: ‘For too many families in America today, that isn’t the way it works. Instead of getting ahead, they’re finding it harder and harder than ever to get their footing in our changing economy. The dream of upward mobility that made this country a model for the world feels further and further out of reach.. ...‘Forget about getting rich,’ Clinton told the audience, ‘I’m talking about getting into the middle class and staying there.’ While productivity is up, Clinton noted, ‘wages have stagnated.’ ‘Americans are working harder, contributing more than ever ...and yet many are still barely getting by.’ ...To get the country out of its current hole, Clinton said, ‘We’ll need some big ideas, like evidence-based decision making—an old idea that I hope can be restored.’ The Democratic Party line would, of course, hold that Obama has restored ‘evidence-based decision making,’ but Clinton spoke as if that never happened. ...Any Democratic candidate for president, especially one who served under Obama, will have to strike a tone that both calls for change and pays tribute to his achievements. Friday’s speech shows that Clinton is more inclined to call for change.” [58807, 58818, 58837]

Addressing high school students for a “senior recognition day” in Topeka, Kansas, Michelle Obama says, “[M]any young people are going to schools with kids who look just like them,” and “Today, by some measures, our schools are as segregated as they were back when Dr. King gave his final speech. ...And too often, those schools aren’t equal, especially ones attended by students of color which too often lag behind [sic].” (Michelle Obama is incorrect. There is no legal segregation in American schools. There is, of course, some segregation of races simply because of where people live, and some black and Hispanic students may be exposed to fewer white students than were there parents because of declining birth rates among whites, but no *legal* segregation is causing those changes. By schools that “aren’t equal” Mrs. Obama no doubt means varying amounts of spending, but according to the Census Bureau, public schools in the District of Columbia spend more money per student per year—about \$30,000—than public schools in the 50 states—yet the D.C. schools are generally considered to be among the worst in the nation, with 80 percent lacking proficiency in reading and math. She may want to entertain the thought that perhaps it is the students and parents in the nation’s capitol who are the problem, rather than the schools and their budgets. Mrs. Obama does not mention that her children attend an incredibly expensive—and predominantly white—private school, or that she and her husband oppose voucher programs that give

children in poor neighborhoods a chance to attend good private schools. Barack Obama, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), and their fellow Democrats once worked to end a voucher program in Washington, D.C., even though it reduced per pupil costs by 25 percent and was incredibly popular with parents. The program was later restored with the Scholarship for Opportunity and Results Act.) [7017, 7018, 7019, 19215, 19517, 19523, 19570, 19587, 58836, 58856, 58858, 58866, 58897, 58903]

Mrs. Obama also tells the students, “And so, graduates, it’s up to all of you to lead the way, to drag my generation and your grandparents’ generation along with you... And that’s really my challenge to all of you today. As you go forth, when you encounter folks who still hold the old prejudices because they’ve only been around folks like themselves, when you meet folks who think they know all the answers because they’ve never heard any other viewpoints, it’s up to you to help them see things differently... Maybe that starts simply in your own family, when grandpa tells that off-colored joke at Thanksgiving, or you’ve got an aunt [who] talks about ‘those people.’ Well, you can politely inform them that they’re talking about your friends.” (She stops short of suggesting 9-1-1 be called if grandpa says there are too many welfare cheats.) [59062]

“But no matter what you do,” continues Mrs. Obama, “the point is to never be afraid to talk about these issues, particularly the issue of race. Because even today, we still struggle to do that. Because this issue is so sensitive, is so complicated, so bound up with a painful history. And we need your generation to help us break through. We need all of you to ask the hard questions and have the honest conversations, because that is the only way we will heal the wounds of the past and move forward to a better future.” (Her assumption that people are afraid to talk about race is absurd. It is talked about incessantly, and far too often. The best way to get past the issue of race is to *not* make a fuss about it. The media should *not* emphasize that a particular person is the “first black” this or that—because his or her race is *irrelevant*. Emphasizing race contributes to racism. The “wounds of the past” are, of course, in the past. The United States has no living slaves or slave owners; discrimination based on race is illegal; and being accused of racism has become the charge any person of integrity and consequence fears. The election of Barack Obama, far from defusing the issue of race, has arguably aggravated the situation because of the frequency with which he, his administration, and his supporters use “the race card” as an excuse for failure and leverage for political advantage. The nation would have been far better off had the words race and racism never been uttered after Obama’s election. But the race card must be played by the Democrats, because no Democrat presidential candidate has won the white vote since Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1964. If black voter turnout is high, the Democrat wins. If black voter turnout is low, the Democrat loses. The Democrats therefore have to inject race into as many issues as possible in order to gin up the black vote—because they cannot win on party principles.) [59062]

The White House issues a statement: “Tomorrow, as we commemorate the 10th annual International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, we recommit ourselves to the fundamental belief that all people should be treated equally, that they should have the

opportunity to reach their fullest potential, and that no one should face violence or discrimination—no matter who they are or whom they love. This year, the United States celebrates the 60th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and the 45th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. In doing so, we reflect on lessons learned from our own civil rights struggles and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the human rights of all people are universally protected. At a time when, tragically, we are seeing increased efforts to criminalize or oppress LGBT persons, we call on partners everywhere to join us in defending the equal rights of our LGBT brothers and sisters, and in ensuring they are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.” (Obama apparently believes that being opposed to dress-wearing boys who want to use girls’ bathrooms somehow rises to the level of 1950s racism.) [58767, 59768]

At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield notes that, in an effort to help Obama, McClatchy newspapers ran a story in 2008 titled, “Some wonder if McCain’s too old and wrinkly to be president. ...By October, spurred by repeated media attacks on his age, 34 percent of Americans said that McCain was too old to be president. The sharp spike in the poll numbers over one month showed how effective the Democratic age smear was. Had McCain been elected, he would have taken office at 72. If Hillary Clinton wins, she’ll be 69. And age is suddenly no longer an issue. Neither is health. ...The problem as it turned out was not that McCain was old. It was that he was a Republican. *Slate* ran an article claiming that McCain’s brain would go bad over the next eight years, but discussing the state of Hillary’s brain is out of bounds. Late night comedians won’t be making jokes about how old Hillary is or how confused she gets in the morning. ...[To the leftist media] It’s outrageous to question the medical consequences of Hillary’s ‘traumatic brain injury’ which took her six months to recover from after passing out and falling down while boarding a plane. But ridiculing Bob Dole’s dead arm, an injury he suffered while dragging one of his men into a foxhole out of enemy fire during WW2, or McCain’s inability to lift his arms or perform certain tasks after they were broken by his torturers, was part of the political game. We can question the health of war veterans, but not of a career politician. There will be no stories about how wrinkled Hillary’s skin is. No one will ask her if she can tie her shoes or use Twitter without an assistant. Or whether she forgets things sometimes.” [58782]

“...The issue isn’t Hillary’s brain. It’s that Democrats don’t consider themselves accountable in the same way that they expect Republicans to be. It’s that they consider attacks on Republicans fair game that they are too thin-skinned to accept. ...The Democrat in the White House and his associates refuse to accept responsibility for anything. Any call for accountability results in an explosion of outrage as if the very act of holding the ruling party accountable is a crime. The huffing and puffing over the suggestion that a woman who took six months to recover from a serious health episode may have health problems that will affect her performance is typical of the way that the Democratic Party behaves. And of the way that its media auxiliaries echo its agenda. ...If Hillary and her Democratic Party really want to demonstrate their mental fitness, they can start by naming one single new economic idea that they’ve brought to the table in the last seventy years. And if they can’t, Americans will ask themselves whether they can afford

another eight years of 19th century economics from a party whose last new idea is even older than Hillary.” [58782]

CBSNews.com reports, “A police commissioner in a predominantly white New Hampshire town says he won't apologize for calling ...Obama the N-word, and he sat with his arms crossed while angry residents at a meeting called for his resignation on Thursday. Wolfeboro Police Commissioner Robert Copeland, who's 82 and white, has acknowledged in an email to his fellow police commissioners he used the racial slur in describing Obama. Town resident Jane O'Toole, who moved to Wolfeboro four months ago, said she overheard Copeland say the slur at a restaurant in March and wrote to the town manager about it. Copeland, in an email to her, acknowledged using the slur in referring to [Obama] and said he will not apologize. 'I believe I did use the 'N' word in reference to the current occupant of the Whitehouse,' Copeland said in the email to his fellow police commissioners, part of which he forwarded to O'Toole. 'For this, I do not apologize—he meets and exceeds my criteria for such.’” [58809]

On MSNBC's Politics Nation, Congressman Alan Grayson (D-FL) tells host Al Sharpton he would like to serve on the select committee on Benghazi if House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) decides to assign one or more Democrats. Grayson says, “I would be their [the Republicans'] worst, worst nightmare. I'd be their worst and last nightmare.” [58835, 58867]

GuardianLV.com (Liberty Voice) reports that the Australian government—which has apparently not been as brainwashed by the global warming alarmists as has the Obama administration—is slashing its climate change budget “from \$5.75 billion this year to a scant \$500 million in the next four years. Additionally, the Emissions Reduction Fund which is meant to help lower greenhouse gas emissions in Australia is going to be reduced to only \$1.14 billion.” (In March, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbot said, “The carbon tax is an act of economic vandalism. You can't trust [the Labor Party] anywhere near an economy.” DailyCaller.com notes, “The carbon tax was imposed by former Labor Prime Minister Julia Gillard in the summer of 2012, and quickly became unpopular as businesses and households began to bear the costs of higher power bills and higher inflation. ...[A] year after being enacted, the carbon tax caused electricity prices to rise 15 percent. The country's unemployment rate shot up by 10 percent after the carbon tax was implemented.”) [58861, 58862, 58863]

Breitbart.com reports, “Judicial Watch believes it has found compelling evidence to suggest United States Director of National Intelligence James Clapper has uncomfortably close ties to the Chinese government. The watchdog group's lead was uncovered through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Judicial Watch announced Thursday that it has filed suit against the Office of the Director of National Intelligence [DNI]. The constitutional advocacy group has named DNI adviser Theodore H. Moran as working for Chinese company Huawei Technologies while on the US government payroll. According to Judicial Watch, the Chinese company, Huawei Technologies, has been cited by the United States Congress as having potential ties to Chinese intelligence. According

to a 2012 House Intelligence Committee report, Huawei and the Chinese government's relationship could provide for 'economic and foreign espionage by a foreign nation-state already known to be a major perpetrator of cyber espionage.' DNI adviser Moran may have a serious conflict of interest due to his relationship with Huawei. According to Judicial Watch, his role at the Office of DNI was to 'provide intelligence agencies with judgments on key international issues, including foreign investments in the U.S.' ...Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said of the pending suit, 'Once again, we've had to sue the Obama administration to get basic information about a pressing national security issue. We want basic documents to evaluate any conflicts of interest at the heart of our nation's intelligence establishment—the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.'" (Clapper, Obama's Director of National Intelligence, is not particularly intelligent. He once told the House Intelligence Committee that the Muslim Brotherhood "is an umbrella term for a variety of movements... a very heterogeneous group, largely secular, which has eschewed violence and has decried Al Qaeda as a perversion of Islam. They have pursued social ends, a betterment of the political order in Egypt, et cetera." Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton called Clapper's statement "conceivably the single most foolish thing any senior American intelligence official has ever said." Clapper also once told the Senate Intelligence Committee, "It is hard to, at this point, to point to a specific agenda of the Muslim Brotherhood as a group.") [17503, 17504, 17505, 17506, 17507, 17509. 17510, 17520, 17530, 17560, 17736, 17737, 58839, 58840]

The Veterans Administration announces the resignation of Robert Petzel, undersecretary for health—possibly believing it will appease critics of the scheduling scandal. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki states, "Today, I accepted the resignation of Dr. Robert Petzel, Under Secretary for Health in the Department of Veterans Affairs. As we know from the Veteran community, most Veterans are satisfied with the quality of their VA health care, but we must do more to improve timely access to that care." Shinseki's statement implies that Petzel is being relieved of his duties because of the scandal. In fact, in September 2013 40-year employee Petzel had announced his retirement. The White House releases its own deceptive statement: "Today Secretary Shinseki accepted the resignation of Dr. Robert Petzel, Under Secretary for Health in the Department of Veterans Affairs. [Obama] supports Secretary Shinseki's decision." The statement suggests that Shinseki demanded Petzel's resignation, but there is no "decision" for Obama to "accept"—Petzel simply retired. (Both Shinseki's and Obama's statements are intended to make people believe that Petzel is being "thrown under the bus" because of the scandal, but he is merely being "Photoshopped under the bus." Petzel may possibly be partly to blame for the despicable actions of the VA, but there is no indication that he did not retire of his own free will. Obama and Shinseki are trying to make the public believe that they "came down hard" on someone when, in fact, they did not.) [58769, 58776, 58780, 58801, 58886]

NationalReview.com's Jim Geraghty, noting Shinseki's "I take responsibility" claim—and many similar claims by Obama and Hillary Clinton before that—observes, "The new way to avoid taking responsibility is to tell the world you're 'taking responsibility.'" ("I

‘take responsibility’—but I will not resign, will not fire anyone, will not hold anyone accountable, and will not change the way things are being done.”) [58786]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on Attorney General’s lack of action on the Veterans Administration scandal: “This is simply amazing. [Holder is] the chief law enforcement officer of the United States and he’s waiting to hear what the media will tell him about what’s been happening *inside* the government in the one system, in the U.S. that is the most entirely government run, medical system, *entirely* run by the government and he’s gonna wait— It’s always ‘ongoing investigations,’ as a way of saying, ‘Well, it’s ongoing; I have to wait.’ *He doesn’t have to wait.* ...There’s obviously enough information to go on and to at least begin a Department of Justice investigation. ...I think this is just stupid politics. I can understand stonewalling on Benghazi and the IRS and all the other stuff, but this is the VA. This is a big mistake on his part.” [58770]

On May 17, Armed Forces Day, the White House does nothing to recognize the occasion. (It does, however, tweet a recognition of “International Day Against Homophobia Or Transphobia,” and various U.S. embassies around the world fly rainbow flags representing homosexuality.) [58871]

Attorney General Eric Holder addresses the graduating class at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland—and complains about photo ID requirements for voting. Holder says, “[I]nterfering with or depriving a person of the right to vote should never be a political aim. It is a moral failing. In recent years, thousands of Americans, the pride of our nation, have given their lives—and deal even today with the scars of war—so that hopeful, striving people who live continents away could proudly hold up their purple fingers after voting in a truly democratic process. America is now 50 years from Freedom Summer. And we must not countenance, within our own borders, practices that would make it difficult or impossible to exercise the right for which so many have given so much.” (Holder thinks it is acceptable to demand that Iraqi voters dip their fingers in purple ink as a safeguard against vote fraud, yet unacceptable for U.S. states to ask for identification for the same reason.) [59172]

According to *The New York Times*, “Obama is preparing to nominate Mayor Julian Castro of San Antonio as his new secretary of housing and urban development... Mr. Castro, who has often been mentioned as a potential vice-presidential candidate for the Democrats, would take the place of Shaun Donovan, who is to become director of the Office of Management and Budget.” (HotAir.com writes, “So why is a guy like that, who won’t turn 40 until this September, suddenly being elevated to lead HUD? You know why. It’s the same reason he was chosen to deliver the keynote at the 2012 Democratic convention despite there being endless numbers of more accomplished lefties who coveted the job. He’s the Platonic ideal of a major-party national candidate: Strikingly young, to appeal to twenty- and thirtysomethings; highly credentialed, with degrees from Stanford and Harvard Law; and of course Latino, which boosts the party’s chances of getting the country’s fastest-growing demographic to turn out en masse. Essentially he’s

a Latino Obama, except with *much less experience*. If he ends up as VP in 2016, he'd be the youngest veep since Dan Quayle (who had spent eight years in the Senate by the time he was sworn in) and indisputably the one with the thinnest resume, which means, if Hillary's health goes south, the free world could conceivably be led circa 2018 by a guy whose main qualification was a two-year sinecure atop America's housing bureau. But look at it this way. If they're going to have a pure identity-politics candidate at the top of the ticket, why shouldn't they also have one at the bottom?") [58965, 58966]

At Gainesville, Virginia's exclusive Robert Trent Golf Club, Obama plays golf with Joe O'Neil, a lobbyist for Bain Capital. (The Obama campaign spent a fair amount of time in 2012 criticizing Mitt Romney for his work with Bain Capital. Apparently running Bain Capital is bad, but being its chief government lobbyist is good.) [58864, 58865, 58928, 58929]

Tim Walker writes at *The Independent*, "[A] senior Norwegian diplomat has revealed that, far from feeling honoured by the award, the White House was furious [when Obama was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in early 2009]. Morten Wetland, the former Norwegian ambassador to the UN, claimed in an article for the business paper Dagens Næringsliv this week that, when the Prize was announced, Mr Obama's then-chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel confronted and 'dressed down' the country's ambassador to the US, Wegger Strømmen. Mr Emanuel reportedly accused Mr Strømmen and Norway of 'fawning' over the freshly elected Mr Obama. ...The White House may have believed that the prize was little more than a ploy to lure [Obama] to Norway, Mr Wetland told the country's English language news service The Local. 'My guess is that [Obama's] staff want[ed] to be in control and not to be forced into a position that they have not been seeking themselves,' he said. 'It could have been perceived that someone was consciously or subconsciously thinking about the prospect of having Obama visit Norway. Obama wouldn't have visited Norway if it hadn't have been for the Peace Prize.'" [58800]

FoxNews.com reports, "As Hollywood hotshots protest the iconic Beverly Hills Hotel over its ownership by Brunei's sultan—and his recent full-fledged embrace of Islamic law—it turns out the Brunei government has financial connections to another American institution: The Clinton Foundation. The nonprofit foundation lists Brunei alongside Kuwait, Oman and Qatar as donors that gave between \$1 million and \$5 million through last year. The foundation confirmed the donation from Brunei was made in 2002, in connection with the construction of the Clinton Presidential Library in Arkansas. 'The Clinton Foundation's impact would not be possible without the generous support of our donors,' the foundation's website reads. 'Their contributions have made a difference in the lives of tens of millions across the world.' The contribution could prove an uncomfortable detail in the foundation's financial records, particularly as Hillary Clinton weighs a possible presidential run. Though The Clinton Foundation has thus far avoided any major controversy over the matter, a Brunei connection has caused headaches for the Beverly Hills Hotel on the other side of the country. Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah has come under heavy criticism since the ultra-wealthy leader, who has been in power for decades, embraced a harsh Islamic penal code for his southeast Asian nation of roughly

408,000 residents. The change would make adultery, abortion and same-sex relationships offenses punishable by ancient methods—flogging, or even stoning.” [58813]

The Ulsterman Report writes, “Likely thinking Americans will happily declare [Obama] is ‘just one of us,’ Barack Obama, Joe Biden, and plenty of cameras on hand to record it all, went to the upscale/roadside D.C. Shake Shack to pretend they care and spin politics. Barack Obama even went so far as to hop on the counter and do the Shake Shack Shimmy. No doubt this will leave Putin, the Chinese, and other world leaders shaking in their boots that this tough guy is the alleged leaders of the Free World... During the lunch visit, (at a place which is 100% counter to all of First Lady Michelle’s ‘don’t eat that!’ public persona), [Obama] said he stopped in at the Shake Shack because it pays ‘more than \$10 an hour.’ Ok then Barack, how about you take your unique skill set and apply for a job? You’d still be vastly overpaid, but hey, it’s a start.” [58841, 59064]

On *Justice with Jeanine*, Judge Jeanine “pull no punches” Pirro blasts Obama and Veteran Administration head General Eric Shinseki over the “secret waiting list” scandal: “Mr. [Obama], your administration is the most lawless in American history. After five years, nothing surprises me. I’m not shocked. But I am heartbroken. ...And General, you call yourself a war hero? War heroes don’t leave men to die. I don’t care if you’re the most decorated man in military history. You are leaving men and women to die. ...You call veterans facing certain death, refused medical care by VA personnel who then create false records so that they can pocket a bonus, an ‘adverse incident?’ It’s not an adverse incident, General, it’s a homicide, a criminally negligent homicide!” [58872]

On May 18 *The Jerusalem Post* reports, “A woman convicted in a 1969 terrorist bombing in Israel is set to enter a plea this week to charges that she concealed her past when immigrating to the United States. Politico on May 14 reported that the Detroit federal judge presiding over the case of Rasmieh Yousef Odeh set a May 21 plea hearing in her case. It was not clear what her plea would be. According to Politico, her charges carry a sentence of up to 10 years in prison and deportation. Odeh, who became a naturalized citizen in 2004, was arrested in October for failing to mention her conviction in her immigration papers. Israel jailed Odeh for life for her involvement in a number of Jerusalem bombings in 1969, including one at a supermarket that killed two Hebrew University students, Leon Kanner and Eddie Joffe. She was released in a prisoner exchange with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in 1980, and immigrated to the United States from Jordan in 1995.” Pamela Geller completes the story: “Daniel Greenfield reported last October that ‘Odeh works as an associate director at the Arab American Action Network, a Chicago-area nonprofit group that advocates for new immigrants and tries to combat anti-Muslim and anti-Arab prejudice, according to its director, Hatem Abudayyeh.’ And ‘the Arab American Action Network [AAAN] has some ties to, who else, Barack Hussein Obama.’ So who knows how this plea will go. With Odeh’s friends in high places, expect her to get off lightly.” [58820, 58821, 58822]

As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Mona Khalidi is the president of AAAN. Her husband, Rashid Khalidi, served as vice president of the American Task Force on

Palestine (ATFP), a pro-Palestine lobby demanding the ‘right of return’ for all Palestinian refugees and their descendants. Rashid Khalidi is a former Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) operative, Obama pal, and Obama fundraiser. He is currently a professor of Arab studies at Columbia University. Khalidi also taught at the University of Chicago, lived near the Obamas in Hyde Park, and has been their friend and frequent dinner companion. While Obama served on the board of the Woods Fund, it approved (in 2001) a \$40,000 grant to the Arab American Action Network (AAAN). A second grant, for \$35,000, was approved in 2002. In 2003, Obama attended a dinner held in honor of Khalidi. Obama has consistently denied a close relationship with Khalidi, even though the Obamas have dined more than once at the home of Khalidi and his wife, Mona, and used them as occasional baby-sitters. Obama praised Khalidi during the decidedly anti-Semitic event. William Ayers also attended the dinner, and both Ayers and Obama signed Khalidi’s guest book. One speaker at the dinner, which was sponsored by the AAAN, remarks that if Palestinians cannot secure a return of their land, Israel “will never see a day of peace.” The *Los Angeles Times* has a videotape of the Khalidi dinner but refuses to make it public. It is assumed the tape’s contents are damaging to Obama, likely because the event included anti-Semitic sentiments and Obama heaping praise on Khalidi. Further, appearing as entertainment at the Khalidi dinner was a children’s dance group, the Sanabel AlQuds Dabka troupe. The Milwaukee-based Muslim children’s dance group typically performs the “debka,” a Middle-Eastern dance. The group’s performances have been known to include simulated beheadings with fake swords, and stomping on American, Israeli, and British flags. It has been alleged that, in his speech at the Khalidi dinner, Obama stated “Israel has no God-given right to occupy Palestine,” and there has been “genocide against the Palestinian people by (the) Israelis.” [85, 384, 387, 395, 416, 418, 419, 438, 439, 440, 521, 6618, 6619, 6620, 6621, 6631, 6632, 10566, 13055, 13092, 13093]

The Independent reports, “A British-born man [Aminu Sadiq Ogwuche] suspected of masterminding Boko Haram bomb attacks in Nigeria that left around 100 people dead became radicalised during his years at a Welsh university, it has been claimed. ...Experts warned that his case could signal the start of a new wave of British-Nigerian extremists travelling to fight for Boko Haram, attracted by its global notoriety following the kidnapping of more than 270 girls. The Nigerian authorities are now seeking the extradition of Ogwuche for the bombings of a poor suburb of Abuja, which is home to people displaced by the government’s war against Boko Haram in the north of the country. ...Former classmates in Wales spoke of their shock that Ogwuche had been alleged to be a terrorist mastermind after spending three years studying for a degree in business science at the University of Glamorgan—now the University of South Wales—from 2007 to 2010. ...During his time in Britain in 2010, his Facebook pages included comments expressing his willingness to die. The following year it read: ‘The only punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger and strive to make mischief in the land is that they should be murdered, or crucified, or their hands and their feet should be cut off, or they should be imprisoned.’” (Pamela Geller comments, “So remember, when the dhimedia [“dhimmi media”] and political clowns like [Secretary of State] John Kerry tell you that jihad is about poverty or that Boko Haram is off in some distant corner of the planet where such things happen... they are clueless or

complicit. But ignorance is unacceptable. In fact, it is an outrage. There is no excuse for not knowing, or worse, apologetics. This gives further proof to the lie that jihad is motivated by poverty or illiteracy. According to a new study, wealthy, better educated Muslims are more likely to wage jihad.”) [58826, 58827]

NYDailyNews.com reports, “A former top U.S. security official fears the nation could be attacked again by terrorists. Gen. Keith Alexander, who retired in March as director of the National Security Agency after eight years on the job, said the probability of another terrorist attack on U.S. soil is increasing. ‘The number of attacks that are coming, the probability, it’s growing,’ Alexander said in a New Yorker magazine interview published over the weekend. ‘What I saw at N.S.A. is that there is a lot more coming our way.’ ‘We’re at greater risk,’ Alexander said. ‘Look at the way Al Qaeda networks. From Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb, and now in Syria, the al-Nusra front.’” [58937, 58938]

In Libya, gunmen storm parliament as gun fights between rival militias erupt across Tripoli. According to Reuters, “Saudi Arabia closed its embassy and consulate in the Libyan capital and withdrew its entire diplomatic staff on Monday because of security concerns. Underscoring the turmoil, the commander of the Libyan army special forces, Wanis Bukhamada, said on Monday that he had allied with renegade general Khalifa Haftar [or Hafter] in his campaign against militant Islamists. The Tripoli government has denounced Haftar as attempting to stage a coup.” WorldTribune.com later reports, “Diplomatic sources said renegade Gen. Khalifa Hafter was receiving guidance and military support from Egypt. ... ‘The Arab states see Hafter as the only hope to provide stability in Libya,’ a diplomat said. The sources said Hafter succeeded in recruiting virtually the entire Libyan military. They said the military, despite statements by the General Staff, has not stopped operations by troops loyal to Hafter. Hafter, said to have worked with the CIA for more than 20 years, has long been seen as a supporter of the United States. But the sources said Egypt and the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] groomed Hafter for a takeover of Libya after they determined that the United States was protecting the Islamist militias connected to the Muslim Brotherhood. ‘The assessment by the Arab regimes was that Washington wanted the Islamists regardless of what this was doing to Libya,’ another source said.” (That is, as a result of Obama’s efforts to oust President Hosni Mubarak and support the radical Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt does not trust Obama. Egypt’s current leaders also believes Obama’s actions to remove Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi were meant to give power to the radical Islamists.) [58994, 59087]

By a three-to-one margin, voters in Switzerland reject the establishment of a minimum wage of approximately \$25 per hour. (Unlike Obama, Swiss voters understand that an arbitrary and high minimum wage increases prices and causes job losses.) Meanwhile, the Seattle city council is expected to destroy unknown numbers of jobs by legislating a phased-in \$15 per hour minimum wage. (At Townhall.com Rachel Alexander points out, “The unions stand to benefit immensely if the minimum wage is increased. Most union contracts have a clause that permit them to renegotiate contracts or increase wages when

the minimum wage is raised. When was the last time you heard of a union losing a renegotiation? When this law goes into effect, many businesses will lay off employees, find ways to automate jobs or force employees to work harder. Fast-food digital kiosks are already prevalent in Europe, where they were implemented in order to replace employees due to increasingly oppressive taxes and regulations. The kiosks are beginning to show up in the U.S. [Panera Bread plans to install them in at all of its locations], and can be expected to drastically increase in Seattle. ...The left admits that restaurants will be hit the hardest. Highly dependent upon unskilled workers, they will end up passing much of the increase onto consumers.” [58829, 58850, 58882, 58900, 58909, 58920, 58972]

At WSJ.com Mary Anastasia O’Grady reports, “[T]wo prominent lawyers have petitioned Haiti’s Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes, demanding an audit of Bill Clinton’s management of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC). There are powerful interests that won’t want to see the petition succeed and it may go nowhere. But the sentiment it expresses is spreading fast. In the immortal words of Charlie Brown, Mr. Clinton has gone from hero to goat. Four years after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake toppled the capital city of Port-au-Prince and heavily damaged other parts of the country, hundreds of millions of dollars from the State Department’s U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), allocated to the IHRC, are gone. Hundreds of millions more to the IHRC from international donors have also been spent. Left behind is a mishmash of low quality, poorly thought-out development experiments and half-finished projects. ...While Mr. Clinton was running things for the IHRC, and the U.S. was leading the reconstruction effort, Hillary Clinton was the U.S. Secretary of State, which means that Mr. Clinton was reporting to his wife. Cheryl Mills, Mrs. Clinton’s chief of staff and counselor to the State Department (an adviser and consultant to the secretary), traveled to the country an estimated 30 times in four years. ...Haitians are angry, frustrated and increasingly suspicious of the motives of the IHRC and of its top official, Mr. Clinton. ...Haitians are bitterly disappointed. But with Mr. Clinton in charge, supervised by Mrs. Clinton and her State Department sidekick, the outcome was predictable.” [58884, 58885]

Newsmax.com reports, “The Obama administration is holding up approval of applications for liquefied natural gas exports that could total nearly 30 billion cubic feet per day. Some of the more than two dozen applications were filed as long ago as 2011 and early 2012. But Obama’s Energy Department has consistently favored renewable energy sources over carbon-based fuels. ‘America could sell natural gas to Europe and Asia, undercutting Russia’s market, at no additional cost to the federal government,’ according to Diana Furchtgott-Roth, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and former chief economist of the U.S. Department of Labor. ‘On the contrary, increased production means additional tax revenue to federal and state governments.’ ...The United States has massive natural gas deposits that can now be accessed thanks to fracking and horizontal drilling techniques. In North Dakota, the average amount of ‘non-marketed’ natural gas, which is wasted, was 0.31 billion cubic feet a day through the end of 2013, according to the Energy Information Administration. ‘Most non-marketed natural gas is flared into the atmosphere like an open burner on a gas stove,’ Furchtgott-Roth writes for the Wall

Street Journal's MarketWatch. 'Flaring gas releases CO2 as a byproduct of combustion, so it would be environmentally preferable for the gas to be sold.' One-third of North Dakota's total production is flared. Allowing more exports would help the state's economy and increase America's gross domestic product." [58830]

Newsmax.com reports, "As the Department of Veterans Affairs faces an increasing amount of scrutiny over allegations of "secret" waiting lists that left veterans at VA hospitals untreated for months, a new report shows that the VA settled several claims that appear related to treatment delays. The Dayton Daily News, in a story published Sunday, says its investigation of a database of paid claims shows that since 2001 the words 'delay in treatment' were used 167 times. The VA paid out \$36.4 million to settle the claims, the Daily News reported. ...More than 100 payments a year are made on claims that veterans died as a result of VA medical care, the Daily News and WSB-TV in Atlanta reported. So far, the VA has admitted that 23 veterans have died waiting for care, but the Daily News said that number could be closer to 1,100 from 2001 through 2013, according to records it obtained through the Freedom of Information Act." [58842, 58843]

On *Meet the Press*, Republican National Chairman Reince Priebus says he does not think Hillary Clinton will run for president in 2016, and that questions about her age and health are fair game: "It's going to be an issue. It's going to come up... We're going to be at this point at some time if Hillary Clinton runs for president. I mean the issue of her health and her age is going to come up. And it's... I'm not a doctor. What I do know is that the issue's going to come up, as it does for any person running for president. What I think is going to make her rethink whether she should actually run for president—by the way, I don't actually think she will, if she has another month, which she just had. ...I doubt whether or not [sic] she will run for president in 2016. I know a lot of people around her want her to run, and I think that they're purposely creating this environment around here [which is] causing us to talk about her today. ...I think Hillary's a known product. Actually, I think it's sometimes worse running against a blank slate. Hillary has decades of history for us to explore." (In 2016 the Republicans will be sure to remind voters of Clinton's disastrous "HillaryCare" proposal, her lack of accomplishments as a U.S. Senator, her involvement in the Benghazi "what difference does it make?" coverup, and her State Department's failure to designate Boko Haram a terrorist group and failure to approve the Keystone XL pipeline.) Program host David Gregory does his best to defend the Obama administration and Clinton, denying Priebus' charge that "She is trying to sweep Benghazi under the rug. She absolutely is. And if you want any evidence of that, ask the families of people who lost their sons in Benghazi. They've talked plenty about what happened in Benghazi." Gregory responds, "It doesn't mean that she swept it under the rug. They may be dissatisfied, right, with what they've learned." [58844, 58873, 58914]

On *Face the Nation*, White House chief of staff Denis McDonough claims Obama is "madder than Hell" over the Veterans Administration "secret waiting list" scandal. (McDonough does not clarify whether Obama is angry that veterans are being mistreated or angry that the mistreatment was discovered. Nor does he explain why Obama was not

“madder than Hell” when he was informed in late 2008 that the wait times statistics of the VA could not be trusted, or in 2012 when the problem was confirmed by an inspector general audit.) Laughably, McDonough says it is appropriate for VA head Eric Shinseki to lead the investigation into his own agency’s failures. (The White House response to scandals seems to follow these stages: 1. “We are outraged!” 2. “We cannot comment during an ongoing investigation.” 3. It’s a phony scandal, used by the GOP for partisan purposes.” 4. “That’s yesterday’s news, and the American people want us to move in to more important issues.”) [58869, 58876, 58880, 58907, 59018]

In an interview with DailyCaller.com, San Diego minister and author James L. Garlow says, “I do not recall in my lifetime anything remotely close to what we are seeing. For the law enforcer in Washington D.C., the chief in America [Attorney General Eric Holder], to tell the Attorneys General across the states that you don’t have to enforce the law if you don’t like it... that is beyond anything I was taught in school. Rule of law and consent of the governed has been lost.” Garlow also says that Obama is responsible for “morally and economically destroying a wonderful experiment called America.” [58857]

