

A SURVIVAL TREASURY



**The Radical,
UnAmerican
Agenda of
Barack
Obama**

From the Writers of Personal Liberty Digest™ :

Bob Livingston

Chip Wood

John Myers

Ben Crystal

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Preface

The Administration of President Barack Obama is one of the most Left-wing Administrations in the history of the United States of America. It is so Left-wing, in fact, that many wonder whether Obama is actually anti-American. To be sure, Obama's policies—backed up by radically Left-wing Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid—are certainly corporatist if not Marxist. And they are bad for America. Since Obama's inauguration on Jan. 20, 2009, *Personal Liberty Digest*[™] has chronicled Obama's policies and actions. Geopolitical Editor Chip Wood, *Myers' Energy and Gold Report* Editor John Myers, Ben Crystal and I have chronicled how Obama's policies have weakened our country, how they have deepened and prolonged the recession and how they have led to a reduction in liberty. We have compiled those columns here. They are prima fascia evidence that we must do all we can to ensure that Obama, and those supporting his agenda, are defeated in the next election.

To introduce each chapter and to segue into the columns, I have written a brief synopsis of what was happening at the time that spurred the idea for each column. I've also included the date the column appeared in *Personal Liberty Digest*[™] to give a sense of context.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Livingston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Livingston

Editor, *Personal Liberty Digest*[™]

CHAPTER 1

Who Is Barack Hussein Obama?

President Barack Obama received a virtual pass into the White House. The usual candidate vetting that the mainstream media does during Presidential elections was almost non-existent. As a result, questions remain about Obama, his background and his philosophies. In this chapter we try and get a handle on exactly who is Barack Hussein Obama. — BL

Obama's Glaring Omission

September 22, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

At the Congressional Hispanic Caucus meeting held on Sept. 15, 2010, President Barack Obama quoted from the Declaration of Independence during his speech.

In talking about what bound together the people from so many cultures and made them Americans, he said, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; endowed with certain unalienable rights: life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

What the Declaration actually says is: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed *by their Creator* with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” (capital letters in original manuscript, emphasis added).

What he left out of the quote is significant for a couple of reasons. First, it demonstrates that Obama is probably not a

Christian, White House protestations to the contrary. I realize that his mouthpieces have said he is, but a Christian is known by his works. And forsaking the assembly of the saints (Heb. 10:25) for more than two years is not the work of a Christian. It's more than likely—based on Obama's actions and what is known about his upbringing—that Obama is either an atheist or an agnostic.

But being a Christian is not a prerequisite for holding the office of President, and Obama's faith—or lack thereof—is his own business.

The second, and main reason the omission is important, is that it demonstrates Obama's view of where our rights come from. Obama views the Constitution as a list of negative rights: That is, a list of things the government is not allowed to do. And he thinks that is a bad thing, as he has said on more than one occasion.

Obama believes that government is Supreme, and if he worships anything it is at the altar of Big Government.

If Obama were to acknowledge that our rights come from a Creator he would have to acknowledge that only the Creator can take those rights away. But if government grants those rights, as Obama believes, then government can take them away whenever and however it so desires.

The Presidential Poser

August 23, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

Just exactly who is this man posing as the President of the United States? That's a question being asked by a growing number of Americans.

In fact, a poll conducted in July 2010 by the *CNN/Opinion Research Corporation* and reported on *CNN Politics*—a news

organization that has been downright gushing in its praise of Barack Obama—showed that six out of 10 people (that’s 60 percent) are uncertain the President was even born in the U.S. And that includes about one-third of all Democrats.

It’s troubling that so many question Obama’s eligibility to hold the office of President but that so few of the elected class and those of national prominence will even broach the issue. It demonstrates what a superb job Obama’s team and the Democrat party have done in casting those who question his status as a natural born citizen as the lunatic fringe.

In fact, if you are a “birther”—a term coined by the mainstream press to disparage those who doubt Obama’s eligibility to hold office based on his citizenship—even so-called conservative icons, like Ann Coulter and Glenn Beck, consider you a nut. All this proves is that the elitists who shape messages are a clique interested not in seeing that the U.S. Constitution is upheld, but in maintaining their power and protecting their own. This was demonstrated once before, when the House of Representatives voted to impeach Bill Clinton for lying to a grand jury; but the Senate voted not to remove him.



The fix was in from the beginning as most Senators declined to look at the evidence against Clinton.

So, too, is the issue of Obama's citizenship and eligibility. The fix is in, even though the evidence that he is not a natural-born citizen, and therefore ineligible to hold the office, far exceeds the evidence that he is.

The Republican governor in Hawaii says a birth certificate exists but she has sealed access to it, thereby eliminating one avenue of determining whether he was born in Hawaii, as he says; or in Kenya, as Michelle Obama, several of Obama's Kenyan relatives (his paternal grandmother, half sister and half brother) and a couple of Kenyan officials have said. And for you Obama sycophants, don't even bring up the certificate of live birth (COLB) posted online as proof. The COLB was available to anyone. It is not a legal document, does not list the attending physician, does not include his fingerprints or footprints, could not have been used to obtain his passport and is only a diversion to a weak-minded press and public.

A senior Honolulu elections clerk has gone on local television to say that it was common knowledge among election officials that no official birth certificate—he called it the long-form birth record—exists in Hawaii, despite what Governor Linda Lingle has said.

When the Obama Administration finally released what it said was an official birth certificate, experts quickly latched on to point out that it was an obvious fakery created in Photoshop.

The whole situation remains a muddle, just as Obama and his handlers want it. Documents disappear. Other documents crop up—some that cast more doubt on his story and some that seem, at first glance, to support his

claims but simply serve to send the discussion on a tangent. And Obama fights disclosure at every turn, sending agents from the U.S. Justice Department out to block all efforts at obtaining his records.

Thankfully, one news organization is doggedly pursuing the story. Joseph Farah and his reporters at *WorldNetDaily.com* (*WND*) hammer on the Obama eligibility story relentlessly, slowly chipping away at the facade. Some other conservative, fearless publications and websites are also digging for the truth and opining on the eligibility question.

Yet, despite a total blackout from the mainstream media on the subject of Obama's citizenship, 60 percent of the American public still doubt Obama's story that he was born in Hawaii. As Farah says, that means the birthers are winning.

There are some things we do know—or can surmise—about Obama, thanks to *WND*, some other publications and Obama's own book, *Dreams from My Father*. The man who would ascend to the Presidency in 2009 was born to Ann Dunham on Aug. 4, 1961. The father is purported to be Barack Hussein Obama, a Kenyan student in Hawaii who married Dunham on Feb. 2, 1961.

Some have speculated that Barack Obama II's (this is how Obama's name is listed on the COLB) biological father was actually Frank Marshall Davis, a black friend of Ann Dunham's parents and the man the young Obama would later claim in his autobiography was his mentor. The speculation about Davis—a radical communist—as possibly Obama's biological father stems from a book Davis wrote under a pseudonym in which he describes having sex with an under-aged white girl. The idea is plausible, as Davis was a good friend of Madelyn and Stanley Dunham, Ann Dunham's parents.

The irony is that this is one nativity story that would cement Obama's claim to be a natural-born citizen. If Obama Sr., a Kenyan citizen, is Obama's father, Obama is not a Constitutionally described natural-born citizen because one parent is a non-citizen and the other was a minor and therefore unable to bestow citizenship on the child. That is, if Obama was born in Kenya, as many believe.

As lawsuits have claimed, there is no evidence—beyond the aforementioned COLB—that Obama was born in Hawaii. Both Obama and a half sister have named two different Hawaii hospitals as his birthplace. Moreover, no records exist that Dunham was hospitalized in Hawaii and no physician or nurse has stepped forward to claim they assisted with the birth.

Obama's supporters have pointed out that newspaper articles published in August 1961 in the *Honolulu Advertiser* and the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* prove Obama was born in Hawaii. The address listed was the address of Madelyn and Stanley Dunham, Ann Dunham's parents. *WND* has reported that official documents show Obama Sr., had a residence at another address at the same time. And neighbors of the Dunhams told *WND* they don't recall a white woman with a black baby ever living next door. College transcripts indicate Dunham moved with her new baby to Seattle within days of Obama's birth and enrolled in the University of Washington for classes that began on Aug. 19, 1961.

These birth announcements prove only that someone submitted information to two newspapers to herald the birth of a baby. They document the timeframe of the birth, not the location. The baby could have been born on Mars and these announcements could have still run in the newspapers.

Another problem Obama faces is found in his mother's trip to Indonesia with her second husband, Lolo Soetoro,

in the late 1960s. *WND* has reported that several lawsuits challenging Obama's eligibility hinge on this time in Indonesia, which does not allow dual citizenship. Documents released by the U.S. State Department under two Freedom of Information Act requests, indicate he may have given up his citizenship when he moved there.

Those documents show that Obama's mother sought to have "Barack Obama II (Soebarkah)" removed from her passport, possibly as a prelude to obtaining Indonesian citizenship for him. If she did this it was more than likely for the child's safety, as it was a turbulent time in Indonesia and there was a strong anti-American sentiment there.

While in Indonesia, Obama was enrolled in school under the name of Barry Soetoro, as proven by school records photographed by a photographer from *The Associated Press* in 2007. Those school records list Soetoro as an Indonesian citizen, born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on Aug. 4, 1961, and records his religion as Muslim.

According to *WND*, Obama was either 5 or 6 years old when he traveled to Indonesia. This is important because if Lolo Soetoro adopted him at age 5 then he would have automatically become an Indonesian citizen. The law differed for children aged 6 and up and an adoption for a 6-year-old would have had to take place through legal channels.

Another puzzle uncovered by *WND* revolves around a photograph of Obama—or Soetoro, whoever he is—with another child at a school in Hawaii at the same time he was enrolled in school in Indonesia. The photo is marked as having been taken in 1969, and there is no good explanation as to how he was attending school in two different places at the same time.

The Obama camp has also refused to explain why Obama/

Soetoro is using a Social Security number issued in Connecticut. *WND* has reported that two private investigators discovered the Social Security number anomaly and filed documents in an eligibility lawsuit showing the number was issued in Connecticut between 1977 and 1979. Yet, Obama's/Soetoro's earliest reported employment was at a Baskin-Robbins ice cream shop in Hawaii in 1975.

The Social Security website confirms that the first three numbers of Obama's/Soetoro's Social Security number are reserved for applicants with Connecticut addresses. That Social Security number corresponds with Obama's/Soetoro's Selective Service registration, according to *WND*.

Finally, questions surround a trip Obama/Soetoro has admitted he took to Pakistan in 1981, *WND* reports.

"I traveled to Pakistan when I was in college—I knew what Sunni and Shia was [sic] before I joined the Senate Foreign Relations Committee," Obama/Soetoro reportedly stated at a fundraising event.

Pakistan in 1981 was under military rule. It was difficult for U.S. citizens to travel to the country without assistance. It would have been easier for someone to enter Pakistan on an Indonesian passport, *WND* reports.

Obama/Soetoro could easily clear up the confusion by releasing his birth records, his school records, college records and other official documents. Instead, he is spending millions of dollars to fight all attempts to obtain documents that most public officials release by habit. That begs the question: What is he hiding?

Some brave souls are fighting the good fight in trying to get to the bottom of the mysterious background of the 44th President. Some military people are putting their careers on

the line in an attempt to get proof that any orders Obama/Soetoro issues are legitimate.

However, the court system seems hell-bent on covering up any efforts at discovery. It consistently throws out lawsuits on standing and is frequently hostile to plaintiffs. Several judges have threatened lawyers and plaintiffs with stiff fines if they continue to pursue the matter.

Meanwhile, the only logical conclusion is that Obama/Soetoro is not Constitutionally eligible to hold the office of President. Any other view is only based on hope—Obama's/Soetoro's favorite theme.

A Constitutional crisis is in the offing and when the truth finally gets out about Obama's/Soetoro's citizenship, the legitimacy of orders signed by an illegitimate President will be called into question. Expect mass chaos to ensue.

That very well could be the culmination of the whole plan by Obama/Soetoro and those pulling his strings.

*With no definitive background—Obama has refused to release basic paperwork like college transcripts and his rise from community organizer to State senator to U.S. Senate to the Presidency was almost meteoric—some members of the alternative media have begun trying to learn who exactly is this man who became the 44th President of the U.S. — **BL***

Did The CIA Back Obama's Rise To Power?

August 20, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

How Barack Hussein Obama made the meteoric rise from a back-bench Illinois State Senator to President of the United States in a few short years has been a mystery to many. But an



investigative journalist may have uncovered how it happened.

Wayne Madsen has produced a three-part exposé (so far) that shows Obama, Barack Obama Sr. (his purported father), his mother Stanley Ann Dunham and her second husband Lolo Soetoro—and probably Ann Dunham’s parents Stanley Armour and Madelyn Dunham—all have or had deep ties to the CIA and the larger intelligence community. Madsen’s exposé was featured on *prisonplanet.com* Aug. 19, 2010.

In his memoir, *The Good Fight*, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid writes that he talked to then first-year Senator Obama following a speech Obama made about President George W. Bush’s war policy. Reid told Obama he was impressed. Reid writes, “Without the barest hint of brag-gadocio or conceit, and with what I would describe as deep humility, he (Obama) said quietly, ‘I have a gift, Harry.’” Now it would seem we know what that gift is.

Of course, Obama isn’t the first United States President to have deep CIA ties. Former President George H.W. Bush had an extensive résumé in the CIA, including serving as the agency’s director. Several of his family members, including former President George W. Bush, have also

been linked to the CIA.

*Obama received a lot of attention after he marked on his official 2010 census form that he was black—even though he is bi-racial. Whether Obama was “black enough” was an issue discussed by the civil rights crowd in the Democrat party early in the election, and the belief that he was not a part of the typical black American experience led some prominent black Democrats to support Hillary Clinton until Obama’s nomination was assured. Following is Chip Wood’s take on the significance of that declaration. — **BL***

Barack Obama’s Dishonest Census Form

April 23, 2010 by *Chip Wood*

The White House couldn’t wait to trumpet the news: When President Barack Obama completed his official form for the 2010 census he declared that he was... are you ready for this?... Black.

For the next 24 hours, the announcement led the news in the national media. It was the top story on *CNN.com*, the network news shows, cable television and just about everywhere else I looked. For nearly a week, you couldn’t escape it: “The President of the United States says that he is Black!”

Give me a break, please. Obama has been trumpeting his blackness for decades. Appearing on “The Late Show” with David Letterman back in 2009, Obama brought the house down when he said, “First of all, I think it’s important to realize that I was actually Black before the election.” Harty-har-har. When the laughter died down, Letterman played the perfect stooge by asking, “How

long have you been a Black man?”

Lost in all the chortling are two very important points. First, Obama isn't really Black; he is a person of mixed race. In the olden days, he would have been called a mulatto. Second, the President had every opportunity to recognize this on the census form. It is no longer necessary to select between Black and White (or Asian or American Indian, for that matter). If it is more accurate to say so, you can check two or three or even four boxes.

To the best of my knowledge, golfer Tiger Woods has not disclosed what he said on his census form. But in the past he has identified himself as a “Cablinasian”—that is, a combination of Caucasian, Black, Indian and Asian. It's not only a more honest declaration than our President made; it also suggests that Tiger doesn't take the matter of race as seriously as Obama does.

Then again, it's his talent at golf, not his color that has made Tiger Woods one of the wealthiest and most famous athletes in history. While Obama obviously believes that it is his Blackness that enabled him to become our President—



not to mention a multimillionaire—thanks to the sales of his best-selling book, *Dreams from My Father*, which chronicled his search for his Black identity.

Obama's fixation with his Black identity also helps explain why he and his wife Michelle could be members of Rev. Jeremiah Wright's Trinity Church for so many years without uttering a word of protest over his preacher's overt racism. Obama remained a member in good standing of the church (which described itself as "an instrument of Black self-determination") until it began to cost him votes.

But what about Obama's White heritage? In declaring on the census form that he was Black, the President in effect disowned his own mother; not to mention her parents—his maternal grandparents—who raised him for most of his childhood. All three were unquestionably White. The only Black person in the family was the father who abandoned him in childhood. I can appreciate how traumatic that abandonment must've been. But does that justify ignoring the White half of your heritage? Doesn't that strike you as a tiny bit ungrateful?

By the way, there's an interesting footnote here. While the changes to the census form were being debated 10 years ago, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and other civil-rights groups fiercely opposed allowing people to select multiple races to designate their heritage. At the time, they were concerned that too many "Blacks" would check other boxes as well, with the result that "Black" numbers would drop dramatically—thus reducing how much aid and other Federal favoritism would continue to be bestowed on them. It turns out that there was no basis for this concern: To the relief of everyone campaigning for more government benefits, any person who identified

himself or herself as even partially Black is included in the “Black” total.

Does anyone besides me detect something incredibly racist in this whole issue? I keep thinking of the plot of “Show Boat,” one of the greatest musicals in the history of U.S. theatre. I’m sure most of you remember the 1951 movie starring Kathryn Grayson and Howard Keel. If you don’t, rent it sometime soon. It’s absolutely enchanting.

In case you’ve forgotten, the plot turns on a bitterly racist fact of the times. Pete, the thuggish engineer on board the Cotton Blossom showboat, makes a play for Julie La Verne, the leading lady. Julie’s husband Steve, the leading man, beats him off. Swearing revenge, Pete tells the local sheriff that Julie is a mulatto and that she and Steve are guilty of miscegenation, which was a crime in Natchez, Miss., at the time.

Before the sheriff arrives, Steve takes a knife, cuts Julie’s hand and swallows some of her blood. He then tells the law and the crew that he, too, is Black—because he has “one drop of Negro blood in him.” Witnesses confirm that this is, in fact, true, and the sheriff drops the charges. Of course Steve and Julie have to leave the show and the ship.

In much of America at the time (the story takes place in the 1880s, when the scars of the Civil War still ran deep), one drop of Negro blood was all it took to be considered Black.

I would like to believe that we in this country have come much further since then. I’d like to believe that the majestic words spoken by Obama at the 2004 Democratic National Convention are true. There he proclaimed, “There is not a Black America and a White America and Latino America and Asian America.”

I'd like to believe it. But by his racist response to the U.S. Census, Obama has shown he doesn't. In fact, his actions have delayed the day when they will be true. Shame on him for what he did... for denying his heritage and for helping make old wounds bleed anew.

It seems almost every President has a relative destined to make headlines. For Jimmy Carter it was bother Billie. Bill Clinton had brother Roger. For George W. Bush it was brother Neal. Unfortunately for Obama, his relatives all seem to be illegal aliens... — BL

Family Tradition

September 1, 2011 by *Ben Crystal*

The revelation earlier this week that Onyango Obama—likely the same “Uncle Omar” mentioned in President Barack Obama’s oddly premature memoir, *Dreams from My Father*—was arrested for DUI was just another chapter in *Dreams*, entitled: “Presidential relatives who were dumber than boxes of hair.”

After all, it's not as if “Uncle Omar” is the first member of a Presidential bloodline who, no doubt, forced the President to wince in embarrassment. In fact, Onyango Obama isn't even the first Presidential relative whose wince-worthy actions stemmed from an inability to hold their sauce. Consider Jenna and Barbara Bush, Ron Reagan (who may simply suffer from garden-variety-liberal stupidity, as opposed to three-sheets-to-the-wind stupidity) and Billy “Beer and Libyans” Carter. In fact, Onyango Obama's latest brush with Johnny Law is strictly bush-league when compared to Roger “You mean he's the brother of the President of the United States?” Clinton.

It would be bad enough if “Uncle Omar” were simply another pinhead who thinks getting pickled and then sliding behind the wheel is big-time fun. However, when Framingham, Massachusetts’ finest stopped him the other day, the fun was just starting.

Despite having a nephew in high places, Onyango Obama isn’t on the guest list for the next state dinner. In fact, Onyango Obama isn’t on the guest list for the United States of America. “Uncle Omar” is an illegal alien with an outstanding deportation order. Unbeknownst to the President (of course), when Onyango Obama blew a “blotto” on the Framingham Police’s field sobriety test, he had in his possession a Social Security card and driver’s license. His blood alcohol level was .14. According to the arrest report, Onyango Obama announced that he would use his lone phone call to ring up his nephew: “I think I will call the White House.” Oh, what we wouldn’t give to listen in on that family reunion.

Much like the President’s infamous aunt, Zeituni Onyango, who ultimately evaded justice long enough to permanently affix herself to the taxpayers’ underbelly, Onyango Obama may well embody a real reason President Obama pursues his olly-olly-oxen-free immigration policy. Obama called Arizona’s efforts to stem the flood of illegals racist, even “reporting” Arizona to the United Nations. He and his corporate media mouthpieces suggested taxpayers who want a return to secure borders and decent immigration standards are racist. Though Democrats call anyone racist who disagrees with them on virtually anything at this point, slandering opponents of amnesty with the spurious charge of racism has become as vital to Obama’s method of governance as high unemployment, crushing debt and undervalued currency—or perhaps, those last three are

not on purpose. And as we learned recently, the President has introduced a new policy halting deportations of people facing... deportation.

I used to believe Obama opposed sound immigration policy because he's a liberal. I assumed his goals were the same as the goals of nearly every Democrat who ever blurted out an idiotic remark such as: "We are all immigrants." (That's technically true, but it applies to everyone outside the Olduvai Gorge; and I'm certain we can't all fit there now.) Democrats like illegal aliens because illegal aliens are indispensable to Democrats. They can carry heavy stuff, thereby eliminating the chance that Representative Nancy Pelosi will chip a nail. They can trim the hedges at Al Gore's mansions with a true horticulturalist's flair, for far less than minimum wage. A number of them work in the drug trade, making it much easier for Hollywood blowhards to get their next fix: They can go "talk to the gardener." And some of them—like Uncle Omar—availed themselves of forged documentation, so they can help ACORN (or whatever that prestigious bunch call themselves these days) with the electoral "community organizing." In the wake of "Uncle Omar's" drunken swerve into the long arm of the law, I believe it's fair to wonder whether there might be a familial reason behind Obama's dereliction on immigration.

Hey, we all have a relative we pretend isn't hanging off the lower branches of the family tree. Some of us are the relatives in question (which might explain why my brother doesn't let me baby-sit his kids; mix up the scotch with the formula—one time). But few of us considered allowing an entire criminal class to move in next door just to keep the family disgrace off an one-way flight back to some dirt farm in East Africa. Perhaps it is just a family affair.

CHAPTER 2

Obama Socialism

With Obama's statement to Joe the Plumber that he wanted to spread the wealth around, there has been a lot of discussion about Obama's political philosophy. Some say he's a socialist, some say he's a communist and others a Marxist. But does he fit any of these labels, or is it something else entirely?—BL

Is Barack Obama A Socialist?

May 7, 2010 by Chip Wood

Is Barack Obama a socialist? Ron Paul says he's not. A lot of you insist he is. The national director of Democratic Socialists of America claims, "the most socialistic candidate in the 2008 election was Sarah Palin." (Don't ask me what he's been smoking.)

And in a famous cover story in 2009, *Newsweek* magazine insisted, "We are all Socialists now."

I don't much like political labels, for a couple of reasons. Too often, they are used to end a helpful discussion, not encourage it. And for another, I've never found a political label that I'm comfortable wearing. So I hesitate slapping one on someone else. More on this in a moment, but first, let me tell you a story from my checkered past that may shed some light on the present debate.

Does anyone remember the first Mr. Jane Fonda? No,



I'm not referring to Ted Turner, but to Jane's first husband, a radical agitator named Tom Hayden. Hayden gained fame as a crusader for the SDS—the Students for a Democratic

Society—a very Left-wing group on college campuses back in the '60s and '70s. By the time of our encounter he was a state representative in California.

Hayden and Fonda were quite a couple back then. She was by far the more famous of the two—a movie star who achieved considerable notoriety for her efforts in support of a communist victory in Vietnam. She even posed astraddle an anti-aircraft battery in Hanoi—a weapon whose only purpose was to shoot down American planes. Not to be outdone, Hayden made as many outrageous statements as Fonda. Along with his buddies, Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, Hayden was convicted of inciting riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Later, he and Fonda made several trips to communist North Vietnam. As I said, they were quite a pair.

I had tried for years to get Fonda as a guest on my radio program in Atlanta, but no dice. Frankly, I couldn't blame her. It's no fun to be called a traitor. Even if she trusted me to avoid name calling, she knew that she would be excoriated by most of the callers to *The Chip Wood Show*.

So I was really surprised when I was contacted by Hayden's publisher and asked if I would like to have him as a guest on my show. He wouldn't be there in person, but would join us by phone to plug his new book.

I quickly said "yes." I assured the public relations lady I would insist that every caller behave politely, even if they disagreed with her client—as we both knew they would. So, a few weeks later Hayden was a guest on my show. And sure enough, the second or third caller to get through started off by accusing Hayden of being a communist agitator. He scoffed at the accusation. He said he had heard it many times before, but all it showed was his attackers' ignorance of political systems.

To the surprise of many, I promptly agreed with him. I said that to most people, "communism" meant a total takeover by the state of everything—factories, farms, schools, etc. Not just the means of production but the means of distribution as well. And he wasn't advocating that, was he? Hayden said "of course not."

"No, if I understand you correctly," I continued, "you're okay with ownership remaining in private hands, so long as government steps in to make sure things are done fairly. Is that right?"

Hayden said absolutely, that was precisely what he wanted. And he went on to give several examples of how government must make sure that jobs, education and health-care, among many other things, are distributed fairly to every citizen. Then came the denouement.

"What you've described isn't communism or socialism," I continued. "Isn't the system you want—where ownership remains in private hands, but its use is controlled by government—actually a form of fascism?"

There was a stunned silence as I continued, “In fact, Tom, isn’t it fair to say that the economic system you want to impose on us in the United States is actually classical fascism, as practice in Hitler’s Germany and Mussolini’s Italy?”

With that there was a click on the other end of the line. Hayden had ended the discussion by hanging up the phone. Can’t say I was very surprised.

So is Barack Obama a socialist? A fascist? Or something else? Ron Paul says the President is not a socialist, he’s a “corporatist.” He explains the difference this way:

“Socialism is a system where the government directly owns and manages businesses. Corporatism is a system where businesses are nominally in private hands, but are in fact controlled by the government. In a corporatist state, government officials often act in collusion with their favored business interests to design policies that give those interests a monopoly position, to the detriment of both competitors and consumers.” —*Texas Straight Talk*, April 26, 2010

Hard to disagree with much in that last paragraph. My only problem with the argument is getting the public to accept Ron’s description. I don’t think corporatist will ever become a popular catch-phrase in this country.

On the other hand, I’ve never been happy with any of the words and phrases used to describe my position on the political spectrum. Most of the world today would call me a “conservative.” But I’m certainly not trying to “conserve” the present status quo; I want to change it rather drastically. But to what?

A century or two ago, I would have been proud to have been called a liberal. For the first two-thirds of our country’s history, “liberal” meant someone who wanted the maximum

amount of liberty for every individual. But in the past hundred years that meaning got flip-flopped. Today, a liberal is someone who favors more and more government intrusion into our lives and our economy. That sure isn't me. Right-winger is even less descriptive—especially the exaggeration favored by many on the Left, an “ultra-Right-winger.”

Before settling on a label, let's see if we can agree on a political spectrum. And let's make the criterion the amount of government power over its citizens. On the far Left, you have total government control of everyone and everything. In our lifetime, the closest thing to that description has been the various communist dictatorships. What about the Nazis? They were a pretty fierce dictatorship, too, weren't they? Absolutely. That's why they belong right next to communism on the political spectrum. After all, the very word “Nazi” is a contraction for “national socialism.” There is nothing Right-wing about it—despite decades of brainwashing to the contrary by the mass media.

Okay, if total government belongs on the far Left, what belongs on the far Right? How about no government? There is a word for the complete absence of government and that is anarchy. Historically, anarchy has occurred when an existing system has collapsed. But it doesn't last for long; it is usually replaced by a strong, even brutal, totalitarian form of government.

So where does this place us? I like to think I'm somewhere in the middle between anarchy and totalitarianism. Or as a friend of mine put it many years ago in a book, we're slightly to the Right. But what's the best word to describe that? Not “conservative,” as I've already said. Not Right-wing or ultra-Right-wing, which are pejoratives our opponents like to use.

For many years, I tried to get others to accept the word “Americanist” to describe someone who believed in the same system of government as our Founding Fathers. I still like the idea, but the word never caught on. Neither did an alternate, “constitutionalist.”

What about “libertarian?” Even though it’s been used for several decades, and as a political party it has fielded candidates for public office on the state and national level, it has never gained broad appeal or acceptance. Too bad, because the root word “liberty” is a good one.

So it looks like the debate will continue. Is Obama a socialist? Is Chip a conservative? I think the policies we promote are more important than the labels we are given.

I believe government is not the solution; it’s the problem. Barack Obama and his allies believe the opposite. What do you say?

Who’s The Liar Now, Mr. Obama?

September 18, 2009 by *Chip Wood*

It isn’t easy to upstage the President of the United States when he’s delivering a speech to a joint session of Congress. But Rep. Joe Wilson managed the feat when he blurted out, “You lie!” during President Barack Obama’s pitch for his healthcare proposals.

Legislators from both sides of the aisle were quick to jump all over the Republican congressman from South Carolina for his rudeness. Katon Dawson, the former head of the Republican Party in South Carolina, opined, “If Joe’s mother or father were alive, they’d take him to the woodshed and whip him for bad manners.”

Before the night was out, Wilson had been pressured to

call the White House to apologize. Not content that Wilson apologized directly to the White House, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her cronies demanded he also apologize on the House floor. When he refused, they voted 240-179 to “disapprove” his actions. Ah well, at least it distracted them from spending a few billion more of your tax dollars for a day or two.

Within days Rob Miller, his opponent in last year’s election, reported that he had received some \$400,000 in contributions from 11,000 donors to help him defeat Wilson next time around. Wilson promptly announced that he too had received a big chunk of moola from patriots who want him to stay in Washington. Looks like the next election in that district will be mighty interesting.

Lost in all of the hullabaloo were two things worth mentioning: First, Wilson’s outburst paled in comparison to the treatment President George W. Bush received on numerous occasions from his Democrat opponents. There were times during George W.’s State of the Union speech in 2005 when there were so many jeers, cat-calls, mutterings and murmurings it was difficult to hear what he was saying. Anyone remember the liberal media expressing its outrage then?

But my second point is far more important: For all of his impoliteness, Wilson was telling the truth. Obama *was* lying.

Wilson’s outburst was in response to the President’s claim that nothing in the Democrats’ proposals would lead to Federal funding of healthcare for illegal immigrants. Wilson knows something most Americans don’t: Liberals in Congress have defeated every single attempt by Republicans to put such provisions into law. Of more than 20

such amendments that were introduced in the past year, not a single one has been allowed out of committee.

No wonder Wilson was so upset. He knows what's really been going on behind those closed committee doors. He knows Obama was playing fast and loose with the truth. And so did everyone else in the House chamber that night.

I wasn't surprised by all the blatant falsehoods in Obama's speech. For me, the tone was set in the first five minutes when the President told the assembled lawmakers, "I am not the first President to take up this cause. But I am determined to be the last."

That may have been great rhetoric. The assembled Democrats obviously thought so, because they gave the President an enthusiastic standing ovation.

Yes, it might have sounded good. But it wasn't the truth. And everyone listening to the President knew it.

Is there anyone anywhere who honestly believes that the government's role in providing healthcare for the public will no longer be an issue when Obama leaves office? That no one on either side of the aisle—Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative—will ever introduce new legislation to "improve" whatever system Congress agrees to during Obama's tenure?

Give me a break. This debate will continue until long after your great-grandchildren have collected their last Social Security check. Obama knows that. So does every member of the House and Senate who sat through his speech that night. And to pretend otherwise is nothing short of political duplicity. (That's a more polite way of saying, "He lies!")

Another obvious fantasy in the President's address was

his claim, “I will not sign a plan that adds one dime to our deficits, either now or in the future—period.”

Let me see if I’ve got this right. Under Obamacare, some 40 million Americans who currently do not have health insurance will suddenly get coverage... and it won’t cost taxpayers a dime? Does *anyone* believe this?

I was amused to hear the President say that one reason his plan would be more efficient is that the government-run program, unlike private insurance, wouldn’t have to make a profit. Nor would it have to pay all those expensive executive salaries.

