

The Obama Timeline: 1961-2009

The following timeline presents the important aspects of Barack Obama's life, from birth to the present. Every attempt has been made to present accurate information, names, and dates. If errors or significant omissions are noted, please feel free to contact the author at colony14@gmail.com. Although the timeline's content will frequently change as events occur, the author will gladly send you a .pdf version if you would find that useful.

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There are tentative plans for the publication of "The Obama Timeline" in book form in the summer of 2009. The book will cover the period of 1961 through Obama's first 100 days in office. Watch www.colony14.net for news of publication and availability.

1961-1966

Hawaii

Barack Obama Jr. is born on August 4, 1961 to Stanley Ann Dunham (1942-1995). Ann Dunham (who understandably dropped her first name "Stanley," given to her because her father wanted a male child) had married Obama's father, Barack Obama, Sr. (1936-1982), on February 2, 1961. Obama, Sr., a pro-Soviet Marxist, was a Kenyan studying at the University of Hawaii. Dunham met him in a Russian language class in the fall of 1960, as he was starting his second year at the University and she was beginning her first. Obama, Sr., an Arab-African Muslim by birth, but an atheist by admission, already had two children with a woman in Kenya named Kezia (b. 1938). The senior Obama may or may not have been legally married to Kezia. Some have speculated that their marriage was only a tribal marriage, and therefore not legally recognized. Depending on his marital status in Kenya, Obama's marriage to Dunham may or may not therefore have been legal. (Obama and Kezia eventually re-unite after he separates from Ann Dunham, and Kezia bears two more of his children.) After learning of the planned wedding to Dunham, Obama, Sr.'s father writes a long, angry letter to her parents saying he "*didn't approve of the marriage*" and "*didn't want the Obama blood sullied by a white woman.*"

[1,3,7,289,299,324,2287,2292,2293]

Barack Obama, Sr.'s Hawaiian education was sponsored partly by the Laubach Literacy Institute (LLI), which has links to the Nation of Islam, and which considers a socialist world without national borders one of its goals. A financial supporter of the LLI was Elizabeth Mooney Kirk, who co-authored books with its founder, Charles Laubach. Kirk was also a friend of civil rights activist and black nationalist Malcolm "X" (Malcolm Little). It is likely that Malcolm X met Obama, Sr. during a 1959 visit to the Secretary General of the Kenya Federation of Labour, prominent Kenyan politician Tom Mboya, because Mboya and Obama were close friends. [408]

Obama Sr. was able to attend the University of Hawaii also through the efforts of Mboya, who visited the United States in 1959 to obtain financial support for the American education of 81 Kenyan students. Presidential candidate Obama was incorrect in relating that his father was part of the "Kennedy airlift" of Kenyan students; John F. Kennedy was not sworn in as President until January of 1961, when Obama, Sr. was already in his second year at the University of Hawaii. Obama's "JFK helped my father" story was likely intended to attach some of the "Kennedy mystique" to his candidacy. [561]

Obama states he was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. If that is the case, he was then both an American citizen and a British citizen at birth because his father was a citizen of the British East African Protectorate of Zanzibar. Because Zanzibar had, in 1961, not yet declared its independence from Great Britain Obama was, like his father, a British citizen under Section 32(1) of the British Nationality Act of 1948. Both Obama, Sr. and Obama, Jr. then automatically became citizens of Kenya when the independent nation was formed (from what had been Zanzibar) in 1963. Obama's British citizenship automatically expired when he turned age 21. As a person born with dual citizenship, Obama is arguably not a natural born citizen and is ineligible to serve as President. The framers of the U.S. Constitution intentionally excluded dual citizens from becoming President because of possible split loyalties. [219,258,492,549]

Kenyan Birth Allegations

Some speculate that Obama was born not in Hawaii but in Kenya. Only one of Obama's parents was American. If Obama was born in Kenya (or any country other than the United States), he cannot legally serve as President of the United States because he is *not* a "natural born citizen," even though he may have become a "naturalized citizen." Obama's American citizen parent, Ann Dunham, had to have been a resident of the United States for 10 years, *at least five of which were over the age of 14*. Dunham did *not* meet that requirement (of the Nationality Act of 1940, revised June, 1952) until her 19th birthday in late November of 1961, almost four months after Obama was born. The law confers U.S. nationality on the infant of a foreign father only under certain circumstances;

it would apply to *“(7) a person born outside the geographical limits of the United States and its outlying possessions of parents one of whom is an alien, and the other a citizen of the United States, who prior to the birth of such person, was physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than ten years, at least five of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years.”* [801,2040,2462]

A significant and understandable fuss has been made about Obama becoming the first African-American President. Obama is arguably not, however, “African-American.” His father, Barack Obama, Sr., is allegedly one-eighth African (on his mother’s side, from the Luo tribe in Kenya) and his father’s ancestry is purported to be Arabic. To the extent that is true, candidate Obama could arguably be referred to as “Arab-American” or “Arab-African-American.” Obama is certainly not – like many black Americans – the descendant of African slaves owned by white American slave-owners. If he has Arab ancestors Obama is, in fact, more likely a descendant of slave *owners*, because Arabs have for many centuries traditionally owned slaves and been active slave traders. Further, the names “Barack” and “Hussein” are of Arab origin. (There is insufficient publicly-available evidence to state with certainty the percentages of Obama’s national ancestries.) [513,514]

Obama, Sr. and Ann Dunham were granted a divorce on March 20, 1964 and therefore appear to have been legally married, although the State of Hawaii would certainly not have known of Obama, Sr.’s wife Kezia in Kenya when it issued a marriage certificate. (There are no known witnesses to a Dunham-Obama marriage, nor has any marriage certificate surfaced.) During the campaign Obama’s wife Michelle stated in an interview that Ann Dunham was *“very young and very single when she had him (Barack Obama, Jr.)”* In any event, Dunham was unmarried and not even age 18 – or possibly just barely 18 – when she became pregnant in late 1960. (Michelle Obama may have meant to say that Dunham was very young and very single *when she became pregnant.*) [4,6,8,10,324,352,564,772,2287]

Stanley Ann Dunham

Ann Dunham was, at various times, an atheist, an “Adlai Stevenson liberal,” a secular humanist, leftist social-activist, socialist, and student of cultural anthropology. She was reportedly an excellent debater at school, and allegedly excelled at defending the concepts of Karl Marx’s *“The Communist Manifesto.”* [2,4,5,9,10,324,612,744,2289]

In 1955, Ann Dunham had moved with her parents from Dorado, Kansas, to the Columbia City neighborhood of Seattle, Washington, where her father managed a furniture store – located down the street from the Regional Headquarters of the Communist Party USA. (It has been alleged that Ann Dunham’s father, Stanley

Armour Dunham, purportedly a Marxist, had been suspected of espionage during World War II, and that Boeing has a 1944 security file on Dunham in connection with suspected sabotage of B-17 aircraft at its Wichita plant and the theft of B-29 blueprints. Those suspicions, if true, may have prompted Dunham to move his family from Kansas to Washington.) Ann Dunham attended Eckstein Middle School. The family then moved to Mercer Island in 1956 so that Ann could attend Mercer Island High School. The Mercer Island School Board was led by John Stenhouse (a British immigrant raised in China), who, according to his testimony to the House Committee on Un-American Activities, was a member of the Communist Party USA. Dunham's teachers included communists Jim Wichterman, whose assignments included the reading of *"The Communist Manifesto."* The hallway between Wichterman's class and that of another teacher, Val Foubert, whose reading assignments included Margaret Mead's writings on homosexuality, was known as "anarchy alley." (Foubert also had his students read Ayn Rand's *"Atlas Shrugged,"* the monumental pro-individual, pro-liberty, anti-collectivist novel which, if she read, Dunham clearly did not understand and which certainly was not allowed to influence her son's view of the world.) Dunham graduated from high school in 1960. Dunham also attended the East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue (of which communist Stenhouse was president), which was known as the *"little Red church on the hill"* because of its communist leanings. Obama claims his maternal grandparents were *"conservative Methodists or Baptists from Kansas,"* and his mother *"was a Christian."* Obama contradicts himself when he also states, *"I was not raised in a religious household... My mother's own experiences... only reinforced this inherited skepticism. Her memories of the Christians who populated her youth were not fond ones..."* and *"In our household the Bible, the Koran, and the Bhagavad Gita sat on the shelf alongside books of Greek and Norse and African mythology. On Easter or Christmas Day my mother might drag me to church..."* [408,558,612,743,2289,2290]

In 1960, Dunham emphasized her "free spirit" with a statement to her high school friends that, *"I don't need to date or marry to have children."* Teacher Wichterman later recalled that Dunham would question anything, asking, *"What's so good about democracy? What's so good about capitalism? What's wrong with communism? What's good about communism?"* Her best friend in high school, Maxine Box, said Dunham *"...touted herself as an atheist, and it was something she'd read about and could argue. She was always challenging and arguing and comparing."* [408,612,2289]

Although Dunham hated her first name, she apparently used it for some time. Friend Susan Botkin recalls, *"In those days she dealt head-on with her uncommon first name. No sense trying to hide it... 'My name is Stanley,' she would say. 'My father wanted a boy, and that's that.' She owned the name. Only once or twice was she teased. She had a sharp tongue, a deep wit, and she could kill. We all called her Stanley."* [2289]

Dunham was apparently also a “free spirit” sexually. One former friend said that *“She couldn’t be the girl you went steady with, but she could be the one you spent time with.”* That friend was not alone in that opinion. Dunham was also known to engage in inter-racial relationships; friend Susan Blake said that Dunham never dated *“the crew-cut white boys.”* Other friends state Dunham had no boyfriends while in high school. [564,614,2291]

Shortly after Dunham’s high school graduation in 1960 the family abruptly left Washington and moved to Hawaii, where she reluctantly enrolled at the University of Hawaii. (She had wanted to attend the University of Washington.) Taking his daughter with him to Hawaii was perhaps Stanley Armour Dunham’s way of keeping an eye on her. He may have been reluctant to leave her behind at the University of Washington, after at least one “false pregnancy” scare. At the University of Hawaii in her freshman year, Dunham was described as shy and reluctant to participate in classroom discussions. Out of the classroom she was friendly with the boys, frequently flirting and repeatedly touching them. Classmates say that *“when Dunham arrived in Hawaii, she was a full-fledged radical leftist...”* She also stopped using her first name “Stanley” at that time. [558,564,2291]

Knowing of her sexual reputation, Obama, Sr. supposedly told Dunham, *“It’s not mine”* when she informed him, in December of 1960, that she was pregnant. Obama, Sr.’s classmates knew he had a wife and children in Africa; it has to be assumed that Dunham did not. She may have quickly found out, however, as Dunham left Obama, Sr. within a few weeks of her son’s birth. [564,2287]

Dunham’s acquaintances recall that they often had difficulties knowing when she was telling the truth. One remarked, *“She would make you believe anything while you were face-to-face but, a few minutes after she’d leave, you’re realize what she said wasn’t very... realistic or true,”* explained one. Another friend recalls joining Dunham for dinner with her parents. Dunham tells an incredible story about a car accident. Her mother, knowing the tale was fabricated, lets her finish... and then states, *“That never happened.”* [564]

One Obama birth theory speculates that Dunham’s parents were disturbed by the news of the pregnancy (understandably, considering the scandal an inter-racial couple and an unwed pregnancy would bring in 1961), and likely tried to persuade her to give the child up for adoption and then claim she had miscarried. There is some speculation that Dunham left Hawaii and gave birth to Obama in Washington State (or perhaps Canada) at a facility for unwed mothers – and then decided to keep the baby. She then would have returned to Hawaii and registered the child’s birth there, claiming the child was born at home in Honolulu. Dunham also visited a friend in Seattle that same month, August of 1961. Her friend recalls having to show Dunham how to change the baby’s diaper. [564]

Almost immediately after giving birth to Obama in 1961, Dunham returns to Washington State to attend the University of Washington, leaving her infant to be cared for by her mother. Obama, Sr. remains at the University of Hawaii. [408]

According to the University of Hawaii (UH), Ann Dunham first attended classes at UH on September 26, 1960. Dunham was also a student at UH between the spring of 1963 and summer of 1966, and sporadically at other times between 1972 and 1992. She received a BA in Mathematics in the summer of 1967, an MA in Anthropology in the fall of 1983, and a PhD in Anthropology in the summer of 1992. [408]

According to the University of Washington (UW), Dunham was enrolled at UW in the fall of 1961 (just weeks after having given birth to Obama), the spring of 1962, and the winter of 1962. The Obama campaign places Dunham only in Hawaii until she later moves to Indonesia with Lolo Soetoro, and omits any reference to her attending UW. These university dates indicate that Ann Dunham was not even living with Barack Obama, Sr., because she attended UW while he remained at UH. He thus spent virtually no time with his newborn son or with Dunham. Dunham attended school in Washington while her mother took care of her newborn son in Hawaii. Thus Dunham, who had told her friends "*I don't need to date or marry to have children,*" apparently also believed she didn't even need to care for a child to have children. [408]

Barack Hussein Obama, Sr.

Obama, Sr. receives two fellowships, one to pursue a doctorate in economics at the New York School for Social Research in New York City, the other for Harvard. The former would have allowed him enough money to provide for his wife and child in New York; the latter would provide only enough for him. He chooses the latter, telling a friend, "*How can I refuse the best education?*" But Dunham had already left Obama, Sr. shortly after her son's birth, so it was not illogical for him to choose Harvard over New York. Dunham does not attend the June, 1962 graduation of Obama, Sr., and he leaves for Harvard shortly thereafter. Dunham seems not to have demanded any child support, and she receives food stamps for a time. [564,2287,842 p. 27]

In the summer of 1962, Obama's father leaves Hawaii to attend Harvard. After his schooling he returns to Kenya, along with Ruth Nidesand, a fellow Harvard student. Obama, Sr. briefly works for the Shell Oil Company, and then obtains employment as an economist with the Kenyan Ministry of Transportation. [2287]

In 1965, Obama's father writes an article for the "East Africa Journal" called, "*Problems Facing Our Socialism,*" in which he criticizes Kenya for not being socialist enough. He writes, "*Theoretically, there is nothing that can stop the*

government from taxing 100 per cent of income so long as the people get benefits from the government commensurate with their income which is taxed.” Obama, Jr. has so far suggested a maximum federal income tax rate of “only” 39.6 per cent (not counting Social Security taxes, Medicare taxes, and state income taxes). Obama, Sr. advocated the elimination of private farming in Kenya, the nationalization of businesses, and high taxes on the wealthy for “redistribution.” (Obama, Jr., with the eager assistance of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, may very well end up attempting to nationalize America’s banks and its auto, oil, and utility industries.) [271,1008]

In his second book (his campaign book, *“The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream”*) Obama clearly states that, like his father, he is also no great fan of the American system of free enterprise capitalism. He describes capitalism as *“chaotic and unforgiving,”* and says he has a desire to roll back the *“ownership society.”* [271]

Obama, Sr. marries Nidesand in Kenya in 1967. They are eventually divorced, with Nidesand claiming physical abuse. With Obama, Sr., Nidesand has a son, a half-brother of Obama, who lives in Shenzhen, China and who reportedly works in the export business. Obama, Sr. eventually has at least eight other children with four women. (Two of those additional children are borne by his former/first wife Kezia, while Obama, Sr. is still married to Nidesand.) Obama, Sr. does not see his son Barack, Jr. again until 1971, when he visits Hawaii to attend a reunion of former UH classmates. Obama, Sr. is eventually killed in 1982, at age 46, in an automobile accident. Another accident a year earlier left him with both legs amputated. Alcohol is believed to have been a factor in the final, fatal accident. (Close friend Philip Ochieng, a journalist in Kenya, states that Obama, Sr. was *“excessively fond of scotch”* and ended up in poverty *“without a job.”*) The earlier automobile accident was, according to at least one source, an apparent attempted hit-and-run assassination in retaliation for Obama having testified against the man who murdered his friend Tom Mboya in 1969. Atheist or not, Obama is given a Muslim burial. [6,7,11,271,324,408,562,2039,2287,842 p. 22]

Obama’s Birth Certificate

In the latter stages of the campaign a myriad of rumors arise suggesting that Obama was not born in Hawaii and was actually born in Kenya. Those stories are fueled partly by reports that his father’s relatives had witnessed his birth in Kenya.

In an effort to squelch the “born in Kenya” rumors, Obama’s campaign posts an image of his Hawaiian birth certificate on the Internet, which is almost immediately suspected of being a forgery. (The story first breaks on Pamela Geller’s AtlasShrugs web site, which has consistently had the most thorough

coverage of the situation.) The birth certificate image shows evidence of being computer-generated, and it represents the limited “short form” birth record document rather than the more detailed “long form” document (sometimes referred to as the “ribbon copy” because it is produced with ink from the typewriter’s ribbon). Obama’s legitimate long form birth certificate may possibly list a place of birth other than Hawaii, a father other than Obama, Sr., or no father at all. Of course, a newborn infant’s mother can give the hospital the name of just about anyone as the father and it will likely be recorded. (By July, 2008, there were allegations that the short form birth certificate forgery had been performed by a Jay McKinnon, who describes himself as a “*Department of Homeland Security-trained document specialist.*”) The long form document may even list a name other than Barack Obama, Jr., such as “Barry Dunham,” especially since Obama, Sr. had allegedly told Dunham he was not the father when she told him she was pregnant. [12,325,494,548,564,2040]

Researcher Dr. Ron Polarik performed an exhaustive examination of the various Obama birth certificate images available on the Internet and states that the document is a fake. Polarik argues that an original paper Certification of Live Birth (COLB) corresponding to the image on the Internet does not actually exist. He alleges that the on-line document was computer-generated, and was not a scanned image of any authentic Obama COLB. Polarik also points out that the 2007 seal shown on Obama’s alleged 2007 COLB looks nothing like the authentic 2007 Hawaiian seal on actual documents for that year. [548]

The Internet site “FactCheck.org” states that the birth certificate provided by the Obama campaign is legitimate, but it should be noted that FactCheck.org is politically left-leaning and is affiliated with the Annenberg Public Policy Center of Pennsylvania, which, in turn, is run by Obama supporters and funded by the Annenberg Foundation. (The Annenberg Foundation also funded the Chicago Annenberg Challenge, from which Obama and William Ayers distributed tens of millions of dollars to predominantly liberal and leftist organizations). In defense of FactCheck.org some point out that the Annenberg Foundation was originally funded by a wealthy Republican, the late Walter Annenberg, and therefore it could not possibly have contributed to leftist causes. That argument fails to consider the fact that wealthy benefactors often do not retain strict control over – or live long enough to control – the foundations they set up; and a grant that looks reasonable on paper does not necessarily result in a wise investment. Annenberg donated \$50 million to the United Negro College Fund and supported public television, and neither of those would be considered conservative-leaning. “If it’s Annenberg it must be conservative” is not a valid argument. The Ford Foundation, for example, has distributed funds in ways which clearly would not have been advocated by Henry Ford. In fact, Henry Ford II quit the Ford Foundation in disgust in 1977. The fact that Annenberg is no longer alive to influence the spending of his foundation is not irrelevant. The simple truth is that as time passes tax-exempt foundations frequently “lurch left” in their distribution of funds. (They have also been known to be used as covers for CIA activities,

precisely because of the lack of accountability in their funding and expenditures.) [302,548,733,842, p. 90]

The birth certificate provided by the Obama campaign lists the father's race as "African," a term that likely would not have been used for a newborn child's race in 1961. A birth certificate in that time period would probably have listed the race as "Negro" or "colored." Those may not be politically correct terms today, but they were in widespread use in 1961. The use of the word "African" on the Obama form thus further suggests that the document provided by his campaign was a newly-created fabrication, prepared by someone unfamiliar with 1961 society. [372]

On August 13, 1961, nine days after his birth, an Obama birth notice appears in two Honolulu newspapers. The "*Sunday Advertiser*" and the "*Star Bulletin*" announcements read, "*Mr. and Mrs. Barack H. Obama, 6085 Kalaniana'ole Hwy., son, Aug 4.*" The address listed in the notices is purportedly that of Ann Dunham's parents. The place of birth is not indicated. Many argue that the newspaper birth notices prove Obama was born in Hawaii, others argue that they prove only that Obama's mother, father, or grandparents placed the notice in the newspapers. (One individual who is familiar with Linotype machines used by newspapers in the 1960s argues that the spacing of the lines in the Obama birth notice suggests it is a forgery.) Current long-time (since before 1961) residents of nearby 6075 Kalaniana'ole Highway state that the residents of 6085 in 1961 were not Obama and Dunham, or Stanley and Madelyn Dunham, but Orland and Thelma Lefforge. [362,1902,1908,1909]

Some have suggested that Dunham and Obama, Sr. visited his homeland of Kenya at the beginning of their long summer break from the University and that Obama was born in Africa. As the summer progressed the airlines would likely not have allowed a very pregnant Dunham to fly all the way to Hawaii, and Dunham therefore would have delivered her child in Kenya. (The airlines were stricter about such issues in 1961 than they are today.) Several relatives of Obama in Kenya, who likely are unaware of the eligibility requirements of the U.S. Presidency, state that he was born in Kenya. [197,199,248]

Dunham's high school classmate Susan Blake recalls that during a 1961 visit to Seattle Dunham was excited about her husband's plans to return to Kenya. Blake does not indicate whether Dunham was going to Kenya with her husband, but it is not illogical to believe that the newlyweds would travel together to Obama Sr.'s homeland in order for Dunham to "meet the parents," with the trip taking place over the summer when university classes were not in session. Such a trip would also be consistent with reports that Obama's family in Kenya was less than thrilled when they met his new wife, a white woman. The summer of 1961 is the only logical time the Kenyan family could have met Dunham, as both she and Obama, Sr. returned to the United States to attend fall sessions in school.

Dunham's trip to Kenya would not have been during the 1962 summer break, as by that time Obama, Sr. had already decided to attend Harvard and leave both Dunham and her child. [743]

Obama's campaign has given the names of two different Hawaiian hospitals where he was supposed to have been born (Kapiolani Medical Center and Queens Medical Center, both in Honolulu). No one has been able to confirm the birth from either hospital's records. There is allegedly a *register* of the birth in the public records office, dated August 8, 1961, one week after the birth, but it purportedly does not list a place of birth. (Note that a *register of birth* is not the same as a *birth certificate*.) [248]

Between November 20 and December 2 of 2008, 13 separate Hawaiian hospitals were contacted to determine if Obama had been born there. None of them could or would confirm it was the facility where he was born. The hospitals contacted included Queen's Medical Center (where Obama says he was born) and Kapiolani Medical Center (where Obama's half-sister Maya Soetoro-Ng says he was born). [584]

A writer for "*Online Journal*" published an article (June 9, 2008) claiming that a research team went to Mombasa, Kenya, and located a certificate of the Kenyan birth of Barack Obama, Jr. It is unclear why that story, if it is true, did not get traction. There is also speculation that certified copies of a Kenyan birth certificate, with embossed raised seals and with birth witness signatures, are now in the hands of three individuals. Those documents purportedly state that Obama was born at 7:24 p.m., on August 4, 1961, at Coast Provincial General Hospital, in Mombasa, Kenya. Government authorities in Kenya have stated that all documents regarding Obama would be "under seal" until after the November 4 election. That statement itself raises questions, because if Obama was born in Hawaii, Kenya would have no Obama birth records to seal. [248,299,301,407]

Some believe that the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad, has done some investigating and believes Obama was born in Mombasa, Kenya. The British Secret Service, MI6, according to others, allegedly has documents relating to Obama, Sr. because he was a politically active communist at a time when Kenya had not yet received its independence from Great Britain. [558,2038]

There have been claims that Obama's paternal grandmother (his father's mother), Sarah Hussein Obama (or Sarah Onyango Obama, born in 1922), told reporters that Barack Obama, Jr. was born in Kenya when her son came to visit... accompanied by a pregnant Ann Dunham. Sarah Hussein Obama further stated that she was present in the Mombasa delivery room when Obama was born. One half-brother and one half-sister of Obama also claim he was born in Kenya. That would be consistent with a reported stop by Dunham to the state of Washington on the return trip to Hawaii, and with the possible existence of only a

Hawaiian register of birth, rather than an actual Hawaiian birth certificate. The Chicago Tribune was told by Dunham's friend Susan Blake that Dunham visited her in Seattle with the newborn infant shortly after his birth. Arguably, that visit to Blake makes more sense as part of a necessary return trip from Kenya to Hawaii through Seattle, than as an optional pleasure trip from Hawaii to Seattle and back to Hawaii simply to show off a newborn baby. [248,289,299,324,367]

A critical issue with regard to the Obama long form birth certificate is that Hawaiian law (Hawaii Revised Statute 338-17.8) allows the State of Hawaii to issue a certificate of live birth *even if the child is born outside the State* provided the parents have been legal residents of Hawaii for at least one year immediately preceding the birth. Obama, Sr. may or may not have been a legal resident of Hawaii for at least one year prior to August, 1961. Ann Dunham graduated from Mercer Island High School in Washington in 1960. If, as of August, 1961, she had been a legal resident of Hawaii for one year, it was just barely one year. Such a Hawaiian certificate of live birth does not require that the child be born in Hawaii, only that the parents be Hawaiian residents for one year. Thus, had Obama been born in Kenya and shortly thereafter brought to Hawaii, Dunham could nevertheless have requested a Hawaiian birth certificate for her son, *but that document would have been in addition to the birth certificate issued in Kenya*. Such a Hawaiian certificate does not, of course, make the child a natural born citizen of the United States, it is merely a birth-recording convenience offered by the State. If Dunham expected to remain in Hawaii and the United States it would have been logical for her to have wanted to register Obama's birth there. (It certainly would not have been necessary for her to "think ahead" to a time when he might decide to run for President, as some have suggested.) Dunham could also have returned to Hawaii from Kenya, claimed to have given birth at home, and simply registered the birth as Hawaiian. Obama would then have both a Kenyan and a Hawaiian birth certificate; he wouldn't be the first person to have two such documents from two different countries. [301]

The Hawaiian statute reads, in part, "*Certificates for children born out of state. (a) Upon application of an adult or the legal parents of a minor child, the director of health shall issue a birth certificate for such adult or minor, provided that proof has been submitted to the director of health that the legal parents of such individual while living without the Territory or State of Hawaii had declared the Territory or State of Hawaii as their legal residence for at least one year immediately preceding the birth or adoption of such child.*" Those who argue that a Hawaiian birth certificate undeniably proves a birth was in Hawaii have to reconcile their argument with Hawaii Revised Statute 338-17.8. [301,583]

Some argue that the Hawaiian statute was intended to artificially increase the number of Hawaiian citizens in order to get additional federal money for welfare benefits. Welfare benefits were not, back then, provided to illegal immigrants, and Hawaii was overburdened with immigrants – most in poverty and many

involved in crime. The Hawaiian practice of issuing birth certificates to children born somewhere else allowed it to boost the official population numbers of “citizens,” thus increasing the amount of money it received from Washington, D.C. (In other words, the State of Hawaii may have been engaged in massive welfare fraud to obtain federal tax dollars.)

Some have also argued that Hawaii’s status as the nation’s 50th state is questionable because the proposition voted on by its citizens only asked the question, “*Should Hawaii immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?*” and did not also offer the option of total independence. The legal choice should therefore have been not solely between statehood and remaining a territory of the United States, but between statehood, remaining a territory, and independence. Further, the statehood vote (on June 27, 1959) was open to any U.S. citizen who had resided in Hawaii for at least one year, including members of the military and their families – non-Hawaiians who should perhaps have had no say in the matter. The argument persists in the minds of many island residents that Hawaii has never legally been a state of the United States. [1589]

States typically have a “long form” (“*certificate of live birth*”) and a “short form” (“*certification of birth*” or “*certificate of birth registration*”) for their birth documents. The long form, or vault copy, contains the more detailed information, such as the hospital name, names of parents, date, time, infant’s weight and length, footprint, doctor’s name, mother’s signature, and signature of the doctor. (The physician’s signature is sometimes certified.) In the pre-computer era of 1961, the long form document would have been filled in by hand or with a typewriter. The short form (or “abstract”) contains more limited information, and is the less desirable of the two forms when absolute proof is desired. When someone requests a copy of a birth certificate from a state (or county), the document provided is often the short form, typed or (nowadays) computer-printed at the time of the request, and based on information on computer databases; the vault copy is generally not retrieved and examined. The short form is then stamped or embossed with an official seal before being given to the person who requested it. Had Obama been born in Kenya, Ann Dunham could have returned with him to Hawaii and had his birth recorded there. The long form would state the place of birth as Kenya, while the short form might make no mention of Kenya – especially if it is a forgery. [694,2079]

The birth document provided by the Obama campaign – whether valid or a forgery – is the short form. But *having* a Hawaiian certification of birth proves only that the birth was *registered* in Hawaii, it does not prove that the named individual was *born* in Hawaii. The place of birth is recorded on the vault copy document... but *that* is precisely the document which Obama refuses to produce. Some suggest that Obama has people preparing a forged long form birth certificate in order to quash rumors and lawsuits. If a long form document is eventually released to the public (whether original or forged) the question of why

it took so long for Obama to release it will be raised – especially when he is paying attorneys to fight the release of documents. (And most observers would assume that skeptics will not be allowed to subject the document to exhaustive forensic tests.) [492,574]

To those who argue, *“That is all nonsense, if you have a Hawaiian birth certificate you must have been born in Hawaii,”* consider Chinese leader Sun Yat-Sen. Sun Yat-Sen (1866-1925) was born in China but was nevertheless granted a Hawaiian registration of birth showing he was born in the Kingdom of Hawaii on November 24, 1870 – four years after his actual 1866 birth in the Guangdong province of China. Sun Yat-Sen lived in Hawaii for a time, studying at the Iolani School where he mastered the English language. He eventually became a naturalized citizen of the United States and was issued a U.S. passport. Although Sun Yat-Sen had a Hawaiian birth certificate and was an American citizen, he was born in China and would therefore not have been eligible to serve as President of the United States – because he was not a *natural born* citizen. (Sun Yat-Sen also attended Oahu College, which later became the Punahou School attended by Obama.) [783,1987]

Only a few sources have been listed here for the many Obama birth speculations; there are far too many, and rumors and stories can readily be found on the Internet. (One can no doubt find stories suggesting that Obama’s father was a visitor from another planet.) The speculation will not end until original birth and citizenship documents are released, and the likelihood of that may be minimal. Various lawsuits have been filed to block Obama from running for or serving as President without his first proving he is an eligible, natural born citizen of the United States. Whether those lawsuits lead to anything remains to be seen, but if the truth damages Obama, there will certainly be continued efforts by many to keep that truth successfully hidden. But even if Obama was born in Hawaii, an important issue may be whether he became and may still be an Indonesian citizen. [13,258,305,543]

One of Obama’s official web sites, *“Fight the Smears,”* affirms that *“When Barack Obama Jr. was born on Aug. 4, 1961, in Honolulu, Kenya was a British colony, still part of the United Kingdom’s dwindling empire. As a Kenyan native, Barack Obama Sr. was a British subject whose citizenship status was governed by The British Nationality Act of 1948. That same act governed the status of Obama Sr.’s children. Since Sen. Obama has neither renounced his U.S. citizenship nor sworn an oath of allegiance to Kenya, his Kenyan citizenship automatically expired on Aug. 4, 1982.”* This statement by the Obama campaign thus *admits* that he was a British (Kenyan) citizen at birth and thus had dual citizenship (even if he was born in the U.S.) With dual citizenship and “split loyalties” at birth, Obama is arguably not a “natural born citizen” and is ineligible to serve as President of the United States. [507]

Article 2, Section 1, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution states that *“No person except a natural born Citizen or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution shall be eligible to the Office of President.”* The “grandfather clause” portion of the rule refers only to those persons who were living in the United States at the time the Constitution was ratified in 1787, and is therefore irrelevant to anyone living today. Thus, for all people alive today, the Constitution requires that *“No person except a natural born Citizen shall be eligible to the Office of President.”* [923]