On Aaron Klein’s New York City radio show *The Answer*, Freedom Watch’s Larry Klayman (the founder of Judicial Watch), suggests Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts may have been blackmailed into ruling that ObamaCare was not unconstitutional. According to WND.com, Klayman asked, “Why did Chief Justice Roberts at the eleventh hour change his decision? He was going to side with the other justices and find that ObamaCare was unconstitutional. Is it something that was dug up on him by the NSA or the CIA? Was that used against him to blackmail him? These are the kinds of things [the government is doing], and that’s why it’s so scary what’s going on with the NSA and the CIA. It can happen in a democracy. So that may help explain it, and perhaps we can reach these issues through the NSA cases that we brought, the NSA/CIA cases. I intend to get the truth on this. ...If the government wants to destroy you, it has to access the information that it can use to do it, and that’s why this is so frightening. [It has] a greater capability than King George III had in 1776. The tyranny is greater today than it was at the time of the American Revolution. ...The bottom line is this: Our so-called government is trying to delay final adjudication of the constitutionality of the CIA and NSA’s programs, and as a ruse, ...Obama is claiming he wants to make modifications to those programs. They’re not modifications at all. ...Can you imagine Hillary Clinton having the power to use this?” [58846]

Attorney Orly Taitz writes that award-winning author (*Why Coolidge Matters*) Charles Johnson recently “revealed that... Andrew Breitbart hired him to disprove birther claims, to show that birthers are lying and Obama is eligible [the] for presidency. Johnson, an accomplished investigative journalist, engaged in extensive research and found that Taitz and others are correct, that birther claims are true, [and] that Obama is indeed a fraud and using all bogus IDs. Johnson went back to Breitbart and other editors of Breitbart.com advising them that birther claims are 100% correct and they should write about it. Breitbart.com editors refused to write about it as they were afraid of persecutions by the IRS and other government agencies. So, Johnson confirmed... that Breitbart.com, which

fashions itself as a political dissident publication, was as complicit in the cover up of the biggest fraud in the US history, as the other main stream media publications, high ranking officials and a number of judges. Johnson wrote to Taitz in one of his books: ‘To Orly. Keep telling the truth. Charles C Johnson.’ [58847]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Iran has thrown up new roadblocks to reaching a deal with the P5+1 world powers over its illicit nuclear program. Three days of negotiations in the fourth round of Geneva discussions ended Friday in arguments and confrontations when the Iranian team presented their country’s new ‘red lines,’ diminishing any hope by the Obama administration to claim victory in its approach to Iran’s nuclear ambitions, according to reports from Iran.” Pamela Geller observes, “Iran got the money, got the freeze lifted, got a billion from Obama, who got... yellow cake on his face. I was not alone when I called this deal a farce. I warned, railed and shook my fist. [Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu said, ‘No deal is better than a bad deal. That the deal that is being discussed in Geneva right now is a bad deal. It’s a very bad deal. Iran is not required to take apart even one centrifuge. But the international community is relieving sanctions on Iran for the first time after many years. Iran gets everything that it wanted at this stage and it pays nothing...’ Of course, Iran is changing the terms, issuing new ‘red lines.’ This was the obvious outcome. So we are supposed to believe that Obama and his quisling administration didn’t know? I believe that they knew very well, and that this was the desired outcome all along. Obama is turning our allies, and eventually our freedom, over to our most vicious enemies.” One U.S. official says the negotiations reached “a moment of great difficulty.” [58848, 58883]

TheDailyBeast.com reports, “Add Albuquerque, New Mexico’s to the growing list of VA hospitals accused of keeping secret waiting lists to hide delays for veterans seeking medical care. And it may already be too late to get to the truth and find out what harm, if any, was done to veterans there—VA officials are already destroying records to cover their tracks, a whistleblower inside the hospital tells The Daily Beast. ... ‘The ‘secret wait list’ for patient appointments is being either moved or was destroyed after what happened in Phoenix,’ according to a doctor who works at the Albuquerque VA hospital and spoke exclusively with The Daily Beast. ‘Right now,’ the doctor said, ‘there is an eight-month waiting list for patients to get ultrasounds of their hearts. Some patients have died before they got their studies. It is unknown why they died, some for cardiac reasons, some for other reasons.’ ... When another of the doctor’s colleagues, a physician in a managerial position at the Albuquerque VA, saw the initial story about secret wait lists break he heard him say, ‘I always knew that Phoenix was better than us at playing the numbers game.’ ... Veterans with heart problems are waiting an average of four months to see a cardiologist at the Albuquerque VA, according to the doctor there who has access to patient records. There are eight physicians in the cardiology department. But at any given time, only three are working in the clinic, where they see fewer than two patients per day, so on average there are only 36 veterans seen per week. That means the entire eight-person department sees as many patients in a week as a single private practice cardiologist sees in two days, according to the doctor.” [58890]

On May 19 White House press secretary Jay Carney is asked when Obama and other top administration officials learned of the Veterans Administration's "secret waiting lists" of veterans seeking medical treatment. Carney (who says that Obama "has confidence in Secretary [Eric] Shinseki"), responds, "...I believe, uh, we learned about them through, uh, the [news media] reports, uh, I will double-check [to determine] if that's not the case, but that's when we learned about them..." (Once again, Obama seems to not know what is going on in his own administration. Townhall.com's Guy Benson notes, "[W]e've also been assured that Obama had no idea that this signature law [ObamaCare] was about to humiliatingly stall on the launch pad (despite flashing, neon warning signs), nor was he aware of the NSA's monitoring of foreign allies' communications. We can now tack the VA scandal onto the growing roster of controversies [Obama] first learned about via news reports." In 2007 Obama stated, "When 400,000 veterans are stuck on a waiting list for claims, we need a new sense of urgency." According to *The Washington Times*, documents show that "Veterans Affairs officials specifically warned the Obama-Biden transition team in late 2008 that the department should not trust the wait times its facilities were reporting." In 2012 the VA inspector general confirmed that there was widespread fraud to hide excessive waiting. Obama can hardly claim he was unaware of the mess at the Veterans Administration. Obama may have inherited the mess and he can blame President George W. Bush, but he cannot deny that over more than five years he has done next to nothing to resolve the problems.) [58854, 58855, 58881, 58887, 58898, 58910, 58921, 59142]

ABC's Jonathan Karl asks Carney, "If this mess regarding wait times isn't cleaned up soon, are General [Eric] Shinseki's days numbered as VA secretary?" Carney responds, "What [Obama] wants is for the review and the investigation to be completed and for action to be taken to address any problems that are identified by the review and the investigation and for individuals to be held accountable if that is appropriate." Karl: "Are you suggesting regarding Dr. [Robert] Petzel that he was forced to resign because of this controversy?" Carney: "He did resign. He was identified as somebody that the American Legion thought should be held responsible, and I would point you to what the American Legion said." Karl: "How can you suggest that his resignation comes as accountability when the VA put out a press release on September 20 saying he was leaving? It's almost eight months ago. I don't care what the American Legion has to say; I'm asking what you have to say." Carney: "Well, I would point you to the American Legion, which obviously has deep interest in this matter and has been reported on significantly by your network and others in terms of what they have said about this issue and note that they look at Mr. Petzel, Dr. Petzel's resignation as quote 'a step towards addressing the leadership problem at the VA.' I'll leave it at that. Those are the words that they say." [58860, 58898, 58910]

NBC's Chuck Todd says to Carney: "You seem very eager to rely upon the American Legion's statement about the resignation of Dr. Petzel, not on what the American Legion wants with General Shinseki." Carney: "We've made clear our view on Secretary Shinseki and the service he has provided. I would refer you to what Secretary Shinseki has said about Dr. Petzel and what the American Legion has said about Dr. Petzel, because these questions are asked in large part in response to those who have called for

personnel actions in response to some of these allegations.” Todd: “Why shouldn’t we view this as window dressing—sort of politically advantageous—because you know he is already leaving, so you are taking action.” Carney: “You can view it any way you like. I would refer you to what the American Legion has said, and I would simply say as I said earlier, that the secretary, and [Obama] eagerly await the results of the individual investigation.” Todd: “If you’re eagerly awaiting the results of the investigation, that’s where this sort of feels like where we’re chasing our tails. You want this to be seen as taking immediate action but over here you want ‘Oh, whoa, whoa, whoa, we gotta wait for an investigation.’” Carney: “Chuck, I would suggest to you that I was answering a question, I’m not like proactively pushing this out.” Todd: “Nobody pushed him [Dr. Petzel] out? This is not a firing?” Carney: “The VA has addressed this, so I would refer you to the VA.” Todd: “But should we characterize this as a firing or not?” Carney: “Chuck, you guys have got to make some editorial decisions on your own. I am simply referring you to what the VA said and what the American Legion said.” (In fact, the American Legion had issued a statement calling Petzel’s resignation “business as usual.” Carney is lying when he claims otherwise.) [58860, 58898, 58910]

Some might expect the Obama administration to demand more money to address the Veterans Administration problems, but the agency’s budget had already ballooned from \$73 billion in 2006 to \$154 billion in 2012. Average waiting times for patients nevertheless increased from 100 days in 2008, to 115 days in 2010, to 255 days in 2012, and 360 days in 2014. Additionally, the replacement for Robert Petzel, the retiring VA undersecretary for health, is Dr. Jeffrey Murawsky—who has been in charge of the region that includes the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in the Chicago area. The Hines facility is also under investigation for maintaining secret waiting lists. According to Investors.com, “...the VA spent millions on bonuses during the last three years at Hines. Worse, in 2013, only about one-in-four of Hines’ 4,230 employees were those providing the actual primary care: doctors (309) or nurses (about 800), Open the Books found. Five veterans died waiting for care at Hines. As far back as 1999, the VA had found systemic quality-of-care problems at Hines with little done to correct them. A VA study concluded that ‘Hines has the most inefficient physical plant for inpatient care and the most significant compliance issues with patient privacy.’ In 2005, a VA study rated Chicago the worst regional office in the country. Now the man in charge at Hines, Murawsky, has been elevated to oversight of the entire VA system.” [58889, 58891, 58892, 58898, 59232]

Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) states, “New revelations [from a Freedom of Information Act request] that ...Obama has known since 2008 about delayed care and record falsification at Veterans Affairs facilities but did nothing, even as veterans died, call into question his personal role in the scandal. Obama knew. Obama knew for over five years. And Obama chose to do nothing even as veterans continued to die. ...Obama continued to ignore the rising death toll until it was publicly exposed. Only then did he claim to be ‘madder than hell’ and took action, which he should have done over five years ago.” [58898, 58905]

Pro-amnesty Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), testifying at a Senate hearing on immigration, says, “[E]very institution in America, including our military, must work around the inability of our federal government and the U.S. House of Representatives to fix our immigration system.” (In other words, “Unless we Hispanics and Democrats get the amnesty legislation we want passed, everyone should ignore and even violate existing immigration laws.”) The next day, on the House floor, Gutierrez tells taunts Republicans, saying, “If you do nothing on immigration, I guess you can take comfort in knowing that from Abraham Lincoln to George W. Bush, you had a pretty good run. Even with a majority of Republican voters supporting immigration reform, the positions Republican candidates feel they must take in order to win over their base make them unelectable when they face the American people in the general election. So, Mr. Speaker, I give you George W. Bush—the man who will go down in history as the last Republican president in American history.” (Of course, the opposite is more likely to be true. If Republicans back amnesty legislation, the Democrats will gain millions more Hispanic voters. The GOP has nothing to gain from amnesty legislation but its own demise.) [58904, 58957]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Republicans are hitting the Obama administration over a weekend report that at least one million of those receiving Obamacare subsidies aren’t being paid the right amount. The House Energy and Commerce Committee wrote Monday to outgoing Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and three federal contractors—Accenture, CGI and Serco—asking for all documents relating to incorrect subsidy payments, as well as problems with enrollees’ immigration status. The Washington Post reported Saturday that the federal government may be paying out incorrect health-care subsidies to over one million Americans. A large proportion of those who have signed up for coverage through Obamacare exchanges listed incomes that differ significantly from their incomes on file with the IRS.” [58859]

A national poll from left-leaning Politico shows Obama with a dismal approval/disapproval rating of 40/59 percent. Additionally, Republicans hold a 41/34 lead in generic Congressional polling, and a 43/36 lead in U.S. Senate polling. (The poll has an unusual 34/39/26 D/R/I, which may be valid only if Republican voters are more enthusiastic than Democrats in November 2014. In typical surveys, the samplings tilt more toward Democrats. HotAir.com comments, “Now, if this accurately represents the turnout model for the midterms, then Democrats are stumbling toward a huge backlash the likes of which may make 2010 look like an autumn frolic. But the turnout model in 2010 was 35/35/29, albeit in a race that had a more even distribution of Senate races in red, blue, and purple states than the midterms this year will be. Still, that’s the closest model we have for this coming midterm, so these approval numbers and generic Congressional gaps may not be quite as pronounced as this one poll shows. ...Even if one takes this [poll] with a small grain of salt based on the composition of the sample, it’s bad news almost all the way around for Democrats. ...Democrats appear to be rolling into disaster, and the only real debate is its scope.”) [58874, 58875]

Government documents obtained by Judicial Watch via a Freedom of Information Act request show that only *one person* enrolled in ObamaCare on October 1, 2013, while

43,2008 accounts were created. As of Oct. 31, 2013 there were 1,319,425 accounts, but only 30,512 ObamaCare enrollments. [58899, 58911]

MaghrebChristians.com reports, “Muslims in Egypt, in the village of Dalga, murdered a Christian man right in front of his son by riddling his body with bullets, then they dragged his body to the mosque. When they arrived at the mosque, they tied his body to a tractor and then mutilated the corpse as they screamed ‘Allahu Akbar!’ Hours later he was buried in the local cemetery, but on the next day, the Muslims took his body and dragged it through the streets and mutilated him. Most bizarrely they did this three times a day, in a very demonic and diabolical ritual. The victim was running a local barber shop, and the Muslims attacked him while he was working in the business, and they also burned the shop down. ...The life of the Christian in Egypt is one in which death can come at any time. Anba Macarius, head bishop of Minya’s Coptic Church, described how the Muslims have destroyed many churches, Christian organization and businesses, and how dangerously volatile the Christian life is: ‘Three hundred homes, 100 businesses, 15 churches and about 10 Christian organizations were destroyed in my province... Christians in Egypt are expecting death at any time... I thank the Lord I am still alive but I am like anybody else in Minya, we all face dangers. My life is not more precious than any other soul in Minya.’” (Pamela Geller writes, “Muhammad Rashid points out to me: ‘The people who do this are ordinary Muslims, not militant extremists, as our politically correct leaders and news media would have us believe. They would do this to me, an apostate (ex-Muslim), if they could find me. I know these people well; I was one of them.’” Obama has no comment.) [59423, 59424]

AmericanBanker.com reports, “The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau [CFPB] released an internal report on Monday that showed ‘statistically significant disparities’ in employee evaluations based not just on race, but also age, location, tenure, and whether staffers were part of the agency’s union. As a result, the CFPB said it was scrapping its current system and would pay most agency employees as if they received the highest rating available at the time of their evaluation. Ultimately, the remediation to its staff is expected to cost between \$5 million to \$5.5 million, a spokesman said.” According to a “2013 internal agency report... 74.6% of whites received ratings of 4 or 5 compared to 65.2% of Hispanics and 57.6% of African-Americans. One-fifth of white employees, or 20.7% received a 5, compared with 10.5% of African-Americans... The report said the average white employee received a 3.94 rating, compared with 3.81 for Asian employees, 3.69 for Hispanics and 3.63 for blacks.” (Apparently it does not occur to the Obama administration that some white employees may simply be more productive than some of their co-workers. Perhaps the white employees should be issued a memorandum advising them not to work so hard. Of course, seeing everyone else being equally rewarded regardless of performance is essentially an incentive to slack off.) [59162, 59165]

CNSNews.com asks State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki about the 20-month old child of Meriam Yahya Ibrahim, who is in prison with her because she was convicted of apostasy and sentenced to death by hanging. “You don’t know whether that little boy in prison is a U.S. citizen?” Psaki responds, “I don’t have any more details to share.” The

boy's father, Daniel Wani, is reportedly a naturalized U.S. citizen. Ibrahim is Sudanese. Wani states, "I have tried to apply for papers to travel to the USA with my wife and child, but the American Embassy in Sudan did not help me. My son is an American citizen living in a difficult situation in prison." (The child has one U.S. citizen parent and one non-American parent—and the State Department does not know whether he is considered a U.S. citizen. Obama himself had one U.S. citizen parent and one non-American parent, and the government not only considered Obama a U.S. citizen, it (wrongly) considered him a natural born citizen.) [58931, 58982]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "The White House is refusing to confirm whether ...Obama followed up on his pledge to take a five percent pay cut due to sequestration last year. Obama promised last April to take a 5 percent pay cut in 'solidarity' with federal employees who were furloughed as a result of the automatic budget cuts, known as the sequester. The cut was meant to equate to the level of spending cuts imposed on nondefense federal agencies." (Based on his tax return, Obama did not fulfill his promise.) [58923]

Politico reports, "San Antonio failed to properly spend funds approved by Congress to combat the housing crisis while ...Obama's expected nominee [Julian Castro] to run the Housing and Urban Development Department [HUD] was mayor of the city, according to a 2012 report from the agency's inspector general [IG]. ...San Antonio was awarded \$8.6 million from HUD in 2008 as part of the national Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The city used the money to buy, refurbish and resell homes left vacant after eviction and to also renovate large apartment complexes in the city that were rented out to lower-income tenants. The HUD IG audited how the money was being spent from 2009 to 2011 and found that city officials had awarded \$2.5 million in renovation contracts without a competitive bidding process. Castro, 39, became mayor in May 2009, a job he continues to hold. The report also found that the city misused roughly \$1.1 million when acquiring and fixing properties because some of the properties were not put toward housing lower-income families as required by HUD." (Obama believes that the mayor of a city that misused HUD funds should be the next head of the agency. HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey observes, "The defense for Castro will no doubt revolve around the fact that the mayor in San Antonio is largely ceremonial. It holds no executive power at all; the city is actually run by the city council and a city manager that runs all of the executive functions in San Antonio... But that lack of executive power that will serve as a defense against the conclusions of this IG report also raises questions about what qualifications Castro has in running a vast federal bureaucracy with a current annual budget of \$42 billion. ...Even that defense will still snag Castro on the IG report, though. One of his bragging points is that he 'brought a sense of urgency' to urban revitalization—which one would presume had some connection to HUD efforts in San Antonio. Did Castro miss the abuse and waste of HUD money in San Antonio? Did he ever go on record challenging [city manager Sheryl] Sculley's administration of those funds, or did he play along with it?") [58967, 58968]

En route to a fundraiser in Maryland, Obama's motorcade stops at a Little League baseball game in Washington, D.C. where he makes a limp-wristed, "photo op" pitch to the catcher—and disrupts traffic for thousands of commuters. (Press secretary Jay Carney's daughter is on one of the teams. The White House claim that the stop is "unscheduled" is laughable.) Obama tells the players, "It's a great day for baseball. I don't want to break up the game, let's get a picture quick." (At HotAir.com Mary Katharine Ham quips that Obama "visits the only field in town where his pitch can reach the plate.") [58894, 58895, 58917, 58919, 58922]

At the \$32,400 per couple Democrat Congressional Campaign Committee fundraiser, Obama says, "Congress is wasting time investigating the Benghazi affair and focusing on the troubles" with the Affordable Care Act, and "It's not serious. It's not speaking to the real concerns that people have." (Meanwhile, Democrats complain that Republicans are taking advantage of the scandals to raise campaign funds.) [58896, 58918, 58941]

Obama calls for more "shovel-ready" projects, telling his wealthy audience, "We've got \$2 trillion worth of deferred maintenance right now that at some point is going to have to be rebuilt. Why not now, when there's still so many folks out of work, and that their ripple effects from rebuilding our roads and our bridges and our ports and our air traffic control systems would allow businesses to move products and employees faster and make sure more dynamic and competitive." (The answer to his question is, of course, "Because the government does not have \$2 trillion.") Obama claims that Republicans "don't believe that we as a community, as a country have any serious role to play in giving people a hand up, whose budget reflects an interest in cutting back commitments to the most vulnerable and freeing the most powerful from any constraints, and whose principal focus at any given point in the day is trying to figure out how can they make people sufficiently cynical, sufficiently angry, sufficiently suspicious that they can win the next election. I hate to be blunt about it, but that's the play. And, by the way, when I say a party has been captured, it's because I actually want an effective, serious, patriotic, capable, sober-minded Republican Party. And we've had that in the past. I come from the land of Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln thought infrastructure was a pretty good idea. That's part of why we got a [sic; an] Intercontinental Railroad system." (This is not the first time Obama has incorrectly referred to the nation's transcontinental railroad as "intercontinental." He does not explain which continents it connected. It is also not the first time Obama has called Republicans unpatriotic.) [58924, 58925, 59060]

At another fundraiser, the White House press pool is forced to wait in a bedroom of the host's mansion to prevent them from reporting on Obama's remarks. [58956]

CNN president Jeff Zuckerman states in an interview that he is "not going to be shamed" into covering Benghazi "by others who have political beliefs that [sic; who] want to try to have temper tantrums to shame other news organizations into covering something," but will instead focus more on stories about "climate change." Zuckerman says, "Climate change is one of those stories that deserves more attention, that we all talk about [even though] when we do do [sic] those stories, there does tend to be a tremendous amount of

lack of interest on the audience's part.” (Whether CNN will continue to lose viewers remains to be seen.) [58951, 58964, 59047]

On May 20 filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza pleads guilty in response to charges of using “straw donors” to make donations to a Republican U.S. Senate candidate. USA Today reports, “Mr. D'Souza agreed to accept responsibility for having urged two close associates to make contributions of \$10,000 each to the unsuccessful 2012 Senate campaign of Wendy Long and then reimbursing them for their contributions,” his attorney Benjamin Brafman said in a statement Tuesday. D'Souza is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 23. He faces up to 16 months in prison and a fine of up to \$30,000, according to a plea agreement released Tuesday by prosecutors. ... The conservative author has been harshly critical of ... Obama. In 2012, he released *2016: Obama's America*, a film that claims Obama's worldview was shaped by anti-colonialist views of his Kenyan father, with whom Obama had little contact.” It is worth noting that a 2004 John Edwards donor was charged with a mere misdemeanor for the same crime. It is also worth noting that Obama's closest advisor, Valerie Jarrett said in 2012, “After we win this election, it's our turn. Payback time. Everyone not with us is against us and they [had] better be ready because we don't forget. The ones who helped us will be rewarded, the ones who opposed us will get what they deserve. There is going to be Hell to pay.”) [39570, 53991, 53992, 53997, 54015, 54047, 54104, 54122, 54160, 54167, 54206, 54285, 54352, 54597, 58877, 58878, 58879, 58888, 58906, 58927, 58949, 58954]

Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY) reportedly says the issues with the Veterans Administration wouldn't be taking place “if it was a different class of people who were dying.” (What Rangel, a black racist, means is not clear. He may perhaps mean that no one cares that poor, black veterans are being ignored left to die, but there are more white than black veterans. Or he may mean that the issue has become a scandal because white veterans are not being treated promptly, and that Americans would not be making a fuss if mostly blacks were being mistreated. In either event, Rangel's remark will not doubt be considered despicable by many Americans.) [58893]

At Townhall.com John Ransom suggests the real reason Obama is upset about the Veterans Administration scandal: “The mainstream media is positioning the liberal message to be, ‘We've got great ideas we just have the wrong guy implementing them. There's only one woman who can save us: Hillary 2016.’ This is why Obama is so angry. This is what makes this scandal so different. We can all agree, at least publicly, that the benefits that veterans derive from the government are earned; they are not entitlements. Veterans gave up significant portion of their liberty so as to preserve the liberty of the rest of us. Most veterans do not see combat, but still the sacrifices are real. There is boredom, there's time away from home, there is danger from operating on a flight deck, or in a truck carrying supplies, or just doing paperwork at the Washington Navy Yard. There is the double jeopardy of being subject to both the Uniform Code of Military Justice (USMJ) and also being subject to regular civilian laws. There are workplace hazards such as nuclear exposure, chemical exposure—like Agent Orange—and the risk that unproven vaccines will one day affect veterans health. Even liberals would have a

hard time not defending veterans in this scandal. But if we look at the Veterans Administration as a microcosmic model of the cradle-to-grave care that Obama is proposing for the rest of us, one can see that there is more at stake than just midterm elections, or one administration. With an eye on 2016, the media must convince the rest of us that there's nothing wrong with the model of cradle-to-grave care, but there's something wrong with the poor execution by the Obama administration. Hillary can fix that, the media will say. And that, my friends, is the root of Obama's madness." (Health care from the Veterans Administration is essentially socialized medicine. The government owns the facilities, employs the doctors, and dispenses with the care. If Americans come to recognize that ObamaCare is merely the first step toward socialized medicine, and that VA care is an example of it, the entire scheme may unravel. Democrats in the media therefore have to convince voters that the "right Democrat" can fix the problems, and that the problems are not part of the system itself.) [58907]

Attorney General Eric Holder tells reporters, "Well, obviously these [Veterans Administration] reports, if they're true, are unacceptable, and the allegations are being taken very seriously by the administration. But I don't have any announcements at this time with regard to anything that the Justice Department is doing. This is something on our radar screen at this point, but there is an investigation being done by the [VA] inspector general, and we'll see what happens as a result of that inquiry and other information that comes to light in some form or fashion." [58994]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters that Obama will designate about 500,000 acres in New Mexico the "Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument." According to DailyCaller.com, "Republicans are condemning this as the biggest 'land grab' of his time in office. ...Many westerners fear that Obama will continue to use his executive authority to make for federal lands off-limits to activities like cattle ranching, oil and natural gas drilling and coal mining." Congressman Steve Pearce (R-NM) says that Obama's "decision to section off one-fifth of Dona Ana County is misguided, and shows his contempt for the legislative branch. With this land grab, [Obama] is once again going out of his way to derail any attempt for form a consensus, and do what local people want. ...Residents of Dona Ana County deserve the assurance that first responders and Border Patrol can protect the public, flood control structures will be maintained, ranchers will have their grazing rights, and hunters can have the access they've always enjoyed." (Although the Antiquities Act of 1906 allows presidents to establish national monuments to protect "objects of historic or scientific interest," it was never intended to be used simply to place hundreds of thousands of acres under federal control.) The new national monument area borders Mexico. About half of the 500,000 acres will designated wilderness and will therefore be off-limits to vehicles. (That means law-abiding citizens will be prohibited from accessing the roads. But it can be assumed that illegal immigrants—transporting themselves and drugs—will pay no attention to the prohibition.) [58912, 58915, 58951, 59040, 59043, 59053, 59063]

Carney, who the day before claimed that Obama learned of the Veterans Administration "secret waiting lists" from television news reports, tells reporters, "[Obama], as we all

know, has been talking about the issues and challenges facing VA since he was a candidate. And it was precisely those problems that had been identified and discussed in 2006, 2007 and 2008 that he spoke about as a candidate and that led him to commit to increased resources. So, no, this is not a new issue to [him]. That's why he has been focused on it since he's been [in the Oval Office]." (Obama has been focused on the issue so much that the problems at the VA have gotten worse since he entered the White House.) [58953]

In an interview with Bloomberg Television, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev says, "I believe that ...Obama could be more tactful politically when discussing these issues. Some decisions taken by the U.S. administration are disappointing. We have indeed done a lot for Russian-U.S. relations. I believe doing so was right. The agreements that we reached with America were useful. And I'm very sorry that everything that has been achieved is now being eliminated by these decisions. Basically, we are slowly but surely approaching a second cold war that nobody needs. Why am I saying this? Because a competent politician knows how to make reserved, careful, subtle, wise and intelligent decisions, which, I believe, Mr. Obama succeeded at for a while. But what is being done now, unfortunately, proves that the U.S. Administration has run out of these resources. And the United States is one of the parties to suffer from this." [58926]

CNSNews.com reports, "The total number of disability beneficiaries in the United States rose from 10,981,423 in March to 10,996,447 in April, setting a new all-time record, according to newly released data from the Social Security Administration." [58930]

While Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) continues to complain about spending by wealthy conservatives in support of their political philosophy, FreeBeacon.com reports, "A secretive dark money group backed by George Soros and other liberal megadonors is looking to steer nearly \$40 million to left-wing groups in 2014 to support high-profile political and policy efforts, according to documents obtained by the *Washington Free Beacon*. The documents reveal for the first time the Democracy Alliance's full portfolio of supported organizations, a large network of powerful liberal groups looking to win key electoral and legislative victories. The Democracy Alliance connects major Democratic donors with some of the largest and most influential liberal activist groups in the country. Previous beneficiaries, such as the Center for American Progress and Media Matters for America, are set to get millions more in 2014. The list also reveals DA support for newer organizations, such as Organizing for Action, the advocacy group that succeeded President Barack Obama's reelection campaign. That group has received official sanction from the White House, and operates websites and social media accounts branded with the president's name. In all, the document reveals, the Democracy Alliance hopes to provide \$39.3 million to 20 organizations this year. If it meets those fundraising targets, it will likely be responsible for one out of every five dollars in those groups' 2014 budgets. Alliance-supported organizations will spend more than \$175 million in 2014, according to budget projections contained in the document. The Democracy Alliance is highly secretive in all of its operations. The donors it solicits and the organization to

which it directs their financial support are prohibited from speaking publicly about its operations.” [58933, 58934]

CNSNews.com reports, “The federal government is piecing together a sweeping national ‘biosurveillance’ system that will give bureaucrats near real-time access to Americans’ private medical information in the name of national security, according to Twila Brase, a public health nurse and co-founder of the Citizens Council for Health Freedom. ... Brase warns that the NHSS [National Health Security Strategy] proposal would allow the federal government to monitor an individual’s behavior before, during and after any government-defined health ‘incident’—which could be anything from a local outbreak of the flu to a terrorist anthrax attack.” She states, “It’s very broad. It doesn’t seem to have any limits, except they say something about, you know, properly protecting the data. But from our perspective, if the government gets access to this kind of data, [and] is allowed to do research with the data... then our privacy has already been compromised. The government has already said that our data is their data for their purposes of national health security. It’s very clear to us that really the government is moving toward real-time access, toward close collaboration of government and doctors for ready access to the electronic medical record and then to conduct research and analysis.” [58935]

The Veterans Administration scandal prompts Obama’s chief of staff, Denis McDonough, to meet with Democrat legislators who are both outraged by the facts and what they might mean to their reelection chances. Princeton political affairs professor Julian Zelizer tells TheHill.com, “It’s a scandal where not only your team was caught off-guard, but it doesn’t seem like a partisan issue at its genesis—but an actual scandal of incompetence. And veterans are a powerful constituency—a constituency that touches on many American families. People feel very strongly that veterans should be treated well.” [58936]

According to the *Times of Israel*, “A senior official in the White House reportedly said the US would cooperate with a soon-to-be-formed Palestinian unity government, despite Israeli opposition. A unity government is set to be established within a week by Fatah, which controls the West Bank’s Palestinian areas, and Hamas, the terrorist group that governs Gaza. United States policy [has been] not to work with Hamas unless it recognizes Israel, commits to nonviolence and abides by previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements.” (Obama’s contempt for Israeli is such that he appears ready to discard U.S. policy against negotiating with terrorist groups.) “When the Palestinian factions announced the unity agreement in April, the Israeli government announced that it would not negotiate with any government backed by Hamas.” (Pamela Geller writes, “Nail meet coffin. Where to begin? More like a helluva place to end. Because this is an ending—an ending of the United States as a force for good. An ending of the United States as a moral government. It’s the end of the United States as we have known it. Hamas is a genocidal terror group whose charter calls for the annihilation of Israel in the first paragraph. The reason for their existence is annihilation. The Times of Israel can write about this in even and nonchalant tones, but this is seismic.”) [58939]

OregonLive.com reports, “The federal criminal investigation of Oregon’s [ObamaCare] health insurance exchange took a step into public view Tuesday when the U.S. Attorney’s office issued broad subpoenas seeking information from Cover Oregon and the Oregon Health Authority. While the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s interest in the exchange debacle had been previously reported, the legal demands dated May 13 indicate things may have moved beyond a preliminary inquiry to a full-blown investigation. The investigation, led by federal prosecutors and the FBI, is seeking documents, memos, and emails between the two state entities that oversaw the botched health exchange with U.S. authorities in charge of dispensing federal money for the project. Oregon has spent \$250 million and three years on an ambitious IT project that failed to produce a fully functional exchange. Instead, what was produced was bug-ridden and largely unfinished, documents show.” (Meanwhile, the state of Nevada decides to drop its own ObamaCare exchange site and rely partly on HealthCare.gov.) [58962, 58963]

On *On the Record*, Daniel M. Dellinger, head of the American Legion, accuses White House press secretary Jay Carney of lying about the organization’s reaction to the resignation of Veterans Administration official Robert Petzel. (On May 16 Dellinger stated, “This move by VA is not a corrective action, but a continuation of business as usual. Dr. Petzel was already scheduled to retire this year, so his resignation now really won’t make that much of a difference. ...[VA] Secretary [Eric] Shinseki and Under Secretary [Allison] Hickey remain on the job. They are both part of VA’s leadership problem, and we want them to resign as soon as possible.” Carney somehow managed to shamelessly transform the American Legion’s criticism into praise for the Obama administration’s handling of the situation.) [58932, 58969]

At NationalJournal.com, Ron Fournier writes, “News quiz: ...Obama and his communications team hope that Americans are: 1) Dumb; 2) Distracted; 3) Numb to government inefficiency; 4) All of above. Answer: 4, all of the above. That answer along with utter incompetence are the best explanations for why the White House thought it could get away with claiming that the departure of Veterans Affairs official Robert Petzel was a step toward accountability for its scandalous treatment of war veterans. [The] fact is, the department announced in 2013 that Dr. Petzel would retire this year. ...This was neither a termination nor a housecleaning. It was a scapegoating. For all of its 21st-century savvy in the field of campaign technology, the Obama White House has repeatedly proven that its communications philosophy is stuck in the 20th century. Before the Internet gave voters instantaneous access to information, including every public utterance of the president and his team, White House strategists could hope to wear out the truth: If you said a lie enough, people might believe it. It’s harder to BS the public these days. White House press secretary Jay Carney still tries. On Monday, he repeatedly suggested that the American Legion had praised the move. ...Unfortunately for Carney and his boss, ABC’s intrepid White House correspondent Jonathan Karl has access to the Internet. ‘It turns out, however, the American Legion had issued a statement dismissing the resignation as ‘business as usual,’ Karl wrote. ...In Obama’s defense, he inherited a dysfunctional VA, and the agency has been overwhelmed by veterans returning from two wars he is winding down. But he pledged to reform the VA after blasting the Bush administration in 2007. Instead of getting better, the health care bureaucracy has

worsened and become corrupted. Long delays are covered up and veterans are dying while awaiting care. It's a policy travesty magnified by an insulting public relations strategy." HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes, "It's time to clean out the press office at the White House... and jettison the ridiculous figure Jay Carney has become." [58970]

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) defeats Tea Party-aligned candidate Matt Bevin in the GOP primary in Kentucky. In November, McConnell faces Democrat candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes—who has refused to state whether she would have voted for ObamaCare had she been in Congress in 2010. Like many Democrats on the defensive, of course, she says, "I... will work to fix the Affordable Care Act." And like those same Democrats, she provides no specifics with regard to her "fixes." (Grimes received only 76 percent of the votes in the Democrat primary. Without almost 100,000 Kentucky *Democrats* voting against her, some may wonder why pundits believe Grimes has a good chance to defeat McConnell.) [58940, 58942, 58945, 58496, 58947, 59004]

In the Georgia GOP primary, David Perdue and Jack Kingston garner enough votes to advance to a July 22 run-off election to determine who will run for the U.S. Senate against Democrat candidate Michelle Nunn (who has also refused to state whether she would have voted for ObamaCare). In Georgia's 4th congressional district, Congressman Hank Johnson defeats his challenger. (Johnson was endorsed by Obama—despite Johnson having once asked Admiral Robert Willard, head of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, if he was worried that the island of Guam would tip over if too many Marines were stationed there: "My fear is that the whole island will become so overly populated that it will tip over and capsize." Somehow managing to keep from laughing, the Admiral dryly replied, "We don't anticipate that.") [41592, 41593, 58952, 58971, 59982]

In the Oregon GOP primary, Dr. Monica Wehby defeats her challengers and will try to unseat Senator Jeff Merkley (R-OR) in November. [58942]

In Pennsylvania, Clinton-endorsed House candidate Marjorie Margolies (a former member of Congress and now the mother in law of Chelsea Clinton) loses to Brendan Boyle in the Democrat primary.