Has anyone anywhere found one example of a government-run program that is more efficient than private enterprise? Anyone? Anyone?

It’s hard for me to believe that any adult American could be so gullible as to believe this. What I do believe is that a majority of Congress will *pretend* to believe it, knowing that a bunch of their constituents want it to be true. (Or, far more likely, don’t care if it is or not, so long as they get all those “free” benefits they’ve been promised.)

Another misleading remark in Obama’s address was his claim that “no Federal funds will be used to fund abortions.” Did you notice that not a single pro-abortion legislator (who as a group are probably the most outspoken extremists in Congress) said anything in opposition to this part of Obama’s speech?

That’s because they know the fix is in. Despite repeated efforts by pro-life legislators, not a single proposal to put this into law has been approved in Washington. No matter what Obama says now, the pro-abortion crowd is confident that whatever legislation is finally approved, it will include

a provision requiring that so-called “public option” health insurance covers abortions.

Finally, let me say a few words about the part of Obama’s speech I found the most offensive. That was his “my way or the highway” attitude. He accused talk radio hosts, cable news and conservative leaders of deliberately spreading falsehoods. He wants you to believe that everyone who opposes his plan to nationalize medical care is lying.

There was not a word of criticism for the attack dogs on the Left, such as House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who called opponents of these plans “un-American.” Or Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who labeled those who disagree with him as “evil mongers.”

After denouncing virtually everyone who has disagreed with him, the President then said, “Now is when we must bring the best ideas of both parties together.” The amazing thing to me is that no one laughed out loud at the hypocrisy of such a statement.

As every conservative on Capitol Hill knows, there has been absolutely no effort to include them in this debate. Their ideas are not welcome—and neither are they.

To say that conservatives and libertarians have never offered any constructive suggestions about healthcare is a flat-out lie. Anyone who cares can check out proposals on “How to Insure Every American” by Republican Representatives John Shadegg and Pete Hoekstra. Or the very sensible ideas for healthcare reform by John Mackey, the founder and CEO of Whole Foods. Or the detailed analyses and proposals from the Cato Institute, *Reason* magazine, the Heritage Foundation and a dozen others.

Republicans haven’t been included in negotiations on

Capitol Hill for months. Pelosi has shown nothing but disdain for those who disagree with her. Nor is it any different at the White House, where conservatives were locked out of discussions on healthcare.

While he says he wants bipartisanship, Obama means he wants opponents to sit down, shut up and go along with his proposals. He seems determined to use the Democrat majority he enjoys in the House and the Senate to ram through the most drastic reorganization of healthcare this country has ever seen.

He doesn't want to debate, he wants to dictate. We're about to find out if a majority in Congress will let him.

By the fall of 2010 we were more than two and a half years into Obama's first term and unemployment remained high, the misery index was miserable and America seemed to be continuing its economic decline. It was finally becoming clear to many that Obama's policies weren't helping the economy.—BL

Titanic Arrogance: Obama Is Sinking America

September 15, 2010 by *John Myers*

The United States of America is racing toward ruin at breakneck speed. Her captain, President Barack Obama, seems blissfully ignorant of the peril he is piloting the nation toward.

As Obama traveled the country to beg Americans to vote Democrat, new images of the RMS Titanic's wreck were published. Taken from three miles deep in the Atlantic, the photographs are further testament to a time

when technological arrogance and Edwardian pride believed that government and industry could surmount all challenges. When completed in 1911, the Titanic was considered the Eighth wonder of the World. Its captain, Edward J. Smith, boasted that the ship was unsinkable.

“I cannot imagine any condition which would cause a ship to founder. I cannot conceive of any vital disaster happening to this vessel. Modern shipbuilding has gone beyond that,” Smith said.

The Titanic’s aura of invincibility stemmed from the period; it was the onset of the 20th Century and men believed machinery could overcome all, even nature. This was a notion the populace, especially the traveling public, was eager to swallow. Captain Smith epitomized the age. He was at the apex of his career and was White Star Line’s most senior captain, chosen specifically to skipper the Titanic.

So convinced were captain and crew of the ship’s indomitability that they raced across the Atlantic at record speed. On the evening of April 14, 1912 the Titanic was



sailing in the dark at 22 knots. Smith seemed oblivious to icebergs that could easily cross the great ship's path at that time of year. It was a grandiose display of arrogance that cost more than 1,500 lives.

The *PBS* special, *Lost Liners*, puts the blame solidly on Captain Smith. "Fault rests on the Titanic's skipper for not exercising more caution. Having received repeated ice warnings he did not slow his ship down. In fact, Captain Smith had a casual, almost cavalier, air that evening, when he lingered late over a second cigar following an elegant dinner with some of the ship's more distinguished passengers."

Obama's Orders—Ahead Full!

A century later, the greatest marvel of the Age of Enlightenment is the United States of America and it is on a collision heading. The U.S.A. will not be sunk by icebergs, but by debt and policies that sacrifice the dollar for political expediency. At the helm is Obama who seems more worried about his crew (Democrats in Congress), keeping their jobs, than he is about the ship (America) itself; more concerned about his place in history than America's immediate future.

We are trapped in the brig with a President who continues to steam forward regardless of opposition or hazard.

"From the day I took office, I've been told that addressing our larger challenges is too ambitious; such an effort would be too contentious," Obama said during his State of the Union Address, Jan. 27, 2010. "For those who make these claims, I have one simple question: How long should we wait?"

One answer might be: "Until it is safe!"

No doubt Obama is too busy racing ahead to even hear this warning. On Labor Day, Sept. 6, the President announced he is moving forward with even more spending; some \$50 billion in new road, rail and airport construction projects and a plan to both overhaul national infrastructure spending and jump-start a sea of jobs.

The President spoke in Milwaukee to union members about his ambitious agenda to construct 150,000 miles of new roads, a network of high-speed rail lines and a next-generation airport system that includes 150 miles in new runways. Left unsaid is that this expansion will have to be done on more borrowed money.

Also absent from the speech was that the unemployment rate wouldn't budge much below 10 percent and a credit crisis which began more in 2008, continues to linger despite trillions of dollars in Federal spending. Instead Obama reiterated that more spending wouldn't raise the deficit.

"This is a plan that will be fully paid for and will not add to the deficit over time—we're going to work with Congress to see to that," Obama said. "All of this will not only create jobs now, but will make our economy run better over the long haul."

It is hard to follow the President's logic. A couple of days before his \$50 billion spending pledge for transportation, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office said this year's U.S. Federal budget deficit will top \$1.3 trillion.

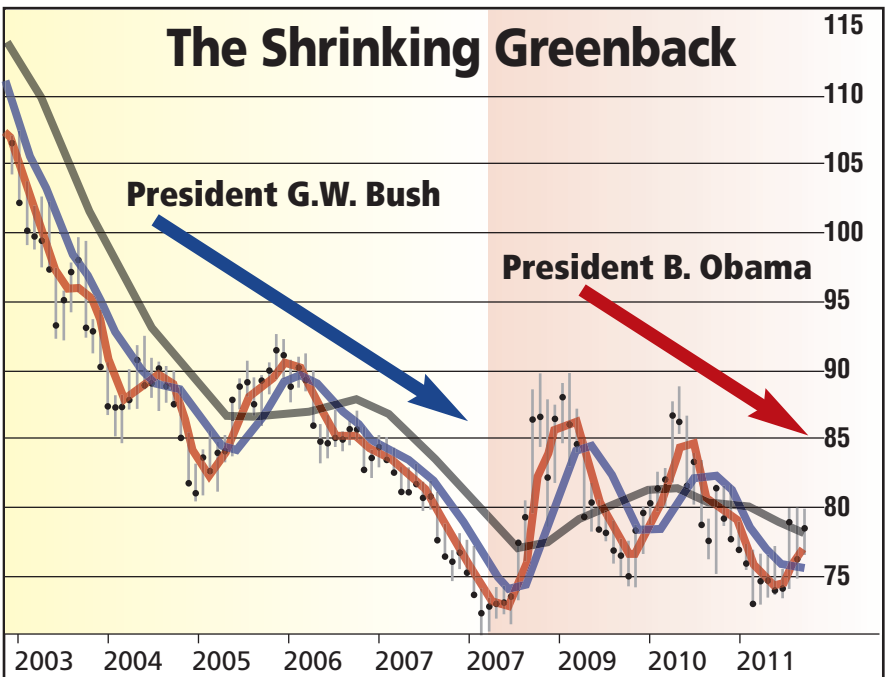
That would be a tiny improvement of \$71 billion over 2009's record \$1.4 trillion deficit and hardly the direction we need to go if the President wants to restore world confidence in America and in the dollar. After all, the 2009 and 2010 shortfalls are the largest ever. Each is three times bigger than the government's annual deficit has ever been.

U.S. Dollar: Going, Going, Gone!

To say that deficits don't matter is to ignore history and to put the county in peril. Even some of Obama's crew admits that much. In early 2010, Thomas Hoenig, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, issued a stark warning regarding the ballooning U.S. Federal government annual deficit and cumulative national debt. He warned:

“Without pre-emptive action, the U.S. risks its next crisis,” stated Hoenig, who went on to explain that Obama's deficits endanger the Fed's ability to fulfill its mandate of maintaining economic growth and price stability.

Hoenig is the first senior Federal Reserve official to go on record and state that the current U.S. fiscal policies are unsustainable and, unless halted and reversed in short order, will precipitate hyperinflation.



The dollar has been shrinking for decades.

At the risk of carrying my analogy too far, Obama has a crew member in the crow's nest screaming, "Iceberg!" and still he steams even faster.

How To Save Yourself?

We don't need a banker from the Federal Reserve warning us. The markets themselves are flashing "Danger!" As the chart on the previous page shows, the dollar has been sinking for a decade. It got a brief respite in 2008 because of the deflationary scare. But that recovery appears to be over and the downward trend-line remains very much intact. I expect that over the next two years the dollar will continue to fall further once Obama's inflationary policies get traction.

A decade ago I wrote to my subscribers this headline: "Get into the Lifeboat!" In that newsletter I spoke about how, when the Titanic first struck the iceberg, most of those on board didn't believe it could sink. Those that were smart enough not to believe in the fallacy of that age actually got off the ship and survived.

At the time of my "Lifeboat Alert," gold was trading under \$300 per ounce. At this writing (September, 2010) gold is fetching more than \$1,260 per ounce. My expectation is that after Obama really does sink the nation and the dollar, gold will be trading above \$2,000 per ounce. It is not too late to save yourself; but time is running out.

Action To Take... Buy physical gold. I like American Gold Eagles, Canadian Maple Leafs and African Krugers. All three are stamped in English, have their gold content stamped on them and come in convenient, well-known sizes (1-ounce, half-ounce, quarter-ounce and one-tenth-ounce).

Obama fancies himself another Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The mainstream media has tried to perpetuate that image, going so far as recreating an old photo of FDR in a convertible, complete with hat and cigar, and replacing FDR with Obama. Unfortunately, Obama seems intent on following FDR's disastrous policies of corporatism and profligate government spending to satisfy certain constituencies to the detriment of the American economy. The following article from the spring of 2010 explains this in detail. — BL

Yellow Dogs And Democrat Handouts

April 26, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

Ask a yellow dog Democrat why he's a Democrat and he'll usually say it's because the Democrat Party is the party of the working man. He believes it so strongly that he'd vote for the Democrat over anyone else, even if the Democrat on the ticket were an old yellow dog.

It doesn't matter that Democrat policies have been devastating to the poor and middle class workers in this country for almost 100 years. The poor and middle class still turn out in droves to vote for them. Democrat politicians have successfully positioned themselves as the party of the poor, and they've created an enmity between the poor and the rich.

Democrat leaders perpetuate this enmity with popular slogans like, "living wage," "fair share," "working poor," "greedy rich," "rich Republicans" and "evil profits." Their rank and file has bought it hook, line and sinker.

The Great Society

By the late 1950s, ever-resilient America had somewhat recovered from the effects of Woodrow Wilson's policies—the

Federal Reserve, the income tax and World War I—and Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s policies—the New Deal and World War II—and prosperity was returning.

Then along came Lyndon Baines Johnson, the Great Society and the next great expansion of the nanny state. Previous Democrat Administration policies had been devastating to the people they purported to help and, with his Great Society programs, Johnson continued the assault on the poor under the guise of giving them a hand up.

Within three years of assuming the Presidency in 1963, Johnson had requested 200 major pieces of legislation and Congress had approved 181 of them, according to Leslie Carbone in her book, *Slaying Leviathan: The Moral Case for Tax Reform*, she writes:

“Roosevelt had peddled the drug of government give-aways primarily in the poor neighborhoods; Johnson set up shop in middle-class cul-de-sacs, and most Americans, willingly or unwillingly, wittingly or unwittingly, are forced to shoot up. Johnson’s sweeping proposals sought to address almost every issue of concern to Americans: civil rights, poverty, education, health, housing, pollution, the arts, cities, occupational safety, consumer protection, and mass transit, to name only the most prominent.”
(p. 126)

She quotes Johnson aide Joseph Califano, from the book, *Lyndon Johnson and the Great Society*, “LBJ adopted programs the way a child eats rich chocolate-chip cookies.” (p. 126)

And what have these programs wrought? Mark Owen, adjunct professor of economics at Northwood University, wrote a column for *LewRockwell.com* on Feb. 7, 2007, titled

“The Welfare State: Shredding Society.” In it, he said:

“Births out of wedlock were consistently at or below 5% between 1940 and 1960. By 1970, the rate had risen to over 10% and has continued to rise to 33% of all births today... Divorce rates increased from 9 to 23 per 1,000 married couples annually from 1960 to 1980, while leveling off at 20 per 1,000 through 1998. How much of this leveling off in divorce rates is the result of relationships in groups with higher divorce tendencies never evolving past cohabitation is difficult to ascertain. Over half of children born today in the US will live in a single parent household, while in some areas the rate is much higher. It is hard to ignore the statistical relationship between crime and family dissolution.

“While crime and family destabilization may be two of the more obvious results of the welfare state, there are many others. The stigma for single mother births has virtually disappeared. Intergenerational dependency on government programs with the related lack of skills for self-sufficiency, much like a farm animal unable to live without the farmer for food and shelter, has created people without hope or ambition.”

The welfare state has created a cycle of dependency that perpetuates itself. Now there are third and fourth generations of single women living off welfare and raising children in single parent homes.

Typically these women live in urban areas and their children are held hostage to failing inner city schools systems. And Democrat policies are to blame for these failing schools.

In 1965 Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It provided for aid to poor children in slums

and rural areas, created a five-year program for school libraries to buy textbooks and other instructional materials and provided for educational research, among other things. Essentially, the Federal government took over the education of the children, according to Carbone in *Slaying Leviathan*.

Carbone writes: “Representative Charles Goodell warned that the bill’s ‘clear intent is to radically change our historic structure of education by a dramatic shift of power to the federal level.’”

The National Education Association (NEA) teacher’s union, a supporter of Democrat candidates and causes, opposes any and all efforts to inject competition or reform into the failing schools. Therefore, Democrats oppose them as well. Combined with local teacher unions, the NEA also fights efforts to change the tenure system that protects the jobs of bad teachers to the detriment of the children.

LBJ’s “War on Poverty” programs have been dismal failures. According to Carbone, in *Slaying Leviathan*, \$800 million was appropriated for the Economic Opportunity Bill of 1964. That bill created the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and 10 other programs. The next year Congress appropriated \$1.5 billion for OEO. Between 1965 and 1972 Congress spent \$15 billion on the War on Poverty.

“Launching the War on Poverty, Johnson declared, ‘[T]he days of the dole are numbered.’ Within two generations, more than \$10 trillion have been spent on this war, more in current dollars than was spent to win World War II,” Carbone writes.

And through all that, Democrats are still looking for

ways to spend money to fund programs to fight the War on Poverty.

Obama, And Echoes Of FDR

Like Herbert Hoover before him, George W. Bush was a Republican without a conservative soul. And just like Hoover, his policies to battle the recession were all wrong. First was the Stimulus Bill of 2008, a \$150 billion—1 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP)—kick in the economy through tax rebate checks that the government hoped would prevent or shorten the recession.

Next came the \$700 billion Emergency Economic Stabilization Act and Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). “I’ve abandoned free-market principles to save the free market,” Bush said at the time.

Then Obama went one better than Bush. Just two months after taking office he pushed through Congress a \$787 billion American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009. So within the space of one year more than \$1.5 trillion new dollars had been injected into the economy, further eroding the value of the dollars the poor and middle class hold.

What’s more, as Michael Barone wrote, in *The Washington Examiner*, “One-third of the 2009 stimulus money went to state and local governments—an obvious payoff to the public employee unions which gave hundreds of millions of dollars to Democrats and got hundreds of billions of dollars in return, to insulate public employee unions from the effects of the recession which has affected everyone else.” (“The case against the public employee unions,” April 20, 2010)

There's another provision in the bill that provides a sop to unions. The money for "shovel ready" construction projects must be spent on firms using union labor. This raises the cost of the projects and freezes out many non-union poor or middle class construction workers.

But Obama wasn't finished. Despite the call from the American people to focus on jobs and the economy, Obama and his Congressional allies were single-mindedly pushing through an unconstitutional healthcare program, which will cost \$940 billion, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates.

Touted as a bill to help the uninsured, it's not likely to make things better. For one thing, those 32 million new patients are going to be trying to get appointments with the same number of—or fewer—doctors than we currently have. What's more, the plan cuts Medicare payments and puts mandates on the states to cover more people under Medicaid—the program that insures the poor. This comes at a time when state budgets are in crisis.

Plus, many doctors already refuse to take Medicare and Medicaid patients because the reimbursement is so low. With fewer doctors for fewer patients, that means rationed care. And the poor and middle class, who are unable to afford to pay out of pocket for a doctor's care, will be the victims of rationed care.

And then there are the tax increases in the bill. According to *Bloomberg.com* the bill imposes about \$69 billion in penalties for individuals and businesses that don't meet mandates to buy insurance.

The Hill newspaper reported that the Joint Committee on Taxation, congress' official score keeper, says the new

law will cost taxpayers earning less than \$200,000 a year roughly \$3.9 billion more in taxes—in 2019 alone—by limiting the medical expense deduction. (JCT: Healthcare law to sock middle class with a \$3.9 billion tax increase in 2019, April 12, 2010)

On top of this are the taxes on pharmaceutical companies, medical manufacturers and insurance companies, which will be passed on to the consumer.

Finally, the healthcare bill will affect smaller rural communities with physician-owned hospitals. According to *CNSNews.com*, “The new health care overhaul law, which promised increased access and efficiency in health care, will prevent doctor-owned hospitals from adding more rooms and more beds.”

Physician-owned hospitals have higher patient satisfaction, greater control over medical decisions for patients and doctor, better quality care and lower costs, according to Physician Hospitals of America, as quoted by *CNSNews.com*.

The Coming Value-Added Tax

Obama economic advisor and former Federal Reserve Chief, Paul Volcker, recently suggested that it’s time for America to adopt a value-added tax (VAT). The White House immediately downplayed the idea. Then Obama shifted gears and admitted he was on board.

“I know that there’s been a lot of talk around town lately about the value-added tax. That is something that has worked for some countries. It’s something that would be novel for the United States,” Obama told *CNBC*.

After Volcker’s remarks the Senate passed a nonbinding “sense of the Senate” resolution that calls such “a massive

tax increase that will cripple families on fixed income and only further push back America's economic recovery.”

With the Tea Partiers already incensed over the Administration's policies and Congress' actions, a VAT is not on the table before the November 2010 elections. But it's coming. You can count on it. After all, it's European, and Obama is hell-bent on turning American into a European socialist country.

The VAT is a sales tax that is added onto every product at each stage of production. It is a regressive tax that inordinately affects the poor and middle class.

In *Slaying Leviathan*, Carbone writes: "...the VAT has been disastrous in Europe. As a hidden tax, it is easy to raise and has continually increased. Its complicated nature expands government and makes it expensive to administer. A VAT forces businesses to bear heavy compliance costs in order to serve as tax collectors for the government.”

Food and some necessities are often exempted from the VAT, which helps the consumer but not the business that has to administer it. Combine that with sometimes many different rates are applied, and the cost of compliance inordinately affects small businesses on which many families depend and which employ the most people, according to Carbone.

In the end, all the VAT will do is grow government and give it more money to spend to further encroach on the lives of Americans while crushing the economy. Of course, growing government and creating a cycle of dependency is the goal of the Democrats.

Party of the working man (or woman)? Not hardly. Not even old yellow dogs lying under the porch waiting for handouts thrive under Democrat policies.

By nine months into his first term, Obama's policies had caused a precipitous drop in his job approval numbers. And it was clear to Chip that the more the American populace learned about Obama and his vision for America, the less they thought of it. Chip predicted that Obama would destroy liberalism. Whether that's true remains to be seen. However, Chip's observation seems to be bearing out as more and more Democrats are running away from Obama as the 2012 election draws nearer. — BL

How Barack Obama Will Destroy Liberalism

September 4, 2009 by *Chip Wood*

I've got great news for you. In case you haven't noticed, Barack Obama's honeymoon with a trusting, gullible public is over.

For the first time since Obama's election, a majority of Americans say they don't like his policies. Many of them are concerned that he is going to bankrupt the country. Can you believe it? Where would they get such a crazy idea?

Before I get into the specific policy mistakes—and the Obama Administration has made a ton of them—let's first take a brief look at the numbers. The Angry Left likes to take all of the credit for Obama's election (and thus demands that he implement every far-Left scheme they can propose). But the truth is vastly different.

Barack Obama won the election with 53 million votes. John McCain finished second with 46 million votes. That's a margin of only 7 million votes. Who were those voters?

Almost without exception, they came from the middle of the political spectrum. They are neither Republican nor

Democrat. They describe themselves as independent. And here's the amazing thing: Some 10 million of them now say they don't like what Obama is doing.

At the beginning of his term, Obama enjoyed the support of more than 80 percent of the people who described themselves as independent. Almost one year later that number had fallen to less than 50 percent. That's an amazing reversal in just a few months.

How did Obama do it? Let me count just a few of the ways.

■ A stimulus program that didn't stimulate. While the street cleaners in Washington were still cleaning up the confetti from the inauguration, the Democrats rammed through an \$800 billion stimulus bill. The measure was supposed to solve our employment crisis, bail out state and local governments, get the economy moving again and make flowers grow in the desert.

Okay, I'm kidding about the last one. But you remember all the extravagant promises this massive spending bill was supposed to achieve. Instead, unemployment has continued to climb, California was forced to issue IOUs, the housing crisis took a turn for the worse and the economy barely limps along. To paraphrase an old country song, Congress got the gold mine (the bill had so much pork it squealed) while the taxpayers got the shaft.

■ Next, Obama set out to nationalize just about everything. The Feds took \$100 billion or so to bail out their buddies on Wall Street. The insurance industry was next, with \$80 billion going to prop up just one company, American International Group (*aka* AIG). Then the national banks were coerced into taking loads of Federal moola—and all the “oversight” that came with it. The

car companies were the next takeover targets, as Uncle Sam became the new boss at Chrysler and General Motors.

- The Obama Administration said it wanted to make healthcare in this country more “fair” and “efficient.” I’ll have more to say about the absolute ludicrousness of such proposals at another time. For now, let me just note that a whole lot of Americans have gotten so fed up, they’re saying “no more!”
- Massive new spending, and exploding deficits, as far into the future as we can see. What will all of this incredible largesse cost? In less than six months the Obama Administration racked up the biggest deficit this country has ever witnessed. And the red ink will continue to pour over us for as far into the future as we can see.

The Administration claims that its cost over-runs will “only” amount to a trillion dollars a year for the next 10 years or so. They base this number on incredibly optimistic estimates of how much their programs will cost. And even more generous guesses of how much tax revenue they can take from us.

Of course, anyone who believes these projections won’t go a whole lot higher probably also believes in the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny. Every sensible American knows that spending will get worse, taxes will get higher—and the deficits will multiply faster than maggots in a dumpster.

Along with all of these big issues, there have been dozens of smaller ones that have damaged Obama’s poise and credibility. How stupid was it for him to call the police in Cambridge, Mass., stupid? I was shocked and ashamed

to see the President of the United States using his bully platform to side with a Black professor who lost his cool. So were a lot of other Americans, both Black and White. Obama responded like a knee-jerk racist.

Then there was his 180-degree turnabout regarding the interrogation of terrorists. At first Obama promised there would be no prosecution of the CIA agents who, in the words of a *Washington Times* editorial, “produced life-saving intelligence that disrupted numerous terrorist plots.” Now our President has torn up that pledge. In an effort to placate the extremists on his left he has authorized Attorney General Eric Holder to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the matter. Can anyone doubt that prosecutions will be far behind?

I won’t even get into all of Obama’s foreign-policy blunders. Everywhere you look it seems to be his intention to treat our friends as enemies and our enemies as friends. South of our border, the good people *and legitimate government* of Honduras used legal and Constitutional means to rid themselves of a Hugo Chavez crony. Instead of applauding them for protecting their liberties, Obama’s State Department seemed determined to reinstall a budding Marxist tyrant there. Shame on them.

To put it as succinctly as possible, Obama seems determined to preside over the most radical transformation of the Federal government this country has ever seen. And the American people don’t want it.

The American people don’t want trillion-dollar deficits. They don’t want huge new government agencies to supervise our healthcare. They don’t want the people who defended us from terrorism persecuted or prosecuted.

They don't want our friends penalized or our enemies pandered to. They don't want more of their hard-earned money taken from them and given to people who didn't earn it and don't deserve it.

And when they've had all they can stand, they *really* don't want to be called "un-American" and "evil mongers" when they finally decide to speak out.

So what do I think will happen?

I think we are witnessing the beginning of the end of liberal domination in Washington. I think Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi, Barney Frank and Barack Obama have badly underestimated the American people. They lied about what they'd do and they badly misjudged how much we would endure.

The counter-revolution has begun. You can see it at town hall meetings and tea parties. You can hear it in conversations with your neighbors. You can feel it as the Left becomes more hysterical, more abusive, and... yes, I'm delighted to say it... more frightened.

We won't win every battle over the next year or two. But we'll win a bunch of them. And before too much more time passes—by the time Obama's successor is getting ready to leave the White House—I predict that the Obama era will be seen as the last gasp of liberalism. The dinosaurs of the Left may not become extinct; but they are about to lose their fangs.

Yes, the era of Big Government will soon be over. And we'll have Barack Obama and all of his over-reaching cronies to thank for it.

Obama has made two Supreme Court nominations, Sonia Maria Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. John explores what those picks will mean for America. — BL

Supreme Injustice

May 19, 2010 by John Myers

“Presidents come and go, but the Supreme Court goes on forever.” — *President William Howard Taft*

President Barack Obama is covering all the bases when it comes to forming his Supreme Court, an institution that will leave his stamp on America long after he has left office.

Gay rights activists are quick to laud the President’s latest pick for the high court, Solicitor General Elena Kagan. The nomination of Kagan comes one year after Obama’s first selection for the court, Sonia Maria Sotomayor. Latinos loudly applauded that nomination. Gays are downright giddy over Obama’s decision to replace John Paul Stevens with Kagan.

Kevin Cathcart, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund’s executive director, believes Kagan holds “a strong position” in opposing the military’s ban on gays. During her confirmation as solicitor general in 2009 it was revealed that Kagan had tried to bar military recruiters from the campus of Harvard Law School while she was dean. Even though Kagan was part of President Bill Clinton’s Administration, she was never a fan of Clinton’s policy of “Don’t ask, don’t tell.” It seems that this academic nominee (she has never been a judge and she has only practiced law for two years) believes that being openly gay is good, even if it impedes national security, as many in the armed forces believe.

Kagan told the Judiciary Committee that in her view, “the exclusion of individuals from basic economic, civic, and political opportunities of our society on the basis of race, nationality, sex, religion, and sexual orientation (is unjust).”

With control of 59 votes in the Senate, Democrats should be able to win confirmation (they did). However, if all 41 Republicans vote together, they could block a vote with a filibuster (they didn’t try).

Joe Solmonese, Human Rights Campaign President, said Kagan’s selection fulfills Obama’s promise to promote “diversity” on the court. There can be little doubt of that. In one article *The Washington Post* asked in a headline: “Can men still be appointed to the Supreme Court?”

If we assume that the pool of possible nominations includes equal numbers of equally qualified men and women, then the nomination of two women consecutively has a one in four chance of occurring. But the kicker for Kagan getting nominated is her close personal relationship with the President. In fact, Obama introduced the former Harvard Law School dean as, “my friend.”

“Elena is widely regarded as one of the nation’s foremost legal minds,” Obama said when he nominated her. “She’s an acclaimed legal scholar with a rich understanding of Constitutional law. She is a former White House aide, with a life-long commitment to public service and a firm grasp of the nexus and boundaries between our three branches of government.”

I don’t know what having a firm grasp on the nexus and boundaries means, but it sounds like something that would be bandied about at a Mensa meeting. And while I will never be invited to that group of geniuses, I’m smart

enough to understand that when it comes to consolidating power, Obama resembles leaders from Caesar Chavez to Fidel Castro... friends come first.

The never-married 50-year-old Kagan is not only a close friend to the President but also shares many of his ideals. Kagan clerked for one of the Supreme Court's staunchest liberals, Thurgood Marshall, and was a research assistant for one of the greatest legal defenders of gay civil rights, Laurence Tribe. She was also a staff member on the Dukakis for President Campaign in 1988. The defeat of Dukakis set back gay rights for 20 years, but with Obama and now Kagan, another minority is set to take swift strides.

As *MSNBC* pointed out, "Kagan has the chance to extend Obama's legacy for a generation." And every bit as alarming as that is the likelihood that Kagan is a supporter of even greater executive powers.

The Court's Lurch To The Left

In 1952, Supreme Court clerk and later Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote that the Court should not strike down Jim Crow laws. Rehnquist also said that *Brown v Board of Education* should not find that minorities do not have a Constitutional right to the same treatment as the majority.

Rehnquist wrote: "To the argument made by Thurgood Marshall [in *Brown v Board of Education*] that a majority may not deprive a minority of its Constitutional right, the answer must be made that while this is sound in theory, in the long run it is the majority who will determine what the Constitutional rights of the minority are."

I wonder if it was not Rehnquist's ideas that were sound only in theory. It seems less and less that it is the majority

deciding its future. Consider the immigration law passed in Arizona, SB 1070. A CBS poll showed that 60 percent of Americans don't think the new law—which is bound to include profiling—is too extreme.

Yet our President has announced opposition. Obama held a reception at the White House on May 5, 2010—

Cinco de Mayo Day—where he denounced Arizona's new immigration law. Obama announced that he has instructed his Administration, "To closely monitor the new law in Arizona, [and] to examine the civil rights and other implications that it may have."

Furthermore, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder confirmed that the Justice Department is deliberating whether to file suit against the Arizona law, either on the grounds that it violates the Supremacy Clause or Federal civil rights laws (that suit was indeed filed). But during a Congressional hearing May 13, 2010 Holder admitted he had not even read the law.

It doesn't look like Arizona will back down and, in the wake of his first 17 months in office, it appears doubtful that Obama will either.

Congressman Ted Poe (R-Texas) accuses the Obama



Administration of doing more to secure the borders of foreign countries than of its own, and called for immediate action to reverse that.

“We want the National Guard to be armed and defend themselves if necessary and to assist the border patrol and local law enforcement,” said Poe.

Republican Gov. Jan Brewer—who signed the bill—has said Arizona must act because Washington had failed to stop the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs from Mexico. Arizona is home to nearly half a million illegal immigrants and is the nation’s busiest gateway for illegals and drugs.

Yet Congressman Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) said that Republicans are using the issue to divide the country. “We’re here to say it’s time to deal with comprehensive reform realistically and begin the process of healing this country.”

For things to work out for Grijalva, the city of Phoenix may have to live up to its name and raise the dead. According to Brian Ross of *ABC News*, “Phoenix, Arizona has become the kidnapping capital of America, with more incidents than any other city in the world outside Mexico City, and over 370 cases last year alone.”

In the end, expect this dispute to land on the steps of the Supreme Court; a once non-partisan institution that Obama is trying to stack with minority rights activists such as Sotomayor and Kagan. While Latinos and gays may rest easy because of Obama’s choices for the Supreme Court, Americans living in Phoenix will not. That is bad news for the majority of Americans whose families built this great country.