Some have argued that Section 1 of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution allows Obama to serve as President. The relevant part reads, *“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.”* This Amendment was meant to prevent the Supreme Court from ruling as unconstitutional the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which granted citizenship to former slaves. Nothing in the 14th Amendment, however, changes the requirement that a President must be a *“natural born citizen,”* rather than simply a “citizen” or a “naturalized citizen.” California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who was born in Austria, is a “naturalized citizen,” but he nevertheless cannot legally serve as President because he is not a “natural born citizen.” The 14th Amendment notwithstanding, an individual can serve as President only if he or she is a natural born citizen of the United States. (Note that the term “natural born citizen” appears in the U.S. Constitution *only* in Article 2, Section 1, Clause 5.) [509,923]

One Internet web site offers to pay Obama \$2 million if he will produce his original long form birth certificate. The amount of the reward will be increased until *“...it is so huge that the American people will begin to question why he has sealed all his background info to hide something.”* (Some might argue that the \$2 million reward is already large enough to prompt those questions.) [1939]

Further complicating the Obama history and fueling rumors are the existence of photographs taken by a school friend of Ann Dunham on a Honolulu beach – allegedly in July of 1961. In the photos Dunham is wearing a bikini and is decidedly not eight months pregnant. The media has not broadcast interviews with any former school friends of Dunham who remember her being pregnant. (Arguably, the media has not broadcast many interviews at all of people from Dunham’s or Obama’s past.) The bikini-at-the-beach photos were more likely from July of 1960 than July of 1961. Their very existence, however, prompts some to suggest that Dunham was not even Obama’s mother and that she merely agreed to raise the illegitimate child of Malcolm X. Why she would have agreed to do that – beyond a large sum of money – is not explained by those who make the claim, although Dunham did tell high school friends *“I don’t need to date or marry to have children.”* The originator of the July bikini story also suggests that Dunham attended Notre Dame de Jamhour in Lebanon, because of a possible “NDJ” emblem seen on a Dunham school uniform in a childhood

photograph. That school, however, says it did not admit female students before 1975, and there is no evidence that Dunham left the United States in her youth. Some have even gone so far as to suggest that Obama's parents were Malcolm X and Madelyn Dunham, and that Ann Dunham pretended the child was hers to keep scandal from enveloping her mother. (Malcolm X was much closer in age to Madelyn Dunham than Ann Dunham.) And one Internet story argues that the CIA has "proven" that Stanley Ann Dunham is not Obama's mother through DNA tests of her parents, using saliva from drinking glasses. (That story does not explain why a drinking glass used by Stanley Armour Dunham would never have been washed after his 1992 death.) Clearly, jumping to conclusions is not only possible, it can readily be stimulated by a candidate who is less than forthcoming about his past. [408,558, 2038,2516]

1966-1970

Indonesia

In 1966 or 1967 Ann Dunham marries Indonesian Muslim Lolo Soetoro Mangunharjo (1936-1987), who she had met at the University of Hawaii. By birth, Soetoro was Malaysian, but he lived in Indonesia most of his life. Soon after his marriage to Dunham, Soetoro returns, alone, to Jakarta, Indonesia. Obama and Dunham later move to Indonesia to join Soetoro, probably in 1967. (Soetoro's U.S. visa was apparently revoked in 1967 due to political unrest in Indonesia.) Soetoro then adopts Obama, whose name is changed to Barry Soetoro. Elementary school records in Indonesia list Obama's name as Barry Soetoro, his religion as Islam, and his citizenship as Indonesian. While in Jakarta, Obama attends Franciscus Primary School (1967-1969) and Besuki State Elementary School Menteng 01 (1969-1971). [6,14,172,289,324,329,801,2270]

Interestingly, while in the third grade in Indonesia, Obama writes an essay saying he wants to become president. Perhaps as a foreshadowing of future questions about his status as a natural born citizen of the United States, and the constitutionally relevant issue of divided loyalties, Obama includes in his essay the remark that he is not sure of "what country" he would like to be President. In fact, he wrote, "*I want to be a president*" rather than, "*I want to be the president,*" according to his teacher, Fermina Katarina Sinaga. [2039,842, p. 30]

Lolo Soetoro had been an official of the Director General's office in the TNI Topography division of the Indonesian Army. He later becomes an executive with American Mobil Corporation, where he is a key liaison between the oil company and the Suharto regime. Suharto had been "installed" as the American friendly Indonesian President in 1967, after a CIA-engineered 1965-1967 coup that deposed President Sukarno – who was considered soft on communism and a threat to American oil interests. Strangely, the leftist Ann Dunham, who would have been more politically sympathetic to the deposed Sukarno, marries

Soetoro, a man with ties to the bloodthirsty dictator Suharto. [615,842 p. 29]

Obama practices Islam while in Indonesia, irregularly attending prayer services at the mosque. According to one of his Indonesian school principals, Tine Hahiyary, the young Obama studied "Mangaji" (or "Mengaji"), which involves the recitation of the Quran (or Koran). Note that Mangaji, in Indonesian schools, requires learning to recite the Quran *in the Arabic language*, not the student's native tongue. Non-Muslims or even moderate Muslims would *not* send their child to Mangaji classes. Mangaji is much more involved than a Christian child attending "Sunday School" classes. Obama likely was taught to read and write in Arabic, to recite from the Quran, and study the laws of Islam. (In his book, *"Dreams From my Father,"* Obama relates that *"In the Muslim school, the teacher wrote to tell mother I made faces during Koranic studies."*) Although Obama may insist he was never a Muslim, many Indonesians wonder why Obama is hiding his Muslim past. Former classmate Emirsyah Satar (now CEO of Garuda Indonesia) states that Obama *"...was quite religious in Islam but only after marrying Michelle, he changed his religion."* [15,251,332,336,2039]

A former classmate of Obama in Indonesia, Rony Amiris, describes Obama as having enjoyed football, playing marbles, and being a very devout Muslim. Amir states, *"Barry was previously quite religious in Islam."* Classmate Emirsyah Satar relates that Obama *"was often in the prayer room wearing a sarong."* Obama is frequently observed in the school's prayer room and at the local mosque for traditional Friday prayers. (Obama's official campaign web site states that *"Obama has never been a Muslim, and is a committed Christian. Obama never prayed in a mosque. He has never been a Muslim, was not raised a Muslim, and is a committed Christian who attends the United Church of Christ."*) [332,521,2039]

Publicly, Obama denies he ever was a Muslim and claims he is a devout Christian. (Obama also alleges he was never in church when his pastor of 20 years, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, was spewing anti-white and anti-American rhetoric in one of his many angry sermons.) Many, if not most, of the world's Muslims feel that *"Obama may not want to be counted as a Muslim, but Muslims are eager to count him as one of their own."* If Obama is seen by radical Islamists as someone who denounced the Muslim religion to become a Christian, his background can be exploited to *"argue that an apostate is leading the war on terror..."* which can then help terrorists *"...galvanize (additional) sympathizers into action."* But many Muslims may not care that Obama professes to be a Christian if his policies are pro-Muslim and anti-Israel. (Muslims are permitted, and even encouraged, to lie if it furthers the cause of Islam.) [252]

Obama was purportedly legally adopted by his step-father, Lolo Soetoro, which made Obama an Indonesian citizen, according to Indonesian law. Because Indonesia does not allow dual citizenship, Obama thus lost his U.S. citizenship

when he became an Indonesian citizen, in or about 1967. At that point Obama also ceased to be a Kenyan citizen, according to both Indonesian and Kenyan law. Indonesian law would also have required Ann Dunham to renounce her U.S. citizenship for her marriage to Lolo Soetoro to have been considered legal in that country. If, after Obama returned to Hawaii, he applied for and was granted American citizenship, he would be a *naturalized* citizen (like California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger) and not a *natural born* citizen, and would therefore *be ineligible to serve as President of the U.S.* It is possible that Obama did not even bother to become a naturalized citizen of the United States, and remains an Indonesian citizen even today. Appropriate federal records would be on file if Obama made application for naturalization. If they exist, they have not been made public. [258,300,305,492]

Indonesia's policy of not allowing dual citizenship must be respected by the United States in accordance with the Hague Convention of 1930. Further, Obama, as a child, was not required to personally renounce his U.S. citizenship – that would have been an automatic result of his adoption by Lolo Soetoro. Fair or not, the consequence of Dunham's marriage to Soetoro and Soetoro's adoption of Obama was that he became an Indonesian citizen, regardless of whether he understood the situation at age five or six. [492]

According to Indonesian legal experts, it is extremely difficult for non-Indonesian citizens to enroll in public schools in that country. That was especially true during the 1960s, when Indonesia was a police state, and Indonesian immigration officials and the police performed weekly checks on public schools to confirm citizenship compliance. This further supports the assumption that Obama was adopted by Soetoro. (Some argue that he was not officially adopted by Soetoro.) However, Obama's half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, has stated that Obama was adopted by their father, Lolo Soetoro. Maya Soetoro-Ng, who was born in Indonesia on August 15, 1970, also has a Hawaiian birth registration, and is a naturalized American citizen. It is therefore illogical to argue that Obama's short form Hawaiian certificate of live birth proves he was born in the United States when his half-sister has the same document and was born in Indonesia. [329,801,1810,1988]

Indonesia today still does not allow dual citizenship. Under Indonesia law, once Obama became a naturalized citizen by virtue of adoption, he could not lose that status without relinquishing his citizenship in writing, under oath. If he did that, the government of Indonesia would have those records. If he did not do so by age 21, Obama is to this day still considered an Indonesian citizen by that country. His place of birth or the nationality of his mother is irrelevant; Indonesian law takes precedence under "The Master Nationality Rule of Article 4 of the Hague Convention on 1930." Upon returning to the United States from Indonesia, he eventually satisfied the five-years-after-age-14 residency requirement of the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act, thus making him a *naturalized citizen* of

the U.S. at age 19. Residing in the U.S. for five or more years after attaining age 14 established the *intent* of Obama to become a U.S. citizen under the law, which supersedes the Indonesian citizenship over which he had no control because of his age at adoption. Nevertheless, while Obama is a U.S. citizen he is likely *not a natural born citizen*. [801]

Obama claims that at age 9, while in Indonesia, he runs across an article in Life magazine about a black man who had destroyed his skin with chemicals in an attempt to make it white. *"I imagine other black children, then and now, undergoing similar moments of revelation,"* Obama later writes. Life magazine, however, states that no such article ever appeared in its pages. The article was never in Ebony magazine either, which Obama later named as the source after he was told that Life did not run the story. [2288]

1971-1979

Hawaii and Frank Marshall Davis

In 1970 or 1971 Obama is sent back to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents, while his mother remains in Indonesia. (Dunham may have traveled with Obama to Hawaii, promptly returning to Indonesia without him, but with his half-sister, Maya Soetoro – possibly after registering her birth in Hawaii.) Obama's grandfather, Stanley Armour Dunham (1918-1992), manages a furniture store, and his grandmother, Madelyn Lee Payne Dunham (1922-2008), is a bank employee. She eventually becomes bank vice-president. (Salesman Stanley Dunham was *"a loose wheel at times"* but he could *"charm the legs off a couch,"* said one acquaintance.) [16,289,324,329,2270,2289]

In December of 1971, Barack Obama, Sr. returns to Hawaii to attend a party and visit with former university friends Neil Abercrombie and Pake Zane. Obama, Sr. spends minimal time with his son during that visit. A few photographs of Obama, Sr., Ann Dunham, and Obama, Jr. are taken at the airport. In later years, Abercrombie and Zane state they have no recollection of ever seeing Ann Dunham and Barack Obama, Sr. together. Abercrombie later becomes Hawaii's first district's Congressman and member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; he works openly with the Democratic Socialists of America. [408,562,1362]

Obama's maternal grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, age 86, resides in Hawaii until her death. The Obama campaign keeps her off-limits, prohibiting interviews with her. (Madelyn Dunham dies on November 3, 2008, the day before the election.) [329,515]

Dunham leaves Lolo Soetoro in 1972 (possibly due to heavy drinking and womanizing) and returns briefly to Hawaii. She lists her name as “Sutoro” in her 1992 PhD dissertation, rather than the name “Soetoro,” which appeared on her 1980 divorce decree; no explanation for the discrepancy has been uncovered. Dunham rarely sees her son after 1975, when Obama was age 14. [289,324,747,2288]

Ann Dunham spends most of the rest of her life based in Indonesia, but she travels extensively, to Ghana, Thailand, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and China. Dunham takes her daughter Maya with her on a 1986 trip along China’s “silk road.” Dunham eventually returns to Hawaii before her death in 1995. [329,614]

While in Indonesia Dunham spends time in Yogyakarta, where she studies native handicrafts. She eventually returns to the University of Hawaii to receive a 1992 PhD in anthropology, and writes her dissertation on *“Peasant Blacksmithing in Indonesia: Surviving and Thriving Against All Odds.”* Dunham’s employment includes teaching English at the American embassy in Jakarta, consulting (setting up a “village credit” program) for U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID, also known as the International Development Agency), “program officer” specializing in women’s work for the Ford Foundation in Jakarta, bank consulting work in Pakistan (microfinance programs for the poor), and employment with Women’s World Banking. Note that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is alleged to have used both the USAID and the Ford Foundation as “front” agencies. (One infamous employee of the International Development Agency was David Sanchez Morales, a CIA operative who some believe was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.) Whether Dunham had any CIA connections is unknown, but it is also unclear how Dunham could afford a life of globe-trotting and post-graduate education without better-paying employment. Dunham was passingly fluent in Urdu (the national language of Pakistan) and several other languages, something the CIA normally finds valuable. [607,608,609,610,611,612,613,614,615,933]

Obama, after returning to Hawaii from Indonesia and upon turning age 18, could possibly have relinquished his Indonesian citizenship and become a *naturalized* U.S. citizen, with the proper paperwork filed through the U.S. State Department and by swearing an oath of allegiance to the United States. Some believe that Obama did not do so, and that he never legally changed his name from Barry Soetoro (granted upon adoption) back to Barack Obama, Jr. [258,300,301]

If Obama did not relinquish his Indonesian citizenship and become a naturalized U.S. citizen upon his return to Hawaii, he remains an Indonesian citizen with the legal name of Barry Soetoro and has not been a U.S. citizen since being adopted by Lolo Soetoro in Indonesia in 1966 or 1967. Thus, he is ineligible to be President of the United States. (He would also have been ineligible to be a

United States Senator.) Obama's repeated failure to provide documentation to prove he is a U.S. citizen suggests to many that it does not exist, and he is therefore possibly perpetrating a colossal fraud on the 300 million citizens of the United States. Obama may, in fact, be an illegal alien, subject to arrest and deportation to Indonesia. Obama could also be subject to a massive class action fraud lawsuit on behalf of everyone who made donations to his Presidential campaign (over \$600 million), under the incorrect belief that he was legally eligible to serve as President. Arguably, Obama and key leaders of the Democrat National Committee can also be prosecuted under the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). [258,300]

In Hawaii, Obama attends the elite, expensive, private Punahou High School (1971-1979). The school is racially diverse and whites are not in the majority. The young and pudgy Obama is sometimes called "Barry the Butt." In public schools in Hawaii (but perhaps not at the Punahou private school) the final day of school is traditionally known as "Kill Haole Day" ("Kill Whitey Day"), where Caucasian students are beaten up, usually in the school bathrooms. [16,17,324]

Because of his drug abuse Obama's grades are poor in his final two years of high school. Obama later writes that *"Pot had helped, and booze; maybe a little blow when you could afford it. Not smack, though."* (Note: by "blow" and "smack" Obama means cocaine and heroin, respectively.) His grades may also have been affected by peer pressure, because his "choom gang" friends on the basketball court and football field would likely have teased him if he had earned good grades. Obama is called "Barry O'Bomber" by his basketball teammates for his ability to make long jump shots. His jock friends are known as "choomers" (smokers), who smoked pakalolo (pot) and drank beer (alcohol could be legally purchased at age 18 in Hawaii). Obama also sang in a school chorale group. [18,575]

Bryon Leong, a former classmate of Obama's at Punahou, states that Obama *"...was known as a partier, as a guy looking for a good time, but not much more,"* and, *"There was pot in Hawaii in the 1970s, but it wasn't a big deal."* [332]

By his own admission, Obama's high school grades are not exemplary. Rather than do homework, he reads the works of black authors like James Baldwin (who believed that America was hopelessly irredeemable), communists Richard Wright, Langston Hughes, Ralph Ellison, and W.E.B. DuBois, and civil rights activist Malcolm X, who was killed in 1965. Obama wrote in *"Dreams From My Father"* that *"Only Malcolm X's autobiography seemed to offer something different. His repeated acts of self-creation spoke to me."* (Malcolm X stated that the white race was created by an evil scientist named "Yakub," and *"history proves the white man is the devil."* He was largely responsible for the spread of Islam among blacks in the U.S., and stated that Islam was the *"true religion of black mankind"* while *"Christianity was the white man's religion."* Malcolm X

wrote, *"We're not Americans, we're Africans who happen to be in America. We were kidnapped and brought here against our will from Africa. We didn't land on Plymouth Rock, that rock landed on us."* (The "Plymouth Rock" line was lifted from composer Cole Porter's song, *"Anything Goes."*)
[20,190,558,1091,1092,2421]

High school friend Keith Kakugawa relates later that Obama *"...made everything out like it was all racial."* After Obama complains about being picked on at the basketball court because of his race, Kakugawa's father tells Obama, *"No, Barry, it's not because you're black, it's because you missed two shots in a row."* Kakugawa denies Obama's claims that they often had heated discussions about race. The talks, Kakugawa says, were not about race, *"Barry's biggest struggles then were missing his parents. His biggest struggles were his feelings of abandonment. The idea that his biggest struggle was race is bull shit."* [20,2288]

While a teenager in Hawaii, Obama spends considerable time with Frank Marshall Davis (whose identity Obama hides by describing him only as "Frank" in his self-absorbed book, *"Dreams From My Father"*). Davis is a dope-smoking drinking buddy of Obama's grandfather, Stanley Dunham, and the two had known each other in Kansas. Obama meets Davis shortly after arriving in Hawaii, at age 10, but was most influenced by him during his high school years. In place of his absent father, stepfather, and mother, Davis becomes Obama's mentor.
[19,21,389]

Davis is a member of the Communist Party of the USA, a poet, propagandist, *"bitter opponent of capitalism,"* and radical agitator. In 1948, Davis had fled Chicago after the FBI and the House Un-American Activities Committee investigated his subversive anti-American activities. (In Chicago, Davis had worked at various black newspapers and as a south side community organizer. In Hawaii, Davis is kicked out of the NAACP because of his organizing activities with the Communist Party.) Davis is also a bi-sexual, sex pervert, child molester (bragging of repeated sexual encounters with a 13 year-old girl), and pornographer, and is the author of the book *"Sex Rebel: Black"* under the pseudonym "Bob Greene." Davis *"...would cruise in Hawaii parks looking for couples or female tourists to have sex with. He derived sexual gratification from bondage, simulated rape and being flogged and urinated on. He boasted that 'the number of white babes interested in at least one meeting with a Negro male has been far more than I can handle' and wished 'America were as civilised as, say, Scandinavia.' I regret none of my experiences or unusual appetites; for me they are normal."* [21,259,261,2291]

Obama joins Davis at his home on most evenings, shares alcohol and drugs, is tutored in socialism, and taught not to trust the white establishment. *"They'll train you so good,"* Davis said, *"you'll start believing what they tell you about equal opportunity and the American way and all that shit."* Davis teaches Obama,

“Black people have a reason to hate” and “You may be a well-trained, well-paid nigger, but you’re a nigger just the same.” [22,33,261]

Davis’ Marxist-inspired poetry includes lines like, *“Smash on, victory-eating Red Army!”* Titles of his poems include, *“Christ is a Dixie Nigger.” [261]*

Davis sometimes works as a street vendor, selling hot dogs from his Chicago-style wheeled cart near his home in Waikiki. From the cart Davis also sells drugs (marijuana and cocaine), frequently accompanied by Obama and his grandfather, Stanley. Davis is the main source of drugs used by Obama while in high school. Davis likely also supplied his grandfather as well; marijuana was a frequent part of the Marxist meetings held at Stanley Armour Dunham’s Honolulu apartment. [429,2289]

It is believed that Davis was a close friend of Thomas Ayers (father of William Ayers) in Chicago, and that it was Davis who encouraged Obama to attend Columbia College in New York and hook up with William Ayers (former Weather Underground domestic terrorist, Pentagon bomber, radical, leftist, communist, and fugitive from the FBI). [33,204,259]

Was Frank Marshall Davis Obama’s Father?

In Davis’ autobiography, he writes of his seduction of a young white girl, age 13, named “Anne.” This fuels speculation that the “Anne” in Davis’ book is Obama’s mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, and that Obama may actually be the child of Frank Marshall Davis. Obama’s grandfather and Davis were close friends, but there is no known documented evidence that Obama’s father was Davis. When Ann Dunham moved to Hawaii with her parents in 1959 or 1960 she was already age 16 or 17. Davis had known the Dunhams in Kansas, however, so Davis would have had contact with Ann Dunham before she moved to Hawaii. The Dunhams also lived in Seattle, where Ann Dunham attended Mercer Island High School. There is speculation that Davis had been in Seattle, doing organizing work for the communist-infiltrated International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), and that may have placed Davis with Dunham when she was about 13. The ILWU is linked to the Honolulu Recorder, the newspaper Davis worked for in Hawaii. Lastly, nude photos of a woman purported to be Ann Dunham and alleged to have been taken by Frank Marshall Davis are circulating on the Internet, but faked photos are not terribly difficult to produce using computers and can thus be the work of simple mischief-makers. (Or the photos may simply be of a young woman who resembled Dunham.) [21,259,260,365,370,389,2291]

The Davis-as-father speculation is listed here only to provide the reader with as much information as possible about Obama’s background – *it is not meant as an endorsement of the speculation itself.*

Some have noted that Frank Marshall Davis' son, Mark Davis, bears a reasonable resemblance to candidate Obama – and what some would consider a much stronger resemblance than shared by Obama Jr. and Obama Sr. The mother of Mark Davis, Helen Canfield, was, like Ann Dunham, a white woman. One could speculate that Obama's father was not Barack Obama, Sr., but Frank Marshall Davis. Because Davis and Ann Dunham could certainly not have let such a relationship be known (Davis was married and age 55, Dunham was only 17, and Davis was Stanley Dunham's friend), Dunham may have tried to convince Obama, Sr. that he was the father-to-be. When he, Obama, Sr., later learned that was not the case, he abruptly left Dunham, moved on to Harvard and then returned to Kenya. There has been speculation that Dunham and Obama, Sr. never actually lived together in Hawaii; this is supported by the fact that Obama, Sr. continued to attend the University of Hawaii, while Dunham attended the University of Washington during late 1961 and early 1962, before returning to Hawaii to again attend UH. [369,408]

If the Davis-as-father speculation is true, Dunham may have continued the lie for the benefit of her son and her own parents. Davis would later be eager to be Obama's mentor if he was, in fact, Obama's father. Obama may not even have learned the true identity of his father for some time, perhaps not until after the death of his grandfather, Stanley Dunham, in 1992. It was not until after his grandfather's death that Obama began work on his book, *"Dreams From My Father."* At that point he may have understood who his real father was. His book needed to include the "Kenyan history" in order to continue the charade for the sake of his family and his planned political career, but the "dreams" Obama needed to pursue perhaps had more to do with a continuation of Davis' legacy than those of an alcoholic communist bureaucrat in Kenya. It is worth noting also that Obama's reluctance, if not outright refusal, to give financial support to his poverty-stricken half-brother George in a Nairobi slum, or to his destitute aunt living in Boston public housing, may be due to his knowing that they are not actually related to him. *This is speculation based only on photographs and circumstantial evidence; the disclosure of appropriate original documentation by Obama would resolve unanswered questions and end speculation.* [369]

Was Malcolm "X" Obama's Father?

There is also speculation that Obama is the son of the civil right activist, Malcolm X (Malcolm Little), who was murdered in 1965, allegedly by members of the Nation of Islam. Ann Dunham graduated from high school in the Seattle area in 1960. Malcolm X formed the Nation of Islam Temple No. 67 in Seattle that same year, and was a popular guest speaker at many universities, including the University of Washington. The "out of the mainstream" Dunham was certainly the type of person who would have been attracted to a Malcolm X speaking event. She also had a history of dating non-white students, and could have met the civil

rights leader at one of his public events. It is not difficult to see that Obama resembles Malcolm X considerably more than he resembles Barack Obama, Sr. – and his speech patterns are also remarkably similar – but resemblance is certainly not the same as evidence. (Obama’s speaking voice is not only similar to that of Malcolm X, it is also remarkably *dissimilar* to that of Barack Obama, Sr. – who had such a deep voice that friend Neil Abercrombie remarked “*he made James Earl Jones seem like a tenor.*”) Perhaps the truth will never be known without the release of original birth records or DNA testing, and the likelihood of that is minimal. (Obama himself may not even know his real history.) But Dunham was apparently already in Hawaii when she became pregnant in late 1960. In order for Malcolm X to be Obama’s father the civil rights leader had to have been in Hawaii in late 1960 or Dunham had to leave Hawaii to be with him. No evidence of either circumstance has been produced, but it is not out of the realm of possibility. [408,524,526,1095,2293,2421]

Far-fetched or not, the Malcolm-X-as-father scenario would explain why Obama seemed to be “looked after” – both financially and otherwise – throughout his college years and his political career. Obama would later receive a letter of recommendation to attend Harvard Law School from Percy Sutton, who had been Malcolm X’s attorney. Khalid al-Mansour (aka “Donald Warden”) became the main financial backer for Obama. Al-Mansour has been a close associate of Nation of Islam (NOI) leader Louis Farrakhan, and of Malcolm X, who was the national spokesman for NOI. It is not unreasonable to assume that, if Obama was indeed the son of Malcolm X, those who were close to the civil rights leader would promise to “look after him” in any way possible, making sure he was taught in the ways of Islam and socialism, funded perhaps by Saudi and Syrian financiers. Obama’s financial and political benefactors eventually included (Syrian) Tony Rezko, Percy Sutton, Khalid al-Mansour, Muhammadian Mian Soomro, Rashid Khalidi, Edward Said, and William Ayers and Bernardine Rae Dohrn (who would have known Malcolm X, Donald Warden, and associates like Black Panther members Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, and perhaps Bobby Rush). A close neighbor of Obama in Chicago is Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Malcolm X split with the Nation of Islam partly over the issue of the illegitimate children of its leader, Elijah Muhammed. If Malcolm X then fathered his own illegitimate child (Obama) with a white woman, he certainly would have had to cover that up in order to retain his reputation of being “above the fray” – and to protect his son from the criminal record, death threats, and violence he himself experienced. Barack Obama, Sr., who Malcolm X had met in Kenya, then became the fall guy. Many pieces of the puzzle would fit – and the Obama birth certificate may be one of the key pieces. [408,524,526,1095]

That the father of candidate Obama was someone other than Barack Obama, Sr. is, of course, only speculation. Right or wrong, therefore, the remainder of this timeline continues with the assumption that the father of Barack Obama, Jr. was Kenyan Barack Obama, Sr.

1979-1981

Occidental College and the Pakistan Visit

Obama moves to Los Angeles, and attends Occidental College, where he plays basketball and continues taking drugs. He becomes friends with Pakistani Muslims Mohammed Hasan Chandoo (perhaps spelled Chandio) and Wahid Hamid, and Indian Vinai Thummalapally. At Occidental College Obama indulges in alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine. He becomes interested in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. While at Occidental Obama is mentored by an openly gay professor, Lawrence Goldyn, who has a strong influence on Obama's acceptance of gays. Fellow student Thummalapally lives with Obama in the summer of 1980. Obama's freshman year roommate at Occidental is Imad Husain, a Pakistani. [20,28,188,189,191,245,332]

Safely away from his grandparents Obama starts smoking cigarettes while at college, as many as 10 per day, and continues the habit until an attempt to quit in February of 2007. On the campaign trail in 2008, however, reporters with a keen sense of smell recognize that Obama is still sneaking occasional cigarettes. (Obama's refusal to release his medical records may arguably relate to his 25-year smoking habit and use of drugs.) [842, p. 50]

Obama's friends at Occidental tend to be the more politically active blacks, foreign students, Chicanos, Marxist professors, structural feminists, and punk-rock performance poets. Obama is rebuked on one occasion for calling another black student, who wasn't "black enough," an "Uncle Tom." One female student criticizes Obama with the remark, "*You always think it's about you*" [187,192]

While attending Occidental Obama joins the Students for Economic Democracy (SED), which is a branch of the Campaign for Economic Democracy (CED), a group that was founded by radical, anti-American, Marxist activist Tom Hayden (former husband of actress and Viet Cong supporter Jane Fonda), who was also active with the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). William Ayers' subsequent radical group, the Weather Underground, was comprised of many former SDS members. In 1969 the Weather Underground – then called simply "Weatherman" – declared "*war on Amerikka*." In 1970, Ayers explains the philosophy of the movement, "*Kill all the rich people. Break up their cars and apartments. Bring the revolution home; kill your parents; that's where it's really at.*" Ayer dedicates his book, "*Prairie Fire*," to Sirhan Sirhan (Robert F. Kennedy's assassin) and others he considers "*political prisoners*." Obama's first known public speech takes place at an Occidental College event sponsored by the SED. [259,332,432,454,2271]

An FBI informant who had infiltrated Ayers' Weather Underground witnessed a meeting at which the group discussed a future communist takeover of America in which some 25 million "diehard capitalists" would need to be killed. The members discussed a future in which Cuba, North Korea, China, and the Soviet Union would establish "re-education centers" in the Southwestern United States. [373]

Obama may have made a 1980 trip to Kenya to visit his father. During that trip, he may also have visited Pakistan, and Indonesia (to visit his mother). It is likely, however, that the reports of a 1980 trip are mistaken, and Obama's only such trip was in 1981. [194,195,196]

On November 5, 1980, Ann Dunham is granted a divorce from Lolo Soetoro. The divorce decree states that "*The parties have 1 child(ren) below age 18 and 1 child(ren) above 18...*" This further suggests that Obama was adopted by Lolo Soetoro. (Dunham's attorney in the divorce, Gilardy H. William, Jr., later becomes the Hawaii attorney for the Democrat National Committee.) The divorce decree lists the names as Stanley Ann Soetoro and Lolo Soetoro. [719,746]

During his college years Obama maintains limited contact with his father through correspondence, until his death in 1982. [271]

Probably in late 1980, Obama decides to stop using the name Barry Soetoro and returns to the name Barack Obama, Jr. Whether that was done legally through the courts is not known. [194]

Obama is disappointed in a grade he receives from political science Professor Roger Boesche, and complains he is being graded "on a different curve" because of his race. [20]

In 1981, Obama visits his mother and half-sister in Indonesia, and then continues on for three weeks to Karachi, Pakistan and Hyderabad, Pakistan, with his friends Chandoo and Hamid, and finally to Kenya to visit his father's family. (Most accounts suggest Obama visited Hyderabad, India, but he perhaps visited the city of the same name in Pakistan, a few hours drive from Karachi.) [23,25,26,194,195,196,245,549]

The Defend Our Freedoms Foundation notes that "*Many young fundamentalist Muslim 'scholars' have traveled to Hyderabad to witness what they believed was stolen from Islam by India's Hindu majority. Karachi is favored by young radical Muslims because Pakistan was the first former British colony that abandoned English common law for Islamic law following the coup d'etat of General Mohammed Zia, who overthrew the democratically elected government of Ali Bhutto in the late 1970s. ...Obama admitted that he traveled to Karachi while under military rule of madman and dictator General Zia.*" [2014]

Indonesian passports expire every five years. If Obama became a citizen of Indonesia through adoption by Lolo Soetoro in 1966 and was then issued a passport, by 1981 he would have needed to again renew the document. Obama turned age 18 in 1979. If he renewed his Indonesian passport at any point after his 18th birthday, Obama would have officially lost U.S. citizenship – if he even still had it – according to 8 USC Sections 1481(a)(2) and 101(a)(1), because of “...taking an oath or making allegiance or other formal declaration of allegiance to a foreign state... after having attained the age of 18.” [549]

Obama stays with the family of Hassan Chandoo while in Karachi. Another of Obama’s hosts, in Jacobabad, Pakistan, is Muhammadian Mian Soomro, Obama’s senior by 11 years, son of a Pakistani politician (Ahmadmian Soomro, the deputy speaker of the West Pakistan Assembly) and himself a politician, who later becomes interim President of Pakistan when Pervez Musharraf resigns in August of 2008. Soomro states that “someone” personally requested that his father “watch over” Barack Obama, but Soomro will not name that individual – who allegedly is an American, possibly with CIA ties, now living in South America. [24,615,617]