On May 21 Veterans Administration (VA) head Eric Shinseki meets with Obama at the White House. Shinseki (who has not had a one-on-one with Obama since July 26, 2012) does *not* resign, even though VA officials in Washington, D.C. knew as early as 2010 that its facilities were engaging in "improper scheduling practices"—and even though Obama is reportedly "mad as Hell." Obama then holds a press conference to say Shinseki "has been a great soldier, and nobody cares more about our veterans. Across the board he has put his heart and soul in this thing. ...I know he cares about [veterans issues] deeply, and he has been a great public servant and a great warrior on behalf of the United States of America. We're going to work with him to solve the problem, but I am going to make sure there is accountability throughout the system." (Shinseki's "heart and soul" may be enough to satisfy Obama, but it is likely not enough to satisfy millions of veterans and their families—especially when they know that Obama's record of holding people

accountable is close to non-existent.) [58958, 58959, 58960, 58973, 58979, 58999, 59008, 59009, 59035, 59065]

Obama notes, “Even if we had not heard reports out of this Phoenix facility or other facilities, we all know that it often takes too long for veterans to get the care that they need. That’s not a new development. It’s been a problem for decades. And it’s been compounded by more than a decade of war. That’s why, when I came into office, I said we would systematically work to fix these problems, and we have been working really hard to address them.” (In other words, “Blame George W. Bush, not me.”) “The point is, caring for our veterans is not an issue that popped up in recent weeks. Some of the problems with respect to how veterans are able to access the benefits that they’ve earned—that’s not a new issue, that’s an issue that I was working on when I was running for the United States Senate. Taking care of our veterans and their families has been one of the causes of my [administration], and it’s something that all of us have to be involved with and have to be paying attention to.” (Obama’s lame excuses will please almost no one, least of all veterans and their families.) [58958, 58959, 58960, 58973, 58979, 58999, 59008, 59009, 59035, 59065]

Obama also says, “I know that people are angry and want swift reckoning. I sympathize with that. But we have to let the investigators do their jobs and get to the bottom of what happened. Our veterans deserve to know the facts; their families deserve to know the facts. Once we know the facts, I assure you, if there is misconduct it will be punished. ... So when I hear allegations of misconduct—any misconduct—whether it’s allegations of VA staff covering up long wait times or cooking the books—I will not stand for it, not as commander in chief, but also not as an American. None of us should. So, if these allegations prove to be true, it is dishonorable, it is disgraceful, and I will not tolerate it, period.” (In other words, “I’ll stall this as long as I can with a phony investigation, and hope that the voters forget about the scandal.”) [58980, 58986]

Obama states, “We launched an all-out war on the disability-claims backlog. And in just the past year alone, we’ve slashed that backlog by half.” (The claim is, of course, meaningless because the scandal involves secret waiting lists to make it appear as though wait times for appointments are not significant. Obama cannot “know” that wait times and backlogs have been slashed in half if the figures that have been reported are phony. NationalReview.com’s Jim Geraghty observes, “Obama ignoring this means A) he’s willing to claim that allegedly falsified records are true to save his own butt or B) he really hasn’t followed this story at all, and doesn’t even know what the core accusations are.”)

“And I think it is important to recognize that the wait times generally—what the IG [inspector general] indicated so far, at least, is the wait times were [for] folks who may have had chronic conditions, were seeking their next appointment, but may have already received service. It was not necessarily a situation where they were calling for emergency services. And the IG indicated that he did not see a link between the wait and them actually dying.” (WhiteHouseDossier.com’s Keith Koffler translates Obama’s excuse for

the 40 or so veterans who died while being hidden on the secret waiting lists: “[P]eople died *while* they were waiting for treatment, nobody died *because* they were waiting.” Koffler adds, “Well, the IG is hardly finished. And there appear to have been some who committed suicide while they were waiting. I’d be very surprised if, given the delays and incompetence, there weren’t many deaths directly caused by the VA. Even if it were possible nobody died because of their wait, it would merely be fortuitous. Like a defendant saying, *Well, I tried to murder my boss, but at least I didn’t succeed!*”) [59065]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “[Obama] looks forward to the results both of the [internal VA] review and of the independent investigation that is underway and is being conducted by the inspector general. ...[Obama] obviously wants both of these two inquiries to proceed efficiently and quickly, but to be comprehensive and effective. So he’s not setting an arbitrary deadline. He expects both of them—or hopes that both of them will be, again, comprehensive and effective.” (One of the two investigations is being conducted by the VA inspector general—who reports to VA head Eric Shinseki. The other is being conducted by White House deputy chief of staff Rob Nabors. Neither can be considered objective or independent. The Government Accountability Office has already issued a report clearly indicating that there are patient scheduling “anomalies” at various VA hospitals.) [58980]

A reporter asks Carney, “What about this criticism of [Obama’s] management style? Is he too detached from some of the nuts and bolts of running the government, running an administration—” Carney interrupts, “I know that’s a Republican meme, and—” Reporter: “...catching him off guard. The healthcare website, now this [VA scandal].” Carney: “I think that if you look at how [Obama] handles a challenge like the [Healthcare.gov] website and handles this [VA] challenge, he responds by demanding action, demanding that Americans who are counting on benefits and services—whether it is a functioning website or benefits through the VA—that they are taken care of. And you saw that with the efforts that were undertaken to fix the website and you’ve seen that with the efforts that are already underway to investigate the problems and allegations that have arisen here with regards to the waiting times for appointments at facilities around the country. And he expects results and he holds people accountable. And when we see whether or not some of these allegations prove to be true, he will insist that misconduct, mismanagement will be met with consequences.” (Carney’s response is laughable. Regardless of what Obama may have “demanded,” it has never been produced, and he has almost never held anyone accountable for anything. One or more heads will likely roll over the VA scandal, but only because he will be forced to do so by Democrats as well as Republicans. It is not a “Republican meme” that Obama is detached from leadership duties and realities. He *is* detached.) [59005]

Senator John McCain (R-Z) responds to Obama’s remarks: “While I am glad that after many weeks of refusing to acknowledge this widening scandal, ...Obama finally saw fit to speak about it today, ...his remarks are wholly insufficient in addressing the fundamental, systemic problems plaguing our veterans’ healthcare system. ...We need

answers, leadership and accountability, none of which we've seen from the Obama administration to date.” [58975]

HotAir.com comments, “How do you think [then-] Senator Obama knew that the problem was ‘urgent’ in the first place? *Everyone knows*—and yet, given the opportunity to fire Shinseki and vowing that he ‘will not tolerate’ this, Obama once again... decided to tolerate it. Shinseki’s still in command, for now, leaving O with basically nothing to say for himself here except rote expressions of outrage. This felt like the sort of presser that [Obama] typically gives the day after a midterm election in which his party’s taken a beating: He has nothing to say, but he feels obliged to show his face lest he be accused of cowardice. That was his goal today—stand up in front of the camera, check the box by looking appropriately outraged, and hope that the time you’ve just bought yourself ends up with the media and the public losing interest and eventually focusing on something else. This guy ran on accountability and now, five years later, here we are.” [59015]

Although Obama may claim he was not aware of Veterans Administration problems, five years ago he came up with a scheme to save \$540 million by cutting their medical benefits. In early 2009 this *Timeline* reported: “Veterans groups are outraged over an almost unbelievable Obama administration plan that would force private health insurance to cover the expense of injuries received by soldiers *while on active duty!* (If a soldier loses his leg in Iraq, for example, Obama does not believe the U.S. government should pay for his medical care and rehabilitation; he would be sent back home and his private insurance carrier would be sent the bill for all treatment he received from the government.) The plan would purportedly save the federal government \$540 million; it would also end up causing military families to be hit with increased premiums and even the loss of private coverage, because maximum plan limitations could easily be reached for treatment of serious war injuries. (If, for example, a family’s health insurance policy had a \$1 million limit on payments and the wounded soldier’s treatment quickly reached that limit, he, his wife, and his children would then have no insurance at all.) Businesses would be reluctant to hire veterans because it could mean skyrocketing insurance rates.” [1766, 1790]

“Craig Roberts, media manager for the American Legion, properly calls Obama’s proposal a ‘desperate search for money at any cost.’ After meeting with Obama, [chief of staff] Rahm Emanuel, and Veteran Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki to object to the absurd scheme, the American Legion’s Commander David K. Rehbein says, ‘This reimbursement plan would be inconsistent with the mandate ‘to care for him who shall have borne the battle,’ given that the United States government sent members of the Armed Forces into harm’s way, and not private insurance companies... the American Legion does not and will not support any plan that seeks to bill a veteran for treatment of a service-connected disability at the very agency that was created to treat the unique need of America’s veterans.’ [1766, 1790]

“Obama defiantly tells representatives of 11 veterans’ service organizations in person that if they don’t like his plan they should come up with another way to generate \$540 million

in revenue. Obama's plan is allegedly intended to 'make the insurance companies pay their fair share,' but it is not the insurance companies that send the troops into battle. (Their 'fair share' would be zero.) Service-related injuries have traditionally been paid for by the government; in fact, private health insurance policies typically exclude coverage for injuries or illnesses that are the result of combat service in the Armed Forces. Roberts states that Obama ignored the argument that the government obviously has a moral responsibility to pay for the treatment of injured soldiers. '[Obama] deflected any discussion when it got into any moral issue... Any attempt to direct the conversation (to the moral aspect of the issue) was immediately deflected.' A letter of protest from the 11 veterans organizations states, 'there is simply no logical explanation' for a plan to bill veterans' personal insurance 'for care that the VA has a responsibility to provide.' The letter called it 'unconscionable' to shift the burden of the country's 'fiscal problems (to) the men and women who have already sacrificed a great deal for this country.'" (Faced with immediate and intense criticism of an attempt to increase federal revenue by forcing the cost of medical care for wounded veterans onto private insurance carriers, Obama quickly dropped the plan. Then-press secretary Robert Gibbs made the absurd and convoluted claim that Obama floated the idea as an attempt to "to maximize the resources available for veterans." Gibbs announced the plan's cancellation with the statement, "[Obama] listened to concerns raised by the VSOs [veteran service organizations] that this [program] might, under certain circumstances, affect veterans and their families' ability to access health care. Therefore, [Obama] has instructed that its consideration be dropped.") [1766, 1790, 1827]

It also bears repeating that VA health facilities in New York and New Jersey were investigated for processing more than 1,500 contracts with dollar amounts that conveniently fell below the \$25,000 threshold for public disclosure. Over an 18-month period more than \$42 million was spent on transactions that fell between \$24,500 and \$24,980. Bloomberg.com reported, "Lawmakers said they were concerned that many of the transactions were done on the same day with a single vendor, and potentially violated a federal law requiring agencies to seek competitive bids for government work..." There were "25 purchase orders issued for Bismark Construction Corp. at \$24,900 each, on December 30, 2010, for a total of \$622,500" and "...the employee in question created 25 transactions for \$24,900 each for orders to Kinetic Concepts Inc. ...on Nov. 9, 2011." [43775, 43776, 59080]

A VA hospital employee in North Carolina tells Infowars.com, "Recently there's been a very rapid race to move records, boxes, change labels, whatever it may be, they're putting them in rooms that nobody would look in... and there's [sic] multiple times that I have seen in the past week or so them [sic] moving boxes... so apparently they're hiding their tracks somewhere. He also claims that one supervisor has stated that older veterans "should be taken outside and shot in the head because they're worthless." The whistleblower asks, "How can you stop the corruption and the insanity if you have a supervisor who is a non-veteran saying these things to veterans, scaring them about their jobs and telling them because they're an older veteran 'you ought to be taken outside and shot in the head?' ...It's a huge bureaucracy and it's a huge game and somebody has to break the corruption. ...There's more than just what you're seeing on TV and they're

hiding a lot of things and you're never going to see it on the mass media." [58977, 58978, 59027]

Congressman David Scott (D-GA) says on the floor of the House, "The first person we need to fire is the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Sandeki [sic; Shinseki] himself. ...In my own hospital in Atlanta, four of our soldiers were [sic] committed suicide in the hospital. And the... inspector general of the VA laid the blame directly at the foot of the VA administration for the lack of management... We asked, 'Is there one more? Is [sic] there any more that has [sic] committed suicide?' 'No, there's been no more.' And they told a damn lie, 'cause the very next day it was exposed [that] there was another soldier that committed suicide, and they covered it up. ...I listened to [Obama] today, and I was very disappointed with ...Obama today. There was no urgency! Mr. [Obama], we need urgency! We need you to roll up our sleeves and get into these hospitals!" (Scott is not only a Democrat, he is black. When black Democrats express dissatisfaction with Obama, the White House knows it has a problem.) [58983, 58986, 58993, 59008, 59019, 59121]

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) names five Democrats to the select committee on Benghazi: Congressmen Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Adam Smith (D-WA), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), and disabled veteran Tammy Duckworth (D-IL). Pelosi states, "The Select Committee is a shameful attempt to politicize the Benghazi tragedy. That is why Dems must participate—to stand up for the truth." (Pelosi does not choose Congressman Alan "worst nightmare" Grayson (D-FL) to serve on the committee.) Although Pelosi had considered boycotting the process, pressure from Hillary Clinton was reportedly applied to key House Democrats to encourage Pelosi to provide Clinton with protection by appointing Democrats to the committee. HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey observes that Clinton "will need Democrats that [sic; who] carry some weight and respect to help her bolster her narratives when Republicans rip them to shreds, especially on the strategy of ignoring the danger signs that were all flashing red in Libya for months in order to maintain the pretense that State and White House policy in Libya had been a smashing success. That's why the consulate was left all but undefended, and why the military hadn't been properly mobilized *on the anniversary of 9/11*. Hillary can't afford to have her incompetence and venality exposed by this House select committee. And that's the difference at this point it makes to have Democrats as backup on the panel." [58976, 58985, 58988, 58990, 58992, 59002, 59003, 59014, 59020]

With conditions in Libya deteriorating, State Department spokesperson Jennifer Psaki tells reporters, "Many of Libya's challenges do require dialogue. We think that is the best means forward. I'd remind you, they've gone through quite a transition over the last several years. We remain committed to supporting them..." (Someone should remind Psaki that the "transition" is the direct result of Obama working to oust Moammar Gaddafi from power, only to have the power vacuum filled by radical Islamists and other extremists. Obama created chaos, and his lackeys call for "dialogue" to stop that chaos.) Meanwhile, Reuters reports, "The United States has increased the number of marines and aircraft stationed in Sicily who could be called on to evacuate Americans from the US

embassy in Tripoli as unrest in Libya grows, two US officials said on Monday. They were sending about 60 more marines and another four Osprey aircraft, whose tiltrotor [sic; tilt rotor] engines allow them to take off and land like helicopters, to Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily from a military base in Spain. This has brought the number of marines stationed in Sicily as a precaution to around 250, the two officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Their location in Italy moves them closer to Libya, speeding up response times. One US official added that the armed forces at Sigonella were on heightened alert. ...The marines in Sigonella are part of a crisis response unit focused on embassy security. The unit was created after the attack on the US diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11 2012 that killed US ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.” [58981, 58994]

Eli Lake writes at TheDailyBeast.com, “In 2012, the Obama administration produced a draft National Intelligence Estimate that reached a surprising conclusion: al Qaeda was no longer a direct threat to America. That classified assessment, which has never before been publicly disclosed, was in keeping with the message coming from the White House. President Obama rode to re-election in 2012 partly on the success of the raid that killed Osama bin Laden. At rallies and in press conferences, [Obama] and top officials publicly said al Qaeda was on the run. But some senior U.S. intelligence officials, like Defense Intelligence Agency Director Gen. Michael Flynn, fought hard against that assessment, which amounted to an official pronouncement of the American intelligence community’s collected wisdom. Flynn and his faction won a partial victory, striking the judgment that the terrorist group no longer posed a threat to the homeland. ‘Flynn and others at the time made it clear they would not go along with that kind of assessment,’ one U.S. intelligence officer who worked on the al Qaeda file told The Daily Beast. ‘It was basically: ‘Over my dead body.’ Since that internal clash—and since Obama said in his 2012 State of the Union that ‘al Qaeda operatives who remain are scrambling, knowing that they can’t escape the reach of the United States of America’—the terror group has thrived throughout the Islamic world. In the last year alone, al Qaeda has established safe havens in Libya, Syria and Iraq.” [59001, 59001]

“...One senior U.S. intelligence official told The Daily Beast the frustration was that there is pressure from the White House to downplay the threat from some al Qaeda affiliates. ‘It comes from the top, it’s the message that al Qaeda is all these small franchise groups and they are not coordinated and threatening,’ this official said. ‘It’s the whole idea of getting us out to place resources against something that they don’t think is a problem. It’s not their war, it’s not our conflict.’ ...Tommy Vietor, who served as the spokesman for the National Security Council in Obama’s first term, recalled a meeting he attended with Obama on the crisis in Mali. He said [Obama] understood the threat from al Qaeda’s core leadership had diminished, while the threat of affiliates had grown stronger. At the end of the meeting though, he said [Obama] remarked, ‘What will be required for a crisis like that is not a drone-based program dotting the continent. It will be a sustained political process that includes economic development.’” (Obama’s remark makes clear his misunderstanding of the issue. He does not comprehend that terrorism is rooted in Islam; he thinks it is caused by poverty. Obama should be asked why the world is not terrorized by poor Christians, Jews, Hindus, and Buddhists.) [59000, 59001, 59031]

Yahoo News reports, “White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough and National Security Adviser Susan Rice met with a bipartisan delegation of [1 Democrat and three Republican] senators late Tuesday for secret talks focused on foreign policy, several sources with knowledge of the discussion told Yahoo News. [Strangely, Obama is not present.] Sen. Bob Corker [R-TN], the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, alluded to the meeting on Wednesday, as the panel held a hearing on whether and how to overhaul the signature law of the global war on terrorism. ‘I know we both attended sort of a discussion last night that I found to be one of the most bizarre I’ve attended on Foreign Relations on foreign policy in our country,’ Corker said at one point, referring to himself and Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ), the committee’s chairman. ‘I know several of us were involved in a very bizarre discussion last night. This continues a very bizarre discussion,’ Corker said at another point. The Tennessee Republican did not say where or with whom the meeting took place (or why it was bizarre).” (Pamela Geller comments, “Buckle your seat belts, folks. It’s pretty clear that Obama and his quisling administration wants no more war on terror. Whatever he hasn’t decimated and destroyed—whatever is left in place—they want it gone, no matter what is actually happening in the world.”) [59032, 59033, 59102, 59103]

The Associated Press adds, “Another senator who attended the meeting said Obama’s advisers refused to provide lawmakers with answers about whether [Obama] plans to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan after the war formally concludes later this year or about the Pentagon’s efforts to find nearly 300 kidnapped Nigerian school girls. Unsatisfied, some of the lawmakers started to leave one by one before the meeting had finished. The senator and three congressional aides briefed on the meeting insisted on anonymity to discuss the private talks. The meetings, which have been taking place both at the White House and on Capitol Hill, come as Obama prepares for a speech Wednesday at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he is expected to try to answer critics who say he has surrendered America’s global leadership and faltered on problems in the Middle East, Russia, China and beyond.” WhiteHouseDossier.com’s Keith Koffler comments, “This is the only White House I’ve covered where senior senators go to the West Wing to meet with staff, not the president. The White House thinks it’s repairing relations with Congress—finally—but it’s actually insulting lawmakers instead. Remember what a big deal the White House made about a dinner Obama staged with some Republicans a year ago? Typical Obama. A one-shot effort, with no follow up. What’s more, Tuesday’s discussion, over wine, beer, and a cheese and cracker platter on the patio outside of McDonough’s office, appears to have been a sophomoric hand-holding session in which the senators were treated to little beyond the crackers and cheese. ...I’m sure they [the Senators] just sat there in disbelief as Rice and McDonough refused to tell them anything, and then started wondering what they were doing there. Eventually, senators just started leaving, **EVEN BEFORE THE MEETING WAS OVER.** I’ve never heard of that either, unless there was some urgent matter or a vote on Capitol Hill. You don’t otherwise leave a White House meeting unless you are really either being disrespected or getting nothing of value out of it. Such ham-handedness. Brought to you by the same people who brought you Healthcare.gov.” [59104]

Obama informs Congress that “Approximately 80 U.S. Armed Forces personnel have deployed to Chad as part of the U.S. efforts to locate and support the safe return of over 200 schoolgirls who are reported to have been kidnapped in Nigeria. These personnel will support the operation of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft for missions over northern Nigeria and the surrounding area. The force will remain in Chad until its support in resolving the kidnapping situation is no longer required. This action has been directed in furtherance of U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148). I appreciate the support of the Congress in these actions.” [59006, 59007]

At NationalJournal.com on Ron Fournier writes, “The launch of the Affordable Care Act and the worsening of conditions at the Veterans Affairs Department are emblematic of Obama’s inattention to the hard work of governing. He is slow to fire poor-serving Cabinet members and quick to dismiss controversies as ‘phony scandals.’ To the Obama administration, transparency is a mere talking point. The great irony... Democrats privately admit that Obama has done as much to undermine the public’s faith in government as his GOP predecessor.” [59016]

At CommentaryMagazine.com Peter Wehner writes, “The last eight months have battered the Obama administration. From the botched rollout of the health-care website to the VA scandal, events are now cementing certain impressions about Mr. Obama. Among the most damaging is this: He is unusually, even epically, incompetent. That is not news to some of us, but it seems to be a conclusion more and more people are drawing. The emerging narrative of Barack Obama, the one that actually comports to reality, is that he is a rare political talent but a disaster when it comes to actually governing. The list of his failures is nothing short of staggering, from shovel-ready jobs that weren’t so shovel ready to the failures of healthcare.gov to the VA debacle. But it also includes [his] failure to tame the debt, lower poverty, decrease income inequality, and increase job creation. He promised to close Guantanamo Bay and didn’t. His administration promised to try Khalid Sheikh Mohammed before a civilian jury in New York but they were forced to retreat because of outrage in his own party. Early on in his administration Mr. Obama put his prestige on the line to secure the Olympics for Chicago in 2016 and he failed. Overseas the range of Obama’s failures include the Russian ‘reset’ and Syrian ‘red lines’ to Iran’s Green Revolution, the Egyptian overthrow of Hosni Mubarak, and Libya post-Gaddafi. The first American ambassador since the 1970s was murdered after requests for greater security for the diplomatic outpost in Benghazi were denied. ...[Obama] has strained relations with nations extending from Canada to Germany, from Israel to Afghanistan to Poland and the Czech Republic to many others. All from a man who promised to heal the planet and slow the rise of the oceans.” [59017]

“...The White House response to everything from the VA and IRS scandals to the seizure of AP phone records by the Department of Justice is that it learned about them from press reports. More and more Mr. Obama speaks as if he’s a passive actor, a bystander in his

own administration, an MSNBC commentator speaking about events he has no real control over. We saw that earlier today, when [Obama], in trying to address the public's growing outrage at what's happening at the VA, insisted he 'will not stand for it' and 'will not tolerate' what he has stood for and tolerated for almost six years. His anger at what's happening to our veterans seems to have coincided with the political damage it is now causing him. We've learned the hard way that Mr. Obama's skill sets are far more oriented toward community organizing than they are to governing. On every front, he is overmatched by events. It's painful to watch a man who is so obviously in over his head. And more and more Americans are suffering because of it." [59017]

Congresswoman Jackie Walorski (R-IN), a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, tells WMAL radio, "In the past 18 months, since I've been a member of Congress, we've passed, on the House floor, at least 12 reform VA bills. Mandating the VA to fix different things, mandating the VA to report different things, mandating them to fix their website, bipartisan bills that went to the Senate, and they are DOA [dead on arrival] on the Senate side. ... We can pass bills all day long here on the House side, but if the Senate doesn't get in gear and be held responsible and be held accountable for these veterans, it's not going to work. ... These things have been dead on arrival. [Senate Majority Leader] Harry Reid [D-NV] has not moved one of these bills." [59093]

During a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, State Department undersecretary Sarah Sewall is asked by Congressman Jeff Duncan (R-SC) if the terrorist group Boko Haram specifically targets Christians. Sewall replies, "I wish there was such discrimination in Boko Haram attacks. Boko Haram attacks everyone who is Nigerian. Boko Haram is an equal-opportunity threat for all Nigerian citizens." (Her response does not sit well with several members of the committee. It should also anger most Americans that she would prefer targeting of Christians to more random acts of violence. Sewall is, however, incorrect. Boko Haram does indeed target Christians; its attacks on non-Christians are far less common.) [59029, 59030]

At an environmental event in Mexico City, Secretary of State John Kerry says, "Thirty-four degrees centigrade [Celsius] in Vietnam today, in May. Twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-two, thirty-three in places all around Europe. Unprecedented. Breaks every record that's ever been seen. What we are seeing around the world is what scientists have predicted. They're not telling us that we may see global climate change. We are seeing it, and we're seeing the impacts now. ... We are closer and closer to a time where the tipping point that they've warned us about is going to be reached. It's becoming more and more dangerous. ... All you have to do is look at the last two reports, and particularly the IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] report of the United Nations, with 97 percent of the scientists of the world warning us about the devastating impact of global climate change if we don't take action—and take serious action—soon." (Kerry's claims are false. The temperatures he noted have not broken "every record that's ever been seen." His "97 percent of the scientists" claim is also a falsehood that has been thoroughly debunked.) [59083, 59084, 59085, 59086, 59456]

The Telegraph reports, “Russia’s President Vladimir Putin has pulled off a major political coup by securing a landmark [\$400 billion] gas agreement with China, a move that will come as a blow to US efforts to isolate the Kremlin.” At *LewRockwell.com* Eric Margolis writes, “In addition, China will invest at least \$20 billion in Russian industry and boost imports of Russian products, notably military systems. China will become Russia’s largest trade partner. This was not the much ballyhooed ‘pivot to Asia’ that ...Obama expected. It is, however, the long-dreaded embrace between the Chinese dragon and Russian bear that has given western strategists the willies. ...Russia has thus given its economy a big boost and made western sanctions look inconsequential. Chinese funds will allow cash-strapped Russia to modernize its oil and gas industry. The new gas pipelines will be a major economic boost for Russia’s distressed eastern regions and Siberia. ...[T]he Sino-Russian energy deal may further alter the world’s balance of power to the East. Russia and China working in tandem could offset the great power and wealth of the US and its rich allies. It is a major geopolitical event.” [59050, 59051, 59105]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A poll released Wednesday shows that 47 percent of unemployed Americans have given up looking for work. Conducted on behalf of Express Employment Professionals last month, Harris Poll asked 1,500 unemployed adults whether they agreed with the statement ‘I’ve completely given up looking for a job.’ Seven percent said they ‘agree completely’ with the statement; another seven percent said they ‘agree a lot;’ 15 percent ‘agree somewhat;’ 18 percent ‘agree a little.’ Eighty-two percent of those polled agreed that they were ‘becoming more discouraged the longer I am unemployed.’ A large majority of those polled indicated that unemployment benefits were keeping them from searching harder for a job. Politicians have divided largely along party lines over whether to extend unemployment benefits, with Republicans arguing that the benefits provide an incentive to remain unemployed. Democrats have generally resisted that thinking and pushed for more benefits. According to the Harris Poll, 82 percent of the unemployed said they would ‘search harder and wider for a job’ if their unemployment benefits ran out.” [58991]

The *Los Angeles Times* reports, “The Obama administration has quietly adjusted key provisions of its signature healthcare law to potentially make billions of additional taxpayer dollars available to the insurance industry if companies providing coverage through the Affordable Care Act lose money. The move was buried in hundreds of pages of new regulations issued late last week. It comes as part of an intensive administration effort to hold down premium increases for next year, a top priority for the White House as the rates will be announced ahead of this fall’s congressional elections. Administration officials for months have denied charges by opponents that they plan a ‘bailout’ for insurance companies providing coverage under the healthcare law.” (*HotAir.com*’s Ed Morrissey: “Their lips say *no no no*, but their regulations keep saying *yes*. ...In other words, it’s a payoff to perpetrate a fraud. [Obama is essentially using taxpayer dollars to bribe health insurers to keep their premium increases to a minimum.] The White House has long argued that their takeover of the health-insurance industry would ‘bend the cost curve downward,’ but instead, premiums have spiked upward dramatically—as have deductibles, a powerful one-two punch to the gut of consumers. That threatens the political prospects of Democrats in the midterms, especially since the next round of

premium increases will hit right before the election. In that context, the new regulations make it clear that the White House intends to use its regulatory authority to provide a false sense of relative affordability, or at least disaster avoidance. It's also clear that they want to avoid having to ask Congress for the money..." [59011, 59012, 59056]

At Townhall.com Conn Carroll points out, "[A]ccording to a January 2014 Congressional Research Service memo, it would be illegal for Obama to make [ObamaCare] risk corridor payments to insurance companies without an explicit appropriation from Congress. This means that Republicans do not need... legislation to stop a taxpayer bailout. It is already illegal for Obama to use taxpayer funds to pay insurance companies through the risk corridor program. Unfortunately, from his war in Libya to his Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, Obama has a well established history of flagrantly breaking federal law. And progressive activists are already urging Obama to ignore federal law and illegally bailout the insurance companies through the risk corridor program anyway. If conservatives want to stop the illegal Obamacare insurance bailout before it starts they must start planning now. The current budget deal expires this September, just two months before Election Day. They must demand appropriations language explicitly banning any payments to insurance companies through the risk corridor program that exceed payments to the program. If they don't, then Republicans will have missed another huge opportunity to minimize Obamacare's damage." (With Obama's regulation changes, Obama is essentially telling the insurance companies, "Don't raise your premiums too much because that will hurt Democrat election chances in November 2014. But don't worry about losing money, because I'll see to it that you receive a federal bailout—even though I have no legal authority to give you the cash. The Republicans don't have the courage or the votes to stop me.") [59013, 59056]

On ABC's evening newscast, anchor Diane Sawyer says Obama has "weighed in" on the VA scandal, "talking tough and taking action," while CBS and NBC allow criticism of Obama in their reports. [58998]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments on Obama's abysmal handling of the Veterans Administration scandal: "When you think of how this man was elected, 'Yes We Can'—apart from the narcissism of it—was, 'Yes, the government can do great things: revolutionize healthcare, create a green energy economy, do all of this efficiently.' He can't even run a decades-old, normal, absolutely mundane healthcare system that are run everywhere in the world between here and Togo. So the idea that this is a government that's going to do great new things—universal preschool and all of these wonderful promises—is totally dissolved." [58989]

On *On the Record* Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says, "'Cooking the books' is not only dishonorable and disgraceful, it's a crime. So if [Obama] really was 'hands-on' he'd... tell the FBI to go in and investigate this crime. [But Obama] is always a day late and a dollar short..."