Barack Obama's Budget-Busting Whoppers

February 25, 2011 by *Chip Wood*

A friend of mine asked a question last month that stopped me cold in my tracks. I've been thinking about it and the implications of the choices he posed ever since. I thought I'd share it with you today.

Imagine that you're sitting in your doctor's office, waiting for him to return with the results of the extensive exam you've just completed. You're glad it's over, because they poked and prodded every body part they could reach—and took numerous images of those they couldn't.

When the doctor enters the room, you can tell by his expression that the news won't be good. And it isn't.

“Cancer has spread so far throughout your body that there is nothing medical science can do,” he tells you. “I'm afraid you have less than six months to live. You'd better get your affairs in order.”

You're stunned. For a moment you can't think of anything to say. Finally, you blurt out, “But doctor, isn't there anything—I mean **anything**, no matter how experimental—we can try?”

The doctor pauses for a moment and then says, “Well, yes, there is one thing we could do. I hesitate mentioning it, because the consequences can be pretty awful. But it will save your life.”

“What is it? What is it?” you shout. By now you're desperate.

“Not many people know about this,” he says, “but there is a revolutionary new procedure that will actually transfer the

cancer out of you. You'll be 100 percent cured. Unfortunately, the cancer will instead attack your 8-year-old grandson. I'm sorry to tell you but he'll be dead in two months."

Here was my friend's question: Given that choice, what would you do?

And then he asked a second one: But isn't that **exactly** what we're doing with our national debt? Instead of you paying it, haven't you agreed to have it transferred to your children and your children's children?

Under the arrangements your government has made, haven't you saddled your offspring with debts that they will never be able to pay, even if they live a dozen lifetimes?

Thank you, Addison, for such a simple and stark way of describing the choices in front of us. As I said, I've been thinking about the gripping way you presented this ever since you sent it to me. It's sure a lot more powerful than the analogy I used three weeks ago in my article about raising the debt ceiling.

The dilemma my friend presented is especially appropriate now, since just a few days ago President Barack Obama sent Congress his budget for the next fiscal year. Despite all the baloney you've heard in the media about how the White House has slashed Federal spending, don't believe a word of it. That is—how can I be polite about it?—a bunch of balderdash. Here are the facts.

Our President has proposed total spending for the coming year of \$3.73 trillion. Of that astronomical sum, he says taxes will raise a little over half; your government will borrow the other \$1.6 trillion. If Obama gets his way—or anything even close to it—it will mean that our 44th President will have

saddled this country with more debt than all 43 Presidents who preceded him.

I've heard a lot of rumors about Obama's "secret objectives." Most of them I dismiss as utter bunk. But if one of them is bankrupting the country that has been so good to him, he has a chance to be the first President in our history to do it.

Let me state the facts another way: The President of the United States is asking his country to let him spend more than \$300 billion a month. And to borrow \$120 billion of that amount so he can dole it out to his favorite causes and constituencies.

What about the \$10 trillion in debt he will have racked up by the time he leaves office? He'll pass that on to your children's children... and if necessary, their children, too.

And yet the lead story on *CNN.com* about Obama's budget was headlined "Painful cuts in budget." Somebody's got a lot of gall here.

Oh, to be sure, there were some proposed reductions in Obama's budget. And for some strange reason they were all designed to either sock it to the wealthy or to outrage the poor.

Programs to help the low-income people heat their homes in the winter? Gone. Funds to help local communities fix their failing water and sewage systems? Decimated. Deductions for the interest you pay on your mortgage? Wiped out. Deductions for gifts you give your favorite charities? Cut drastically.

I can just hear Obama telling his staff, "Those blasted voters want cuts? I'll give them cuts. What else can we do that will make them mad as h**l?" But that's probably

unfair. I'm told that the man hardly ever curses, even when his wife tells him he's not allowed to eat something or to put out that cigarette.

Looking ahead, Obama proposes total Federal spending of \$46 trillion over the next decade, with tax collections paying for \$39 trillion of it. Borrowing will account for the rest, with the debt ceiling having to be raised from its present limit of \$14.3 trillion to a mind-numbing \$26 trillion. Imagine what the interest alone will be on that obligation?

I've read several commentaries that question all of the rosy assumptions behind the President's numbers. Coming anywhere close to Obama's budget numbers would require no inflation, no recession, no new wars, much lower unemployment and much higher tax collections. Anyone (besides the White House) want to bet on that optimistic set of events? The President's number-crunchers are counting on a much more robust economy than seems reasonable to many people.

I say, forget about who's right. It doesn't matter whether the gross domestic product grows by 2.5 percent or 4.4 percent. It doesn't matter whether inflation stays around 2 percent or more than doubles from here (which I think is almost a certainty). Because the truth is, there is no way on God's green earth that the House of Representatives will approve that much spending. Not a chance. It ain't gonna happen. As the kids like to say, "Put a fork in it; it's done."

Oh, I'll grant you, the House might approve a higher debt ceiling next month. Even some of the young Turks from the Tea Party might succumb to all the dastardly threats of what will happen if they don't. Debt default! Economic collapse! Utter catastrophe!

I don't believe a word of it. But more of them read

The Washington Post and *The New York Times* than *Straight Talk*. So even the best and the brightest of them can be badly misinformed.

And something hardly anyone ever mentions: A Congressman is only as staunch as his staff. And unfortunately, there just aren't enough smart, tough, battle-hardened conservatives looking for jobs on Capitol Hill. Many groups are trying to fill the gap—one of my all-time favorites is the Leadership Institute, which has done an almost miraculous job with its training programs. But there are a lot more compromisers than Constitutionalists on the payrolls of the new House members. Sad.

Mitch McConnell, the ranking Republican in the Senate, referred to the Obama budget as “an unserious document.” That's a pretty mealy-mouthed way of saying it, sir. Readers of this column expect to hear it a lot straighter than that. So let me be as blunt as I can.

Obama's proposed budget is a fraud. It's a deceit. It's a sham. The President and his team know there is not a chance in a trillion this monstrosity will win Congressional approval. What they're doing is playing a high-stakes game of chicken. “C'mon, Republicans, tell us what you propose. We dare ya. No, we double-dare ya.”

We're about to find out, ladies and gentlemen, if the people who were elected this past November stick to their promises. I hope you'll do your part to make sure your representative won't knuckle under to the pressure, the lies and the media smears he or she is about to face. And if he needs a backbone, lend him yours.

Until next time, keep some powder dry.

Downgrading Obama

August 19, 2011 by *Chip Wood*

Do you remember the mess our economy was in when Ronald Reagan took office 30 years ago?

Five years earlier, during the 1976 campaign, Jimmy Carter had hammered away at the so-called Misery Index, the combination of unemployment and the inflation rate. In the summer of 1976, it reached 13.57 percent; and worried voters handed the keys to the White House to the peanut farmer.

Unfortunately, Jimmy did nothing to make things better. By 1980, when he was running for re-election against Ronald Reagan, the Misery Index had climbed to an all-time high of 21.9 percent—more than 61 percent higher. Ouch! As a result, the voters booted him out and decided to give the former Governor of California a chance.

But all Reagan did for the next four years was blame Jimmy Carter for the mess he inherited, while things in the country got worse and worse.

Ha-ha, just making sure you're paying attention. Of course, that last paragraph is a total fabrication. Rather than blame his predecessor for the conditions he inherited, Reagan and Paul Volcker slammed on the money-creation brakes, cutting inflation dramatically. Interest rates plummeted. Businesses could borrow again, with confidence that their investments would pay off.

A massive tax-reduction program encouraged individuals to start saving once again and companies to expand. Millions of new jobs were created, which meant millions of new taxpayers started sending a portion of their earnings to Washington. While lowering the tax rate, government

revenues actually increased.

I wish I could tell you that President Reagan also abolished a ton of government agencies, as he promised during his campaign that he would. Unfortunately, once he took office, not a single major government department was abolished or even substantially reduced. By the time he left office eight years later, the total number of government employees and total government spending had grown dramatically.

That's the bad news. The good news is that, like an old-time Biblical prophecy coming true, the wall came tumbling down. Communism collapsed in East Germany. Most of the former Soviet satellites tasted freedom for the first time since World War II. And the "evil empire" was no more.

Historians will argue for centuries whether the results were worth the price. But actually, none of that is my point today.

No, what I want to emphasize is the startling difference between how Ronald Reagan sounded, and what he and his Administration did, compared to the petulant whiner we have in the White House today.

I don't know about you, but I have had it up to here with Barack Obama's refusal to take responsibility for any of his failed (and unbelievably expensive) policies. All he and his coteries of apologists can do is blame his predecessor and argue for more government spending to make things better.

The latest example was the decision by Standard & Poor's to downgrade the credit worthiness of the United States from AAA to AA+. To you and me, this wouldn't be a big deal—maybe like dropping a point or two on our

credit score. Nobody expects our borrowing costs to soar and lenders to flee — at least not for a while.

No, the result of the downgrade was mostly psychological. And, boy, wasn't that enough to prove there are a lot of loonies on Wall Street? In the five days that followed the Friday-night announcement, the Dow Jones industrial average, the mostly widely watched financial metric in the country, dropped 634.76 points. Then it soared 429.92 points. The next day it plummeted 519.83, then up 423.37, and finally up another 125.71. Man, if someone could turn that ride into a roller-coaster, he would make a fortune!

What does it all mean? Let me suggest at least two things:

1. The people making millions of dollars a year investing other people's money don't know any more about what's going to happen or what they should do about it than you or I.
2. The whiners in the White House are a pathetic bunch of losers. Isn't there anyone in authority who will man up to the facts? Clearly, that duplicitous huckster and one-time tax cheat Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner won't. Not only did he flat-out guarantee that S&P would not downgrade our debt, he was foolish enough to do so in front of cameras. Now, his brazen baloney will live on the Internet forever. (Serves him right.)

John Mauldin, one of my favorite economic analysts, had this to say about the situation:

“So if the Fed, which doesn't issue credit and can print money, can be downgraded because it holds AA+ debt, then why and how in hell can the [European Central Bank], which holds hundreds of billions of euros of the junk debt of Greece and Ireland and insolvent banks not be downgraded on Monday? And the Bank of Japan. REALLY? What are these guys smoking?”

Of course S&P didn't downgrade the ECB on Monday. Instead, it gave Fannie and Freddie the whacking they have deserved for at least half-a-dozen years.

In my Aug. 19, 2011 Chip Shots column in *Personal Liberty Digest™*, I mention another event that is an incredible example of a world gone crazy. An official mouthpiece of communist China's government urged the United States to implement policies that will "protect the interest of investors."

Think about it: Descendents of the same gang of butchers that murdered more than 100 million of its own citizens are now lecturing this country on the need to protect investors. The inmates truly have taken over the asylum.

Just one more thing and then I'll let you start sounding off to me and each other.

Don't put much faith in that Joint Select Committee in Congress that is supposed to implement all those spending cuts that were promised at the end of the debt-ceiling debate. Pelosi and Reid stacked their side with six of the most loyal Leftists in Congress. While McConnell and Boehner responded by appointing establishment types who have voted for years to expand the reach, power and cost of government.

Talk about snatching defeat from the jaws of victory! If you're counting on this group to hold down spending, I'm afraid you are going to be sorely disappointed. Once again, it looks like the business-as-usual types on both sides of the aisles will get what they want.

Someone once said we get the government we deserve. I sure hope not.

Until next time, keep some powder dry.

CHAPTER 3

Obama Hubris

One of Obama's attributes is an exception hubris. He also appears as if he thinks he's the smartest guy in the room. Following are a few examples. — BL

Obama's Unjust Remarks

February 5, 2010 by *Chip Wood*

Is the 2010 State of the Union Address finally over? Just kidding. I know it finally ended, but golly, was that sucker l-o-n-g. If I were to dissect every bit of deceptive rhetoric in it, this column would be even longer than it's going to be. That's not going to happen. But there was one section that I found particularly outrageous.

Before I get to it, however, I want to mention the folks who were sitting behind our Dissembler in Chief. Every time the camera showed Obama, there was Vice President Joe Biden behind his right shoulder and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi behind his left. Those two got to spend the entire evening staring at the President's back. What fun.

I have to say Joe was the absolutely ideal audience member. Every single expression that crossed his face—his smiles, his frowns, his chuckles, his glee—seemed perfectly timed to match to the script Obama was following. It was almost as though the Veep was an

audioanimatronic creation of the Disney imagineers. Joe, you were perfect! I can't say the same thing about Madame Speaker, though. For much of the President's speech, Nancy Pelosi looked as though her mind was elsewhere... and she wished her body was, too. I had to wonder what thoughts were troubling her stern visage. Maybe she knows that her dreams of presiding over the socialization of America are over. Maybe she realizes her record and her reputation are heading straight for the dumpster. Whatever the reason, she looked nervous to me. Good.

Now, on to the speech itself. Anyone expecting a milder, more conciliatory approach from the President had to have been disappointed. There were very few mea culpas in his 70-minute address. Instead, his basic message seemed to be that anyone who doesn't support his programs just doesn't understand them. So he's going to 'splain it all again. It reminded me of Desi talking to Lucy, but without the Cuban accent.

The weekend before SOTU (that's an abbreviation of State of the Union, in case you saw the acronym and wondered what it meant), Valerie Jarrett, one of Obama's top advisers, appeared on the show, *Meet the Press*. Asked if losing a super-majority in the Senate would change the President's strategy, she replied, "He is going to fight for what he's always been fighting for... We're not hitting a reset button at all."

Even more telling was the President's decision to bring David Plouffe, his 2008 campaign manager, into the White House. Plouffe immediately said that he'd be working to pass healthcare reform legislation "without delay." His message for his fellow Democrats? "[Let's] prove that we have the guts to govern. Let's fight like hell." Doesn't sound very conciliatory, does it?

It's got to be tough to be a conservative back-bencher

at one of these performances. All of the President's allies fill the first half of the House chamber. And by tradition, they're supposed to cheer like crazy for every rhetorical flourish that comes out of his mouth, no matter how wrong or ridiculous it may be. But the group I really felt sorry for this time were the six members of the U.S. Supreme Court who were in attendance. There they were, dressed in those flowing black robes and seated front and center, directly below the President.

By tradition, the members of this August body are supposed to sit there looking straight ahead. They are not supposed to show any expression, no matter what the President says and no matter what the sycophants in the audience do. Under the best of circumstance, it's got to be tough to sit there for an hour-plus without moving a facial muscle.

But these weren't the best of circumstances, because right in the middle of his speech the President lambasted them. The justices had to have been absolutely stunned to hear the President say: "Last week, the Supreme Court reversed a century of law to open the floodgates for special interests—including foreign corporations—to spend without limit in our elections. Well, I don't think American elections should be bankrolled by America's most powerful interests, or worse, by foreign entities."

Even before he finished urging Congress to right this terrible wrong, hundreds of Democratic Senators, Congressmen and Cabinet officers had jumped to their feet, cheering and applauding the President's remarks.

Talk about being blind-sided. As law professor Randy Barnett observed in *The Wall Street Journal*, "the head of the executive branch ambushed six members of the judiciary, and called up the legislative branch to deride them publicly."

But there was something worse than the President's bad

manners. It's that his remarks weren't true; the Supreme Court ruling had done no such thing. Yes, in a landmark case known as *Citizens United*, the Court had the previous week reversed a 1990 ban against political advertising by domestic corporations and labor unions. But it left standing a 100-year-old ban on foreign entities doing so.

Yes, Barack Obama—an honored graduate of Harvard Law and one-time professor of Constitutional Law—had his facts wrong. Apparently, among the several dozen people who vetted the State of the Union Address, not a single one bothered to check the facts of the matter. While that's awfully hard to believe, it's better than the alternative—that Obama knew what he would say was false, but didn't care.

The television coverage of that part of his speech got played over and over again on national TV. In numerous broadcasts, the scene was darkened so only one face showed clearly—that of Justice Samuel Alito. As the camera slowly focused on him, he could be seen shaking his head from side to side and mouthing the phrase, “not true.”

But it could have been worse. He could have emulated Joe Wilson and shouted, “You lie!”

Perhaps it's not completely Obama's fault that he's developed a “holier-than-thou” attitude. After all, how many people have received a Nobel Prize without actually doing anything?—BL

Barack's Ignoble Award

October 16, 2009 by *Chip Wood*

Well, now it's official. Barack Hussein Obama won the highest honor that the elitists of the international Left can

bestow on one of their own: His very own Nobel Peace Prize. Imagine that!

And what has our President done to deserve this lofty honor? Why, in the words of an infamous *Saturday Night Live* sketch, “Nothing, absolutely nothing.” I’ll come back to that hilarious skit in a moment. But first, let’s look a little closer at the curious timing of Obama’s award.

Did you know that the Nobel Committee’s own regulations require that all nominations be postmarked by Feb. 1? This means that—if the rules were followed—Barack Obama was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize a mere 12 days after he was sworn into office.

Twelve days in office and he’s already being considered for a Nobel Peace Prize? Give me a break! Does anyone anywhere really believe that this is how it actually happened?

Let me suggest something that strikes me as incredibly obvious: The Nobel Committee broke its own rules to give Obama the award. Can’t you imagine a committee meeting with someone shouting the Norwegian equivalent of “Rules? Rules? We don’t need no stinkin’ rules.”

And of course it’s true. When it comes to honoring one of their own and advancing the cause of their dubious socialist schemes, the elitists of the international Left *don’t* need no stinkin’ rules. They can do whatever they want. That’s why they hate the very idea of being bound by the chains of a Constitution. These power-hungry sycophants always and everywhere love monopolies and dictatorships, so long as it’s one of their own who is in charge. That’s why they are so enraptured with the United Nations.

But I digress. The plain and simple fact is that the

selection was rigged. This is far from the first time that the noble idea of a “peace prize” was prostituted to serve the ignoble ambitions of the Left.

Do you remember in 1994, when the Nobel Committee gave the honor to a thief and murderer named Yasser Arafat? It’s true that Arafat shared the award with the then-prime minister and foreign minister of Israel. But still, giving a “peace” prize to the father of modern terrorism? Arafat gloated about using the most heinous murder of innocent civilians to advance his aims.



Oh, by the way, he also stole tens-of-millions of dollars from the very Palestinians he supposedly led to finance a life of luxury for himself on the French Riviera and various world capitals. In a sane world, he would have been tried for murder and executed. Instead, he was the most frequent visitor to Bill Clinton’s White House among all so-called world leaders. What a travesty.

If that isn’t enough to make you rush to the nearest vomitorium, how about the winners in 1973? In case you’ve forgotten, that’s when Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and North Vietnam’s Le Duc Tho shared the award for negotiating the Vietnam peace accords. If you remember that Communists describe “peace” as “when all opposition has been eliminated,” then you’ll have to admit the committee got it right: Kissinger and gang made sure all opposition to a communist takeover of South Vietnam got slaughtered. Way to go, Mr. Secretary.

But you don't have to be a mass murderer, or even open the door to it, to be honored by the Nobel Committee. Slavish devotion to the Left's latest cause is often enough. How else would you explain the selection two years ago of former Vice President Al Gore? Even if you bought into all the skewed science and deliberate deceptions in his documentary film, "An Inconvenient Truth," can you really contend with a straight face that he deserved a Nobel Peace Prize? Well, okay, I'll grant you he has done more to earn it than our Teleprompter-in-Chief. But that's not saying much.

By an extraordinary coincidence, two days before the award was announced, "Saturday Night Live" opened its Oct. 3, 2010 show with a skit skewering Barack Obama for accomplishing "nothing, absolutely nothing" since Inauguration Day.

In case you missed it, the sketch featured actor Fred Armisen portraying the President and delivering a very sober speech to the American public. Here's just part of that delicious put-down:

"There are those on the right who are angry. They think that I'm turning this great country into something that resembles the Soviet Union or Nazi Germany. But that's just not the case. When you look at my record, it's very clear what I've done so far—and that is nothing. Nada. Almost one year and nothing to show for it."

As he spoke, a checklist of promises appeared on the screen—global warming, immigration reform, gays in the military, limits on executive power, torture prosecutions, closing Guantanamo Bay, withdrawing from Iraq, healthcare reform, and so on. Armisen, as Obama, admitted very honestly how little his Administration had accomplished.

"Remember," he said. "I can do whatever I want. I

have a majority in both houses of Congress. I could make it mandatory for all gays to marry, and require all cars to run on marijuana. But do I? NO!”

He then closed with this wonderful admission: “So looking at this list, I’m seeing two big accomplishments: JACK and SQUAT!”

You’ve got to admit: sometimes the liberals get it right!

The mainstream media lavish their praise on Obama’s rhetorical, oratorical and governing skill. Perhaps there’s a reason. — BL

Pulling Obama’s Strings

July 14, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

The mainstream media have been so in bed with President Barack Obama since he announced his candidacy that he has to lean over them to kiss Michelle goodnight. That has been evident to anyone who is conscious.

But just how far that collaboration went is only now coming to light. Mortimer Zuckerman, the publisher and owner of *New York Daily News* and the editor-in-chief of *U.S. News & World Report*, now admits he wrote one of Obama’s speeches. He won’t say which one.

Zuckerman in 2008 was listed as the 147th wealthiest American by *Forbes* magazine. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and a regular attendee at Bilderberg meetings.



No wonder many of Obama's campaign speeches were lauded as works of art; different members of the MSM were writing them with the approval of the New World Order crowd. This revelation by Zuckerman sheds a little more light on Obama's agenda. He's doing the will of the corporatists that thrust him into power and who now pull his strings.

The Fourth Estate failed the American people during the last election cycle, as it has done for most of the last 100 years. No longer a free and independent press, it bows and scrapes to the corporatist global governance cabal.

Obama's also famous for playing the blame game. More specifically, blaming former President George W. Bush. He was especially adept at it early in his Presidency, as Ben Crystal points out here. — BL

While You Were Drowning

September 2, 2010 by *Ben Crystal*

For those of you lucky enough to enjoy vocations that don't require endless news and issues research, count yourselves doubly lucky that you weren't subjected to President Barack Obama's speech marking the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's disastrous visit to New Orleans. Granted, Katrina was hard on the Big Easy, but five years later Obama didn't repair any damage. He was busy doing damage control.

Speaking to an audience of college students at Xavier University, Obama rolled through his standard teleprompter-zombie applause lines:

“It's great to be back here in [insert city name]. What a

job you all have done recovering and rebuilding from [insert disaster reference here]. I promise you I'll do everything in my power to ensure [repeat disaster reference here] never happens again. Remember, vote for me, because I give a damn."

Then the President, looking remarkably refreshed after his latest vacation—this time in Martha's Vineyard, an ultra-exclusive enclave favored by liberal millionaires, began spouting talking points which strained credulity, to say the least.

Standing in the heart of a city that was nearly wiped off the map by a combination of decades-long Democrat incompetence and corruption, a dystrophic liberal culture of dependence and one mighty impressive natural disaster, the fabulously wealthy President Obama... blamed everything on President Bush. Again.

But blame is as American a pastime as baseball. Actually, given the multi-syllabic surnames dominating most Major League rosters these days, blame is right up there with Mom and apple pie. But Obama is blaming the wrong guy.

With Hurricane Earl now becoming a force to be reckoned with, and the five-year anniversary of the Democrat-engineered Katrina disaster, I thought I'd take a moment to—as the kiddies say—drop a little knowledge on you. According to Obama, Katrina was:

“[A] man-made catastrophe—a shameful breakdown in government that left countless men, women and children abandoned and alone.”

Last time I checked, hurricanes are almost never man-made, despite Al Gore's assertions. As for governmental breakdowns, the actions of Mayor Ray “Chocolate City”

Nagin, and former governor, Kathleen “Crocodile Tears” Blanco, in the face of Mother Nature’s oncoming wrath didn’t exactly reverberate with redoubtable statesmanship. Of course, the goodly people of New Orleans re-elected their Candyman, so some of the blame for their plight can be placed on them.

Actually, quite a bit of the blame for the plight of New Orleans can be set down right on Bourbon Street. Despite the insistence of multimillionaires like Spike Lee and Kanye West, the teeming mass of destitute humanity gathered at the Superdome wasn’t consigned to their plight because “George Bush doesn’t care about black people.” Nor did the levees near the 9th Ward give way because they were secretly destroyed by Federally-placed explosives. (Sorry, Mr. Farrakhan.)

A massive hurricane formed in the Bahamas, made its way into the Gulf of Mexico and then headed for Mardi Gras-ville. Bush actually declared a Federal state of emergency two days before Katrina’s landfall. In fact, Bush ended up having to push Louisiana’s Democrat Governor Blanco to order mandatory evacuations less than 24 hours before Katrina’s arrival, with Nagin finally ordering mandatory citywide evacuation later that day.

Beyond that, the pictures tell a far more accurate story than the Democrat-controlled corporate media would ever allow. And I’m not just talking about flooded fleets of school buses. Nor am I referring to those scenic shots of fine Orleansians swimming through the flooded streets with filched flat screens (although had they purloined the plasmas earlier, they might have caught the GET OUT, THERE’S A GIGANTIC FREAKIN’ HURRICANE HEADED RIGHT FOR YOU warnings blaring from the

boob tube for at least 72 hours before Katrina set up shop near Lake Pontchartrain).

I'm thinking of the thousands of NOLA residents swarming together at the Superdome and adjacent convention center. After decades of voting Democrats into office, they were helpless; willingly robbed of their ability to fend for themselves beyond basic self-preservation instincts. Nagin, Blanco and the massive, overarching bureaucracy created by virtually unfettered liberal authority—granted by the electorate—had abandoned them at the crucial moment and they were prostrated before God and *CNN*.

Years later, and still, according to Obama: Bush did it.

Now I'm going to throw out a heavy concept for you portsiders: Let's assume that Bush DID do it. Let's say he engineered a hurricane, directed it to New Orleans, dynamited the levees, ensured Blanco and Nagin would both fumble the ball on the goal line, pulled the batteries out of the NOLA buses and flooded the city.

Perhaps this is not a man with whom you want to pick a fight.

But it's apparently not just President Obama that's out of touch. — BL

What's Spanish For "Best Western?"

August 10, 2010 by *Ben Crystal*

I can't remember a single detail from a single trip taken by former First Lady Laura Bush. After the Lady Macbeth of Little Rock (and Chicago and Chappaqua) served two terms as co-President, the fact that nothing comes to mind is a bit of a relief. Hey, at least Mrs. Bush never tried to put the

nation's lawyers in charge of the nation's doctors.

The smart money says that following her junket to Spain, Michelle Obama will figure out the virtues of the Laura Bush School of Smiling and Nodding at State Dinners. Mrs. Obama's Iberian itinerary went well beyond the usual foreign photo-op and turned into a budget-busting romp that has ojos rolling from here to eternidad. At a time when more than one in 10 Americans are one step away from wearing sandwich boards declaring: "Will flamenco for food," Mrs. Obama's six-figure trip has engendered entirely reasonable discussions about just how out of touch the Democrat ruling elite has become.

To be fair to Madam Michelle, she does seem to be comfortable serving in a ceremonial role best suited for someone who ascended to the people's crib by virtue of being married to the right guy at the right time. Such acceptance means a continuation of the blessedly unremarkable First Lady-dom of Mrs. Bush, and an abandonment of the damnably noteworthy First Strong Woman-dom of the erstwhile copresident and current Secretary of "Not Running in 2012—Honest!"

Lest you think I'm descending into some "everything the Obamas do = bad" monologue, let me point out that First Ladies have done their fair share of globetrotting in support of their spouses. But there's a marked difference between kindly women smiling at foreign toddlers—and kicking back with 40 or so pals at the five-star Hotel Villa Padierna in Marbella (a Ritz-Carlton Resort®), where the rooms run from \$500 to \$2,000 a night—if for no other reason, the aforementioned urchins are rarely allowed into such lavish locales unless they're shining shoes.

We have all seen the news reports of the taxpayer-footed tally for the First Family's Spanish sojourn (minus the

President, he was dining with Oprah Winfrey—positively pedestrian by comparison). Contrary to rumor, Mrs. Obama and her entourage ARE paying their personal expenses at their opulent accommodations. But the images of the First Lady, close to four dozen friends and relatives and the required retinue of security and support staff enjoying the high life while the President endeavors to prevail upon American taxpayers to tighten their trusses is one of the great moments in liberal glibness. (Gliberals—get it?)

So, while it might be unfair to criticize Mrs. Obama and her pals for heading out for some high living, it is absolutely fair to point out that the Democrat ruling elite, with Barack Obama at the head of the table, are dining like King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette while the rest of us are consigned to beg at the Bastille's back door. Sadly, every aspect of this public relations disaster was preventable.

For starters, perhaps a hollow apology for calling Spaniards bigots immediately before the Obama entourage arrived was less than smart. Next time, open with: “Buenos Dias,” instead of: “Sorry about that whole ‘Spain is racist’ thing. Here’s Michelle!”

A crowd that large is not doing anyone any favors. Consider a group about the size of a jazz combo, not the New York Philharmonic. The pictures coming back from Majorca look like rehearsal sessions for Michael Jackson's Thriller tour.

Seriously, the “Villa del Mucho Dinero” is undoubtedly fabulous, but it's in... um... Spain. (For victims of teachers' unions—that's a whole other country. Think Mexico, except the Spaniards still live in Spain, not East L.A.). Madame First Lady, while your husband and his fellow Democrat elitists are firing torpedoes at the nation's economy, how's

about you try a Hampton Inn near Six Flags next time?

While I suppose that we unwashed non-liberal heathens can take solace in the fact that Mrs. Obama didn't offer up one of her "for the first time in my adult lifetime, I'm really proud of my country" non sequiturs, many of us are starting to notice an Orwellian subtext to the liberal elite's societal disconnect. We're outside, looking through the dining room windows at the Hotel Villa Padierna in Marbella, trying to figure out who the real pigs are.

No More Secrets

July 23, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

No secrets, at least not for you.

The Obama Administration is backing legislation that would require United States businesses to provide to the government data about employee pay as it relates to sex, race and national origin of employees.

It's not enough that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) already has all your work data. Now other government departments want to snoop deeper into your life. Under the guise of trying to ensure pay equity for women and minorities, Obama wants to have even more of your information.

In addition to giving the Federal government more data to mine about its citizens, this legislation puts more onerous regulations on businesses at a time when businesses need a break. This is further evidence the current administration is no friend to business or the American people.

Even more amazing is this comes from a man who won't release a valid copy of his birth certificate—not a certificate of live birth that anyone could obtain in Hawaii

but a real birth certificate that names the delivering physician and can be used as an official document—his passport records or his college transcripts.

No secrets... Obama excepted.

Obama's Latest Joke

February 16, 2011 by *Bob Livingston*

For President Barack Obama, the traveling public's concerns over the Transportation Security Administration's 4th Amendment-violating policies are a big joke.

At his Jan. 25 State of the Union Address, Obama chuckled after his pronouncement that he wanted to “invest” (code for print more money and throw it at another boondoggle) billions of dollars in high speed rail. “For some trips, it will be faster than flying... without the pat downs,” Obama joked.

Of course, Obama's cute joke falls flat in the face of Department of Homeland Security Secretary (DHS) Janet Napolitano's statements that radiation scanners and pat downs are being implemented at bus and train stations and sporting events. So, Mr. and Mrs. Traveler, the real joke's on you because, get this, Obama's latest budget increases Federal spending on the DHS by \$37 billion, earmarking the funds to place more naked body scanners in airports across the country. (And that's on top of the other billions he wants to waste on his pet projects as he seeks to accelerate the crash of the dollar, but that's a topic for another day.)

That's \$37 billion to select companies with government ties designed to force travelers to submit to being irradiated by machines that have shown dubious effectiveness at spotting explosives and have not been adequately tested as to the hazard they pose to travelers or operators.

Government's false flag terror operations—more evidence of them surfaced yesterday when it was revealed the “terrorist” behind England's 7/7 terror attacks was a United States informant and was released from prison after serving only four and a half years of a 70-year sentence because of his “cooperation”—have succeeded in duping the general public into believing the government is acting in their best interests.

But government is interested in one thing only: Creating a totalitarian police state that controls every move of the masses. And for Obama and the other elites in our government thugocracy, that's very funny.

CHAPTER 4

Bowing To The U.N. And Global Governance

Obama vowed to fundamentally transform American. And one way his Administration is trying to do so is to bring the country further under mandates from the United Nations in a rush toward global governance and an embrace of United Nations' programs and ideology. — BL

Accelerating The March Toward One World Governance

September 27, 2010 by Bob Livingston

Congressional Democrats and the Administration of President Barack Obama are actively working to subject the United States to the dictates of the United Nations while accelerating the march toward One World Governance. Recent speeches and actions by Administration officials, key Obama appointments and pending legislation all point toward this conclusion.