It is unknown who financed Obama’s costly, multinational 1981 trip. There are also allegations that Obama may have visited gay friends on the journey. [842, p. 46]

Note that a trip to Pakistan in 1981 was generally not possible for Americans, except for those who were on official government business, because it was on the list of dangerous nations banned by the State Department for U.S. travelers. Pakistan was also under martial law at that time. It is more likely that Obama entered Pakistan on an Indonesian passport, but he would have had that document only if he was an Indonesian citizen. If he was still an Indonesian citizen, he was no longer an American citizen and his having and using an American passport would have been illegal. Pakistan, being almost one hundred per cent Muslim, would have welcomed foreign Muslim visitors in 1981. The U.S. State Department would not have known Obama was in Pakistan had he traveled on an Indonesian (or a Kenyan) passport. [549]

Obama’s Pakistani host, Soomro, worked for several major banks, including the Bank of America, which owned the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). BCCI has been involved in money laundering, bribery, terrorist support, tax evasion, smuggling, and illegal immigration; its nickname is the “Bank of Crooks and Criminals International.” American intelligence used BCCI for funneling money to the mujahadeen to assist in its fight against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. [617]

Obama's school records from Occidental College have been kept secret. That may simply be to hide poor grades or an embarrassing list of non-challenging classes he took, or to cover up some affirmative action/quota assistance he received. But it is also possible that those records list Obama as a foreign student from Indonesia, rather than an American student. Being classified as a foreign student may have allowed Obama to tap into government education grants. (Some claim that California records show evidence of an educational grant to a foreign exchange student named "Soetoro" from Indonesia, but it appears that student was merely someone named "Soetoro Moestabjab.") The records may also indicate that Obama actively applied for "affirmative action" treatment and support. If Obama accepted foreign student education grants at Occidental College because he *was* a foreign student, then he is not a natural born citizen and is ineligible to serve as President of the United States. If, however, Obama was born in Hawaii but used his Indonesian adoption papers and Jakarta school records to make it *appear as though* he was a foreign student in order to obtain foreign student grant money, then he was committing fraud to obtain government funds. Either scenario would be a reason for Obama to want his school records kept secret. [259,380,1182,2533]

While at Occidental College Obama studies the works of Frantz Fanon, a critic of Europe and, even more so, of the United States. The origins of Obama's anti-American attitudes can perhaps be found in Fanon. [842, pp. 47-49]

1981-1984

Columbia University

Obama leaves California and Occidental College and heads to New York City in 1981. He arrives in August, very late one evening, and is not able to get into an apartment he was offered by a friend of a friend, at 339 East 94th Street. Although he had just returned from an expensive trip to Indonesia, Pakistan, India, and Kenya, Obama doesn't have the cash for a hotel room and he spends his first night in New York in an alley on West 109th Street. [1807,2271]

Obama enrolls at Columbia University. He attends socialist conferences "for inspiration." His roommate is Pakistani Muslim Sohale Siddiqi. Siddiqi is a drug user, but Obama allegedly stops using drugs while at Columbia. From his apartment window, Obama says he watched "*white people from the better neighborhoods*" bring their dogs to defecate on his street. Living only a few blocks away from Obama and Columbia is William Ayers (at 520 West 123rd Street). [26,27,206,297,2218]

William Ayers attends Bank Street College of Education (for a Master's Degree in early childhood education), which was located within walking distance of

Columbia University. Ayers also attended the Teachers College of Columbia University. Obama's English professor at Columbia is Edward Said, a pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel, political activist. Said was called the "*professor of terror*" by the American magazine, "*Commentary*." Both Ayers and Obama remain friends of Edward Said. (In 1998, Obama and his wife attend a banquet at which Said is the keynote speaker. Obama is seated next to Said at the well-attended dinner.) [332,334,335,387,1006,2271]

Obama meets Zbigniew Brzezinski while at Columbia. Brzezinski, a CIA expert on the Soviet Union, teaches International Relations and is the head of the Institute for Communist Affairs at Columbia. (Obama is one of only eight students chosen to study Sovietology under Brzezinski.) Obama is heavily influenced by Brzezinski – who would later, as National Security Advisor for President Jimmy Carter, be instrumental in encouraging America's betrayal of the Shah of Iran (which then led to the Islamist revolution in 1979, the takeover of Iran by Ayatollah Khomeini, the 444-day American hostage debacle, and the rise of the Islamofascist regime's nuclear weapon-seeking Mahmoud Ahmadinejad). Brzezinski also serves as director of the Council on Foreign Relations. In his book, "*Between Two Ages*," Brzezinski wrote, "*National sovereignty is no longer a viable concept*," and "*Marxism represents a further vital, and creative stage in the maturing of man's universal visions*." [615,616,618,1661,2327,2330,842, p. 53]

At Columbia, Obama studies political science and international relations. His thesis is on Soviet nuclear disarmament. (Obama refuses to release copies of his thesis, likely because it is either poorly written or anti-American in tone. He will not make public any of his Columbia records.) Obama graduates in June of 1983, with a degree in political science, without honors. [29,264]

Both at Occidental College in California and at Columbia University in New York, Obama's roommates are foreign Muslims. That may be indicative of something significant; it would be worth knowing if the students themselves chose roommates or had them assigned to them. Whether chosen or assigned, the pairings may have been due to Muslim backgrounds, foreign backgrounds, or foreign citizenship. Obama's hidden college records may reveal that information.

While attending Columbia, Obama lives off campus near William Ayers. It is likely that Obama first met Ayers during those years, 1981-1983. There is speculation that Frank Marshall Davis arranged for Obama to meet William Ayers in New York, and their being neighbors was not a coincidence. Ayers then possibly suggested that Obama return to Chicago with him. Years later, Obama and Ayers are again neighbors in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. (His long-time association with Ayers leads some to refer to Obama as the "*Fresh Prince of Bill Ayers*.") [259]

Looking for evidence of Obama's past, Fox News contacted 400 Columbia students from that time period but *none* remembered Obama. Wayne Allyn Root was, like Obama, a political science major at Columbia who also graduated in 1983. In 2008 Root says of Obama, *"I don't know a single person at Columbia that knows him, and they all know me. I don't have a classmate who ever knew Barack Obama at Columbia. Ever! Nobody recalls him. I'm not exaggerating, I'm not kidding."* Root adds that he was also, like Obama, *"Class of '83 political science, pre-law"* and says, *"You don't get more exact than that. Never met him in my life, don't know anyone who ever met him. At the class reunion, our 20th reunion five years ago, 20th reunion, who was asked to be the speaker of the class? Me. No one ever heard of Barack! Who was he, and five years ago, nobody even knew who he was... the guy who writes the class notes, who's kind of the, as we say in New York, the macha who knows everybody, has yet to find a person, a human who ever met him. Is that not strange? It's very strange..."* Obama's photograph does *not* appear in the school's yearbook, and Obama consistently declines requests to talk about his years at Columbia, provide school records, or provide the name of any former classmates or friends while at Columbia. (It may be that the regular school yearbook does not include foreign students, and Obama may possibly have been classified as a foreign exchange student from Indonesia. California state records purportedly show an educational grant having been awarded to an Indonesian student named "Soetoro.")
[332,346,1182]

While attending Columbia Obama regularly attends Marxist-socialist conferences at Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in Manhattan.
[332,337]

Obama writes an anti-war article for Columbia University's magazine, *"Sundial."* *"Breaking the War Mentality"* contains grammatical errors, atrocious punctuation, bad spelling, and contradictory statements. Even the best English teachers would be hard-pressed to diagram this distorted and confused sentence from Obama's article: *"When Peter Tosh sings that 'everybody's asking for peace, but nobody's asking for justice,' one is forced to wonder whether disarmament or arms control ensues, severed from economic and political issues, might be another instance of focusing on the symptoms of a problem instead of the disease itself."* In the article Obama bemoans the fact that the military's introduction of additional Pershing II and Cruise Missiles will *"cut down (the) warning time for the Soviets to less than ten minutes,"* suggesting that Obama apparently prefers a U.S. policy that gives the Soviets as much advance warning as possible in order to provide them with a better chance of defeating the United States. [990]

After graduation from Columbia, Obama joins the New York Public Interest Research Group, an organization founded by Ralph Nader. Obama becomes an organizer at Harlem's City College, working with student volunteers on recycling programs. [31]

Obama works briefly for Business International Corporation in New York, a small newsletter-publishing and advisory firm that prints articles relating to global business and which assists American companies operating overseas. Obama later “embellishes” that job, saying he was hired as a research assistant by a “consulting house to multinational corporations” where he had his own private secretary and dealt with Japanese financiers and German bond traders. His former co-workers say Obama’s accounts of his job are grossly inflated and that he wore jeans, shared cubicles with others in a dumpy office, had no secretary, and mostly re-wrote articles for newsletters. Employees referred to the environment as “*high school with ash trays.*” Obama remarks later in life that the job exposed him to the “*coldness of capitalism.*” (The company has reportedly been used by the CIA as a “front operation.”) [30,31,32,1038,2218,2327]

In 1983, Obama falls in love with a white woman but ends the relationship after he realizes he will have to adapt to her white world, rather than the other way around. [357]

1985-1988

Chicago and “Community Organizing”

Obama moves to Chicago and hangs out with black militants and leftists. Obama works as a community organizer and activist for the “Industrial Areas Foundation” (IAF), an organization founded by Marxist and radical agitator Saul “the Red” Alinsky. Its national activities have included a “Citizens USA” project to obtain citizenship for over one million illegal aliens. (Coincidentally, Hillary Rodham Clinton’s senior honors thesis at Wellesley College, “*There is Only the Fight,*” is about Alinsky. In 1968 Alinsky offered Clinton a job, which she declined.) [33,45,46,192,229]

Obama also works with the Alinsky group “Developing Communities Project” (DCP), as well as “ACORN” (the “Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now”) and Project Vote, both Alinsky-network creations. Obama’s duties include organizing residents of the Altgeld Gardens housing project on Chicago’s south side. ACORN is an off-shoot of what had been the National Welfare Rights League (NWRL), a militant 1960s group that staged protests in welfare offices and, often successfully, demanded increased government benefits with threats of violence. ACORN was founded by William Ayers’ SDS associate, Wade Rathke, and is currently the largest and most powerful leftist organization in the United States. Among other tasks, ACORN “trains” people on how to collect welfare benefits and other government aid. Strategies include encouraging welfare applicants to be aggressive, loud, and obnoxious – not enough to get arrested but enough to overwhelm and annoy the welfare worker into approving benefits just to get the individual – qualified or not – out of the office. The revolutionary

handbook for all these activities is Alinsky's book, "*Rules for Radicals*," which Obama uses to train other radicals. [45,324,227,322]

Obama's Altgeld Gardens work involves forcing a clean-up of asbestos. Obama's mentor during his time on the project is Hazel Johnson, who argues that she, not Obama, discovered the asbestos problem and led the efforts to resolve it. According to Johnson, Obama exaggerated his role in the project in his book, "*Dreams From My Father*." [345]

Alinsky's "training manual" for activists, "*Rules for Radicals*," states that community organizers (called "poverty pimps" by some critics) are primarily agitators, who must "*Fan the resentments of the people of a community; fan the latent hostilities of many of the people to the point of overt expression – he must search out controversy and issues... An organizer must stir up dissatisfaction and discontentment [sic]... He knows that values are relative... Truth to him is relative and changing.*" [315]

Alinsky's work also influenced the creation of the "Cloward-Piven Strategy," named after Columbia University professors Richard Andrew Cloward and Frances Fox Piven. Their strategy involves taking action to *force deliberate failure* in society to foster change toward socialism, by overloading the bureaucracy with impossible demands, lawsuits, holding officials to the extreme letter of the law, etc. The Cloward-Piven method is meant to push society into an economic collapse, thus forcing a fear and resentment of capitalism, making it easier to usher in socialism. The Cloward-Piven strategy is one of the tactics frequently used by community activists and organizers (e.g., storming welfare offices and violently demanding immediate action) to impose intentional strains on the system, and to force the hiring of more government workers than necessary to deal with their ever-increasing demands. Obama may have met and been personally influenced by Cloward and Piven while he attended Columbia. [259,327,1281]

While at IAF, Obama reports to Gerald Kellman (whose identity Obama attempts to hide in his book, "*Dreams from My Father*"). Kellman is a follower of Alinsky, whose book "*Rules for Radicals*" was widely read by 1960s youths, such as members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), Weather Underground, and the students who rioted at the 1968 Democrat Convention in Chicago. (Obama's line about "*the world as it is and the world as it should be*," which his future wife swooned over and which she repeats twice in her speech to the Democrat National Convention, comes from Chapter 2 of Alinsky's book.) [20,33,352]

Obama is hired with \$25,000 Kellman receives from the Woods Fund. Obama will later serve on the Woods Fund board, along with Weather Underground fugitive from justice William Ayers. [33,204]

The Woods Fund was founded by a wealthy family which owned a coal business, Sahara Coal (run by Frank Woods, Jr.), that was a major supplier of coal to Commonwealth Edison. The CEO of Commonwealth Edison was Thomas Ayers, father of William Ayers. By 1990 the Woods Fund is controlled by George Kelm, who moves its activities to the left. (Kelm, who died in 1998, was a lawyer and philanthropist who raised money to obtain the Picasso sculpture for Chicago's Daley Plaza.) [346,1282,1283]

Gerald Kellman later relates that Obama's job *"largely consisted of interviewing community members and creating a narrative out of their experiences, the problems the community faced."* Kellman also noted that *"It is clear that the benefit of those years to Mr. Obama dwarfs what he accomplished... On issues, we made very little progress, nothing that would change poverty on the South Side of Chicago."* According to his boss, therefore, Obama was a failure as a community organizer. But, like many poverty pimps, Obama was able to parlay his experience into something fashionable for his politically-correct resume, even if he did little to help those who he had led on ill-conceived crusades. Obama, despite being a *"master of agitation,"* has limited success working for more welfare programs for the poor on the south side of Chicago. Obama is less a "community organizer" than a "community agitator," teaching people how to effectively demand more welfare benefits and government hand-outs. [35,47,190,842, p 8,64,88]

Obama also works on voter registration drives during this period and comes into contact with leftist political groups like the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and Socialist International (SI). Obama is likely to have met Carl Davidson during this period. Davidson, who traveled to Cuba during the Vietnam War to sabotage the U.S. war effort, is a former member of the SDS, and later is a member of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS) – which organized the 2002 Chicago rally where Obama announced his public opposition to the looming Iraq War. [34,1282]

Obama learns from the Alinsky crowd the method for getting people to support radical change they would ordinarily not be willing to accept. *"They must feel so frustrated, so defeated, so lost, so futureless in the prevailing system that they are willing to let go of the past and change the future."* Thus, just as it has been the unstated theme of most Democrat Presidential campaigns over the last 40 years, so is it Obama's: *"Everything is terrible and headed in the wrong direction, your lives are in shambles, greedy capitalism is at fault, and you need to trust a bigger government and my plans to solve all your problems. Business is your enemy and the government is your friend. Just trust me to deliver hope and change."* [192]

For three years Obama is the director of the Developing Communities Project (DCP), part of the “Gamaliel Foundation,” another Alinsky-like group which uses “in your face” tactics and threats against banks to obtain more loans to people in poor neighborhoods. Gamaliel’s co-founder and executive director is Gregory Galluzzo, who served as a trainer and mentor during Obama’s community activist days in Chicago. [227,228,337]

In 1987 or 1988 Obama joins the Trinity United Church of Christ (TUCC), the wealthiest black congregation in Chicago. It’s pastor is Reverend Jeremiah Wright, a fiery orator who preaches Marxism, black liberation theology (a Marxist version of Christianity that worships a white-hating black Jesus, and whose founder, James Cone, stated, *“If God is not for us and against white people, then he is a murderer and we had better kill him”*), gives controversial sermons, supports communists in Cuba and Nicaragua, and who later says America deserved the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and that America intentionally spread the AIDS virus to remain wealthy at the expense of poor Africans. (Some accounts state that Obama joined TUCC as late as 1992.) Joining TUCC requires swearing an oath of belief in its black liberation theology. (Obama later attempts to distance himself from Wright’s outrageous remarks which are, arguably, not crazy or

unusual outbursts but expressions of standard Black Liberation Theology – which one may assume is why Obama joined the church in the first place.) [33,268,324,336,688,745]

Although TUCC is a Christian church it also has Muslim members. When a TUCC member was asked, *“If I am Muslim and believe in prophet Muhammed, peace be upon him and I also believe in Jesus, peace be upon him, do I have to give up my Islamic faith to be a member in your church?”* the person replied, *“No. We have many Muslim members in our church.”* (Nationwide, many Muslim men attend Christian churches and marry Christian women in order to infiltrate society, and Islam conveniently condones lying when its aim is to perpetrate Islam. Fethullah Gulen, a Muslim imam who has managed to avoid deportation and is currently promoting Islam in the U.S., says that *“every method and path is acceptable, (including) lying to people.”* Muslims even have a word for intentional deception to promote Islam, *“taqiyya.”*) [1799,2039,2314]

Obama considers Wright to be his *“moral compass,” “sounding board,”* and *“confidant.”* Obama is more likely an agnostic than a Christian or perhaps even an atheist, like his mother and father (or a “mystic” like his future avid supporter, Oprah Winfrey), but joins TUCC for “street cred,” possibly to satisfy his wife, and to end the flak he receives from people in the community for his lack of religion. Obama alleges that he was baptized at TUCC, but no one has been able to obtain a record of the event. Obama was not raised as a Christian if, as he claims, he was baptized at TUCC; if his mother or grandparents had raised him as a Christian he would have been baptized while still an infant or child. Obama

claims he has been a Christian for the last 20 years – which prompts the question, “*What was he before that?*” [202,239,271,336,564]

For what it calls a “*commitment to truth, education, and leadership,*” Obama’s church publication, “*Trumpet Newsmagazine,*” gives a “lifetime achievement award” to Louis Farrakhan, leader of the decidedly non-Christian Nation of Islam (NOI) and a virulent anti-Semite whose quotes include, “*Hitler was a very great man,*” “*Judaism is a gutter religion,*” and “*white people are potential humans, they haven’t evolved yet.*” Obama alleges that his church is “*fairly conventional,*” and claims that he “*wasn’t in church*” when Wright made his more inflammatory statements. (Some reports have suggested that Obama had not attended church regularly in the five years leading up to Election Day of 2008.) [36,37,38,39,825]

Reverend Wright, along with Louis Farrakhan, visits Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi. Obama’s church presents Louis Farrakhan with its “Empowerment Award.” References to that award are removed from the church’s web site in 2008 after Obama’s relationships with Wright and Farrakhan are questioned. [315]

Lolo Soetoro, Obama’s step-father, dies of a liver ailment in 1987. [560]

An unpopular strike by the Chicago public school teachers in 1987 leads to a “Chicago School Reform Collaborative,” which is connected to the Chicago Annenberg Challenge. William Ayers is active in the school reform effort through the “Alliance for Better Chicago Schools,” or ABCs. ABCs is an alliance of various activist and reform groups, which includes “Chicago United,” a business group headed by Thomas Ayers, and the Developing Communities Project, which is headed by Obama. Clearly, even if Obama had not met William Ayers while attending Columbia University, he would have known Ayers through the coordinated work of the ABCs and the Developing Communities Project. [1282]

In the spring of 1988 Obama visits his family in Kenya. Greeting Obama at the airport, his aunt Zeituni (his father’s sister) tells him, “*Welcome home.*” She then tells Obama’s half-sister, Auma, “*Make sure he doesn’t get lost again.*” [40,329,2186]

It is believed that Obama visited his mother, Ann Dunham, in Pakistan some time between 1987 and 1992. [329]

1988-1991

Harvard Law School

In the fall of 1988 Obama begins his studies at Harvard Law School (HLS). Helping Obama gain acceptance at Harvard is a letter of recommendation from civil rights activist and Malcolm X attorney Percy Sutton. Asking Sutton to write the letter is Khalid Abdullah Tariq al-Mansour (aka "Donald Warden"), a radical Muslim and vitriolic anti-Semite, mentor of Black Panther Party founders Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, close associate of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, and friend of Obama. (Al-Mansour alleges in his 1995 book, *"The Lost Books of Africa Rediscovered,"* that the United States is plotting genocide against black Americans. Mansour has called for a national *"bloodbath"* of white Americans, and has said that black *"killing and mutilating"* of whites and Jews is part of God's plan.) Mansour is believed to have been the main financial backer and planner for Obama for as long as 25 years, and is the principal financial advisor to Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal – nephew of Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah (the world's 19th wealthiest person, worth \$29.5 billion, who donated \$20 million to Harvard to fund Islamic studies). It is unclear why a wealthy financial advisor to one of the world's richest men would have an interest in promoting and funding the education of the young Obama, whose grades at Occidental College had been less than stellar because he was more interested in drugs than studying. Al-Mansour's motives in helping Obama, and what he may have expected in return for that help, are a mystery. [41,43,380,381,382,408,558]

It has been suggested that it was William Ayers who persuaded Khalid al-Mansour to raise funds for Obama's Harvard tuition. Ayers associated with al-Mansour when he was still known as Donald Warden. Warden was a lawyer and advisor to the Black Panther Party, whose offices were next door to his. At a marina in San Francisco (where they were hiding from the FBI) Ayers, Warden, Dohrn, and others had planned the overthrow of the United States. (While trying to avoid arrest, Ayers used a variety of phony names, including Michael Charles Rafferty, Jr., Jules Michael Taylor, Anthony J. Lee, and Hank Anderson. Bernardine Rae Dohrn (not Bernadine) also went by the names Lorraine Anne Jellins, Sharon Louise Naylor (or Taylor), Christine Louise Douglas, and Karen Louise DeBelius. Ayers and Dohrn turned themselves in to authorities in Chicago in 1980. Ayers miraculously avoided conviction and prison. Dohrn served seven months in prison for refusing to cooperate with a grand jury investigating the October 20, 1981 robbery which killed one Brink's guard and two police officers.) [259,380,2271]

A Harvard letter of recommendation for Obama is also written by John McKnight, who serves on the Gamaliel Foundation's Board of Directors, as well as the board of National People's Action (NPA), yet another Alinsky-inspired activist group. The NPA consists of thugs and agitators who, when picketing the homes of business and government leaders to demand more welfare benefits and government hand-outs sing: *"Who's on your hit list, NPA? Who's on your hit list of today? Take no prisoners, take no names. Kick 'em in the ass when they play their games."* [230,267]

It is unclear how, academically, Obama gets into Harvard Law School. HLS has exceptionally high admissions standards, with applicant LSAT scores expected in the 98 to 99 range, and a grade point average of 3.8 or higher. It is assumed that if Obama had such scores, his campaign would be bragging about them. It has not, and will not release any of his school records. One assumption is that Obama simply had connections, such as Khalid al-Mansour, who both paved and paid his way. Percy Sutton states that al-Mansour had been *“raising money”* for Obama. Obama denies knowing al-Mansour, but al-Mansour, in an interview with Newsmax reporter Kenneth Timmerman, admits he had spoken with Obama and told him he would keep a *“low profile”* during the campaign in order to avoid embarrassing the candidate. [56,264,315]

It is unclear how Obama paid for his education, especially his years at Harvard Law School. (Occidental College and Columbia are also far from being easily affordable.) He appears not to have held steady jobs (or even any jobs) during the period, and he also took several extensive and expensive trips overseas. (Obama doesn't mention his Pakistan trip(s) in his books.) He and his wife later say they needed many years to pay off student loans, but those loans are *not* recorded on the financial disclosure statements Obama was required to submit when he became a Senator.

Attorney Percy Sutton tells reporters in 2008, *“I was introduced to (Obama) by a friend who was raising money for him. The friend's name is Dr. Khalid al-Mansour.”* Gifts from al-Mansour may have funded Obama's years at Harvard. In April of 2008, however, Obama's wife Michelle states that Obama had *“just paid off his loan debt”* for his Harvard Law School education. But that statement is not consistent with a review of Obama's financial disclosure statements, which go back to 2000 and which did not list any outstanding college loans. As a candidate for the U.S. Senate, Obama was required, in 2004, to file a financial disclosure form detailing his assets, income, consulting contracts, and liabilities. Obama listed *zero* for liabilities in 2004 and in all subsequent U.S. Senate financial disclosure forms. (Obama had mortgage liabilities, even if he had no other debt.) [211]

If Obama's school loans had been paid off much earlier, then his wife's statement that he *“had just paid off his loan debt”* was a lie – a pandering lie intended, no doubt, to make the Obamas appear to be “just another struggling middle class family.” If the loans had, in fact, just been paid off, then the candidate lied on his financial disclosure forms, which could subject him to impeachment from the Senate. Another possibility is simply that candidate Obama and his wife are both lying, and the school loans were actually gifts from Khalid al-Mansour which were expected to be paid back with future political favors – such as promoting a Palestinian state at the expense of Israel. If Obama's tuition and expenses were financed by others without any expectation of direct reimbursement, they were not loans but gifts that should have been listed on his income tax filings.

Obama's failure to do so would mean he violated income tax regulations and is subject to additional taxes, interest, and penalties – and perhaps criminal fraud charges.

Obama is selected as one of 40 editors of the Harvard Law Review (HLR), but he apparently writes only one article for the publication. In it he argues against placing any limits on abortion, with the remarkable statement that abortions would “...*prevent increasing numbers of children born into lives of pain and despair.*” (In other words, “Their lives will be miserable anyway, so why not just abort them now?”) His fellow editors elect Obama President of the HLR, partly in sympathetic response to the demands of Professor Derrick Bell that a black woman be appointed to the law faculty. [55,56,385]

While at Harvard, Obama is already planning his political career. Former Harvard classmate Christine Spurrell states, “*It was clear to me from the day I met him that he was thinking about politics.*” And he was perhaps being groomed for a political career by Khalid al-Mansour and others. [332]

One of Obama's professors at Harvard is Lawrence Tribe, a favorite of media liberals. (Tribe later argues Al Gore's case before the Florida Supreme Court after the November, 2000 election). Many would not be surprised if Obama nominates Tribe to an Appeals Court or even the Supreme Court. Another Harvard professor and friend of Obama is Charles Ogletree, who is the faculty advisor to the Black Law Students Association. Ogletree is an advocate of slavery reparations (who will later become an Obama advisor). [936,1085,842, pp. 67-68]

While on a break from class at Harvard, Obama spends eight days in Los Angeles taking a national training course taught by Saul Alinsky's “Industrial Areas Foundation.” [47]

Sidley Austen and Michelle LaVaughan Robinson

In 1989, Obama works briefly at the Sidley Austin LLP Law Firm, as a summer associate from Harvard Law School, where he meets future wife Michelle LaVaughan Robinson. Robinson is his mentor at the law firm. Also working at the firm (from 1984 to 1988) is Bernardine Dohrn, former Weather Underground radical, terrorist bomber, fugitive from the FBI (having achieved “most wanted list” status), and wife of fellow radical William Ayers. Although Dohrn works for the Sidley law firm her criminal record prevents her from being admitted to the Illinois bar. (A former SDS associate of Dohrn and William Ayers is University of Colorado professor Ward Churchill, best known for calling the workers who died in the September 11 terrorist attacks “*little Eichmanns.*”) [50,55,324,1544,824, p. 144]

Obama's summer job at Sidley Austin is likely arranged by William Ayers and his father, Tom Ayers (1975-1986 CEO of Commonwealth Edison). Sidley is chief counsel to Commonwealth Edison, and senior Sidley partner Howard Trienans serves on the Board of Trustees of Northwestern University, along with Tom Ayers and Sidley partner Newton Minow (famous for having called television a "*vast wasteland*" while head of the FCC under President Kennedy). When asked why FBI fugitive Dohrn was hired by Sidley, Trienans replied, "*We sometimes hire friends.*" (In this case, the "friend" was someone FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had called "*the most dangerous woman in America*" and who called herself "*a revolutionary Communist.*" Obama and his wife nevertheless chose to accept her as a friend.) [259,2271,842, pp. 91-92, 116]

Paul Schmitz, who worked with Michelle Robinson at Sidley, later recalls that she was "*very deliberate in her thinking*" and would be called on for difficult tasks like firing people. (Schmitz is currently CEO of Public Allies, a position also once held by Michelle Robinson.) The Guardian writes, "*Her smile is doled out sparingly, a privilege to be earned, rather than an icebreaker or an entreaty.*" Employees she fired no doubt did not get the smile. [1085,2214]

In 1990, Obama serves as a summer associate at the law firm Hopkins and Sutter in Chicago. [357]

Tony "the Fixer" Rezko

In 1990, Obama turns down a job offer from Antoin "Tony" Rezko's low-income housing development company. This may have been one of Obama's first contacts with Tony "the fixer" Rezko. Rezko, born in Aleppo, Syria, maintains varied contacts with Obama until he is convicted and jailed in 2008. It is not known for certain how Obama first connected with Rezko. Ayers, Obama, and Rezko have all dealt with the Broadway Bank in Chicago, run by the mob-tied Giannoulis family, and it may have been Ayers or a Giannoulis family member who brought Obama's name to the attention of Rezko. That first Obama-Rezko contact may have been initiated by David Brint, a Rezko partner (along with Daniel Mahru. Rezko has been alleged by some to have had ties with the Syrian Mukhabarat, or Shu'bat al-Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (the Syrian Department of Military Intelligence). [48,245,558,664,1278]

1991-1992

ACORN, Slum Housing, and "Dreams"

In 1991 Obama receives his law degree from Harvard Law School. He returns to Chicago, where he is named the Illinois head of "Project Vote" (an affiliate of

“ACORN,” a group now infamous for its involvement in voter registration fraud) to help increase the number of black voters. Project Vote is required to remain non-partisan to retain its tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code (IRS code), but it adds an estimated 125,000 new voters in Illinois in 1992, mostly Democrats, to help an inordinately unqualified Carol Moseley Braun win a United States Senate seat. [45,55,240,283]

In 1991, Michelle Robinson is hired by Valerie Jarrett to work as a mayoral assistant at a generous salary of \$60,000 per year. (Jarrett is later rumored to be first choice for chief of staff in an Obama Administration.) Jarrett was born in Iran in 1956, to American parents, while her father was working there on the staff of the Nemazee Hospital. It is said that Obama makes few major decisions without referring to Jarrett. After Robinson interviews with Jarrett, they are joined by Obama for dinner, where Robinson tells Jarrett, *“My fiancé wants to know who is going to be looking out for me and making sure that I thrive.”* The dinner meeting with Jarrett introduces Obama to the inner circle of Mayor Richard M. Daley’s Chicago politics. Michelle Robinson is already familiar with the Chicago “machine.” Her father is a precinct captain and is employed by the city’s incredibly corrupt water department. (The owners of a surprising number of buildings in Chicago never pay any water bills or property taxes. With a “wink and a nod,” and bribes to the right city officials, the buildings are eventually put up for sale for payment of unpaid bills. They are then re-purchased by the same owner, under a new company’s name. The process is repeated ad infinitum. While the bills go unpaid, the city doesn’t bother shutting off the water service. Many buildings in the city do not even have water meters. Employees of the Water Department who are not corrupt have likely witnessed some of its corruption.) [245,246,352,664,1278,1363]

Soon after Michelle Robinson is hired as a mayoral assistant, Jarrett is transferred from the Chicago Transit Authority’s “citizen advisory committee” to run a new Department of Planning and Development. Michelle Robinson follows Jarrett, serving as a “troubleshooter.” [1278]

Valerie Jarrett is the daughter-in-law of the late Vernon Jarrett. Vernon Jarrett was a friend of Frank Marshall Davis, with whom he worked at the Chicago Defender, a leftist newspaper that advocated the radicalism of the Communist Party. Vernon Jarrett later became the Chicago Tribune’s first black syndicated columnist, and was a strong supporter of Chicago’s black mayor Harold Washington, who had defeated the Daley machine’s candidate with the help of Chicago’s Communist Party and the Democratic Socialists of America. (Jarrett later moved to the Chicago Sun-Times and eventually became a member of its editorial board.) Valerie Jarrett is CEO of Habitat Co., a company which managed Grove Parc Plaza, a 504-unit housing project in Chicago that fell into disrepair and is famous for its atrocious living conditions, such as collapsed roofs, unrepaired fire damage, rodent infestations, and backed up sewage.