On May 22 Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) “plays the race card” for the second time in just a few weeks. At a Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee hearing, Rockefeller says, “I’ll be able to dig up some emails that make part of the Affordable Care Act that doesn’t look good—especially from people who made up their mind that they don’t want it to work because they don’t like [Obama]. Maybe he’s of the wrong color, something of that sort. I’ve seen a lot of that and I know a lot of that to be true. It’s not something you’re meant to talk about in public but it’s something I’m talking about in public because that is very true.” (It does not occur to Rockefeller that millions of Americans oppose Obama not because of his skin color but because of his political ideology. Many of those same people oppose Rockefeller and are no doubt pleased that he is retiring and will be succeeded by someone who does not use race as an excuse for failure and incompetence—and who did not serve for decades alongside Ku Klux Klan leader Robert Byrd in the U.S. Senate as he did.) [58944, 58945, 58948, 59030]

Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) objects to Rockefeller’s charge, saying, “I didn’t object to this [ObamaCare] because of the race of [Obama]. I objected to this because it was an assault on our freedom. And Mr. Chairman, I have to admit, I have a great deal of respect for you, but I’m the only one [the only Republican legislator] in the room... and I found it very offensive that you’d basically imply that I’m a racist because I oppose this health care law. That is outrageous. ...Please don’t assume, don’t make implications of what I’m thinking and what I would really support. You have no idea.” Rockefeller: “I actually do, and, you know, God help you.” Johnson: “No senator, God help you for implying I’m a racist because I oppose this health care [legislation].” Rockefeller: “You’ve lost your temper, I understand that.” Johnson: “I was called a racist, I think most people would lose their temper, Mr. Chairman.” (For the record, most conservatives also opposed “HillaryCare” in 1993. Whether Rockefeller believes Hillary Clinton is black is not clear.) [59030, 59048, 59055, 59061]

The Obama administration honors Harvey Milk with a postage stamp. Milk, an openly gay member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, was shot to death on November 27, 1978, along with Mayor George Moscone. (WhiteHouse.gov notes, “In 2009, ...Obama posthumously awarded Harvey Milk with [sic] the Medal of Freedom for his courage, exceptional leadership, and dedication to human rights.” Guests at the White House ceremony include U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Congressman Representative John Lewis (D-GA), and Deputy Postmaster General Ronald A. Stroman. (Milk was not only gay, he was a pederast, child molester, and drug addict. For some reason he is celebrated by the nation’s leftists.) [50319, 50350, 50378, 59513]

At Townhall.com Victor Davis Hanson reviews the various Obama administration scandals and concludes, “The common denominator” is that “politics trumped ethics. Because Obama professed that he was on the side of the proverbial people, administrators assumed that they had a blank check to do or say what they wished without much media

audit. The mystery is not whether some administration officials were incompetent or unethical or both, but whether there are any left who are not.” [58984]

Fox News reports on a new Internet search engine, duckduckgo.com that, unlike Google and other engines, keeps no history of user searches. (The NSA therefore cannot obtain any metadata from the company because it never keeps any.) [59358, 59359]

USAToday.com reports, “At least 31 people died and over 90 were injured Thursday when [Muslim] attackers drove two cars into shoppers, and threw explosives, at an open-air market in the northwest Chinese city of Urumqi, state media reported. China’s Ministry of Public Security called it a ‘violent terrorist incident.’ The attack marks the latest and deadliest of several recent attacks in the restive region of Xinjiang, of which Urumqi is the capital. Attacks have also taken place elsewhere in China. Authorities have blamed these attacks on terrorists and separatists seeking independence from China for Xinjiang. Some of its native Uighur people oppose Beijing’s rule and chafe at government policies they complain repress their culture and religion.” (Uighurs are Muslims.) [59034]

RiaNovosti reports, “Moscow may sign an intergovernmental agreement with Tehran this year to build eight new reactors for nuclear power plants in Iran, a source close to the negotiations told journalists Thursday. Two reactors could be built at the Bushehr Power Plant and six reactors at other sites, the source said, adding that the talks were in their final stage. Russian President Vladimir Putin said earlier this week that Russian-Iranian cooperation will continue despite international turbulence around Tehran. Putin said that Russia and Iran are not only neighbors, but also long-standing reliable partners. Iran’s only nuclear power plant near Bushehr came online September 2011 and began operating at full capacity a year after. Moscow handed over operational control of the Russian-made plant to Iran in September last year.” (Russia has also entered into an agreement to build two more nuclear plants in India.) [59282, 59283]

Politico reports, “The Internal Revenue Service will scrap a proposed rule governing the political activities of so-called social welfare groups, the regulations at the center of the tea party controversy that rocked the agency last summer. The IRS said it will start writing new regulations from scratch, amid criticism from both the left and especially the right, on the proposal which would tighten rules for tax-exempt status of political nonprofits.”

Townhall.com reports, “A federal court temporarily halted the Obamacare abortion pill mandate for two Christian colleges, ruling that compliance with the law could cause ‘irreparable harm’ to their religious freedom. Dordt College in Iowa and Cornerstone University in Michigan argued that in addition to violating the First and Fifth amendments of the U.S. Constitution and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the government has been inconsistent with enforcing the mandate.” [59038]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduces legislation, the “VA Management Accountability Act of 2014,” that would make it easier for the Veterans Administration to fire people. Socialist Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) says, “[A]s the senator from Florida knows, we have not held a hearing on this legislation. And some of us are old-fashioned enough to know that maybe folks in the Senate might want to know what is in the bill before we voted on it.” (Sanders demands a June hearing to discuss the three pages of legislation, yet voted for ObamaCare without having read it.) A similar bill has passed the House in a bipartisan vote. (Some might ask why such legislation would apply only to the Veterans Administration. The head of any federal department should have the ability to readily fire incompetent employees—especially those who are “cooking the books” to make themselves look better.) It is worth noting that 78 percent of VA employees are union members, which also contributes to the problems—because it is difficult to fire union workers (especially federal union employees). [59026, 59075, 59115]

On *America’s Forum*, Senator John Thune (R-SD) says Obama “should have been leading the charge to fix this [Veterans Administration] problem and he’s been, as usual, you know, following along. ...when they had the problems with the healthcare web site rollout, they said, ‘We’ve got all hands on the deck.’ They spent hundreds of millions of dollars to try and fix it. And they ought to treat this issue with the same seriousness. This is the men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line, who risk everything for us, and they deserve a much more serious response than what they’re getting from their commander-in-chief. ... You would think that in the interest of America’s veterans that we could put the politics aside and recognize that some issues transcend the favored political constituencies of the Democrats here in Washington, and that we ought to be able to get some action.” Thune charges that Obama “was in over his head to begin with when it came to running a country with as many complexities as we have.” [59041]

On *The Steve Malzberg Show*, economist and author Lawrence Kudlow says, “This [Veterans Administration scandal] is not simply a management problem. This is about a pocket of government-run socialized medicine with rationing and price controls and the usual bureaucratic inefficiencies. That’s the problem with the VA. ...It is not a money problem. The money going to the VA has exploded in recent years. In fact, from 2000 to 2013, budget outlays tripled while the veterans’ population being served has actually declined by four million. There’s a problem with government-run healthcare and [this] should be a lesson to all of us about the dangers of Obamacare and single-payer insurance...” [59042]

WhiteHouseDossier.com’s Keith Koffler explains why Obama has not fired VA head Eric Shinseki: “Obama is Shinseki, and Shinseki is Obama. Eric Shinseki assumed office the day after Obama did in 2009. For Obama to fire Shinseki at this point is to admit his own inadequacy and to reveal what I assume to be true: that Obama was not paying personal attention to the VA and not cracking the whip. ...What happens once you fire Shinseki? Well, as the Julie Pace of the Associated Press points out... you have to replace him. And unless Obama replaces him with John McCain, that would mean weeks of heated discussion about the nominee, a heightened focus on the issue, and dramatic

Senate hearings—all as we approach Election Day 2014. Not good for Obama and the Democrats. ...I think Obama feels bad for Shinseki. I really do. Everyone seems to agree that Shinseki, who had part of his foot blown off in Vietnam and served his country in the army for nearly 40 years, is a patriot and a decent man who cares about veterans. And he has made some progress with some of the VA's system problems. But caring is not enough. The issue is too big. Again, Obama does not know how operate as a chief executive. You have to fire people, even good people. There's not a single major private company in America where Shinseki would be kept on after a fiasco such as this. The health of our veterans is more important than Eric Shinseki's feelings." [59066]

At WashingtonExaminer.com Mark Flatten describes some of the ordeals of Veterans Administration employees who have been persecuted for daring to come forward with stories of secret patient waiting lists. "Retaliation comes quickly to whistleblowers who expose wrongdoing at the Department of Veterans Affairs," notes Flatten. "Those who have revealed potentially lethal lapses in health care say they have been ridiculed, transferred, demoted and sometimes fired by agency managers attempting to cover up wrongdoing and silence anyone who dares challenge their dangerous practices." Although the law technically protects whistleblowers, "No one officially gets fired for being a whistleblower. Instead, employees who previously had stellar performance reviews suddenly are deemed incompetent or disruptive. They often are relieved of their duties, demoted or transferred under some other pretense." [59046]

At PJMedia.com Roger L. Simon suggests that because of the Veterans Hospital scandal, Obama's "lifetime dream of a free public (single payer) healthcare system for all just disintegrated in front of him. Forget the wildly ambitious and pervasive 'Affordable Care Act,' the government couldn't even handle the health of our wounded servicemen, acknowledged for years to be by far the group most deserving of medical attention in our country. With veterans dying while waiting lists are falsified, it's hard to see government healthcare as anything but incompetent, disgraceful and quite possibly criminal. Government has failed utterly. Does anyone have any doubt that Halliburton or even the dreaded Koch brothers could have better handled the health of our wounded warriors? Probably almost any business would have. There at least would have been some accountability. ...[T]his VA scandal may call to question a lot of things about our society, if we pay attention and then reach out to others. It should be remembered that many of the veterans who have been mistreated, possibly killed, are members of minorities that traditionally, indeed reflexively, vote Democratic. The Democratic Party's exploitation of black people has been one of the great, virtually unconscionable, tragedies of our time. This may be an opportunity to reach out, a teaching moment, as they say. People do change (occasionally). When I was kid, I used to fight with my doctor father (a Hubert Humphrey Democrat) about socialized medicine. He had spent time in England and told me that it didn't work even then. A young idealist, I didn't believe him. I came around. Others will. We are in an interesting moment with so much of the liberal-left ethic disintegrating around them. The next couple of years will be historical—one way or the other." [59057]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) issue House Republicans an ultimatum. Reid states, “We’ve waited 329 days, we’re willing to wait another six weeks [for the House to pass immigration legislation]. But at the end of six weeks, if something hasn’t been done, then there’s gonna [sic] have to be a move made. And it’s too bad we have to do that, because we all know things can be done administratively, but it’s better to change the law.” Schumer states, “They have about a six-week window, from June 10 after the last Republican primary until the August recess. If they don’t pass immigration reform then, [Obama] will have no choice but to act on his own.” (Reid and Schumer—on Obama’s behalf—are essentially blackmailing the House Republicans: “Either pass amnesty legislation for illegal immigrants, or Obama will simply stop deporting them altogether.”) [59081, 59236]

The House of Representatives adds language to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that supports the transfer of 10 Apache helicopters to the Egyptian military—and that essentially supports Egypt’s current leaders and the “transition towards a new democratic government.” At Breitbart.com Katie Gorka writes, “While the NDAA does not specifically name the Muslim Brotherhood as a source of terrorism—another hotly debated issue—it does implicitly suggest that the MB has ties to terrorist groups, whether implicitly or explicitly. ...Should the NDAA pass with the above language intact, it will mean that the political elite in Washington finally recognize that Egypt is in an existential fight against the same type of global jihadists that were responsible for the attacks against America in 2001.” Pamela Geller observes, “The House of Representatives is not just taking on the terrorist group, Muslim Brotherhood. They are taking on Obama. He has been the Brotherhood’s steadfast supporter, to the detriment of the Egyptian people.” [59100, 59101]

Obama meets with tourism and travel industry CEOs, visits the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, and then travels to Chicago for a fundraiser for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee—clogging traffic on Lake Shore Drive. [59058, 59059]

At the Chicago fundraiser, Obama complains that the Founding Fathers did not create a Constitution to his liking. He says, “Obviously, the nature of the Senate means that California has the same number of Senate seats as Wyoming. That puts us [Democrats] at a disadvantage.” (House seats are based on population, while each state gets two Senators. That is *intentional*, and is meant to prevent the more populous states from ramming through legislation that discriminates against states with fewer citizens. Without such safeguards, legislators could vote to rob states like Wyoming and North Dakota of their wealth and give it to residents of California and New York. Obama apparently does not like such safeguards. The U.S. Constitution was carefully drafted to make it difficult to pass controversial legislation. That is a “feature,” not a “bug.”) Obama also whines that Democrats “tend to congregate a little more densely” in the large cities, which, claims Obama, gives Republicans an advantage in Congress. “So there are some structural reasons why, despite the fact that Republican ideas are largely rejected by the public, it’s still hard for us to break through.” (If Obama believes the Republicans have the advantage in Congress, he might want to explain how they were unable to block the

passage of ObamaCare or collect enough votes for its repeal. He is correct, however, that Democrat voters are more “densely packed” in the cities. That gives many Democrat legislators extremely “safe seats” where the GOP has almost no chance to defeat them. If some of those “excess Democrats” were to relocate to “Republican territory, the GOP would lose some of its own “safe seats.” Of course, most Americans do not want the entire nation to resemble Detroit—even if Obama does.) [59113]

On *On the Record*, Republican strategist Karl Rove tells Greta van Susteren that when then-Senator Obama was a member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, “He very rarely showed up at those meetings. It would be interesting for your staff to go take a look at that but he—these issues about scheduling and the backlog, these were discussed at Senate veterans committee meetings and I’m not certain he was paying much attention then. He was probably busy out there running for president.” [59079]

On May 23 it is announced that Secretary of State John Kerry will appear before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on June 12 or June 20 to answer questions about Benghazi. (Kerry is likely hoping to avoid testifying before the Select Committee chaired by Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC).) [59091, 59122]

FoxNews.com reports that Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) has “claimed that an email he’s reviewed shows the White House decided to reach out to YouTube within hours of the Benghazi terror attack, to warn the website about the consequences of posting an anti-Islam video. The email would suggest the White House was connecting the attack to the video almost from the outset—though their initial claim that the attack sprung out of protests over the film would later be proven false. According to Issa, who discussed excerpts from the otherwise classified emails on Wednesday, the email was sent at 9:11 p.m. ET on Sept. 11 to the Diplomatic Security Command Center. According to Issa, the email said: ‘White House is reaching out to UTube [sic; YouTube] to advise ramifications of the posting of the Pastor Jon Video [*Innocence of Muslims*].’ Issa said this email is ‘troubling’ because it ‘contradicts’ White House claims that the faulty storyline on the video was drawn from the intelligence community’s talking points. The congressman also said ‘the email shows the White House had hurried to settle on a false narrative—one at odds with the conclusions reached by those on the ground—before Americans were even out of harm’s way or the intelligence community had made an impartial examination of available evidence.’” (HotAir.com adds, “The ‘Pastor Jon video’ is, I believe, a garbled reference to Pastor Terry Jones, who was publicizing the Mohammed movie to coincide with the anniversary of 9/11. But anyway: Does the e-mail prove the White House’s good faith by showing that the YouTube video was on their radar from the beginning and not something they cooked up to make Susan Rice’s spin that Sunday a bit easier? Or does it prove that the YouTube video [excuse] did indeed come from a political outfit like the White House, not intelligence agents? Actually, you don’t need the new e-mail to ask that question. At 10:08 p.m. on the night of the attack, less than an hour after the e-mail was sent, the State Department issued [a] statement from Hillary Clinton” that claimed the attack was “a response to inflammatory material posted on the Internet.”) [59022, 59023, 59028, 59052, 59068, 59125]

Former Congressman Allen West (R-FL) summarizes what he believes was taking place in Benghazi: “[T]here was a covert weapons scheme going on in Libya, Benghazi. We had been supplying radical Islamists with weapons against Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi, effectively supplying the enemy and destabilizing that country. And it seems that there was a CIA weapons buy-back program, the aim of which was to ship the retrieved weapons out of Libya through Turkey, and to the Islamist forces in Syria. Benghazi and the operations in Libya are shrouded in a fog of lies, deceit, manipulation, threats, intimidation, coercion, abandonment, and worst of all, potentially treason. No, it was not about a kidnapping scheme, it was about something, as I’ve stated, that will make Iran-Contra look like Romper Room. The web of lies spun is coming apart, and all other committee hearings on this matter should be shut down. The House has established a Select Committee—quite telling that the same has not been done in the Senate—and those involved, to include [Obama], MUST appear before [committee chairman] Trey Gowdy [R-SC]. And to those Democrats appointed to the committee: if you seek to obstruct the revelation of the truth, you are complicit and guilty as well.” [59088, 59095, 59097, 59114]

According to Politico, the White House “is again extending its review of Clinton White House records that the National Archives has proposed making public, an Archives spokeswoman said Friday. The 30-day extension is at least the fourth the Obama White House has taken to complete the process of signing off on the release of Clinton White House files or proposing that some be held back on grounds of executive privilege. So far, no executive privilege claim has been publicly announced. In recent months, about 25,000 pages of previously withheld Clinton-era records were released online by former President Bill Clinton’s library in Little Rock, Arkansas. The process has drawn the attention of the media and some of former first lady Hillary Clinton’s political rivals in part because she may be a presidential candidate in 2016. The Archives did not say Friday precisely how many records are still under review. At one point, it appeared that about 8,000 pages had not yet been released from the set of documents withheld earlier under legal provisions that expire 12 years after a president leaves office—a deadline that passed in January 2013 in President Clinton’s case. It’s unclear whether all 8,000 unreleased pages remain under review at the White House or some of those pages have been cleared but have not yet been published by the National Archives. In either event, no previously withheld records have been posted by the Archives-run Clinton Library in five weeks. ...The Obama administration has not offered its view on the measure. An executive order Obama signed in 2009 allows for an initial 30-day review and an unlimited number of extensions. The order does require that each extension be ‘for a time certain.’” (Twelve years was apparently not enough time for political operatives to purge the files of documents that might be considered damaging to the Clintons.) [59120]

At Townhall.com Michelle Malkin provides examples of how illegal immigrants in the United States often receive better health care than military veterans. “In Sacramento, Calif.,” writes Malkin, “lawmakers are moving forward with a budget-busting plan to extend government-funded health insurance to at least 1.5 million illegal aliens. In Los Angeles, federal bureaucrats callously canceled an estimated 40,000 diagnostic tests and

treatments for American veterans with cancer and other illnesses to cover up a decade-long backlog. In New York, doctors report that nearly 40 percent of their patients receiving kidney dialysis are illegal aliens. ...In Memphis, a VA whistleblower reported that his hospital was using contaminated kidney dialysis machines to treat America's warriors. ...In Arizona, illegal aliens incurred health care costs totaling an estimated \$700 million in 2009. In Phoenix, at least 40 veterans died waiting for VA hospitals and clinics to treat them, while government officials created secret waiting lists to cook the books and deceive the public about deadly treatment delays. ...And last December, Democrats led the charge to reduce cost-of-living increases in military pensions—while blocking GOP Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions' efforts to close a \$4.2 billion loophole that allows illegal aliens to collect child tax credits from the IRS, even if they pay no taxes. The fraudulent payments to illegal aliens would have offset the cuts to veterans' benefits. America: medical and welfare welcome mat to the rest of the world, while leavings its best and bravest veterans to languish in hospital lounges, die waiting for appointments, and compete for jobs and educational opportunities against illegal border-crossers, document fakers, visa violators and deportation evaders. Shame on us." [59024]

Knowing where public opinion lies on the issue, Democrat candidates for the U.S. Senate Alison Lundergan Grimes (Kentucky) and Michelle Nunn (Georgia) call for the resignation of VA head Eric Shinseki. No sitting Senate Democrat has called for Shinseki's ouster—yet. (On May 28 and 29 Senators Mark Udall (D-CO), Kay Hagan (D-NC), John Walsh (D-MT), Al Franken (D-MN), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Mark Warner (D-VA) call for Shinseki to resign.) [59049, 59054, 59067, 59311]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson points out that, in defense of ObamaCare, Democrats previously touted the nation's health care for veterans as a reason not to fear the Affordable Care Act. In August 2009 Howard Dean, then the chairman of the Democrat Party, endorsed a "public option" for any health care legislation, using as examples Medicare and the Veterans Administration, which were "two very good programs that have been around for a long time." In May 2009 *The New York Times*' Paul Krugman wrote, "You see, we actually have a real live case of impressive cost control in health care: the VA system." Timothy Noah wrote at Slate.com, "Socialized medicine has been tried in the United States, and it has proven superior to health care supplied by the private sector. ...The socialized medicine to which I refer is the complex of hospitals managed by the Veterans Administration." In August 2009 Mike Madden wrote at Salon.com, "Opponents of reform trot out comparisons to government services frequently when they try to argue against a public, government-funded healthcare plan. ...The Department of Veterans Administration also runs a healthcare system that experts praise for its well-developed health information technology network..." Also in 2009, Nicholas Kristof wrote in *The New York Times*, "Take the hospital system run by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the largest integrated health system in the United States. It is fully government run, much more 'socialized medicine' than is Canadian health care with its private doctors and hospitals. And the system for veterans is by all accounts one of the best-performing and most cost-effective elements in the American medical establishment." Princeton University's Uwe Reinhardt wrote in the *Times* in 2013, "Remarkably, Americans of all political stripes have long reserved for our veterans the

purest form of socialized medicine, the vast health system operated by the US Department of Veterans Affairs... If socialized medicine is as bad as so many on this side of the Atlantic claim, why have both political parties ruling this land deemed socialized medicine the best health system for military veterans? Or do they just not care about them?" [59069, 59070, 59071, 59072, 59073, 59077]

CNSNews.com reports, "Twenty-two House lawmakers led by Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ) have sent a letter on Thursday to Secretary of State John Kerry, asking him to confront the Sudanese government about Meriam Ibrahim, a jailed pregnant Christian woman facing execution for apostasy. 'We urge the State Department to condemn the ruling handed down by Sudan's court and call upon the Sudanese government to respect human rights and free Mariam Yahya Ibrahim [Meriam Yahya Ibrahim Ishag] and her young son immediately,' stated the letter, signed by 21 Republicans and one Democrat." (Obama has apparently done nothing to help free Ibrahim, even though her husband is a U.S. citizen. Michelle Obama has not even issued a Twitter message with a "#Free Meriam" hashtag.) [59082, 59092]

Examiner.com reports, "In a bombshell revelation that has broad implications for the integrity of elections in the United States, Judicial Watch has announced that it now has 'indisputable evidence' that the White House engaged in election tampering in at least two states in 2009. Rahm Emanuel and Jim Messina, both of whom were top White House staffers at the time, are named as the chief perpetrators of the scheme to attempt to manipulate election outcomes in Pennsylvania and Colorado. Judicial Watch filed a complaint in 2010 along with a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to obtain records regarding possible violations of The Hatch Act—a federal law passed in 1939 that prohibits federal employees working in the Executive Branch from engaging in partisan political activity. Government employees who work in the Executive Branch are not allowed to work for and promote the reelection of the president under whom they serve, nor any challenger to that sitting president. The Act further prohibits these employees from working for political campaigns." [59096]

"But in 2009 Rahm Emanuel allegedly used his position as White House Chief of Staff to attempt to persuade Pennsylvania Congressman Joe Sestak to drop his plans to challenge Arlen Specter for the U.S. Senate. The White House believed that since Specter had turned Democrat, a primary fight would greatly weaken the candidate who won. In order to avoid such a scenario Sestak was offered various positions in the Executive Branch. Rahm even went as far as to enlist the help of former President Bill Clinton to attempt to persuade Sestak to take one of the government positions. It turned out that Sestak rebuffed these offers. He later defeated Specter in the Democratic primary. That same year a Colorado newspaper reported that Andrew Romanoff intended to challenge U.S. Senator Michael Bennett (D-CO), in the Democratic primary. But the Associated Press reported that another White House official, Jim Messina, allegedly called Romanoff to tell him that perhaps his service would be more valuable working for the U.S. Agency for International Development instead of the U.S. Senate. If this job were not suitable for Romanoff there were two other positions Messina offered in an email, which was made

public by Romanoff. Romanoff rebuffed these offers and lost to Bennett in the Democratic Primary.” (It is unclear what new evidence Judicial Watch has obtained or uncovered. The Sestak and Romanoff schemes were reported by various news organizations and documented in this *Timeline* in 2009.) [59096]

While the Obama administration indicates it will cooperate with a “soon-to-be-formed Palestinian unity government” composed of Fatah and the terrorist group Hamas, the Gatestone Institute’s Khaled Abu Toameh warns, “The international community does not seem to be listening to what Hamas is saying. Hamas is telling everyone not to believe [Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud] Abbas when he says that the Palestinian Unity Government will renounce violence and recognize Israel’s right to exist. ...Abbas was quoted as saying that there is ‘no contradiction’ between the unity deal and the peace talks with Israel and that he remains committed to a ‘just peace on the basis of a two-state solution in accordance with international legitimacy.’ ...[But] Musa Abu Marzouk, deputy chairman of Hamas’s political bureau, announced that his movement would never recognize Israel. ‘This is a red line that cannot be crossed,’ he said. In other words, Hamas is telling everyone not to believe Abbas when he says that the Palestinian unity government will renounce violence and recognize Israel’s right to exist.” Khaled Mashaal, leader of the Hamas political bureau, states, “The reconciliation and politics are not an alternative to resistance. The reconciliation will actually consolidate the resistance. Our steadfast people are continuing to move from one revolution to another and from one intifada to another until the liberation of Palestine.” Pamela Geller writes, “Hamas and Fatah have reconciled, and now Obama wants Israel to negotiate with Hamas. Of course. That is consistent with his anti-Israel stance that has been consistent since the beginning of his political career. Meanwhile, Hamas and Fatah are both making it clear that their accord is directed toward what everything they do is directed toward: killing Jews and destroying Israel.” [58939, 59127, 59128]

The Republican National Committee files a lawsuit against the Federal Election Commission, challenging contribution limits on individual donations. The Associated Press notes, “Under the current rules, the RNC may only accept \$32,400 each year from donors, and local-level parties are capped at \$10,000.” [59154, 59155]

Former Congressman Allen West (R-FL) talks with Fox News’ Andrea Tantaros about Sergeant Andrew Tahmoore, who remains in a Mexican prison after making a wrong turn and inadvertently entering Mexico—with several legally registered weapons in his vehicle. West points out that Secretary of State John Kerry, in a recent official visit to Mexico, reportedly did not bring up the issue. West says, “So right now what we have are these very neutered, pajama boy leaders, faux leaders in Obama and in Kerry and it’s very embarrassing. It is a sad state of affairs that a Marine is being detained, a combat veteran, who could possibly be suffering from PTSD, who is guilty of nothing.” Mexico is reportedly demanding cash for the Marines’ release. “It’s extortion,” says West. “This is absolutely heinous, it is appalling and it’s unconscionable.” (The United States has considerable leverage because it provides Mexico with troop training and military equipment, including planes and helicopters. It should not be difficult for Obama to

telephone the Mexican president and demand the release of Tahmooressi. Why he has not done so is not known.) [59140, 59171]

On *Real Time*, host Bill Maher, discussing the absurdities of political correctness, says, “A few weeks ago, the CEO of Mozilla was forced to resign because it was revealed in 2008, he supported Prop 8, California’s ban on gay marriage. A bad law, yes, but 52 percent of Californians voted for it. Did they have to resign? Obama was against gay marriage in 2008, does he have to resign? Hillary came around just last year, can she be president?” [59094]

In Isla Vista, California, a mentally disturbed 22-year-old named Elliot Rodger kills three roommates with a hammer and machete, shoots and kills three others, and then kills himself. [59213]

On May 24 the Associated Press reports, “More veterans are being allowed to obtain health care at private hospitals and clinics in an effort to improve their treatment following allegations of falsified records and delays in treatment. In a statement issued Saturday, Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki also said VA facilities are enhancing capacity of their clinics so veterans can get care sooner. In cases where officials cannot expand capacity at VA centers, the Department of Veterans Affairs is ‘increasing the care we acquire in the community through non-VA care,’ Shinseki said. Lawmakers from both parties have pressed for this policy change as the VA confronts allegations about treatment delays and falsified records at VA centers nationwide.” [59106, 59130]

Obama delivers a brief Internet address for Memorial Day. Obama concludes, “Most of all, let’s keep working to make sure that our country upholds our sacred trust to all who served. In recent weeks we’ve seen again how much more our nation has to do to make sure all our veterans get the care they deserve. And as commander in chief, I believe that taking care of our veterans and their families is a sacred obligation. It’s been one of the causes of my presidency. And now that we’ve ended the war in Iraq and as our war in Afghanistan ends as well, we have to work even harder as a nation to make sure all our veterans get the benefits and opportunities that they have earned. They’ve done their duty, and they ask nothing more than that this country does ours [sic; its duty], now, and for decades to come. Happy Memorial Day everybody. May God watch over our fallen heroes and may he continue to bless the United States of America.” (Obama indirectly addresses the Veterans Administration scandal as if it is something he has known about for only weeks, rather than at least seven years. He states that “we” need to “work even harder” for the veterans, when it is *he* and his administration that neglected to do what was necessary and what the taxpayers assumed was being done.) At GOPTheDailyDose.com Rick Wells writes, “The Hussein speech writers have provided the typical Memorial Day message of poetic phraseology and words, but the delivery is empty, lacking any semblance of sincerity.” (Wells is being too kind. Not only is his delivery “empty” and insincere, Obama comes close to slurring a number of words; he has trouble following the teleprompter; and he appears to be lost in another world. The

more generous might say Obama was incredibly tired when he recorded the address. Others might claim he was under the influence of drugs.) [59146, 59147, 59148]

After the Democrat party asks supporters to vote for their “favorite bumper sticker,” one of which shows an image of Obama with the words, “Like A Boss,” Twitter and Facebook users react with their own versions. One retains the “Like A Boss” phrase but replace Obama’s photo with one of Ronald Reagan. Another retains the Obama photo but changes the text to, “Like A Bystander.” Another: “Chicago Crime Boss.” [59108, 59109, 59110, 59111, 59112]

At Mises.ca, Robert P. Murphy reviews Thomas Piketty’s *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*—the current favorite book of leftists eager to justify the confiscation of wealth from those who have created it. Murphy writes, “The book contains foundational theoretical problems, a misreading of the empirical literature that blows up his whole case, sloppy and absurd factual errors concerning tax rates and minimum wage hikes, and shocking quotations that reveal he has no desire to actually raise government revenue with his massive soak-the-super-rich schemes, but instead merely wants to prevent the formation of fortunes in the first place. ...[T]he whole warning of the book [is]: The rich are getting richer, and if governments around the world don’t start taxing the heck out of them, soon we’ll be back to the Gilded Age. Yet the funny thing is, if you look at either of the longer data sets... upon which Piketty presumably based his... composition, you’ll see that neither shows an upward trend in recent decades. In particular, if you look at the longest... series, it shows that the U.S. is currently hovering near *the lowest level of wealth concentration in the hands of the 1% in recorded history*. ...Until this sorry episode, I had no idea just how much progressives hated rich people, and how little regard they had for intellectual integrity. Live and learn.” [59380]

On May 25 Obama makes a surprise visit to U.S. troops in Afghanistan and pledges that most will leave by the end of 2014. Obama says, “We’re going to stay strong by taking care of your families. We’re going to stay strong by taking care of our wounded warriors and our veterans. Because helping our wounded warriors and veterans heal isn’t just a promise, it’s a sacred obligation... I’m here to say that I’m proud of you. ...Tomorrow is Memorial Day. At bases here in Afghanistan and towns across America, we will pause and we’ll pay tribute to all those who’ve laid down their lives for our freedom.” (Obama does not meet with Afghan President Hamid Karzai—purportedly because Karzai declined the invitation. Obama returns to the United States without even visiting wounded veterans at Ramstein Air Base in Germany; he remains on Air Force One during the fuel stop.) [59118, 59123, 59131]

Bloomberg.com reports that on May 28 Obama will deliver a graduation address at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to “outline how the U.S. plans to adapt to fight the evolving nature of al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups in regions including South Asia, according to the official who asked not to be identified to discuss the goals of the talk. He also will discuss the galvanizing role the U.S. must play in pushing for action on trade, climate change and other issues, while making the case for a sustainable international

system that cooperates to confront such matters, the official said yesterday.” At Examiner.com Jim Kouri writes that Obama’s “goal is to defend his approach to combating Islamist terrorism which involves more talk than action, according to his critics in the military, law enforcement and the intelligence. ... While Obama's minions and his news media sycophants defend his so-called ‘leading from behind approach,’ often facing laughs and ridicule from real security, military and law enforcement experts, he hopes his team of campaigners-turned-security-advisers will create a speech that will frame his foreign policy—which includes terrorism plaguing the Middle East and North Africa—and how he will react to emergencies during his days in the Oval Office.” Political strategist Mike Baker observes, “There’s a bit of danger in his using the West Point graduation to kickoff his new round of speeches: Wednesday’s ceremony is supposed to be a celebration of the achievements of the graduating cadets, not a special occasion for Obama to bash Republicans and his predecessor George W. Bush.” (It can be assumed that Obama’s speech may reflect some of the policy discussed at a May 21 White House meeting which left Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) calling it “one of the most bizarre I’ve attended... on foreign policy in our country.”) [59032, 59033, 59098, 59099]

In Bethlehem, the visiting Pope’s religious service is interrupted by Muslim prayers over blaring loudspeakers. Ephesians511blog.net reports, “The crowd listening to the Pope started cheering to cover-up the Muslim prayers. It was right when this started the Pope appeared to shut down whatever he was doing and they [the Pope and his entourage] left. We don’t believe the Pope was actually finished, the timing was very interesting. So we looked and found the main stream media was completely silent on this. ... We wonder why the mainstream media is completely silent on this? Even the Israeli press is silent. ... Do your own research, at the time we posted this there was nothing. We found a small obscure website mentioning it, but ZERO from the mainstream media. We think it’s significant when the mainstream media will post all sorts of goofy stories about the Pope’s every move, but not mention when the Pope is interrupted by Muslim prayers.” (One commenter at PamelaGeller.com writes, “This was on the news in the UK. They reported it as muslims ‘friendly joining in to show their respect.’ Their excuse was ridiculous.”) Obama has no comment. [59149, 59150]

On *Face the Nation*, Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) calls for the Department of Justice to investigate the Veterans Administration scandal. He says, “When we were talking about a year or two-year backlog, that was incompetence, that was bureaucracy, that was something that we had to take a real strong approach on. But when it came to, ‘People have created fake waiting lists and veterans have died,’ I think that goes to the level of criminality. It is really time for a shake-up. [VA head Eric] Shinseki has been there for six years. He has not been able to get his grip on this. [Obama’s] press conference sounded exactly like what he talked about in 2007. ... [Shinseki] is a great American, but I don’t think he’s fit for this. I haven’t even seen the level of outrage out of him that I think we ought to be hearing. ... Just because the general has been in the military doesn’t mean he knows how to run the largest hospital organization in the country.” Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) says, “We’re talking now about evidence, credible and specific evidence, of criminal wrongdoing across the country in more than 30 places. The inspector general of the Veterans Administration has only 165

investigators. Plainly, more resources are needed.” The Department of Justice has the “authority to do a prompt and effective criminal investigation of the secret waiting lists, potential destruction of documents, falsification of records, in effect, the cooking of books, and covering up that may have occurred. These are allegations, but there’s evidence to support them. We’re not rushing to judgment, but the Department of Justice can convene a grand jury if necessary. The inspector general cannot.” Senator John Thune (R-SD) says, “You had reports of up to 40 people who died on waiting lists. You had these reports of secret lists and falsifying records and all these kinds of things. [Yet] It took three weeks for [Obama] to act.” [59144]