In a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations—an organization whose members include former Presidents and current and former cabinet members and CEOs of multinational corporations, and which is actively working toward global governance—Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declared the United Nations to be the “single most important global institution.”

“Now the U.N. remains the single most important global institution,” *CNSNews.com* reports Clinton told the CFR during a gathering in Washington, D.C. “We are constantly reminded of its value: The Security Council enacting sanctions against Iran and North Korea. Peacekeepers patrolling the streets of Monrovia and Port-au-Prince. Aid workers assisting flood victims in Pakistan and displaced people in Darfur. And, most recently, the U.N. General Assembly establishing a new entity, U.N. Women, which will promote gender equality, expand opportunity for women and girls, and tackle the violence and discrimination they face.”

What Clinton conveniently overlooks is that the U.N. is probably the most corrupt institution ever created by man. Its appointees in the U.N. hierarchy from around the globe enrich themselves and their cronies from programs supposedly designed to aid those in poverty or suffering under some man-made or natural disaster. Meanwhile, it rushes to the assistance of certain nationalities, classes or groups of people it favors while ignoring the plight of others.

For instance, while aid workers and U.N. “peacekeeping” troops have been assisting in areas like Lebanon, Pakistan and Darfur, as Clinton mentioned, it has a history of ignoring the needs of other groups: The Hutu slaughter of Tutsis in Africa in 1994 and extermination of Christians in the Sudan more recently, for example. The U.N. also often supports trade embargoes that lead to the deprivation and starvation of certain cultures (Iran and North Korea as Clinton pointed out, but also Iraq) while sending food aid to corrupt totalitarian regimes in other parts of the globe with the full knowledge that the food is withheld from the citizenry and is used to further prop up those totalitarian regimes.



Endorsing U.N. Policies

Yet Clinton—certainly under Obama’s direction but obviously agreeing to the policy—continues to endorse and aid U.N. policies.

Case in point: The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. Under the

Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)—a foundation established by former President Bill Clinton to “help our world move beyond the current state of globalization to a more integrated global community of shared benefits, responsibilities, and values”—Secretary Clinton pledged \$50 million from the United States Treasury to provide 100 million homes in third world countries with clean stoves and fuels by 2020.

Certainly this will turn into a multi-million dollar boondoggle, with the Secretary of State pledging U.S. funds that will be channeled through her husband’s foundation. No conflict of interest there, of course. But it’s typical of One Worlder thinking of taking from the rich countries (read America) and funneling money to pet projects through pet agencies to further their aims at enriching themselves while subjecting those countries to U.N. dictates.

“The new alliance [between the U.N. and CGI] gathers U.S. government agencies with the United Nations Foundation, Germany, Norway, Peru, the World Health Organization and corporate backers including Morgan Stanley and Shell,” reports *CNSNews.com*. The primary shareholders of Morgan Stanley and Shell are members of the Bilderberg Group that meets annually in an effort to push toward One World Government.

Obama's appointment of former Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels to a U.N. post is further evidence that Obama supports the U.N. initiative to remove firearms from Americans and leave them solely in the hands of a global military. Secretary Clinton had already expressed U.S. support of the U.N. Small Arms Treaty. But Nickels' appointment is another finger in the eye of supporters of the U.S. Constitution.

Nickels is a founding member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and the author of Seattle's failed attempt to override Washington's state firearms preemption statute, according to an article on the website for the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA).

Alan Gottlieb, chairman of CCRKBA said, "By naming Greg Nickels as an alternate representative at the U.N., President Obama has essentially told America's 85 million gun owners that their firearm civil rights are in jeopardy. Nickels cannot be counted on to defend the Second Amendment because he would like to see it erased from the Constitution."

Controls At Home

The Obama Administration isn't just working through the U.N. to establish totalitarian controls. He, his cabinet and the increasingly-Marxist Congressional Democrats are hard at work at denying Americans the freedom to choose which products they purchase while furthering their goal of a "Green" world. On Sept. 16, 2010, Assistant Energy Secretary Cathy Zoi said the U.S. Department of Energy has a "mandate" to issue regulations to determine what household appliances are available to Americans in the future, according to *CNSnews.com*.

Zoi said the Administration has four tactics to use to advance the "deployment of clean energy." The first three include government subsidies for private-sector green energy

projects, special tax incentives for green energy projects and low-interest government-backed loans for green energy projects. But then she said something chilling.

“The fourth one, which the secretary and I love, is where we have a mandate. Where we can actually just issue regulations and do market transformation,” Zoi said. That transformation is going to take place through the imposition of new standards for refrigerators, microwave ovens, residential and mobile home furnaces, fluorescent light ballasts, residential clothes washers and dryers, room and central air conditioners and battery chargers.

“We’re going to update [the standards] more frequently. We have the power to do that in the statute,” Zoi said, according to *CNSnews.com*.

This is how the Obama Administration plans to implement its cap and trade environmental agenda—overwhelmingly rejected by the American people—one little piece of bureaucratic regulation at a time.

Another backdoor effort at implementing cap and trade comes from a House bill passed quietly earlier in 2010 that will effectively cede control of energy production in the U.S. and off its coastline to an international body. This bill is now on the Senate’s calendar.

The bill is HR 3534, also called the “Clear Act of 2009.” CLEAR stands for Consolidated Land, Energy and Aquatic Resources, and it will hamper or delay future oil drilling projects, further increasing our dependency on foreign sources of oil and cost the U.S. \$900 million per year for 30 years.

This legislation would impose a fee of \$2 on each barrel of oil and 20 cents per million British Thermal Units (BTUs)

of natural gas for all leases on Federal and offshore lands. The effect of these restrictions and fees would be increases in the cost of gas and energy and other petroleum-based products. But Obama has said in the past he's comfortable with \$5 per gallon gas and believes skyrocketing energy prices in exchange for a "clean environment" is a good tradeoff.

While Democrats aren't afraid to take the lead on issues of cap and trade and subjecting the U.S. to U.N. mandates, this doesn't discount the complicity of many so-called conservative Republicans: People like former President George H.W. Bush and Senators Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) to name just a few.

The global governance crowd has been hard at work for almost 100 years. They succeeded in their goal to unite the European nations under the European Union banner and, with their puppet Obama and the Marxist Democrats controlling Congress, they see this as their best shot ever at subjecting the U.S. to U.N. dictates like the Law of the Sea Treaty and energy regulations.

Social Engineering Bill In Senate Will Force You Into City

September 10, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

A social engineering bill to restrict residence in the suburbs and rural areas and force Americans into city centers is on the fast track to passage in the Senate. (The bill did not pass in the 111th Congress but remains on the Senate Legislative calendar.)

The bill is called the Livable Communities Act (SB 1619) and it was introduced by corruptocrat outgoing Senator

Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.). It seeks to fulfill the United Nation's plan Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and signed onto by "New World Order" President George H.W. Bush. This bill is designed to destroy your community. According to the non-profit American Policy Center the bill:

- Is a blueprint for the transformation of our society into total Federal control.
- Will enforce Federal Sustainable Development zoning and control of local communities.
- Will create a massive new "development" bureaucracy.
- Will drive up the cost of energy to heat and cool your home.
- Will drive up the cost of gasoline as a way to get you out of your car.
- Will force you to spend thousands of dollars on your home in order to comply.

A carrot-and-stick policy will be used to get your local government to sign on. The carrot is billions of dollars in grants available if your local government agrees to amend zoning laws that restrict housing in outlying areas, forcing people to give up their homes and land and move into the city center.

The stick will be denial of the funds and bad publicity generated by "Green" organizations criticizing government officials for turning down free money. The rub is the grants will come with strings attached that force local governments to bend to the will of the Feds.

The idea of these social engineering initiatives is to force people to live in a congested area in high-rise buildings with housing on the upper floors and stores on the bottom.

The whole area will be linked by mass transit creating the “utopian” communities loved by socialists.

The result will be higher costs for housing (because overcrowding will make housing space a premium) and goods and services (because of less choice and competition) and less freedom to move about (because cars won’t be necessary and parking space will be prohibitively expensive).

As we have pointed out before, President Barack Obama is—not surprisingly—an advocate of this type of nonsense. And his cabinet is populated by elitists who think they know better than you on how you should live.

CHAPTER 5

Obamacare

The insidious bit of legislation that came to be known as Obamacare generated a lot of discussion, helped nurture the Tea Party movement that had sprung up as a result of government bailouts of financial institutions and led to a Republican takeover of the House of Representatives. Following are some thoughts from Personal Liberty's contributors about the legislation and the way it was passed. — BL

Cramming Obamacare Down Our Throats

March 26, 2010 by Chip Wood

Well, they finally did it. By a vote of 219 to 212, the House of Representatives approved Obamacare. President Obama signed the monstrosity into law the next day.

The only thing “bipartisan” about the measure was the opposition to it. Thirty-four Democrats joined every Republican in the House in voting against it. But even this doesn’t capture the nationwide opposition to the bill. Every single survey taken in the past two months showed massive public opposition to the measure.

“So what?” was the Democrats rejoinder. “Once this sucker becomes law, people will learn to like it.”

The Left thinks they have won the most important victory yet in the political wars. But they’re about to discover that,

like John Paul Jones before us, we have just begun to fight.

Let's hope next time they go to the polls plenty of voters will remember what our leaders did to us.

I'll spare you a litany of all the "dirty deals, open threats, broken promises and disregard for democracy" that were used to shove this 2,400-page monstrosity down our throats. Even with all the last-minute vote-buying and arm-twisting, I hoped the measure would come up short. And it almost did.

In the week before the vote, President Barack Obama held private meetings or telephone conversations with 64 different congressmen. At least one of them, Representative Jim Costa (D-Calif.), bragged publicly that he used his face time with the President to demand some "special consideration" for his Central Valley district. On March 16, 2010 the Interior Department came through, announcing that the water allocation there would be increased from 5 percent to 25 percent. The

next day Costa—a former no vote—said he had flipped to yes. But deal-doing had nothing to do with it, of course.

The President also hopped aboard Air Force One and flew to rallies in states where wavering House Democrats resided. He showed up in Pennsylvania (home to five uncommitted votes), Missouri (three wavering Democrats), Ohio (eight undeclared congressmen) and Virginia (four).



The President's advance men made sure Obama would be talking to friendly crowds. And of course the local media was out in droves. So the Left could be assured of plenty of favorable coverage.

One person who would be missing from the show was the local congressman. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wasn't about to allow members of the House to go home until a vote was taken. No Spring Break for those guys and gals! The speaker knew she didn't dare risk allowing representatives go home then. Otherwise, too many would see first-hand just how opposed most of their constituents were to the measure.

While the President used the honey of his rhetoric and the promise of government largesse to win votes, political heavies such as the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and *Moveon.org* used threats. Their message was short and simple: Vote no on Obamacare and we'll find someone else to take your place in Congress.

But all of the bullying, bluffs and bluster weren't enough.

Kimberley Strassel, who writes the "Potomac Watch" column for *The Wall Street Journal*, had been following this story for months. The day after that fateful vote, she reported, "By the weekend, all the pressure and threats and bribes had left the speaker three to five votes short."

As it happened, there were half-a-dozen votes just waiting to be plucked. All the House leadership had to do to get them was agree to include a line in the legislation saying that no Federal funds would be used to provide abortions. The danger was that if they agreed they'd lose more than six votes among the pro-abortion crowd in the House.

I don't know who came up with the compromise, but it

was a dandy. The language of the legislation wouldn't be changed—but the President promised to issue an executive order afterwards, stating that no Federal funds provided by the bill could be used for abortions.

That was all it took for Representative Bart Stupak (D-Mich.) to fold like an accordion. On the day of the vote he announced that he and five other colleagues would now support the legislation.

Pro-abortion supporters chortled that such an executive order wouldn't change a thing. Bart and his buddies had been duped. One pro-life congressman was so upset that he shouted out “baby killer!” during the debate on the House floor.

But, no matter. The dirty deed was done. And within hours, the most radical healthcare legislation in history had been approved by the House of Representatives. Because the powers-that-be decided to use a sneaky parliamentary procedure called “reconciliation” to pass the measure, that was all it took. There would be no chance for opponents to stop it in the Senate, despite the victory of Senator Scott Brown in Massachusetts.

During and after the debate I collected a basketful of quotes by people on both sides of the issue. I'll spare you all of the gleeful smugness of the victors and most of the dire warnings from the losers. But let me share with you my favorite, which comes from Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas):

“It was truly a sad weekend on the House floor as we witnessed the further dismantling of the Constitution, disregard of the will of the people, explosive expansion of the reach of government, unprecedented corporate favoritism, and the impending end of quality healthcare as we know it. . .

“Of course, the most troubling aspect of this bill is that it is so blatantly unconstitutional and contrary to the ideals of liberty.

Nowhere in the Constitution is there anything approaching authority for the Federal government to do any of this.”

In the aftermath of the bill’s passage, attorney generals in 13 States joined together and filed suit in Florida to have the bill declared unConstitutional. Virginia sued separately. Officials in at least 15 other States said they are preparing legal and Constitutional challenges to the legislation. We’ll see how far they get. I’m not optimistic, since most Federal judges pay absolutely no attention to constitutional limitations on the reach and power of the Federal government.

No, the only way we’re going to win back our lost freedoms is at the ballot box.

I believe that those of us who work for a living still outnumber those who vote for a living. It’s just that the other side has spent far more time and money getting their side elected.

Are we willing to do what it will take to change things? As I said at the beginning of this column, we’ll find out in the next election.

*Living in Canada, PLD contributor John Myers knows first-hand what government-run healthcare and living under a socialist system is like. He likens Obama to former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. — **BL***

Obamacare (Obamamania) And The Ghost Of Pierre Trudeau

April 7, 2010 by *John Myers*

“This is like déjà vu all over again.” — *Yogi Berra*

The dictum hit me like a shockwave: Buy into President Barack Obama’s healthcare plan or be considered a criminal.

I had seen it before: a time when another young legal scholar became a sensation. Once he was in power a nation waited breathlessly for him to deliver a new age. He did so with guile and determination. That man was Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and decades after he left office Canada is still reeling.

Trudeaumania hit Canada in the mid-60s. Trudeau was then a young self-admitted Marxist and Harvard grad (yes, Harvard!). He was as brilliant as he was ruthless, and he used his Red Guard elitists to sweep away the Liberal establishment. His first priority: Healthcare and financial reform.

It didn't hurt Trudeau that he was French Canadian. That allowed his supporters and the mainstream media to claim that political opponents were acting out of centuries old prejudices.

Trudeau's liberal government called themselves "libertarian socialists" and their near dictatorial rule spanned from 1968 to 1984. During that time the Prime Minister set his sights on building what he called a "Just Society."

"It seems evident to me that the regime of free enterprise has shown itself incapable of adequately resolving problems posed in education, health, housing, full employment, etc.," said Trudeau.

He backed up his words by implementing the Canada Health Act. It prohibited user fees and extra billing by doctors. Yes, the Prime Minister wrote into law that doctors could only make what the government decided they should be paid. Many of Canada's best doctors immigrated to the United States.

But Trudeau had loftier goals than just healthcare. He

declared that intervention needed to be administered, “at the first sign of national economic weakness: to stimulate buying by putting more money in the hands of consumers.”

To that end Trudeau dictated that, “The State should distribute, extensively and resolutely, payments of all kinds: direct aid, unemployment insurance, agricultural assistance and various grants.”

Nationalization And The Suspension Of Habeas Corpus

The Trudeau government launched a wave of nationalization programs. None were larger or more devastating than the National Energy Program (NEP). Enacted in 1980, the NEP was set up to remedy spiraling oil costs for Canadians by forcing oil companies operating in Western Canada to sell their petroleum at a discount to the Eastern provinces. It was nothing short of larceny. Eastern Canada received Western oil at a vast discount. It is estimated that the NEP cost Alberta \$100 billion. It was such a blatant seizure of wealth that many of us in Alberta joined a secessionist political party.

The March 11, 2008, *American Thinker* sums up the Trudeau years: “[He] nationalized 25% of the petroleum industry and ruined the nascent boom economy of conservative Alberta. He ensured minority group representation at every level of government and instituted French language requirements in remote English-speaking corners of the country. He turned away from the United States and toward a ‘third way,’ vowing to make Canada more European, including the imposition metric system.”

Trudeau did all of that and much more.

In October 1970, the terrorist group FLQ kidnapped British Trade Commissioner James Cross and Quebec’s Minister of Labour Pierre Laporte. When *CBC* reporter Tim Ralfe asked

him how far he was willing to go to stop the FLQ, Trudeau replied: “Just watch me.”

Three days later, on Oct. 16, 1970, the Cabinet under Trudeau’s chairmanship advised the governor general to invoke the War Measures Act. The result was widespread deployment of Canadian Forces troops throughout Quebec and the suspension of habeas corpus, giving far-reaching powers of arrest to police.

The Trudeau government gave the appearance that martial law had been imposed. With far-reaching powers police arrested and detained, without bail, 497 individuals. All but 62 were later released without charges.

Four decades have passed since Trudeau imposed martial law on Canada and it has been 30 years since he nationalized Canada’s oil industry. But even south of the border the cataclysm still echoes. It gains a growing resonance as an American President unleashes his plans for a just society.

“The Obama election’s implications for us are possibly just as fundamental as was Trudeau’s for Canada,” said Michael Krauss, professor of law at George Mason University. “What if we became Canada?”

I have bad news for Krauss; America is going down that same ruinous path with Obama. It is hard to conclude otherwise, especially in light of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro declaring in March, 2010 that the passage of American healthcare reform was “a miracle” and a major victory for Obama’s Presidency. It seems Obama is the kind of leader that Cuba can embrace. (Castro certainly had a close bond with Trudeau. Before he attended Trudeau’s state funeral in the Autumn of 2000 he declared three days of mourning in Cuba.)

Just how far to the Left Obama will steer America remains to be seen, but the fact that America is seriously tilting to port is undeniable. Riding roughshod over the Constitution is just one step. Others include the President's determination to grow government and redistribute the nation's wealth.

Furthermore, it is naïve to think that Obama will be gone after one term. Many a Canadian, especially us out here in the West, believed Trudeau would be a one-term prime minister. But Canadians got used to collecting Trudeau dollars. By the time he faced his first re-election in 1972 enough Canadians had bought into the prime minister's "Just Society" that he would go on to serve another 12 years.

Look For The Dollar To Go Loonie

When Trudeau took office in 1968 the Canadian dollar was selling at par with its U.S. counterpart. By the time Trudeau left office in 1984 the Canadian dollar was selling for just 70 cents U.S. That was the Canadian dollar's first significant devaluation in a century.

In fact, during the Trudeau years the Canadian dollar lost more than half of its purchasing power. Canadians got healthcare, but not one of them could say it was free.

The same scenario could unfold in the U.S., especially if the midterm elections don't go the Republicans' way (the 2010 midterm elections cost Democrats the House of Representatives—*BL*). It's amazing what the majority will sometimes accept and even encourage. I know because I have seen it happen. Not in Cuba... right here in Canada.

The Obama Administration made a lot of deals to get Obamacare passed. Here is one of them.—BL

That Cornhusker Kickback Will Cost You Plenty

April 2, 2010 by *Chip Wood*

Remember when Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson cut a deal with the President Barack Obama Administration to deliver the 60th vote in favor of Obamacare? To the ever-lasting shame of both sides, the result was an embarrassment that came to be known as the Cornhusker Kickback.

Basically, Big Ben asked for some special help so Nebraska could cover the increased costs of Medicaid when Obamacare finally passed. Barack and his buddies said, “done” and—voilà!—suddenly there was an additional \$100 million for Nebraska buried deep in the legislation.

When news of this sweetheart deal got out, I’m delighted to report that a mighty outcry went up around the country. No one was willing to defend this crass example of Washington payola—not the folks who arranged it or even the voters who benefited from it.

In a sane world such overt bribery would never make it past a conference committee. But fiscal sanity—or even outright honesty—hasn’t been much of a factor in Washington politics for years. Instead of slicing \$100 million out of Obamacare, the wheeler-dealers in charge of spending your money decided that “the only fair thing to do” was to give the same benefits to the other 49 states.

All of a sudden a special subsidy that was going to cost us \$100 million—pocket change when you’re talking about a \$870-billion piece of legislation—soared to \$30 billion. Even

by Washington's spendthrift standards, we're starting to talk about some real money here, folks.

What happened next shouldn't have surprised me: The powers-that-be decided to cover the costs by slapping a new tax on well-off Americans. After all, as Obama keeps reiterating, it's only right that the wealthiest among us pay "their fair share."

So that's how a brand-new tax on what the redistributionists like to call "unearned income" became the law of the land. Starting in 2011, if you earn more than \$200,000 a year, expect to see another bite taken out of anything you've managed to save. The new tax will cover interest on your Certificates of Deposit and other savings accounts; any dividends you make on stocks or mutual funds, rental income on any real estate you own, and anything else our masters in Washington can classify as "unearned" income.

Excuse me for a moment while I let out a primal scream or two about the Marxist misnaming of my so-called unearned income. I worked mighty hard to earn every penny I've managed to save. There were a lot of 80- and 90-hour weeks when I was younger and just starting in business. I had to do the work of two or three people every week to keep my company's doors open. And I'll bet a lot of you who will be hit by this new tax can say the same thing.

Even Nelson is now in full retreat from the monstrosity he helped create. No sooner had the Senate version of Obamacare finally been approved in the House than he became the first Democrat in the Senate to denounce "reconciliation." He said he was especially troubled by the new tax he helped foist on us. He also denounced all those other add-ons that have pushed "the total cost of health reform up billions of dollars."

Gee, does anyone think the Senator is trying to curry favor with the voters back home? I hope a lot of Nebraskans will remember all of this when they go to the polls. By the way, while I'm on the subject, may I ask for a show of hands of all of you who feel you don't pay your fair share of taxes? And yes, Mr. Buffett, if by any chance someone sends you this column, we would love to publish your reply. I've seen reports that you think you should pay more. So why don't you? There's no law against Berkshire Hathaway adding a zero to every check it sends Uncle Sam.

For the sake of this discussion, I'm willing to grant that every American who is worth more than \$50 billion should pay more in taxes than I do. Not just more total dollars, but I'll compromise my principles enough to tolerate the plank in the Communist Manifesto that calls for a progressive income tax being levied against them.

But for the rest of us, let's get real, as my kids would say. The canard that well-off Americans aren't paying "their fair share" is one of the biggest of the Big Lies that socialists have used for decades to foster the culture of envy that dominates almost all of our politics.

Let's look at the numbers to see what the truth really is. The last year for which the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has released figures is 2007, so what follows is a bit out of date. But I can't imagine that the percentages changed much in '08 and '09. Look at what the government's own figures show:

- The top 1 percent of taxpayers in this country pay 40.42 percent of all income taxes.
- For the top 5 percent, the percentage is even higher. The 7.1 million taxpayers who fit this description pay 60.63 percent of all Federal income taxes.

- The bigger the net, the greater the discrepancy. The top 25 percent of taxpayers (35.3 million of us) can take pride in knowing that we contribute 86.59 percent of Federal taxes.
- The top 50 percent (70.5 million of us) pay 97.11 percent of the total taxes collected.

In comparison, the bottom 50 percent of filers—some 70.5 million of Americans with any kind of income—pay a minuscule 2.89 percent of Federal tax dollars.

By what possible rationale can anyone say that the “rich” in this country don’t pay their fare share? You tell me. If the 71.22 percent that the top 10 percent in this country pay isn’t “their fair share,” then what is? I’d really like to know how you Obamaites (and yes, there are lots of you who read this column) justify urging government to confiscate more of our earnings.

As we approach each April 15 I think a lot about our rapacious government and what it will take to put it on a diet. As we’ve just seen, asking nicely ain’t gonna do it. Even yelling loud and long won’t be enough.

We’ve got to run the rascals out of office. Not all of them, I’m happy to say. Get rid of the worst 10 percent or 15 percent and the rest of the crowd in Washington will move to the Right so fast the loony Left won’t know what hit them.

Remember, most legislators aren’t dedicated to making government bigger. They aren’t dedicated to making it smaller, either. They’re just dedicated to staying in office. And if sounding (and voting) like a new Sarah Palin is what it will take to protect their careers, most of them will move Right so fast all you’ll see is a blur. In this country,

we can still “throw the rascals out.” But it will only happen, as I’ve said before, if those of us who work for a living become as devoted to the battle as those who vote for a living.

As an American living in Canada, John Myers has first-hand experience with socialized medicine. Based on his experiences, he can give a first-hand account of what U.S. medical care will become unless Obamacare is repealed or struck down by the Supreme Court. — BL

Living And Damn Near Dying With Socialized Medicine

August 26, 2009 by *John Myers*

“The reality is that from Canada to Cuba socialized health care’s record is appalling. It’s impossible to tally how many patients die...” — *Smart Money*, July 16, 2007

You can ask me about universal healthcare. I’ve lived it. I’ve almost died it. I’m a dual citizen and spent almost equal portions of my adult life in Canada and the United States. Canada has many things going for it, and I moved back to Calgary to be where the action is in energy. But it’s a move that almost cost me my life.

I started getting flu-like symptoms on a Sunday. I was sluggish and pensive. I had reason to be. I have acute asthma.

As afternoon turned to evening, I was having trouble catching my breath. By 7 p.m., I was struggling for air. My wife, Angie, ordered me to the car and raced me to one of Calgary’s emergency health clinics just down the road. We both knew I might be getting pneumonia, a potential killer for an asthmatic.

It had happened to me once before in Spokane, Wash., and Angie sped me to The Sacred Heart Medical Center. No sooner had I hit the door than two doctors threw me onto a crash cart and a team of five worked to restore my airways. I was then admitted to the hospital for five days. That was in 1992.

Seventeen years later and 500 miles to the north, I knew that my chances of surviving weren't so good. The clinic I stumbled into last fall was brimming with three-dozen patients; many were waiting hours to see one doctor who had been at work since 8 o'clock that morning. Angie helped me walk to the reception desk and declared to a young woman that I was having trouble breathing.

"Take a number and I will call you when it is your turn," she said in a cold voice. Angie protested and said something about my condition being critical. "Everybody here thinks their condition is critical," said the girl.

Angie knew that I couldn't sit and still breathe, so she propped me against a wall and strode into the examining area. Inside there were an assortment of people, some simply needing to get a refill on their prescription, others included junkies just wanting a fix. She had to physically force herself in front of someone entering one of the tiny examining rooms. The Russian doctor listened and helped her walk me to the examining table.

He laid me down and began to administer oxygen before he undertook a frantic search for Ventolin, an emergency drug for asthmatics that was apparently in short supply.

By now I was gasping for air. My bronchi were almost completely swollen shut. I felt myself losing consciousness.



Sometime later my eyes opened and I managed a satisfactory breath after the over-wrought doctor slammed adrenaline into my vein. Two hours later, when he finally checked me out to go home (there were no hospital beds available in Calgary that night) he told me in broken English how he thought I was lucky to be alive.

I will soon have to go back to that clinic. I will line up and wait two to four hours to get a flu shot; a vaccination that could save my life in a nation with Third World healthcare.

Canada offers many great things. But someday I will return to my home, the United States. I just hope it is the United States I left and not just another country that has sold out to the siren call of socialism and the mediocrity it brings.

The True Cost Of Obamacare

I have no doubt from my own experiences that healthcare in the United States is better than in Canada. But of course, the Obama Administration's single-minded approach to instituting universal healthcare is about money.

In June, 2010 during an *ABC* television special, Obama proclaimed, “The status quo is untenable... It is bankrupting families, bankrupting businesses and bankrupting our government at the state and federal level. So we know things are going to have to change.”

What Obama is really saying is that if the government runs things, the quality of healthcare will be just as good as before and the cost of it will be a lot lower. But when was the last time you saw the Federal government do a good job of managing anything? Consider that Washington has grown the national debt from \$5 trillion in 1995 to almost \$12 trillion this year while damn near reprising the Great Depression.

Health policy experts say guaranteeing coverage for all Americans may cost \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. That is more than double the \$634 billion “down payment” the Democrats are trying to sell.

Meanwhile, America will be adding another huge bureaucracy—the last thing the world’s largest indebted nation needs. If you don’t believe me consider what has happened in Britain.

According to the Aug. 13, 2009 *Examiner.com*, “England’s health care program is the third largest employer in the world and their citizens are getting anything but health care.”

Debt, The Dollar And Your Financial Health

The United States is increasing its national debt at a dizzying pace. Socialized medicine will only accelerate this trend. That is exactly what happened to Canada when universal healthcare was introduced in 1968. Over the next decade, Canada’s national debt soared. In time it had Canadian dollar investors rushing for the exits. In 1968

the Canadian dollar stood at par with its U.S. counterpart. Fifteen years later the Canadian dollar had lost nearly a third of its value. This period coincided precisely with Pierre Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister (1968-1984), whose Liberal government shamelessly socialized Canada.

Yet many Canadians survived and even prospered during the Trudeau years by diversifying out of the Canadian dollar and buying physical gold. From 1971 to 1980 the price of gold in Canadian dollars rose from C\$35 per ounce to over C\$1,000 per ounce!

As Obamacare began making its way through the court system, Ben weighed in on what one court ruling means for Americans. — BL

Obamacare's Paper Tiger

December 16, 2010 by *Ben Crystal*

Thanks to a well-reasoned argument by Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and a thoughtful decision by Judge Henry Hudson, Obamacare may soon be joining “Carter for President 1980” and “Keith Olbermann on Sunday Night Football” on the ash-heap of monumentally bad ideas.

In Hudson's landmark ruling of earlier this week, he called the fundamental tenet of the misleadingly-monikered Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)—specifically, the fine for non-compliance—exactly what it is: A grotesque grab for power by the same Democrats who have been lying about Obamacare's effects all along.

Thankfully, there are Federal judges who have not only read the Constitution, but understand it. You may count Judge Henry Hudson among them. In striking down Section 1501 of

the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the part that requires you to buy comprehensive coverage or face a fine), Hudson wrote:

“The unchecked expansion of congressional power to the limits suggested by the Minimum Essential Coverage Provision would invite unbridled exercise of federal police powers.”

Put simply: the Federal government does not have the prerogative to force people to buy health insurance; and “policy raids by The Doctor Police” is just plain Big Brother-creepy. Democrats hoping to utilize the Constitution’s Commerce Clause (Article I, Section 8, Clause 3) to force citizens to buy into a government-run system felt the back of Hudson’s hand; he noted that section 1501 of the PPACA “exceeds the Commerce Clause powers vested in Congress under Article 1.”

And how! In addition to levying a financial penalty on citizens who choose to eschew the government’s healthcare boondoggle, Obamacare actually penalizes younger, healthier citizens who DO participate, by forcing insurance companies to cease the practice of offering lower rates to the fittest among us based on academic projections.

Fortunately, Hudson saw through the veneer of Democrat duplicity. It should be noted that the Democrats were perfectly willing to acknowledge that Section 1501 mandated a non-participation penalty right up until the Obama Administration found itself defending the bill in Federal Court, at which point the “penalty” became a “tax.” Not so fast, said Hudson:

“Having concluded that Section 1501(b)(1) is... **a penalty as opposed to a tax** (author’s emphasis)... Congress lacked power under the Commerce Clause... to compel an individual to involuntarily engage in a private commercial transaction...

The absence of a constitutionally viable exercise of this enumerated power is fatal to the accompanying sanction for non-compliance.”

Notice Hudson said “sanction” and not “tax.” Through the Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) provision, the Democrats were planning to institute the first tax in U.S. history paid by people for NOT buying something.

While Hudson’s decision DID sever Section 1501 from the PPACA as opposed to simply gunning down the whole bureaucratic monstrosity which is Obamacare, the bill can be regarded as surviving on legislative life support. More Federal cases are in the pipeline, notably in Florida, where 16 states’ Attorneys General are leading the charge to stuff Obamacare back in the Democrats’ pieholes.

Judge Roger Vinson has already ruled that the case can go forward. Vinson’s ruling is déjà vu for the Democrats; Hudson issued a similar ruling in Virginia back in August. There are also religious exemptions which are begging for a 1st Amendment challenge, the obvious 10th Amendment issues, and a privacy case regarding the PPACA’s data-mining intrusions and more—it’s a cornucopia of constitutional contentions—and just in time for Christmas!