(Another even larger of Chicago's subsidized housing complexes managed by Jarrett's company was seized by the federal government in 2006 after widespread problems were identified.) While Jarrett was CEO of Habitat she also served as Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's planning commissioner. Daley also names Michelle Obama to the Chicago Landmark Commission. [478,479,480,545,664,832,1660]

On December 17, 1991, Obama is admitted to the Illinois Bar, enabling him to practice law. He lies at least three times on his application, failing to disclose that he had previously used other names ("Barry Soetoro," and perhaps "Barry Dunham"), neglecting to disclose his record of drug use, and failing to disclose his approximate \$400 in outstanding parking fines. [345]

In October of 1992 Obama marries Michelle LaVaughan Robinson. The ceremony is performed by Reverend Jeremiah Wright, at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. [329]

One of Obama's tasks at ACORN, where he works with Madeline Talbott, is teaching community activists how to use "direct action" and be more forceful in demanding change. The "in your face" style preached by Obama is used by activists to stage sit-ins and demonstrations at banks to garner publicity and support for more bank loans for (sometimes unqualified) poor people. (ACORN stages a two-day sit-in at the House Banking Committee room in 1991.) ACORN Tactics include picketing at the homes of bank executives and calling them racists for not lending to the poor. Among the banks targeted by Talbott and Obama is Chicago's Bell Federal Savings (which no longer exists). The Chicago Tribune, in September of 1992, referred to the ACORN agenda as "*affirmative action lending*." Critics later refer to those types of mortgages as "Ninja" loans ("No Income, No Job, no Assets") or "liar's loans," because the bank takes the applicant's word for his stated income, assets, and job stability without verification. [225,227,491,836]

Obama plans his first book, "*Dreams From My Father*." Using literary agent Jane Dystel, he receives a \$125,000 advance from publisher Simon and Shuster's Poseidon Press imprint, but fails to write the book (which is supposed to be about race relations, not an autobiography). Obama uses some of the cash advance to travel with his wife to Bali, in Indonesia, to gain the "peace and quiet" to write, but he still produces no manuscript. The contract is canceled by the publisher, and Obama is asked to return part of the advance payment he received. (The amount Obama was made to return is not known.) Obama returns to Chicago, signs a new contract (with Times Book, a Random House Division) for \$40,000, and subsequently delivers a completed manuscript. It is believed by some that "*Dreams From My Father*" was at least partly ghost-written by Obama's close friend, William Ayers, based on the similarities of Ayers' writing style and the style of the Obama book, the fact that Obama's only previous public writings

were atrocious poetry he had written in college and one article in the HLR promoting abortion, and Obama's frequent difficulties speaking coherently when not reading from a script or off a TelePrompTer. Some also argue that the later audio version of "*Dreams From My Father*," recorded by Obama, comes across as unnatural, as though the words are not entirely his. (In January of 2009, an 1,800-word anti-war article written by Obama in 1983 is discovered. Its many errors and poor writing quality lend credence to the argument that Obama had considerable help with "*Dreams From My Father*.") [57,58,224,250,812]

It is unclear how Obama managed to obtain an unbelievable \$125,000 advance for his book, when he had no writing experience and the publisher certainly had no guarantee of high-volume book sales of an autobiography written by a 31 year-old no one had ever heard of. The \$40,000 advance from the second publisher is also remarkable, especially if it was aware of the previous unfulfilled \$125,000 contract. (It must be assumed that Obama and his agent neglected to provide that information.) An advance of \$5,000 - \$10,000 for an unknown is not uncommon today, and would have been more than generous in 1992. It may be that Obama's Harvard "benefactor" also worked his magic in publishing circles. ("*Dreams From My Father*" sells only a few thousand copies when first published in 1995, and the publisher loses money on the printing.) [1275,1276]

In 1992, Obama helps found "Public Allies," a voluntary public service organization (modeled after Alinsky's AIF) that recruits youths to perform public service – while they are indoctrinated in socialist ideology. Obama's wife Michelle becomes the group's Executive Director in 1993. The program is the model for candidate Obama's "Universal Voluntary Public Service" program, which he stealthily promotes as an expansion of Kennedy's "Peace Corps." Hillary Clinton hosted a reception for Public Allies at the White House Rose Garden in 1993; thus it appears Michelle Obama may have met Hillary Clinton years earlier than most would have expected. [51,52,461,2347]

Obama is hired by Miner, Banhill and Galland, a law firm which specializes in negotiating government contracts to develop low-income housing, and which deals with Tony Rezko's firm "Rezar." Obama's specific duties at the law firm are not known. (He refuses to provide a list of his clients.) Obama is also a law lecturer at the University of Chicago during these years, but is believed to have never published even a single work of legal scholarship. (No Obama documents appear in the HeinOnline database of law journals.) Obama likely remained on the payroll of the Miner law firm until his 2004 Senate campaign, although his law license became inactive in 2002. He works only during the summers after 1996. It is believed that Obama never tried a case in court; he instead worked on teams with other lawyers to draw up briefs and contracts. (Arguably, Obama never tried a case because he is unable to effectively "think on his feet," as is required in a trial setting. There is no TelePrompTer between the lawyer and the jury, and

attorneys need skills beyond reading or memorizing stump speeches, sound bites, and talking points.) [42,53,245,324,345,420,2500,2501]

There is some dispute over whether Obama is a “lecturer,” “senior lecturer,” or “constitutional law professor” at the University of Chicago. It appears he was a “lecturer” (1992-1996) and “senior lecturer” (1996-2004), an adjunct or part-time appointment. Although constitutional law was the subject he taught, he was *not* a full “law professor.” Obama appears *never* to have produced, let alone published, any law articles, reviews, opinions, or scholarly writings – which are expected of faculty members. Obama was not a tenured professor, and shied away from friendships with others on the staff – except for Cass Sunstein, who later becomes an advisor and who believes animals should be allowed to file lawsuits. (Strangely, the alleged constitutional law professor Obama does not seek a spot on the judiciary Committee when he later becomes a U.S. Senator.) [819,1311,2500,2501,2510]

The law firm’s Judson Miner had been a classmate of Bernardine Dohrn at the University of Chicago Law School in the late 1960s, when both were involved in anti-war activity. Miner had also been counsel to Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, and former Illinois Senator Carol Mosely Braun had also worked briefly at the firm. Mr. Allison Davis, co-founder of the firm, later became a wealthy Chicago land developer, with ties to Tony Rezko and Valerie Jarrett. [345]

Allison Davis has 51 per cent ownership in several Chicago real estate development businesses. Because he is black, his ownership allows him to take advantage of laws favoring minority ownership. Davis is, however, a multimillionaire with no need for special minority treatment, and is thus merely taking advantage of rules meant to help disadvantaged others. As a state senator, Obama steers millions in state development money to firms owned by Rezko and Davis. Some of the housing developments built by Davis are managed by a company owned by Davis’ son, Cullen Davis. Robert Vanecko – a nephew of Chicago mayor Richard M. Daley – owns 49 per cent of DV Urban Realty Partners, a pension investment company, and Davis owns 51 per cent. Davis has donated more than \$400,000 to dozens of political campaigns; top beneficiaries include Obama, Daley, and Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. Vanecko, along with the Mayor’s son Patrick, held hidden ownership in Municipal Sewer Services, which performed work for the City of Chicago. DV Urban Realty, which received \$68 million from five city pension funds, is under investigation. [664,1998,842, p. 133]

Judson Miner later says of Obama’s work at his law firm, “*The ‘game of law’ irritated (Obama) more than fascinated him. There are people who just like the game. Barack didn’t like the game.*” Former Miner partner Allison Davis states that Obama “...spent a lot of time working on his book (*Dreams From My*

Father’). Some of my partners weren't happy with that, Barack sitting there with his keyboard on his lap and his feet up on the desk writing the book.” [1607]

1993 – 1996

The Foundations

In 1993, Obama is placed on the board of the Woods Fund by William Ayers. In his first year on the board, Obama votes to approve a \$1 million payment to the Neighborhood Rejuvenation Partners, a partnership run by Allison Davis. Davis is the founder of the law firm where Obama works (Miner, Banhill and Galland). [259,297,664]

During 1993 Obama also runs leadership training sessions on the subject of “power” for ACORN leaders, and continues to do so until at least 2003. Obama also helps train the staff of high-ranking ACORN leader Madeline Talbott, who promotes intimidating and often illegal direct action protest techniques; Obama is a “fellow traveler.” (Talbott is later arrested, in 1997, for heading an aggressive protest confrontation at the Chicago City Council.) [283,836]

Obama buys a townhouse in Chicago’s Hyde Park for \$277,500 with a loan provided by the city’s Broadway Bank. Obama’s down payment is \$110,000 (arguably a substantial amount for someone who, according to Michelle Obama, was still saddled with substantial education loans until shortly before his Presidential campaign). The bank, owned by the politically-connected Giannoulis family, is alleged to have long-standing mob ties, as well as connections with Tony Rezko and William Ayers. Obama gets a “sweetheart deal” on the townhouse, ostensibly in exchange for future favors. Obama later endorses Alexi Giannoulis when he runs for Illinois State Treasurer, even though the chairman of Illinois’ Democrat Party and Speaker of the Illinois House, Michael Madigan, refuses to do be associated with him. [281,291,329,1278]

Obama’s townhouse is purchased by (or for him) in 1993, but various names are listed as the owner and the payer of the property tax while Obama lives there. The Warranty Deed changes from the name of the prior owner, Stephen Anderson, to Obama, in 1993, but the release of the Anderson mortgage is not recorded until 1998, at which point it is sent to Obama’s former law firm. There may be reasonable explanations for the various names and events, or Cook County, Illinois bookkeeping may be less than perfect, but the oddities – not all of which are listed here – may also be the result of a complicated real estate “deal” arranged for Obama. [291]

Sometime in 1993 Michelle Obama’s law license is suspended. The Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC) reports her malpractice

insurance status as “*No malpractice report required as attorney is on court ordered inactive status.*” The ARDC is an agency of the Supreme Court of Illinois (not the Illinois Bar) which investigates attorney malpractice complaints. The inactive status is *court ordered* – it is not the result of a voluntary request by Michelle Obama (who had failed to pass the bar on her first attempt). The reason for the court’s suspension of the license has not been made public. [677,738,739,1087,1096]

In 1994, Obama represents ACORN and a client suing Citibank for denying mortgages to blacks (*Buycks-Roberson v. Citibank Federal Savings Bank*). The lawsuit is an attempt to force the bank to give “subprime” loans to customers it thinks are poor credit risks. [225,263,497,531,1252]

While serving as director of the Joyce Foundation board (1994-2001), Obama distributes millions of dollars to gun control organizations like the Council Against Handguns and the Violence Policy Center. (Between 1994 and 2001, the Joyce Foundation gives \$18.6 million to about 80 anti-gun and anti-Second Amendment projects, including \$1.5 million to the Violence Policy Center.) The Joyce Foundation is closely linked to the “Soros Open Society Institute,” which advocates a worldwide ban on civilian firearm ownership. [346,444,834,1282]

In the fall of 1994, Obama’s mother becomes ill with ovarian cancer. It is believed that Obama does not visit her. [324]

In 1995 Obama’s first book, “*Dreams From My Father,*” is published. It sells only a few thousand copies and has to be remaindered. Critics call it “*overwrought*” and “*self-indulgent.*” (For a narcissist no subject is as important as himself.) An autobiography by someone not even 35 years old, it is essentially a book by someone obsessed with himself, and about his confused mental state, desires, yearnings, and race. This is not altogether surprising inasmuch as Obama was abandoned by his father, his step-father, and his mother. A family friend remarked that Obama is “*...haunted by his father’s failures. He grew up thinking of his father as a brilliant intellectual and pioneer of African independence only to learn that in Western terms he was basically a drunken lecher.*” (Feelings of inferiority promoted by abandonment can cause shame and an unstable self-image, which prompts some individuals to conceal their feelings by hiding them, wearing an emotional mask, and creating an artificial image. The image then becomes that of others, and the individual becomes a “blank slate” upon which others project themselves. Obama even writes in his second book, “*The Audacity of Hope,*” that he serves “*as a blank screen on which people of vastly different political stripes project their own views.*” Some argue that these traits of narcissistic personality disorder describe Obama, as well as Bill Clinton. Being “all things to all people,” however, likely works better on the campaign trail than in the Oval Office.) “*Dreams From My Father*” is re-published with some changes in 2004, after Obama becomes famous, and it then earns him a fortune. Obama

dumps his original literary agent, Jane Dystel (despite her having negotiated for him unbelievable advances of \$125,000 and \$40,000), replacing her with Washington lawyer Robert Barnett. (Dystel was reportedly, and justifiably, furious.) [57,58,1100,1154,1276,842 p. 23]

A 1995 article in the *“Chicago Reader”* describes how Obama had rejected the *“...unrealistic politics of integrationist assimilation.”* [264]

On August 9, 1995, Obama gives a radio interview with *“Bill Thompson’s Eye on Books”* to push his recently-published *“Dreams From My Father.”* When asked by host Thompson, *“What was the most difficult part of the book to write,”* Obama responds, *“You know, I tell the story – just to take one of the clearest examples – of my grandmother, who loves me dearly and has made all kinds of sacrifices on my behalf, expressing at one point when I was a teenager her fear of black men on the streets. To discuss that honestly, and to discuss how that felt, to discuss how my grandmother felt, and then to be able to arrive at some sort of peace with that, some greater understanding and some forgiveness, I think was probably the most difficult part of writing it.”* Talking about a trip he made to Africa, Obama makes the ridiculous claim that blacks in America, like Africans, face political suppression. *“And the truth of the matter is that many of the problems that Africa faces, whether it’s poverty, or political suppression, or ethnic conflict, is (sic) just as prominent there, and can’t all be blamed on the effects of colonialism. What it can be blamed on is some of the common factors that affect Bosnia or Los Angeles or all kinds of places on this earth, and that is the tendency for one group to try to suppress another group in the interest of power or greed or resources or what have you.”* Obama’s response to a question about the future of race relations in America clearly demonstrates his resentment toward “white America” when he states, *“I think that whether you are a white executive living out in the suburbs, who doesn’t want to pay taxes to inner-city children for them to go to school, or you’re an inner-city child who doesn’t want to take responsibility for keeping your street safe and clean, both of those groups have to take some responsibility if we’re going to get beyond the kinds of divisions that we face right now.”* [2255]

Obama sues the State of Illinois on behalf of ACORN to get the state to comply with the federal “Motor Voter Law” law which Republican Governor Jim Edgar correctly argued would invite voter fraud, partly because government officers registering new voters are *“under orders not to ask anyone for identification or proof of citizenship.”* ACORN has been prominent in the fight against photo I.D. for voting and other means of voter identification. ACORN specifically sought out Obama to represent them in the lawsuit. (The case was not simply assigned to him by a law firm.) [54,240,255,284]

Obama and several other attorneys represent black voters and aldermen to force the City of Chicago to re-draw its ward boundaries. An appeals court states the

ward map violates the federal Voting Rights Act. Attorneys for both sides draw a new map, including a district that favors an Obama State Senate run. [1281]

Urged by Obama, the Woods Fund gives more money to ACORN and other community activist groups. The Woods Fund publicly lies about its ideology, allowing it to more easily obtain donations from many who aren't aware of its radical inclinations. Obama's committee's own report even brags that its claim to be "...*non-ideological has enabled the Trustees to make grants to organizations that use confrontational tactics against the business and government 'establishments' without undue risk of being criticized of partisanship.*" During Obama's tenure with the Woods Fund, and under his direction, the organization gives money to the Gamaliel Foundation and more than \$200,000 to ACORN. [232,297,835]

William Ayers (who may have met Obama as early as 1981) selects Obama as chairman (1995-2000) of the "Chicago Annenberg Challenge on Excellence in Education" (CAC), an educational reform program which proves to be remarkably wasteful and unsuccessful. (A 2003 audit states, "*There were no statistically significant differences between Annenberg schools and non-Annenberg schools in rates of achievement gain.*") Ayers and Obama approve grants of \$175,000 and \$482,662 to groups founded by Ayers and run by former communist party leader Mike Klonsky. Ayers' "small schools workshop," run by Klonsky, receives over \$1 million from the CAC. (Obama may have worked with the CAC as early as 1993.) The Woods Fund and the Joyce Foundation give \$761,000 to the "Leadership for Quality Education" (LQE) organization, run by John Ayers (William Ayers' brother). Obama is also on the board of the LQE. [59,60,61,155,156,201,204,428,1282]

For several years (at least until 1999 or 2000) the offices of the CAC are at 115 South Sangamon in Chicago. The Small Schools Workshop (Mike Klonsky is co-director and his wife Susan Klonsky, another former SDS member, is an employee) is also located at 115 South Sangamon. Both organizations are on the third floor. [366,1282]

Obama approves so many grants with CAC money that the "*Chicago Reader*" refers to Obama as a "*philanthropist.*" Obama's time with the CAC is arguably his only executive experience. While with the CAC, Obama and Ayers distribute amounts totaling as much as \$100 million, and achieve essentially none of the group's stated educational goals. The selection of Obama, a 33 year-old junior lawyer at a small law firm, as chairman of the educational reform group CAC is strange inasmuch as the board also includes several older and experienced university presidents. One of them, Stanley O. Ikenberry of the University of Illinois, later remarks, "*It was unusual, here you had a person trained in the law chairing a board on school reform.*" [65,297,428]

Into Politics

In 1995, Obama's political career starts with a fundraiser at the home of William Ayers and his wife Bernardine Dohrn. Ayers and Dohrn are former 1960s radicals and former Weather Underground militants, who disappeared in 1970 after their bomb – designed to kill United States Army officers in New Jersey – accidentally destroys a Greenwich Village townhouse on March 6, killing three of their co-revolutionaries. Ayers and Dohrn eventually turn themselves in to authorities in 1980, but because of improper FBI surveillance Ayers and Dohrn are never prosecuted for their involvement in at least 25 bombings. [60,66,67,71,2271]

Ayers and Dohrn (who has met with communists in Cuba and Viet Cong representatives in Budapest) are alleged to have been occasional baby-sitters for the Obama children. The North Vietnamese have presented both Ayers and Dohrn with rings made with metal from an American plane shot down in North Vietnam. Obama lies when he says that the 1995 fundraiser is the first time he met William Ayers. [68,69,70,71,259]

Ayers and Dohrn are the adoptive parents of Chesa Boudin, whose parents, David Gilbert and Kathy Boudin, are serving three consecutive 25 year prison terms for felony murder, having killed three Brinks guards in a 1981 robbery to get cash to fund their Weather Underground, SDS, Black Liberation Army, and Black Panther Party activities. (Dohrn, who was Boudin's best friend, may have been the forger who produced fake I.D.s for Weatherman radicals to enable them to rent getaway cars under false names.) Chesa Boudin was named a Rhodes Scholar, through the help of Dennis Hutchinson, a professor at the University of Chicago where Ayers and Obama taught. *(It may be interesting to see if a President Obama grants commutations or pardons to Boudin and Gilbert.)* Both William Ayers and Chesa Boudin serve on an education advisory board of Venezuelan socialist President Hugo Chavez. [205,1347,2271]

Valerie Jarrett is Obama's campaign finance chairman for his Illinois State Senate run. Helping Obama's campaign are Tony Rezko, Rita Rezko, Allison Davis, and William Daley (brother of the mayor). David Axelrod is Obama's top campaign strategist. On July 31, 1995, Obama's campaign receives a \$1,000 donation from Rezko Foods. [1278]

In October of 1995, Obama attends the male-only "Million Man March," organized by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. [284,286]

Obama successfully seeks the endorsement of the "New Party" (NP), a Marxist third party in Chicago, for his 1996 state senate run. The endorsement of the New Party requires that the candidate *"...sign a contract with the NP. The contract mandates that they must have a visible and active relationship with the*

NP." Obama receives the endorsement with an in-person appearance with the NP – it is not an unsolicited endorsement. After his victory in the election, the NP states that *"Barack Obama, victor in the 13th State Senate District, encouraged NPer to join in his task forces on Voter Education and Voter Registration."* (Democrat candidates need to cater to the New Party or risk New Party candidates running against them in the primaries. The New Party essentially blackmails Democrat into taking far-left positions – if they don't already have those positions.) [72,243,253,431,1280]

The platform of Obama's New Party's includes: full employment, a shorter work week, a guaranteed minimum income for all adults, a universal "social wage," full public financing of all elections, universal voter registration, more progressive taxes, reductions in military spending, and the nationalization of the banking system. The New Party has worked with ACORN on a number of issues. (Race activist Al Sharpton once considered seeking a New Party endorsement for a U.S. Senate run.) [1281]

A February 12, 1996 Chicago Sun Times article with the headline *"Candidate not what he seems, foes insist"* quotes Northwestern University professor of political science Adolph Reed, Jr., who calls Obama a politician with *"impeccable do-good credentials and vacuous-to-repressive neo-liberal politics."* Obama is called a tool of forces outside the black community by Robert T. Starks, chairman of the Task Force for Black Political Empowerment. [2463]

Obama also receives the support of the Democrat Socialists of America (DSA). Obama was then an associate of the DSA's Chicago branch. The members of the New Party, the DSA, and ACORN are, to a great extent, interchangeable. Obama is a panelist for a discussion, *"Employment and Survival in Urban America,"* sponsored by the DSA on February 25, 1996. The DSA is associated with the Congressional Progressive Caucus, of which Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is its most prominent member. After an expose of the DSA in 1999, it scrubs its web site of connections to the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and removes a number of inflammatory postings (including song lyrics about *"shootin' that Wall Street throng."*) [239,243,253,432,1282]

The Marxist New Party refers to Obama as one of its own party members in an October, 1996 "Running to Win: The Key Races" announcement, that reads, *"Illinois: Three NP-members won Democratic primaries last Spring and face off against Republican opponents on election day: Danny Davis (U.S. House), Barack Obama (State Senate) and Patricia Martin (Cook County Judiciary)."* Clearly, Obama was a member of the New Party. [244,422]

The *"Progressive Populist"* magazine runs an editorial that states, *"New Party member Barack Obama was uncontested for a State Senate seat from Chicago."* The New Party's parent organization is the Democrat Socialists of America

(DSA). The New Party's short-term objective is to move the Democrat Party far to the left, helping establish the conditions for an eventual Marxist party. (It is difficult to argue that Obama joined the New Party not because he believed in its socialist philosophies but only to gain votes – because he had no opposition on the ballot. Thus he could have completely ignored the New Party and still won the election.) [253]

Obama's state senate run also receives the support of Dr. Quentin Young, a neighbor of Obama and a long-time advocate of a socialized health care system. Young is believed to be a member of the Communist Party of the USA, and had been active in Chicago socialist circles since the 1930s. In 1992 Young received from the Chicago Democratic Socialists its highest honor, the (Eugene) Debs Award. While in the Illinois State Senate, Obama supports Young's single-payer health care program and introduces several bills in failed attempts to get it established state-wide. [73,74]

On November 7, 1995, Obama's mother dies of ovarian cancer. Her body is cremated and there is no funeral. Involved with his State Senate campaign, Obama, who rarely saw his mother after 1975 – although she did attend his high school graduation in Hawaii in 1979 – is not with her in her final days. (Some might argue that Obama's refusal to see his mother toward the end of her life was his pay-back for her having abandoned him.) Obama did not attend a memorial service for Dunham held at the University of Hawaii, but reportedly helped scatter her ashes in the ocean. [324,560,2288]

Although Ann Dunham died of cancer in Hawaii in 1995, researchers have not been able to identify the hospital where she was treated. There are unconfirmed reports that Dunham's Social Security Number is purportedly still active and being used by a "Kelly Ann Dunham" or "Anna Soetoro." The story, if true, certainly warrants investigation because the odds against the Social Security Administration reissuing Stanley Ann Dunham's number to someone with either of those names are astronomical. The first three digits of Dunham's number, 535, are used only for SSNs assigned in the state of Washington, even further limiting the odds of reissuing her number to another Dunham or Soetoro in that state alone. [674,675,676]

Ann Dunham's mother, Madelyn Dunham, purportedly worked as a volunteer in the probate department of the Oahu Circuit Court. She would have had access to the Social Security Numbers of deceased individuals, which could have been given to Ann Dunham or Obama to falsify records. While attending Harvard Law School, Obama is said to have fraudulently used a Social Security Number belonging to a deceased resident of Connecticut who was born about 1890. [1182]

The Illinois State Senate

In September of 1996, as a candidate for the Illinois State Senate, Obama completes a candidate questionnaire. In the document Obama states he supports increasing the personal exemption *“as part of a shift to higher income tax,”* supports increasing Illinois income taxes to reduce local property taxes, supports public campaign financing, favors adding sexual orientation to the (Illinois) Human Rights Act, opposes mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment, favors “comparable worth” programs, supports the right of public employees (including police and fire department employees) to strike, supports a single-payer state-run health plan for Illinois, supports Medicaid funding of abortions, supports parental abortion notification only for the very young (age 12-13) but opposes all other abortion restrictions, supports cost-of-living adjustments for public aid recipients, supports “workfare” (but only if coupled with government-funded training, child care, and health care), opposes restrictions on welfare benefits for teen mothers, opposes restrictions on benefits for women on welfare who have additional children, favors repealing the six-month limit on general assistance benefits, supports energy assistance for the poor, supports more tax money for the Chicago Transit Authority, opposes electronic eavesdropping, opposes capital punishment, opposes mandatory sentencing guidelines, opposes the manufacture, sale, and possession of *all* handguns, and supports banning assault weapons.

Obama is elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1996. He takes the seat long held by Democrat State Senator Alice Palmer (also an official of the U.S. Peace Council, an affiliate of the Soviet front group “World Peace Council”), who agrees to let Obama run for her state seat only if she loses her bid for U.S. Congress. By a wide margin Palmer then loses the Congressional election (a special election held in November of 1995, with Jesses Jackson, Jr., and Emil Jones finishing ahead of her), but Obama reneges on his agreement and works with lawyers to get Palmer and three other opponents – Mark Ewell, Gais Askia, and Ulmer Lynch – removed from the primary ballot on technicalities, in order to insure an opponent-free victory. On January 2, 1996, a group of Obama operatives descends on the offices of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners to challenge, one by one, all the signatures on the nominating petitions of all of Obama’s challengers. *They do not stop until Obama is the sole name on the ballot.* [75,269]

The Congressional seat Alice Palmer attempted to win had been held by disgraced Congressman Mel (“I won the Lotto”) Reynolds, who was sentenced to seven years in jail for having sex with a 16 year-old campaign volunteer. His resignation prompted the special election in November, 1995. (Reynolds’ sentence was later commuted by Bill Clinton, perhaps because of a special affinity for elected officials who have sex with young campaign workers. After

leaving prison in early 2001, Reynolds is hired by Reverend James Meeks to work at his Salem Baptist Church in Chicago. Reynolds also works with Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition/PUSH organization as a youth counselor – an arguably unlikely position for someone who served prison time for sex with a minor.) Palmer was popular among the district's voters, but her fate was sealed when Jesse Jackson Jr. also decided to run for the seat. This explains some of the animosity between Obama and Jesse Jackson. Had Jackson's son not entered the Congressional race, Alice Palmer would have won and Obama would not have had to resort to signature challenges to get the popular incumbent Palmer off the State Senate ballot. The main animosity, of course, is that Obama could win the Presidency which Jackson failed to win because he was considered too radical when, in fact, Obama is exponentially more radical than Jackson ever was. [269,1361,1470,1471]

With the Palmer petition signature challenges, Obama follows the practice preached by his campaign consultant and "guru of petitions" Ronald Davis, as well as Chicago political machine hack David Axelrod: *don't try to beat the opponents, remove them from the playing field entirely*. Obama's reliance on petition challenges runs counter to his self-made image of a reformer and crusader for voter's rights. (Alice Palmer will later campaign for Hillary Clinton in 2008.) One of Obama's primary opponents is Gha-is Askia, who says of Obama, *"Why say you're for a new tomorrow, then do old-style Chicago politics to remove legitimate candidates? He (Obama) talks about honor and democracy, but what honor is there in getting rid of every other candidate so you can run scot-free? Why not let the people decide?"* (The answer, of course, is that Obama would not have won the election without eliminating his opposition.) [75,329]

Timuel Black, a mutual friend, tries unsuccessfully to mend the rift between Obama and Palmer. Black is a long-time socialist who associated with communists and Trotskyists in the 1930s, allegedly joined the Communist Party of the USA, was active in the Progressive Party, was president of the local chapter of the communist Negro American Labor Council, and was involved with the annual Chicago Debs Day Dinners, an awards celebration for Illinois socialists. [74]

Obama's campaign is alleged to have received financial assistance from the politically-connected Giannoulis family, possibly in exchange for future favors. (Obama will later support and endorse the young, inexperienced Alexi Giannoulis in his run for Illinois State Treasurer.) [281]

Obama also benefited from a process called "fusion," where a candidate would appear on the primary ballot for more than one party. Obama appeared on the ballot as a Democrat, but also as the candidate for the New Party. He thus drew the votes of traditional Democrats, but voters who leaned far-left or socialist understood that Obama was actually "one of them." Obama's final vote tally

would be the *total* of his Democrat votes and his New Party votes. (The Supreme Court eventually ruled the “fusion” practice unconstitutional, but not until after Obama had become an Illinois State Senator.) [1281]

More Rezko

In January and February of 1997, renters of several Chicago slum tenements owned by Tony “the fixer” Rezko go without heat for five weeks. (The City of Chicago sued Rezko’s real estate development company, Rezmar, at least a dozen times during 1996-1997 to get heat turned on in its apartment buildings.) Rezko doesn’t come up with the money to turn on the heat, but manages to contribute \$1,000 to Obama’s Illinois State Senate political campaign; Obama then seeks state funds for even more Rezko housing developments. The Syrian-born Rezko can afford to travel widely in the Middle East, yet at one time has as many as 11 run-down and foreclosed properties in Obama’s State Senate District. Obama continues to have associations with Rezko and other corrupt housing developers in Chicago. Obama gets state money for them and, in exchange, they contribute to his campaigns. Obama thus becomes, indirectly, one of the biggest slum-lords in Chicago. [76,238,408,664]

In 1997, Obama and William Ayers appear together as speakers on several occasions; at the University of Chicago their topic is, “*Should a child ever be called a ‘super predator?’*” The announcement of their November, 1997 joint appearance states, “*Ayers will be joined by Sen. Barack Obama, Senior Lecturer in the Law School, who is working to combat legislation that would put more juvenile offenders into the adult system.*” [71,83,237]

In 1997, Obama endorses William Ayers’ book on juvenile justice, praising it with an article in the Chicago Tribune in which he calls it a “*searing and timely account of the juvenile court system.*” Michelle Obama (who at the time is the University of Chicago’s dean of student services and director of the school’s Community Service Center) hosts a panel discussion of the book, in which both Obama and Ayers participate. (In 2008, seeking to distance Obama from Ayers, the campaign claims Obama did not “*write a blurb for his book.*”) [77,84,279,333,2448]

Ayers mentions Obama in his book, where he writes, “*Our neighbors include Muhammad Ali, former mayor Eugene Sawyer, poets Gwendolyn Brooks and Elizabeth Alexander, and writer Barack Obama. Minister Louis Farrakhan lives a block from our home and adds, we think, a unique dimension to the idea of ‘safe neighborhood watch’: the Fruit of Islam, his security force, has an eye on things twenty-four-hours a day.*” In April of 2008, when Obama’s relationship with Ayers is brought up in a primary debate, Obama lies, saying he doesn’t know him well and that he is only “*a guy who lives in my neighborhood.*” (Obama repeatedly votes for and introduces anti-gun legislation, perhaps unaware that the average

Chicago citizen does not also enjoy the 24x7 security of Louis Farrakhan's "Fruit of Islam" bodyguards.) [78,279,297,333]

Obama introduces Illinois Senate Resolution 110, declaring November 1, 1997 "Islamic Community Day." [347]

1998-1999

Still More Rezko and ACORN

In March, 1998, Obama delivers the eulogy at the funeral of Saul Mendelsen, a leader of Chicago's far left and a socialist community organizer and activist. [79]

At a June 14, 1998 "State of the Cities Forum," Obama is asked about the 1996 welfare reform bill and how it can be reversed. (The 1996 legislation gave states fixed amounts of federal money to spend on welfare, rather than continuing to give them additional money based on how many people were on the welfare rolls – which had given states no incentive to reduce the welfare population.) Obama answers, *"I was not a... huge supporter of the federal plan that was signed in 1996. Having said that, I do think that there is a potential political opportunity that arose out of welfare reform and that is to desegregate the welfare population, meaning the undeserving poor, black folks in cities, from the working poor, deserving white rural as well as suburban. Now you've got just a bunch of folks who are struggling at the bottom of the economic ladder. And that means that at least from my perspective the political strategy and the political coalition to put together... is to think about where are the areas where you are not just helping welfare people, you know folks on welfare, but how are you helping folks who are not currently making enough money in the economy to support a family and pay a mortgage and send their kids to school."* Obama is here accusing those who passed welfare reform of racism. He believes the welfare reform bill passed in 1996 was anti-black, and that supporters of the bill considered "black folks in cities" undeserving of welfare while the poor working whites in rural or even suburban areas were considered deserving. Obama's "political strategy" is to get poor blacks and poor whites working together to demand benefits – a strategy no doubt inspired by Saul Alinsky's "Rules for Radicals." (Obama assumes welfare reform will not work. In fact, it does. After a few years the number of black children living in poverty drops dramatically – reaching record lows – because welfare reform prompted their mothers to get jobs. In 2009 Congress votes to essentially restore the old system, rewarding the states with more money as they sign up additional people for welfare benefits.) [2260]

On July 4, 1998 Obama's daughter Malia Ann is born. Some wonder whether she was named in honor of one of the daughters of Malcolm X, Malika Shabazz, or after Malcolm X himself, whose tombstone is inscribed with *"Hajj Malik."* Malik

means “king” in Arabic, while Malukah means “queen.” (Malcolm X became a Sunni Muslim and after a pilgrimage to Mecca he called himself El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz; his children use the surname Shabazz.) [527,2421]

In October, 1998, Obama writes a letter supporting plans for low-income senior citizen housing. The project’s site, a large empty space owned by the city of Chicago, is sold to Obama’s friend Tony Rezko, and Obama’s former law-firm boss, Allison Davis, for one dollar. The project, “Cottage View Terrace,” eventually consumes \$14.6 million in taxpayer dollars, with a substantial amount going to Rezko and Davis as development fees. Taxpayer funds are later given to Rezko for additional housing projects, despite the fact that many of his prior projects had fallen into significant disrepair. (In 2007 and 2008 Obama says he “*never did any favors*” for Rezko; persuading the city to sell the disreputable Rezko a large plot of land for only one dollar is apparently not considered a “favor” by Obama.) Obama’s former boss, Davis, donates more than \$400,000 to dozens of political campaigns, including those of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich and Obama. [80]

In November of 1998 Obama is re-elected to the Illinois State Senate.