On State of the Union, Congressman Jeff Miller (R-FL) says, “You’ve got an entrenched bureaucracy that exists out there that is not held accountable, that is shooting for goals, goals that are not helping the veterans.” [59144]

On *This Week*, Matthew Dowd comments on the results of recent Republican primary elections: “I think the Republican Party—because of the tea party—the GOP in general has moved more to the right and has adopted the principles. There’s not much difference anymore between tea party people and the establishment people. They have almost become one.” Dowd is clearly mistaken, and is interrupted by GOP strategist Ana Navarro: “Oh Matt, tell that to the tea party. This has been two very different factions going at each other. And for a very long time, the mainstream Republicans just sat there and took the pummeling. What we saw this week, they woke up finally and they fought back. And when they fought back, they won.” White House political advisor David Plouffe remarks, “I don’t get the celebration. Maybe it’s a low bar. So they’re not witches and defenders of rape? Ok, so maybe they don’t pledge allegiance to *all* the crazy? Let’s look at these candidates, and let’s look at 2016. Different electorate, battleground states. All against immigration reform, all denying climate change, all against gay marriage, all against funding things like education and transportation to help jobs. This is [sic; these are] not people that [sic; who] are not going [sic; are going] to win the middle part of the electorate or the emerging part of the electorate. I think Matt makes a very good point.” (From the White House perspective, tea party members are witches who defend rape, embrace killer storms, hate gays, oppose education, and enjoy collapsing bridges and unemployment.) [59167]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says, “You’ve got a crime being committed against veterans.” *Washington Post* columnist Charles Lane says, “Obama has been pushing very hard—his wife has been working with military families and so forth—trying to sort of turn veterans into a Democratic group, based on the younger, more diverse military that we have. And this [Veterans Administration scandal] is a huge setback to that effort.” [59144, 59168]

On CNN, John King reports, “Forget for a moment... Republican outrage, more and more Democrats in key 2014 races are calling for [Obama] to get a spine, they say, and fire his Veterans Affairs secretary. And what more and more Democrats are saying privately is scathing, calling [Obama] and his team detached, flat footed, even

incompetent.” Addressing Politico’s Maggie Haberman, King says, “[T]hat’s what strikes me, what democrats are saying privately in the wakes of the healthcare.gov problems, they see a [person] who doesn’t want to take command, doesn’t want to act fast. [They are] Raising the ‘competence’ question. Some Democrats, who believe in government, [are saying] this White House doesn’t appear to have its hand on the lever.” Haberman: “Yeah... and you’ve heard for a long time [that] this White House doesn’t appear to quite have his [sic] hand on the lever at various points, but this week really marks something, this past week marked a change where you saw Obama with that very sort of tepid press conference, he was sort of in, sort of not in with [VA head Eric] Shinseki. He had a meeting, uh, about foreign policy with senators who were expecting him to be there, [but] he wasn’t there, they filed out, one of them [Bob Corker (R-TN)] said that he thought it was the most bizarre meeting he’d been at in quite a while—all of this adds up to somebody who just doesn’t seem at all involved.” At HotAir.com, Ed Morrissey writes, “It’s good to know that Democrats are offended by Obama’s incompetence and spineless response, too. But if that’s the case, then why is that outrage being expressed *sotto voce*? Is it more important to protect Obama from criticism than it is to take action to put an end to the crisis at the VA? If they’re admitting this privately, then the veterans at risk deserve better than the public silence that equates into tacit support for Obama’s lack of action at the VA.” [59116, 59139]

Newsmax.com reports, “The federal government collected \$414.23 billion in revenue in April, the largest total ever for a single month, and also set a record for the most revenue collected in the first seven months of a fiscal year. In fiscal 2014, which began on Oct. 1, federal revenue so far has totaled \$1.735 trillion—yet the government still ran a deficit of \$306.4 billion over the seven-month period, according to the Monthly Treasury Statement of Receipts and Outlays of the United States Government. ...The White House Office of Management and Budget estimates that the federal government will collect \$3 trillion in the full fiscal 2014, spend over \$3.6 trillion, and run a deficit of about \$650 billion.” [59119]

Newsmax.com also reports, “[A] new survey involving 1,399 medical offices in 15 large metropolitan markets shows that more than half of doctors won’t accept new Medicaid patients. Merritt-Hawkins, a Texas-based national healthcare consulting firm, surveyed doctors in five specialties—cardiology, dermatology, orthopedic surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, and family practice—and found that just 45.7 percent will accept new Medicaid patients. That is down from 55.4 percent in 2009, before Obamacare was signed into law. ...The Medicaid program is one of the major ways Obamacare expands coverage, and 7 million additional people are expected to be added to the program this year, although they won’t necessarily be able to access healthcare, according to a report on the survey from the Heritage Foundation.” [59119]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “The CIA’s top officer in Kabul was exposed Saturday by the White House when his name was inadvertently included on a list provided to news organizations of senior U.S. officials participating in ...Obama’s surprise visit with U.S. troops. The White House recognized the mistake and quickly issued a revised list that did

not include the individual, who had been identified on the initial release as the ‘Chief of Station’ in Kabul, a designation used by the CIA for its highest-ranking spy in a country.” (It can be assumed that the unintentional disclosure, which was caught by *The Washington Post*, will receive far less mainstream media attention than the disclosure during the Bush administration that Valerie Plame Wilson was a CIA employee. Plame was not a covert agent and had not even worked overseas in more than five years; she simply worked at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia—which anyone who saw her enter the building every day could easily ascertain. Nevertheless, the media spent weeks covering the incident and labeling the act of disclosure treasonous—because a Republican was in the White House. The disclosure of the identity of the Kabul station officer—on a distribution list with over 6,000 recipients—is *far* more significant, and even dangerous, because it puts lives at risk. But the media will likely move on to the next story as soon as it can—rather than question how such an amateurish, rookie mistake could have been made in the sixth year of an administration.) [59124, 59131, 59141, 59153, 59166, 59211, 59212, 59319]

A new IRS ruling calls for employers to be fined \$100 per employee per day if they try to shift workers to the ObamaCare exchanges and not provide insurance for them—even if the employer offers to give the employees raises to offset the cost of the health insurance. NYTimes.com notes, “Many employers—some that now offer coverage and some that do not—had concluded that it would be cheaper to provide each employee with a lump sum of money to buy insurance on an exchange, instead of providing coverage directly. But the Obama administration raised objections, contained in an authoritative question-and-answer document released by the Internal Revenue Service, in consultation with other agencies. ...When employers provide coverage, their contributions, averaging more than \$5,000 a year per employee, are not counted as taxable income to workers. But the Internal Revenue Service said employers could not meet their obligations under the health care law by simply reimbursing employees for some or all of their premium costs. ...If an employer wants to help employees buy insurance on their own ...it can give them higher pay, in the form of taxable wages. But in such cases... the employer and the employee would owe payroll taxes on those wages, and the change could be viewed by workers as reducing a valuable benefit. ...Andrew R. Biebl, a tax partner at CliftonLarsonAllen, a large accounting firm based in Minneapolis, said the ruling could disrupt arrangements used in many industries. ‘For decades,’ Mr. Biebl said, ‘employers have been assisting employees by reimbursing them for health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs. The new federal ruling eliminates many of those arrangements by imposing an unusually punitive penalty.’ When an employer reimburses employees for premiums, the arrangement is known as an employer payment plan. ‘These employer payment plans are considered to be group health plans,’ the I.R.S. said, but they do not satisfy requirements of the Affordable Care Act.” [59137, 59138]

Election results in Europe will no doubt frustrate Obama, as “eurosceptic” political parties opposed to the European Union and loose immigration policies score victories. FT.com reports, “Nigel Farage, Ukip [United Kingdom Independence Party] leader, said the result—the first time a party other than Labour or the Conservatives had won a UK national election since 1906—represented an ‘earthquake.’ Marine Le Pen, the FN

[France's National Front] leader, said that there had been a 'massive rejection of the EU,' while mainstream politicians struggled to come to terms with what had happened. ...In Britain, Ukip was on 27.5 per cent of the UK vote share, with Labour on 25.4 per cent and the Tories on 24 per cent. The Lib Dems were losing the battle for fourth place to the Greens, with the Lib Dems on less than 7 per cent and the Greens 1 percentage point higher. ...France's FN won 26 per cent of the vote, taking 25 of France's 74 seats. ...The gains of the populists could be sufficient for Ms Le Pen to form an anti-EU group with other like-minded parties. That would give them extra funds and speaking rights to attack what they describe as the 'Brussels monster.'" (The election was to choose each nation's representatives to the European Parliament, not members of each nation's parliament. Nevertheless, the results will shock many observers. At TakiMag.com Christopher Hurt writes, "[T]his election has become a mighty protest vote, a cry of anger from the people, against the EU.") [59156, 59157, 59158, 59173, 59186, 59226, 59256, 59378, 59947]

At Townhall.com Mike Shedlock writes, "[D]on't expect much change. ...[T]he center-left and center-right parties will act in union to block any anti-euro measures." Michael Schaus comments, "The European ruling class might have gotten their first glimpse at pitchforks and torches... when anti-EU parties made gains across the continent. That doesn't mean the European Parliament is being quickly ushered to the guillotine; but the anti-EU victories can't possibly be a comforting sight to the bureaucrats who have run Europe's economy for the last decade. From Scotland to Greece, citizens seem to be growing increasingly weary of the European experiment. A Margaret Thatcher renaissance seems to have swept Europe over the weekend. ...The Spanish Socialists saw their political stock plummet over the weekend as their number of seats in Parliament fell by nearly half. ...The populist right-wing parties of Europe also made strides in Austria and Greece. ...The elections... are a disastrous omen for the bureaucracy loving admirers of centralized government. The success of Euro-skeptic parties across the continent basically articulate one uncomfortable fact for cheerleaders of big government: even European socialists can only handle so much 'Utopia' before they start raging against the ruling elite." [59156, 59157, 59158, 59173]

At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen comments on the election results: "After years of depressed and recessed economic growth, high unemployment among adults and especially youths, and stagnant living standards, a lot of Europeans are fed up with the lack of progress or even movement coming out of Europe's dominant political parties and are entering severe backlash mode. The bloc's leaders might be tempted to hope they can mollify the upswing in EU voters' dissatisfaction with more hemming and hawing about miniscule improvements in the economy and promises that things are slowly getting better—but as John Fund points out at [National Review Online]: '[T]he reality is that most committed supporters of an ever more powerful European Union will be tempted to ignore Sunday's results, hoping that public dissatisfaction with bailouts and bureaucrats will abate. But the public might not play along. The best economic estimates are that Europe is facing another 'lost decade' of economic growth—stagnant economies will do nothing to reduce sky-high unemployment among young people, and the need for more Eurocrisis bailouts will keep taxes high. ...Daniel Hannan, a National Review contributor and Conservative member of the European Parliament, told me last month that 'the elites

who promised us that greater centralization of power in Brussels would lead to peace have instead delivered what I warned against: animosity between nations and the rise of extremists.” [59156, 59157, 59158, 59173]

NYTimes.com reports, “Hospital systems around the country have started scaling back financial assistance for lower- and middle-income people without health insurance, hoping to push them into signing up for coverage through the new online marketplaces created under the Affordable Care Act. The trend is troubling to advocates for the uninsured, who say raising fees will inevitably cause some to skip care rather than buy insurance that they consider unaffordable. Though the number of hospitals tightening access to free or discounted care appears limited so far, many say they are considering doing so, and experts predict that stricter policies will become increasingly common. Driving the new policies is the cost of charity care, which is partly covered by government but remains a burden for many hospitals. The new law also reduces federal aid to hospitals that treat large numbers of poor and uninsured people, creating an additional pressure on some to restrict charity care.” (HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “Got that? The law that supposedly answered *the fierce urgency of now* in assisting the poor penalizes providers for, er, assisting the poor. They want to force low-income patients to either enroll in an ObamaCare plan, or to accept Medicaid coverage—even though fewer and fewer providers will see patients with either coverage.”) [59248]

On May 26 Jack D. Douglas, writing at LewRockwell.com, comments on the \$400 billion natural gas deal struck by Russia and China: “We still do not know some of the very important details, but it seems clear that the Russians and Chinese will be rapidly building huge gas pipelines from Siberia into China to provide China with vast new, less expensive energy supplies for their rapidly growing industries competing fiercely and very successfully around the world. This has many obvious, immediate implications for the world. It frees Russia of much of the worry that the U.S. might be able to force the E.U. to impose more financial and economic strangulations on Russia. ...But the global, long run implications are vastly more important. It seems clear that Russia and China are carrying out this vast deal in their own currencies and are shunning the global use of the dollar-denominated energy contracts. This is a major attack on the dollar cornerstone of the U.S. Global Empire. The U.S. Empire can only exist by printing [or using computer programs to create electronic blips of] trillions of dollars to pay for real goods imported to the U.S. The Russian-Chinese Alliance’s escape from the dollar, if carried out in general, will lead other major nations to follow them in escaping the dollar theft and that will sink the Empire. ...If the U.S. cannot pour out vast virtual dollars, it cannot ever repay old loans and certainly not new ones, so the U.S. lifeline of borrowing paid for with virtual dollars will be cut as well. The dollar will plunge, so Americans will be able to buy [fewer imported goods]. ...What will happen if Putin the Great succeeds and the fierce passion of hubris seizes him while the U.S. and its E.U. Puppets succeed in causing our economies and thence our societies to implode?” [59050, 59051, 59105, 59129]

At TheHill.com Niall Stange writes that Hillary Clinton leaves Many on the political left “cold.” “Progressives feel they are in a political golden age in which questions about income inequality are growing louder, anti-gay marriage laws are falling and the growing Hispanic electorate regards the GOP with skepticism. Given all that, they don’t want to be stuck with a standard-bearer they see as too centrist. So far, few on the left are mounting full-frontal attacks on Clinton, at least publicly. But some are making it clear they will seek to push her to the left. ‘If Hillary Clinton embraces the rising economic populist tide in America, there will be little political space for a credible primary challenger,’ said Laura Friedenbach of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. ‘But if she sides with big corporations against everyday people, there will be a huge amount of political space for some insurgent to run on an economic populist platform.’ ‘Every candidate who thinks about running will be faced with a whole set of questions, on holding Wall Street accountable, on combatting [sic; combating] student debt, on expanding social security,’ said Ilya Sheyman, the executive director of MoveOn.Org Political Action. ‘Whether it’s Secretary Clinton or Sen. Warren or others, all of them are going to have to address the issues that progressives really care about.’ Many progressives yearn for Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) to run, though she has been adamant she will not. ...Obama, elected with the left's full ardor (and with a Democratic Congress) in 2008, has achieved much of his agenda, but has still left many progressives disappointed. Conservatives do not believe that heightened awareness of economic inequality axiomatically leads to support for the left’s preferred solutions. ‘They argue for redistribution of wealth. Well, there are two major ways to do that—by massive tax increases or by more social programs,’ said veteran GOP consultant Ed Rollins. ‘That’s a very tough sell, politically. There are constituencies within the Democratic Party that have benefitted from those things, but I don’t think they are issues that are going to win them elections.’ [But] Democratic strategists simply doubt that Clinton is vulnerable, no matter the left’s discontent.” [59143]

On Fox News, GOP strategist Karl Rove says, “Hillary may have the impression in people’s minds that she’s both the third term of Barack Obama ...and a third term for Bill Clinton, which is now 20 years in the rearview mirror. People [voters] don’t like people who have it sort of already made, they want to see a scrapper, they want to see a fighter. And if it looks like you are the candidate, then people tend to pick at your faults and tend to look at alternatives. ...In American politics, there’s a sense you want to be new, you don’t want to be too familiar, you want to be something fresh, you don’t want to be something old and stale.” [59247]

FoxNews.com reports, “From California to Rhode Island, states are confronting new concerns that their Medicaid costs will rise as a result of the federal health care law. That’s likely to revive the debate about how federal decisions can saddle states with unanticipated expenses. Before [ObamaCare] expanded Medicaid eligibility, millions of people who were already entitled to its safety-net coverage were not enrolled. Those same people are now signing up in unexpectedly high numbers, partly because of publicity about getting insured under the law. For states red or blue, the catch is that they must use more of their own money to cover this particular group. ...[T]he law allows states to expand Medicaid eligibility to people with incomes up to 138 percent of the

federal poverty line, about \$16,100 for an individual. Washington pays the entire cost for that group through 2016, gradually phasing down to a 90 percent share. About half the states have accepted the offer to expand coverage in this way. But whether or not a state expands Medicaid, all states are on the hook for a significantly bigger share of costs when it comes to people who were Medicaid-eligible under previous law. The federal government's share for this group averages about 60 percent nationally. In California, it's about a 50-50 split, so for each previously eligible resident who signs up, the state has to pony up half the cost." [59145]

Venezuela's foreign minister, Elias Jaua, tells reporter that violence in his country is "not an issue that concerns [U.S. Secretary of State] Mr. John Kerry." Reuters notes, "In Venezuela's worst violence in a decade, 42 people have died during months of daily protests demanding President Nicolas Maduro's departure and solutions to economic hardships. ...Maduro, who became president after the death of Hugo Chavez last year, says the protests are a veneer for a U.S.-supported conspiracy to bring him down." [59187]

At the Israeli embassy in Prague, Czech President Milos Zeman blames Islam for an attack on the Jewish Museum in Brussels, Belgium that resulted in four deaths. Zeman says, "I will not be calmed down by statements that it is only small marginal groups. I believe, on the contrary, that this xenophobia and this racism or anti-Semitism stem from the very nature of the ideology on which these fanatical groups rely ... I have heard of no movement calling for the massive murder of Arabs, but I know about an anti-civilization movement that calls for the massive murdering of Jews." (Obama has not even condemned the killers, let alone criticized Islam.) [59279, 59280]

In an interview with Russia Today, global investor Jim Rogers says, "...Washington seems to be making one mistake after another and I don't like saying it, since I'm an American citizen, but, you know, America is driving China and Russia together—America is driving Russia more and more to Asia... Unfortunately America seems to have really bungled this whole thing very badly. As you know, they've tried to instigate a coup in Ukraine against an elected government, and they did that somewhat successfully, but then they didn't think through the consequences. [Russian President Vladimir] Mr. Putin seems to have outsmarted us, Putin now is in control of Crimea, which Russians have controlled for many decades, so that's not so unusual—what's unusual is that America didn't think through what they were doing, they seem to just react on a day-to-day basis, so now... Crimea is part of Russia, the Russians have more and more allies in Asia. I'm afraid America just didn't think it through, they've bungled, they've acted on a day-to-day basis, and they've reacted to events instead of looking to the future and controlling events. Mr. Putin seems to have outsmarted Mr. Obama. ...Russia used to sell a lot of gas to Europe, it still does, but if they stop selling natural gas to Europe, and sell it to Asia—that is not good for Europe, and, ultimately, not good for the U.S. either, because the U.S. and Europe are huge trading partners. ...[I]t would take a long time for America in order to get natural gas from America to Europe. You don't just sort of snap your fingers and do that. You don't just put in on a boat or plane, you've got to have

special ports on both sides, you've got to have special ships, and you've got to have natural gas in the right place. Yeah, it could happen someday, but some day is a long time away, and if Russia stops selling natural gas to Europe—that's going to hurt Europe for several years until American gas can come, and that if we presume and suppose that there is enough American natural gas to ship to Europe. Europe uses a lot of natural gas, and America at the moment seems to have surplus of a natural gas—will they have a surplus in five years? I don't know. Will we have enough to supply Europe gas for many years? I doubt it." [59152]

“Again, I don't particularly like saying this, because I'm an American citizen, and American taxpayer and American voter, but if you drive people away from the dollar... many people now must be saying, 'guys, if we have dollars, and the U.S. decides that they don't like us, they've going to put sanctions on us!,' So more and more people would say 'maybe I shouldn't use the US dollar, maybe I shouldn't have my money in US dollars.' At the same time, as you know, Russia and China are now going to trade with each other in their own currencies instead of the US dollar. More and more people are doing the same thing, they're starting to trade in other currencies besides the U.S. dollar. This is just a continuing long-term move away from the U.S. dollar. And, I am afraid, that the U.S. is pushing people away from the U.S. dollar with our actions. ...The U.S. has been the world's reserve currency, has had the world's medium of exchange and so far we've been able to do a lot of things because we can just print more U.S. dollars. We have a huge balance of trade deficit; we have huge government deficits, because we can print more money. If there comes a time that we cannot print money, when the world will not just take U.S. dollars because we say, 'here they are!'—then that cripples America in many-many ways. ...In my view, China is going to be the most important country in the 21st century, whether we like or not. Again, this move of Russia more towards Asia just reinforces that whole trend of China becoming more and more important in the world.” [59152]

In an interview with Vox.com's Ezra Klein, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) says Republicans are “anti-governance, they're anti-science, they're anti-Obama ...They're a triple threat. They have a trifecta going. Everything is to obstruct [Obama]. Anything that is evidence-based is unimportant to them. ...One evidence of [Democrat] governance would be how we rolled out the Affordable Care Act. It is intact; it's beautiful. As with everything, it's a work in progress. We need to improve it, but the website didn't work, and now it's well.” Pelosi says that in order to defeat Republicans the Democrats need to raise more money. “The money I raise, I'm probably right up there with the biggest fundraisers in the country. I know about raising money.” Laughably, Pelosi claims the money she collects is from “a very idealistic group of people from around the country who really do want to see the role of money reduced in politics.” Pelosi may say that ObamaCare is “beautiful,” but what she wants is full-blown socialized medicine. She also tells Klein, “I had some of my own suggestions that I couldn't get through in the first round... Well, of course, I wanted single-payer, and I wanted a public option. But that not being in the mix, uh, you have to prioritize what it is you want to get over the finish line. And now let's refine and improve—and some of that relates to how it is implemented, so you see how it is implemented.” (Whether Pelosi

means, “We have to implement it to find out how to implement it” is not clear.) [59161, 59245]

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “Disputes between unions and employers over paying for new costs associated with the Affordable Care Act are roiling labor talks nationwide. Unions and employers are tussling over who will pick up the tab for new mandates, such as coverage for dependent children to age 26, as well as future costs, such as a tax on premium health plans starting in 2018. The question is poised to become a significant point of tension as tens of thousands of labor contracts covering millions of workers expire in the next several years, with ACA-related cost increases ranging from 5 percent to 12.5 percent in current talks. In Philadelphia, disagreement over how much workers should contribute to such health-plan cost increases has stalled talks between the region’s transit system and its main union representing 5,000 workers as they try to renegotiate a contract that expired in March. Roughly 2,000 housekeepers, waiters and others at nine of 10 downtown Las Vegas casinos voted this month to go on strike June 1 if they don’t reach agreements on a series of issues, the thorniest of which involve new ACA-related cost increases, according to the Unite Here union.” (Ironically, Obama was elected and reelected, and ObamaCare was passed, with the strong support of labor unions.) [59169, 59170, 59244]

Disabled U.S. Air Force veteran Brian Kolfage, a triple amputee, excoriates Obama in a Memorial Day letter, writing in part, “On this Memorial Day I can’t help but think of the many veterans who have given their lives to protect the freedoms that we all enjoy today, and quite frankly one that so many Americans take for granted. As you’re playing your 165th round of golf this weekend you can count on our warriors to protect you and to protect this great nation. ...These men and women who bravely fought in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf Wars have been forced to rely on your useless bureaucratic employees for their health care. These federal employees disrespected these men and women and the sacrifices they have made in the worst imaginable way. They ignored their pleas for help and in many cases left them to die in favor of hefty government bonuses for exceptional performance. We all know you and your regime doesn’t give a damn about these heroes. Your disdain for America and her greatness has never been a secret. You were raised to hate the ‘American Empire’ and were taught that the American military is the enemy. It was easier for you to just ignore the Veteran Affairs crisis as you crisscrossed America fundraising for your fellow Democrats.” [59192, 59193]

“I remember candidate Obama promising to overhaul the VA and reduce the backlog. You claimed that America’s support for its veterans is obvious by the way we treat our vets. You really nailed that one didn’t you? Just like you were going to fix Detroit or fix foreign policy. Your high school like approach to solving complex issues can’t be fixed by tweeting hashtags with propaganda to people who want to kill us. Anyone with an ounce of common sense can see you’re unfit to lead our nation, let alone act as our Commander In Chief. What our country needs now, more than ever is real leadership, someone who doesn’t wait for a crisis, but is able to foresee an issue and deal with it before it happens. Unfortunately for America, you’ve been too busy campaigning and

don't have time to deal with the health care crisis of our veterans. The only thing you seem to care about is your own radical agenda, and now our vets are paying for your negligence with their lives. ...On this Memorial Day, as I battle your incompetent bureaucrats, my family would like to thank you for once again failing our veterans. We can't help but wonder about the disastrous socialized medicine program that we will surely be dealing with if ObamaCare is allowed to be fully implemented. If our incompetent VA cannot handle government healthcare for a fraction of our population, who would be foolish enough to believe a massive health care system designed to provide health care for all American's would be any different? You can't even find someone to build a competent website to work for your socialized medicine program when you had your name attached to it, so why would you care about our veterans when you could so easily push the blame off on someone else?" [59192, 59193]

"You have not only failed our veterans, you have failed America in every way imaginable. You have purposely divided us by race, political parties, and socioeconomic status in order to push a radical agenda on America that can only be passed when you have successfully divided all Americans. Your entire administration is incompetent and you have set America on a path for certain failure. So, on this Memorial Day, as we honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation, I'd like to thank you, our Commander In Chief for not even caring enough to provide us with quality health care. Brian Kolfage, Sra, USAF Ret." [59192, 59193]

On May 27 the U.S. State Department urges Americans in Libya to leave the country. CNSNews.com notes, "The embassy in Tripoli has not been evacuated, although the administration began positioning military assets in Sicily last week to carry out a potential emergency extraction if deemed necessary. The amphibious assault ship *USS Bataan* moved into the Mediterranean Sea." [59250, 59261]

At LongWarJournal.com Thomas Joscelyn reports, "An American was one of four suicide bombers who took part in a recent coordinated assault in Syria, according to an Al Nusrah Front sharia official who is active on Twitter. ...American officials contacted by The Long War Journal have not confirmed the bomber's identity. If he is in fact an American, then the attack in Idlib is the first known instance in which a jihadist recruit from the US took part in a suicide operation in Syria." Pamela Geller comments, "What is most disconcerting is that US intel agencies have underestimated the number of American Muslims who have gone to Syria [or elsewhere] to wage jihad, and worse still is that they admitted to losing track of those Muslims they knew about who have returned to America." [59425, 59426, 59427]

The Obama administration announces it may keep 9,800 troops in Afghanistan after the end of 2014, for the purposes of "training Afghan Forces and supporting operations against the remnants of al Qaeda." (The 9,800 will, according to journalist Jeremy Scahill, include "Special Ops forces for hunt and kill missions." American lives will therefore continue to be put at risk, but with only limited support if they need assistance.) Obama states, "This year, we will bring America's longest war to a responsible end."

(Whether the Taliban or al-Qaeda will agree remains to be seen.) “We have struck significant blows against al-Qaeda’s leadership, we have eliminated Osama bin Laden, and we have prevented Afghanistan from being used to launch attacks against our homeland. ... We have to recognize that Afghanistan will not be a perfect place. ... The future of Afghanistan must be decided by Afghans. What the United States can do—what we will do—is secure our interests and help give the Afghans a chance, an opportunity to seek a long, overdue and hard-earned peace. ... [W]e’re finishing the job we started. ... America’s combat mission will be over by the end of this year. Starting next year, Afghans will be fully responsible for securing their country. I’m confident that if we carry out this approach, we can not only responsibly end our war in Afghanistan and achieve the objectives that took us to war in the first place.” One intelligence officer tells *TheDailyBeast.com*, “The bottom line is that 10,000 troops is not enough to deny al Qaeda sanctuary in Afghanistan. As a result, they will come back. We have decided as a political leadership that we can live with this.” [59151, 59159, 59176, 59188, 59203, 59225, 59229, 59234, 59235, 59307]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Department of Veterans Affairs has yet to confirm that three of its officials will show up to a House hearing Wednesday [May 28], with Republicans threatening to subpoena the officials if they don’t appear... The hearing will grill the officials on the VA’s obstruction of a committee subpoena for information related to a secret waiting list kept at the Phoenix, Arizona VA Medical Center that led to preventable veteran deaths. The VA admittedly destroyed documents that department officials believe could have been the secret list. Three top VA officials already refused to appear at a May 22 committee hearing. If VA officials Thomas Lynch, Joan Mooney, and Michael Huff do not appear at the hearing Wednesday, [the] committee has already voted to subpoena their testimony on Friday May 30.” VA fraud does not always involve secret waiting lists. The deception could be as simple as listing the next available date for an appointment with a physicians as the date the patient requested. (That is, a veteran might arrive on January 10 and ask for an appointment as soon as possible. The VA employee, noting that the next available date is April 9 simply cancels the request, which would have reflected a wait time of about three months, and simply re-enters the appointment as if the veteran had requested an April 9 appointment in the first place. The computer system then records the wait time as *zero days*.) [59160, 59405]

DailyCaller.com also reports that the Obama administration “has quietly suggested it is willing to create a two-tier race-based legal system in Hawaii, where one set of taxes, spending and law enforcement will govern one race [native Hawaiians], and the second set of laws will govern every other race. ... If Obama succeeds, ‘what’s to prevent creating similar [self-governing racial] groups out of say, Cajuns, or Orthodox Jews or Amish?’ said Gail Heriot, a commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. ‘If you can do that with groups that are already part of the mainstream, you can balkanize the country,’ said Heriot, who is a law professor at the University of San Diego. But the proposed measure to increase legal diversity is illegal because [Obama] doesn’t have the power to grant one group of Americans the status of a separate government, she said. ‘There is no constitutional basis for conferring such status, and Congress has repeatedly refused to confer this status,’ said Carissa Mulder, a spokeswoman for two members of

the federal Commission on Civil Rights. ‘This seems to be yet another case of the Obama administration ignoring the law to achieve its policy objectives,’ she added.” (If Obama’s illegal move is successful, some might wonder if his next move will be to make it possible for Muslims in the United States to impose Shari’ah law.) [59162, 59181]

At the White House, Michelle Obama complains about proposed legislation that would allow schools to ignore federal food standards if they incur six month losses on school food programs. She states, “This is unacceptable.” (What is “unacceptable” seems to be the disputably healthy but indisputably unappetizing food pushed by Mrs. Obama, which many students reject outright or discard.) She blames Republicans, saying the “last thing we can afford to do right now is play politics with kids’ health.” CNN’s Carol Costello then states that in 2010 Michelle Obama “signed the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act into law.” (Whether Costello was later informed that Mrs. Obama is not an elected official and cannot sign anything into law is not known.) [59163, 59164, 59179, 59182, 59183, 59184, 59185, 59196, 59201, 59202, 59224, 59227, 59242, 59253, 59346, 59347]

While the Obamas eagerly tell Americans what their children must eat at public schools, their two daughters attend the expensive, private Sidwell Friends school—where the menu for the week of May 26–30 includes mini bagels and cream cheese, french dip sub sandwiches, chicken fingers, cheese quesadillas, meatball sub sandwiches, and “ice cream novelties.” Cheryl Chumley, author of *Police State USA: How Orwell’s Nightmare is Becoming Our Reality*, tells WND.com, “Kids have been complaining about being hungry. Schools have been complaining about losing money. But Michelle Obama doesn’t care—her lunch menus are right, and parents in America are wrong, and that’s all there is to it. It’s ultimate nanny-state governance, made worse by the fact that the first lady isn’t even duly elected.” (Meanwhile, Muslim parents of school children in San Diego, California demand that halal food be served in the school lunchrooms. According to 10News.com, the school district “spends \$16 million a year on 22 million meals for students, but adding a halal menu could be a considerable extra cost.” Michelle Obama has no comment.) [59163, 59164, 59179, 59182, 59183, 59184, 59185, 59196, 59201, 59202, 59224, 59227, 59242, 59253, 59346, 59347]

The White House announces that it will investigate itself to determine how the name of the covert CIA station chief of Kabul, Afghanistan was released to the media. [59194, 59243, 59288]

At the close of a school science fair event at the White House, press pool reporter Alexis Simendinger asks Obama if it is true that the U.S. military will be training rebels in Syria. A clearly annoyed Obama responds, “I’m sorry, we’re doing a science fair. Come on, come on.” (Some later claim that the reporter’s question was inappropriate, but the science event was already over and Obama was next going to announce U.S. troop withdrawals from Afghanistan. The Syria question was therefore not inappropriate.) During the science fair event, Obama is photographed ducking behind a young boy as a projectile is fired from one of the exhibits. [59199, 59215, 59228, 59258, 59263, 59277, 59278]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “In a move that would expand America’s involvement in Syria’s civil war, ...Obama is close to authorizing the U.S. military to train moderate Syrian rebels to fight the regime of Bashar Assad and al Qaeda-linked groups, according to reports. U.S. officials told the Wall Street Journal Tuesday that the new military program would supplement a small training effort led by the CIA, which Mr. Obama authorized a year ago. At the White House Tuesday [May 27], Mr. Obama declined to answer a reporter’s question about the U.S. sending more advisers to train the rebels.” (How Obama knows which Islamist rebels are “moderate” is not explained. It can be assumed he will not ask for photo IDs.) [59175, 59177, 59178]

At HuffingtonPost.com Matt Sledge and Sabrina Siddiqui write, “One year ago last Friday ...Obama gave a major address on drones, targeted killing and terrorism. The president and administration officials promised that the drone program would operate within limits protecting civilians, control would be transferred from the CIA to the Pentagon, and a new era of transparency would begin. The number of drone strikes has fallen since then, but it is far from clear that the drop was a result of a shift in administration policy. Frustrated in part by Congress and the facts on the ground in Pakistan and Yemen, when it comes to drones, Obama has fulfilled few of his promises. ‘Unfortunately, I don’t think Obama or the administration have done much at all to follow up on the commitments he made in the speech,’ said Danya Greenfield, chair of the Yemen Policy Initiative at the Atlantic Council, a nonpartisan think tank.” [59180]