Most importantly, without Section 1501’s penalty for failure to buy insurance at Big Barry’s, the PPACA is a legislative paper tiger. The bulk of the Obamacare power grab rested on the threat of enforcement. The Democrats wanted control of the nation’s healthcare apparatus and violated the Constitution to facilitate their greed. Now, the PPACA is little more than a 2,700-page suggestion that people purchase insurance in the manner proscribed.

The uninsured will continue to make their choices. Indigent care, Medicare and the host of other taxpayer-

subsidized healthcare services will still require funding. Only now, with the PPACA and attendant layers of bureaucracy, make-work jobs and functionary excess which ALWAYS ride shotgun on overarching Federal legislation, more money will still be required. When the loss of the MEC enforcement provision is factored in—the taxpayers are going to have foot the bill anyway.

The proper response here is not: “Why not just pass it?” The proper response IS: “How about we dump the whole bill like we dumped the Democrat House majority?”

CHAPTER 6

Graft And Corruption

The Obama Administration is one of the most corrupt in history. Here we examine some of the most egregious offenses and offenders of the Administration. —BL

Barack Obama's Corrupt Cronies

November 6, 2009 by Chip Wood

Thank you, Michelle Malkin. Thank you for reminding us that it's not just Barack Obama's policies that are often wrong; it's the people who surround him that are a large part of the problem.

Thank you for writing your bestselling book, *Culture of Corruption*, to give us the documented proof, as you put it, of the "tax cheats, crooks and cronies" with whom he has chosen to associate.

And thank you for granting an exclusive interview to *Personal Liberty Digest™*, so we can remind our 750,000 subscribers of just how dangerous many of those people and programs are.

One of the first things Malkin and I discussed when we spoke was the mainstream media's fawning favoritism toward Barack Obama and his Administration and their relentless bias against anyone and anything to the right of Nancy Pelosi.



As just one example, Malkin described how *The New York Times* sold millions of dollars worth of Obama memorabilia during and after the campaign. I asked her, “Isn’t it a little unusual for a major media outlet to profit so directly from a candidate?”

“You would think so,” was her sardonic reply. “But if you’ll take a look at my blog at www.michellemalkin.com you’ll be able to see some of the actual merchandise, which really, literally deifies Barack Obama. There are glorious, glowing photos of the president with halos behind him. All sorts of political swag promoting his campaign and then the inauguration.”

And then she made this very telling point: “Imagine if a newspaper out there had been doing this during the Bush years—selling merchandise that glorified George W. and his candidacy. Why, *The New York Times* would have been all over it.”

By the way, one of the things the *Times* has *not* been

all over is Malkin's book. When we spoke, *Culture of Corruption* had been riding atop the *NYT's* own bestseller list for almost two months. But the paper itself has never published a review of it. Imagine that. The newspaper's own survey ranked her book No. 1 in sales across the country yet refused to even review it!

We talked for a while about the incredible bias and intellectual dishonesty of the Left. Then I asked her if she detected a growing tone of desperation in their attacks on conservatives.

"I certainly do," she said. "The left simply cannot help itself. They degenerate into ad hominem attacks and very ugly language, bigotry and intolerance. Even with their control of the White House and both branches of Congress they can't contain themselves.

"We've seen this in their attacks and their rhetoric against the town hall protestors and the Tea Party movement. Their knee-jerk resort to things like the race card. It belies the promise that under Obama we were heading into a post-racial era in this country. We certainly are not. The first thing they do is accuse us of racism, whether it's our criticism of healthcare legislation or Joe Wilson's calling out of the President during his speech to a joint session of Congress. There is more than a smidge of desperation in their tactics."

There are nine chapters in *Culture of Corruption* and every one of them is loaded with facts and anecdotes that need to be more widely known. But if there were one chapter that, by itself, is worth the price of the book and then some, it's the second one, which she titled, "First Crony Michelle Obama."

As Malkin puts it, "Star-struck liberal journalists swoon

over Michelle O's bare arms, but it's her bare-knuckles they should be watching." Here's how the bestselling author put it during our discussion:

"The mainstream media pays a lot of attention to Michelle Obama's toned arms and what shoes she's wearing. I pay a lot more attention to the political muscle she has flexed over the years. There's been a lot of white-washing of her own political history. But what she does is marry a lot of the hard-left ideology—the class warfare, the politics of racial resentment—with the Chicago way of hardball tactics, cracking heads and cracking knuckles."

Malkin's book is loaded with carefully documented exposés of activities by both Obamas that will shock even the most cynical observer. If you doubt that, just turn to page 52 of *Culture of Corruption* and read the section that begins, "Mrs. O Screws the Poor." I have to confess: even I didn't realize what a sordid history the First Lady has.

Bring any of this up publicly, of course, and you can count on Obama's defenders to smear you mercilessly. As Michelle Malkin put it when we talked, "These are the folks who called their opponents 'political terrorists.' That phrase was used not just by Democrat leaders, but of course by all their satellite organizations as well."

One of the most powerful and dangerous of those satellites is the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)—a group that poured \$60 million to \$80 million into Democrat coffers to get Barack Obama elected. Their investment is paying off handsomely, as their legislative agenda is on the front burner of the White House. In fact, we have learned that SEIU President Andy Stern has been one of the most frequent visitors to the White House.

“The SEIU not only uses these bully tactics,” Malkin told me, “they specialize in them. It wasn’t until some of their henchmen showed up at various town hall meetings that we saw actual violence.”

She then continued: “The SEIU, which calls itself the purple shirts of the purple army, has a long and proud history of thug tactics. Their President is quoted in my book about his organizing philosophy, where he says they prefer to use the power of persuasion. But if that doesn’t work, they will use the persuasion of power. That’s not just an idle threat, that’s a guarantee.

“It’s not just healthcare they want. Their holy grail is the card-check bill. If they get it, it will radically transform the political landscape. They now have 1.8 million members and they see card check as the way to vastly inflate their membership rolls and subsequently, of course, their campaign coffers.”

Bad as it has been, Michelle expects the use of terror and intimidation to get worse. “Team Obama is notorious for that,” she explained, “going back to the campaign days of trying to stifle dissent through sheer intimidation. Now they are using the power of government to try to silence their opponents as well.”

As we came near the end of our interview, I asked Michelle about the dedication of her book. “The book is dedicated to the whistleblowers,” she explained. “Many of them worked in the trenches for Barack Obama’s satellite organizations. They saw the raft of broken promises that he’s left over the past several months on transparency, ethics and accountability; core issues that transcend partisanship and ideology.”

And then she concluded, “If Barack Obama can’t deliver on these, what does it tell you about the era of hope and change?”

It tells you that it was a complete farce. That is what my book documents, extensively and comprehensively.”

As I said, there’s lots of scary stuff between the covers of *Culture of Corruption*. Malkin has done us all a huge service in compiling the sorry, shoddy record of the Obamas and those they have invited into their inner circle.

If you don’t already own a copy, do yourself and your country a favor and order one. In fact, order several and loan the extras to some less-alarmed friends. Believe me, if they’ll read it, *Culture of Corruption* will act like a very loud alarm bell going off alongside their head.

Go and wake them up!

If You Are Known By The Company You Keep, What Do Obama’s Associates Say About Him?

October 26, 2009 by *Bob Livingston*

In the Aesop’s Fable, “The Ass and His Purchaser,” a man looking to buy a donkey wanted to test the animal before completing the purchase. So he put the donkey in his field with the other donkeys to see what would happen.

The donkey immediately strayed from the majority of the herd and cozied up to the laziest donkey of all.

Seeing that, the man led the donkey back to his owner. When the owner asked how he could judge the donkey’s character so quickly the man explained, “I didn’t even need to see how he worked. I knew he would be just like the one he chose to be his friend.”

A person is known by the company he keeps.

Fables are popular because they tell the stories of the way things in life really work. In business, when someone takes over a department or company, that person promotes those he or she likes to positions of authority. The new manager seeks out those who have a philosophy, work ethic and disposition similar to his own.

One would expect a President to do the same thing. After all, a President is elected—supposedly—based on the vision, ideas and proposals he championed during the campaign. It would then make sense that he would put in place those who supported his vision and would therefore be enthusiastic in working to achieve it.

So who are President Barack Obama's friends, and who has he put in charge of the effort to enact his policies? And what do the friends he has chosen and the people he has put in positions of authority in his Administration say about him?

Following, in alphabetical order, is a list of some of Obama's friends, advisors and people charged with enacting his policies:

- **William Ayers**—Now a professor of education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Ayers spent 10 years as a fugitive in the 1970s when he was part of the domestic terrorist organization known as the Weather Underground. In the early 1970s the Weather Underground was responsible for bombing the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., and setting a bomb that didn't go off at a military induction center in Oakland, Calif. The group also murdered two policemen and a Brink's truck driver in a botched armored car robbery, according to the FBI's website. Ayers surrendered to face charges in the 1980s, but the charges

were dropped because of improper surveillance. Coincidentally, on Sept. 11, 2001, Ayers was being interviewed about a book he had written and he told the interviewer he didn't think the Weather Underground had done enough.

Ayers and Obama first crossed paths in Chicago in the 1990s and served together on the board of the not-for-profit Chicago Annenberg Challenge, a boondoggle to spend tens-of-millions of dollars for their pet "education" projects. Obama downplayed his friendship with Ayers as casual, but evidence indicates their relationship was much more. Many now believe that Ayers penned Obama's "autobiography," *Dreams from My Father*.

- **Carol Browner**—Obama's Director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy, Browner is an avowed socialist. She served as one of 14 leaders of Socialist International's Commission for a Sustainable World Society, which calls for global governance and says rich countries must shrink their economies to address climate change, according to an article in *The Washington Times*. The group supports socialism and has been harshly critical of U.S. policies. She is also a supporter of smart growth policies, as we have described previously. Browner also served on the board of Al Gore's Alliance for Climate Protection, though her name was scrubbed from the site after Obama tapped her for the director's position. Not surprisingly, Obama's transition team told *Times* Browner's membership in a socialist organization was not a problem.
- **Frank Marshall Davis**—You won't find Davis' name on an organizational chart of White House staff, but he was instrumental in forming the political philosophy of Barack Hussein Obama. Called "Uncle Frank" in *Dreams from*

My Father, Davis was a member of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA), according to a 1951 report of the Commission on Subversive Activities to the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii. Obama has admitted to spending time with Uncle Frank—who he cryptically describes as being a person of some modest notoriety at one time—and listening to his poetry and getting career path advice. Davis may also have been a pedophile. Writing under the pseudonym Bob Greene, Davis wrote a debased pornographic novel titled, *Sex Rebel: Black (Memoirs of a Gash Gourmet)*, in which he describes group sex encounters and sex he and his wife had with a 13-year-old girl named Anne. Davis died in 1987.

- Anita Dunn—As White House Communications advisor, Dunn has been seen a lot lately as the face of the Obama Administration’s strategy to try and discredit *Fox News*. She is described on *Politico.com* as a veteran Democratic strategist and top advisor on Obama’s Presidential campaign. As the war between the Obama White House (see more under Rahm Emanuel) and *Fox* has escalated, videotape has surfaced showing Dunn gloating over how the campaign “controlled” the media. Another videotape surfaced showing Dunn speaking at a high school graduation ceremony where she praised Marxist/Communist Chinese Premier Mao Zedong as one of her favorite philosophers and one of the two people she turns to most. It’s difficult to understand how Mao had time to philosophize, as he was busy killing somewhere between 50 million and 70 million of his country’s citizens during his 27-year reign of terror.
- Ezekiel Emanuel—The President’s Special Advisor for Health Policy, Ezekiel is brother to White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel. Ezekiel is the source of Sarah Palin’s death panel idea. This Emanuel has written that he

believes many healthcare treatments should be denied to those under 15 and over 65 to save money, the rationale being that only people between 15 and 65 are beneficial to society.

- **Rahm Emanuel**—Obama’s (former) White House Chief of Staff, Emanuel is a thug Chicago politician who once sent a two-and-a-half foot long, dead and decomposing fish to lobbyist Allen Secrest to express his displeasure. He’s known for his full-time use of gutter language and once told then-British Prime Minister Tony Blair just before an appearance with Bill Clinton during the Monica Lewinsky scandal: “This is important. Don’t f**k it up.” He also coined the phrase, “You never want a serious crisis to go to waste.” He’s also behind the ridiculous policy of starting a fight with television news agency *Fox News*.
- **Chai Feldblum**—Nominated by the President to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Feldblum signed a radical 2006 manifesto that endorsed polygamous households and argued traditional marriage should not be privileged “above all others,” according to a report in *Catholic News Agency*. According to a statement from the White House, Feldblum has worked on advancing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.” She is co-director of Workplace Flexibility 2010, which she described at a UCLA symposium as a homosexual rights group that aimed to change the American workplace and revolutionize social mores, according to a report on the *WorldnetDaily* website.
- **Patrick Gaspard**—White House Political Director Gaspard was formerly a lobbyist for SEIU, the union that sent its thugs out to disrupt Tea Party protests and stir up trouble

at town hall meetings in August, 2009. Prior to that, Gaspard worked as national field director for Americans Coming Together (ACT), a sub-group of the Association for Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). ACT was fined \$775,000 in civil penalties by the Federal government for various voter fraud offenses.

- Eric Holder—The Attorney General of the United States is an anti-gun racist who, in 2009, referred to the United States as “a nation of cowards” on race relations. He also has an interesting take on justice. He worked to convince President Bill Clinton to pardon billionaire fugitive Mark Rich (convicted of fraud and racketeering), Weather Underground (where have we heard of that organization before?) terrorists Susan Rosenberg and Linda Evans, and he declined to prosecute New Black Panther brutes who stood over a Pennsylvania polling station with baseball bats intimidating voters. Oh yes, he also wants to bring Guantanamo Bay prisoners to the United States.
- John Holdren—Obama’s Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy is not only an abortion supporter, he is an abortion nut who believes that compulsory abortions could be sustained under the existing U.S. Constitution if a population crisis arose. He also supports mass sterilization of the U.S. population through lacing the country’s water supply with drugs. Holdren authored with two other people a book titled, *Ecoscience*, promoting their loony ideas about population control and One World Government—or what they called a Planetary Regime—to regulate international trade, the food supply and determine the optimum population for the world.
- Valerie Jarrett—*The New York Times* called Jarrett, Obama Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President for

Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs, the ultimate Obama insider. She has also been called the other half of Obama's brain. She's another one of those Chicago thug politicians who has gamed the system—including operating as a slumlord—for her own benefit. Her company, Habitat, Inc., managed the Grove Parc housing complex that was located in the district represented by then State Senator Obama. As State Senator, Obama coauthored a bill to give tax credits for developers that Jarrett used on the complex. As U.S. Senator, Obama pressed for increased Federal subsidies for like projects. Despite receiving government funds and tax credits, Grove Parc was ordered demolished because of its deplorable condition. She also served the administrations of Chicago mayors Harold Washington and Richard Daley, both scandal-plagued. Washington, by the way, was backed in his bid for mayor by Chicago's Communist Party and the local branch of the Democratic Socialists of America. Called by *The Washington Post* a tutor to Obama and his wife Michelle, Jarrett is the step-daughter of Chicago journalist Vernon Jarrett. Vernon Jarrett was an associate of Frank Marshall Davis, Obama's mentor, when Davis lived in Chicago prior to moving to Hawaii.

- Kevin Jennings—This former school teacher and long-time gay rights activist was named Obama's Safe Schools Czar. He has accused Baptists, the Boy Scouts and sports fans of anti-gay bias, and advocates a special high school for gay teens and gay-straight alliance clubs for every high school in America, according to a report in *CNSNews.com*. He believes that kindergartners should be taught to respect all sexual orientations while insisting that “ex-gay messages” and “Christian values” are misused to isolate or denigrate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and have no place in the nation's public schools, *CNSNews.com*

reported. Oh yeah, he also supports pedophilia. While Jennings was a teacher, a minor student told Jennings that he was having gay sex with an adult. Jennings covered it up. He also has praised Harry Hay, a defender of the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), which promotes legalization of sexual abuse of young boys by older men.

- Van Jones—Once Obama’s White House Environmental Advisor, Jones was fired in the dead of night on a holiday weekend after a video surfaced in which he called Republicans a bodily orifice, and after a controversial document he signed was revealed. That document accused former President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney of either planning or knowing ahead of time about the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. In addition to being a 9/11 Truther, Jones is an avowed Communist. He was appointed to his position by Valerie Jarrett, who has been seen on video praising Jones and saying she and Obama had been watching Jones for a long time.
- Mark Lloyd—FCC Diversity Czar, is also known as the man who wants to stifle free speech in America like Hugo Chavez does in Venezuela. He has been videotaped saying the Chavez revolution in Venezuela was almost lost because of the privately owned media. Chavez, of course, is the Marxist dictator of Venezuela, personal friend to Communist dictator Fidel Castro of Cuba and Islamic terrorist dictator Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran. In 2006, while at the liberal Center for American Progress, Lloyd wrote a book titled, *Prologue to a Farce: Communications and Democracy in America*. In it he presents the idea that all private broadcasters should be charged licensing fees at a rate equal to their operating expenses and that money should go to the *Public Broadcasting System (PBS)*. In a 2007 report titled, “The

Structural Imbalance of Political Talk Radio,” Lloyd complains that people want to listen to Christian and conservative talk radio rather than liberal radio, and lists ways the Federal government can fix the “problem.” His solution would include caps on the number of local stations a corporation can own, ensure greater local accountability on radio licensing and require owners who fail to fulfill their obligations to pay a fee to support *PBS*.

- Cecelia Munoz—Now White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Munoz was previously Senior Vice President of The National Council of La Raza, the largest Hispanic lobbying organization in the country, which has called national anti-immigration groups “hate groups.” La Raza, which literally translates as “The Race,” funds extremist groups and supports illegal immigration as a way of obtaining political power. The group advocates taking the Southwest U.S. for the purpose of creating a new Hispanic state.
- Cass Sunstein—Administrator of the White House Office of Administration and Regulatory Affairs, Sunstein is a Harvard Law School professor and dingbat who has—in writings and speeches—called for a ban on all hunting and claims that animals should be represented by lawyers in animal abuse cases. He is a socialist who has advocated for gun control and heavy regulation of the Internet. He also wrote in his 2008 book, *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth and Happiness*, that he believes people’s organs can be harvested without their consent. Sunstein would like to see personal email communications regulated by the government and believes the Internet is anti-democratic because of the way users can filter out information of their own choosing.
- Rev. Jeremiah Wright—Obama sat in Wright’s church

for 20 years yet claims to have never heard any of the hate-filled racism that crossed his lips. Wright's anti-Semitic, anti-American sermons came to light during the campaign. Among his claims: the U.S. government was responsible for infecting Blacks with the virus that causes AIDS, America was responsible for the 9/11 attacks—"the chickens have come home to roost"—and Jews are responsible for ethnic cleansing in Gaza and are pressuring Obama associates to keep Wright and Obama separated.

These are just a few of the folks who have occupied or currently occupy Obama's inner circle. Although he was passed off by mainstream media as being centrist and moderate, many of his friends are anything but that, and some are actually quite radical. And when you parse some of his words or find video or audio from several years ago you know that Obama himself has some radical views.

But the media ignored Obama's ties to radicals and communists. That, and Obama's soaring rhetoric, led many otherwise thoughtful and good people down the primrose path, and they voted for him without realizing what they were getting into.

But as the truth gets out about his associates, the cover is coming off. He's becoming known by the company he keeps, as well as by his own deeds.

Government Is Stealing Your Wealth And Planning For More

February 1, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

If you watched the State of the Union speech Jan. 27, 2010, you saw the hypocrisy of Barack Obama laid out in plain view.

He chided those who are already campaigning while

having run a perpetual campaign for most of his first two years. He called on Republicans to participate in the process while having locked them out for a full year. He played the American people for fools, saying they were against Obamacare because he had not talked about it enough and therefore the poor, unwashed masses just didn't understand it. And he vowed to freeze spending while proposing more boondoggle projects that'll require the Federal government to print more money to pay for them. And then he did what he does best: He blamed George W. Bush.

After that, he vowed to go full steam ahead with what he did the previous year. That's a prescription for disaster for the American people.

You would think that the political system would do everything possible to protect, above all, the producers and savers of wealth. Yet they are attacked from all sides. Obama and company are sharpening their knives for a big roundup on the cattle farm.

Like Bush and Presidents before him—and Congresses before this one—they steal the world with paper money that costs them nothing, yet they transfer guilt and heap ever more taxes on the people. They love the words “tax cheats” and “illegal foreign bank accounts.”

Yes, the foxes are in charge of the hen house. The people are pacified with propaganda, bread and circus. Why swallow all this hypocrisy and insult? The answer is that the people don't know, and they don't know that they don't know. They are fed pacifism in their churches and pabulum in their schools and they never ask questions.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) now wants 1,000 new agents to enforce more tax collections. How can a

minority criminal element make perpetual war on the majority? The answer is that they have propaganda and they have the guns. And don't forget they have the printing presses to spew out fiat.

Do you know that it is a crime to try to keep what you earn and save? Just try to hold onto what "Uncle Sam" claims you owe.



I cannot believe the downright ignorance of even the most "educated" people about the nature of fiat paper money and how governments enslave the whole world with their hoax.

Think now! The American people strive to get educated, they work their entire lives as professionals or non-professionals and they never so much as ask a question about paper money and how it transfers their labor and wealth to the government. They don't know that when they go to a commercial bank to get a loan that the bank doesn't loan them money that it has in its vaults. It just writes you a check. The bank "makes a loan" with non-substance that costs it nothing, yet requiring you to use real collateral.

You have to give up or risk something for nothing. This is slavery, even though it has a pretty face. Bankers don't look and act like crooks in the community. In fact they don't even know what they are doing. They never question the system.

Is Obama forcing an exodus? Yes, companies and individuals will go elsewhere. Watch!

Well known tax attorney, Marshall Langer, says Obama

plans a value added tax (VAT) like Europe has. Once started it will get higher and higher. These humanoids never tire of hypocrisy. Can you believe it? Yes, I believe they will implement the VAT. This will be a tax on everybody.

When you read nonsense like the government has new debt of \$1.7 trillion, just consider it default. Fiat implies default the day it is created. What is wrong with us? Regardless of what we want to think there is no such thing as government debt. He who prints the money has no debt. Yes, everybody else owes debt, except the Federal government with the printing presses.

They call it a financial crisis, but what it is, is a new war on savers who have found that they are now too poor to retire. They may have decided that their pension-fund managers deserved to be jailed.

Already many people have come to realize that they will have to work until they are 75 to 80 years old. Governments are going to tax the living hell out of Americans as they inflate their own “liabilities” away.

There is no way to win in a rigged regime of paper money. It’s a perpetual treadmill. Did you think that you would see this? General Electric and Berkshire Hathaway have lost their triple-A credit ratings. Is this the world that we live in?

Yes, expect anything but prepare for inflation (a crashing dollar and serious depreciation of purchasing power). Prepare for more taxes and more bureaucratic oppression. You may see troops and armored cars in more places. You will hear the words “hoarders” and “speculators.”

But you know the meaning of the whole thing. It will be the rumblings and death rattle of a terminal regime trying to hold on.

Still, you should be buying gold coins and pre-1964 U.S. silver coins. You should be storing food. You should still get some money out of the U.S. while it is still legal. Exchange your paper money now for much more paper money later, plus survival. Depreciation of the currency is going on now!

The End Of The Rule Of Law

August 2, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

Some call the Barack Obama Administration progressive. Some call it socialist. Other terms used are Marxist and communist. I have called it fascist and corporatist in the past. Now I'll just call it Evil.

That's because the rule of law is dead in America. Now we have the rule of man—or government agency. The rule of man—or government agency—is a rule of Evil because it knows only the moral bounds of those making the rules. And it's evident this Administration, its appointments and its goals, are amoral, if not immoral. In America there is a Federal law that makes being in the United States illegally illegal. There is a requirement in the law that those who are not United States citizens but are here legally must carry papers designating their legal status.

That law is not enforced. Why? Someone decided not to. Granted it hasn't been enforced for some time, maybe since its enactment in the 1940s, but it is a law and it should be enforced or changed. Were we under the rule of law it would be.

In Arizona the legislature followed the rule of law—and the will of its citizens—and passed an immigration law, subsequently signed by Governor Jan Brewer. It

mirrors the U.S. law. However, the Obama Administration made it plain it would not only not help Arizona enforce its law it would work actively against its enforcement. It sued to stop the law from being enacted. It ordered its Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Division not to pick up any illegals Arizona arrested under the law.

What you have is the Federal government prohibiting a State from enforcing a law the Federal government has refused to enforce. Obama decided the law was contrary to his own self-interest. Obama became the law.

The rule of law was dead and the rule of man—or government agency—had triumphed.

The Administration's challenge of the law was upheld by Federal Judge Susan Bolton. The law gutted and effectively stopped on the day before it was set to take effect. That's not a surprise. Federal judges, after all, are entities of the government and have come to regularly strike down laws passed by the people.

Bolton, appointed by Democrat Bill Clinton, is probably now hoping for a promotion to the Ninth Circuit, or perhaps to the Supreme Court. With the way Obama hands out job offers, perhaps she's already been promised one.

Notice that Federal judges rarely strike down laws passed by the fascist elected class contrary to the people's wishes—or to the Constitution.

And while the U.S. Justice Department was working to get Arizona's legally-passed and lawful immigration law struck down it was doing nothing to require sanctuary cities—those which provide safe harbor to law breakers—to enforce the current immigration law.

The rule of man—or government agency—strikes again.

Meanwhile, thousands of acres of Arizona are now declared off limits to Americans and ceded to Mexican drug cartels and human traffickers. Calls for assistance by local law enforcement to take back their territory—U.S. territory—are ignored by this Evil Administration.

Obama has decided enforcing our Southern border is contrary to his interests. He told Senator Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) that he was not interested in border enforcement because if border enforcement were stepped up Republicans would be reluctant to move on comprehensive immigration reform.

The rule of man—or government agency—is sovereign.

The Obama Justice Department under Attorney General Eric Holder—who has called Americans a nation of cowards when it comes to race—threw out charges against three members of the New Black Panther Party (NBPP) who were convicted of intimidating voters outside a Pennsylvania voting booth. Some of those same NBPP members have called for the killing of “white cracker babies.” Note: Where did they call for this/reference? The Obama Justice Department turned a blind eye.

The rule of man—or government agency—takes precedence.

Ignoring the Constitution, Congress passed a healthcare reform bill—dubbed Obamacare—against the will of the majority. It will impose onerous taxes and regulations on the citizens and result in rationing of substandard healthcare and higher prices.

Obama, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) are the new Axis of Evil. They pushed the bill through despite massive grassroots protests, and when asked where in the Constitution they got the authority, they scoffed.

The rule of man—or government agency—is supreme.

The Axis of Evil knows this. Seeking to drive up energy costs and limit the amount of energy resources available to Americans, Obama and his Axis of Evil cohorts want to pass a cap-and-trade bill. Obama is on record and on video acknowledging such a bill will “necessarily cause energy costs to skyrocket.”

Fascists hoping to secure their re-election have become hesitant to embrace a comprehensive energy tax bill before the 2010 election, but hold out the prospect of passing it after the election. The Axis of Evil wants it done as soon as it’s politically feasible—even if that means during a lame duck session of Congress.

If that fails the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said it will enact its own version of cap-and-trade. There is no provision for such a thing in the Constitution. That no longer matters.

The rule of man—or government agency—trumps all.

After several false flag terrorist events on airliners the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) began installing backscatter x-ray machines—naked body scanners—in airports and requiring passengers to pass through them before boarding an airplane.

Oh yes, you can decline the cancer-causing dose of radiation, but you must subject yourself to a full-body groping by TSA personnel. Many who have chosen this alternative have described the procedure as being done contemptuously by the agent, as if by declining the irradiation you have somehow offended the agent in charge of your humiliation.

Some who have protested at the vigor with which the agent poked, prodded and felt in the most private of places have then been hauled into back rooms, interrogated as if they were criminals and strip searched. Usually this extra-curricular harassment lasted until the passenger's plane had long since left the terminal. Some passengers have even been arrested.

Now there is word the TSA wants portable backscatter x-ray machines so they can irradiate and ogle passengers boarding trains and buses and people entering sporting events and concerts.

This is the Evil of the rule of man—or government agency.

For the last several years Federal Reserve policies kept interest rates unjustifiably low, creating a bubble in housing and other sectors of the economy. Large financial institutions, with nothing to lose because of government regulations in place to save them, played fast and loose with investments. They played both sides against the middle and falsified the risk to their investors.

The economy imploded and about 15 million Americans are now out of work, millions more are underemployed, and many have lost their homes, their retirements, their businesses and their dignity.

At the same time, those responsible for regulating those institutions—including members of Congress—received special enrichment deals like low-interest loans and cushy lobbying jobs. The institutions received government bail-outs, the members of Congress and the regulators felt no pain, only gain.

In the recently passed financial reform legislation, pushed

by the Axis of Evil and signed into law by Obama, is a provision that exempts the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from disclosing records or information compiled during investigations, even if requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). It was FIOA requests by *Fox Business Channel* that led to the discovery of SEC failures in the Bernie Madoff, R. Allen Stanford and Pequot Asset Management cases that resulted in new charges being filed and a revamp of SEC policies. The SEC was embarrassed because it had failed to properly investigate those cases. You can be certain it's no accident those provisions were in the new law.

The financial reform legislation also puts an end to free checking accounts, raises fees for ATMs and makes credit difficult to obtain. It gives the President broad new unconstitutional powers. What it doesn't do is what the Axis of Evil said it would: reduce the chance that another financial meltdown will occur.

The rule of man—or government agency—prevailed.

As the economy continues to limp along we get mixed signals out of the Axis of Evil and their minions—Ben Bernanke, Timothy Geithner. “Everything is fine.” “We’ve created or saved millions of jobs.” “The economy is on the rebound.” “Green shoots.” “The weakness will continue.” “We need more stimulus.” “Extend tax cuts.” “Repeal tax cuts.”

All the while they are killing jobs and stifling economic growth through stimulus bills, regulation, uncertainty, higher taxes, extended unemployment benefits and outright, overt attempts to destroy the oil industry in America by preventing new drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and on the U.S. mainland.

They don't warn you of the coming crash. They don't tell you to buy gold. They deny that inflation is here and hyperinflation is coming. They want you impoverished. They want you subservient. They want you crawling to them in need. They are Evil.

The rule of man—or government agency—protects its own at the expense of the populace.

And Obama surrounds himself with like-minded thinkers, appointing czars over this and that and making unjustified recess appointments—bypassing the Constitutional requirement that cabinet heads be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate.

And who are these people he's appointing? They are avowed communists, practicing Marxists, anti-Semitic Islamists, perverts that promote sex with children, homosexual activists, secularists, atheists and radical environmentalists.

Unlike the rule of law, which is color blind and equal, the rule of man—or government agency—is out for one thing: Creating a totalitarian state and advancing the agenda and enrichment of the man (or woman) setting the policy and running the agency.

That is Evil.

Texas Resisting Obama Power Grab

August 27, 2010 by Bob Livingston

Sensing the political failure of the Left's environmental whacko agenda of raising energy costs to cap emissions of a gas we all exhale and that plants need to thrive—carbon dioxide—President Barack Obama has instructed his Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to rewrite its Clean Air Act and give itself authority it doesn't have.

Thankfully, one state is resisting: Texas.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbot and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Chairman Bryan W. Shaw call the EPA's actions an illegal power grab and in a letter to



**You don't mess
with Texas!**

the EPA they wrote:

“In order to deter challenges to your plan for centralized control of industrial development through the issuance of permits for greenhouse gases, you have called upon each state to declare its allegiance to the Environmental Protection Agency’s recently enacted greenhouse gas regulations—regulations that are plainly contrary to U.S. laws... To encourage acquiescence with your unsupported findings you threaten to usurp state enforcement authority and to federalize the permitting program of any state that

fails to pledge their fealty to the Environmental Protection Agency. On behalf of the State of Texas, we write to inform you that Texas has neither the authority nor the intention of interpreting, ignoring or amending its laws in order to compel the permitting of greenhouse gas emissions.”