Obama attends a speech given by Columbia University Professor Edward Said, who calls for a non-violent campaign “*against settlements, against Israeli apartheid.*” [387]

In 1999, Obama casts the only vote against Illinois Senate Bill 485, which would make felons convicted of sexual abuse crimes serve their full sentences without getting credit for time served in the county jail. Obama votes against a bill that specifically allows homeowners the right to use a gun in self-defense during a home invasion. The Illinois Governor vetoes the bill; Obama votes to uphold the veto. Obama proposes increasing Illinois firearm and ammunition excise taxes from 11 to 66 per cent. (A \$55 tax on a \$500 rifle would increase to \$330.) The tax would thus be transformed from a legitimate wildlife preservation program fee into a gun-punishing penalty. [93,315,444]

Obama continues to serve (until 2002) with William Ayers on the board of the Woods Fund, a liberal Chicago non-profit organization. Grants from the fund are given out to Reverend James T. Meeks (a fiery, anti-white and anti-Semitic Chicago preacher, in the style of Obama’s reverend Jeremiah Wright), and Father Michael Pfleger, who stated that “*America is the greatest sin against God.*” Pfleger is perhaps best known for encouraging his parishioners to buy time from prostitutes as a way of inviting the women to counseling and job training. Obama also joins the anti-Semite Pfleger – who has been called “the white Jeremiah Wright” – in an ACORN demonstration protesting “payday loans.” [81,227,284,842, p. 110]

The Woods Fund also gives money to ACORN, which registers voters in poor black neighborhoods – a convenient way to garner additional support for Obama. Arguably, these actions by Obama and ACORN are illegal. As an allegedly independent, apolitical, tax-exempt, non-profit group, ACORN cannot legally “pimp for Obama,” but that is essentially what it does in registering voters while at the same time drumming up support for the candidate who is financing its operations. Its tax-exempt status is thus violated by ACORN. [227,284]

Obama addresses a 1999 fundraiser for the Deheisha refugee camp in Israel’s occupied West Bank. Obama’s anti-Semite friend, Ali Abunimah, introduces him to the audience. Abunimah serves on the board of the Arab American Action Network (AAAN), an anti-Israel group. [974]

On September 30, 1999, the New York Times reports that Fannie Mae is easing credit requirements on loans it will purchase from banks and mortgage lenders. The Times notes that *“Fannie Mae, the nation’s biggest underwriter of home mortgages, has been under increasing pressure from the Clinton Administration to expand mortgage loans among low and moderate income people and felt pressure from stock holders to maintain its phenomenal growth in profits.”* It continues, *“In addition, banks, thrift institutions and mortgage companies have been pressing Fannie Mae to help them make more loans to so-called subprime borrowers. These borrowers whose incomes, credit ratings and savings are not good enough to qualify for conventional loans, can only get loans from finance companies that charge much higher interest rates – anywhere from three to four percentage points higher than conventional loans.”* Fannie Mae CEO Franklin Raines brags that *“Fannie Mae has expanded home ownership for millions of families in the 1990’s by reducing down payment requirements,”* but argues that *“...there remain too many borrowers whose credit is just a notch below what our underwriting has required who have been relegated to paying significantly higher mortgage rates in the so-called subprime market.”* The Times states that by moving into this new (subprime) area of lending, Fannie Mae is *“taking in significantly more risk, which may not pose any difficulties during flush economic times. But the government-subsidized corporation may run into trouble in an economic downturn.”* The Times quotes Peter Wallison of the American Enterprise Institute, who warns, *“If they fail, the government will have to step up and bail them out.”* (Fannie Mae CEO Raines later becomes an Obama economic advisor.) [1320]

On November 6, 1999 Obama allegedly shares crack cocaine and homosexual activities in the back of a limousine with a man named Larry Sinclair. The activities, according to Sinclair, continue the next day at a Comfort Suites motel in Gurnee, Illinois. (Sinclair makes these allegations in late 2007, when he states that he also had telephone conversations about the 1999 activities with the gay choir director of Obama’s church, Donald Young – who was then murdered on December 23, 2007.) [1242]

2000-2001

The Election Obama Lost

Obama enters the 2000 Illinois primary for U.S. Congress. In a television interview during the campaign he cites as a qualification his experience with the Chicago Annenberg Challenge, the educational reform project on which he worked with William Ayers. (The project ended up wasting over \$100 million, without accomplishing any of its stated goals.) [60,204]

To help finance his run for Congress, Obama secures a \$20,000 personal loan. The Chicago scuttlebutt is that Obama's 2000 campaign for Congress is also funded by what some call the "Hyde Park mafia," a group of University of Chicago leftists, and that there is a master plan to "*push him up the political ladder.*" [86,332]

Obama's tone in the campaign comes off as condescending to many ("*I gave up a career with a high-priced law firm to run for public office!*") and he loses the primary to opponent Bobby Rush – who defeats him by 30 per cent. Rush says of his elitist opponent, "*Barack Obama went to Harvard and became an educated fool. Barack is a person who read about the civil-rights protests and thinks he knows all about it.*" Obama, realizing he can't win a fair fight with Rush, then works with Democrat consultant John Corrigan to get the district's borders re-drawn ("gerrymandered") to favor his political goals. They are able to establish a new district which is still heavily black but which also includes liberal North Shore whites, who would be more inclined to vote for Obama than Rush (a former member of the radical Black Panthers). The demographics of the new district makes sense to Obama acquaintance Adolph Green, a political scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, who later calls Obama a "*vacuous opportunist, a good performer with an ear for how to make white liberals like him.*" [87,88,193,1600, 842 pp. 93,219]

Obama's dislike for the Clintons may have originated at this time. Obama had been executive director of Project Vote in 1992, which helped the outrageously unqualified candidate Carol Mosely Braun get elected to the U.S. Senate. (The Chicago Tribune editorial board interviewed Mosely-Braun and later described the discussion. "*We were asking her fairly obvious questions. Things you'd expect a candidate for Senate to be familiar with. She was dumbfounded the entire time. She just sat there... Then she'd fumble around with some half-baked answer. It was very awkward for all of us.*") From Obama's viewpoint, he had also helped Clinton get elected President. When Clinton endorsed Bobby Rush for the Congressional seat that Obama wanted in 2000, he likely felt betrayed. [1253,842, p. 93]

Having lost the Congressional primary to Bobby Rush, Obama returns to drumming up support for his re-election to the Illinois State Senate. Campaign volunteer Kenny B. Smith donates \$550 to Obama's Illinois State Senate campaign, and in 2001 Obama steers \$100,000 in state tax dollars to a newly-formed Smith organization to build a gazebo, "parrot sanctuary," and "walk of fame" in a blighted Chicago neighborhood. (By 2008 only the gazebo had been built, the neighborhood was still blighted, and there was no sign of the rest of the \$100,000.) [89]

Obama's half-sister, Maya Soetoro, fails to pay taxes due the State of New York and is served with a tax lien dating back to 1996 totaling \$6,837.99 with penalties and interest. [1184]

More Votes and Guilt by Association

In 2000 Rashid Khalidi, a former PLO operative and backer who justified Palestinian terrorism as contributing to "political enlightenment," hosts a fundraiser for Obama. Khalidi taught at a university in Beirut, Lebanon in the 1970s, and frequently spoke to reporters on behalf of terrorist Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Liberation Organization. From 1976 to 1982 Khalidi was reportedly director of the Palestinian press agency, Wikalat-al-Anba al-Filastiniya (Wafa), which was operating in exile from Beirut with the PLO. In the 1990s Khalidi advised the Palestinian delegation during peace negotiations. He is currently a professor of Arab studies at Columbia University. Khalidi also taught at the University of Chicago, lived near the Obamas in Hyde Park, and has been their friend and frequent dinner companion. [384,387,395,416,521]

Obama reported income from speaking fees on his 2000 and 2002 federal income tax returns. Because it is illegal for state legislators in Illinois to accept fees for speeches, Obama was in violation of Illinois law in both those years. [394]

Obama attends the 2000 Democrat National Convention in Los Angeles, where his credit card is rejected when he attempts to rent a car. Obama and his wife Michelle declare income of \$240,505 for 2000. [1278]

In April, 2001, President George W. Bush submits his 2002 budget proposal with the warning that mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are a "*potential problem*" because financial troubles in either one of them could "*cause strong repercussions in financial markets.*" [2317]

Obama's daughter Natasha (Sasha) is born on June 10, 2001. [2318]

In 2001, Obama votes against Illinois House Bill 1812, a law designed to toughen penalties for crimes committed in furtherance of organized gang activities. He also votes against a bill that would allow people who receive protective orders (such as domestic violence victims) to carry firearms. When the bill fails, Obama remarks, *"...authorizing potential victims to carry firearms would potentially lead to a more dangerous rather than less dangerous situation. It was a bad idea and I'm glad it failed."* [92,444]

While Obama serves on the board of the Woods Fund, it approves (in 2001) a \$40,000 grant to the Arab American Action Network (AAAN). A second grant, for \$35,000, is approved in 2002. President of the AAAN is Mona Khalidi, wife of Rashid Khalidi, an anti-Semitic professor Obama had met while at Columbia University. Khalidi, former spokesman for Yassir Arafat, strong critic of Israel, and supporter of Palestinian terrorism, later holds fundraisers for candidate Obama. AAAN calls the founding of Israel a *"catastrophe,"* supports liberal immigration reform in the United States, and encourages giving drivers licenses to illegal aliens. [85,395]

Serving on the board of the AAAN is Ali Abunimah, a Palestinian-American, anti-Semite, co-founder of *"Electronic Intifada,"* and long-time friend of Obama. Abunimah refers to Jews as malicious liars and suggests they lied about the Holocaust, writing, *"if Zionists could lie about their present and ongoing torment of my (Palestinian) people, usurpation of my homeland and arrogation of my rights, and they do it rather obscenely, couldn't they likewise lie, equally obscenely, about the holocaust, an event that took place over half a century ago?"* [335]

Other groups receiving money from the Woods Fund include the voter-registration group ACORN (which has been highly criticized for thousands of questionable and illegal voter registrations), Bernardine Dohrn's "Children and Family Justice Center," and Trinity United Church of Christ (Obama's church, and home of Reverend Jeremiah "God Damn America" Wright). The Woods Fund gives Obama's church \$6,000 in 2001 – after which Wright purchases a new Porsche. [62,63,64,82,842, p. 97]

In a 2001 radio interview with Chicago station WBEZ-FM, Obama discusses the "redistribution of wealth" from whites to blacks. Obama remarks, *"...and one of the, I think, the tragedies of the civil rights movement was, because the civil rights movement became so court-focused, I think there was a tendency to lose track of the political and community organizing and, and activities on the ground that are able to put together the actual coalitions of power through which you bring about redistributive change. And, uh, in some ways we still suffer from that."* He continued, *"I'm not optimistic about bringing about major redistributive change through the courts. The institution just isn't structured that way."* (Obama is thus *not opposed to the redistribution of wealth*, he merely feels that the courts

shouldn't be the institution forcing it.) *"You can craft theoretical justifications for it legally,"* he added, without elaborating on why or how it should be legal to take money from someone who earned it to give directly to someone who didn't. (After Fox News broadcasts the interview in October of 2008, the Obama campaign, not wanting the voters to know what the candidate had in mind for their futures, cries foul, charging Fox with creating a "fake news controversy.") [383,386,396]

In August of 2001, William Ayers is photographed trampling on the American Flag for a cover article in the *"Chicago Magazine"* titled *"No Regrets."* The magazine is very popular in Chicago and is prominently displayed on newsstands throughout the city; Obama would have had a difficult time *not* seeing the magazine cover. [279]

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks Obama writes, in a "blame America" op-ed piece in the Hyde Park Herald, that the essence of the tragedy *"derives from the fundamental absence of empathy on the part of the attackers: an inability to imagine, or connect with, the humanity and suffering of others,"* that the terrorist attackers *"lacked empathy,"* and their attitude *"...grows out of a climate of poverty and ignorance, helplessness and despair."* (It is unclear why Obama believes the terrorists could not "imagine" the "suffering of others" when that suffering was, in fact, the desired and planned outcome of their attack.) [90]

At least six of the 19 terrorists involved in the attacks of September 11 are illegally registered to vote in the United States, partly because of ACORN's activities in spreading "motor voter" laws. [240]

In a September 11, 2001 article in the New York Times, William Ayers is quoted as saying, *"I don't regret setting bombs... I feel we didn't do enough."* At the time Ayers makes that statement he and Obama are serving together on the Board of the Woods Fund. [279]

In 2001, Obama introduces Senate Bill 750, the "Halal Food Act," which requires the Illinois Department of Agriculture to conduct inspections to insure that all food labeled Halal is prepared according to Islamic law. [348]

Obama obtains \$75,000 in state funds for a charity called Forum, Incorporated, to help churches and community groups obtain Internet access. Five Forum employees, including one who had filed bankruptcy, had each donated \$1,000 to Obama's state senate campaign. After the Illinois Attorney General files a suit against the charity on unrelated kickback scheme charges, Obama quietly returns the \$5,000. [842, p. 207]

During 2001 Obama is given a legal services contract with a business owned by Robert Blackwell. The legal services Obama performed for Blackwell are

unknown, and Obama does not fully disclose his relationship with Blackwell as required by Illinois legislator ethics rules. (In 2004 Obama writes a letter on Illinois State Senate stationery recommending a grant for another Blackwell company involved in tourism. The next day Blackwell donates \$1,000 to Obama's U.S. Senate campaign.) [1314]

Obama and his wife Michelle declare income of \$272,759 for 2001. [1278]

2002-2003

Controversial and Missing Votes

Obama opposes a bill that defines as a person a fully born baby who survives an abortion. Obama argues that *defining "...a pre-viable fetus"* that survives an abortion as a *"person"* or *"child would essentially bar abortions, because the Equal Protection Clause does not allow somebody to kill a child, and if this is a child, then this would be an anti-abortion statute."* (Obama is thus arguing, "We can't call it a person because then we can't kill it!") Testifying in favor of the law is an Illinois nurse, Jill Stanek, who had witnessed infants being left to die by abortionists, and who later writes, *"Obama articulately worried that legislation protecting live aborted babies might infringe on women's rights or abortionists' rights. Obama's clinical discourse, his lack of mercy, shocked me."* In a state senate hearing Obama also argues it would be a burden to require that surviving babies be treated because, in his view, *"...essentially adding an additional doctor who then has to be called in an emergency situation to come in and make these assessments is really designed simply to burden the original decision of the woman and the physician to induce labor and perform an abortion."* Although a "pre-viable fetus" that survives an abortion is not considered a "person" by Obama, he has yet to provide a reasonable or legally acceptable name for those living, breathing, kicking, and crying "non-persons." [346,412,2262]

Obama votes against the similar "Induced Infant Liability Act," a law meant to protect the lives of babies who "inadvertently" survive attempted abortions and then need medical attention to survive. Obama's is the *only* vote against the state bill, and a similar bill later passes unanimously in the United States Senate. Obama's vote is consistent with the Alinsky philosophy (in *"Rules for Radicals"*) that *"...all values are relative in a world of political relativity."* Obama also votes against an Illinois bill banning state funding of late term abortions. [91,272]

Obama is the *only* Illinois State Senator to vote against a bill that prohibits early release for sexual predators. Obama also votes to make a criminal out of a homeowner who uses a gun in his own defense in his own home. Obama refuses to vote for a bill in the Illinois State Senate that would increase penalties for drug traffickers. Obama votes against making it a criminal offense for convicts on

probation or on bail to have contact with a street gang. Obama votes against a bill that imposes the death penalty on gang members who murder first responders (paramedics, firemen, police officers). [346]

Ayers and Obama appear together at the University of Illinois for a discussion called, *"Intellectuals: Who Needs Them?"* [94]

During the course of his Illinois State Senate career Obama votes "present" at least 130 times. A "present" vote is a way to avoid responsibility on a controversial issue if something goes wrong; it is usually an effort by a cowardly politician to avoid being pinned down on issues that might later be used against him by an opponent in a campaign. (By voting "present," no matter what the issue, the candidate can truthfully say he did not vote *for* the bill, or he could say he did not vote *against* the bill, depending on what works to his advantage at that moment.) Obama's is the sole present vote on a bill to allow victims of sexual crimes to petition judges to seal court records to protect their privacy. All other State Senators vote in favor of the bill. (Obama apparently believes that if a woman is raped she is not entitled to privacy, although he uses a right to privacy as his argument in support of unrestricted abortions.) [95,96,328]

Obama votes for a bill in the Illinois Senate that would ban most hunting rifles, shotguns, and target rifles. The bill would also authorize the Illinois State Police to raid homes and forcibly confiscate banned guns. Obama also votes for a bill that would shut down all Illinois firearm manufacturing businesses (Springfield Armory, Armalite, Rock River Arms, and Les Baer). Obama votes for a bill (S 2579) prohibiting Illinois citizens from purchasing more than one gun per month. [326,445]

Obama votes for a bill that bans most single-shot and double-barreled shotguns as "semi-automatic assault weapons" (even though they are not), along with hundreds of models of rifles and handguns. (Had the bill had passed, Illinois residents would have had 90 days to turn their guns in or face felony charges.) [444]

During his Illinois Senate career Obama votes *four times* against legislation that would allow a homeowner to use a firearm in defense of his home and family. To avoid criticism of his anti-gun agenda, Obama enlists an organization known as the "American Hunters and Shooters Association" (AHSA) to distribute literature stating that he is "pro-Second Amendment." On its surface, the AHSA supports hunting, but it also supports strict gun controls on non-hunters. The AHSA is known to be a "sham" organization set up solely to endorse leftists who need political cover for their anti-gun leanings. [326,353]

As a State Senator Obama opposes legislation prohibiting the sale of

pornography near churches and elementary schools, and supports allowing criminals to sue their victims if the victim injures the criminal while defending himself or his property. [1281]

Against the War... But With Some Cover

Obama speaks at an anti-war demonstration on October 2, 2002, in front of a crowd of approximately 2,000 people at Chicago's Federal Plaza. The event is organized by Marilyn Katz, former SDS activist, Chicago public relations consultant, and long-time friend of Obama's political guru David Axelrod. (Katz's Vietnam War protest activities included throwing nails in the street to stop police cars.) There are no known recordings of Obama's speech, thus giving him the opportunity to now recreate his words to his liking at any time. Before the event Obama talks with Axelrod about the "*political ramifications*" of the speech, because he is looking ahead to his Senate run in 2004. The speech turns out to be only mildly critical of the likely war. While Obama remarks that a war in Iraq could lead to "*an occupation of undetermined length with undetermined costs,*" he also emphasizes that military intervention is sometimes necessary. The speech is clearly *not* anti-war enough for the crowd, but it gives him the opportunity to say he was against the war "from the beginning" if it turned sour, while providing some cover if it proceeded successfully. (The text of Obama's 2002 anti-war speech no longer appears on official Obama web sites.) [837,842, pp. 224-226]

Inflating the Resume

In 2002 Obama is re-elected to Illinois State Senate, with no opponent on the ballot.

Democrats take control of the Illinois Senate after the November 2002 election. Essentially a non-productive water carrier for Chicago's Mayor Daley during his previous years in the State Senate, Obama persuades Senate President Emil Jones to "steer bills" his way in 2003 so he can make a name for himself. Democrat colleagues in the Illinois State Senate are intensely critical of Obama's legislative tactics in getting credit for bills he had virtually nothing to do with. State Senator Ricky Hendon says, "*No one wants to carry the ball 99 yards all the way to the one-yard line, and then give it to the half-back who gets all the credit and the stats in the record book.*" (Hendon is the original sponsor of Illinois' racial profiling and videotaped confession legislation. Jones takes it away from Hendon to give to Obama so that Obama can put his name on it as his.) Once in the U.S. Senate, Obama repays Jones with tens of millions of dollars in federal spending for his district, which Jones glibly refers to as "steak" rather than "pork." [98,99,239,292]

Obama and his wife Michelle declare income of \$259,294 for 2002. [1278]

During Obama's seven year Illinois State Senate career he works, on average, less than two days per week, has virtually no accomplishments during his first six years, and then gets 26 bills passed in his final year – with the help of Senate President Emil Jones, who has Obama's name placed on bills as their author even though they were written by other state legislators. The Illinois State Archives never receives any request from Obama to archive any records in his possession, suggesting it was his intention to personally retain details of his work and not make records public. [346]

By late 2003, with a slew of Jones-fed legislation under his belt and some "substance" for him to run on, Obama starts working on his plans to enter the 2004 U.S. Senate race. Aiding him is political pro David Axelrod. Even before being elected to the United States Senate, Axelrod has camera crews following almost all of Obama's public appearances. (Axelrod eventually uses the footage for a five-minute Internet video linked to Obama's announcement that he is running for President.). [245,1314]

Anti-Israel and Pro-Abortion

In 2003 Obama attends a dinner held in honor of Rashid Khalidi, a former PLO operative, harsh critic of Israel, and advocate of Palestinian rights. Obama, who has consistently denied a close relationship with Khalidi (even though the Obamas have dined more than once at the home of Khalidi and his wife, Mona, and used them as occasional baby-sitters), praises Khalidi during the decidedly anti-Semitic event. William Ayers also attends the dinner, and both Ayers and Obama sign Khalidi's guest book. The event is a going away party for Khalidi, who is leaving Chicago and moving to New York. The dinner is sponsored by the Arab American Action Network, to which Obama had funneled cash more than once while serving on the board of the Woods Fund. One speaker at the dinner remarks that if Palestinians cannot secure a return of their land, Israel "*will never see a day of peace.*" [384,387,395,418,419]

The Los Angeles Times has a videotape of the Khalidi dinner but refuses to make it public. It is assumed the tape's contents are damaging to Obama, likely because the event includes anti-Semitic sentiments and Obama heaping praise on Khalidi. Further, appearing as entertainment at the Khalidi dinner is a children's dance group, the "Sanabel AlQuds Dabka" troupe. The Milwaukee-based Muslim children's dance group typically performs the "debka," a Middle-Eastern dance. The children's group's performances have been known to include "simulated beheadings" with fake swords, and stomping on American, Israeli, and British flags. It has been alleged that, in his speech at the Khalidi dinner, Obama states that "*Israel has no God-given right to occupy Palestine,*" and there has been "*genocide against the Palestinian people by (the) Israelis.*" [438,439,440]

Obama tells the AFL-CIO in 2003 that *"I happen to be a proponent of a single-payer universal healthcare program... and that's what I'd like to see. But as all of you know, we may not get there immediately. Because first we have to take back the White House, we have to take back the Senate, and we have to take back the House."* Throughout the 2008 Presidential campaign Obama denies that he seeks a single-payer universal healthcare system, despite proposing legislation for just such a system while in the Illinois State Senate. [74,404]

In 2003 the Born Alive Infant Protection Act again comes up in the Illinois Senate. With Democrats in charge and as chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, Obama shelves the bill, preventing it from even being brought to the Senate floor for a vote. Obama's Health and Human Services Committee is known for its "kiss of death" treatment of any legislation that is not leftist. Although "specialty license plate" legislation (for example, license plates to honor veterans or to support other causes) is normally directed to the Transportation Committee, legislation supporting "Choose Life" and "Choose Adoption" license plates is instead directed to Obama's committee – where he refuses to allow a vote. Obama states he is *"not in favor of a (license) plate benefiting adoption,"* even though he says on the campaign trail that he *"favors adoption as a means to reduce abortion."* [412,413]

Reverend Scott and Janet Willis, whose six children were killed in a tragic accident involving a truck driver who had obtained his commercial drivers license through bribery, drive three hours to the state capital in Springfield to testify in favor of a "Choose Life" license plate. Proceeds from the specialty license plate would be used to help fund adoption expenses. Echoing pro-abortion groups, Obama calls the issue *"contentious."* The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) calls it *"aggressive propaganda,"* and the vice president of the Illinois National Organization for Women (NOW) calls it *"a violation of free speech."* Reporters fill the hearing room, eager to record the expected emotional Willis testimony. Obama instead calls only his friendly witnesses, ignoring the distraught Scott and Janet Willis, and then abruptly adjourns the hearing. Obama reconvenes the hearing the next day (after the reporters have returned to Chicago), listens to brief testimony from the Reverend and Mrs. Willis, and then has his Democrat-controlled committee kill the legislation. [412,413,414]

In the fall of 2003 the Bush administration pushes Congress to establish a new oversight agency to regulate and supervise Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) fought the request, saying *"Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are not in a crisis,"* and *"The more people in my judgment exaggerate a threat of safety and soundness the more people conjure up the possibility of serious financial losses to the Treasury, which I do not see; I think we see entities that are fundamentally sound financially and (can) withstand the some of the disaster scenarios, and even if there were a problem the federal*

government (would) bail them out, but the more pressure there is there then the less I think we see in terms of affordable housing.” The oversight legislation is blocked by Democrats. [2317]

Obama and his wife Michelle declare income of \$238,327 for 2003. [1278]

2004

Loose Ends and Toward Washington

Obama pushes legislation in the Illinois Senate (SB 1332) to reduce the number of members of the Health Facilities Planning Board from 15 to 9, and – with the help of Tony Rezko, Stuart Levine, and Governor Rod Blagojevich – gets three of his campaign contributors appointed to the Board. One of the doctors on the Board, Robert Weinstein, is later convicted, along with Stuart Levine, of embezzling millions from charities and a medical school. FBI agents record Rezko telling Levine that he influences the Board. Michael Malek, one of those appointed to the board, donates \$10,000 to Obama on June 3, 2003, and \$25,000 to Governor Rod Blagojevich on July 25, 2003. Appointee Fortune Massuda gives \$25,000 to the governor and \$2,000 to Obama. Dr. Imad Almanaseer gives \$3,000 to Obama. [207,209,346]

During 2004 Obama illegally uses state funds for a political mailing. [97]

In 2004 Obama enters the Democrat primary for U.S. Senate. During the campaign in February, Michelle Obama sends a fund-raising letter with *“alarming news”* that *“right-wing politicians”* had passed a law preventing partial-birth abortions – which she called *“a legitimate medical procedure.”* She asked supporters to pay \$150 to attend a luncheon for her candidate husband, who would fight against *“cynical ploy(s)”* to stop late-term abortions. [412]

There are 15 candidates in the primary, and Obama’s most formidable is wealthy executive Blair Hull. Obama’s campaign manager is David Axelrod, a long-time political pro in Chicago (whose frequent job has been to go on television to defend Mayor Daley from reporters’ charges of corruption). Hull leads in the polls, but four weeks before the primary an operative (probably Axelrod) leaks to the Chicago Tribune information that Hull’s divorce documents reveal a request for an “order of protection” from Hull’s wife. A wife-beating assumption (whether true or not) sinks Hull, and Obama wins the primary with 52 per cent of the vote and the help of Chicago’s large black population. According to the Chicago Tribune, the Obama team had *“worked aggressively behind the scenes”* to push the Hull divorce story. [100,1314,842, p. 242]

By 2004 Obama and ACORN are old friends. Over the years Obama receives campaign support and voter registration help from ACORN. In exchange, Obama helps obtain funding for ACORN via the Woods Fund, Joyce Foundation, and the Illinois legislature, and he introduces or supports ACORN-friendly legislation (like job-killing minimum wage increases, preventing the construction of new Wal-Mart stores in poor neighborhoods that need the jobs, forcing banks to lend more to unqualified poor people and donate to voter turn-out drives, fighting welfare reform and “workfare” rules, and imposing large “exit fees” for businesses that dare to relocate outside the city of Chicago). [243]

In 2004, Obama says he is “...consistently on record and will continue to be on record as opposing concealed (weapons) carry (laws),” and would back “federal legislation that would ban (all) citizens from carrying weapons, except for law enforcement.” He also votes, in March, to allow prosecution of citizens who use guns for self-defense in their own homes (SB 2165). [444,445]

The Chicago Communist Party endorses Obama for the U.S. Senate. He also receives volunteer support from the Young Communist League. [101]

On April 3, 2004, Iraqi-born billionaire Nadhmi Auchi attends a dinner party held in his honor at the home of Tony Rezko. Obama and his wife are guests, and Obama toasts Auchi. Auchi later says he never met Obama, and Obama says he “can’t recall” attending the event. (In 2005, Auchi loans Rezko \$3.5 million, three few weeks before Rezko’s wife, Rita, pays full price for an empty lot adjacent to a mansion that Obama buys on the same day.) [296,651,842, p. 199]

In June of 2004, leftist billionaire George Soros (who bankrolls leftist activities like the radical web site MoveOn.org) hosts a fundraiser in New York for Obama’s Senate campaign. Soros chips in \$60,000, but the total “take” for the evening is unknown. (George Soros was born in Hungary in 1930 and is a billionaire hedge fund manager and currency trader. He has donated over \$2.5 million to MoveOn.org, which brags that it owns the Democrat Party, “*Now It’s Our Party: We Bought It, We Own It, And We’re Going To Take It Back.*” Soros earned \$2.9 billion in 2008 betting against the U.S. economy. The fortune he made trading currencies led Time magazine to call him the “Man Who Broke the Bank of England.” Soros is thought by some to be attempting to intentionally destroy economies in order to precipitate a move to world socialism. Soros has donated more than \$32 million to Democrat political campaigns and socialist causes.) [239,2528]

Between June 26 and July 1 of 2004, Michelle Obama joins a “Women’s Event” panel discussion at a Rainbow/PUSH Coalition Conference held at Trinity United Church of Christ. Those in attendance include Louis Farrakhan and his wife, Khadijah, and Mrs. Jamell Meeks (wife of Reverend James Meeks). Bill Clinton and Bill Cosby speak at the conference, but at different events than Michelle