During an appearance at the National Press Club, real estate developer Donald Trump is asked if he regrets having made an issue of Obama’s birth certificate. “Not even a little but,” replies Trump. “Either [the Internet image Obama provided is] fine, or he was born in Kenya, or in my opinion there’s a very good chance he was born here, and said he was born in Kenya. Because if you were born in Kenya, you got into colleges, and you got aid. Very simple.” Trump reminds the audience that he offered a \$5 million gift to the charity of Obama’s choice if he released his passport and college records, and even upped the offer to \$50 million, “but I never heard from him.” [59231, 59268, 59269, 59270]

At Townhall.com Cortney O’Brien reports that in major U.S. cities, Veterans Administration claims “are over 60 percent backlogged. ...Jackson, Miss., Reno, NV, Louisville, Ky., Baltimore, Md. and Buffalo, NY all have a backlogged claim record of over 60 percent. In Buffalo, the fifth worst, 61 percent of claims are backlogged, with each claim pending for an average of 184 days, according to *The Buffalo News*. The wait time is over six months for the 7,200 cases still pending.” (Whether Obama will be “mad as Hell” may depend on whether he reads *The Buffalo News*.) [59189]

The Internet erupts in outrage after MSNBC’s Toure Neblett, a black leftist, remarks that surviving the World War II holocaust demonstrates “the power of whiteness.” (Obama and Eric “my people” Holder have no comment.) In his subsequent “apology,” Neblett tweets, “It was a dumb idea by me to debate serious and nuanced topics in 140 characters or less...” (In other words, “You white people are too stupid to understand and appreciate

my brilliance.” Whether Neblett will ever be able to defend his argument with more than 140 words remains to be seen. In the meantime, he can expect to receive more than a few photographs of “white privileged” Jews behind barbed wire fences at Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, and other Nazi concentration camps.) [59190, 59191, 59210, 59214, 59246]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Despite being soundly rejected a few years ago, cap-and-trade will soon get its U.S. encore—but not in Congress. The Obama administration will likely use its executive power to unilaterally impose carbon dioxide emissions trading systems. The Environmental Protection Agency will unveil regulations for existing U.S. power plants early next month. For months, onlookers have been speculating about what could be included in the EPA’s rule for existing power plants. But over the past few days it has become clear that the Obama administration will use the EPA to push cap-and-trade systems and other anti-fossil fuel policies on U.S. states. Administration insiders have told news outlets that cap-and-trade will likely be one of the options the EPA gives states to cut their carbon dioxide emissions. The Wall Street Journal reported the EPA’s proposal will ‘include a cap-and-trade component where a limit is set on emissions and companies can trade allowances or credits for emissions’ to meet new federal rules. The Journal added that power plant ‘operators could trade emissions credits or use other offsets in the power sector, such as renewable energy or energy-efficiency programs, to meet the target.’ ...News reports say that the EPA will require states to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by a whopping 25 percent in the coming decades. The new rules are set to be unveiled next week by ...Obama himself, underpinning the significance of the new rules. The EPA’s emissions limits for existing power plants will put new burdens on coal-reliant states and raise electricity prices as more coal plants are retired.” The U.S. Chamber of Commerce warns that planned “greenhouse gas” regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may cost consumers \$50 billion through 2030, and cause the loss of 224,000 jobs per year. (On May 19 EPA chief Gina McCarthy stated, “I will admit, the last car I owned was a [Toyota] Prius.”) [59240, 59241, 59223, 59254]

Meriam Ibrahim, a jailed pregnant Christian woman facing execution for apostasy, reportedly gives birth to a baby girl while in prison in Khartoum, Sudan. (Whether the infant, or Ibrahim herself, will survive the prison conditions remains to be seen.) [59195, 59276]

Miami Heat basketball player Shane Battier tells ESPN the Democrat Party in Michigan asked him to run for the U.S. Senate seat which will be open with the retirement of Senator Carl Levin (D-MI). Battier says he declined the offer. (The offer suggests the Democrats are worried that declared Senate candidate Congressman Gary Peters (D-MI) may not be able to defeat Republican candidate Terri Lynn Land.) [59216, 59217, 59218]

Political strategist and former Bill Clinton advisor Dick Morris writes, “There are a number of strong reasons why winning the Senate is worth working for. If Republicans control the Senate, they can block the confirmation of judges who will allow Obama’s

power overreach. You can bet Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-NV] will confirm every judicial nomination in sight before relinquishing control of the chamber in January 2015. But he can't stop Republicans from blocking confirmations on any new judges [Obama] appoints after the GOP takes the Senate. ...Republicans would also be able to stop obnoxious treaties from being ratified. Technically, they can [do] so now, as only 37 votes will do the trick, but Reid won't bring the treaties that might be defeated to the floor. *As long as they have not had a ratification vote, the treaties remain in force under the Vienna Convention* [emphasis added]. Republicans would be able to bring up votes on—and thereby kill—the Arms Trade Treaty (backdoor gun control) and the Law of the Sea treaty (giving the United Nations power over the oceans). They would also be able to kill the climate change treaty that Secretary of State John Kerry is negotiating and any possible Internet treaty that undermines Internet freedom. ...There is more to winning an election than the actual number of seats gained. There is also momentum. A massive political defeat for an incumbent president signifies broad national dislike of his policies and disgust with their outcomes. Obama, for example, did not really recover from his party's 2010 electoral defeat until he killed Osama bin Laden six months later. The GOP can send the Democrats into 2016 reeling from the blows of 2014.” [59197, 59198]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The House’s chief investigator said Tuesday he’s considering subpoenas to force the White House to turn over more details about its new political office, which Republicans say may be running afoul of laws banning the use of taxpayer money for political campaigns. House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa [R-CA] said the White House has missed a target for turning over documents to Congress, and he set a new deadline of June 3. ‘The American people have a right to know if their tax dollars are being spent to support congressional campaigns during the 2014 midterm elections in violation of federal law,’ the California Republican wrote in a letter to White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough. The White House shut down the political office in 2011 amid questions from an ethics watchdog that it may have violated the Hatch Act, a federal law that prevents federal employees from politicking on government time. But in January, the White House said it was reviving it, renaming it the Office of Political Strategy and Outreach and saying it would be more limited in its role.” [59230]

The State Department’s Counter Terrorism Bureau apologizes for issuing a Twitter message that promoted a Muslim “scholar” and an article on his web site. According to FreeBeacon.com, Sheik Abdallah Bin Bayyah’s organization “has reportedly backed Hamas and endorsed a fatwa authorizing the murder of U.S. soldiers in Iraq. ...Bin Bayyah has long been a controversial figure and his attendance at a 2013 meeting at the White House sparked a fury among critics of the Obama administration. Bin Bayyah has served as the vice president of the International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS), which was founded by [a] Muslim Brotherhood leader ‘who has called for the death of Jews and Americans and himself is [sic; is himself] banned from visiting the U.S.’ ...Terrorism analyst Patrick Poole condemned the State Department’s tweet last week, stating that it must more carefully vet the Muslim leaders it promotes. ‘This administration is continuing to push extremist clerics like Bin Bayyah as part of a fantasy foreign policy that somehow they are somehow a counter to al Qaeda.’” [59272]

Congressman Peter King (R-NY) tells CNN's Erin Burnett that Obama's troop withdrawal announcement for Afghanistan is a "big mistake" because it "just gives the enemy the opportunity to plan their strategy." [59255]

Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) state, "[Obama] came into office wanting to end the wars he inherited. But wars do not end just because politicians say so. [Obama] appears to have learned nothing from the damage done by his previous withdrawal announcements in Afghanistan and his disastrous decision to withdraw all U.S. forces from Iraq." [59255]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer calls Obama's troop withdrawal schedule for Afghanistan "an act of personal narcissism. When this was talked about a few months ago in the press, there was a mention of the fact that if the full withdrawal happened in 2016, that would allow Obama to leave office having fulfilled the promise to liquidate the wars. ...Is that how we're now setting the strategy of the United States of America in a war zone, where so many have died and so much treasure and blood has been spent—so [Obama] can leave office looking good? It's certainly designed... to help the Democrats in the 2016 elections. But why would you announce it [the withdrawal schedule] in the first place?" Fox News senior political analyst Brit Hume says, "Why would you need to let the enemy know that you're going to be leaving, or how much of your force that you're going to draw down? Strategically it makes no sense. Tactically it makes no sense." [59251]

On May 28 Secretary of State John Kerry appears on *CBS This Morning* and says of the announced U.S. troop withdrawals, "This is not an abandonment of Afghanistan. This is an emboldenment [sic]. This is an empowerment of Afghanistan." [59259]

Journalist Glenn Greenwald announces he will publish names of individuals who were targeted by the NSA. The names come from information obtained by whistleblower Edward Snowden, who has been granted temporary asylum in Russia. Greenwald, who has a book coming out (*No Place To Hide*), tells *The Sunday Times*, "One of the big questions when it comes to domestic spying is, 'Who have been the NSA's specific targets?' Are they political critics and dissidents and activists? Are they genuinely people we'd regard as terrorists? What are the metrics and calculations that go into choosing those targets and what is done with the surveillance that is conducted? Those are the kinds of questions that I want to still answer." (Greenwald and Snowden, whose actions have been in response to anger over the U.S. government's invasion of the privacy of individuals, apparently do not see the contradiction in their release of those individuals' names.) [59200, 59221, 59274]

Meanwhile, Secretary of State John Kerry says, "If Mr. Snowden wants to come back to the United States, we'll have him on a flight today. [He should] stand up in the United States and make his case to the American people. ...A patriot would not run away." (This would be the same John "patriot" Kerry who relied on a self-inflicted wound in Vietnam

to get himself sent back to the United States, who “bravely” threw fake combat medals over the White House fence in an act of self-promotion, and who testified before a Congressional committee against his fellow soldiers, accusing them of “raz[ing] villages in fashion reminiscent of Genghis Khan.” (Whether Snowden is a whistleblowing patriot or a traitor—for letting the public know that their government’s spying methods are unconstitutional and illegal—may be subject to dispute, but Kerry should certainly not be allowed to weigh in on the discussion.) [59294, 59295, 59296, 59297]

On *Morning Joe*, retired Air Force General Michael Hayden states, “[L]et me parse out what [Obama] just said: ‘Before I leave office, I’m going to make Afghanistan look like Iraq.’ You know, going to zero [U.S. troops] in Iraq did not lead to a happy outcome. And now he’s committed to doing the same thing in Afghanistan. I think it’s fairly dangerous.” [59252]

Obama marks the death of poet and author Maya Angelou, age 86, by tweeting a photograph of himself giving her a medal, along with the words, “Nothing can dim the light which shines from within.” CNN calls Angelou “[a] literary voice revered globally for her poetic command and her commitment to civil rights...” (Although hailed for “staggeringly beautiful poetry,” many consider Angelou’s works and words to be rather hackneyed, sophomoric, and cliché-ridden, such as, “Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.” Angelou’s poems remind some of a Barbara Walters interview question: “If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?” A far better black female poet is Phillis Wheatley who, Frederick William Dame notes in his upcoming book, *America’s Indomitable Character*, “was the first African-American woman and poet to publish her work.” Once a slave in 18th century Boston, Wheatley, who corresponded with and even met George Washington, produced an admirably long list of published works before her untimely death at the age of 31.) ThinkProgress.org notes, “Angelou was a close associate with [sic; of] Malcolm X prior to his assassination and had plans to start a new effort with him to advance African-American rights.” (Note to ThinkProgress.org writers: Angelou could not have been a close associate of Malcolm X *after* his assassination.) “Angelou was a leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.” “Angelou supported Cuban leader Fidel Castro.” “Angelou was a staunch advocate for marriage equality” (that is, same-sex marriage). [59204, 59205, 59206, 59207, 59208, 59209, 59262, 59392, 61203]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is refusing to answer Congress’ questions about the existence of a secret terrorist ‘hands off’ list that is said to have permitted individuals with terrorist ties easy entrance into the United States. The existence of the hands-off list was first publicized earlier this month by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), who released a cache of internal DHS emails detailing the list’s existence and a discussion about permitting an alleged member of the Muslim Brotherhood to enter the United States. The revelation that individuals tied to terrorists were given special treatment drew outrage among lawmakers and led U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), one of the agencies involved with the list, to hold a closed-door briefing with Grassley’s staff last week, according to a senior Senate source with

knowledge of the meeting. The *Washington Free Beacon* has further reported that the documents are part of a larger campaign by DHS and its former head Janet Napolitano to purge the internal security records of potentially hundreds of terror suspects, allowing them to more easily travel in and out of the United States. When questioned by Grassley's staff last week during the closed-door briefing, CBP officials refused to answer multiple questions about the purported 'hands off' list, according to Grassley spokeswoman Beth Pellett Levine.' [59549, 59550]

Obama delivers a foreign policy address at West Point's graduation class, receiving what CNN's Jim Clancy calls an "icy reception." Clancy says, "[It] probably, you know, wasn't really a great speech to give at the U.S. Military Academy. It was a philosophical speech. It was not a commander-in-chief speaking to his troops. And you heard the reception. I mean, it was pretty icy." (To a great extent the speech was little more than Obama defending—point by point—criticism of his foreign policy. It was a speech about *him*, not a speech about the proper role of the United States of America around the world.) Only about one quarter of the cadets stood upon Obama's introduction, and the applause was called "tepid" by the *Daily Mail*. Even fewer of the parents and guests in the audience stood and applauded. [3279, 3280, 59222, 59303, 59312, 59315, 59316, 59330, 59336, 59348]

The thin-skinned Obama, apparently *still* upset over criticism of his shameful 2009 "American exceptionalism" remark, says, "I believe in American exceptionalism with every fiber of my being. But what makes us exceptional is not our ability to flout international norms and the rule of law; it's our willingness to affirm them through our actions." (In Strasbourg, France, in June 2009, Obama was asked by Ed Luce of the *Financial Times* if, like his predecessors, Obama believed in American exceptionalism. Obama replied, "I believe in American exceptionalism, just as I suspect that the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism." In other words, Obama does not believe America is exceptional; in his view it is just one nation among many and isn't all that special. Obama's comment and his apologies for the United States prompted people to say, "He sounds like a European." During the 1988 campaign, George H.W. Bush said of Democrat candidate Michael Dukakis, "He sees America as another pleasant country on the U.N. roll call, somewhere between Albania and Zimbabwe. I see America as the leader—a unique nation with a special role in the world." The remark applies to Obama more than it did Dukakis. [3279, 3280, 59222, 59303, 59312, 59315, 59316, 59330, 59336, 59348]

PJMedia.com's Andrew Klavan later writes, "Wow. Got that? [Obama] has a vision of our nation as a place where we obey international law and live up to the international norm. I know that gets *my* blood pumping. Just makes you want to suck it up and salute, doesn't it? I mean, I wouldn't want to think America was exceptional for what it stood for—like, oh I don't know; freedom, say—because then we'd have to stand against something too—like the kind of oppression and slavery that actually is the norm in a whole lot of non-western countries around the world... and, increasingly, in western countries where Muslims have been allowed to have their way and opposing them out

loud has been outlawed. We'd have to stand up for Americans when they made videos others didn't like and loudly declare that our way—toleration, respect for private property and western law—is morally superior to the savagery of sharia and the travesty of communism. And then maybe some people wouldn't like us anymore. We might 'create more enemies than we take off the battlefield,' as [Obama] nonsensically fretted in his West Point speech. No, better to show everyone how exceptionally we obey international law and affirm the international norm, whatever the hell that is. Then people will like us and the world will be a safer place. Like it is now. Can't you tell? ...Obama is a [man] without a vision, or with a vision so puny it's hardly worth the name. All those big windy words—that hopey-changey stuff? Forget about it. Vision-wise? Look around you. The guy's got nothing." [59990]

During the address, Obama says, "I am calling on Congress to support a new Counter-Terrorism Partnerships Fund of up to \$5 billion, which will allow us to train, build capacity, and facilitate partner countries on the front lines. These resources will give us flexibility to fulfill different missions, including training security forces in Yemen who have gone on the offensive against al Qaeda; supporting a multinational force to keep the peace in Somalia; working with European allies to train a functioning security force and border patrol in Libya; and facilitating French operations in Mali." [59264]

With regard to Syria, Obama says, "As frustrating as it is, there are no easy answers—no military solution that can eliminate the terrible suffering anytime soon. ...I made a decision that we should not put American troops into the middle of this increasingly sectarian civil war, and I believe that is the right decision. But that does not mean we shouldn't help the Syrian people stand up against a dictator who bombs and starves his people." (Arguably, the American people made that decision, not Obama. With his "red line" challenge he appeared eager to launch a military strike against Syria. It was pressure from Congress that caused Obama to back down.) "The partnership I've described does not eliminate the need to take direct action when necessary to protect ourselves. When we have actionable intelligence, that's what we do—through capture operations, like the one that brought a terrorist involved in the plot to bomb our Embassies in 1998 to face justice; or drone strikes, like those we have carried out in Yemen and Somalia. But as I said last year, in taking direct action, we must uphold standards that reflect our values. I will increasingly turn to our military to take the lead and provide information to the public about our efforts. Our intelligence community has done outstanding work and we must continue to protect sources and methods. But, when we cannot explain our efforts clearly and publicly, we face terrorist propaganda and international suspicion; we erode legitimacy with our partners and our people; and we reduce accountability in our own government." [59264]

Obama tells the cadets that a "spirit of cooperation needs to energize the global effort to combat climate change—a creeping national security crisis that will help shape your time in uniform, as we are called on to respond to refugee flows and natural disasters and conflicts over water and food, which is why next year I intend to make sure America is out front in putting together a global framework to preserve our planet. You see,

American influence is always stronger when we lead by example. We can't exempt ourselves from the rules that apply to everybody else. We can't call on others to make commitments to combat climate change if a whole lot of our political leaders deny that it's taking place." [59333]

Probably to the surprise of no one, Obama sprinkles his speech with straw man arguments that would result in a failing grade for a high school debate student. He says, "U.S. military action cannot be the only or even the primary component of our reaction in every instance," "To say we have an interest in pursuing peace... beyond our borders is not to say that every problem has a military solution," "A strategy that involves invading every country that harbors terrorist networks is naïve and unsustainable," and chastises "critics who think military intervention is the only way to avoid looking weak." (Of course, no one has suggested that military action should be the nation's first reaction to every crisis, or that all problems have military solutions, that we should invade every country that harbor terrorists, or that an appearance of weakness can only be avoided with the use of military force.) [59265, 59353]

"In taking direct action," says Obama, "we must uphold standards that reflect our values. That means taking strikes only when we face a continuing, imminent threat, and only where there is near certainty of no civilian casualties, for our actions should meet a simple test: We must not create more enemies than we take off the battlefield." (At Townhall.com, radio talk show host Mark Davis comments, "If the prevention of civilian casualties had guided our strategy in World War II, the entire [European] continent would speak German today. Any fighting force with a conscience will always weigh risks to non-combatants as a factor in evaluating its strategy. But the fighting force placing civilian protection above victory will never have victory. This is why we have not driven terrorists from Iraq and Afghanistan; we have been too interested in building schools and laying water pipelines and not interested enough in the stark necessity of war—killing enough of the enemy to persuade its surrender. If our cause is just and our methods measured, we do not need to wring our hands over what the locals think of us. If we are in the right and have the will to win, the rightness of our actions will be appreciated over time. I'm sure we were not popular with the Japanese as we dropped bombs on Hiroshima. If Harry Truman, who reminds us what Democrats used to act like, had been paralyzed by Japanese opinion polls, the war could have continued through his presidency and beyond. Instead, we chased Hitler into his fetid bunker and bombed Imperial Japan into submission. Within less than a generation, both vanquished nations were steadfast allies.") [59353]

Obama states, "We reserve all options to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. But for the first time in a decade, we have a very real chance of achieving a breakthrough agreement, one that is more effective and durable than what we could have achieved through the use of force. And throughout these negotiations, it has been our willingness to work through multilateral channels that kept the world on our side." (The odds of a "breakthrough agreement" are minimal. Iran has made the Obama administration look like amateurs in the negotiations, and it is closer than ever to having nuclear weapons.

Additionally, “keeping the world on our side” is not the goal. The goal is preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons it would use against our allies. That Obama does not understand the priorities is why his negotiations have failed.) [59353]

Remarkably, Obama says, “I will continue to push to close Gitmo, because American values and legal traditions do not permit the indefinite detention of people beyond our borders.” (That Obama is still frustrated over the issue of Guantanamo reveals much about his personality. On his second day in office he issued a king-like command that the terrorist detention center be closed, without having a clue as to what that would require or what the consequences would be. More than five years later, Obama remains childishly upset that he did not get his way. He is also historically mistaken, of course. During World War II the United States most certainly did detain prisoners of war in various countries, and with no knowledge of when hostilities would end. There is nothing illegal about detaining enemy combatants. That those combatants may come from various nations and not wear identical uniforms is irrelevant.) [59353]

D. W. Ulsterman calls Obama’s speech “rambling” and “excuse-laden,” and notes that the “decidedly less than enthusiastic crowd... remained quiet throughout his many ‘not my fault’ talking points. ...Obama tried repeatedly to assure the military audience that he believed in American exceptionalism. This comes after several years of [his] downplaying, and at times, apologizing for America’s influence throughout the world. [He] went on to demand the United States work with the United Nations, that such a relationship will be the hallmark of future U.S. foreign policy. The West Point grads appeared less than enthusiastic about such a goal, perhaps noting the inherent contradiction of a [leader] trying to convince them he believes in American power, while at the same time, demanding that power play a secondary role behind working with such entities as the United Nations. The Daily Mail described [Obama’s] reception with the following: ‘Receiving tepid applause and a short standing ovation from less than one-quarter of the audience upon his introduction, Obama argued for a contradictory foreign policy that relies on NATO and the United Nations while insisting that ‘America must always lead on the world stage.’” [59266]

Even *The New York Times* pans Obama’s speech, writing, “...Obama and his aides heralded his commencement speech at the United States Military Academy at West Point on Wednesday as a big moment, when he would lay out his foreign policy vision for the remainder of his term and refute his critics. The address did not match the hype, was largely uninspiring, lacked strategic sweep and is unlikely to quiet his detractors, on the right or the left. ...He provided little new insight into how he plans to lead in the next two years, and many still doubt that he fully appreciates the leverage the United States has even in a changing world. Falling back on hackneyed phrases like America is the ‘indispensable nation’ told us little. ...Mr. Obama’s talk of the need for more transparency about drone strikes and intelligence gathering, including abusive surveillance practices, was ludicrous. His administration had to be dragged into even minimal disclosures on both topics. Just Tuesday, the administration said it wanted to make further deletions from a legal memo on drone strikes that a court ordered it to make

public. ...Mr. Obama's comments on China and Russia barely touched on how he plans to manage two major countries that have turned increasingly aggressive. Pledging anew to close the jail at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, which Congress has blocked, was, at this point, little more than a reassuring gesture. This was far from Mr. Obama's big moment. But since he has no office left to run for, what matters ultimately is his record in the next two and a half years." [59304, 59320]

The *Chicago Tribune* writes that Obama "charted a vision for protecting America that relies less on military power and more on training foreign security forces to fight on their own soil. His context: Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have taught American leaders about the power—and limits—of U.S. military options. ...Obama also promised that all U.S. troops would be withdrawn by the end of 2016. Then Afghan forces will be 'fully responsible' for Afghan security. We think that timetable needs an asterisk: Depends on conditions on the ground. What happens if military leaders tell Obama in 2016 that closing U.S. bases will cripple their ability to devastate terror havens and target plotters? What if a future Afghan president urgently requests continued U.S. military backup? We don't know if Afghan forces can hold their own against the Taliban after the U.S. leaves. The end of 2016 is undiscovered territory, a world impossible to fully imagine or anticipate. Obama's speech will be parsed in capitals around the world (including Washington), as friend and foe gauge [his] inclination to send aid or to let conflicts burn on their own. We're sure Obama realizes that Wednesday's foreign policy pronouncement has a limited shelf life. By this time next year, a fresh field of presidential candidates will be touting their agendas. They'll debate the use of force, how to battle terror and protect America—in short, how to build on Obama's successes and avoid his failures." (The *Tribune* does not try to list those successes; it does not have to list his failures.) [59305, 59320]

The Wall Street Journal writes, "The speech ...Obama delivered Wednesday at West Point was intended to be a robust defense of his foreign policy, about which even our liberal friends are starting to entertain doubts. But as we listened to [Obama] chart his course between the false-choice alternatives of 'American isolationism' and 'invading every country that harbors terrorist networks,' we got to thinking of everything that *wasn't* in his speech. [The Russian "reset," the "pivot to Asia," the "red line" in Syria, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and the "world without nuclear weapons.] We know that no foreign policy speech can cover the entire world. But listening to Mr. Obama trying to assemble a coherent foreign policy agenda from the record of the past five years was like watching Tom Hanks trying to survive in 'Cast Away': Whatever's left from the wreckage will have to do." [59306, 59320]

At DailySignal.com national security foreign policy expert James Carafano writes, "The 'enemy' chosen by Obama to animate America's grand strategy is climate change. The nation's existential goal, therefore, is 'to energize the global effort to combat climate change, a creeping national security crisis that will help shape your time in uniform,' the commander-in-chief told his new troops at West Point. Apparently, the new second lieutenants will spend their careers fighting the weather. Weather may seem an odd foe

for the military. But for [Obama], it's the perfect choice. Obama can't be accused [of being] a warmonger because he doesn't want the military to fight anyone—he wants the military to help people. Weather isn't a person or a country. He risks offending almost no one. Making climate change a national security matter also helps [Obama] press for other statist agenda items—from pet green energy projects to adopting the right-to-protect doctrine. Unfortunately, as an organizing principle for national security, climate makes a terrible 'enemy.' It is enormously complex and unpredictable. The unpredictability of how climate change will play out on the global stage ought to dissuade any strategist from regarding it as an organizing principle around which one can practice what Freedman calls “the art of creating power.” Basing strategy on climate would be the ultimate march of folly. Mr. Obama may well know that. The reference to climate may be just like the rest of the address: knowingly empty rhetoric. But it does lead to a conclusion devoid of complexity and unpredictability—this speech and the vapid ideas in it will soon be forgotten.” [59956]

Congressman Mac Thornberry (R-TX) comments, “Power and influence in the world come from having capability plus the will to use it. ...I am not willing to accept that we must have a smaller military and a smaller role in the world [as Obama suggests]. Because we know that as the United States retreats, others will fill the void, and those others will not move the world toward greater freedom and greater prosperity.” [59310]

While Obama addresses West Point graduates, Vice President Joe Biden delivers a speech to Air Force Academy graduates in Colorado Spring, Colorado. Biden says, “I believe we, and mainly you, have an incredible opportunity to lead in shaping a new world order for the 21st century in a way consistent with American interests and common interests. ...First and foremost, our work begins by rebuilding America's foundations, our economic foundations, our moral and strategic foundations.” [59338]

Talk show host Montel Williams, a Navy and Marine veteran, tells Fox News' Neil Cavuto, “I am angry, my friend. I'm angry because, you know, we made a promise. When I stood with my hand up proudly, I said, ‘I do solemnly swear and affirm to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic and I will bear true faith,’ I went through my oath. I told the world I'm willing to put my life on the line and die for you. Now, our guys went over. They left body parts. Some of them never made it back. Some of them are here now and their souls are still there. And we have the audacity to turn our back on them right this second? I'm going to tell you something. All societies are judged by what they do for the least of us. The least of us, the ones that protected this democracy. We owe this debt, more than anything else. ...[Obama] just promised \$5 billion for terrorists around the world? At West Point? Where he could have used today to say, ‘I'm sorry! For the pain that I've caused you, the families! And I'm going to fix it today!’” [59313, 59317, 59335]

On *The Five*, Kimberly Guilfoyle comments on Obama's strange foreign policy address: “Did he have to say it at West Point? ...With the international community watching, here's [Obama] addressing some of the nation's brightest and bravest who have vowed to

serve our country... and that was just such a confusing, disappointing message. ...This is the problem. I just don't think he understands—honestly—I really don't think he has a grasp on what it means to have a cohesive, coherent foreign policy or how to combat the war on terror. We cannot go around to our enemies, 'Let me hug you and then let me drone you.'" Democrat strategist Bob Beckel erupts, "That's treason, what you just said!" Guilfoyle responds, "No, it actually is accurate!" Beckel: "It is not accurate! The way you guys treat [Obama] is abysmal and disgusting!" [59409]

In a *New York Times* editorial, Michelle Obama defends her "Let's Move" program "to end the epidemic of childhood obesity in a generation so that kids born today will grow up healthy." "But unfortunately," she writes, "we're now seeing attempts in Congress to undo so much of what we've accomplished on behalf of our children. ...They want to make it optional, not mandatory, for schools to serve fruits and vegetables to our kids." (Technically, what Congress wants is to give more control to the school districts and states so that they can stop losing money on food that students throw away. Mrs. Clinton claims, "[W]e have adhered to one clear standard: what works." In fact, to a great extent her plan hasn't worked.) [59413, 59438]

A preliminary report by the Veterans Administration's Inspector General states, "To date, our work has substantiated serious conditions at the Phoenix HCS. We identified about 1,400 veterans who did not have a primary care appointment but were appropriately included on the Phoenix HCS' EWLs [electronic wait lists]. However, we identified an additional 1,700 veterans who were waiting for a primary care appointment but were not on the EWL. Until that happens, the reported wait time for these veterans has not started. Most importantly, these veterans were and continue to be at risk of being forgotten or lost in Phoenix HCS's convoluted scheduling process. As a result, these veterans may never obtain a requested or required clinical appointment. A direct consequence of not appropriately placing veterans on EWLs is that the Phoenix HCS leadership significantly understated the time new patients waited for their primary care appointment in their FY 2013 performance appraisal accomplishments, which is one of the factors considered for awards and salary increases. ...To review the new patient wait times for primary care in FY 2013, we reviewed a statistical sample of 226 Phoenix HCS appointments. VA national data, which was reported by Phoenix HCS, showed these 226 veterans waited on average 24 days for their first primary care appointment and only 43 percent waited more than 14 days. However, our review showed these 226 veterans waited on average 115 days for their first primary care appointment with approximately 84 percent waiting more than 14 days." (The average wait time of almost four months was reported as only a few weeks—so that VA employees could be eligible for awards and salary increases.) [59219, 59260, 59287]

One Texas VA whistleblower tells *TheDailyBeast.com*, "For lack of a better term, you've got an organized crime syndicate. People up on top are suddenly afraid they may actually be prosecuted and they're pressuring the little guys down below to cover it all up. I see it in the executives' eyes. They are worried." [59239]

The White House claims Obama found the Inspector General's report "extremely troubling." (Why he did not also find similar reports in 2008 and other years "extremely troubling" is not explained.) [59237]

Eric Shinseki, apparently figuring out that after five years at the job he is in fact head of the Veterans Administration, states, "I respect the independent review and recommendations of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding systemic issues with patient scheduling and access. I have reviewed the interim report, and the findings are reprehensible to me, to this Department, and to Veterans. I am directing that the Phoenix VA Health Care System (VAHCS) immediately triage each of the 1,700 Veterans identified by the OIG to bring them timely care. I have already placed the Phoenix VAHCS leadership on administrative leave, and have directed an independent site team to assess scheduling and administrative practices at the Phoenix VAHCS. This team began their work in April, and we are already taking action on multiple recommendations from this report. We will aggressively and fully implement the remaining OIG recommendations to ensure that we contact every single Veteran identified by the OIG. I have directed the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to complete a nation-wide access review to ensure a full understanding of VA's policy and continued integrity in managing patient access to care. Further, we are accelerating access to care throughout our system and in communities where Veterans reside." [59237, 59238]

At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey writes, "Eric Shinseki had five-plus years to discover this issue, and either he was too incompetent to do so, he willfully ignored it, or worse. This period of self-investigation essentially gives everyone a few extra months to cover their tracks, and at least according to [The Daily Beast's Jacob] Siegel's source, VA executives are making the most of the time. It also sends the message down to the rank and file that Barack Obama cares more about preserving the command structure at VA than he does about solving the problem—and that provides another set of perverse incentives for corruption." [59239]

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) tells CNN's Wolf Blitzer, "I think it's reached that point" where VA head Eric Shinseki should resign. "I had not called for it, I was going to wait until the hearing there that's going to take place... very soon, but this keeps piling up..." [59219, 59257]

Senators Mark Udall (D-CO), John Walsh (D-MT), and Kay Hagan (D-NC) join the parade and call for Shinseki's resignation. [59219, 59220, 59237]

The House Veterans Affairs Committee holds a hearing to grill three Veterans Administration officials: Dr. Thomas Lynch, M.D., Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Joan Mooney, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Michael Huff, Congressional Relations Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL) and other

committee members are less than satisfied with some of the responses they receive to their questions. Miller tells the VA officials, “Until the VA understands that we’re deadly serious, you can expect us to be over your shoulder every single day.” Lynch tells the Congressmen he is “not sure” who authorized the secret waiting lists of veteran patients. Congressman Tim Huelskamp (R-KS) points out that requested documents have yet to be turned over. Huelskamp asks Lynch, “So you knew about these veterans that were waiting for care, primary care?” Lynch replies, “I had identified the number of veterans, and we could have moved forward more quickly.” Huelskamp: “Did you try to do anything to get care for these veterans... [who were] waiting?” Lynch: “Congressman, we identified the processes and we put people on the ground—” Huelskamp: “Yes or no, did you do anything for those 1,100 [sic; 1,700] veterans?” Lynch: “Congressman, I put in place an understanding of the process, which allowed us to—” Huelskamp: “They are still waiting for care. I think that’s your answer.” [59233, 59302, 59331]

According to an Associated Press-GfK poll, only 28 percent of Americans support ObamaCare and 43 percent oppose the law. [59245]

At a White House “Healthy Kids and Safe Sports Concussion Summit,” Obama says, “I was a basketball player. I learned so many lessons playing sports that I carry to this day, even to the [Oval Office]. But sports is also just fundamental to who we are as Americans and [to] our culture. We’re competitive. We’re driven. And sports teaches [sic; teach] us about teamwork and hard work and what it takes to succeed, not just on the field, but in life.” Obama claims he also “played football briefly” and “there were a couple times where I’m sure that that ringing sensation in my head and the needing to sit down for a while might have been a mild concussion, and at the time you didn’t think anything of it.” [59370, 59696, 59697, 59698]