In an op-ed piece in the Aug. 26, 2010, issue of *The Washington Times*, Texas state director of Americans for Prosperity Peggy Venable writes:

“Federalist principles have allowed Texas to become the strongest state in the union. The Lone Star State leads the nation in job creation, is the top state for business relocation and has more *Fortune 500* companies than

any other state and is the top state for wind generation. President Obama said he wants to double U.S. exports in five years; he could look to Texas, as we are the top exporting state in the country. The Obama Administration could learn a lot from Texas.”

Instead, Obama is attempting to ride roughshod over Texas, and it goes beyond the greenhouse-gas issue.

After 16 years of allowing Texas to run its own permitting program to meet Federal air-quality standards, in May the EPA announced the state was not in compliance with Federal regulations. This, despite that Texas had met or exceeded its clean air obligations the entire time.

The Obama Administration’s agenda is simple: Grab more and more power from the States and consolidate it under the Federal government. Thankfully, Texas will have no part of it.

If only the other 49 States will follow Texas’ lead.

Gangster Government Puts Its Boot On Texas’ Neck

May 27, 2011 by Bob Livingston

A letter from U.S. Attorney John E. Murphy threatening to halt all flights to and from the State of Texas has spurred a Texas legislator to pull his bill that would have prevented the Transportation Security Administration from carrying out its gropefest/pornshow activities in that State.

It’s just the latest in a series of strong-arm tactics employed by the current gangster government as it seeks to impose its will on its subjects.

Texas' politicians sought to stand up for the rights of its citizens and criminalize any searches and seizures conducted without probable cause. The bill came on the heels of a litany of abuses by TSA agents at airports, where travelers—including children and infants—were subjected to humiliating and intrusive pat downs.

The U.S. Justice Department (now there's an oxymoron) has taken to using threats to impose government will as a matter of course. In April 2009, an assistant attorney general threatened to withhold Federal funds if Oklahoma amended its State Constitution to make English the official language of the State. Also in 2009, similar letters were sent to both Montana and Tennessee threatening over their Firearms Freedom acts. Last month, Governor Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island received a letter from the Justice Department threatening the State over its medical marijuana legislation.

The Administration of President Barack Obama has brought Chicago-style politics to the White House. And right now, because States have become so dependent on Federal largess, there's not much that can be done about it—especially when dealing with an Administration that cares not a whit about the rule of law.

Washingtonexaminer.com columnist Michael Barone described another aspect of the ruling thugocracy and its habit of rewarding friends and penalizing enemies here.

But several States are considering legislation similar to Texas, and there's strength in numbers. Should the Justice Department impose no-fly zones on a half-dozen or more States at a time, getting enough votes to win an election in 2012 is going to be a difficult prospect for Obama.

Hat Tip: 10th Amendment Center.

Arming Criminals To Disarm Americans

March 9, 2011 by *Bob Livingston*

If any remain under the delusion that the government doesn't work covertly and break its own laws to achieve its own nefarious ends, that delusion should be dispelled once and for all with revelation by a Federal agent that the United States Justice Department ordered agents to sit idly by as weapons were smuggled into Mexico for use by drug cartels and criminal gangs.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms senior agent John Dodson told *CBS News* that he and his fellow agents in the Phoenix office were ordered to do just that to see where the guns would end up. They ended up killing U.S. Border Patrol agent Brian Terry on Dec. 14, 2010.

Dodson told the news organization that he and other senior agents confronted their supervisors many times over the practice. Their answer, according to Dodson, "If you're going to make an omelet, you've got to break some eggs." The operation, Dodson was told, was approved by higher-ups the Justice Department.

The Los Angeles Times reported that 1,765 guns were sold to suspected smugglers during a 15-month period of the investigation, dubbed Operation Fast and Furious. Of those, 797 were recovered on both sides of the border, including 195 in Mexico **after** they were used in crimes.

"With the number of guns we let walk, we'll never know how many people were killed, raped, robbed," he told the *Times*. "There is nothing we can do to round up those guns. They are gone."

More than 15,000 people died last year in Mexico's drug wars and from criminal acts by Mexican gangs. And some of those gangs routinely cross into the United States to commit crimes.

Meanwhile, the President Barack Obama Administration and many on the Left use the growing gun violence in Mexico to push for stricter gun laws in the United States.

Caught In The Sunlight

September 20, 2011 by *Ben Crystal*

On the scale of Presidential scandals, I would hardly rank the unfolding "Solyndra-Gate" at the top of the list. I'm not even sure it holds the top spot on President Barack Obama's personal disgrace chart. The growing pile of evidence indicating Obama either did know or should have known about improper ties between his Administration and the Democratic fat-wallet—and the evil genius behind Solyndra—George Kaiser doesn't reveal any murder victims; meaning it places second in my book to the still-unfolding Operation Fast and Furious debacle.

But the Solyndra bankruptcy did manage to flush a half-billion taxpayer dollars down the drain, so it certainly merits examination. Consider it: Solyndra chewed up \$500 million. For what Obama burned on his accomplices' failed solar experiment, he could have simply given every (legal) American about \$1.65. To put it another way: For the cost of the Solyndra scam, we could all enjoy a soft drink and a lottery ticket. The soft drink is more refreshing than photovoltaic cells; and the lottery ticket would be more likely to pay off.

Assessing blame for Solyndra is a fool's errand; mostly because Solyndra is simply the latest example of the scams politicians have foisted on the taxpayers since well before

President Warren Harding got his Teapot Domed in 1923. The question betrayed by Obama's "Solyndra-gate" is not how the Washington elite managed to flimflam the taxpayers again, but why.

The answer comprises more than the usual "because we can" which normally motivates the wire-pullers we foolishly keep dispatching to Washington. The roots of Solyndra-gate are firmly embedded in the pseudoscientific manure intellectual cult leader Al Gore has been shoveling since he wandered off his daddy's tobacco farm and invented the Internet: so-called global warming. Actually, we have been swallowing the various iterations of "green living" for about 50 years at this point—generally to the detriment of improved economies, better living and enhanced opportunity for everyone except the snail darter and the guy who prints those "think globally, act locally" bumper stickers.

Rachel Carson's seminal eco-babble *Silent Spring* certainly provoked the world to cut back on sending the noble mosquito to that great bayou in the sky; and we had to consign only a few million Third World children to the land of the eternal Deep Woods Off®. Of course, given American liberals' distaste for dark-skinned tykes, I suppose they consider the saving of the most annoying bug on the planet a moral victory. Drawing a line from Carson to lunatics like Al Gore and on to Solyndra-gate requires far less time than, say, sitting through Gore's Inconvenient Slide Show.

The Obama Administration appears to have willfully ignored a series of red flags in order to rescue Solyndra. Department of Energy emails (which have been partially redacted) reveal that at least one official warned that Obama's Presidency could end up trapped in the Solyndra coffin: "Questions will be asked as to why the Administration

made a bad investment, not just once (which could hopefully be explained as part of the challenge of supporting innovative technologies), but twice (which could easily be portrayed as bad judgment, or worse)... The timing will likely coincide with the 2012 campaign season heating up.” God forbid anyone worry about the 1,100 jobs, half-a-billion dollars in taxpayer money and time wasted. I wonder how far down the liberal list those minor points might be found.

Solyndra-gate is purely bad governance spurred on by global warming hysteria and political paybacks. What people miss while focusing on the 1,100 Americans who just received their pink slips, the half-a-billion in taxpayer dollars which just went up in a cloud of carbon-neutral exhaust and President Obama’s latest adventure in stupidity is the human cost of the global warming industry. Barack Obama invested a huge pile of our money in a bad scheme based on even worse reasoning: junk science combined with good, old-fashioned back-scratching. As the economy sputters like a Government Motors bailout-mobile, Obama is playing footsie with liberal moneybag types like George Kaiser. Real people really suffer real consequences when crackpot scientific theories meet greedy liberal politicians, but they are never the ones who deserve them.

Obama’s 2nd Amendment Assault

July 6, 2011 by *Bob Livingston*

Senator Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) continues to peel back the layers of the U.S. inJustice Department’s conspiracy to send arms to Mexican drug dealers and use those gun sales as a pretext to impose stricter gun laws on the American people.

Grassley has told news agencies that high-ranking

Justice Department officials were briefed on Operation Fast and Furious and Operation Gunrunner as early as October 2009. The two operations led to about 2,000 weapons crossing the border while agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives watched.

The operation came to light after ATF agent John Dodson blew the whistle following the death of Border Patrol agent Brian Terry on Dec. 14, 2010. Guns that ATF had let “walk” across the border were found at the scene of Terry’s murder. They’ve also turned up at other crime scenes and have been used in the escalating drug wars going on in Mexico.

While his top agents were busy sitting on their hands and videotaping the sale of large quantities of weapons to Mexican drug dealers in U.S. border States that were then taken illegally into Mexico, President Barack Obama was speechifying that America needed to toughen its gun laws to prevent illegal arms from going to Mexico. And it’s growing more likely that Obama’s Attorney General, the racist and virally anti-gun Eric Holder, probably knew about the practice—and, at the very least, should have known.



You'll be hard-pressed to find two people more anti-gun than Obama and Holder. Obama has been quoted as telling Sarah Brady of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence that he's working behind the scenes to restrict gun ownership.

The scandal grows closer to Holder—and by extension to Obama—with every layer Grassley peels away. If it turns out that Obama knew about the operations—or endorsed them—that will be yet another impeachable offense Obama has committed that a feckless Congress can ignore.

CHAPTER 7

The War On Terror

For all his posturing during the election about how he was going to be different from George W. Bush and end unnecessary wars and win what he called “the good war” in Afghanistan, Obama’s efforts in the War on Terror have been similar to Bush’s in a lot of ways. If anything, rather than end the wars, Obama has expanded them and has our military spread all over the globe in the name of the War on Terror. — BL

Obama The Hitman: First A Cleric, Who’s Next?

May 24, 2010 by Bob Livingston

The Administration of President Barack Obama has itself tied up in quite a knot. The Administration that opposes enhanced interrogations, that wants to treat terrorists caught both on the battlefield and in country as common criminals, that wants to try suspected 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed in a New York City courtroom, that read Miranda rights to the foreign-born underwear bomber right away but delayed it for hours for the naturalized citizen Times Square bomber, has targeted an American citizen living in Yemen for assassination.

Of course, since the United States government has a policy against assassination that’s not what it’s being called. But

what else do you call the order designating American-born radical cleric, Anwar al-Awlaki, as a target for a strike by a drone missile?

Awlaki is suspected by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of actively plotting violence. He is described in *The New York Times* as “a charismatic preacher who has said it is a religious duty to attack the United States.” The CIA says it believes Awlaki’s rhetoric inspired Times Square attempted-bomber Faisal Shahzad.

Of course Shahzad’s visit to Pakistan where he met with a member of an intelligence group with ties to the CIA surely had nothing to do with the bomb attack, but that is a topic for another day.

Whether Awlaki gets blown to bits by a Hellfire missile or shot in the head by a sniper, he’s dead and the U.S. government has become judge, jury and executioner. To eavesdrop on Awlaki’s telephone calls the CIA—because of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)—would first be required to obtain a warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. But to target him for death the CIA only needed approval from the National Security Council (NSC).

As former CIA lawyer Vicki Divoll told *The Times*, “Congress has protected Awlaki’s cell phone calls. But it has not provided any protections for his life. That makes no sense.”

I wonder if Awlaki will be read his Miranda rights before the missile explodes, or will Attorney General Eric Holder wait until afterwards and read them over Awlaki’s bits and pieces.

But wait. That might not be a problem because some



in Congress want to take away Americans' guaranteed citizenship rights if they target fellow citizens with terrorist violence.

Senator Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.), chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, said recently, "If you're attacking your fellow Americans in an act of war you lose the rights that come with citizenship."

And this is where it gets really sticky. The Obama Administration has yet to call the Times Square bomb plot an act of terrorism. On the White House website it is referred to as the "Times Square incident." Or, to paraphrase Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, it was a potential man-caused disaster.

We are no longer sliding down a slippery slope. Now we are cascading down a steep mountainside.

It began soon after 9/11 with the passage of the USA Patriot Act in the weeks following the attack. That act is already being used to strip U.S. citizens of their rights. Just ask Jose Padilla how that worked out.

Now we have an Administration that has shown a proclivity to use missile attacks from Predator drones to

kill what it is calling insurgents or terrorists in Pakistan and Afghanistan—and killing innocents in the process—saying that it’s time to use them in a country we’re not currently at war with to kill an American citizen who hasn’t harmed anyone himself.

That same bunch doesn’t call planting a bomb in Times Square terrorism. But it warns that those who oppose its policies—and show their opposition by demonstrating and holding up signs outside the Capitol building and in cities and towns across the country—are potentially inciting attacks similar to Timothy McVeigh’s bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

If they think the rhetoric of Tea Partiers—or *Fox News*, Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck or whomever—is somehow inciting violence, how long is it before the Administration starts authorizing drone missile attacks on them?

Apparently, all it takes to get on the CIA’s short list for a missile strike is for someone in the Administration to decide you are inciting violence. That doesn’t bode well for a group that has drawn the ire of Obama, his Administration, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Harry Reid, who are on record as considering Tea Partiers, former military members and anti-healthcare reform protestors as Nazis and terrorists.

American citizens... beware... this Administration thinks you’re more dangerous and deserve fewer rights than foreigners planting bombs on U.S. soil. And if you hear the far-off hum of an airplane or the whoosh of a missile being fired, run like Satan himself is on your heels.

But if you’re al-Qaida, don’t worry. Holder will read you your rights and have a court appointed attorney standing by.

Just over a year later, Obama succeeded in assassinating al-Alawki. Chip Wood and I had this to say about it. — BL

Cognitive Dissonance

October 10, 2011 by *Bob Livingston*

The United States is doing the same and has in one degree or another for at least 150 years.

When Barack Hussein Obama stepped up to the podium and announced the successful assassination of two American citizens on Sept. 30—Anwar al-Awlaki and Samir Khan—it was proof that America had finally died, Paul Craig Roberts writes. As for Americans, they have been cemented into a state of cognitive dissonance.

Cognitive dissonance is a psychological conflict resulting from incongruous beliefs and attitudes held simultaneously. Totalitarian regimes are successful when their subjects reach that state.

This is not the first time Americans have been murdered by their own government. It became common practice in the 1860s under Abraham Lincoln, a President that Obama claims to emulate. I say that was an assault on Americans because, even though most of the citizens of Southern States did not consider themselves any longer a part of America, Lincoln did not recognize their secession. Even if you find justification for the invasion and attacks on Southern soldiers and military installations, Lincoln's sanctioning of the war crimes against the Southern civilian population—women, children, the elderly and noncombatants—cannot be justified in any civilized society. He was making war on his own people.

Lincoln advocated “total warfare.” His officers repeatedly

killed civilians, burned down entire towns and laid waste farmland and slaughtered livestock in retaliation for attacks by Confederate armies. This began as early as 1861, despite objections by General George McClellan. By 1864, total warfare on the Southern economy was the stated objective. General Ulysses S. Grant told Phillip Sheridan to take the Shenandoah Valley out of the war.

“Grant’s instructions were grimly specific,” writes Bruce Catton in *The Civil War*. “He wanted the rich farmlands of the Valley despoiled so thoroughly that the place could no longer support a Confederate army; he told Sheridan to devastate the whole area so thoroughly that a crow flying across over the Valley would have to carry its own rations... barns and corncribs and gristmills and herds of cattle were military objectives now, and if thousands of civilians whose property this was had to suffer heartbreaking loss as a result, that was incidental. A garden spot was to be turned into a desert in order that the Southern nation might be destroyed.”

General William T. Sherman took that policy even further. He bombarded Atlanta for days even though there was no strategic military reason for so doing. When he finally entered Atlanta he ordered all non-combatants—the few combatants left were either too injured to flee or had surrendered—to leave, making thousands of civilians homeless and destitute and leaving them in possession of only what they could carry on their backs. He then set out to lay waste to all the Confederate homeland, one-upping Sheridan in the process. Neither women nor children nor recently-freed slaves were spared abuse, torture and murder by Sherman’s troops and the unchecked rabble that followed the army.

Yet the non-education system has for years indoctrinated U.S. children with the idea that Lincoln was a saint who

“saved” the Union by forcing it back together. They don’t realize that in so doing Lincoln destroyed liberty. In addition to sanctioning the murder of civilians and the destruction of private property in the South, he suspended habeas corpus, imprisoned politicians and whole State legislatures and dissenting editorialists, shut down newspapers and held citizens in prison without trial IN THE UNION STATES, often ignoring rulings of the Supreme Court in the process. Most today praise Lincoln’s actions as necessary and proper to suppress the rebellion. Our government tells us what Lincoln did was a good thing.

In Egypt this summer, protestors began standing up to the oppressive Hosni Mubarak regime. Americans were appalled when the regime violently cracked down on the protestors and the mainstream corporate media played up the carnage. Mubarak was doing what he thought necessary and proper to suppress the rebellion in his country.

But Obama ordered Mubarak out of power. Because Mubarak was a puppet of the U.S., he was forced to step down. Americans cheered that a tyrant was vanquished even though they didn’t know what was to take his place. Our government told us this was a good outcome.

In Libya’s Arab Spring, protestors stood up to the Moammar Gadhafi regime. Gadhafi cracked down on the protestors with violence, if the reports of the mainstream media are to be believed. He was simply doing what he thought necessary and proper to maintain control of his country.

NATO member nations and finally Obama ordered Gadhafi to step down. Gadhafi, not a puppet of the U.S., refused. NATO forces began bombing and killing Libyans to force Gadhafi’s capitulation.

In Syria's Arab Spring, troops of Bashir al-Assad began killing protestors by the dozens. Al-Assad is doing what he thinks is necessary and proper to maintain control of his country. So far, the Obama Administration is standing idly by, paying only lip service to a protest.

In some cases the majority of Americans accept that it's okay for the government to do whatever it says is necessary to suppress rebellion. See Abraham Lincoln and Obama's ordered killing of al-Awlaki.

In other cases—Libya and Egypt, for example—the government is wrong for doing what is necessary to suppress rebellion. Cognitive dissonance.

For the most part, Americans have accepted the non-war NATO intervention in Libya as necessary to stop the killing that Gadhafi started. But stopping the killing requires more killing. More innocents are dead, whether from Gadhafi forces suppressing rebellion or NATO forces bombing Gadhafi forces. Cognitive dissonance.

We are fighting a war on terror in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Yemen. Our government tells us the enemy is al-Qaida. Yet, in supporting the rebellion in Libya, U.S. and NATO gave power and aid and comfort to a rebellion that is made up of al-Qaida terrorists that have fought against and killed U.S. soldiers on other battlefields. Cognitive dissonance.

George W. Bush suspended habeas corpus. The USA Patriot Act, passed within days of 9/11 and subsequently renewed under Obama, gives the government carte blanche to spy on Americans. Government snoops can now rifle through bank records, eavesdrop on communications and can even enter the homes of Americans without warrants. Militarized police SWAT teams are knocking down doors

and shooting people in their homes—whether they are armed or not. The Federal Reserve is monitoring online communications for signs of dissent.

Americans know in their hearts that something about this is not right. Yet they say to themselves, “I haven’t done anything wrong. I have nothing to fear from my government.”

But in a distant land, two American citizens criticized the actions of our government and told Muslims to oppose it. Our government tells us this is so. Our government tells us that al-Awlaki promoted jihad and the killing of Americans. Our government tells us that al-Awlaki spurred the underwear bomber to try and blow up a jet liner over America.

But the underwear bomber, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, was assisted onto the plane without proper identification by a CIA asset, as we told you here.

Our government tells us that al-Awlaki spurred Nidal Malik Hasan, a U.S. Army major, to kill American soldiers at Ft. Hood. Our government tells us that al-Awlaki was the inspiration for Faisal Shahzad to attempt to car bomb Times Square.

Our government tells us these things but withholds the evidence. Too many take what the government says at face value.

Our government told us the Civil War was about freeing the slaves. Our government told us a central bank would stabilize the economy. Our government told us that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. Our government told us U.S. gunboats were attacked in the Gulf of Tonkin. Our government told us we were winning the war in Vietnam. Our government told us that Randy Weaver was a criminal.

Our government told us that David Koresh was abusing children. Our government told us that it didn't fail us on 9/11. Our government told us that 9/11 was masterminded from a cave in a third-world country. Our government told us the economy was fine. Our government told us a bailout would save the economy. Our government told us that Pakistan was our friend in the war on terror. Our government told us we are not fighting a war in Libya. Our government told us that al-Awlaki deserved to die without due process.

Our government tells us that the FBI is looking out for us, finding home-grown jihadists and stopping them in their tracks. It does not tell us what the FBI does to encourage, equip and enable those potential jihadists to do something they might have thought about doing, but might not have actually done without the persuasion of their FBI enablers.

Our government tells us we must give up our 4th Amendment rights in order to travel on airplanes and trains.

Our government tells us—through the Department of Homeland Security—that Tea Party members, 2nd Amendment supporters, people with Ron Paul bumper stickers, people who waive Gadsden flags, people who oppose the Federal Reserve, and former military members are potential domestic terrorists. Our government tells us that anti-government thoughts equate to a crime.

What will the government tell us when it decides that it is no longer convenient to have some of these people around? Are we a nation of laws? Or are we a nation in which the government—or a secret cabal—can just decide to murder whomever it wishes?

The U.S. Constitution is only a piece of paper.

Our government, by its actions, has told us this is so.

America's "War on Terror" has devolved into a perpetual war in which the boundaries are not defined and the enemy is whoever a secret cabal within the Federal government decides.

Totalitarian nations throughout history have made war on their own citizens

Did The U.S. Sanction Murder?

October 7, 2011 by *Chip Wood*

An awful lot of readers will be angry at some of the things I have to say today. So before the shouting begins, let me tell you where I'm coming from, as the kids like to say.

I was raised with a profound respect for the fact that we are a nation of laws, not men: That "no one is above the law," that a jury of our peers will decide our guilt or innocence, that we are guaranteed the right to face our accusers, that "our home is our castle" and that we will be protected in our persons and our property.

Does that sound like the America you were taught to love and revere when you were young?

It is promises like these that made our country the inspiration of the world. They are some of the reasons we became the wealthiest nation this planet has ever seen. Even the poorest among us lived better than the majority of citizens in other countries. No wonder people dreamed of becoming Americans—so many, in fact, that we had to establish a lottery to decide who could get in.

Yes, the United States of America that you and I were born into was a very special place. We knew it and were profoundly grateful for it. We gave thanks that we were

lucky enough to be born here, because we knew that no other place on earth enjoyed our freedoms, our protections and our prosperity.

So what on earth happened?

Or maybe a better question is; what have we allowed our government to do to these cherished principles?

The God of the Old Testament asked His people to give 10 percent of all they earned to Him and His work. Today, our government takes four times as much from us. In fact, if you add up all of the hidden taxes we pay, the figure is probably closer to 60 percent.

In the Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers said one of the reasons for their rebellion against King George is that he had “erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.”

Those brave gentlemen wouldn't believe how many Swarms of Officers harass us today, or how much of our Substance they consume. Have you flown anywhere lately? How many Transportation Security Administration employees did you see—many of whom were guarding hallways no one was using.

Pity you if you ever do fall afoul of some Federal bureaucrat. Our government has created so many rules and regulations and has so many agents and inspectors to enforce them, there is no way on earth you can obey them all. If they want to get you for something, they can. And worst of all, in many cases you are guilty until you prove yourself innocent.

We have gone from what was once “the land of the free and the home of the brave” to what is rapidly becoming

the land of the cowed and the cowardly. Untold millions of our countrymen (some legal, some not) feed at the public trough—and get angry at us producers if we suggest cutting back their goodies by even a penny.

All of that is bad enough. But now our government has decided that it is above the law. That it can listen in on any conversation it wishes; open any mail; snoop on any citizen any time and anywhere; accuse us of all sorts of crimes and misdemeanors; and incarcerate us at will.

Oh, and murder anyone it says deserves it.

You think I'm exaggerating? Please consider for a moment the fate of one Anwar al-Awlaki. I won't disagree that this demented jihadist was one of the bad guys. I'll even grant that this renegade U.S. citizen did all he could to give "aid and comfort" (the Constitutional definition of treason) to our enemies. But so what?

As far as I know, he was never accused of a crime by any legal authority in this country or abroad. Not only did he never get a chance to face his accusers, there was never a trial or even a hearing by any court, military or civilian.

Yet the President of the United States ordered his death. And an unmanned drone, armed with a Hellfire missile, carried out the execution.

And what an interesting outcry that has produced! Ron Paul probably did his candidacy for the White House no favors when he said that it would be "sad" if "the American people accept this blindly and casually."

The ACLU—an organization that I have never voluntarily gotten in bed with—declared:

"[T]his is a program under which American citizens far from any battlefield can be executed by their own

government without judicial process and on the basis of standards and evidence that are kept secret not just from the public but from the courts.”

Former Vice President Dick Cheney praised the Obama Administration for the attack, then added that Obama owes George Bush an apology for his criticism of the Bush Administration’s actions against suspected terrorists.

But the nastiest assault on the libertarian position came from the editors of *The Wall Street Journal*, who promptly denounced what they called “the caviling” over Awlaki’s death. After a lengthy introduction explaining why such anonymous executions are “manifestly legal,” the *Journal* concluded:

“For ridding the world of the menace that was Awlaki—even while ignoring the advice of some of its ideological friends—the Administration deserves congratulations and thanks.”

I’m sorry, but this is not the America I grew up in. And it is not the America I want to see my children and my children’s children inherit.

I’m not saying we’ve never done anything wrong in the past. Abraham Lincoln suspended the U.S. Constitution for anyone he considered any enemy of the State, whether Northerner or Southerner. Franklin D. Roosevelt, in one of the most shameful moments of a Presidency that did our nation much harm, ordered 110,000 Japanese Americans to be rounded up at gunpoint and herded into concentration camps. During my lifetime, legal authorities in the South often conspired to break the law to deny black citizens their civil rights, and even encouraged (or at the very least did not stop) mob violence.

All of this was bad. And like most Americans who give any of it a moment's thought, I regret it happened.

I feel the same way today about the frightening growth in the cost, the power and the wicked aggressiveness of our national government. Nobody's called me an enemy of the State... yet. But I'm worried that that day may not be far off.

When they come for us conservative opponents, how many on the Left do you think will rush to our defense? Heck, how many of our colleagues on the Right will be what I used to call "foxhole buddies?"

I don't know about you, but I'm becoming more and more frightened by more and more of the actions of our government. As I said, this isn't the America I knew and revered. How about you?

Until the next time, keep some powder dry.

Obama's War: Politically Smart Or Armageddon?

September 1, 2010 by *John Myers*

"The world must prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. I will take no options off the table in dealing with this potential Iranian threat." —*Barack Obama*

What better way to prove he is not a Muslim than for President Barack Obama to strike at the heart of the Middle East? And what better way to reflate the economy, unite the nation and secure America's future energy needs? It's a grand slam and the White House knows it.

Then again, Iran is making it easy for Obama to get his war. Tehran's leaders appear to have graduated from the Adolf Hitler School of Diplomacy. The day after announcing

the start-up of Iran's Russian-built Bushehr nuclear power plant, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad pulled a cover away from an aircraft called the Karrar and announced it was Iran's first long-range drone. Not so subtly the Iranians have coined it, "The Ambassador of Death."

Furthermore, says Ahmadinejad, "Enemies know well that Iran is an invincible fortress and I do not believe the U.S. masters of the Zionists will allow the regime to take any measures against Iran."

Not so quick President Mahmoud. The last leader that questioned an American President's will for war was the leader of your next-door neighbor. That President, named Saddam, saw not one but two wars with the United States; one initiated by the father, the other by the son.

All this has left the U.S. and Israel hinting war with Iran. Washington and Jerusalem are disconcerted after the Islamic Republic has shown off all its weaponry, everything from new mini-submarines to a surface-to-surface missile. Tehran has even announced plans to launch high-altitude satellites over the next three years.

The Truth Behind The Exit From Iraq

In August, 2010, the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen said the U.S. has a plan in place to attack Iran, if it is necessary. Executing this plan no doubt calls for the U.S. to shuffle its overseas assets, including its standing army in Iraq. It is no coincidence that within a week of Mullen's comments, Obama touted his planned withdrawal, saying:

"As a candidate for President, I pledged to bring the war in Iraq to a responsible end... Shortly after taking office, I announced our new strategy... for a transition to full



Iraqi responsibility. And I made it clear that by August 31, 2010, America's combat mission in Iraq would end. And that is exactly what we are doing—as promised, on schedule.”

The Obama Administration and mainstream media have celebrated the Iraq withdrawal announcement as if it were V-E Day.

The truth, says Stephen Lendman, of *OpEdNews*:

“Unmentioned was combat readiness remaining, paramilitary army additions replacing those leaving, shifting Iraq forces to Afghanistan, increasing hostilities against Pakistan, committing daily war crimes throughout the region, planning more conflicts ahead, continuing America's permanent war agenda.”

More conflicts likely means Battlefield Iran. But Iran won't be the pushover the way Iraq was with its low-tech static defense. Richard Clarke, counterterrorism advisor in the White House under three Administrations, says that short of an all out nuclear strike the U.S. cannot win a war against Iran.

“After a long debate, the highest levels of the military could not forecast a way in which things would end favorably for the United States,” said Clarke. He pointed out that the Pentagon's planners have war-gamed an

attack on Iran several times in the past 15 years, and simply can't generate a non-nuclear scenario where the U.S. wins.

Unlike Iraq, Iran has much higher tech weaponry than Soviet Union throwaways like the 1960s designed T-72 tank. Also there are some 80 million people in Iran, the great majority of them religious zealots who would throw themselves in the face of a foreign invasion.

Iran is mountainous and vast; four times the size of Iraq. Furthermore, the Iranian army numbers 450,000 combat troops, only slightly smaller than the U.S. Army whose troops are scattered across the globe and must be on alert for other enemies. According to Gwynne Dyer, a syndicated columnist and military historian, if the White House were to propose anything larger than minor military incursions along Iran's south coast, senior American generals would resign in protest.

“Without the option of a land war, the only lever the United States would have on Iranian policy is the threat of yet more bombs—but if they aren't nuclear, then they aren't very persuasive,” wrote Dyer in *Straight.com*.

Obama Hawks Set To Wade Into War

That's not to say there aren't some in America and even some in the Obama Administration itself that are itching to strike Iran. Earlier this summer The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), a collection of neoconservatives, hawks and neoliberal interventionists, began calling on the President to make war preparations against Iran. Two prominent BPC members, former Senator Chuck Robb and retired General Charles Wald, concluded in a July op-ed in *The Washington*

Post, “current trends suggest that Iran could achieve nuclear weapons capability before the end of this year.”

To meet this threat Robb and Wald advocate the Obama Administration begin an immediate military buildup for war. They suggest a plan that will include a “targeted strike on Tehran’s nuclear and supporting military facilities.”

The BPC has supporters within the Obama Administration including Dennis Ross, currently Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for the Central Region of the National Security Council and who was one of the “original task force members” of the BPC’s bomb-Iran planning group. Ross and other neoconservatives in the Obama Administration are itching to bomb Iran for military and strategic reasons. But I suspect there are others in the Administration that want war for purely political reasons.

First and foremost is the President’s loss of support going into the 2010 mid-term elections, including musings that the President may not have been born a U.S. citizen and may, in fact, be a Muslim. Just as LBJ believed waging war on Vietnam would stem Republican criticisms that he was a dove, so too, Obama might think that waging war against Iran will answer any questions about his leadership capabilities and loyalties.

There are also strategic arguments to going to war with Iran. Iran is the defacto leader of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, having wrestled control from Saudi Arabia more than a decade ago. It carries the biggest stick on a patch of ground that contains two-thirds of the world’s conventional petroleum reserves. Iran’s control of the world’s oil supplies gives American strategic planners nightmares.

Countdown To War

Desperate times mean desperate measures. But make no mistake; this war could be much more devastating to the U.S. and the world than any war since World War II. There is the real potential that an isolated conflict will spread and perhaps engulf China and Russia.

Each passing week, as Obama slips in the polls and Tehran rattles its sabers, the prospects for war grow; a war that will, no doubt, drive up oil and gold prices. But also a war whose final outcome may be so devastating that few will enjoy the profits they reap.

The Drumbeats For War Grow Louder

August 9, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

Boom. Boom. Boom.