Obama. Allegations later surface that Michelle Obama's talk developed into a rant against the evils of America and how whites are to blame for Africa's problems. The more the crowd reacted, the more rabid she became in her comments. Some claim that her repeated denunciations of "whitey" were recorded. If such comments were made and a recording exists, it has not been made public. The recording (purportedly on DVD and briefly sold via the Church web site) allegedly reveals Michelle Obama saying, "*Once again, the white man keeps us down, what's up with Whitey, why'd he attack Iraq? Why'd he let Katrina happen? Why'd he leave millions of children behind? This is the legacy the white man gives us.*" When asked about the incident, candidate Obama refused to deny that his wife made the remarks, and instead criticized the reporter for asking the question, saying, "*Frankly, my hope is people don't play this game. It is a destructive aspect of our politics.*" Obama's tap-dancing suggests to some that the story is true, and arms have been twisted (or money has exchanged hands) to suppress the evidence. [843,844,2213,842, pp. 304-307]

The Speech

On July 27, 2004, Obama gives the keynote address at the Democrat National Convention which nominates John Kerry for President. This is a clear signal that the "powers in control" have bigger plans for the mediocre Chicago machine politician. Although Obama's speech is mundane, boilerplate, and unoriginal, he impresses the crowd with his delivery. The television commentators do their best to persuade those who were unimpressed that it was impressive. (The speech reminds some of the remark by Austrian writer and journalist Karl Kraus, who wrote, "*The secret of the demagogue is to make himself as stupid as his audience so that they believe they are as clever as he*") According to Obama, immediately before the speech his wife warns him, "*Just don't screw it up, buddy!*" [1989,1990,2215]

U.S. Senate Campaign

With support for the Iraq War strong in mid-2004, Obama softens his stance and says, "*There's not that much difference between my position and George Bush's position at this stage.*" The statement is made two years after Obama's 2002 anti-war speech in Chicago. [842, p. 255]

On July 28, 2004, Obama tells a crowd in Boston that the United States has an "*absolute obligation*" to remain in Iraq long enough to make it a success. "*The failure of the Iraqi state would be a disaster,*" he then says at a Christian Science Monitor luncheon. "*It would dishonor the 900-plus men and women who have already died. It would be a betrayal of the promise that we made to the Iraqi people, and it would be hugely destabilizing from a national security perspective.*" Over time, as the media pounds on President Bush and support for the war

declines, Obama changes his tune to match the tone of the impatient voters. [346]

Obama's Republican opponent in the fall campaign for the U.S. Senate is Jack Ryan, a handsome, articulate, and wealthy investment broker with three Ivy League degrees. The press (with the prodding of Axelrod and the Obama camp) works to get Ryan's court-sealed divorce documents and child custody records unsealed (Ryan's ex-wife is actress Jeri Lynn Ryan), and their titillating contents cause an embarrassed Ryan to withdraw from the race in June. Although Obama's team works feverishly to smear the popular Ryan, in public Obama makes statements such as, "*I don't think it's an appropriate topic for debate.*" The Republicans field a last-minute replacement, former U.N. Ambassador and Assistant Secretary of State Alan Keyes, a black, anti-abortion, fiery speaker who is ridiculed by the press and thus never taken seriously. (The ultra-conservative Keyes does not help his case by saying things like "*Jesus Christ himself would not vote for Barack Obama.*") Obama wins easily. [102,103,359,842, p. 243]

During the 2004 debates with Obama, Keyes charges in an off-the-air remark that Obama is not a natural born citizen. Obama responds not by saying he is a natural born citizen, but by saying it doesn't matter because he's not running for President. Attempts have been made to find a video recording of the incident, which purportedly had been on YouTube.com but was removed once its significance was understood. [1418]

In 2004 the "Code Pink" anti-war group delivers \$600,000 in cash and supplies to Iraq – not to American soldiers, but to the terrorists who are fighting them in Fallujah. Jodie Evans, co-founder of Code Pink, later donates \$2,300 to the Obama Presidential campaign. (Evans later says in a June, 2008 interview that Osama bin Laden had a "*valid argument*" for the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.) [104,355]

In 2004, London resident but Iraqi born billionaire Nadhmi Auchy flies to Chicago in a private jet and meets at the Four Seasons Hotel with Tony Rezko, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, and Obama. At this point both Blagojevich and Obama are aware that Rezko is already under investigation for illegal activities involving kickbacks for political favors – but they meet with Rezko and Auchy anyway. [249]

During his 2004 Senate campaign one of Obama's advisors is Charles Ogletree, a professor who is one of the leading advocates of slavery reparations. (It is believed that Ogletree remains an advisor to Obama through the 2008 Presidential campaign as well.) [936, 842, p. 68]

In a television interview with WBBM-TV in Chicago, Obama states, *“I think that the Second Amendment means something. I think that if the government were to confiscate everybody’s guns unilaterally that I think that would be subject to constitutional challenge.”* Obama does not elaborate on what he thinks the Second Amendment to the Constitution means, nor does not argue that he believes it *would* be unconstitutional to confiscate all guns and should be prevented – he merely believes someone would challenge the action. [2053,2054]

Former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown hosts a fundraiser for Obama at the Waterfront restaurant. Obama tells Brown he would appreciate it if he does not have to have his picture taken with the mayor, Gavin Newsom – presumably to avoid an association with Newsom’s support of gay marriages. Newsom is outraged by the insult and Obama’s cowardice. [851,842, p. 261]

In November of 2004 – before he is even sworn in as a United States Senator – Obama has “toe in the water” conversations with close associates about his running for President in 2008. Publicly, however, Obama says *“I can unequivocally say I will not be running for national office in four years, and my entire focus is making sure that I’m the best possible senator on behalf of the people of Illinois.”* [210,239,351]

On another occasion Obama tells reporters, *“I can unequivocally say I will not be running for national office in four years... I am a believer in knowing what you’re doing when you apply for a job, and I think that if I were to seriously consider running on a national ticket, I would essentially have to start now, before having served a day in the Senate. There may be some who are comfortable with doing that, but I’m not one of those people.”* (Obama’s statement is a lie; by the end of his campaign for the Senate he already has workers visiting Iowa to develop contacts for its 2008 presidential caucus. [881,1278]

On November 22, 2004, Obama is interviewed by Randi Rhodes. Discussing the federal budget process, Obama says, *“When you rush these budgets that are a foot high and nobody has any idea what’s in them and nobody has read ‘em, it gets rushed through without any clear deliberations or debate then these kinds of things happen.”* [2259]

A Los Angeles paralegal, Joe Anthony, starts an unofficial fan page for Obama on MySpace.com. Anthony devotes thousands of hours maintaining the page, and by the time Obama announces his candidacy for President it has over 160,000 “friends.” [1317]

In 2004 Rashad Khalidi publishes a book called *“Resurrecting Empire.”* In the book’s acknowledgements Khalidi thanks William Ayers for his assistance, thus further establishing links between Khalidi, Ayers, and Obama. [983]

Obama signs a three-book deal with Crown, covering, "*The Audacity of Hope*" another non-fiction book, and a children's book. The contract is for seven figures (probably \$1.9 million), and is signed before Obama is sworn in as U. S. Senator – to keep him from falling under various disclosure and income reporting rules that apply to members of Congress. [1276]

Obama and his wife Michelle declare income of \$207,647 for 2004. [1278]

2005

In the United States Senate

In January of 2005 Obama is sworn in as the junior United States Senator from Illinois. Obama is also sworn in as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus. At the ceremony for Obama, Daniel Mudd, CEO of Fannie Mae, refers to the caucus as "*our family*" and "*the conscience of Fannie Mae.*" (It is the most liberal Democrats who push Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to buy up risky subprime mortgages from banks to encourage their approval.) [1281]

Early in 2005 the mass media adopts its long-term "suck up to and cover up for Obama" posture, with Time Magazine naming Obama one of "*The World's Most Influential People.*" (MSNBC's Chris Matthews will later say of Obama, "*He seems to have the answers. This is the New Testament.*" A starry-eyed Oprah Winfrey will gush that Obama's "*tongue (is) dipped in the unvarnished truth,*" and author Deepak Chopra will predict that an Obama Presidency will "*represent a quantum leap in American consciousness.*") [239,351,358]

Obama buys more than \$50,000 worth of stock in two companies whose major investors include his biggest political donors. One of the companies is developing a drug to treat avian flu (H5N1). Just two weeks after buying shares in the company, Obama pushes for federal spending to battle the disease. The fear of the disease is hyped way out of proportion by politicians and the media, with frequent television news scare stories not backed up by facts. (Worldwide since 2003 fewer than 300 people have died from the avian flu, which does not spread easily from human to human. In a typical year, more than 25,000 Americans die from common flu viruses.) Obama also buys stock in a satellite communications business backed by four friends and donors who had raised \$150,000 for him. A spokesman makes the remarkable statement that Obama "*did not know*" he had invested in either company. [351,842, p. 254]

Obama hires the son of one of his campaign donors, Joseph Aramanda, for a coveted summer job as an intern in his Washington, D.C. Senate offices. Campaign donations were funneled to Obama through Aramanda as part of a

kick-back scheme involving a \$50 million deal with Glencoe Capital. Obama's part in the various deals was to grant favors when he was chairman of the Illinois Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. [664]

On February 17, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan tells the House Financial Services Committee that by "...*enabling these institutions (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) to increase in size... we are placing the total financial system of the future at a substantial risk.*" [2317]

On March 3, 2005, Obama votes against a bill that would cap credit card interest at 30 per cent. He later defends his vote, arguing that the bill's language did not "meet his standards" and set the interest limit too high – but he does not offer any amendments to the bill to make it acceptable to him. (Obama frequently uses " *the bill wasn't up to my high standards*" argument when defending his votes.) [852,842, p.p. 262-263]

On April 6, 2005, Alan Greenspan tells the Senate banking Committee, "If we fail to strengthen GSE (Government Sponsored Enterprises, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) regulation, we increase the possibility of insolvency and crisis." [2317]

The Mansion Purchase

In June of 2005 Obama purchases a mansion in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood for \$1.65 million (\$300,000 less than the asking price), with the help of friend, fundraiser, and political "fixer" Tony Rezko. (The original signed contract was dated January 23, 2005.) Although Obama's eventual down payment is \$330,000, his initial earnest money is an astoundingly low \$1,000 – when one per cent of the purchase price (\$16,500) would typically be expected. Tony Rezko's wife Rita, who earns \$37,000 per year in a position on a Cook County Board, purchases the empty lot adjacent to the Obama house for the full price of \$625,000, with a down payment of \$125,000. Both the house and the empty lot were owned by Fredric Wondisford and Sally Radovick. Obama's 5.625 per cent mortgage is for \$1.32 million, through the Northern Trust Bank, and he pays no origination fee or discount points. At the time of the purchase it is already widely known that Rezko is under investigation by federal authorities, but Obama deals with him anyway. (Three weeks before the purchase, \$3.5 million is loaned to Rezko by Nadhmi Auchi, a wealthy Iraqi who lives in England; Rezko is eventually convicted in 2008 of receiving kickbacks for political favors.) Rita Rezko then sells a 10-foot strip of the empty lot to Obama, for \$104,500. The transaction thus leaves Rezko with an *unusable empty lot with no street access* – which cost her over \$500,000. Rezko later asks Obama to help Auchi obtain a visa to travel in the United States in 2005. The State Department refuses – partly because Auchi, a member of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party and former high-

ranking official in his oil Ministry, had been found guilty of corruption charges in France. [105,106,249,329,1278,1346]

The Syrian-born Rezko's money ties to Iraq may go back decades, and to Saddam Hussein. Just as Rezko is Obama's main money-man, Nadhmi Auchi is apparently Rezko's main money-man. Auchi dealt with Hussein as early as 1959, and in a failed assassination attempt on Prime Minister Abdul Karim Qasim. [249]

It is unclear how the Obamas qualified for their enormous mortgage. Their reported income for 2004 was \$207,647, which is clearly insufficient for a mortgage of \$1.32 million that (assuming a then typical 6 to 7 per cent interest rate) would require payments in excess of \$7,500 per month (not counting at least \$1,400 or more per month for property taxes). The monthly mortgage payment would have been more than 50 per cent of the Obama's gross income for 2004, and his 2005 U. S. Senate salary of \$162,100 would not have been enough to support mortgage approval. Further, Obama still had substantial student loans to pay off – if Michelle Obama's claims during the 2008 campaign season are to be believed. Obama later earns substantial royalties from the republication of his book, *"Dreams From My Father,"* but anticipated earnings would normally not be counted toward mortgage qualification if following prudent banking practices. [211,1278,1279]

Bank employees had inflated the appraised value of the vacant lot by 25 per cent as part of the deal for Obama. Obama bought the house at a discount, but the sellers lost little because Rezko overpaid for the adjacent vacant lot. The empty lot was appraised at less than \$500,000 by bank employee Kenneth J. Connor, but his appraisal was later replaced with a more generous appraisal of \$625,000 in order to finalize the deal for Rezko and Obama. Connor was then fired by the bank for complaining about its appraisal practices. (The FBI interviews Connor in late 2008 for information regarding the Rezko-Obama house purchase deal.) [696]

The Board of Directors of Northern Trust Bank includes Susan Crown, a relative of billionaires Lester Crown and James Crown, who have ownership in many companies (including defense contractor General Dynamics Corp.) and are leading Obama campaign contributors. The Crown family also runs the Maytag appliance company. Obama had collected campaign donations from Maytag workers and pledged to them that he would keep their jobs in Galesburg, Illinois. Obama later accepted campaign contributions from Lester Crown, who then shipped the Maytag jobs to Mexico. The Crown family also sits on the board of energy company Exelon. (Exelon was formerly Commonwealth Edison, whose CEO was Thomas Ayers, and Ayers purportedly served on the General Dynamics board with Lester Crown.) [2328,842, p. 227-228]

Rita Rezko borrowed the money for the empty lot from the Mutual Bank of Harvey, which is run by Rezko pal Amrish Mahajan. Mahajan's wife, Anita, has been charged with fraudulently receiving \$2 million in Illinois taxpayer dollars for drug tests never performed by her company, K. K. Bio-Science – which had a no-bid contract with the state. (As of March, 2009, Mahajan is still awaiting her trial.) Her company's computers suddenly "disappeared" right before investigators arrived to take them away for evidence. Patty Blagojevich, wife of former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, is a real estate agent whose dealings with both Tony Rezko and the Mutual Bank of Harvey are under scrutiny by federal investigators. (Amrish Mahajan, a major fundraiser of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, resigned from the bank in February of 2009. Federal banking regulators said that Mutual Bank of Harvey had "*unsafe and unsound banking practices and had violated laws or regulations.*") [530,1456]

Further investigation of the Obama mansion real estate deal shows that the empty lot was only temporarily deeded to Rita Rezko. According to Cook County land records, the empty lot was later deeded to Obama's Northern Trust Company Land Trust Number 10209 on January 11, 2006 and recorded on February 16, 2006 (document number 0604733162). The vacant lot therefore appears to be legally owned by (deeded to) Obama, even though a Rezko limited liability corporation ("5050 S. Greenwood LLC") holds its outstanding mortgage. The implied scenario is that the Obamas wanted the house (and perhaps the adjacent lot as well) but could not afford it. The sellers did not want to separate the house from the lot, sell only the house, and be left with an empty lot. A deal was therefore arranged by which the sale would be divided into two parts, with Rezko's wife *overpaying* for the empty lot and Obama *underpaying* for the house, helping Obama qualify for the mortgage. Rezko then deeded the empty lot to Obama a few months later. The Obama campaign later stated that Rita Rezko sold the empty lot to one of Tony Rezko's attorneys, Michael Sreenam, but Cook County property records do not support that statement. (It may be interesting to see what happens should Rezko, who is currently in jail for fraud, fail to keep up with the monthly mortgage payments on the lot.) [1182]

Living within a few blocks of Obama's mansion (which boasts a wine cellar containing over one thousand bottles, and bookcases made of Honduran mahogany) are Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, William Ayers, and Toni Preckwinkle. Preckwinkle is Chicago's 4th Ward Alderwoman [329,842, pp.109,127]

More Wheeling and Dealing

In April of 2005, while Alsammarae is Iraq's Minister of Electricity, a \$50 million contract is negotiated with a company called Companion Security to train Iraqi security guards in Illinois. Companion Security is run by Daniel T. Frawley and a Tony Rezko/Daniel Mahru partnership. In May a Panamanian company, Fintrade

Services, lends money to Rezko. On Fintrade's board of directors is Ibtisam Auchi, wife of Nadhmi Auchi. Another of Nadhmi Auchi's companies helps finance a power plant in Iraq, working with Rezko and Aiham Alsamarrae. Alsamarrae is a Chicago resident with dual (U.S. and Iraqi) citizenship. He is accused of graft with Iraqi construction projects and imprisoned for four months in Iraq in a \$2 billion corruption case. Obama is thus a critic of the War in Iraq at the same time he is receiving political favors and contributions from Rezko, who is, in turn, dealing with Iraqis and kickback schemes. [249,351]

In 2005, Virginia officials reject an astounding 83 per cent of ACORN's Project Vote new voter registrations as fraudulent, yet Obama continues to push for federal grants for ACORN. [204]

In the United States Senate Obama votes against the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act. The law would prevent minors from being taken across state lines to have an abortion without the consent of their parents. [97,108]

Although he publicly rails against "big oil," Obama votes for an energy bill that includes billions of dollars in subsidies for oil and natural gas production. [109]

Obama votes for a bill (S 397) classifying most rifle ammunition larger than .22 caliber as "*armor piercing ammunition*" and prohibiting its manufacture for civilian use. The bill fails to pass. [444,445]

On June 25, 2005, Michelle Obama is named a "*non-executive director*" of the board of TreeHouse Foods, a supplier of Wal-Mart. Her annual salary is \$51,200 (boosted to \$101,083 in 2006), and she is also given 7,500 TreeHouse stock options, worth approximately \$72,375. She has no experience in the retail industry or private sector which would justify giving her the appointment – but she is married to a United States Senator. [677,842, p. 109]

In July of 2005, Obama votes to allow extensive lawsuits designed to bankrupt the firearms industry (SB 397). That same month he also votes to re-authorize the Patriot Act, and against implementing the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). [97,445,842, p. 256]

In September, 2005, in support of ACORN policies, Obama sponsors a resolution rejecting a requirement to show a photo I.D. in order to vote. [97]

Suggesting he cares less about the letter of the law and more about the status of the litigants, Obama argues against the confirmation of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, saying that the role of the justice is to favor the weak over the strong; "*I hope he will recognize who the weak are and who the strong are in our society.*" (Obama is alleged to be a "Constitutional lawyer," but most legal

scholars – and educated Americans – would argue that the role of a Supreme Court Justice is to interpret the law and rule on whether it complies with the United States Constitution... not to arbitrarily decide in favor of the “weak.”) [344,445]

In November Obama votes to prevent oil leasing in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Reserve (ANWR), and votes no on a bill that would extend the Bush capital gains and dividends tax cuts. [97]

In December Obama votes against a \$40 billion reduction in overall federal spending, and against extending the Patriot Act’s wiretap provisions. [97]

During both 2004 and 2005 the FBI takes note of repeated visits by Obama and Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich to the offices of Rezmar Corporation, a joint business venture of Daniel Mahru and Tony Rezko. [207]

Obama’s reported income in 2005 is about \$1.7 million, more than twice the income of President Bush, yet they donate similar dollar amounts to charity. [1655,2215]

2006

The Audacity of Obama

Obama’s second book, *“The Audacity of Hope,”* is published. The book’s title is inspired by a sermon given by Obama’s controversial pastor, Reverend Jeremiah Wright. [137]

Obama pushes for a \$1 million earmark for the University of Chicago Hospitals. His wife, Michelle, is promoted to “Vice President of Community and External Affairs” for the hospitals, and her salary jumps from \$121,900 to \$316,962. Her main responsibilities, in promoting an “Urban Health Initiative,” are to act as a “bouncer” – to encourage the poor, uninsured area residents to go to neighborhood clinics rather than diminish hospital profits by using the hospital emergency rooms. Assisting her with the public relations of the policy is David Axelrod. An executive vice-president of the University of Chicago Hospitals is Eric Whitaker; Obama had previously arranged for Whitaker to be hired as the head of the Illinois Department of Public Health, at a salary of \$150,000. Obama later says of the \$1 million he obtained for his wife’s employer, *“I don’t think that I was obligated to recuse myself from anything related to the university... But you could make a good argument that this is something that slipped through our cracks, through our screening system.”* (By using the word “our,” Obama attempts to place the blame for the action on others, as though he could vote for

an earmark that he added to a bill without realizing he did it.)
[110,111,112,664,1945]

The Board of Trustees of Chicago's Adler Planetarium raises \$250,000 for Obama's campaign. Obama then obtains a \$3 million earmark for the planetarium. (A \$300,000 amount had been sought by the Trustees to upgrade a projector system.) [113]

Obama votes against the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, a man with sterling academic and legal credentials. [97]

On February 6, Obama wins a "Grammy Award" in the "best spoken word album" category for the audio book version of "*Dreams From My Father*." (A line-by-line comparison with the print version shows that the audio version recorded by Obama omits some text that many white people might call controversial; that was likely done to prevent campaign ads from using those recorded words against him.) [2216]

In February of 2006, anti-military Congressman Neil Abercrombie (D-HI) votes against suspending aid to Hamas. His is the only vote against the bill. Abercrombie, an Obama supporter from Hawaii, had been a friend of Obama's father and mother at the University of Hawaii and, like Obama, is linked to the socialist New Party. He is also, like most socialist members of Congress, a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. [388,1362]

In February, 2006 Obama votes against a bill calling for the retention of the Bush capital gains and dividends tax cuts. [97]

Sarah P. Herlihy, an associate of the Chicago law firm of Kirkland and Ellis LLP, writes a document called, "*Amending the Natural Born Citizen Requirement: Globalization as the Impetus and the Obstacle*," in which she argues for eliminating the natural born citizen requirement of the U.S. Constitution – which she calls the "*stupidest provision*" in the document because the rule "discriminates" against naturalized citizens. (Herlihy apparently does not understand that was what the framers of the Constitution *intended*, just as their Constitutional requirement that a President be at least 35 years old was *intended* to "discriminate" against 12 year-olds.) The employees of Kirkland and Ellis (which does not specialize in Constitutional law) later contribute \$87,722 to the Obama campaign, and Bruce I. Ettleson, a partner in the law firm, is a member of Obama's campaign finance committee. [581,582,588,598]

In March, Obama tells a crowd, "*I've been very blessed. Keynote speaker at the Democratic convention; the cover of Newsweek; my book made the best-seller list; I just won a Grammy for reading it on tape. Really, what else is there to do?*"

Well, I guess I could pass a law or something.” At this point it is clear that Obama has his eye on the White House, even though he has made no public pronouncement and has accomplished nothing to suggest he is qualified to serve as President. [842, p. 247]

Illinois’ Cook County Board President John Stroger becomes ill during the 2006 primary election campaign. Chicago Democrats keep his illness a secret until the deadline for candidate filings passes, and then manage to place the name of his son, Todd Stroger, on the ballot. Despite his total lack of experience and history as a corrupt, machine-style ward boss, Obama supports the young Stroger, calling him a *“good, progressive Democrat.”* (“Progressive Democrat” is generally considered code for socialist.) More qualified Democrats are outraged, especially those who support reform of the corrupt and deficit-spending Cook County Board. As predicted by many, Stroger proves to be a disaster. (In early 2009 it is reported that Stroger failed to report at least \$733,000 in political donations, and is fined \$27,000 by the Illinois State Board of Elections.) [119,1578]

On April 6 a group of Senators (including John McCain and Edward Kennedy) completes work on an immigration bill and heads to a news conference. Catching them in a hallway, Obama asks, *“Hey, guys, can I come along?”* At the microphones, Obama then proceeds to congratulate a list of Senators – including himself – saying *“I want to cite Lindsey Graham, Sam Brownback, Mel Martinez, Ken Salazar, myself, Dick Durbin, Joe Lieberman... who’ve actually had to wake up early to try to hammer this stuff out.”* Senate staffers are outraged because they know Obama was never among the group that arrived at 7 a.m. to work on the legislation. Senator Arlen Specter comments that when a Senator is running for President, *“embellishment of legislative records may be an inevitability.”* [1607]

In April of 2006, Companion Security (run by Daniel T. Frawley, Tony Rezko, and Daniel Mahru) works with Governor Rod Blagojevich to lease an Illinois military facility for training Iraqi security guards. In August of 2006, Frawley works with Obama’s Senate staff to complete the deal. [249]

Obama is Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Europe, but never convenes the committee for a meeting. [114]

On May 5, 2006, John McCain and 19 other Republican Senators send a letter to the Senate Majority Leader urging the passage of Senate Bill S190, which is intended to rein in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac – and which could possibly have reduced the likelihood of the economic crisis in 2008. Obama does not sign the letter of support. McCain’s letter, signed by nineteen other senators, states that it is *“...vitally important that Congress take the necessary steps to ensure that (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac ...operate in a safe and sound manner. More*

importantly, Congress must ensure that the American taxpayer is protected in the event that either ...should fail." [278,2317]

On May 25, Senator McCain addresses the Senate and states, *"For years I have been concerned about the regulatory structure that governs Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac... and the sheer magnitude of these companies and the role they play in the housing market... the GSEs need to be reformed without delay."* Led by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CN), all Democrat Senators on the Senate Banking Committee vote against the proposed regulatory bill; all Republicans vote for the bill. Without sufficient support, the bill never makes it to the Senate floor for a full vote. (When Fannie Mae later needs a taxpayer bail-out, Dodd and his Democrats cohorts blame a "lack of regulation.") [278,2317]

Obama votes in favor of establishing a foreign guest worker program and giving the guest workers a "path to citizenship." He votes in favor of allowing illegal immigrants to participate in the Social Security program. [97]

Obama votes against a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution authorizing Congress to prohibit the desecration of the United States flag, against a ban on same-sex marriages, and against repealing the estate (death) tax. [97,432]

In the summer of 2006, homes in Obama's Chicago neighborhood are reassessed for property tax purposes. Houses surrounding Obama's are reassessed for, on average, 28 per cent more. Obama's house is assessed at only six per cent more. [329]

The federal government shuts down an Islamic charity called "KindHearts" because of its fund-raising for terrorist groups, including Hamas. The chairman of the organization, Hatem El-Hady, then directs his fund-raising efforts to helping Obama. [115]

Obama proposes legislation prohibiting gun stores from operating within five miles of a school or a park. Inasmuch as most communities have schools and parks scattered widely throughout their areas, the legislation would effectively ban gun stores unless they re-locate far from population centers. [339]

Obama visits Kenya in 2006 to give support to Raila Odinga, a Muslim socialist candidate for President who has ties to both al Qaeda and Libya's Muammar Qaddafi, was educated in communist East Germany, and who hopes to get Shariah Muslim law established. Odinga is a cousin of Obama; Odinga's mother is the sister of Obama's father. During his Kenya visit Obama makes a speech to university students in Nairobi. In the speech Obama criticizes the existing pro-American Kenyan government, rallies the students against it, and talks of the

need for change. This action is, of course, seen as an Obama endorsement of Odinga, the existing Kenyan President's opponent. By making his speech, supporting Odinga, and standing beside Odinga at rallies, Obama violates the stated conditions of his Official Government Visa: *"to nurture relations between the (African) Continent and the United States."* The Kenyan government lodges an *official protest of Obama's passport abuse and misconduct*, and Obama's actions are *denounced by the U.S. State Department as being in direct opposition to U. S. National Security*. After Odinga loses the election, his Muslim followers burn Christian women and children alive – in a church where they had sought refuge. More than 1,500 people are ultimately killed in riots, and Odinga is reluctantly given the position of Prime Minister to placate his radical supporters and stop further bloodshed. [126,127,207,208,271,293,294,313,329,452,1449]

In support of Odinga, Obama raises approximately \$950,000. The cash for Odinga comes from private meetings in 2006 arranged for Odinga by Mark Lippert, a foreign policy advisor on Obama's staff. Odinga visits Obama during three separate trips to Washington in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Odinga promises his supporters in Kenya that he will *"rewrite the Constitution of Kenya to recognize Shariah as the only true law sanctioned by the Holy Quran for Muslim declared religion."* In early 2006 Lippert had been sent by Obama to Kenya, at taxpayer expense, on a "fact-finding" mission, and to do advance work for Obama's later visit. [313]

Odinga made the following pledges to his supporters: Re-write the Constitution of Kenya to recognize Muslim Shariah law for Muslim regions; facilitate the establishment of a Shariah court in every Kenyan divisional headquarters; order every primary school to conduct daily Madrassa classes; impose a total ban on open-air Christian gospel crusades; outlaw gospel programs on KBC radio; impose a total ban on the consumption of alcoholic beverages; and impose an immediate ban on women's public dressing styles that are considered immoral and offensive to the Muslim faith. [329]

In August of 2006 Obama votes against making the temporary Bush estate (death) tax cuts permanent. In September Obama votes to give Habeas Corpus rights to Guantanamo detainees. [97]

On September 20, 2006, in a startling coincidence of similar names, Kelly J. McCrum Robinson (wife of Michelle Obama's brother Craig Robinson) sells her Chicago condominium to a person named "Osama Barakat" for \$376,500. The property is located at 1525 S. Sangamon, Unit 707. The Cook County property parcel number is 17-20-232-050-1168. Listed as creditor on the real estate transaction is Burlew Plumbing and Heating of New Jersey. Burlew purportedly owns Magic Touch Construction Company, located at 59 West Front Street in Keyport, New Jersey. Located at that same address is Magic Touch Plumbing and Heating. On September 11, 2001, Sakher "Rocky" Hammad drove from New

York City to Memphis, Tennessee. Hammad was later arrested by the FBI in connection with an illegal driver's license scheme. In Hammad's wallet was found a security pass giving him access to the World Trade Center on September 5, 2001, and a business card for Magic Plumbing and Heating. Hammad stated he was a plumber, and had worked with his cousin on the WTC sprinkler systems. New York authorities have no record of a plumber's license for either Hammad or his cousin. Hammad's mother lives in Jordan or Gaza. (Some have theorized that the WTC towers collapsed because their sprinkler systems were not functioning properly.) [1186,1187,1188,1189,1190,2028]

On October 22, 2006 Obama publicly states he is considering a run for the Presidency – at age 45 and after only a year and a half as a Senator. [1314]

Alexi Giannoulias runs for Illinois State Treasurer in 2006 and receives a strong endorsement from Obama, who states Giannoulias is “...*one of the most outstanding young men I could ever hope to meet*” – despite the candidate's youth (he is 29), total lack of experience, mob connections, and his family bank's (Broadway Bank) financing of a Chicago crime figure. Giannoulias is elected, but may not have won without Obama's endorsement. Ten years earlier the Giannoulias family had been rumored to have helped Obama with campaign financing, and also provided an alleged “sweetheart deal” mortgage for his Chicago townhouse (Obama's residence before Tony Rezko helped him buy his Hyde Park mansion). [116,117,281]

Giannoulias is the money-man for Michael “Jaws” Giorango, a Chicago thug with convictions for bookmaking and promoting prostitution. Giannoulias is so tainted by mob connections that the powerful Illinois Speaker of the House and State Democrat Party Chairman Michael Madigan refused to endorse Giannoulias for State Treasurer. Thus, even the Democrat Party does *not* endorse Democrat Giannoulias in the November election. Despite the hands-off attitude of all prominent Democrats in Illinois, Obama (who plays basketball with Giannoulias at the exclusive East Bank Club in Chicago) endorses him anyway. Obama uses Giannoulias' Broadway Bank for his personal business and his Senate campaign fund. Giannoulias and his family donate more than \$10,000 to Obama's campaign. [318,319,842, pp. 206-207]

Obama campaigns in Vermont for socialist Senator Bernie Sanders, who calls rookie Senator Obama “*one of the great leaders of the United States Senate,*” even though he's been there less than two years and has done little but write another book about himself. By the 2008 Presidential election, Obama's voting record is farther left than that of socialist Sanders. [118]

In an article in the Jakarta Post of November 29, 2006, Julia Suryakusuma, a long-time friend of Obama's mother and an outspoken feminist writer, states that Obama could run for President of Indonesia. It is assumed Suryakusuma means

that Obama retains his Indonesian citizenship. (Indonesia does not allow dual citizenship and Obama cannot be an American citizen if he has not relinquished his Indonesian citizenship.) [120]

In a 2006 speech Obama says his mother's parents were Baptists and Methodists, but in his book, *"Dreams From My Father,"* Obama wrote that, *"In his only skirmish into organized religion, he (Obama's grandfather Stanley Armour Dunham) would enroll the family in the local Unitarian Universalist congregation."* Obama refers to himself as a "lifelong" Christian, but his only Christian church affiliation appears to have been with Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ. (Some critics might take exception to TUCC being called a Christian church, considering its black liberation theology – a Marxist version of Christianity that worships a white-hating black Jesus – and the fact that it accepts Muslim members.) [744]

In December of 2006 the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) gives Obama a 100 per cent rating for his anti-religious stances on church-state separation. [97]

In a December 22, 2006 e-mail, Obama personally informs Kenyan Raila Odinga that *"all our correspondence (should be) handled by Mr. Mark Lippert,"* and says that using Lippert as their common contact would be for his (Obama's) *"...own security now and in the future."* [313,1017]

Obama donates \$22,500 to Trinity United Church of Christ in 2006. In that year Obama earned more than three times the income of President Bush, but Bush donated a larger amount than Obama to charity. Obama's charitable donations were 5.8 per cent of his income. (Senator Joe Biden donated an astoundingly low 0.15 per cent, despite being in the top one per cent of all income earners in the nation.) [1655,842, p. 97]

2007

The Campaign Begins

On January 16, 2007, after only two years in the U.S. Senate, Obama officially announces his candidacy for U. S. President. Obama's main campaign strategist continues to be David Axelrod (the "Karl Rove" of the Obama campaign). Obama's theme of "hope and change" allows him to avoid specific commitments and skirt the issue of how programs would be paid for. "Hope" being an inclusive word, the candidate doesn't have to talk about the details of his plans, he merely has to suggest that he is the "hope" the voters have been waiting for, and they will fill in the details in their own minds. "Change" works to attract voters disillusioned with the President Bush and the Iraq War, who feel that any non-Republican alternative is an improvement. Two weeks before he launches his Presidential campaign, Obama pays \$375-\$400 for two decades worth of unpaid

parking tickets received while at Harvard Law School; he manages to avoid the late fees and penalties that would be imposed on an average citizen.
[121,353,356,1314]

In addition to paying old parking fines, Obama also relinquishes his law license in early 2007 – to avoid the possibility of punishment for lying on his Illinois bar application. Obama’s application failed to disclose the fact that he had used different names in the past (Barry Soetoro, and perhaps Barry Dunham), had used drugs, and had unpaid parking tickets of approximately \$400. A complaint against Obama was filed on March 13, 2007, but because he had just relinquished his license he escaped an investigation and possible punishment (such as disbarment). [1096]

Arguably (and putting his inflated ego aside), Obama may have decided to run for President, rather than attempting first to be the Vice-President of the more likely candidate, Hillary Clinton, partly because he knew he would never make it through the VP vetting process. There essentially is no Presidential vetting process – especially if the media gives the candidate a pass on investigating his past or challenging his political philosophies.