Ann Coulter comments on the Isla Vista, California killer: “Mass murder at a sunny college campus in a beach town would normally be considered ‘newsy,’ but Elliot Rodger’s massacre at the University of California-Santa Barbara last Friday is getting surprisingly little press. This is not a good case for liberals: The killer was an immigrant, a person of color, and the majority of his casualties resulted from attacks with a car or knife. It makes as much sense to rant about the NRA as to blame the Auto Club of America or the National Knife Collectors Association. ...I’m one of the few who have read all 141 pages [of Rodger’s manifesto]. It is a tale of increasing delusions, paranoia, hallucinations, and wild, grandiose self-assessments. In other words, it is a slightly less whiny version of Obama’s first inaugural address. (How many pages does your manifesto have to be before we can force you to take your medication?) Rodger says of himself: ‘I saw myself as a highly intelligent and magnificent person who is meant for great things.’ ‘Becoming a multimillionaire at a young age is what I am meant for.’ ‘I am like a god.’ ‘This was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and the planet began to heal.’ No—wait ...Last one was Obama.) ...A family friend, Simon Astaire, described Rodger’s flat affect, common to schizophrenics, saying he ‘couldn’t look at you straight in the eye and looked at your feet. It was unbearable.’ It’s hard to feel sorry for a mass murderer, but it was cruel to Elliot Rodger to allow him to refuse medication and turn

himself into a monster. It was beyond cruel to his innocent victims—as well as the other victims of psychopathic killers. But liberals are more worried about ‘stigmatizing’ the mentally ill, than the occasional mass murder.” [59267]

In the Central African Republic town of Bangui, Muslims storm a Catholic church and kill as many as 30 people—using grenades and guns. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “The attack on the compound at the church, where thousands of civilians had sought refuge from the violence ravaging Bangui’s streets, is the largest and most brazen blamed on Muslim fighters since their Seleka coalition was ousted from power nearly five months ago. Wednesday’s attack marked a rare attack on a house of worship, as Catholic churches have served as sanctuaries for both Christian and Muslim civilians since the country erupted into sectarian bloodshed in December.” (Muslim violence against Christians is increasing on the African continent. The Obama administration not only *does* nothing, it *says* almost nothing.) [59273, 59275]

At WashingtonTimes.com Bill Gertz writes, “2010 Pentagon directive on military support to civilian authorities details what critics say is a troubling policy that envisions the Obama administration’s potential use of military force against Americans. The directive contains noncontroversial provisions on support to civilian fire and emergency services, special events and the domestic use of the Army Corps of Engineers. The troubling aspect of the directive outlines presidential authority for the use of military arms and forces, including unarmed drones, in operations against domestic unrest. ‘This appears to be the latest step in the administration’s decision to use force within the United States against its citizens,’ said a defense official opposed to the directive. Directive No. 3025.18, ‘Defense Support of Civil Authorities,’ was issued Dec. 29, 2010, and states that U.S. commanders ‘are provided emergency authority under this directive.’ ... ‘Federal action, including the use of federal military forces, is authorized when necessary to protect the federal property or functions,’ the directive states. Military assistance can include loans of arms, ammunition, vessels and aircraft. The directive states clearly that it is for engaging civilians during times of unrest. A U.S. official said the Obama administration considered but rejected deploying military force under the directive during the recent standoff with Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and his armed supporters. ... Defense analysts say there has been a buildup of military units within non-security-related federal agencies, notably the creation of Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams. The buildup has raised questions about whether the Obama administration is undermining civil liberties under the guise of counterterrorism and counternarcotics efforts. Other agencies with SWAT teams reportedly include the Department of Agriculture, the Railroad Retirement Board, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Office of Personnel Management, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Education Department.” [59281, 59286]

Because the White House hasn’t lost enough dignity since January 20, 2009, Obama sends a Twitter message offering a chance to win two free backstage passes to a James

Taylor concert in exchange for a donation to his propaganda arm, Organizing for Action. [59289, 59290, 59291]

On *Hannity*, author and radio host Mark Levin ridicules Obama's West Point statement, "I believe in American exceptionalism with every fiber of my being." Levin tells Sean Hannity, "What does he mean by American exceptionalism? He stands up like Mussolini and talks about having a pen. But what does that mean? That means he's going to override the Constitution when he likes? American exceptionalism—does he like free market capitalism? No, he detests it. Does he like individual liberty and success? No, he attacks it. American exceptionalism—somebody who wants to fundamentally transform America doesn't believe America is an exceptional place at all. So that's just all bull. ...If we were talking about food stamps [rather than delayed medical care for veterans], he'd move heaven and earth to fund the food stamp program and make sure everybody got their food stamps, or if he's talking about inequality and redistributing wealth or some massive stimulus program where all that money is wasted, again, he'd move heaven and earth to get that done. The veterans are not a top priority. ...We've got a combination here that is really troublesome system for the country—a radical ideologue who's a complete incompetent! And it's a disaster. ...The next president of the United States is going to have a hell of a job not just rebuilding the economy, but rebuilding the United States military. We're watching a man who's degrading the United States military from the recruits all the way to the vets." [59334, 59339, 59381]

Also on *Hannity*, former Vice President Dick Cheney observes, "I think the perception [of the United States] around the world is increasingly negative, but I think the main focus is on [Obama]. He's a very, very weak [leader], maybe the weakest, certainly in my lifetime. And I know from my own experience on a recent trip through the Middle East spending several days talking with folks I've dealt with all the way back to [Operation] Desert Storm, they all are absolutely convinced that the American capacity to lead and to influence events in that part of the world has been dramatically reduced by [Obama]. We've got a problem with weakness, and it's centered right in the White House." Of Obama's decision to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by 2016, Cheney says, "That's stupid, it's unwise, and it will in fact just reinforce the notion that we're weak, that we've got a leader who doesn't understand U.S. obligations and commitments around the world and is not prepared to act on them. ...It's as though he wasn't even around when 9/11 happened." [59343, 59344]

On *The Kelly File*, Obama's 2012 opponent, Mitt Romney, says that Veterans Administration head Eric Shinseki "needs to be removed or replaced by [Obama]. We don't really have time to have someone take that position any longer who has been there. We need to have someone new who will take responsibility for what has been an unbelievable mess and a tragedy for so many people. He has not demonstrated the kind of leadership that you would hope to see in a circumstance of this nature." (Some might argue that Romney's comment applies to Obama as much as Shinseki.) [59301]

On May 29 the Bilderberg group begins its annual conference, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Participants include prominent bankers, CEOs, university professors, and politicians from Europe and the United States, such as former NSA head Keith Alexander, former White House National Security Advisor Tom Donilon, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (now 91 years old), International Monetary Fund head Christine Lagarde, former CIA head General David Petraeus, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, and Google chairman Eric Schmidt. (*The Obama Timeline* believes one topic at the conference will likely be the recent elections in Europe that signal growing dissatisfaction with the European Union. Not only is the “new world order” the Bilderbergers want not progressing as quickly and as smoothly as they would like, there is increasing awareness that the central banks and government bureaucracies in Europe and the United States are enemies of the people, rather than friends.) [59284, 59285, 59349, 59350, 59351, 59365, 59414]

Although the group’s “official” purpose is to “foster dialogue between Europe and North America,” more than a few observers assign nefarious motives to the organization and believe it tasks world leaders with establishing a “new world order” of socialism. Obama reportedly attended the June 2008 Bilderberg meeting in secret, along with Hillary Clinton. The next day Clinton conceded the Democrat primary race to Obama. Also at the 2008 meeting, held in Chantilly, Virginia, were Henry Kissinger, David Rockefeller (former Chairman, Chase Manhattan Bank), Keith Alexander, Ben Bernanke (Chairman, Federal Reserve Board), Tom Daschle (former Senate Majority Leader), Harold E. Ford, Jr. (Vice Chairman, Merrill Lynch and Co., Inc.), Timothy Geithner (President of the New York Federal Reserve Board), Paul Gigot (Editorial Page Director at the Wall Street Journal), Donald E. Graham (CEO of the Washington Post Company), Richard Holbrooke (Vice Chairman, Perseus, LLC and former board member of AIG), James A. Johnson (Vice Chairman, Perseus, LLC, and former head of Fannie Mae), Craig J. Mundie (Chief Research and Strategy Officer, Microsoft), Condoleezza Rice (Secretary of State), Charlie Rose (Producer, Rose Communications), Mark Sanford (Governor of South Carolina), Eric Schmidt, and Kathleen Sebelius (Governor of Kansas). (As noted previously in this Timeline, at a convenient moment the Westfields Marriot’s fire alarm went off, enabling staff to clear the premises of media investigators trying to cover the event. Investigators said the hotel was swarming with security and they were followed as they drove their cars near the area. At least seven convoys with armed Secret Service escorts were seen arriving at the hotel, which led people to believe Obama and Clinton were in attendance.) [1752, 1753, 2510, 2663, 2687, 59284, 59285, 59349, 59350, 59351, 59365, 59414]

Tracy Fair files a Writ of Certiorari in the Obama eligibility case *Tracy A. Fair and Mary C. Miltenberger v. Robert Walker*, Chairman of The Maryland State Board of Elections. [59386, 59387]

In an address to Harvard University graduates, former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg says, “We cannot deny others the rights and privileges that we demand for

ourselves. And that is true in cities and it is no less true in universities where the forces of repression appear to be stronger now, I think, than at any time since the 1950s. ... There is an idea floating around college campuses, including here at Harvard, I think, that scholars should be funded only if their work conforms to a particular view of justice. There's a word for that idea; censorship and it is just a modern form of McCarthyism. Think about the irony: In the 1950s, the right wing was attempting to repress left wing ideas. Today, on many college campuses, it is liberals trying to repress conservative ideas even as conservative faculty members are at risk of becoming an endangered species. And that is probably nowhere more true than it is here in the Ivy League. In the 2012 presidential race, according to Federal Election Commission data, 96 percent of all campaign contributions from Ivy League faculty and employees went to Barack Obama. Ninety-six percent! There was more disagreement among the old Soviet politburo than there is among Ivy League donors. And that statistic should give us some pause. I say it as someone who endorsed ... Obama for reelection." [59389]

"Let me tell you something, neither party has a monopoly of truth or God on its side. When 96 percent of Ivy League donors prefer one candidate to another, you really have to wonder whether students are being exposed to the diversity of views that a great university should offer. Diversity of gender, ethnicity, and orientation is important, but a university cannot be great if its faculty is politically homogenous. ... Great universities should not become predictably partisan. And a Liberal Arts education must not be an education in the art of liberalism. The role of universities is not to promote an ideology. It is to provide scholars and students with a neutral forum for researching and debating our issues without tipping the scale in one direction or repressing unpopular views. ... If a university thinks twice before inviting a commencement speaker because of his or her politics, censorship and conformity, the mortal enemies of freedom win out. ... A university's obligation is not to teach students what to think, but to teach students how to think. And that requires listening to the other side, weighing arguments without prejudicing them. And determining if the other side actually made some fair points. If the faculty fails to do this, it is the responsibility of the administration and governing bodies to step in and make it a priority. If they do not—if students graduate with ears and minds closed—the university has failed both the students and society." [59389]

At Townhall.com the Media Research Center's Brent Bozell writes, "Remember the endless coverage day after day, week after week over the disclosure of Valerie Plame's name, a veritable D.C. paper-pusher by comparison [to the CIA station chief in Kabul, Afghanistan]? She became the poster child in a relentless campaign to undermine Bush's foreign policy—and the man himself. So how did [the mainstream media] cover a mistake a thousandfold more serious? NBC was the news 'leader' on the morning after Memorial Day by devoting just one story to this fiasco on 'Today.' Reporter Peter Alexander concluded with anonymous officials calling the disclosure 'embarrassing, 'stupid and unhelpful' but 'not catastrophic.' On ABC, 'Good Morning America' aired a glowing report on the morning of Memorial Day about how Obama visited the troops at the Bagram Air Base. Almost as an afterthought, reporter David Kerley briefly recounted: 'One mistake made during this trip, the White House inadvertently released the name of the CIA station chief in Afghanistan. No word on whether he's going to stay in country

or come back home.’ Oh, yeah, *that*. Anchor David Muir just carelessly moved on: ‘All right. [Obama] was shaking a lot of hands. And he said, ‘I wouldn’t have time for a selfie with everyone.’ And you know that [Obama], he likes a selfie.’ The CIA station chief could be in danger of assassination, but the ABC anchors are still obsessed with Obama selfies. By Tuesday morning, ABC was so uninterested that they devoted a full report instead to Michelle Obama defending school lunch standards. CBS didn’t have time for this story, but ‘CBS This Morning’ did have time on Tuesday for a full report on the Obama White House holding a science fair for girls. ...Not one of [the] TV and newspaper reports turned to a conservative or Republican critic to question the efficacy of Team Obama. It is like every other scandal, be it the IRS, Benghazi, Fast and Furious, the VA hospitals or now this. The developments are explosive and met with complete indifference from a press that could care less about the people’s right to know.” [59288]

Rush Limbaugh says of Obama’s West Point speech, “I think I’ve got a pretty good handle on Obama’s view of this country. I think I’ve got a pretty good understanding of what would be called the Obama Doctrine. You can sum it up in two words, but I would like to get more nuanced than that. The Obama Doctrine basically is that America has been a false superpower, an illegitimate one, not a real one. We acquired our superpower status in less than honest ways, and now the world sees us for who we really are, and we must now demonstrate to the world that we are no longer that cowboy country just running roughshod over everybody, sending our military anywhere we want ’em to go. Now, I could get even more nuanced and detailed than even that, but the sum total of the Obama Doctrine is that there’s nothing exceptional about this place and what everybody thought was exceptional about it was misguided because this country just has too much baggage to ever be considered exceptional. And we need to apologize and acknowledge that we’re aware of that now to the rest of the world so that we will be seen with more friendly eyes.” [59340]

Limbaugh then plays attempts by the media and others to define the “Obama Doctrine”:
Jake Tapper: “Has the Obama Doctrine finally been defined?” Wolf Blitzer: “We’ll dig deeper, uh, on the new Obama Doctrine.” Charlie Rose: “If there is an Obama Doctrine, would you define it for me?” Michelle Flournoy: “Um, I don’t know that I have a, um, bumper sticker.” Jell Goldberg: “Obama Doctrine, neither too interventionist, nor isolationist, nor military focused nor not military focused.” Don Lemon: “What do you make of the so-called Obama Doctrine?” Jim Acosta: “The Obama Doctrine, a new balance between force and caution.” Lou Dobbs: “What is the Obama Doctrine? Speak loudly and carry a soft stick.” Lisa Kennedy Montgomery: “What the hell is the Obama Doctrine?” Paul Begala: “That’s not the Obama Doctrine.” Charles Krauthammer: “Unconnected ad hoc decisions. And that’s the Obama Doctrine.” Norah O’Donnell: P. J. Crowley: “The Obama Doctrine, it’s more like a reaffirmation of something that we’ve seen in the past, the Powell Doctrine.” John Bolton: “People looking for the explanation of the Obama Doctrine, are going to be sorely disappointed.” E. J. Dionne: “It’s almost like we want another speech.” [59340]

Limbaugh continues, “They can’t define it, it. There’s not a soul out there that can tell you what the Obama Doctrine is. It is absolutely hilarious. These are the same people that told you and me that Sarah Palin was an absolute glittering jewel of colossal ignorance ’cause she couldn’t explain the Bush Doctrine. Can any of you explain the Obama Doctrine? I can. I’m gonna take another stab at it. It’s real simple. ...Of course it’s weakness! Yeah, obviously. ...He has a chip on his shoulder about this country. It’s how he was raised; it’s how he was educated. Look, when a guy writes in his own book that his first job out of college in a law firm he thinks he’s in enemy territory because he’s at a capitalist organization, it should tell you something. When a guy tells you he wants single-payer, socialized health care, it should tell you something. When the guy assumes office—and even before he assumes office—apologies for America in several foreign policy speeches, it should tell you something, and to me, it said a lot.” [59340]

“The Obama Doctrine is resulting from and is based on the fact that he’s got a chip on his shoulder about this country, from the moment it was founded. In his mind... it was unjust, it was immoral, it codified ‘the supremacy of whites’ and the rich and the elites at the expense of minorities, people of color, and the poor. It was a rigged game from the outset, a system designed to keep the elites elites and the rich rich and everybody else with nothing. It was a country that grew and expanded and became powerful by virtue of its illegitimacy. It grew and expanded not by virtue of liberating the oppressed around the world, but rather going around the world and stealing the resources from other parts of the world and bringing them home and using them as our own. ‘So of course we could become a superpower if we were gonna be thieves!’ They never use those words, but this is what he believes. This country’s superpower status was never truly, honestly deserved. ...The Obama Doctrine is ‘America is not anything exceptional.’ America is no better, America is no different than anywhere else in the world—and it’s a mistake to think that we’re better people. That’s what he thinks people are saying when they talk about American exceptionalism. I’m convinced. I’ve heard him talking about it, I don’t know how [many], 10 or 20 times, and I am convinced he doesn’t have the slightest idea what the term really means. ...Not that we’re better people, not that we have better DNA, not that we’re smarter. We’ve had more freedom. We’ve had more liberty. We’ve had the ability to live our lives according to our desires, not according to the limits placed on us by other human beings. [Obama] doesn’t understand that.” [59340]

State Department spokesperson Jennifer Psaki—with a straight face—tells reporters Obama “doesn’t give himself enough credit for what he’s done around the world, and that’s how the Secretary [of State John Kerry] feels too.” Laughing reporters express skepticism, and one asks, “You would argue [that Obama] doesn’t give himself enough credit? How much credit would *you* give him?” Psaki responds, “Well, I think what I’m—yeah, I would give him more than he has given himself.” Reporter: “What, like 200 percent credit? ...And for what?” The best Psaki can come up with is to give Obama credit for “engagement in the world and taking on tough issues.” (In other words, “He *tries*, and that’s enough.”) [59292, 59293, 59361, 59366]

Secretary of State John Kerry, apparently getting the same memorandum as Psaki, tells PBS' Gwen Ifill, "I don't think [Obama], frankly, takes enough credit for the successes that are on the table right now. I mean, if you look at what has happened in Ukraine, [he] led an effort to try to keep Europe unified with the United States, to put difficult sanctions on the table. Europe wasn't thrilled with that but they came along. ...In Syria [Obama], you know, obviously made his decision to strike Syria, and, and appropriately sent that decision to Congress, Congress didn't want to move, but we came up with another solution, which was get all of those chemical weapons out rather than just have one or two days of strike. ...In addition, [Obama] has engaged with Iran. We were on a course to absolute collision where they were building a nuclear system and the world was standing opposed to that. But [Obama] put in place a series of sanctions, a capacity to be able to bring Iran to the table. We are now in the middle of negotiations. ...I think we are as engaged, more engaged than in any time in American history, and I think that case is there to be, uh, fully proven and laid out. And I think—" Ifill interrupts, "Yet that's not the generally held impression." Kerry: "No, it's not. And the reason is there is a general, you know, frankly, not fully informed, not factual, conventional sort of process that gets played out in the media. And of course there is an industry in Washington today of oppositionism [sic], oppositionists—oppose anything. And the Congress and its current, you know, pace of legislating tells the whole story." (Kerry is delusional. Europe has not agreed to any "difficult sanctions" against Russia, and Russia now controls Crimea. Syria has not given up its chemical weapons, is now further allied with Russia, and it appears that President Bashar al-Assad has outlasted his rebel opponents. Iran is most certainly on a path to obtain nuclear weapons and bested the Obama administration in negotiations. The Obama administration is a five-year history of foreign policy failures, regardless of whether Kerry is capable of recognizing that fact.) At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen writes, "I guess 'engagement' without doing much of anything to definitively mitigate or move these Ukraine/Syria/Iran situations is the new benchmark for success—and it doesn't even matter much, because those petty, obstructionist lawmakers won't allow him to really execute his vision anyway." [59322, 59323, 59324, 59375]

At Townhall.com Matt Towery writes, "It's inexplicable how in the world [Obama] and his administration are so slow to react to virtually every issue, from Benghazi to the IRS targeting to the first reports of the mishandling of so many cases by the Veterans Administration. How they can ignore this situation is confounding. And as this story further unfolds, the issue might not be whether heads roll and those responsible face serious charges, but rather why it has taken this long. ...Now we wait to see if [Obama,] who has lost the respect of the international community for his bark followed by no bite, who has thumbed his nose at obvious abuse of the IRS and who has never owned up to the fiasco and cover-up surrounding the deaths of Americans serving our nation in Benghazi will finally have the backbone to clean house at the VA and unleash his Justice Department on a truly criminal matter. As this column is written, the news is fresh. If by the time most read it, ...Obama has not fired Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki nor asked for a criminal investigation from Attorney General Eric Holder, then Obama will have failed a nation and permanently destroyed his legacy. There are rare moments when a leader must act impulsively, on basic gut instinct. Not every issue can be studied to death like some interesting case law in a second-year law class. And upon occasion, a

[leader] must act out of true anger and act in a way that lets the American people know that he means it. For Barack Obama, zero hour has come.” [59298]

By the end of the day, VA head General Eric Shinseki still has his job, after White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “I’m not going to speculate about personnel [at the VA]. ...[Obama] believes and is confident Secretary Shinseki has heroically served his country as a soldier.” [59299]

At PJMedia.com Bryan Preston writes, “The current VA scandal is now weeks old. This week has seen hearings, calls for VA chief Eric Shinseki to resign or be fired—by Democrats—and an IG report that paints the agency as a close-run thing to a criminal enterprise, defrauding the American taxpayers while neglecting our veterans. Yet Hillary Clinton has remained utterly silent about the whole thing. Why? She is someone who could step out, address the issue and probably get some results for our veterans. That would fulfill what she [said in 2008] is our ‘highest obligation.’ So why isn’t she?” [59374]

The Bureau of Economic Analysis revises its estimate of first quarter 2014 GDP growth downward to minus 1 percent (from +0.1 percent). (An “official” recession is two consecutive quarters of negative GDP growth.) CNN responds with a headline, “U.S. Economy Shrinks, but it’s Not a Big Deal.” CNN blames the winter weather—but does not explain why Canada has experienced positive GDP growth with worse weather. ABC and NBC ignore the bad economic news on their evening news broadcasts. CBS’ Anthony Mason tries to spin the news by claiming, “it sets the economy up for rebound this quarter and there are some encouraging signs in the numbers.” (Mason may not be aware of a report from Bloomberg.com that in April, “Household purchases, which account for about 70 percent of the economy, dropped 0.1 percent, the first decrease in a year...” He may also not be aware that a decline in spending certainly does not suggest economic growth.) [59300, 59321, 59341, 59342, 59363, 59395]

ThePostEmail.com reports that Donald Trump’s attorney, Michael Cohen, has been sent a “Sheriff’s Kit” from WheresObamaBirthCertificate.com. The kit, which has also been delivered to some members of Congress, contains “a full-length presentation by Cold Case Posse lead investigator Mike Zullo explaining how the posse determined beyond probable cause that the long-form birth certificate and Selective Service registration form bearing Obama’s name are ‘computer-generated forgeries.’” [59308]

Heritage.org reports, “Next week, the Obama administration is planning to unveil a climate action plan that it intends to implement without legislative approval. It’s a creative approach to governing, not unlike other executive actions ...Obama has taken to bypass Congress. ...Leading the charge, unsurprisingly, is the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], which will release its carbon-dioxide regulations for existing power plants on Monday. The plan will drive up energy prices for American families and businesses without making a dent in global temperatures.” The Heritage Foundation projects that Obama’s cap-and-trade agenda will cost “nearly 600,000 jobs,” decrease

family incomes “by \$1,200 per year,” and reduce the Gross Domestic Product by \$2.2 trillion. [59309]

At TheDailyBeast.com Eli Lake writes, “As ...Obama outlines what he promises to be the end of the war in Afghanistan, new U.S. intelligence assessments are warning that al Qaeda is beginning to re-establish itself there. Specifically, the concern for now is that al Qaeda has created a haven in the northeast regions of Kunar and Nuristan and is able to freely operate along Afghanistan’s only major highway—Route One, which connects the airports of Kandahar and Kabul. ‘There is no doubt they have a significant presence in northeast Afghanistan,’ Mac Thornberry, the Republican vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, told The Daily Beast. ‘It’s a lot of speculation about exact numbers, but again part of the question is what are their numbers going to be and what are there activities going to be when the pressure lets up.’ If Thornberry’s warnings prove correct, then Obama is faced with two bad choices. He either breaks his promise to end America’s longest war or he ends up losing that war by withdrawing U.S. forces from Afghanistan too soon, allowing al Qaeda to re-establish a base of operations in the country from which it launched 9/11. ...‘Even now, an al Qaeda safe haven is emerging in northeastern Afghanistan,’ Rogers said. ‘And I question whether the enemy will take further advantage of the announced timeline to renew its efforts to launch new operations, as we see them attempting in Iraq and Syria today.’” [59318]

TopRightNews.com reports, “Texas is being overrun by illegal aliens like never before. And as the massive wave overwhelms U.S. detention facilities, several dozen U.S. Border Patrol agents in the Rio Grande Valley sector have reportedly contracted scabies from contact with detained illegal immigrants. According to a report by Action 4 News, about 10-15 percent of apprehended illegal immigrants have scabies in the Rio Grande Valley (RVG) area. ‘A lot of people [are] coming in with the disease, and it seems to be spreading rapidly, not just within the McAllen station, but throughout the Valley and to some of our agents,’ Chris Cabrera, a spokesman for the National Border Patrol Council, told the local media outlet. According to the Associated Press, the RGV sector has arrested more than 130,000 people for immigration violations since October 1—this marks a 67 percent increase from last year. And as agents are overwhelmed, Zack Taylor, Chairman of the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers, told TRN that illegal aliens are often not screened for diseases during processing. ‘We don’t screen for diseases,’ RGV Border Patrol spokesman Omar Zamora told Breitbart Texas. ‘All we are is a processing center, so we don’t do that.’ RGV Border Patrol spokesman Daniel Tirado said his sector is ‘overwhelmed’ with the number of illegal aliens that currently need to be processed. ‘We’re catching an average of 1,000 per day and our agents are processing them around the clock. Processing takes between one to two hours per individual—it varies case by case,’ he said. Scabies is a very contagious skin infection caused by mites which burrows themselves under the host’s skin.” [59337]

The House Judiciary Committee questions Jeh Johnson, Obama’s Department of Homeland Security secretary, about the 36,000 illegal immigrants—including violent criminals—who were released rather than deported. Congressman Lamar Smith (R-TX)

asks, “By the administration’s own admission, 90 percent of those who were voluntarily released had committed thousands of crimes, such as murder, sexual assault, kidnapping, drug trafficking and hit-and-run. Should someone be charged with crimes against humanity? ...The DHS’ widespread abuse of prosecutorial discretion ignores the statutory requirement to apprehend and remove illegal immigrants. ...If [Obama] cannot be trusted to enforce current immigration laws, how can he be trusted to enforce future immigration laws?” Johnson has quite a few “I don’t know,” “I’m not sure,” and “I’ll have to find out” responses, even when asked why DHS has purchased 84 million rounds of ammunition. [59352]

Johnson also says, “We have to accept the fact that we have 11.5 million undocumented immigrants in this country. We have to deal with that. I don’t think we should allow them to exist in a state of legal ambiguity or in a dark hole. ...[T]hey’re not going away. They’re not going to self-deport. I would rather see us reckon with this population than continue in the state of legal ambiguity we’re in right now.” Congressman Doug Collins (R-GA) responds, “There is no legal ambiguity. These 11.5 million... they’re not here in a lawful status, correct?” Johnson: “For the most part, that’s correct.” Collins: “No, no, are they here in a lawful status or not? You can’t have it both ways. If they’re here in a legal status, then they’re not undocumented... they’re here legally, if they have some form of legal status. I just don’t think it’s being very honest with the committee to say that there’s legal ambiguity here. If there were, this would be a whole different discussion.” (Johnson, like Obama often does, is using a false choice argument: “Either deport every illegal immigrant or make them legal citizens.” A third choice also exists: neither deport the illegal immigrants nor allow them to become voting citizens. Let them simply “remain in the shadows” for the rest of their lives and give them no special treatment. If they hate the situation they can return home. If they don’t mind living “in a dark hole,” so be it.) [59369]

Committee member Trey Gowdy (R-SC), noting the Obama administration’s “prosecutorial discretion” excuse for failing to enforce immigration law, asks Johnson, “Are there any categories of law that the chief executive really, actually has to enforce, and this time we really mean it?” Johnson responds, “As a lawyer, I will tell you I believe there are. I think that there comes a point where something looks like a wholesale abandonment of the enforcement of the law versus prosecutorial discretion. ...The legislative branch can and should set the broad parameters for national policy, and the executive [branch] should be given a certain amount of discretion based on existing circumstances to implement and enforce those laws. And there’s a line between those two that I think is probably a little difficult to articulate.” Gowdy: “The beauty of this country is, even if our politics differ, we still respect the rule of law. And we are playing with the foundation of this republic when we decide selectively which laws we’re going to enforce due to political expediency. That transcends politics and begins to impact the foundation of this republic. And I would urge you to help me find where that line is between prosecutorial discretion and, ‘you don’t like to enforce the law.’” [59372]

At Heritage.org Stephen Moore writes, “This morning’s depressing revised calculation of the growth of the economy in the first quarter of 2014 (-1.0 percent) makes it official: The Obama expansion is now \$2 trillion short of where we would be if growth in this recovery had matched the Reagan recovery that started in 1982. That is to say the average family would have about \$5,000 more income each year to spend if it were not for this slow recovery. The Census Bureau reports that median household income is down by \$1,800 since this so-called recovery began. Worse, investment plummeted in the first quarter of 2014 by 11.7 percent from the same period in 2013. That was the biggest decline since the recession ended in 2009. Without investment, businesses can’t grow and wages won’t rise. Capital investment by businesses is a strong leading indicator of future prosperity. The administration was quick to blame the dismal numbers on the cold winter and blizzard conditions in the Midwest and Northeast. [Canada’s winter weather is far worse, and its first quarter GDP growth was in positive territory.] But the 2013 growth rate was 1.9 percent, and the rate has been less than 2 percent for more than a year. Under Reagan, the growth rate during the expansion was more than 4 percent. ...Is it really a surprise the government is underperforming and this is the worst recovery from recession in 75 years. Ideas do have consequences—especially bad ones. What good... has come from Obamanomics? Hopefully, we all have relearned a painful lesson that government spending, congressional taxing, Treasury borrowing and Fed printing don’t stimulate the economy. The new GDP report reminds us these battle-tested economic strategies don’t work. For tens of millions of Americans, unfortunately, this is a lesson learned the hard way.” [59345]

DailyCaller.com reports that Obama and Hillary Clinton “held a secret meeting at the White House on Thursday. In a strange sequence of events, the White House was forced to confirm the previously undisclosed Obama-Clinton lunch summit after People magazine tweeted—then mysteriously deleted—the news about the meeting. ‘[Obama] enjoyed an informal, private lunch with Secretary Clinton at the White House this afternoon,’ a White House official said. Because the lunch had not been on [Obama’s] public schedule, Roll Call reporter Steve T. Dennis, who was serving as the White House pool reporter on Thursday, said he ‘lodged a complaint about the lack of transparency on the meeting with White House Press Secretary Jay Carney.’” [59360, 59362]

State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki tells reporters the administration condemns “honor killings”—managing to do so without mentioning Islam. Psaki states, “We remain very concerned about violence against women and girls that takes place around the world, including in Pakistan. We are especially concerned about the violence that occurs in the name of tradition and honor such as so-called honor killings and other unjustifiable acts of violence.” [59371]

On May 30 former Vermont governor and DNC chairman Howard Dean appears on *Morning Joe* and excuses Obama’s foreign policy failures, saying, “The problem here is not [Obama], it’s the media. The media doesn’t know how to deal with the more sophisticated foreign policy.” [59356]

On *Live With Kelly & Michael*, Obama says of Hillary Clinton, “We’re buddies. I always admired her. As soon as she got here, she couldn’t have been more effective and more loyal, and since that time is a really, really good friend.” (The truth is probably that they cannot stand each other.) Throwing Joe Biden under the bus, Obama says, “I don’t know what she’s gonna decide to do, but I know if she were to run for president, I think she’d be very effective at that.” He also says, “One thing I can promise you: Michelle will not run for office.” (Whether viewers heaved a sigh of relief at that pledge is not known for certain.) [59379, 59410]

Obama proclaims June “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.” [59580, 59581]

CNSNews.com reports, “The cost for the lodging, entertainment, and security by the Secret Service for the June 2013 Africa trip by ...Obama and his family cost \$2,189,727, according to documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act by the government watchdog group Judicial Watch. In addition, the flights costs to, around, and from Africa for that trip cost \$8,104,224, and the total cost of the trip has been estimated by numerous media reports as somewhere between \$60 million and \$100 million. ‘The Obamas clearly either do not understand the value of a dollar—or understand it all too well when someone else is picking up the tab,’ said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton in a statement. ‘Keep in mind that this outrageously lavish excursion came at the very same time that [Obama] was shutting down White House tours and blaming it on the sequester. As one congressional critic noted at the time, the White House could have 1,350 weeks of tours for the cost of the Obama family’s trip to Africa.’” [59510]

Obama meets with Veterans Administration head Eric Shinseki and then tells reporters he accepted the General’s resignation, “with considerable regret.” Obama says, “So, Rick’s commitment to our veterans is unquestioned. His service to our country is exemplary. I am grateful for his service, as are many veterans across the country. He has worked hard to investigate and identify the problems with access to care, but as he told me this morning, ‘the VA needs new leadership to address it.’ He does not want to be a distraction, because his priority is to fix the problem and make sure our vets are getting the care that they need. ...I want to reiterate, he is a very good man. I don’t just mean he’s an accomplished man, I don’t just mean that he’s been an outstanding soldier. He’s a good person, who’s done exemplary work on our behalf. Uh, and under his leadership, we have seen more progress on more fronts at the VA, and a bigger investment in the VA than just about any other VA secretary.” (It is interesting that Obama calls Shinseki by the name “Rick,” when he has barely met with him over the preceding five years. As far as working hard to investigate and identify problems, Obama entered office having already been warned of those problems by the Bush administration. While the previous administration deserves considerable blame for not resolving the problems, Shinseki most certainly did not identify them. He ignored them. If Shinseki were so outstanding and his service so “exemplary,” his resignation would not have been demanded by Senators and Congressmen of both parties.) [59354, 59364, 59368, 59373, 59391]