Can you hear it? It's the drumbeat for war. And it's beating louder by the day.

Boom. Boom. Boom.

Eleven United States and one Israeli warship pass through the Suez Canal.

Boom. Boom. Boom.

Former CIA Chief Michael Hayden says a U.S. military strike against Iran "seems inexorable" because diplomacy is failing.

Boom. Boom. Boom.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mike Mullen says the U.S. military has a plan to attack Iran.

Boom. Boom. Boom.

Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives

introduced Resolution 1553 which would give Israel the go-ahead to attack Iran. The resolution grants support for Israel to "...confront nuclear threats posed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the use of military force..."

The neocons have never seen a war they couldn't support, no matter the President's party affiliation.

Boom. Boom. Boom.

The end is near—so President Barack Obama tells us—for former President George Bush's incursion into Iraq. He said that America's combat mission in Iraq will end by Aug. 31, 2010. But that doesn't mean all troops will come home. There will still be 50,000 there in the months that follow. And it's going to be 18 more months before they all come home... if he sticks to his timeline.

We can only hope 50,000 troops are enough to prevent that governmentless nation from descending further into chaos.

For those troops that do come home, it appears they will only be home long enough to change their underwear and restock their ammunition belts before heading off to another Mid-East hellhole to die... for what?

To blow up suspected nuclear sites, even though a 2007 U.S National Intelligence Estimate said that Iran had halted work on developing a nuclear warhead in 2003. Meanwhile, an unclassified military report submitted to Congress in April concluded, "Iran is developing technological capabilities applicable to nuclear weapons and, at a minimum, is keeping the option to develop nuclear weapons," as *The Washington Post* reported.

A May, 2010 report by the United Nations' International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Iran hasn't sufficiently cooperated to allow the agency to determine if Iraq's nuclear activities are solely for peaceful activities.

Conflicting stories of weapons of mass destruction: Haven't we heard this before... during the lead up to the invasion of Iraq?

If HR 1553 were to pass and Israel does strike at Iran's nuclear reactors and nuclear sites, what then? If Iran strikes back—which President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said they would—and is joined by Syria, Lebanon and Hezbollah, would the U.S. then be obligated to intervene? It would seem so. What would be the result of such a conflagration?

Obama has pledged America's undying support of Israel no matter what... even if he did treat Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu badly during his visit to the White House in early 2010. And Israel maintains it is convinced that Iran is working to acquire nuclear weapons.

Much of the international community also seems convinced Iran is trying to build a nuclear weapon. The feckless U.N. Security Council has been trying to agree on sanctions against Iran for some time. China and Russia continue to hold out. But aren't Americans growing sick of war? Apparently the political class isn't.

Nine years later we remain in Afghanistan, NATO allies are abandoning us, and more and more of our troops are dying. Obama, with no clear-cut strategy to fight what he considers the good war, vows to continue fighting on, and any timelines he may mention mean little.

Seven years later we are still in Iraq, and at least a few

thousand troops will remain there for the foreseeable future. Nineteen years later we're still in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, even though the first Persian Gulf War supposedly ended with a good outcome.

Sixty-four years later we still have troops stationed throughout Eastern Europe and in Japan. Fifty-seven years later we still have troops stationed in South Korea. That war has not ended—no official peace treaty ever signed—and there have even been some drumbeats sounding from there. Just not as loud... yet.

But the recent U.S.-South Korea joint air and sea military exercises in the Sea of Japan intended to send a message to a recalcitrant North Korea—who has been accused of torpedoing a South Korean ship. This antagonized China. And who can blame them for feeling antagonized?

What would we think if China or Russia conducted military exercises in the Gulf of Mexico or off the coast of New York or San Francisco? Either Obama and the Pentagon were naive to the implications of conducting war games in the area, or they conducted them intending to raise tensions in the area.

Boom. Boom. Boom.

According to the think tank, Foreign Policy In Focus, there were 865 Pentagon-confirmed U.S. troop base sites located off U.S. soil in 2009. But this number doesn't include all of the bases being used in Iraq and Afghanistan—as many as 150 more. There are 268 bases in Germany, 124 in Japan and 87 in Korea. Others are scattered around the globe in Aruba, Australia, Bulgaria, Bahrain, Colombia, Greece, Djibouti, Egypt, Qatar, Romania, Singapore and Cuba, to name just a few.

The bases are draining our economy of billions of dollars a year. Isn't it time we ended Empire America? Isn't it time we brought our troops home?

There would still be work for them to do. Our border with Mexico is under assault. But the military-industrial complex might not be as happy about that. Stopping Mexican paramilitary units and drug cartel thugs isn't as lucrative as dropping bunker busters on Iran and North Korea... and maybe China.

BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.

Keystone Cops Wag The Dog

October 17, 2011 by *Bob Livingston*

With investigations into U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder's complicity in the Fast and Furious guns to Mexico criminality gaining steam, and public appetite for another U.S. war in another Mideast nation waning, President Barack Obama needed a big play.

What he got was a four-base error.

At a news conference last week announcing a thwarted assassination plot, Holder said the plot was the work of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which is the guardian of Iran's 32-year revolution, and the Quds Force, its covert, operational arm, according to a *Reuters* report.

"High-up officials in those (Iranian) agencies, which is an integral part of the Iranian government, were responsible for this plot," Holder told the news conference.

If so, they must have planned it about four hours into a booze- and cocaine-fueled night of poker, because it is one

of the most convoluted, pathetically inept, unprofessional hits ever concocted. A 10-year-old semi-literate could have devised a plan with a better chance of success.

The “plot,” such as it was, came to light in early summer. Press reports say President Barack Obama was briefed on it in June. The “mastermind,” an Iranian-American used-car salesman said to have a penchant for alcohol and prostitutes and described as scatterbrained, was arrested in September. But the Obama Administration saved the announcement for the same day a Congressional investigation announced Holder was being subpoenaed over his lying testimony about Fast and Furious.

The problem for Obama and Holder is that not even their normally fawning press corps is buying the story, simply because it is so ridiculous.

Here’s how *Time World’s* Robert Baer described it:

According to the Department of Justice indictment, an Iranian-American used-car salesman attempted to recruit a Mexican drug cartel to carry out the hit [on the ambassador to Saudi Arabia in Washington]. Other parts of the plan included bombing the Israeli embassy in Washington, as well as the Israeli and Saudi embassies in Argentina. The Iranian was willing to pay the cartel assassins \$1.5 million to murder the Saudi ambassador. But the plot came undone when the man representing himself as a cartel operative turned out to be a paid informant of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The Iranian, who confessed after his arrest, is now behind bars. The other man in the plot, a member of the Quds Force, a secretive special forces unit of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, remains at large.

His colleague, Tim Padgett at *Time.com* had this to say:

If Iranian government operatives really did try to contract a Mexican drug cartel to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the U.S., as the Obama Administration alleges today, then they weren't just being diabolical. They were being fairly stupid.

And in a story on *CNN.com* headlined "Some analysts skeptical of alleged Iranian plot," Reza Sayah wrote:

U.S. officials say they are certain the bizarre plot against Ambassador Adel Jubeir was real.

But some analysts say they are not. They find it unlikely that the Iranian government, or legitimate factions within, would be involved in such a tangled plot.

Sayah was being kind. Other analysts have said it absolutely can't be true, with one telling *Fox Business Channel's* Andrew Napolitano that his sources in the FBI said there's no record of the investigation anywhere in the regular channels.

And when one considers that the Quds Forces were responsible for bombing the Marine barracks in Beirut, kidnappings in Lebanon, bombings in Israel, Argentina and the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia—not to mention the 2007 execution of five American soldiers in Karbala, Iraq it's obvious Quds Forces know how pull off successful operations.

Unable to uncover real terror plots against the United States, Holder, his Justice Department, the FBI and CIA have taken to concocting them by rounding up ignorant dupes that they can cajole, bribe and facilitate into creating wild plots, like using Mexican drug lords—who have plenty

of police officers and citizens to kill in Mexico—to assassinate ambassadors, or jihadists to fly radio-controlled airplanes filled with explosives into the Pentagon.

Then Holder “conveniently” pulls the rabbit out of his hat at just the perfect time to deflect attention from the scandal that’s eating away at what little credibility he possessed after he convinced President Bill Clinton to pardon Puerto Rican FALN terrorists and billionaire financier Marc Rich.

But the tragedy in this is the way it’s ratcheted up the war talk after the Administration switched boogeymen from al-Qaida to Iran.

We are now hearing some of the same language that George W. Bush and warmongers around the globe used in the run-up to the Iraq war. Saudi Arabia calls it an act of war. Neocon hawks are calling it the last straw for Iran. There are reports that Obama has given a wink and a nod to Israel to commence bombing strategic targets in Iran as soon as feasible.

Desperate governments do desperate things. The economy is in shambles because the fiat money system is crumbling. Warfare is a vital part of a worldwide paper money system. It is the alter-ego of the Keynesian welfare state.

When the money dies, the ruling elite will inevitably turn to bloodshed as a source of economic stimulus, writes William Norman Grigg in his recent column, *Slaughter as Stimulus*.

The country is deeply divided and the plans of the New World Order are crumbling under a growing nationalism. But the population will unite under war propaganda and inspire new life into disguised authoritarianism. It’s one

of the oldest plays in the book.

President Two-Face

October 25, 2011 by *Ben Crystal*

I've seen the Democrats' latest attempts to recast President Barack Obama as some kind of latter-day Alexander the Great. I've observed from *Outside The Asylum* as the same liberals who castigated President George W. Bush, President George H.W. Bush and President Ronald Reagan (but not President Bill Clinton) for their warlike ways have suddenly tried to recast themselves as latter-day Gen. George Pattons.

Obama, for whom they voted based on a tenuous combination of racism, hatred and shared opposition to securing freedom against the onslaught of Islamofascism and socialism, has taken to strutting around the golf course like the conquering hero in the wake of the brutal execution of Libyan dictator and terrorist benefactor Moammar Gadhafi.

Democratic mouthpieces far and wide are bleating their continued fealty to his belatedly bloodthirsty Presidency. Even infamously battle-averse Obama court jester Bill Maher took a break from his usual public displays of what appear to be some serious mommy issues to praise Obama as "President Badass." Maher even went so far as to praise the use of unmanned drones of late, an interesting departure from his claim that the use of cruise missiles after 9-11 was "cowardly."

Far be it for me to point out that Obama had as much to do with the execution of Gadhafi as Maher has with women who don't charge by the hour. But Obama took victory laps through the corporate media in the wake of the executions of Osama bin Laden and Anwar al-Awlaki, so it should hardly come as a surprise that he's shined up his jack boots

following Gadhafi's death at the hands of Libyans. My real confusion centers on the Democrats who were positively aghast when Bush directed the effort to clear the planet of Islamofascist vermin are now positively aghast that Obama isn't amassing praise for the same.

Don't mistake me here. I fully support the prejudicial termination of pretty much every Tariq, Dhakir or Haji who dreams of killing Americans (or coaxing Akbar from the falafel stand into doing it). I say so despite disagreement with people for whom I have the utmost respect, even Bob Livingston himself. I believe the world is a better place without bin Laden, al-Awlaki and Gadhafi, three ticks who gleefully embedded themselves in the hide of humanity—and encouraged others to do the same—for decades. But why in the name of Allah are liberals so excited? What happened to the “war criminal” charges they heaved at Bush and Dick Cheney? Who hit the mute button and stifled their cries of freedom for the poor jihadis currently (still) cooling their heels in Gitmo?

Meanwhile, Obama has suddenly acknowledged we still have troops in Iraq, and that they'll be coming home soon. As is the case with most Obama proclamations, I'll believe it when the last soldier disembarks from the plane. Hopefully, the tarmac on which that soldier's boots gently tread will be in the United States and not in Libya (which has already announced Sharia law as the basis for its developing government), Uganda (yes, we have troops there) or Tunisia (where Islamofascists are poised to take control).

However, now that Obama has abandoned his stand against American military interventionism, I suppose I'll just have to hope that whichever Republican sends Obama packing next November will deliver—well—change.

CHAPTER 8

Obama And Illegals

At almost every turn, the Obama Administration has sided against Americans and for illegals. Such a policy forces one to ask the question, “Whose side is Obama on?” — BL

Whose Side Is He On?

September 3, 2010 by Bob Livingston

The Barack Obama Administration has sided with the world against Arizona. That’s essentially what he did when the U.S. State Department referred the Arizona immigration law to the United Nations Human Rights Council for review.

First Obama has his Justice Department sue a sovereign State for seeking to uphold existing Federal immigration laws. Then he submits the law for international review by a committee on civil rights that boasts China, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Russia, Cuba, Pakistan, Tunisia and Egypt as members!

You know, those countries that make dissidents disappear into the bowels of gulags—if not graves—that demand its women stay covered from head to toe, that imprison political prisoners without trial, that mutilate women’s genitals, that forbid women from being in the company of men that aren’t blood relatives or their husband, that beat

or stone criminals and that persecute Christians. Yeah... those countries.

This, of course, begs the question: Just whose side is Obama on?

Siding With Mexico Against Arizona

May 27, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

A disturbing spectacle was on display when Mexican President Felipe Calderon and President Barack Obama—standing almost hand-in-hand on the White House lawn—trashed the state of Arizona over its new immigration law. Calderon then took it a step further by going onto the floor of Congress and trashing Arizona and Arizonians some more.

During the White House meeting, Obama told Calderon, “In the 21st Century we are defined not by our borders, but by our bonds.” He also agreed with Calderon’s description that Arizona’s law is discriminatory.

We’ve come to expect such treachery from the White House, which prides itself in traveling around the world bowing, scraping and accusing the United States of a multitude of sins—both real and imagined—and apologizing for every national and foreign policy decision the country has ever made.

(As an example, see Deputy Secretary of State Michael Posner’s admission that during a trip to China he brought up the Arizona law “early and often” as an issue of “discrimination or potential discrimination.” Again, he did this in China, a country that runs over its citizens with tanks, throws them in prison for practicing “unapproved” Christianity, and forces families to abort children to enforce a one-child policy.)

But then Calderon went into the halls of Congress—as an invited guest—and trashed Arizona some more saying the bill “introduces a terrible idea that uses racial profiling as a basis for

law enforcement.” And for that Democrats in Congress gave him a standing ovation.

Never mind that the law does no such thing. In fact, it forbids discrimination and follows Federal immigration laws almost to the letter.

The Democrat Party continues to find new lows to fall to in its treatment of Americans—ramming through healthcare legislation over the objections of the majority, siding with enemies of Democracy and joining with the President of a failed nation to vilify a State that was forced to enforce laws the Federal government refused to enforce.

George Washington once wrote:

“We are either a United people, or we are not. If the former, let us, in all matters of general concern act as a nation, which have national objects to promote, and a national character to support. If we are not, let us no longer act a farce by pretending to it.”

More and more it seems Obama and the Democrats have decided upon the latter. And more and more the spinelessness of Republicans is on display as they fail in their duty to forcefully call out Obama and the Democrats.

Obviously the elites of the two parties have become peas in the same pod and they have chosen a path in opposition to the very people they supposedly serve. That they would side with the Mexican President over the citizens of Arizona—and about 70 percent of Americans—is despicable.

Arizona Si, Obama No!

May 14, 2010 by Chip Wood

Bloodshed! Violence! Riots! Threats!

That’s been the reaction from the racists of La Raza, and a

number of other self-proclaimed do-gooders, who claim to be outraged that the good citizens of Arizona have the unmitigated gall to do what their Federal government should be doing for them—protecting them from an alien invasion.

Do you remember back in 1986 when Ronald Reagan proposed and Congress approved the Immigration Reform and Control Act? That legislation was supposed to solve the immigration crisis once and for all. It granted amnesty to 2.7 million “undocumented workers” then living in the United States. We were told this would set them on the path to becoming law-abiding, English-speaking, tax-paying citizens. We were also assured that the flood of illegal immigration into this country would be stopped. Congress subsequently approved legislation to build a massive wall along the U.S.-Mexican border and to hire thousands of additional agents for the Border Patrol.

None of this happened. Not a single thing we were promised 24 years ago has come true.

Instead, the flood of illegals into this country became a tsunami. Where we once had 4 million to 5 million illegal immigrants, we’re now told the correct number is somewhere between 12 million and 20 million. The number is several times higher than a pessimist’s worst prediction two decades ago. Even more shocking is that responsible authorities can’t tell us the right number to the nearest million—or even the nearest 5 million.

Whatever the correct number, it’s enough to overwhelm our schools, our hospitals, our prisons and our law enforcement officials wherever illegal aliens settle in any significant numbers.

This is not immigration. It’s an invasion. And we need to deal with it as such. This is not just my opinion. It’s what

our Constitution says. Article IV, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution clearly states:

“The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and... shall protect each of them against invasion...”

Please note that the Constitution does not specify a military invasion or the use of arms. No, it simply says “invasion.” And if that is not what we are facing, what is it? Shame on President Barack Obama for refusing to do his Constitutional duty to protect us from this unlawful invasion. Shame on Congress for refusing to act to defend us.

And congratulations to the people of Arizona who acted wisely and responsibly (and, may I point out, legally and Constitutionally) to do what our Federal government has refused to do—that is, to protect their citizens and enforce the law.

It is amazing to me, and disgusting, too, how many liberal do-gooders out there are actively encouraging lawbreakers to break more laws. Sadly, I even put Obama in this category.

Let’s not let them get away with it.

Let’s demand that Congress pass legislation that will stop the invasion and demand the President enforce it. Will that mean hiring 12,000 new border guards, as President George W. Bush once promised to do? Fine. Let’s do it. Hire them, train them and give them all the latest high-tech goodies (and old tech stuff, too, such as the vehicles, floodlights and weapons) to do the job.

Will that mean building a wall along the border with Mexico, stretching from California to Texas? Then appropriate the money and let’s finish building the darned thing.

In addition, we must tell the government of Mexico that we require its cooperation in halting the tidal wave of illegal immigration pouring out of their country—a tidal wave they have been actively encouraging. That must stop. This is not a request; this is a condition for our continuing friendship.

We must also warn the people of Mexico (and their friends, family and allies in our country) that the U.S. is going to enforce its laws. Make it clear that we will no longer look the other way or compromise on enforcing our rules and regulations. There will be no way across the border except legally. Period.

And most important of all: We must demand that our government do whatever needs to be done to secure our borders. No more excuses. No more delays. The time to act is now.

There is much more that could and should be said on this subject. As we move to resolve this crisis, let's make sure that illegal aliens who knowingly and deliberately broke our laws aren't given a better deal than all those applicants for entry who have played by the rules.

Let's make it our choice who gets to come here—when, from where, how many and for how long. If we need more temporary workers, fine. Let's decide how many can come, how long they can stay and what they must do (and not do) while they're here.

And let's also insist that we get to decide what to do about the millions of illegals who are already here. I'll agree that if they've been law-abiding, tax-paying contributors to our society since they arrived, that deserves some consideration. But just because someone got away with a

crime for years doesn't mean they've earned a free pass to citizenship.

All of these issues, and more, we can debate and decide later on. For now, there is only one thing that must be done. We must secure our borders.

If you agree, then there are two things you can do. First, show this book to several friends and family members. Urge them to read it, to act on it and to pass it on to others.

Two, contact the three people in Washington who have been elected to represent you—your two Senators and one Representative. It takes only a moment to call their office, or send them an email, and tell them, “Before doing anything to fix the immigration mess, I demand that you secure our borders. If you won't help stop the invasion of our country, I will elect someone who will.”

If you're not sure how to contact your congressmen (or don't know who they are), there's an easy-to-use website called Contacting the Congress that will give you this information in moments. The website is: *www.contactingthecongress.org*. When you get to the site simply enter your address and the contact information for your representatives in Congress will appear.

It isn't often you get an opportunity to help decide the kind of country your children and your children's children will live in. This is one of them. So please do it now, while you're thinking about it. And while we still have time.

Meanwhile, if you live in Arizona, please accept my congratulations on what your government is trying to do. And my condolences on the way you're being treated by others, from the President of the U.S. to the racist rabble-rousers of La Raza.

If you don't live in the Grand Canyon State but know someone who does, please tell them they are not alone in this battle. The vast majority of American people share their concerns. Urge them to stand fast while we rally others behind them.

The First Step To Solving A Problem

June 24, 2010 by *Ben Crystal*

With the recent announcement by the Obama Administration that a Federal lawsuit targeting Arizona's enormously popular immigration law is nigh, the transparency of the Left's opposition to Arizona's SB 1070 has been made manifest.

During his Administration, President George W. Bush talked tough on illegal immigration, but did very little to curb it. President Barack Obama is now going one step further... doing very little to curb illegal immigration while talking tough on those who plan to. Obama seems more interested in developing some kind of Federalized Internal Affairs Division, searching for crime while ignoring the criminals.

The President is trying to recast the debate. It's entirely reasonable to examine his reasons.

Most of the realities regarding illegal immigration are patently obvious. Virtually untraceable labor pools operating outside the law mean unemployed taxpayers and strained social services. Virtually untraceable routes into the United States mean endangered taxpayers and... strained social and law enforcement services. The presence of abandoned prayer mats along our southern frontier doesn't mean the coyotes are developing an interest in yoga. A President bent on obfuscating both the latter and former by accusing his opposition of everything short of a return to Jim Crow is the worst kind

of political gamesmanship.

It's well known that Arizona's immigration law is nothing more than a State asserting responsibility abdicated by the Feds. One would presume most LEGAL citizens would be overjoyed to see a state willing to step in where the Feds are standing down. In fact, SB 1070 is similar not only to eight U.S. Code Sections 1304 and 1306, but shockingly—CALIFORNIA Penal Code section 834b. The Brotherhood of Undocumented Onion Pickers has yet to march on Sacramento belies the political realities. The President can hardly risk torpedoing his fellow travelers, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer (all D-Calif.), by allowing his jackbooted legal legions to extend their L.A. Law redux into the Land of La Raza.

To be fair, the broad-based support for SB 1070 doesn't necessarily prove the quality of the legislation. I could get 70 percent approval for legislation which would constitute extraordinarily bad thinking: Free BMWs for everyone! Federally subsidized beer purchases! National Throw Something Heavy at Keith Olbermann Day!

OK—that last one has real merit.

The problem we have now is that the majority is right. But the majority lacks power. In the worst kind of twist of fate, the minority has the juice (to paraphrase Interior Secretary Ken Salazar) to step on the neck of John Q. Public.

And the Feds are going straight to the courts to shop for the appropriate neck-breaking footwear. There's already a class-action lawsuit in Federal court seeking to halt SB 1070. A rogue's gallery of Left-wing groups with close ties to the current Administration is challenging Arizona's endeavors:

the ACLU, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Network, the NAACP, the National Day Laborer Organizing Network and the—I'm not making this up—Malibu Community Labor Exchange. Makes you wonder who's delivering chalupas to the guys trimming Mel Gibson's hedges. At the very least, it's nice to see the NAACP doing something other than waging jihad on Hallmark greeting cards.

Now the Feds are threatening to bring in the heavy artillery. Talk about rigging the game: when Eric “the red” Holder's goons-with-briefcases bring the heat to Arizona's doorstep in a Federal courtroom, the supporters of SB 1070 get to pay the lawyers on both sides. Beyond the obvious Constitutional violations of Federal tinkering with Arizona's law enforcement—hello 10th Amendment—there's the more troublesome issue: Obama and his thugs are trying to get us mired in a spurious discussion on race in order to cow us into ignoring a blatant effort to expand his constituency.

Throwing the verbal hand grenade of racism is clever, if only because people on the Left will always believe it, and are redoubtable and vital allies for an Administration which seems bent on becoming a political exemplar of ham-fisted authority. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis thinks illegals have a “right to fair wages.” Actually, Madam Secretary, illegals have the right to be Mirandized (and in a language other than English, even!)

With Obama telling Senator John Kyl (R-Ariz.) that he's going to lean into meaningful immigration reform only if amnesty is on the table, he's drawing the proverbial line in the dust: no enforcement now, no enforcement tomorrow, no enforcement forever.

Or at least until this column is printed en Espanol.

Vaya con Dios!

Confessions Of An Illegal Alien

July 21, 2010 by *John Myers*

I believe Arizona's Immigration Law SB 1070 is going to be damn effective. In fact I think it should be adopted across the United States. What special insight do I have into the matter? I used to be an illegal alien.

Twenty-seven years ago I was sitting at my desk in the Peyton Building in downtown Spokane, Wash., and I got a letter from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). I jerked it open and realized my worst fears. My work visa had not been extended.

Immigrating to the United States had been a disaster right from the start, even though it shouldn't have been. My dad, C.V., was a U.S. citizen by right of his father being born in Oklahoma. At least that's what the U.S. State Department said when they issued C.V. a U.S. passport.

Yet, INS thought otherwise. They hadn't forgotten that C.V. had sold gold to Americans when it was illegal for them to own it. INS wanted to deport him. It was a legal fight that would take a decade to resolve. In fact, a U.S. Federal judge finally ruled in C.V.'s favor a few months *after* his death in 1990.

But on that day in 1983, the only thing that mattered was the letter on my desk; stating I had to leave the U.S. or face deportation. It didn't matter that I had paid my taxes, bought a house and that my wife and I had an American-born son. Despite the fact my dad was ill, I decided that I didn't really have a choice. Better to move back under my own terms than to be roped-up like a criminal and be "escorted" by deportation bus.

Of course my dad, who was also my boss, was dead

set against me going back to Canada. Besides the fact that he hated the Federal government, he had a U.S. passport that proved to him that I was entitled to a green card. He talked to his lawyer, Bob Magnuson, who was the brother of Idaho mining legend, Harry Magnuson, and set up a meeting with a young immigration lawyer named Dan Keane.

Before Dan became an immigration and criminal lawyer he had worked as an INS agent. In fact, his father was a well-known immigration judge.

I showed Dan the INS letter and he read it carefully. Then he smiled and said, “So what’s the problem?”

“What’s the problem? This letter says if I don’t leave I am going to be deported!”

“That’s not likely to happen. You’re dad’s citizenship is going to get sorted out and when that happens you will get a green card. Until then I wouldn’t worry about it.”

I told Dan I was plenty worried about it. That I was afraid to get so much as a speeding ticket; that the cop would check on my immigration status and that my wife and I would be headed for Canada.

Dan started laughing. “Hell John, the cops don’t enforce immigration law. They don’t care.”

“They don’t care!” I was astonished. Here I was, living illegally in a country and this lawyer—my lawyer—was telling me that law enforcement didn’t care.

“You could get caught robbing a bank and your immigration status probably wouldn’t be called into question,” explained Dan.

Because of Dan’s advice and my father imploring me to stay, I decided to be an illegal until there was a ruling on C.V.’s citizenship. Fortunately I was given amnesty

and granted a green card by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. A decade later I became a U.S. citizen.

I have always been grateful for the opportunity to become an American. But I also know it would never have happened if I had fretted about the police enforcing the law. And while Arizona Governor Jan Brewer has been called a bigot for signing SB 1070, she has struck upon an idea that is long overdue: That State law enforcement should enforce U.S. laws and that in doing so the U.S. can at least slow the flood of illegals entering the country.

In fact, on July 12, 2010, *azcentral.com* wrote: “The upcoming enforcement of SB 1070 has caused many illegal immigrants to flee Arizona.”

It is hard for me to understand why the Obama Administration is challenging assistance from local law enforcement when clearly the Federal government needs all the help it can get.

There are as many as 30 million illegal aliens in the U.S. That’s equal to the entire population of Canada. And no place has been impacted harder than Arizona.

According to the *Connecticut Law Tribune*:

“Three state counties have been lost to violent Mexican drug cartels. More than a thousand attempt to cross the border every day. Between 1996 and 2009, the illegal alien population in Arizona increased 300%.”

The *CLT* goes on to point out:

“In 18 months alone, more than 22,000 people were killed in an ongoing drug war in Mexico near the Arizona border. Thugs are now throwing rocks at the heads of our border patrol agents.”

Yet, even as Arizona suffers the highest kidnapping

rate in the world outside of Mexico City, the Obama Administration wants to obstruct Arizona from protecting its own people who are, after all, American citizens.

U.S. News & World Report says there may be method to the Federal government's madness, with both the Obama Administration and the Republican Party...

“Spending way too much time bowing to the interests of illegal immigrants (who come in all races and colors) and refusing to enforce existing laws or pass new ones limiting immigration to that which improves our environment and our economy.”

Through the Justice Department, President Barack Obama declares that SB 1070, “illegally intrudes on federal prerogatives,” and further states that Federal law “trumps state statutes.”

Is the State Department serious? After all, if somebody is hijacking an airplane or kidnapping someone across state lines do we worry whether they are arrested by the Feds or the local cops? Of course we don't. So why then should we worry who is enforcing immigration laws? We should only worry that they are being enforced.

As a person who once feared deportation, I am not sure what, if any, of SB 1070 has to do with race or racism. I knew that if the INS caught me I was in fact going back to Canada. It wasn't like they were going to say, “Oh heck you're a white guy, we will let you stay.” As far as I could see back then and right now, Federal immigration laws are color blind. It is the Federal government that is blind to America's needs.

Anchor Babies And The Illegal 14th

May 21, 2010 by *Chip Wood*

The response to my column on *Personal Liberty Digest™*, “Arizona, Si! Obama, No!” (above) about our immigration policies—or rather, our lack of same—continued to pour in for several days.

I don’t think there was anything in that column or the comments posted on that most readers would find shocking or unbelievable. Maybe something contrary to their own passionately held beliefs, sure; but there is nothing there that is startling, outrageous or even extremely controversial.

This column will be different.

I want to discuss two important corollaries to that column. The first is something that is almost never mentioned in this debate, but should be. The second is something that I have never seen raised. But it’s at the heart of much that has gone wrong in this country during the last 150 years.

Let’s begin with one of the most startling aspects of our present immigration crisis:

It is the official policy of the United States government that any child, born in this country to illegal immigrants, automatically and immediately becomes a citizen of the United States.

Not only that, but by becoming a newly franchised citizen, that infant is permitted to sponsor American citizenship for its mother, father and other relatives.

Such infants are sometimes referred to as “anchor babies,” because their immediate and automatic citizenship is the “anchor” on which a host of other claims, from welfare to the citizenship of others can be made.

On the face of it, this sounds patently absurd. How can a

newborn baby be eligible for citizenship when his or her parents are not? Not merely eligible, mind you, but granted it automatically?

Many of us have grandparents or great-grandparents who overcame incredible obstacles to become citizens of this country. Before they were accepted they had to pass a rigorous and demanding test. The questions they were asked, and their answers, had to be in English.

As an essential part of the process every immigrant was required to renounce allegiance to the country he or she had left and to swear allegiance to his newly adopted home—the United States of America. And every new citizen was thrilled to do so.

There was a solemn ceremony, often conducted by a judge sitting high on a bench above them, issuing the oath of allegiance. Friends and family welcomed the new citizens with hugs and tears and enthusiastic applause.

That is what citizenship for an immigrant used to mean. But today we are required to bestow it on anyone whose mother can sneak across our border a few hours before her baby is born. That is absolutely insane.

The new citizen is immediately entitled to all the benefits that accompany citizenship. This includes: schooling, medical care, food stamps and other welfare and a whole host of “public assistance.”

Moreover, that new citizen is now entitled to invite other family members—mother and father, aunts and uncles, cousins and grandparents, nephews and nieces—to come visit them in their newly adopted country and even apply for citizenship here. How did such utter craziness come to be accepted as the law of the land?

Well, the first thing you need to know is that there is no such law. If you ask how automatic citizenship for babies born to illegal immigrants came about you'll be told that the 14th Amendment requires it.

This is a flat-out lie. But it's a lie that's been promoted by those who want to overturn the established laws and customs of our country. It's a lie that the highest officials in this country—from the White House on down—pretend is true.

Let me share some important history with you. The 14th Amendment was proposed by Congress at the end of the Civil War. Its purpose was to make sure that newly enfranchised Blacks were not denied the rights of citizenship when they returned to their homes in States that comprised the former Confederacy.

Sadly, the 14th Amendment is worded so vaguely that an activist court—spurred on by politically motivated attorneys—can interpret it almost any way it chooses. Here's the relevant section:

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

But what does “subject to the jurisdiction thereof” mean? If you do a little research on the topic you'll discover that this amendment was most emphatically not meant to include the children of aliens—even if their parents were in this country legally. Lawmakers assumed that since their parents were subject to the jurisdiction of the country where they were citizens—that is, their native country—so were their offspring, no matter where they were born.