The unpopularity of President Bush is also a significant factor in Obama’s decision to run because the odds of the Democrat candidate beating the Republican candidate are high in 2008 – *regardless* of who the eventual two candidates are. Thus the *real* race lies in the Democrat primaries, not the November election, and the odds in the primaries tend to favor the most liberal candidate because the most active party members are leftists. Obama knows he is the most liberal candidate in history, but he is also aware that 2008 may offer his best chance at the presidency because of the “Bush baggage” weighing down any conservative opponent. While he campaigns in the Democrat primary, Obama hopes the media will work against the strongest conservative candidates in the Republican primaries to help insure a weak opponent in the November election. (The media eagerly does what it can to get McCain – the least conservative of the Republican primary candidates – nominated.)

At the time of his candidacy announcement Obama has been present for work in the Senate a total of only 143 days. Obama’s announcement includes this statement, *“I know that I haven’t spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington. But I’ve been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change.”* (Obama’s remark is essentially lifted from John Edwards, who said when he announced his own candidacy in 2003, *“I haven’t spent much of my life in politics... but I’ve spent enough time in Washington to know how much we need to change it.”*) [349,351,353,1595]

On January 24, the “Obama Exploratory Committee” releases the statement, *“To be clear, Senator Obama has never been a Muslim, was not raised a Muslim,*

and is a committed Christian who attends the (Trinity) United Church of Christ in Chicago.” On March 14 that statement is clarified, as follows: *“Obama was never a practicing Muslim.”* Obama’s web site eventually includes this statement: *“Obama Has Never Been A Muslim.”* [353]

In early 2007, Obama states in a filing with the Federal Election Commission that he would work out an agreement with the Republican nominee to accept public campaign financing. On an FEC questionnaire, Obama states, *“If I am the Democratic nominee, I will aggressively pursue an agreement with the Republican nominee to preserve a publicly financed general election.”* It later becomes clear that Obama never had any plans to honor that commitment. [433]

On February 26, during a primary debate in Cleveland, Obama states he will work with John McCain to ensure they both use public financing. The Obama campaign never does so. (In his 1996 candidate questionnaire, when running for the Illinois State Senate, Obama had responded *“Yes”* to the question, *“Do you support public financing of election campaigns?”*) [433]

In February, Obama votes for a bill raising the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour, making it more difficult for unskilled minority youths to get hired. [97]

New York Times reporter Nicholas Kristof interviews Obama and writes, *“Mr. Obama recalled the opening lines of the Arabic call to prayer, reciting them with a first-rate accent. In a remark that seemed delightfully uncalculated... Mr. Obama described the Muslim call to prayer as ‘one of the prettiest sounds on Earth at sunset.’”* The interview is later deleted from the New York Times web pages. (Interestingly, although Obama says he was never a Muslim and never practiced the religion, he is able to recite from memory the *“Adhan,”* something he learned in a school in Indonesia more than 30 years earlier.) [122,353]

Robert Wolf, CEO of the American branch of the Swiss banking giant UBS, collects more than \$370,000 in campaign contributions for Obama. UBS lies to the government and conceals the identities of over 19,000 clients in order to help them avoid paying U.S. income taxes. [123,448,1286]

In 2007, the Obama campaign receives \$32,000 from companies affiliated with Robert Blackwell. While an Illinois State Senator, Obama had received \$112,000 from Blackwell in monthly \$8,000 retainers, funneled through the law firm at which he had previously worked. Obama had persuaded the Illinois legislature to award \$320,000 in state grants to Blackwell’s company, *“Killerspin,”* a company that promotes table tennis (*“ping pong”*) and sells equipment and apparel and promotes tournaments. (It is unclear why Obama and his fellow legislators thought Illinois taxpayers should be forced to spend \$320,000 on ping pong.) Blackwell, in turn, raises between \$100,000 and \$200,000 for Obama’s

campaign. The University of Chicago Medical Center, with Michelle Obama's encouragement, had granted a \$650,000 contract to another Blackwell company, Blackwell Consulting, for upgrading the center's intranet. [207,352,1314]

On March 4, 2007, Obama appears at the Brown Chapel A. M. E. Church in Selma, Alabama, and incorrectly states that it was the Selma civil rights march that brought together his parents, Ann Dunham and Barack Obama, Sr. (Obama was born in 1961, four years *before* the 1965 Selma march.) Obama also incorrectly states that his father was able to attend school in the United States because of the "Kennedy airlift" to help African students. (Obama's father attended the University of Hawaii even before Kennedy had been elected.) These incorrect statements by Obama were likely meant to give him "street cred" in the civil rights movement and to associate him with the "Kennedy mystique." [564]

In March, 2007, Obama votes against repealing the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), and against raising the death tax exemption to \$5 million. [97]

In March, Obama endorses Chicago's controversial Alderwoman Dorothy "the Hat" Tillman for re-election, even though she is being investigated for using city resources to hire her family and reward campaign donors. Tillman, according to the Chicago Sun-Times, routinely neglects to provide services for her constituents – her ward includes the largest concentration of weed and vermin-infested vacant lots in Chicago – while maintaining *"an iron grip on every nickel that rolls into the 3rd Ward and has pulled in the backing of virtually every black big shot in the city."* Obama owes Tillman support in her tough primary campaign as re-payment for her support when he ran against Blair Hull in the 2004 Democrat primary for the U.S. Senate. Tillman loses the election. (In December of 2006 Tillman is arrested for criminal trespassing in her native Alabama, and spends two hours in jail before being bailed out. Charges are later dropped.) [1314,1315,1316]

Obama's tax return for 2006 reports income of \$991,296. The total includes \$273,618 from Michelle Obama's income from the University of Chicago Hospitals, and \$506,618 in advances and royalties from Obama's books. [1046]

Joe Anthony's work maintaining the Obama MySpace.com page increases steadily. He asks the Obama campaign for remuneration for his thousands of hours of work – and for the tens of thousands of valuable supporter e-mail addresses he has collected. The Obama campaign laughably tells Anthony it *"doesn't have any money,"* and forcibly takes control of the site with the help of the MySpace.com owners. Anthony alleges he was "bullied" by the Obama campaign, while Obama's staffers allege that Anthony was simply trying to shake them down for money. In either event, Obama ends up with valuable e-mail addresses he would not have had without Anthony's efforts. [1316,1317]

On April 27, Obama tells Fox News host Chris Wallace, "*I have promised that I would sit down with John McCain and talk about can we preserve a public (financing) system.*" Obama never fulfills that promise. [433]

To the Des Moines Register Obama makes the outrageous statement that "*...nobody's suffering more than the Palestinian people.*" [387,419]

Obama, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, arrives late or leaves early for its meetings on May 17, 2005, September 28, 2005, April 26, 2006, May 18, 2006, July 13, 2006, September 13, 2006, September 19, 2006, January 17, 2007, January 23, 2007, and February 8, 2007. [421]

To raise money for her husband's campaign, Obama's wife charges \$500 to have a photo taken with her. [124]

Obama gets Marshall Ganz to help train organizers and volunteers for his presidential campaign. Employees and volunteers go through several days of intense training sessions, called "*Camp Obama.*" The sessions are led by Ganz and Mike Kruglik (one of Obama's past fellow community activists, who may possibly be the "Marty Kaufman" in Obama's "*Dreams From My Father*"). Ganz, Kruglik, and Obama all have long associations with ACORN and Alinsky-style activism and agitation methods. [284,287,842, p. 63]

Five ACORN employees are convicted in Washington State in "*the worst case of election fraud*" in the state's history. Despite repeated charges of voter registration fraud and misuse of funds, Obama continues to support ACORN and repeatedly works to obtain federal funds for the organization. [240]

Obama works to stop Hans von Spakovsky, an official in the Justice Department, from being named to the Federal Election Commission because von Spakovsky had supported a Georgia photo I.D. law. Like his ACORN supporters, Obama opposes voter I.D. laws. ACORN also opposes welfare reform and the strengthening of U.S. border security. [255]

In an April, 2007 speech, Obama, paraphrasing a line from Saul Alinsky's book, "*Rules for Radicals,*" says "*We don't care about the world as it is, we imagine the world as it might be.*" [353]

In April, 2007, Obama endorses the idea of "comparable worth pay" by supporting a bill sponsored by Iowa Senator Tom Harkin. Under a comparable worth scheme the federal government would define the value of *every job in the United States*, and then force employers to follow those rules. (A kindergarten teacher, for example, might be considered "worth" 82.7 per cent of a truck driver,

while a truck driver might be considered to be “worth” 56.6 per cent of an electrical engineer.) The alleged “logic” of the plan is that it would “eliminate wage discrimination.” In practice, it would lead to substantially increased costs for all businesses, and introduce lawsuits into every aspect of wages and salary determinations. Asking for a raise would not mean meeting with your boss, but lobbying in Washington; and pay would not be based on *what* you know, but *who* you know. (Those who draft the legislation and administer the pay rules would no doubt make sure they are “worth” the most.) [354]

In April, 2007, chief campaign strategist David Axelrod meets with Obama in Obama’s Senate office. Congressional ethics rules *prohibit* the use of federal office space for political and campaign activity. [356]

On April 30, 2007, in an interview with the New York Times, Obama’s half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, says, “*My whole family was Muslim, and most of the people I knew were Muslim.*” [353,2039]

In an April primary debate, NBC’s Brian Williams asks Obama what his military stance would be if two American cities were simultaneously struck by terrorist attacks. Obama’s response was, “*Well, the first thing we’d have to do is make sure that we’ve got an effective emergency response, something that this administration failed to do when we had a hurricane in New Orleans. And I think that we have to review how we operate in the event of not only a natural disaster, but also a terrorist attack.*” (It is unlikely that Obama’s answer made al-Qaeda leaders nervous.) [1921]

Obama’s Kenyan grandmother, Sarah Obama, tells the New York Times, “*I am a strong believer of the Islamic faith.*” (In early 2008, when the issue of candidate Obama’s religion is in the news, Sarah Obama tells USA Today that she, too, is a Christian – possibly in an attempt to “reduce the heat” on her grandson.) [2416]

In May of 2007 Obama votes for a bill requiring that “global warming” be factored into all federal project plans. [97]

On May 8, Obama criticizes U.S. automakers for not making more hybrid vehicles, like those manufactured by Honda and Toyota. At the time, Obama drives a Chrysler 300C with a large, gas-guzzling, Hemi V-8 engine. [353]

To a gathering in Oregon, Obama talks about the need to “lead by example” with regard to “global warming,” and remarks that “*We can’t just keep driving our SUVs, eating whatever we want, keeping our homes at 72 degrees at all times regardless of whether we live in the tundra or the desert and keep consuming 25 percent of the world’s resources with just 4 percent of the world’s population, and expect the rest of the world to say, ‘You just go ahead, we’ll be fine.’*” Obama’s

statement suggests that Americans must drastically reduce their standard of living, rather than encourage residents of other nations to improve theirs. Obama's method of accomplishing that reduced standard of living will likely be a "global-warming tax" or "carbon tax" – which would cause utility bills to skyrocket. [481]

Obama remarks that *"ten thousand people died"* in a Kansas tornado; the death toll was 12. [854,842, p. 362]

On May 24, 2007, Obama votes to cut off all funding of military efforts in Afghanistan, but on the campaign trail Obama says more American troops need to be shifted from Iraq to Afghanistan. [125]

On May 24, Facebook unveils a new platform which allows independent developers to easily create applications that plug into the Facebook pages of users. The Obama campaign had been given access to the development process (along with Microsoft, the Washington Post, Digg, and others). The Obama campaign – but not the McCain campaign – was thus able to unveil new applications just hours after Facebook introduced it publicly. Chris Hughes, one of Facebook's founders, had been working full-time for the Obama campaign since early 2007. Some argue that Facebook and Hughes made an illegal in-kind donation to the Obama campaign. [1318]

Despite having been against the Iraq war since its inception, Obama does not cast a vote against funding the war until May of 2007. [2510]

In June of 2007 Obama votes against a resolution that declares English the official language of the United States. [97]

In a June speech about religion, Obama states, *"The dangers of sectarianism are greater than ever. Whatever we once were we are no longer a Christian nation, at least not just... we are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, a Hindu nation, and a nation of nonbelievers; and even if we did have only Christians in our midst, if we expelled every non-Christian from the USA, whose Christianity would we teach in the schools? Would it be James Dobson's or Al Sharpton's?"* and *"Democracy demands that the religiously motivated translate their concerns into universal rather than religion-specific values. In a pluralistic society we have no choice. Politics involves compromise... the art of what's possible. Religion doesn't allow for compromise; it's the art of the impossible."* [2209]

Despite a long history of corruption in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (Teamsters Union), Obama tells the union he will end its federal oversight if he is elected. The oversight was a result of the long history of corruption in that union;

in exchange for votes, Obama is willing to remove that oversight and “look the other way” while the union commits additional crimes. Obama, not surprisingly, receives substantial campaign donations from the Teamsters Union. Obama also promises to support legislation allowing unions to avoid secret ballots in organizing campaigns, and legislation making it illegal for an employer to hire new workers to replace striking employees. Such rules would effectively allow unions to blackmail employers, causing businesses to raise prices on goods and services and forcing companies to flee overseas or go out of business. [128,256]

In a July 2 Colorado campaign appearance – in a proposal worthy of Hugo Chavez or Fidel Castro – Obama announces plans for a “civilian national security force.” After a flurry of inquiries about Obama’s intentions with his “security force,” the proposal is dropped from his speeches and all references to it are deleted from the campaign’s official web site. Obama’s remark is not included in the original prepared text distributed to the media; he inserts the words as he delivers the speech. He states, *“We cannot continue to rely on our military in order to achieve the national security objectives that we’ve set. We’ve got to have a civilian national security force that’s just as powerful, just as strong, just as well-funded. People of all ages, stations, and skills will be asked to serve.”* (The U.S. Defense budget is over \$500 billion per year. If Obama is not lying about a volunteer corps “just as well-funded” as the Department of Defense, he will need to increase the federal budget by an additional half- trillion dollars – if not amend the U.S. Constitution.) [129,276,1992]

Obama states he would meet – without any pre-conditions – the leaders of Iran, Syria, North Korea, Cuba, and Venezuela. [353]

On July 18, ABC News reports that Obama told Planned Parenthood sex education for kindergartners is *“the right thing to do.”* [337]

On July 25, Obama tells media big-wigs and corporate CEOs in a meeting at the Time-Warner Center in Manhattan, *“One thing I’m very confident about is my judgment in foreign policy is, I believe, better than any other candidate in this race, Republican or Democrat.”* [353]

Obama tells friend Ali Abunimah, a Palestinian rights activist in Chicago, that he can not talk more about the *“Palestinian cause”* because his primary campaign has “constrained” what he can say. Abunimah tells radio talk show “Democracy Now!” he has known Obama for many years and *“when he used to attend events in the Palestinian community in Chicago all the time.”* Abunimah responds to Obama’s sudden about-face and soft support of Israel during the campaign by remarking, *“He is merely doing what he thinks is necessary to get elected and he will continue doing it as long as it keeps him in power.”* 130,223,335]

Obama receives advisory support from Zbigniew Brzezinski (Obama's Chief Foreign Policy Advisor and Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor. Brzezinski was instrumental in encouraging Carter's betrayal of the Shah of Iran – which subsequently led to the takeover of Iran by the Ayatollah Khomeini, the 444-day American embassy hostage crisis, and the eventual presidency of nuclear weapon-seeking Mahmoud Ahmadinejad); Samantha Power (senior foreign policy advisor); General Merrill A. McPeak (senior military advisor, who believes the U.S. drove Iran to hate Israel); Joseph Cirincione (Obama's advisor on nuclear threats, who denies the known fact that North Korea assisted Syria in the development of a plutonium plant); Daniel Kurtzer (Middle East advisor, who has received criticism for pushing Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights); and Robert O. Malley. All are known for their anti-Israel views. [356,1583]

The globalist Brzezinski's book, *Between Two Ages: America's Role in the Technetronic Era*, describes the future he is looking forward to helping implement: *"The technetronic era involves the gradual appearance of a more controlled society. Such a society would be dominated by an elite, (who are) unrestrained by traditional values. Soon it will be possible to assert almost continuous surveillance over every citizen and maintain up-to-date complete files containing even the most personal information about the citizen. These files will be subject to instantaneous retrieval by the authorities."* He then states, *"Today we are again witnessing the emergence of transnational elites... (whose) ties cut across national boundaries... It is likely that before long the social elites of most of the more advanced countries will be highly internationalist or globalist in spirit and outlook... The nation-state is gradually yielding its sovereignty... Further progress will require greater American sacrifices. More intensive efforts to shape a new world monetary structure will have to be undertaken, with some consequent risk to the present relatively favorable American position."* This was written by Obama's Chief Foreign Policy Advisor, who may be expected to encourage Obama to pursue those stated goals. (Apparently to cover all bases, Brzezinski's son Mark works for the Obama campaign, his son Ian works for the McCain campaign, and his daughter Mika works for MSNBC.) [2045]

Robert O. Malley's father, Simon Malley, was an Egyptian-born journalist, member of the Egyptian Communist Party, close friend of Yassar Arafat, anti-Semite and anti-American. Malley had been expelled from France in 1980 for, according to government officials, *"political activities which do not correspond with, and even run contrary to, French interests in certain countries..."* and some articles written by Malley that were *"genuine appeals to murder foreign chiefs of state."* Robert Malley served as Clinton's Special Assistant for Arab-Israeli Affairs (1998-2001). In May of 2008, Obama removes Malley from his list of official advisors after it is learned that he had met with the terrorist group Hamas – but continues to rely on his advice and support. [453]

Also advising Obama are Richard Clark (foreign policy advisor, who has said that if he is captured, Osama bin Laden should be allowed to appeal his case *in U.S.*

courts); Wesley Clark (the “perfumed prince” who commanded the Fort Hood military forces at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, in which 76 people – including 23 children – were killed); Richard Danzig (national security advisor, who said the U.S. war on terrorism should follow a lesson from the pages of “Winnie the Pooh”); Sam Graham-Felsen (Obama’s official “blogger,” who has written for a socialist magazine); Austan Goolsbee (chief economic advisor who, in 2007, wrote a defense of sub-prime mortgage loans); Penny Pritzker (financial chairperson, and former head of Chicago’s Superior Bank FSB, which eventually failed because many of its assets were invested in sub-prime mortgages while Pritzker cooked the books long enough for her to make millions, resulting in RICO charges and \$450 million in penalties); and Susan Rice (a known anti-Semite, and senior foreign policy advisor who, as assistant secretary of state under Bill Clinton, and with the afore-mentioned Richard Clark, persuaded Clinton *not* to accept Sudan’s offer to hand over Osama bin Laden to the U.S.). [356,360,831,1282,2467,2505]

Obama economic advisor Goolsbee wrote in 2006, “*Future increases in tax rates potentially threaten to significantly reduce the value of your retirement savings and may even mean that you should not save in 401(k) accounts at all.*” (Goolsbee was perhaps looking ahead to working with Obama and a Democrat majority in Congress, because it is reported in October of 2008 that “*House Democrats are looking at eliminating most of the \$80 billion in annual tax breaks for 401(k) investors.*” That would allow capital gains to be taxed every year, instead of deferring taxes to retirement.) [378,379]

Obama ousts his campaign’s Muslim outreach director, Chicago lawyer Mazen Asbahi, when questions about his ties to a radical Muslim imam and the Muslim Brotherhood surface – along with links to the Islamic Society of North America (an unindicted co-conspirator in the Holy Land Foundation Hamas terrorist funding case). Asbahi was a board member of the Allied Asset Advisor Fund (associated with the North American Islamic Trust), with Jamal Said (imam of a radical Chicago area mosque who raised money for Hamas and families of its suicide bombers). Despite losing his official position with the campaign, Asbahi continues to work for Obama, participating in conference calls. [131,419,829]

On September 17, at a gathering in Indianola, Iowa, Obama is photographed during the playing of the National Anthem holding his hands together below his waist, while primary opponents Bill Richardson and Hillary Clinton respectfully hold their right hands over their hearts. [353]

Obama pledges a “*full withdrawal*” of American troops from Iraq. [1314]

In September, Obama again agrees to use public financing for his campaign. He makes that promise several more times, but eventually disregards it totally – which enables him to collect significant contributions from Goldman Sachs, UBS,

Citigroup, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, J.P. Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, AIG, and other financial giants. Refusing public financing also allows Obama to collect almost unlimited amounts of donations via the Internet, much of which is essentially impossible to trace (such as illegal foreign donations or contributions using electronic “gift cards”). Obama campaign records show a substantial number of questionable entries, such as \$19,500 in 786 separate donations from a person named, “Pro, Doodad,” from “Nando, New York.” His employer is listed as “Loving” and his occupation as “You.” It is virtually impossible to trace donations submitted over the Internet with phony information – which enables Obama to take in illegal contributions from overseas donors. Even if the Federal Election Commission questions the entries, it is also impossible to order them returned. (In June, Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi said in a speech, *“All the people in the Arab and Islamic world and in Africa applauded this man. They welcomed him and prayed for him and for his success, and they may have even been involved in legitimate contribution campaigns to enable him to win the American presidency...”* Such foreign contributions are *not* legitimate.) [353,2045,2513]

In September of 2007, Orlando Jones is found dead of allegedly self-inflicted gun wounds. Jones, the subject of an FBI corruption inquiry, had left his position in Cook County government to create a lobbying firm with Obama’s pal Tony Rezko. [842, p. 192]

On September 20, Obama submits a letter to a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) hearing encouraging diversity in the media and the promotion of “localism.” One month later Obama sends another letter to FCC Chairman Martin emphasizing that the Commission has failed in that regard. The FCC “localism” rule can be used to remove a radio station’s broadcast license, putting it off the air and out of business. The liberal organization, “Center for American Progress” (CAP), issues a report in 2007 concluding there are too many conservatives on the radio and called on the FCC to use the localism rule accordingly. The CEO of CAP is John Podesta, former Clinton staffer and the eventual head of Obama’s White House transition team. (Obama’s pastor, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, had successfully lobbied the FCC to use the localism rule to take away the broadcast license of a station it felt was not covering the civil rights movement fairly.) [520]

The Senate votes 72-25 to condemn MoveOn.org’s controversial *“General Petraeus or General Betray Us?”* ad in the New York Times. Hillary Clinton votes against the resolution. Obama does not vote. [2515]

In October of 2007, Obama co-sponsors legislation, the “Helping Families Save their Homes in Bankruptcy Act of 2007,” which makes it easier for homeowners to protect themselves from losing their homes. The bill also intentionally shields ACORN and other “middleman” groups from being charged for violations of the

“Truth in Lending Act” in connection with obtaining mortgages for clients. [310]

The New York Times, on October 30, 2007, reports that *“Obama has declined repeated requests to talk about his New York years, release his Columbia transcript or identify even a single fellow student, co-worker, roommate or friend from those years...”* [2218]

Obama promises Planned Parenthood that the first piece of legislation he will sign if elected will be the “Freedom of Choice Act,” which would overturn all state pro-life laws, including prohibitions against partial-birth abortions and parental notification requirements for minors seeking abortions. [132,133]

On November 1, Obama says, *“We’ve got to make sure that people who have more money help the people who have less money.”* The Federal Reserve injects \$41 billion into the money supply for banks to borrow at a low rate. [353,1238]

On November 2, Obama tells a Manning, South Carolina crowd, *“I’m not just asking you to take a chance on me. I’m also asking you to take a chance on your own aspirations.”* (On June 3, 2006, Massachusetts candidate for Governor Deval Patrick had told a crowd, *“I am not asking anybody to take a chance on me. I’m asking you to take a chance on your own aspirations.”* On more than one occasion Obama has plagiarized Patrick’s statements.) [842, p. 315]

In a November, 2007 speech to ACORN members, Obama brags that when he *“...ran the Project Vote voter registration drive in Illinois, ACORN was smack dab in the middle of it.”* (When, in 2008, critics connect Obama to ACORN and Project Vote, Obama disavows having worked for or with the groups.) [283]

In a November 9, 2007 interview on Iowa Public Television’s “Iowa Press,” Obama declares that Americans would have to change their habits because of “global warming.” He advocates price increases to encourage people to use less electricity and gas, and states, *“I think it is important for us to send some price signals to change behavior. You know, if electricity goes up, people start becoming more mindful of their electricity bill.”* Obama is here suggesting that government *artificially* force energy prices higher in order to force changes in consumer behavior. [447]

On December 1, 2007, Obama speaks to the “Heartland Democratic Presidential Forum,” at a gathering held exclusively for community organizers and members of the Gamaliel Foundation and ACORN. Obama tells the group that even before he is sworn in as President, *“During the transition (period) we’re gonna be calling all of you in to help us shape the agenda,”* and assures them that they will be actively involved in the first 100 days of his administration. [280]

Obama avoids casting a Senate vote on a November, 2007 resolution that declares the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, an elite part of the Iranian military, a terrorist organization. [351]

Oprah Winfrey campaigns with Obama in Iowa and South Carolina in December. [1314]

On the primary campaign trail in Iowa in December, Obama boasts that he passed a bill requiring nuclear plants to report radioactive leaks promptly. The bill, which would have affected energy company Exelon, had never actually been passed, and each time the bill went through Obama's staff its language was weakened. Exelon executives and employees have donated at least \$227,000 to Obama campaigns since 2003. (Exelon was formerly known as Commonwealth Edison, and its CEO was Thomas Ayers, father of Obama friend William Ayers.) [842, p. 258]

While campaigning in corn-rich Iowa, Obama says he supports corn-based ethanol – even though it takes seven barrels of oil to produce eight barrels of ethanol, and food prices would rise drastically if corn were to be used extensively as a fuel. [842, p. 259]

On December 23, 2007, Donald Young, a friend of Obama and the gay choir director of Obama's Chicago church, is murdered, gangland style. Young "*knew more*," according to Larry Sinclair, a man who claims he shared crack cocaine and homosexual activities with Obama in the back of a Chicago cab in 1999, and again in a hotel in Gurnee, Illinois. The media has chosen not to interview the cab driver, whose name is either Paramjit Singh Multani or Jagir P. Multani. (Sinclair publicly admits to having a 20 year-old arrest record for crimes involving forgery and passing bad checks.) One other gay member of Obama's church, Larry Bland, is also murdered within a few weeks of Young. Young's mother and several of his friends have allegedly suggested that Obama had a relationship with the murdered man. A third man, Nate Spencer, dies of an illness, although some have suggested he was also murdered. (It has been suggested that Obama's campaign guru David Axelrod, through AKP&D Message and Media or ASK Public Strategies, paid the formerly pornographic website whitehouse.com \$750,000 to discredit Sinclair.) [134,135,136,392,393,409,1242,2278,842, pp. 143,352-353,358,2475]

During the Christmas service at Trinity United Church of Christ, Obama's pastor, Reverend Jeremiah Wright says, "*Barack knows what it means to be a black man living in a country and a process that is controlled by rich white men. Hillary can never know that, Hillary ain't ever been called a nigger!*" (Wright makes the statement during a *Christmas* service.) Obama contends he never heard such remarks from Wright or he would have condemned them. Apparently the

allegedly church-going Obama (who records show was in Chicago at Christmas in 2007) failed to catch that part of Wright's sermon. Whether Obama's children were in church to hear Wright's remarks is unknown. Note that Obama does not believe in giving Christmas presents to his children. (Some might argue that his lack of Christmas gift-giving is support of the argument that Obama is a "closet" Muslim, although it may simply mean he believes Christmas has become too commercial and gifts are not reflective of the Christian significance of the day.) [357,361]

2008

"Hope and Change"

Obama is one of the Illinois politicians cited in the indictment of his long-time friend and fund-raiser, Tony Rezko, for having received political contributions from Rezko's kickback funds. Obama allegedly returns between \$85,000 and \$250,000 in political contributions received from Rezko. [138,139,207]

In 2008, ACORN feverishly registers new Democrat voters in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, and other states to boost Obama's chances of winning the primaries and the general election. In Cuyahoga County, Ohio alone, ACORN registers more than 75,000 new voters. Fraud is certainly involved, inasmuch as the voter rolls in that county already exceed the number of adult residents living there by 200,000. ACORN's Project Vote activity has a tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, which prohibits its involvement in partisan political activity, but its workers consistently violate those laws when they pass out Obama literature and advocate his candidacy as they register new voters. [54,240]

During 2007 and 2008, according to Taxpayers for Common Sense, Obama requests \$860 million in "earmarks." They include \$1 million for his wife Michelle's employer, \$62 million for the "Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy," \$8 million for "Human Genome Expression," \$4.8 million for a "Light Emitting Diode Healing Program," \$2 million for a "Soybean Disease Biotechnology Center," and money for projects linked to campaign donors. [140]

In January Obama confirms that he supports drivers licenses for illegal immigrants – which his campaign refers to as *"undocumented people"* – and will take up immigration reform during his first year in office. [341]

On January 17, in a recorded interview with the San Francisco Chronicle, Obama explains his expensive "cap-and-trade" tax to deal with "global warming." With regard to using coal for power plants, Obama states, *"So if somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant, they can; it's just that it will bankrupt them because*

they're going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted." (Obama does not repeat that remark when campaigning in coal-producing states like Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Colorado.) Note that roughly one-half of the nation's electricity comes from coal-fired power plants, which would either be bankrupted or would have to charge much higher rates, based on Obama's statement that he *"...would put a cap-and-trade system in place that is as aggressive, if not more aggressive, than anybody else's out there."* [442,443,450]

Obama goes on to say, *"Under my plan of a cap-and-trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket... even regardless of what I say about whether coal is good or bad, because I'm capping greenhouse gasses, coal power plants, natural gas... you name it... whatever the plants were, whatever the industry was, they would have to retro-fit their operations. That will cost money... they will pass that money on to the consumers."* [455]

Obama tells *"American Morning"* host John Roberts that high taxes are in the best interest of the American economy. [353,1620]

In January of 2008, Michelle Obama says, *"...sometimes it's easier to hold on to your own stereotypes and misconceptions. It makes you feel justified in your own ignorance. That's America."* [352]

Before the start of the January 28 State of the Union Address by President Bush, Obama rudely and abruptly turns around to avoid acknowledging Hillary Clinton as she approaches and shakes the hand of Senator Edward Kennedy. [2050]

Obama tells a Dartmouth College audience – with a straight face – that his job *"...is to be so persuasive... that a light will shine through that window, a beam of light will come down upon you, you will experience an epiphany, and you will suddenly realize that you must go to the polls and vote for Barack."* (Obama's frequent use of speech hypnosis tricks gets the better of him with that statement, and it is widely ridiculed.) [1121,2048]

On January 30, 2008, Obama reiterates his support for driver's licenses for illegal immigrants. [353]

In February the Obama campaign releases copies of his wife Michelle's Princeton thesis on racial divisions. (It had originally planned on keeping it secret until after the election). In the introduction to her angry paper Michelle Robinson writes, *"It is possible that Black individuals either chose to or felt pressured to come together... because of the belief that Blacks must join in solidarity to combat a White oppressor."* Her thesis also includes the statement, *"By actually working with the Black lower class or within their communities as a result of their*

ideologies, a separationist may better understand the desparation (sic) of their situation and feel more hopeless about a resolution as opposed to an integrationist who is ignorant to (sic) their plight.” Critics who have read the thesis say it is the “*most sophomoric, non-scholarly piece of drivel ever,*” and claim it exposes a “*lack of academic rigor*” at Princeton. The bitter young student wrote, “*My experiences at Princeton have made me far more aware of my ‘Blackness’ than ever before. I have found that at Princeton no matter how liberal and open-minded some of my White professors and classmates try to be toward me, I sometimes feel like a visitor on campus; as if I really don’t belong.*” (One may wonder why, if Michelle Robinson wanted to avoid wealthy white snobs, she decided to go to Princeton in the first place when there were a myriad of leftist schools which would have welcomed her.) [352,597,842, p. 121]

Michelle Obama has stated that her SAT scores were not good enough to get her into Princeton, but she was admitted with a scholarship – suggesting racial quotas greased the skids for her. Once at Princeton, she learns that the students are more interested in studying and preparing for their careers than the feelings of a quota student who believes she is a victim of racial prejudice. Her thesis is thus much ado about nothing; it is essentially (like her husband’s autobiography) about herself and her “feelings.” [842, pp. 115,124]

On February 10, Obama wins a “Grammy Award” in the “best spoken word album” category for the audio book version of “*The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream.*” [2217]

Lauren Collins, a reporter for the Guardian’s “Observer,” attends a February service at Trinity United Church of Christ. After the service she approaches Reverend Wright to talk about Michelle Obama. Wright says, “*She’s from the ‘hood,*” and then Collins is quickly told by Wright’s handlers that interviews with him are forbidden. When asked by Collins about the controversial Wright, Michelle Obama responds, “*You know, your pastor is like your grandfather, right? There are plenty of things he (Wright) says that I don’t agree with, that Barack doesn’t agree with... So, you know, you make choices, and you sort of... you can’t disown yourself from your family because they’ve got things wrong. You try to be a part of expanding the conversation.*” One can, of course, stop attending a church when “they’ve got things wrong,” even though one cannot change one’s genealogy. (Candidate Obama also later uses the “can’t disown your own grandfather” analogy, which suggests he and his wife knew the issue would come up often and that would be their standard response.) [2215]

On February 18, Michelle Obama says at a rally in Milwaukee, “*...for the first time in my adult life, I am proud of my country...*” The comment, made with eyes full of unconcealed rage, draws severe criticism and allegations that she is un-American – or at least unappreciative of the wealth and privilege she has been able to accumulate as a citizen of a country for which she has obvious contempt.