Obama provides an excuse for the VA scandal: “This predates my [administration]. When I was in the Senate, I was on the Veterans Affairs Committee. I heard first-hand veterans who were not getting the kinds of services and benefits that they had earned... And so, what I can say confidently is that this has been a priority. It’s been a priority reflected in my budget, and that in terms of managing the VA, where we have seen a problem—where we have been aware of a problem, we have gone after it and fixed it and have been able to make significant progress. But what is absolutely clear is, this one—this issue of scheduling is one that the reporting systems inside of the VA did not surface to the level where Rick was aware of it we were able to see it [sic]. This was not something that we were hearing when I was traveling around the country, the particular issue of scheduling.” (Obama’s statement is shameless. Even if he and Shinseki did not know that various VA hospitals were hiding backlogs with “secret waiting lists,” there were nevertheless backlogs throughout the system. Even before Obama entered the White House, he was warned by the Bush administration transition team that there was a problem and that the data could not be trusted. Obama and Shinseki simply did not care, as long as the problems were hidden.) [59373, 59376]

With an embarrassing good-bye hug, Obama also announces that White House press secretary Jay Carney is resigning and will soon be replaced by deputy press secretary Josh Earnest. (Earnest—who arguably might have been chosen simply because his name mocks the media—is not likely to be much of an improvement. Once asked by journalist Ed Henry if Obama also had a “red line” for Muslim attacks against Christians in Egypt, Earnest replied, “Well, I didn’t bring my red pen out with me today.”) HotAir.com remarks, “Gotta give The One [Obama] his due. He may not know much, like how to keep sick veterans from dying while they wait endlessly for government health care, but he knows what the media likes. Having Carney step down today is a neat way to help crowd out some of the [Eric] Shinseki news, as there’s nothing the press finds more interesting than the press. Well played, Mr. [Obama]. Tough break for conservative writers, though, in landing Josh Earnest as a replacement. There’s only one person in the White House’s mouthpiece food chain who might have provided us with as much blogworthy haplessness as Jay, and it ain’t Earnest. But then, realistically, Jen Psaki never stood a chance. *You know why*. As for Carney, whose departure has been expected for months, the sky’s the limit—book deal, MSNBC contributor, maybe even an occasional guest-host spot on ‘Crossfire’ if he plays his cards right. Rumor had it that he wanted to be ambassador to Russia; critics claim he wasn’t qualified to deal with a character as slippery as Putin, but I don’t know. He seems pretty qualified to me. (Plus, he’s already got the art to decorate the embassy.) Ah well. As Dan McLaughlin says, he’ll be back to fair ‘n balanced ‘objective journalism’ in no time. Just like he used to do before he went to work for the White House, you see.” (Earnest is married to Treasury Department deputy assistant secretary for public affairs Natalie Wyeth.) [47494, 47499, 47764, 47765, 59325, 59326, 59327, 59328, 59329, 59332, 59377, 59396, 59406, 59407, 59408]

On *Squawk Box*, NBC chief foreign correspondent Richard Engel struggles with an answer when asked by Home Depot founder Ken Langone to “Name one country with whom we have better relationships today than we did” before Obama took office. The

reporter eventually concedes, “I think you’d be hard-pressed to find that.” [59355, 59366, 59367]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “Government watchdog group Judicial Watch has filed a Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] lawsuit against the Department of Justice on behalf of Operation Fast and Furious whistleblower John Dodson after his own FOIA requests were ignored. In June 2012, Fortune Magazine writer Katherine Eban published a 5,000 word hit-piece on Dodson. The piece was thoroughly denounced by the House Oversight Committee for being grossly false. Dodson sent a letter through his attorney to Fortune Magazine Managing Editor Andrew Serwer demanding a retraction and accused the media outlet of parroting Department of Justice talking points. ...Now, Judicial Watch is seeking ‘any and all emails between (either directed to or received from) DOJ Spokeswoman/Director of Public Affairs Tracy Schmalzer and Katherine Eban, between the dates of January 20, 2011 and September 24, 2012.’ ...It has already been reported that during her time at DOJ Schmalzer, who has since left her position, abused her authority by regularly working with far left groups to smear whistleblowers like J. Christian Adams of the Black Panther Party case and reporters exposing wrongdoing inside the Department.” (While working on the Operation Fast and Furious investigation for CBS, Sharyl Attkisson told Laura Ingraham on her radio program, “The DOJ [Department of Justice] woman was just yelling at me. The guy from the White House on Friday night literally screamed at me and cussed at me. Eric Schultz—oh, the person screaming was Tracy Schmalzer. She was yelling, not screaming. And the [other] person who screamed at me was Eric Schultz at the White House. ...In between the yelling that I received from the Justice Department yesterday, the spokeswoman—who would not put anything in writing—I was asking for her explanation so there would be clarity and no confusion later over what had been said. She wouldn’t put anything in writing.” Schmalzer routinely works with the leftist group Media Matters to attack reporters who cover DOJ scandals.) [25074, 25086, 25091, 27257, 37280, 37309, 37354, 59357]

Newsbusted’s Jodi Miller quips that MSNBC is so upset by the VA scandal that “the ‘yes we can’ flag outside their studio is now flying at half mast.” [59382]

Breitbart.com’s Ben Shapiro tweets, “Jay Carney is such a habitual liar that I’m not going to believe he has resigned until he says he hasn’t.” [59388]

At WeeklyStandard.com Stephen Hayes notes Hillary Clinton’s explanation of her “What difference does it make?” remark in her new book, *Hard Choices* [which was likely ghost-written written by Edward Widmer]: “My point was simple: If someone breaks into your home and takes your family hostage, how much time are you going to spend focused on how the intruder spent his day as opposed to how best to rescue your loved ones and then prevent it from happening again?” Hayes writes, “That makes no sense. The hostage-taking, to use her comparison, was long over when she appeared before Congress. And the attack wasn’t an act of random violence; it came as part of a long pattern of anti-American violence that had led the country into decade-long global war on jihadist terror. The motives of the attackers not only matter, they matter more than just

about anything else. And one of the reasons that Obama administration critics have focused so intently on Benghazi is because the administration had spent the better part of four years ending that long campaign and downplaying the threats posed by attackers like those who participated in the assault on the U.S. facilities in Benghazi. So the Christmas Day bomber was an ‘isolated extremist,’ and the Fort Hood shooting was ‘workplace violence,’ and the attempted Times Square bombing was a ‘one-off attack.’ To put it another way: You can’t prevent it from happening again if you don’t understand why it keeps happening. So, yes, Republicans who have been doing so should stop pretending that Hillary Clinton announced her apathy with that question. But Clinton’s bizarre analogy suggests not only that she doesn’t understand those who simply want the truth about Benghazi, it suggests that she still doesn’t understand what happened there.” (Further, it seems that the question, “How best to rescue your loved ones” was barely discussed by the Obama administration. *No effort* was made to rescue anyone in Benghazi. It can be hoped that a rescue was at least *considered*, but Americans have yet to be told what operations may have been considered and why a decision to implement any of them was rejected.) [59383, 59495]

Hayes comments on the Accountability Review Board, which “investigated” the Benghazi incident: “[T]he ARB leadership was hand-picked by Hillary Clinton; the ARB leaders were tasked with holding accountable State Department officials involved in decision making on Benghazi but chose not to interview the secretary of state; the ARB report excluded important testimony from those who raised questions about the Secretary of State; the ARB leadership warned Secretary Clinton’s top adviser about a potentially problematic witness; and the ARB leadership provided an advanced copy of the report to Secretary Clinton’s chief of staff while denying other witnesses an opportunity even to read the report before it was released. So, yes, there are reasons to question the impartiality of the inquiry.”

Statements from Hillary Clinton’s book are also examined by Hugh Hewitt at Townhall.com. Clinton states, “It is inaccurate to state that every single one of them [the Benghazi killers] was influenced by this hateful video.” Hewitt: “[T]his line is of course a straw man, easily recognized after [Obama’s] straw man Woodstock at West Point earlier this week. It is also ‘inaccurate to state’ that the whereabouts and actions of [Obama], the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense that night are well known or even understood in general outline. That Hillary even bothers to spend time on the laughable ‘the video made them do it’ argument tells us that the chapter is an exercise in space-filling, an effort to appear to be transparent and forthright about the most obvious, tragic failure of her trail of tears tenure at State. This chapter appears to be just another part of the ongoing refusal to come clean about what happened that night both in Benghazi and much more importantly for Hillary’s future political ambitions in D.C.” Clinton also writes, “I will not be a part of a political slugfest on the backs of dead Americans. It’s just plain wrong, and it’s unworthy of our great country. Those who insist on politicizing the tragedy will have to do so without me.” Hewitt: “This is a three-part lie: It is not ‘just plain wrong’ to demand answers from those in charge that night, it is not ‘politicizing’ to hold those people to account for their failures, and the investigation into Benghazi will indeed involve Clinton whether or not she agrees to be questioned about her collapse that

night. This risible attempt at a ‘pre-emptive strike’ on the subject will not work, not when the event it seeks to exile from the national debate involves the death of an ambassador and three other Americans at the hands of terrorists and not when her failure to anticipate the attack and her collapse in the face of it goes to her central claim of competency to be president.” [59390]

“‘It is our job to figure out what happened.’ That is what then Secretary of State Clinton told Senator Ron Johnson immediately after her infamous ‘What difference at this point does it make?’ outburst that defines her failure at State. That is in fact the job of every journalist who gets to ask a question of the would-be president. None have dared tried yet, but eventually someone will, and if no one does, Hillary will ask for the country’s votes without ever having given an account of her actions or her non-actions. Perhaps she can bluff, bluster and bully her way to the Oval Office but the country does not seem to be in the mood for another era of dodges, half-truths, and false outrage over being asked not only legitimate but absolutely essential questions.” [59390]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) says of the Select Committee on Benghazi, “This is about one issue and one issue only, and that is getting the truth for the American people and the truth about what happened in Benghazi for the four families who lost their loved ones there. ... You have to remember, we’ve been asking for documents now for 18 months. Why does the administration refuse to turn over the documents? Why do they refuse to tell the American people the truth about what happened?” (In her book, *Hard Choices*, Hillary Clinton does her best to shut down any discussion of Benghazi, writing, “Those who exploit this tragedy over and over as a political tool minimize the sacrifice of those who served our country.” Clinton is laying out the rules as she sees them: “I am running for president in 2016 and this issue had better be over by then, and just as any criticism of Obama has been attacked as ‘racism,’ any criticism of me over Benghazi will be countered with claims of ‘partisan exploitation of a tragedy.’”) [59411]

At Breitbart.com Ben Shapiro writes, “Hillary Clinton may not be much at administering the State Department, but she’s certainly a pro when it comes to expressing outrage at her own persecution. For the woman who is supposedly the world’s most powerful feminist, her sense of victimhood remains surprisingly strong. That’s never been more true than in her new book, *Hard Choices*, which points out that she—not the four men who died in Benghazi, Libya, on the night of September 11, 2012—is the victim. ... Hillary goes on to attack anyone who asks questions about her behavior during Benghazi, writing, ‘I will not be a part of a political slugfest on the backs of dead Americans. It’s just plain wrong, and it’s unworthy of our great country. Those who insist on politicizing the tragedy will have to do so without me.’ Except, of course, for the ‘political slugfest’ in which she engages by ripping the motives of her opponents. Hillary does pretend to take responsibility for Benghazi, but blames it on the ‘heartbreaking human stakes of every decision we make.’ She then says she did everything she could by waiting a week-and-a-half to begin an investigation from an Accountability Review Board led by handpicked allies, who promptly exonerated her and refused to even interview her. And she dismisses congressional oversight as politically motivated: ‘Many of these same people are a

broken record about unanswered questions.’ Questions that Hillary does not answer, of course. Questions like: Where were you? Why did you reject security? Why do you continue to insist that a YouTube video was to blame for the terrorist attacks? ...[I]t makes no difference what Hillary writes. Her indignation is a substitute for her lack of record. Emotion substitutes for decency. ‘As Secretary I was the one ultimately responsible for my people’s safety, and I never felt that responsibility more deeply than I did that day,’ Hillary writes. But of course, that’s a lie. She never felt responsibility—which is why she sees herself as the real victim of Benghazi.” [59415]

At the Republican Leadership Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, Donald Trump says, “We have a man in the White House who doesn’t have a clue. ...It seems to me that Obama can’t wait to get out of the White House so he can go play golf. He doesn’t have the right instincts to be president. He isn’t tenacious and he isn’t tough.” According to WND.com, Trump calls Obama “the biggest liar I know, and I’ve known some pretty big liars.” “Why couldn’t Obama tell the truth [when he said he reluctantly accepted VA chief Eric Shinseki’s resignation]? Obama wanted to see Shinseki go. It’s just another lie, like the lies Obama told about ObamaCare that we could keep our doctors and our health insurance, when Obama knew all along that wasn’t going to be possible. ...If you want to get something involved, you have to get the private sector involved. Obama blamed the problem at the Veterans Administration on a ‘computer glitch,’ and yet how many billions did Obama spend on an Obamacare computer system that still doesn’t work?” Trump states, “Unemployment numbers are terrible. But we have this new accounting system that if you quit looking for a job, you’re considered employed.” (Trump means that if a person stops looking for a job he is no longer counted in the unemployment rate calculations.) [59384]

At the conference, Fox News’ Sean Hannity interviews Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, who says, “When we met with [Obama] as governors, I asked him, why don’t you give the states more influence on accrediting higher education, to bring more competition in the marketplace? Here’s the insulting thing: In a room full of Democratic and Republican governors, basically, in so many words he said, ‘We can’t trust states. We can’t trust governors to protect their own people.’” [59439]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is spending nearly \$200,000 to study how transgender women use social networking sites like Facebook and how their use affects their chances of getting HIV. The Friends Research Institute, based in Maryland, received \$194,788 last month to begin the project operating on the premise that due to ‘transphobia’ transgendered women are forced to use social media as an outlet, often leading to risky sexual behaviors.” [59393, 59394]

On his *Freedom Friday* radio program, Carl Gallups suggests there will be two press conferences from the Cold Case Posse about Obama fraud involving his forged birth certificate and Selective Service registration form. Again, Gallups teases the audience with a promise that the information to be released will be “universe-shattering” and

“history-making,” and that the information cannot be ignored: “Someone is going to have to do something. ...If Congress ignores it, I think there will be an uprising.” [59412]

On May 31 it is announced that Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, who has been held captive by the Taliban (or the Haqqanis, depending on which media report one believes) since 2009, has been released. According to TheDailyBeast.com, “In exchange for... Bergdahl, the U.S. has released five senior Taliban commanders from the Guantanamo Bay prison. They are considered some of the worst of the worst. ...They are top Taliban commanders the group has tried to free for more than a decade. According to a 2008 Pentagon dossier on Guantanamo Bay inmates, all five men released were considered to be a high risk to launch attacks against the United States and its allies if they were liberated. The exchange shows that the Obama administration was willing to pay a steep price, indeed, for Bergdahl’s freedom. The administration says they will be transferred to Qatar, which played a key role in the negotiations. ...A senior U.S. defense official confirmed Saturday that the prisoners to be released include Mullah Mohammad Fazl, Mullah Norullah Noori, Abdul Haq Wasiq, Khairullah Khairkhwa and Mohammed Nabi Omari. ...‘They are undoubtedly among the most dangerous Taliban commanders held at Guantanamo,’ said Thomas Joscelyn, a senior editor at the Long War Journal who keeps a close watch on developments concerning the detainees left at the Guantanamo Bay prison.” [59397, 59398, 59399, 59422, 59428, 59431, 59443, 59450, 59836]

In the White House Rose Garden, with Bergdahl’s parents beside him, Obama states, “This morning, I called Bob and Jani Bergdahl and told them that after nearly five years in captivity, their son Bowe is coming home. While Bowe was gone, he was never forgotten. ...We’re committed to winding down the war in Afghanistan, and we are committed to closing Gitmo. But we also made an ironclad commitment to bring our prisoners of war home. That’s who we are as Americans.” (“We Americans” also choose not to negotiate with terrorists, something Obama apparently has forgotten.) “The Qatari government has given us assurances it will put in place measures to protect our national security.” (Obama’s “deal” requires that the Qatar retain the five terrorists for one year. After one year they are free to leave Qatar and return to the battlefield.) “It is our hope Sergeant Bergdahl’s recovery could potentially open the door for broader discussions among Afghans about the future of their country by building confidence that it is possible for all sides to find common ground.” (Recognizing Obama’s terrible atrocious negotiating skills, *The Obama Timeline* suggests this trade: Mexico returns to the United States Andrew Tahmooressi, a Marine who was jailed for making a wrong turn and inadvertently crossing the border with several legally registered weapons in his vehicle, and the United States gives back to Mexico all 11–20 million of its illegal immigrants.) [59140, 59171, 59401, 59402, 59422, 59431, 59450, 59488]

Bob Bergdahl says that his son is having trouble speaking English because of the time he spent in captivity. In both Pashto and in English he says, “I am your father, Bowe.” He also says, in Arabic, “Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim”—the most frequently cited phrase from the Qu’ran (“In the name of Allah, most gracious, most compassionate”). As

Bergdahl speaks the phrase, Obama smiles—making it clear he knows exactly what the Arabic words mean. [59419, 59422, 59468, 59488, 59493, 59535, 59630]

The senior Bergdahl is apparently quite sympathetic toward Afghanis. On May 28, 2014 he sent a Twitter message to “ABalkhi” (Taliban spokesman Abdulqahar Balkhi) in which he stated, “I am still working to free all Guantanamo prisoners. God will repay for the death of every Afghan child, ameen!” (It is worth noting that the story of Bowe Bergdahl’s capture is not without controversy. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “Then-Pfc. Bergdahl was captured on June 30, 2009, by militants after leaving his U.S. base in Paktika province in eastern Afghanistan. The circumstances surrounding his decision to walk off the base have remained murky. While a prisoner, he has received regular military promotions. However, the circumstances of his captivity have never been clear. U.S. officials have said he was believed to be held for most of the last five years in Pakistan by the Haqqani network, an insurgent group that is allied with but separate from the Taliban, and not directly by the Taliban. But officials said Sgt. Bergdahl was handed over by Taliban, not Haqqani militants.” That Bergdahl may have left the base alone and on his own, and that his father appears to be supportive of the Taliban, is considerable fodder for conspiracy theorists.) [59402, 59403, 59404, 59417, 59435, 59444, 59706, 59707]

On May 6, 2011 Bob Bergdahl posted a YouTube video in which he pleaded for the release of his son. He said, “I address the Pakistani armed forces. Our family is counting on your professional integrity and honour to secure the safe return of our son. And we thank you. Our family knows the high price that has been paid by your men in the army and the frontier corp. We give our condolences and thanks to the families of those who have fallen for Pakistan. Strangely to some, we must also thank those who have cared for our son for almost two years ...and others who have played a role in sheltering the American prisoner. We know our son is a prisoner and at the same time a guest in your home. We understand the rationale the Islamic Emirate has made through its video. No family in the United States understands the detainee issue like ours. Our son’s safe return will only heighten public awareness of this. That said, our son is being exploited. It’s past time for Bowe, and the others, to come home. To the nation of Pakistan our family would wish to convey our compassionate respect. We have watched the violence of war, earthquake, epic floods and crop failures have devastated your lives, all while our son has been in captivity. We have watched your suffering through the presence of our son in your midst. We have wept that God may show his magnificence, his mercy and that his peace may come upon the people of Pakistan. ‘We ask that your nation diligently help our son be freed from his captivity. I pray that this video may be played to our only son. God bless you, we love you! We have been quiet in public but we have not been quiet behind the scenes. Continue to be patient and kind to those around you. You are not forgotten.’ [59430]

At WeeklyStandard.com, Thomas Joscelyn writes, “There are good reasons why the Taliban has long wanted the five freed from Gitmo. All five are among the Taliban’s top commanders in U.S. custody and are still revered in jihadist circles. Two of the five have

been wanted by the UN for war crimes. And because of their prowess, Joint Task Force-Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO) deemed all five of them ‘high’ risks to the U.S. and its allies. The Obama administration wants to convince the Taliban to abandon its longstanding alliance with al Qaeda. But these men contributed to the formation of that relationship in the first place. All five had close ties to al Qaeda well before the 9/11 attacks. Therefore, it is difficult to see how their freedom would help the Obama administration achieve one of its principal goals for the hoped-for talks.” A senior State Department official confirms that the “Taliban’s original demand was multiple Gitmo prisoners. Never budged. They got that.” [59397, 59398, 59399, 59431, 59432]

Congressman Buck McKeon (R-CA), chairman of the House Armed Services committee, and Senator James Inhofe (R-UT), ranking member of the Senate Armed Services committee, state, “Like all Americans, we celebrate the release of Sergeant Bergdahl from terrorist captivity. [Bergdahl was promoted from private to sergeant while in captivity.] When one of our own comes home to us, we all rejoice. We are relieved that the ordeal and sacrifice of the Bergdahl family has come to a happy conclusion. In the days ahead however, we must carefully examine the means by which we secured his freedom. America has maintained a prohibition on negotiating with terrorists for good reason. Trading five senior Taliban leaders from detention in Guantanamo Bay for Bergdahl’s release may have consequences for the rest of our forces and all Americans. Our terrorist adversaries now have a strong incentive to capture Americans. That incentive will put our forces in Afghanistan and around the world at even greater risk. In executing this transfer, [Obama] also clearly violated laws which require him to notify Congress thirty days before any transfer of terrorists from Guantanamo Bay and to explain how the threat posed by such terrorists has been substantially mitigated. Our joy at Sergeant Bergdahl’s release is tempered by the fact that ...Obama chose to ignore the law, not to mention sound policy, to achieve it.” [59400, 59429, 59451, 59452, 59459]

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) states that the five released detainees “are hardened terrorists who have the blood of Americans and countless Afghans on their hands. I am eager to learn what precise steps are being taken to ensure that these vicious and violent Taliban extremists never return to the fight against the United States and our partners or engage in any activities that can threaten the prospects for peace and security in Afghanistan.” [59442]

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel states, “The United States has coordinated closely with Qatar to ensure that security measures are in place and the national security of the United States will not be compromised. I appreciate the efforts of the Emir of Qatar to put these measures in place, and I want to thank him for his instrumental role in facilitating the return of Sergeant Bergdahl.” (U.S. security “will not be compromised,” yet Qatar has agreed only to keep the five released terrorists from returning to the battlefield for one year. Federal law requires not only that the administration must notify Congress 30 days in advance of a prisoner release, it must certify that the destination country must ensure that those prisoners do not pose a future threat to the United States,

its citizens, or its allies. Hagel and Obama should be asked to explain how Qatar can make such guarantees.) [59450, 59451]

It is worth noting that on March 2, 2014 CBSNews.com reported that some “are convinced that on June 30, 2009, just a few months after he arrived in Afghanistan, Bergdahl willingly walked away from his unit, which was deployed in Paktika province in eastern Afghanistan, adjacent to the border with Pakistan. While they do want Bergdahl home, they think he should have to answer allegations that he deserted his unit. ...Rolling Stone magazine quoted emails Bergdahl is said to have sent to his parents that suggest he was disillusioned with America’s mission in Afghanistan, had lost faith in the U.S. Army’s mission there and was considering desertion. Bergdahl told his parents he was ‘ashamed to even be [an] American.’ Bergdahl, who mailed home boxes containing his uniform and books, also wrote: ‘The future is too good to waste on lies. And life is way too short to care for the damnation of others, as well as to spend it helping fools with their ideas that are wrong.’ The Associated Press could not independently authenticate the emails published by the magazine in 2012. Bergdahl’s family has not commented on the allegations of desertion, according to Col. Tim Marsano, a spokesman for the Idaho National Guard. Marsano is in regular contact with Bergdahl’s mother, Jani, and father, Bob, who has grown a long, thick beard and has worked to learn Pashto [also Pashtun], the language spoken by his son’s captors. A senior Defense Department official said that if Bergdahl is released, it could be determined that he has more than paid for leaving his unit—if that’s what really happened—‘and there’s every indicator that he did.’” [59417, 59455, 59462, 59545]

It is also worth noting that the Obama campaign went ballistic in 2008 over subtle hints by George W. Bush and Senator John McCain (R-AZ) that Obama was willing to negotiate with terrorists. In a May 2008 speech to the Israeli Knesset, Bush said, “Some seem to believe we should negotiate with terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have been wrong all along. We have heard this foolish delusion before. As Nazi tanks crossed into Poland in 1939, an American senator [Idaho Republican William Borah] declared: ‘Lord, if only I could have talked to Hitler, all of this might have been avoided.’ We have an obligation to call this what it is: the false comfort of appeasement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history.” Obama responded in a statement, “It is sad that President Bush would use a speech to the Knesset on the 60th anniversary of Israel’s independence to launch a false political attack. George Bush knows that I have never supported engagement with terrorists, and the president’s extraordinary politicization of foreign policy and the politics of fear do nothing to secure the American people or our stalwart ally Israel.” [59448, 59449, 59480]

McCain asked, “Why does Barack Obama, Senator Obama, want to sit down with a state sponsor of terrorism [Iran]?” Obama spokesman Tommy Vietor responds, “It is the height of hypocrisy for John McCain to deliver a lofty speech about civility and bipartisanship in the morning and then embrace George Bush’s disgraceful political attack in the afternoon.” Obama then told an Iowa audience, “They’re trying to scare you and trying to keep you from seeing the truth. And the reason is, they can’t win a foreign policy argument on the merits.” Noting Bush’s Knesset address, Obama says, “That’s the

sort of appalling attack that divides our country and alienates us from the world.” McCain spokesman Tucker Bounds responds, “It was remarkable to see Barack Obama’s hysterical diatribe in response to a speech in which his name wasn’t even mentioned. These are serious issues that deserve a serious debate, not the same tired partisan rants we heard today from Senator Obama. Senator Obama has pledged to unconditionally meet with Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—who pledges to wipe Israel off the map, denies the Holocaust, sponsors terrorists, arms America’s enemies in Iraq and pursues nuclear weapons. What would Senator Obama talk about with such a man? It would be a wonderful thing if we lived in a world where we don’t have enemies. But that is not the world we live in, and until Senator Obama understands that, the American people have every reason to doubt whether he has the strength, judgment and determination to keep us safe.” [59448, 59449]

On August 22, 2010 the *Daily Mail* reported, “A captured American soldier is training Taliban fighters bomb-making and ambush skills, according to one of his captors and Afghan intelligence officials. Private Bowe Bergdahl disappeared in June 2009 while based in eastern Afghanistan and is thought to be the only U.S. serviceman in captivity. The 24-year-old has converted to Islam and now has the Muslim name Abdullah, one of his captors told The Sunday Times. A Taliban deputy district commander in Paktika, who called himself Haji Nadeem, told the newspaper that Bergdahl taught him how to dismantle a mobile phone and turn it into a remote control for a roadside bomb. Nadeem claimed he also received basic ambush training from the U.S. soldier. ‘Most of the skills he taught us we already knew,’ he said. ‘Some of my comrades think he’s pretending to be a Muslim to save himself so they wouldn’t behead him.’” [59421]

USAToday.com reports, “Many called Bergdahl a traitor or a deserter. Stephen Kirouac, calling Bergdahl a ‘dirtbag’ and ‘sympathizer,’ was among many who seized on that speculation to criticize the rescued soldier. ‘He is a dirtbag that now should spend the next 20yrs+ in Leavenworth ... his fellow soldiers were affected by his actions, he is a sympathizer and deserves to be tried for desertion,’ said Kirouac, whose Facebook profile identifies him as a company commander at Fort Bragg, N.C.” [59420]

At NYPost.com Michael Gartland reveals some details of the history of Bowe Bergdahl. “The search for Bergdahl began soon after he went missing on June 30, 2009, in the same rugged wilds of southeastern Afghanistan where NFL player-turned-Army Ranger Pat Tillman was killed. Bergdahl’s mysterious disappearance from the small military outpost there and the subsequent revelation that he was in enemy hands prompted questions that still linger. ... [I]n the weeks before his capture, Bergdahl had made murky statements that suggested he was gravitating away from the soldiers in his unit and toward desertion, a member of his platoon told Rolling Stone. ... As a teen, the home-schooled son of Calvinists took up ballet—recruited to be a ‘lifter’ by ‘a beautiful local girl,’ Rolling Stone reported, ‘the guy who holds the girl aloft in a ballet sequence.’ ... At age 20, he traveled to Paris and started learning French in hopes of joining the French Foreign Legion. His application was rejected, and he was devastated, the magazine reported. Bergdahl would drift for years, working mainly at a coffee shop near home. He briefly

considered moving to Uganda to help villagers being terrorized by militias before deciding on a different adventure . ‘I’m thinking of joining the Army,’ he told his folks after already having signed up. Bergdahl’s dream was to help Afghan villagers rebuild their lives and learn to defend themselves, his dad told the magazine. ...Bowe Bergdahl would detail his disillusionment with the Afghanistan campaign in an email to his parents three days before he went missing. ‘I am sorry for everything here,’ he wrote. ‘These people need help, yet what they get is the most conceited country in the world telling them that they are nothing and that they are stupid.’ ... ‘I am ashamed to be an American. And the title of US soldier is just the lie of fools,’ he concluded. ‘I am sorry for everything. The horror that is America is disgusting.’ Bob Bergdahl responded in an email: ‘OBEY YOUR CONSCIENCE!’” [59454, 59455, 59464]

At Examiner.com Jim Kouri writes, “While ...Obama said in an almost celebratory tone that Bergdahl’s release ‘is a reminder of America’s unwavering commitment to leave no man or woman in uniform behind on the battlefield,’ he failed to mention that his administration’s ‘big show’ of the prisoner trade and release—instead of secret negotiations and deal-making—will put U.S. troops throughout the world in danger of being abducted and uses as ‘bargaining chips’ by terrorists and rogue nations, according to former U.S. Marine and police detective Sid Franes. ...Another former military officer who became a police officer, Mike Snopes, agrees that Obama may have made a serious mistake by exchanging five terrorists for one American soldier. ‘These guys will most probably return to the ‘battlefield’ and may end up killing more Americans in Afghanistan or other Muslim nation,’ Snopes said. ‘While we all want to see an American warrior brought home to his country, will we end up regretting the exchange when those five Islamists kill more American soldiers or civilians?’” [59416]

At WashingtonPost.com, Karen Tumulty writes, “Amid jubilation Saturday over the release of U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl from captivity by the Taliban, senior Republicans on Capitol Hill said they were troubled by the means by which it was accomplished, which was a deal to release five Afghan detainees from the military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Top Republicans on the Senate and House armed services committees went so far as to accuse ...Obama of having broken the law, which requires the administration to notify Congress before any transfers from Guantanamo are carried out. ...Lawmakers were not notified of the Guantanamo detainees’ transfer until after it occurred. The law requires the defense secretary to notify relevant congressional committees at least 30 days before making any transfers of prisoners, to explain the reason and to provide assurances that those released would not be in a position to reengage in activities that could threaten the United States or its interests. Before the current law was enacted at the end of last year, the conditions were even more stringent. However, the administration and some Democrats had pressed for them to be loosened, in part to give them more flexibility to negotiate for Bergdahl’s release. A senior administration official, agreeing to speak on the condition of anonymity to explain the timing of the congressional notification, acknowledged that the law was not followed. When he signed the law last year, Obama issued a signing statement contending that the notification requirement was an unconstitutional infringement on his powers as commander in chief and that he therefore could override it.” (This would be the same

Obama who criticized President George W. Bush for his use of signing statements.)
[59442, 59451]

Secretary of State John Kerry makes the release of Bowe Bergdahl about himself, stating it was “deeply personal to me as someone who has worn the uniform of my country—and as someone who was deeply involved in those efforts with respect to the unfinished business of the war in which I fought. ... We work every day with Qatar on a range of critical foreign policy priorities. This effort—one that was personally so close to our hearts here—exemplifies how vital our partnership with Qatar is and will remain. I spoke today with Afghan President [Hamid] Karzai to brief him on this development and to discuss ... Obama’s announcement this week about our efforts there.” [59502]

At NewsBlaze.com Randy Foreman writes, “When Sheriff [Joe] Arpaio took on the challenge of what some call the crime of the century, his goal was to clear [Obama]. He put this investigation in the lap of [Cold Case Posse lead investigator] Mike Zullo, who has never failed to impress from day one... Zullo is the type of investigator who could put someone, when he had the evidence, ‘*in the room without a view, downtown.*’ Once Zullo saw the date stamp could be moved in that [Obama birth certificate] pdf, he has never wavered from the thought that a crime may have been committed. ... Zullo says they know enough about what is going on in this investigation to know A) Who the forger is B) The IP addresses of the computers involved C) Mouthpieces close to the investigation brimming with confidence. That information alone should rock Washington to its core, but the capital continues to operate in the plot of the Great Gatsby. ... People who are following this closely—and there are many—say Americans can rest assured, more information is coming.” [59418]

At FoxNews.com Todd Starnes reports, “Some folks in Iron Mountain [Michigan] became infuriated earlier this month when they discovered that statues of Jesus and Mary, along with a cross and altar, were hidden behind a curtain in the chapel of the VA hospital there. ... The decision to hide the religious icons came after the National Chaplain Center conducted an on-site inspection and determined the hospital’s chapel was not in compliance with government regulations.” [59445, 59446]

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) states, “It’s been disappointing to watch a long-serving former senator, like Secretary [of State John] Kerry, squirm his way to what I’m doing today—releasing him from the upcoming hearing commitment he made only after we issued him a subpoena.” Issa had already issued two subpoenas demanding that Kerry testify before his committee. According to BizPacReview.com, “Last week, Kerry finally agreed to do so, but the State Department indicated that testimony would mean Kerry would not testify before the separate committee headed by Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC). That dodge isn’t going to work, Issa said. His committee will do without Kerry’s testimony if it has to force the State Department to cooperate with Gowdy’s [select] committee...” Issa’s statement continues, “No matter how long the investigation of a terrorist attack that killed four Americans takes, getting the full truth is what matters. The select committee is the House of

Representatives' commitment to getting this truth. It will conduct its investigation in the face of an all-hands-on-deck effort by defenders of the principal actors to further obscure the facts. I expect the select committee's unified jurisdiction will afford it better access to the complete picture than any of its investigative predecessors ...Obama, Secretary Kerry, and other officials have no one but themselves to blame for the increased scrutiny they should soon expect." [59447]

A petition to "Punish Bowe Bergdahl for being AWOL / Desertion during Operation Enduring Freedom" is started at WhiteHouse.gov. [59540]