Ah, but if you do a little more research, you'll discover

a secret that's been kept out of our history books for more than 100 years: There are compelling reasons to believe that the 14th Amendment was never legally adopted by a sufficient number of States to make it a valid part of our Constitution. This is why the second part of this article is called, "the Illegal 14th."

First we begin with the fact that the Southern States never left the Union. Oh, I'll admit they tried to. We fought a terrible war over the issue. But Abraham Lincoln refused to recognize the Confederacy as a separate, legitimate government. Instead, he fought the war to keep the Confederacy from seceding. When the North won, Lincoln was ready to welcome the South back "with malice toward none."

But if the Southern States never left the Union, then as soon as hostilities ended, those States and their citizens were entitled to all of the promises and protections of the U.S. Constitution. With me so far?

In the aftermath of the war all of the States that had comprised the Confederacy reformed their State governments, including both branches of their legislatures. (Remember, the Constitution guarantees every state "a republican form of government.")

When the Federal Congress approved the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, and submitted it to the States, it was promptly ratified by most of the States in the former Confederacy and became part of our Constitution.

But this was not enough for the Radical Republicans (as they were called then) who controlled Congress. They wanted to punish the South. Even more important, they didn't want the Southern States sending people to Congress who would oppose their plans for Reconstruction. So they

proposed the 14th Amendment.

I can find no evidence that the 14th Amendment was ever approved by a two-thirds majority of the House and the Senate as the Constitution requires. In fact, there were plenty of contemporaries back in 1878 that said it was not. Nevertheless, the Radical Republican majority approved a resolution saying it had passed and submitted it to the States.

Six States that had approved the 13th Amendment balked at approving the 14th. The legislatures of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina and South Carolina said “No!” (So, incidentally, did New Jersey and Ohio.)

The Radicals in Washington were furious. They promptly approved a series of bills, called the Reconstruction Acts that divided the former Confederacy into 10 military districts. The legislatures of each state were ordered dismissed “by force of arms” and were replaced by political hacks appointed by the Federal army of occupation. Seven of these military-controlled bodies then did as they were told and “ratified” the 14th Amendment.

These “rump” governments were a far cry from “the republican form of government” that the Constitution guaranteed each State. Our Founding Fathers would have been aghast at what was done in the aftermath of that very un-Civil war. And they wouldn’t have agreed for a second that any “vote” by these so-called legislatures could authorize a change to the Constitution.

But change it they did. When news of these coercive measures reached Washington, Secretary of State William Seward at first refused to ratify the amendment. He was quickly brought into line by the Radical Republicans in Congress, however, and on July 20, 1868, he dutifully

proclaimed that the 14th Amendment was now part of our Constitution.

And here's something you probably never considered: The effects of this nefarious bit of legislative chicanery go far beyond citizenship for a few million children of illegal immigrants.

Bet you didn't know that the 14th Amendment has been used by the Supreme Court as the legal justification for banning prayer in public schools... or authorizing abortion on demand... for requiring the forced busing of children... or scores of other usurpations of power by our central government.

If you've stayed with me this far I'm sure you're saying to yourself, "Can this possibly be true? And if it is, how is it possible that the legality of the 14th Amendment has never been challenged in the courts?"

My answer to the first question is, "Yes, I believe it is true. The 14th Amendment was never legally ratified."

My answer to the second is, "I don't know." I have not been able to find any record that any Federal court has ever issued a ruling on the adoption of "the illegal 14th." I can't even find evidence of the issue being raised in a lawsuit filed in a Federal court. I can understand why those who benefit from today's Goliath Government want to keep this issue swept under the heaviest rug they can find. But where have the conservative and libertarian talk shows, think tanks, advocacy groups and tax-free foundations been for the past 50 years? Have any of them raised this issue? Written articles about it? Made even a peep of protest?

If they have, I'm not familiar with it. If you know otherwise please tell me, because I really would like to know.

And so should every American who's concerned about the future his country.

CHAPTER 9

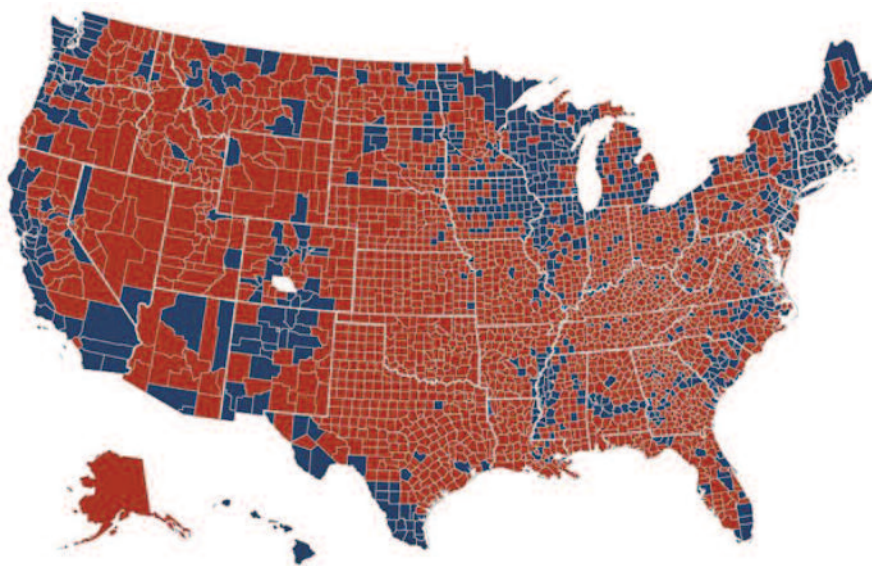
Changing America

During the election, Obama vowed to “fundamentally change America.” In this chapter we examine what Obama means when he says that. — BL

The Scariest Picture You’ll Ever See

June 25, 2010 by *Chip Wood*

Take a good long look at the map below. Pay special attention to the areas that are in blue. Compare them, in size and location, to the areas that are in red. Then let me tell you why the numbers (and the colors) are so significant.



What you're looking at is a map of the 2008 Presidential election broken down by the results in each county. If Barack Obama received most of the votes in a particular county, it appears in blue. If John McCain was the winner, that county is in red.

If you added up the landmass of every blue and red county you'd see something really striking—the Republicans won 80 percent of this country, when measured by acreage. John McCain got a majority of votes in 2,417,000 square miles of the United States. Barack Obama, by comparison, won in just 580,000 square miles.

Ah, but now let's look at the population numbers for each county. McCain still came out ahead, but not by much. The total population of counties won by Republicans was 143 million, while the population of counties won by Democrats was 127 million. Basically, the Democrats swept the population centers—the cities and more populated suburban areas—while the Republicans won everything else.

Now, guess what you would find if you could then overlay this map with one showing the distribution of food stamps, unemployment checks, subsidized housing and other welfare payments? Sure, there will be some in all of those red areas. There are plenty of Republicans receiving Social Security and Medicare. I'm sure there are even some Republican farmers who get paid not to grow crops. And there are certainly some Republican businessmen getting subsidies from Uncle Sam.

But the overwhelming majority of voters in the red areas pay more into government than they receive, while just the opposite is true in the blue areas. The majority of people there receive more in government benefits than they pay in taxes. In fact, 45 percent of adults in America pay no

income taxes at all. Not one red penny. Zero. Nada. Zilch.

Can you guess where most of those people live? And which party they vote for? While you ponder the significance of these statistics let me repeat a quotation I used in another column when I was discussing the differences between a republic and a democracy:

“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, and is always followed by a dictatorship.”

The statement does not come from one of our Founding Fathers (although I'm sure they would agree with its warning). No, it was written long after our revolution, by a Scottish historian named Alexander Fraser Tytler. By the way, he wasn't predicting the collapse of our republic; he was talking about what happened to the Athenian democracy 2,000 years ago.

Back to that map that's bothered me so much. In most of the country the numbers are so close that an election can go either way, depending on which side is the most motivated. If the Democrats and their union allies and community organizers do a better job of getting out the vote, they win.

If the Republicans are inspired and enthusiastic enough about their candidate that they become almost evangelical in getting their friends and neighbors to vote, they carry the day. (This is especially true if they can appeal to enough independents to put the good of the country ahead of their own desire for some of that government booty.)

Now, let me ask you another question. How do you think this very delicate balance will change if several million illegal aliens are allowed to vote in our elections? May I see a show of hands of everyone who thinks the Republicans will get a majority of those votes? Anyone? Anyone?

I think you can guess where I'm going with this. For a lot of reasons we've already discussed, the Democrats not only won the White House two years ago, they also won a super-majority in Congress. Until Scott Brown won the Senate seat in Massachusetts last year the Republicans didn't even have the manpower to mount a filibuster.

If you went by the numbers alone you'd have to conclude that the Democrats could pass anything they wanted. And yet look at all the trouble they've had getting their legislative program adopted. Yes, by using enough bribes, bluster and baloney they finally got Obamacare approved. But just by the skin of their teeth. Almost everything else they've wanted and Obama has promised is dead in the water. Cap and trade? Card check for unions? Unemployment payments forever? Fuggedaboutit! They just won't happen. Not unless a lot more Democrats become a lot more suicidal.

Remember, the vast majority of people in Congress aren't dedicated liberals or dedicated conservatives. The only thing they're dedicated to is staying in office. They love the power and perks that come with being a member of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Where else would you get to spend billions of dollars of other people's money—and usually be thanked for it?

Remember, when you rob Peter to pay Paul you can count on getting the thanks of Paul. And his vote, too.

So what can we do about it? To paraphrase a comment I received from an alert reader, we have three boxes we can use.

The first is the soap box. By and large, we're doing a good job telling ourselves what's wrong. But we're not doing as well at telling others.

If the fate of this republic depended on it, over the next few months, could you get one other person to share your concerns and vote accordingly? Believe it or not, that's all it would take. Conservatives would win enough seats in the House to bring Obama's socialistic schemes to a screeching halt. (And a lot of members who used to rubber-stamp every liberal boondoggle would begin to sound like Sarah Palin.)

That brings me to the second box we need to use—the ballot box. If just 10 percent of the people who voted right last time got one more person to vote with them, the politicians who promise to help take back our country would win in a landslide.

Listen, we have all the resources we need to turn things around. No matter how much some on the Left might like to, government can't shut us up or shut us down. We have all of the time, the talent and the funds we need. Let's use them while we still can.

If we don't, the day may come when the only avenue left to defeat total government is the third box. It's the one that won our liberty the first time. I'm talking about the ammo box. Pray God we won't have to use it again.

Tea Parties Vs. Socialist Redistributionists

April 12, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

Although President Obama, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid and their elite socialistic foot soldiers cast it in pleasant, humanitarian terms as a means of providing healthcare

to those who couldn't otherwise afford it, the majority of Americans recognize Obamacare for what it is: a transfer of wealth to Big Pharma, trial lawyers, unions and other special interests and a power grab over society's producers.

Hence, the growth of the Tea Party movement across the United States.

The Tea Party took root early in 2009 (some say it actually began among Ron Paul supporters much earlier) in response to the massive government spending policies and takeover of two-thirds of the American automobile industry and all of the financial industry by the redistributionists—carrying both the Democrat and Republican labels—seeking to turn America into Karl Marx's dream state. The Tea Party grew stronger and louder as Obama—the Liar-in-Chief—denied his socialistic tendencies and looked down on them with arrogant disdain and dismissiveness.

Tea Partiers found their voices as 2009 turned into 2010 and the power grab reached its zenith when Obama's dream came true and the House and Senate overrode the will of the majority of Americans and passed into law Obamacare on March 21, 2010. They turned out by the thousands in Washington, D.C., that day and the day before—traveling there from all over the country on a couple of days notice—to protest, and those who couldn't be there in person flooded the Capitol switchboard with calls and the Capitol email servers with correspondence.

The arrogant elitists who occupy Washington, D.C., laughed in the faces of the Tea Partiers once the passage of Obamacare was assured. Pelosi grabbed her gavel and, along with a group of her lackeys, marched boldly through the crowd of Tea Party protesters on the day the voting began, hoping above hope to incite some incident that would

allow them to paint the protesters as radicals and racists.

When no one took the bait the arrogant elitists made up an incident, with one congressman saying he was slurred by a racial epithet from Tea Partiers and another claiming he was spat upon. Despite those claims no arrests were made, no video or audio evidence of any slurs have turned up and the congressman who claims spittle flew his way was unable to make any kind of identification of a culprit. And Andrew Breitbart's \$100,000 reward to the United Negro College Fund for evidence of a slur remains unclaimed.

Capitol police escorting the group of elected elitists through the crowd of Tea Party peasants saw no evidence of anything untoward and sensed no danger for those they were charged with protecting.

That's because Tea Partiers aren't violent sociopaths as the Left and liberal media would have you believe. They are ordinary, everyday Main Street Americans — 49 percent Republican and 51 percent either independent or Democrat; 70 percent conservative, but 22 percent moderate; 55 percent male; and 45 percent with annual income below \$50,000, 55 percent above \$50,000. In age, education, employment status and race the Tea Party supporters break down statistically almost exactly like the general population, according to Gallup polls.

They're people who would rather be at home or at work than having to stand outside their capitol building holding signs and demonstrating. They are people who, three or four years ago, would not have dreamed they would have to stand up to a government that is spending away the future of their children and grandchildren and making an unconstitutional power grab.

And make no mistake: That's what the elected elitists

are doing. That group of Ivy League educated lawyers and political scientists that walk the halls of Congress—and one who now resides in the White House and refuses to travel sans teleprompter—has been attempting to pull a bait-and-switch on the American people, telling them Obamacare had nothing to do with socialism or redistribution of wealth or power over the people but only in helping the less fortunate.

Some fell for it. But, despite Obama's eloquent teleprompter and long windedness, most haven't. Indeed, 52 percent still oppose Obamacare four weeks after its passage. But now that it has passed the elites are no longer hiding their true intent: socialist redistribution.

In their own words:

“It's a simple proposition to us: Everyone is entitled to adequate medical health care. If you call that a ‘redistribution of income’—well, so be it. I don't call it that. I call it just being fair—giving the middle class taxpayers an even break that the wealthy have been getting.”—Vice President Joe Biden

“[Health reform is] an income shift. It is a shift, a leveling, to help lower-income, middle-income Americans. ...[T]he maldistribution of income in America has gone up way too much, the wealthy are getting way, way too wealthy, and the middle income class is left behind. [The new health care legislation] will have the effect of addressing that maldistribution of income in America.”—Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.)

“I don't worry about the Constitution on this... What I care more about, [are] the people dying every day that don't have health care.”—Rep. Phil Hare (D-Ill.)

“Let me remind you this [Americans allegedly dying because of lack of universal healthcare] has been going on for years. We are bringing it to a halt. The harsh fact of the matter is when you’re going to pass legislation that will cover 300 [million] American people in different ways it takes a long time to do the necessary administrative steps that have to be taken to put the legislation together to control the people.” — Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.)

To their credit, Republicans in Congress opposed Obamacare. It seems the GOP plans to run on a platform of “Repeal the Bill” as we head into the midterm elections this fall. However, Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), in typical Republican style of surrendering before the battle has been enjoined, has already lost his backbone and is saying repeal is not going to happen. The surrender came three weeks after he said Republicans would and should run on a platform of repeal.

Senate candidate Mark Kirk of Illinois has also backed off his “repeal the bill” stance. Rep. Mike Castle, (R-Del.) is running for the State’s open Senate seat and he is also avoiding a pledge to repeal. Expect other Republicans to follow.

The GOP can’t be trusted to fight for smaller government. Big Government is in their genes. Thankfully, Kirk and Castle have opposition.

I find your idea interesting. Would students be able to transfer credit obtained from your site to their high school and college?

The Republican establishment candidate Castle was subsequently defeated in the primary by Christine O’Donnell, a Tea Party-backed conservative. Kirk won the Republican nomination and was elected Senator. — BL

Remember in 1994, after a bruising fight with President Bill Clinton over universal healthcare, Republicans ran on their “Contract with America” which would have, in their minds, streamlined government, required a balanced budget, created jobs, set term limits and produced other reforms? Some elements did not pass in Congress while others were vetoed by Clinton. Republicans then moved on to other things, like growing government under President George W. Bush.

So if you want to take back your government (indeed, your country) from the Obama regime and his Marxists redistributionists, don’t think you’re going to do so by selecting just any Republican candidate. He or she may be a Bob Corker, Mike Castle or Mark Kirk—maybe a socialist, maybe a progressive or maybe just a spineless, deceitful politician—with no intention of shrinking government.

The Tea Parties will give you some idea of the worth of a candidate. But it’s up to each individual voter to check out a candidate’s record if they have one, or their words and deeds if they don’t, before the vote and to hold their feet to the fire after the election.

That’s the only way you’re going to take your country back. The elitist redistributionists are feeling invincible, and their special interests promise generous campaign contributions when the campaign begins.

It’s your job as a voter—as a citizen—to show that your vote is more important than cash from corporatists, trial lawyers, unions and their other johns.

Who’s Laughing Now?

September 16, 2010 by *Ben Crystal*

The Sept. 14, 2010 edition of *The Hill* featured a piece by Sam Youngman about a Presidential photo-op

in fabulous Fairfax, Va. Titled, “President Obama Seeks His Inner Bill Clinton and Feels Voters’ Pain,” the piece focused on a White House sojourn to the home of an upper middle class family in the aforementioned suburban enclave.

While my first thought was, “at least they didn’t go back to Majorca,” a more intent perusal of the piece revealed a great deal about how our poor President has gotten so lost of late. At one point during the stopover, Obama actually said he “feels their pain.” Bill Clinton used to say that, as well. Then the GOP dropped an electoral elephant on the Democrats in 1994. The more things “change...”

While Obama’s visit to the home of John Nicholas and Nicole Armstrong was no more or less carefully orchestrated than any other Presidential day trip, his talking points were—sadly—no more or less ludicrous than his other recent economic pronouncements.

Nicholas was noted as having “survived several layoffs at his Internet-services company,” while Armstrong has “recently returned to part-time work... to help pay the family’s bills.” So, while the President’s economic ineptitude has pushed the unemployment rate toward Carter-era numbers, the President went to a hoedown at a home owned by a family earning more than twice the national salary average. Neither of his hosts is looking for work, nor are they “working” for the Census Bureau (or at any other government-backed make-work jobs the White House has been trying to sneak into the economic stew of late). And Obama feels our pain? Obama might as well have visited a home that had recently been burglarized... and consoled the next-door neighbors.

During his photo-op, Obama also tried to tout his economic message, touching on his Administration’s fight to dim the

lights on Bush-era tax relief, a key point in the recent war of words the White House has been trying to wage. One White House spokes model suggested the Obama push to punish economic success stories by bumping up upper income tax bracket rates was: “fight(ing) for the middle class.”

What the mouthpiece didn’t mention was the punitive nature of the Democrats’ frontal tax-assault on the Nation’s leading producers. Right now, the top 25 percent of American income earners have to pull the cart for 86 percent of the IRS bill. If the margins go up, that top 25 percent (which includes nearly everyone at Obama’s Fairfax fandango) will have to spend less now to pay more in April. Even the D-students in Econ 101 can tell you taking money out of the economic reservoir lowers the level of the whole lake. More to the point: you don’t bench the varsity for running up the economic score.

But the exhaustive use of exhausted liberal justification for regressive taxes aside, Obama’s visit to the hinterlands actually got weird(er). According to the President:

“Michelle and I always laugh about it when people talk about us—I think they forget that we were basically living the same lives as John and Nicole, just it wasn’t that long ago,” Obama said. “It was, like, six, seven years ago.”

Whee!!! Presidential jocularly! How refreshing. I suppose we should be glad that our multi-millionaire Commander-in-Chief and his fashion plate wife can look back on their former lives of middle-class drudgery and smile. Pardon me if I don’t join in the fun there, Chuckles. Remind me, Mr. Middle-class: Michelle took HOW many people along to Spain? It cost HOW MUCH? And you were dining with OPRAH that week? Then you went BACK to MARTHA’S VINEYARD?

The article dutifully noted that Obama grew up in less luxurious surroundings than the ones he was visiting on

Monday (and the ones in which he currently resides).
Meaning what—he’s a modern-day Horatio Alger?

I have learned to accept the essential hypocrisy of limousine liberals. But the idea of an extraordinarily wealthy man visiting reasonably wealthy supporters in order to promulgate economic policies which have not only consigned millions of Americans to far less fancy fields than Fairfax, but will also ensure few Americans can reach their level of wealth isn’t humorous; it’s horrific.

Pundits often point to the “disconnect” between Obama and the average citizen. Obama’s recent Fairfax field trip reveals something more sinister than simple separation: The President finds our plight amusing.

Laugh it up, liberals. We saw the same primary results you did. Come November, the joke’s on you.

It’s The Spending, Stupid

September 24, 2010 by *Chip Wood*

Now there’s a message I hope you’ll see and hear a lot between now and election day—on bumper stickers on the backs of cars, in email messages and letters to the editor, on radio talk shows and a hundred other places; including in front of every polling place in the country, if that were allowed.

Please do your share to pass it around—including sending this book to a few dozen friends and family members who should read it, or directing them to *Personal Liberty Digest*[™]. I wish I could take credit for the slogan—an obvious twist on the James Carville/Bill Clinton message two decades ago—but I can’t. It was the headline in a Daniel Henninger column in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Henninger began by quoting the President at a town-hall meeting in Fairfax, Va., where our Obfuscator-in-Chief attempted to explain the election victories of various Tea Party candidates.

“They saw the Recovery Act. They saw TARP. They saw the auto bailout. And they look at these and think, ‘God, all these huge numbers adding up.’ So they’re right to be concerned about that.”

Right. You feel our pain. I think we’ve heard that before.

Of course, the President could also have mentioned new deficits of more than a trillion dollars a year, two \$3-trillion budgets since he took office, and a trillion-dollar healthcare entitlement shoved down our throats. Voters aren’t just “concerned,” Mr. President. Many of them have had it up to here with bloated, wasteful government spending. They are, to quote a wonderful old movie, “mad as h**l and they’re not going to take it anymore.”

If you consider yourself one of the “they” referred to above, you can take heart from the latest poll results. Last week the Rasmussen poll queried potential voters. Nearly seven out of 10—an outstanding 68 percent of the total—said they want smaller government and lower taxes, even if that comes at the cost of fewer services.

The number was highest, of course, among people who identified themselves as Republicans, with 88 percent saying they wanted spending reduced. Democrats scored the lowest, but a still impressive 44 percent in favor of cuts. And where did the independents fall? Some 74 percent joined the anti-spending crowd.

My liberal friends, you’ve got trouble. Big trouble. And not just in River City. I’m not sure there’s a lie big enough,

or a smear nasty enough, to keep you from getting your heads handed to you in the next election.

If I were running against an incumbent, one of the first questions I would ask is, “Where were you when the tax cuts expired? And why did you do nothing to preserve them?”

In case you’ve missed all the hullabaloo, here’s what’s happening... or, to be accurate, not happening.

Back in 2001, blessed by a healthy Republican majority in the House and Senate, George W. Bush persuaded Congress to approve some of the largest tax cuts in our country’s history. The Democrats couldn’t stop the legislation, but they very cleverly exacted a condition: The tax cuts would expire on Dec. 31, 2010, unless Congress extended them.

We’re getting awfully close to the witching hour and thus far, Congress hasn’t done a thing... except expend a lot of hot air. If Congress does nothing over the next three months—and usually, I’ve got to admit, that’s exactly what I wish the esteemed men and women who represent us would do—you and every other taxpayer in this country will see a lot more money taken from your pocket next year and given to Uncle Sam.

In fact, it will amount to the largest tax increase in U.S. history. And it will impact almost every taxpayer in the country. The front-page story in my local paper said it all:

“Unless Congress acts, almost all earning levels will be paying more—from the wealthy to the working poor.”

And please don’t let anyone sucker you into believing that what’s at stake here are “tax breaks for the wealthy.” That is a bunch of hokum. Listen to this:

“A typical family of four with a household income of \$50,000 a year would have to pay \$2,900 more in taxes

in 2011, according to a new analysis by Deloitte Tax LLP, a tax-consulting firm,” according to a story by *The Associated Press*.

But if you do make more than Obama’s \$250,000 threshold, get ready to be really hammered. Starting on Jan. 1, 2011, the top marginal income-tax rate is set to increase to 39.6 percent from 35 percent. The phase-out of itemized deductions will raise that rate to 40.8 percent. Now that Obamacare has passed there will also be a 3.8 percent healthcare tax, starting in 2013. So the total Federal tax rate for our highest earners will be 44.6 percent.

In fact, it will be even higher. When the Bush tax cuts expire, taxes on stock dividends and capital gains will go from 15 percent to 20 percent. President Barack Obama has said he would like to see them raised to as high as 28 percent.

And here’s an astounding fact that is known (or should be known) to every member of Congress: Whenever Congress has increased taxes on capital gains in the past, actual tax collections have gone down.

That’s right: When government raises the tax rate, actual receipts drop. When you think about it, it’s not hard to understand why. Capital gains only occur when someone sells an investment and reports making a profit on it. But most of the time, they don’t have to sell. Given the mood of the country right now, how many investors will sit on their holdings rather than give more and more of them to a greedy, grasping, irresponsible government?

Oh, and there’s one more monstrosity racing down the road toward us. That is the re-imposition of the dreaded estate tax. Beginning in 2011 the estate tax is slated to return to 55 percent on inheritances above \$1 million.

Right now, because Congress did nothing last year, the estate tax is zero. That explains the delirious joy on the part of the heirs of such billionaires as John Kluge and George Steinbrenner.

By dying in 2010, they saved their families over a billion dollars in taxes. Imagine—their heirs got all the money, not Uncle Sam. No wonder the distributionists among us are having apoplexy.

Where does all that money go? Part of it makes certain that Federal employees now make, on average, more than twice as much as workers in the private sector. That's the startling conclusion of an analysis by *USA Today*, that found that anyone lucky enough to be gobbling at the Federal trough receives, on average, some \$41,791 in benefits a year.

That's in addition to a salary, on average, of \$81,258 a year. Private workers, in comparison, earn only \$61,051 in total compensation.

Let me repeat the first number, to make sure you grasp it. The average benefit of a Federal employee, above and beyond the salary he or she actually gets paid, comes to \$41,791 a year.

If that weren't enough to make you want to throw some tea into Boston Harbor—and a whole bunch of incumbents along with it—I don't know what will.

The Thrill Is Gone

September 14, 2010 by *Ben Crystal*

For the eighth time in what increasingly looks like will be his only term, President Barack Obama held forth at a talking point dump, *a.k.a.* press conference. For a man dubbed “messianic” by the liberal elite, I can't help but

notice of late, Obama looks as comfortable in front of the camera as a blind agoraphobic in Grand Central Station during rush hour.

Watching our increasingly desperate President try to hold the attention of even the fawning sycophants who comprise the bulk of the White House Press Corps was like watching a physics professor trying on Homecoming Friday to hold the attention of a lecture hall filled with frat-boy liberal arts majors.

Confronted by *ABC News* correspondent Jake Tapper about how Obamacare has already turned into the fiscal imbroglio Democrats denied it would be, Obama froze stiffer than Nancy Pelosi's face on a Lake Tahoe ski lift:

“No—as I said, uh, Jacob, the—I haven't read the entire study, uh, maybe you have. But, uh, you know, if—if you—if what the reports say are true, what they're saying is that as a consequence of us getting 30 million additional people health care, at the margins that's gonna increase our costs, we knew that. We didn't think that we were gonna cover 30 million people... for... free.”

Actually, Mr. President, that's. Precisely. What. You. Said. While his backtracking tends to be as laughably divorced from reality as an Ed Schultz monologue, Obama's stilted speech patterns and inexplicable “I don't write it, I just read it” dependence on the teleprompter has actually passed funny and disembarked at creepy. I can't help but wonder if David Axelrod is standing behind the blue curtain with a remote control: “*Damn it, Gibbs. I need four AA batteries, pronto!*”

Remember when this same media took such pleasure in mocking George W. Bush's tortured enunciations? At least we all knew that when W said “nook-you-lerr,” it wasn't

because Ari Fleischer fell asleep with his head on the keyboard.

I thought Obama was supposed to be the smartest man alive. During the course of the 2008 Presidential campaign, the Democrats deployed every media flack, screwball blogger and *MSNBC* “journalist” to extol his brilliance while excoriating anyone who dared ask: *“Is it me, or does this guy sound like Howard Dean built a Leninbot in his basement?”*

Those of us who openly questioned the acumen of the untested Illinois Senator were dismissed as racists. Once the race card was maxed out (which happened right about the same time ultra-White boy *Newsweek* leftist Jonathan Alter claimed that only racism could prevent an Obama Presidency), the Left began assailing doubters with Obama’s indubitable brilliance. “He went to HARVARD.” Um... so did the Unabomber. For that matter, so did Al Gore. For THAT matter, so did Bush.

Now that the Obama Express has jumped the tracks and slammed headfirst into the bridge abutment of incompetence, Democrats nationwide are booking passage to Anywhere But Obama. Two-hundred-nineteen Dems voted “yea” on Obamacare. Not one has run an ad touting their vote.

“Sure, I’m flattered that the President would like to campaign for me. It’s just that I’m washing my hair this election.”

The borderline-romantic yearning for the great Community Activist has faded like Bill and Hillary’s post-Monica love life. Even plagiarist and former Bhagwan devotee, Arianna Huffington’s Hollywood self-esteem builder *Huffington post.com*, can’t seem to drum up much enthusiasm. Even with Huffpo’s ubiquitous pseudo-academic Joseph Palermo

weaving allusions to fading Obama worship into a predictable tapestry of tired Bush-bashing in a Sept. 10, 2010 piece ponderously titled, “President Obama Attempts to Bridge the ‘Enthusiasm Gap.’” It has clearly never occurred to Professor Palermo that the Army Corps of Engineers couldn’t handle that job.

Obama’s lack of enthusiasm is beyond pathetic. Rush Limbaugh suggested during a broadcast that Obama appears impotent. Limbaugh is underselling the problem. There’s no little blue pill that can fix the issues in the White House.

Whatever you want to call it, Obama’s lack of vitality is dangerous. Islamofascism, the Service Employees International Union and Nancy Pelosi don’t let up on the throttle just because Obama’s hiding under the Resolute Desk.

During the 2008 Presidential campaign, Democrats fired distortions, defamation and plain old venom at Sarah Palin with abandon. Her garrulous vigor made her a far more inviting target than the man who would be her boss, John McCain.

Looking back, Obama’s verbal ineptitude (not to mention his professional incompetence) makes both McCain and Palin look positively Ciceronian by comparison. The Democrats honestly expect us to believe Palin couldn’t have handled Joe Biden’s job? Well, I’m not convinced Obama can, either.

Can Obama Find Hope?

August 18, 2010 by *Bob Livingston*

At a fundraiser in Milwaukee in August, 2010, President Barack Obama said in a speech, “Let’s reach for hope.” Apparently hope is all he has left.

While he “inherited” (a word he loves to use as if the economic woes of the country came to him by surprise) an economy that

was in freefall due to Federal Reserve interest rates set at near zero and government policies that benefited Wall Street and Big Banksters while absolving them of risk, he supported most of those policies while a back-bencher in the United States Senate.

Obama has officially been President since Jan. 20, 2009, and his economic team began working hand-in-hand with the George W. Bush Administration immediately after the November, 2008 elections. Everything done subsequently that has created the almost \$2 trillion deficit and deepened and prolonged the recession lays at his feet.

He can hope things get better before the next election. He can hope his economic advisors will get a good surprise for a change. He can hope his (and Michelle's) summer vacation continues.

Our hope is that enough awakened voters hit the voting booths in November to stop the train wreck that is Obama and a Democrat-controlled Congress.

While Obama urges his followers to reach for hope, Right-thinking Americans will soon be able to make a change.

And they did. Republicans won the House and reduced the Democrat Party's lead in the Senate. But divided government has not brought more sanity to Washington, D.C. On the contrary, it's increased the insanity. Now the partisans in both parties are posturing for November 2012. Of course, for Obama, the election never ended. But after his thumping in the midterm elections, Obama kicked in the campaign afterburners. Now it seems that everything he does, everywhere he goes and everything he says is dedicated to one thing: his re-election. It's all the more reason that Obama and his unAmerican agenda must be defeated come November 2021.—BL

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