(She repeats the same comment later in the day at Madison, Wisconsin.)
[352,2215]

In February a photo is released that show a Cuban flag, adorned with the picture of communist murderer Ernesto "Che" Guevara, hanging on the wall of Obama's Houston campaign office. Obama fans who admire Guevara are likely not aware that, besides being a violent thug who executed political prisoners, he was a racist who wrote, *"The Negro is indolent and spends his money on frivolities, whereas the European is forward-looking, organized and intelligent... We're going to do for blacks exactly what blacks did for the Cuban revolution. By which I mean: NOTHING!"* [353,2052]

The controversial anti-Semitic leader of the Nation of Islam, Louis Farrakhan, praises Obama as the *"new messiah."* [471,558,559]

In February, Obama denies that Austen Goolsbee, one of his economic advisors, told the Canadian government during his visit there that Obama does not mean what he says publicly about opting out of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and that his criticism of NAFTA was just campaign rhetoric. The Canadian government confirms that the statement was, in fact, made. (During the Ohio and Pennsylvania primaries, to garner union support, Obama pledges to renegotiate NAFTA.) [353,1688]

Obama names Penny Pritzker his national finance chairman. Pritzker is the former chairman of the board of the Superior Bank S&L, which went out of business because of irresponsible sub prime mortgage lending in the 1990s. Obama names Martin Nesbitt treasurer for his presidential campaign. Nesbitt, a close friend of Obama (with whom he plays basketball), is also vice president of the Pritzker Realty Group, and is the chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA). Nesbitt, who is also a friend of Valerie Jarrett, contributed at least \$10,000 to Obama campaigns, and the Pritzker name appears frequently in lists of Obama contributors. (Fundraising for Obama by Nesbitt and Pritzker was instrumental in his winning his U.S. Senate seat in 2004.) Nesbitt's wife, Anita Blanchard, is an obstetrician who delivered Michelle Obama's two children. [353,664,1185]

Obama defends his association with William Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn with the statement, *"The notion that...me knowing somebody who engaged in detestable acts 40 years ago... somehow reflects on me and my values doesn't make much sense."* Dohrn once publicly praised Charles Manson and his followers for killing actress Sharon Tate. Dohrn's words were, *"Dig it. First they killed those pigs, then they ate dinner in the same room with them. They even shoved a fork into a victim's stomach! Wild!"* In 2007 (which is considerably more recent than 40 years ago) Ayers describes the United States as an *"...incipient fascist country,"* and talks about overthrowing capitalism, while Dohrn, at a

reunion of the radical group Students for a Democratic Society, says that “...living in America constitutes living in the belly of the beast” and “the heart of the monster” – but those recent statements of Obama’s friends are not supposed to reflect on him or his values. Nor, apparently, does it bother him that Dohrn served prison time for refusing to cooperate with a grand jury investigating a Brink’s robbery in which three people were killed. Obama may as well have said, “The notion that my being friends with someone who was on the FBI’s most wanted list and went to prison reflects on me should be disregarded – otherwise I might not be elected be President.” (Obama may want to point out to Charles Ogletree, a friend and close advisor who has long supported slavery reparations, that some Americans feel “The notion that my great-great-great-great-grandparents engaged in the detestable act of slavery 200 years ago somehow reflects on me and my values doesn’t make much sense.”) [141,142,143,2271]

When further criticized for his friendship with William Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn, the Obama campaign issues a lengthy document trivializing their actions as 1960s radicals and defending them as “respectable fixtures of the mainstream in Chicago.” In a September 11, 2001 New York Times interview, Ayers says of his bombing history, “I don’t regret setting bombs; I feel we didn’t do enough.” In a memoir published by Ayers after 9/11, he wrote that America is “not a just and fair and decent place... it makes me want to puke.” The cover of Ayers’ book is a photograph of him trampling on an American flag. [143,144]

“Accountable America,” an organization which supports Obama, sends threatening letters to nearly 10,000 citizens who frequently contribute to Republican causes, warning them of potential legal problems if they finance conservative groups. [145,146,338]

Obama supports a Democrat housing bill that provides \$200 million to community groups – including ACORN – for homeowner foreclosure counseling. ACORN, in turn, pledges to spend \$35 million to register new Democrat voters in 2008. [147,148,149]

When Reverend Jeremiah’s controversial, anti-American sermons are revealed to the public by the media, Obama says he knows nothing about such remarks – and adds a “dog ate my homework” statement, “I wasn’t in church that day.” [239]

Before the Ohio primary in 2008, Obama’s campaign gives ACORN \$832,598, allegedly for get-out-the-vote activities. The money is paid to ACORN through “Citizens Consulting, Incorporated” (CCI), which ACORN uses for distributing funds. Wade Rathke, founder of ACORN, also exercises control over CCI. At the same time Obama gives ACORN almost one million in cash, it is dealing with the IRS over liens of almost one million. [240,1971]

In February, Obama votes against raising the death tax exemption from \$1 million to \$5 million. [97]

On February 28, Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) introduces Senate Bill 2678, the “Children of Military Families Natural Born Citizen Act.” The bill is intended to allow McCain (and Obama) to be considered natural born citizens eligible to serve as President, when arguments can be made that neither is a natural born citizen. The bill is co-sponsored by Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, but does not pass. McCaskill’s personal motives in sponsoring the bill may relate to her being mentioned as a possible Vice President for Obama, to whom she gave early support. [820]

On February 29, Michelle Obama visits a daycare center in Zanesville, Ohio, where she complains about how difficult it is to survive financially in America, because she has to spend \$10,000, on *“piano and dance and sports supplements”* and *“summer programs and so on and so forth,”* for her daughters. She typically tells her audiences, *“I don’t care where I am, the first question is ‘How are you managing it all? How are you holding up?’”* The remark is meant to get the crowd to feel sorry for her and to believe that she is enduring a great hardship, as though she is doing them a favor by consenting to speak to them. *(“Wow! She took time from her busy schedule to visit us regular folks in little old Zanesville!”)* She also tells the crowd – in complete disregard for the truth about the lucrative careers she and her husband have had – *“Don’t go into corporate America. You know, become teachers. Work for the community. Become social workers. Be a nurse. Those are the careers that we need, and we’re encouraging our young people to do that. But if you make that choice, as we did, to move out of the money-making industry, then your salaries respond.”* (The Obama couple’s move “out of the money-making industry” led to a 2006 reported income of \$991,296. The total included \$316,962 from Michelle Obama’s income from the University of Chicago Hospitals.) [110,111,352,1046,842, pp. 125,128]

On March 1 Obama tells an Ohio gathering that *“America is at its best when it’s not fearful. I mean, if you think about our history, our most shameful times have been when we were afraid.”*[1221]

The government of Columbia raids a camp in Ecuador run by the leftist narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (“Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Columbia,” or “FARC”). Items confiscated include several laptop computers which contain thousands of documents, spreadsheets, multimedia files, web pages, images, written documents, and e-mail addresses. Obama’s name appears on more than one document on the confiscated laptop. In one document FARC leader Raul Reyes (who is killed in the raid) relates that he met *“two gringos”* who assured him *“the new president of their country will be Obama and that they are interested in your compatriots. Obama will not support ‘Plan Columbia’ nor will he sign the TLC (Free Trade Agreement).”* The identities

of the “two gringos” are unknown and it is unclear who might have authorized them to speak to FARC terrorists on Obama’s behalf. Information on the laptop also suggests that FARC is receiving aid from Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. (FARC’s tentacles spread worldwide. Reyes’ son, Ariel Robespierre Diva, visited Berlin in 2005 to persuade Germany’s Party of Democratic Socialism – the successor to the East German Communist party – to remove FARC from the list of terrorist organizations.) During the campaign Obama says little about Columbia, other than to criticize President Bush’s good relations with President Alvaro Uribe, a U.S. ally. FARC holds three American hostages. [1614,1615,1616]

In March, 2008, Obama says of his controversial pastor, Jeremiah Wright, “*I can no more disown him than I can disown the black community.*” Obama’s remark is calculated to turn any criticism of Wright’s remarks and Obama’s association with him “racist.” [150]

In San Antonio on March 3, several Chicago reporters ask Obama about his connections with Tony Rezko. Obama avoids the questions, saying “*These requests, I think, could just go on forever. At some point, what we need to try to do is respond to what’s pertinent.*” (Politicians generally use that “It’s time to move on” response when they want to avoid an issue, in the hope that it will go away. The technique often works, because the less capable reporters generally comply; they fear being shut out by the candidate if they press too hard. That is, they care more about their careers than pursuing the story.) [249]

Obama’s foreign policy advisor, Samantha Powers, resigns from his campaign after having been caught calling Hillary Clinton a “*monster.*” Powers nevertheless expects a top position in an Obama Administration, despite having publicly discussed the possibility of invading Israel to help create a Palestinian state. [233,234,235,236]

In the March 11 issue of the New Yorker, Michelle Obama, with a seemingly endless supply of racial hatred, criticizes the United States as a mean country. “*We’re a divided country, we’re a country that is just downright mean. (We are) guided by fear... We have become a nation of struggling folks who are barely making it every day. Folks are just jammed up, and it’s gotten worse over my lifetime.*” [842, p. 121]

One of Obama’s supporters is billionaire James S. Crown. Crown is a member of Obama’s National Finance Committee, and also serves on the board of General Dynamics. In 2006 Obama had secured federal funds for General Dynamics’ “High-Explosive Technology Program” for the Army’s Bradley Fighting Vehicle – an inadequate machine ridiculed by soldiers as an “Exploding Coffin.” [830,842, p. 274]

On March 13, former Congresswoman and 1984 Vice-Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro steps down from her fundraising post in Hillary Clinton's primary campaign after intense media criticism for her comment to the Daily Breeze (Torrance, California) newspaper that Obama was benefiting from being black. *"If Obama was a white man, he would not be in this position. And if he was a woman – of any color – he would not be in this position. He happens to be very lucky to be who he is. And the country is caught up in the concept."* In defending her politically incorrect but totally accurate comment Ferraro recognized that her own prior national-ticket candidacy was because of her gender, with the admission that *"In 1984, if my name were Gerard Ferraro instead of Geraldine Ferraro, I would never have been chosen as the vice president (nominee)."* With the help of the media, Obama thus has the advantage of no one else being allowed to bring up the topic of race while he is free to use it at any time; any criticism of him can be turned into racism, while he can freely criticize opponents. [1173]

On March 16, J. P. Morgan Chase acquires Bear Stearns for \$2 per share. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is at 11,972.25. [1238]

Obama makes the remarkable comment, *"All of the statements that have been the subject of controversy are ones that I vehemently condemn."* (In other words, "If anyone has ever said anything that offended you, then I'm against what he said.") [353]

On March 18, Obama delivers what is billed as an "important race speech" in Philadelphia, in response to questions raised about his association with his controversial pastor, Jeremiah Wright. Instead of criticizing Wright and suggesting that he, Obama, was wrong to associate with the hate-filled, racist minister, Obama condescendingly blames the American people for their inveterate racism. He turns what could have been a transformational apology into an accusation. With the help of an uncritical and supportive media, Obama gets away with it. [842, pp. 112-113]

In March Obama votes to continue allowing federal funds to be distributed to declared "sanctuary cities" (cities which support hiding illegal aliens from immigration authorities and interfering with deportation attempts). He also votes for a bill increasing taxes on those who earn more than \$1 million per year, and votes against allowing a reduction in the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). [97]

According to the State Department, Obama's federal passport file is improperly viewed at least three times, at least once by someone sympathetic to his campaign. (A few weeks later a police officer involved with the investigation of that illegal passport access is found shot to death in his car in Washington, D.C.) [158,2438,2439]

On April 1, Obama visits Tama Manufacturing in Allentown, Pennsylvania. After some gratuitous flirting with a female employee, Obama praises the company as a success story, saying *"I'm glad to see we still have a good company here with a good owner looking after his workers."* Obama is unaware that Tama workers make only \$10.50 per hour and had recently been on a 15-week strike. [842, p. 331]

Obama, wooing blue-collar votes in Pennsylvania, goes to a bowling alley – where his score is an almost unbelievable 37. This prompts some critics to ask, *"If he bowls like a fag, does that mean he is one?"* [856,842, p. 404]

The Democrats' increase in the federal cigarette tax, from \$0.39 to \$1.01 per pack, goes into effect. In New York City the cost of a pack of cigarettes tops \$9.00 – which includes over \$5.00 in state and local taxes. [2413]

Obama remarks in an April 6 speech in San Francisco that because of lost jobs the residents of small-town America *"...get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or (become) anti-immigrant."* His imprudent comment, full of patronizing condescension and contempt, draws severe criticism from gun-owners and church-goers. [273,315,1609]

During that same speech Obama mentions his 1981 trip to Pakistan in an effort to "shore up" his foreign policy credentials, saying *"I knew what Sunni and Shia was (sic) before I joined the Senate Foreign Relations Committee."* Obama's press secretary Bill Burton later confirms the trip, which prompts questions from those who wonder how Obama could get into Pakistan during a period of martial law when Americans (as well as Christians, Jews, and most non-Muslims) were prohibited from entering that nation. [1609]

On April 10, Obama says he favors repealing Bill Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" practice for gays serving in the military. [337]

Michelle Obama addresses a Pennsylvania crowd. The rally is staffed by volunteers from Carnegie Mellon student organizations. Obama's staffers make a special effort to control the seating of people who will appear on camera behind Mrs. Obama. Witnesses hear one coordinator say to another, *"Get me more white people, we need more white people."* [352,842, p. 321]

In a primary debate on April 17, Obama makes the statement, *"I believe that the Constitution confers an individual right to bear arms. But just because you have an individual right does not mean that the state or local government can't constrain the exercise of that right."* (While an Illinois State Senator, Obama voted four times against legislation that would allow citizens to use firearms to defend their homes and families.) [337]

On April 18, Citigroup reveals an additional \$12 billion in sub-prime losses. Its \$40 billion total loss exceeds those of all other banks. The DJIA is at 12,849.36. [1238]

Under political pressure, Obama, in May of 2008, half-heartedly disowns Reverend Jeremiah Wright and (at least temporarily) quits his controversial church. It is not clear if his wife and children still attend the church. [151]

Reverend Wright responds to Obama's new-found criticism by saying, "*He had to distance himself, because he's a politician, from what the media was saying I had said, which was anti-American.*" Wright tells the media that friends had written to him and said, "*We both know that if Senator Obama did not say what he said, he would never get elected.*" Wright then added, "*Politicians say what they say and do what they do based on electability, based on sound bites, based on polls.*" [446]

A birth certificate purported to be Obama's is alleged to be that of his younger half-sister, Maya Cassandra Soetoro (b. 1970), which was altered to make it look like the candidate's. Although Maya Soetoro was born in Indonesia, her mother later took her to Hawaii to have the birth registered there.) [153,289]

Having failed to get Senate Bill 2678 passed, on April 10 Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) introduces Senate Resolution 511 to "*recognize that John Sidney McCain is a natural born citizen.*" The resolution is allegedly intended to clarify that McCain is eligible to be President even though he was born in Panama. Because McCain's parents were both Americans and he was born in Panama while his father was stationed there while in the military, existing law arguably already covers McCain and he is eligible to serve as President. McCaskill's resolution is therefore unnecessary and serves no purpose, but an effort is made by McCaskill and Obama to change the resolution's language to provide a "blanket cover" for *other* foreign born candidates *without* military backgrounds – in an attempt to enable Obama to be eligible to serve as President should it be discovered that he was not born in Hawaii. McCaskill and Obama have the following language *inserted*, "*Whereas previous presidential candidates were born outside of the United States of America and were understood to be eligible to be President...*" They also unsuccessfully attempt to *remove* the following language, "*...and Whereas John Sidney McCain, III, was born to American citizens on an American military base in the Panama Canal Zone in 1936.*" The only reasonable explanation for the resolution and the proposed changes is to cover Obama if he is not a natural born citizen. [301,303]

At an April 17 campaign appearance in Raleigh, North Carolina, Obama crudely and childishly "gives Hillary Clinton the finger" by scratching his face with his middle finger while mentioning her by name. [853,2049,842, p. 332]

On April 18, police lieutenant Quarles Harris, Jr. is found shot to death in his car in Washington, D.C. Harris had been cooperating with federal investigators in connection with the 2008 illegal access of passport information related to Obama, Hillary Clinton, and John McCain. (A year later there are still no arrests in connection with the murder/assassination.) [2438]

Hillary Clinton beats Obama in the April 22 Pennsylvania primary 55 to 45 points. Obama is harmed partly by the over-saturation of his ads (he outspends Clinton by a margin of two-to-one or more), and partly by voters who had simply tired of seeing and hearing him and listening to his condescending tone. Obama is also harmed slightly by his homophobic refusal to grant interviews with gay publications. The Philadelphia Gay News had featured an interview with Clinton, with the headline, "*Clinton Talks, Obama Walks.*" [842, p. 332]

It is reported that the Obama campaign's "official blogger," Sam Graham-Felsen, has participated in labor riots in France, written articles for a socialist magazine, and hung in his dorm room a communist flag he had purchased on a trip to Russia. [1244]

In the few weeks following his defeat in Pennsylvania, Obama loses enthusiasm. He puts forward no new proposals, repeats his standard stump speech, and appears stale and tired. One British journalist notes that Obama is an "*Adulation addict: he needed the adoration of the mob as his emotional fuel*" – and he wasn't getting it after the Pennsylvania loss. Most of Obama's primary wins were early; he was ahead of Clinton in delegate count as a result, but she was winning the later primaries. [842, p. 335]

On April 29, Obama states, "*I still believe in affirmative action as a means of overcoming both historic and potentially current discrimination.*" [337]

Obama promises, "*I will make ending the genocide in Darfur a priority from day one.*" [1680]

In a primary debate statement that reveals Obama's hatred of capitalism, Obama tells ABC's Charlie Gibson, "*I would look at raising the capital-gains tax for purposes of fairness*" – even though raising that tax would ultimately result in shrinking federal revenues. Gibson correctly points out that a higher capital gains tax typically means *less* tax revenue for the federal government, but Obama remarks that he would raise it anyway, simply to punish people who made money through the capitalist system. [265,295]

The Guardian asks Michelle Obama if she was offended by Bill Clinton's January remark that her husband's perception of the war in Iraq is a "fairy tale." She

responds, *"No... I want to rip his eyes out!"* After a glance from an aide, she adds, *"Kidding... see, this is what gets me into trouble."* [2214,2215]

In May the New York Times reports that Obama quietly dumps his anti-Israel advisor Robert Malley after the media learns he has regular contacts with the Iran-financed terrorist group Hamas.

Nevada issues an arrest warrant for Tony Rezko for having written at least \$450,000 in bad checks to Caesar's Palace and Bally's. Rezko also allegedly owes \$331,000 to the Bellagio casino. The checks are from Rezko's account at Broadway Bank, which is run by the mob-connected Giannoulas family. The checks date back to 2006, when the bank's vice-president, Obama-endorsed Alexi Giannoulas, was running for Illinois State Treasurer. [319]

Upon winning the North Carolina primary, Obama remarks, *"I trust the American people to understand that it is not weakness, but wisdom to talk not just to our friends, but to our enemies, like Roosevelt did, and Kennedy did, and Truman did."* President Roosevelt never spoke with Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Emperor Hirohito, or Hideki Tojo. Nor did President Truman speak with them or with North Korean leader Kim Il Sung. (President Kennedy did meet with Soviet Premier Khrushchev in 1961, and was considered by him a lightweight who could be intimidated and blackmailed.) [2511]

Sometime in May, 2008, Obama meets with Hassam Qazwini, a pro-Iranian lobbyist and head of the Islamic Center of America. [1973]

While in Oregon, Obama states he has campaigned in "57 states." [855,842, p. 362]

On May 15, Obama blows off a female reporter, WXYZ's Peggy Agar, by ignoring her question and calling her *"Sweetie."* Obama has referred to women as "sweetie" on many other occasions as well. [353,842, p. 331]

It is reported that the Obama campaign hired 400 bloggers to post comments on the Internet to sway Hillary Clinton supporters to defect to Obama and not allow Democrat divisiveness to cost them the election. [1243]

At a fund-raiser in Denver, Obama states that if he is elected he *"...would call my attorney general in and review every single executive order issued by George Bush and overturn those laws or executive decisions that I feel violate the Constitution."* Although he professes to be a "Constitutional law professor," Obama apparently is unaware that only the Supreme Court can "overturn laws" – the president has no such authority. [2500,2502]

In New Mexico on Memorial Day, Obama states, *“As our nation honors its unbroken line of fallen heroes – and I see many of them here in the audience today – our sense of patriotism is particularly strong.”* (No dead heroes were actually in the audience.) Obama also boasts that his maternal grandmother’s brother, in the 89th Infantry Division, had liberated a Buchenwald camp in April of 1945, when it was the Soviet Red Army that had done that. [842, p. 362]

In a commencement address at Wesleyan University, Obama advises graduates *not* to pursue the American dream, but to serve others, saying, *“You can take your diploma, walk off this stage and chase only after the big house and the nice suits and all the other things that our money culture says you should. But I hope you don’t.”* (In other words, “Do as I say, not as my wife and I did.”) [276]

In June, Obama tours a solar power plant in Nevada, where he says that renewable energy *“isn’t some pie-in-the-sky, far off future, it is now... providing cheap alternatives to \$140 per barrel oil.”* That facility powers only 75 homes and took ten years to build – at a cost of almost \$300,000 *per home*. [154]

Certain he has the nomination sewed up, Obama gives a self-congratulatory victory speech in St. Paul on June 3 in which he states, *“I am absolutely certain that generations from now, we will be able to look back and tell our children that this was the moment when we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs to the jobless.”* He then takes credit for superhuman tasks he has yet to accomplish, with the words, *“...this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal.”* [353,1035]

When questioned about attempts by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to introduce “Fairness Doctrine” legislation that would restrict conservative radio talk show hosts like Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity, Obama’s campaign press secretary, Michael Ortiz, says Obama supports *“media-ownership caps, network neutrality”* and more *“public broadcasting.”* Ortiz further states that Obama considers the fairness doctrine debate to be *“...a distraction from the conversation we should be having about opening up the airwaves and modern communications to as many diverse viewpoints as possible.”* Obama’s approach to silencing radio critics like Limbaugh and Hannity will likely rely, instead, on an existing “localism” rule in FCC regulations. That rule requires stations to serve the interests of their local communities in order to keep their FCC broadcast licenses. As President, Obama will have the opportunity to replace at least one FCC member, which would enable him to help define “localism” in a way that reduces the influence of conservative broadcasters, and allow radio station licenses to be revoked and given to liberal minority owners. Obama and Pelosi will attempt to re-instate a “Fairness Doctrine” – they will simply give it a different name. [152,520]

On June 4, Obama's main money-man, Tony Rezko, is convicted of 16 (out of 24) counts of felony charges for influence-peddling, fraud, money laundering, and bribery conspiracy, after a lengthy FBI investigation known as "Operation Board Games." Obama's response is, *"I'm saddened by today's verdict. This isn't the Tony Rezko I knew, but now he has been convicted by a jury on multiple charges that once again shine a spotlight on the need for reform."* [316,842 p. 9]

On June 5, in Briston, Virginia, Obama states, *"Well, we're here today because we know that if we're going to make real progress, this time must be different. Throughout my career, in Illinois and the United States senate, I've worked to reduce the power of the special interests by leading the fight for ethics reform. I've sent a strong signal in this campaign by refusing the contributions of registered federal lobbyists and PACs. And today, I'm announcing that going forward, the Democrat National Committee will uphold the same standard and won't take another dime from Washington lobbyists or special interest PACs. They do not fund my campaign. They will not fund our party. And they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I'm President of the United States."* His ardent supporters believe his statement. [2510]

On June 6, reporters traveling with Obama board his campaign plane at Dulles International Airport to head with him to his next destination, Chicago. Obama never boards the plane, and instead heads off to a "secret meeting." Reporters on the plane are outraged, and are less than pleased with unsatisfactory and evasive information given by Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs. One reporter asks, *"Why were we not told about this meeting until we were on the plane, the doors were shut and the plane was about to taxi to take off?"* Gibbs answers, *"Senator Obama had a desire to do some meetings, others had a desire to meet with him tonight in a private way, and that is what we are doing."* Another reporter asks, *"Is there more than one meeting, is there more than one person with whom he is meeting?"* Gibbs replied, *"I am not going to get into all the details of the meeting."* Reporters initially believe the meeting is with Hillary Clinton at a private location. Others believe that both Obama and Clinton are at the nearby Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Virginia, where Henry Kissinger, David Rockefeller, and other "globalists" had gathered for the annual "Bilderberg Group" conference. [1752,1753]

At a convenient moment the hotel's fire alarm goes off, enabling staff to clear the premises of media investigators trying to cover the group. Investigators say the hotel was swarming with security, and they were "tailed" as they drove their cars near the area. At least seven convoys with armed Secret Service escorts are seen arriving at the hotel, and many observers are certain Obama and Clinton are among the attendees of the conference – along with former Fannie Mae chairman James A. Johnson, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. Although the mainstream media gives little or no coverage to the

Bilderberg Group, alternative media, via the Internet, has been able to report of the semi-secret group's existence and its possible agenda. The Bilderberg Group itself issued a press release with these comments, *"The conference will deal mainly with a nuclear free world, cyber terrorism, Africa, Russia, finance, protectionism, U.S.-European Union relations, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Islam and Iran. Approximately 140 participants will attend, of whom about two-thirds come from Europe and the balance from North America. About one-third is (sic) from government and politics, and two-thirds are from finance, industry, labor, education and communications. The meeting is private in order to encourage frank and open discussion."* There would seem to be no reason to hide the presence of Obama and Clinton at the Bilderberg Group meeting if, in fact, its agenda is as was described in its press release. [1752,1753]

On June 7, the day after the Bilderberg Group meeting, Hillary Clinton concedes the Democrat primary race to Obama. [2510]

On June 12, 2008, Obama agrees to a Democrat budget proposal that calls for raising income taxes from 25 to 28 per cent for individuals with gross incomes of at \$42,000 or more. [315]

In June, the pro-Obama web site "Daily Kos" receives from the Obama campaign's Tommy Vietor an alleged scanned copy of Obama's "birth certificate." The original computer image is 2550 x 3300 pixels, and is provided to four pro-Obama organizations for on-line posting. Between June 12 and June 16, the "Daily Kos" site posts it at 2427 x 2369 pixels, "Fight the Smears" posts it as 575 x 585, "Factcheck" posts it at 2550 x 3300, and "Politifact" posts it at 811 x 786. (The various images may possibly still be available at dailykos.com, fightthesmears.com, factcheck.org, and politifact.com.) The posted "birth certificate" is *not* the "long form" document with all the important birth details, but the "short form" – which the State of Hawaii will issue even if the child is born somewhere other than Hawaii but the parents are residents of Hawaii. (Note that the "Fight the Smears" image was originally posted at 1024 x 1100 pixels, but was replaced the very next day with a lower-resolution image of 575 x 585, possibly because people were finding evidence of forgery in the more detailed document image.) [548,549]

Document expert Dr. Ron Polarik examines the scanned image of the Obama birth certificate, subjects it to over 700 tests, and determines that it is a forgery – created with the intent to defraud the American people into believing that the images were scans of an original, valid birth certificate. [548,549]

The birth certificate image provided by the Obama campaign has text written with *bitmap* fonts, rather than *vector* fonts – an indication that the text was superimposed on a blank form using a graphics program. Image "Exif" data also supports the argument that the document is a computer forgery. The original .jpg

scan was likely saved as a .gif file, edited as a .gif image, and then saved as a .jpg file. (According to Polarik the process explains, for example, the color loss that appears in between the letters of the words “child’s name” on the document.) [548,549]

The forgery process likely involved scanning someone’s valid Hawaiian document as a .jpg file, converting it to a .gif file, using a graphics program to cover the existing text with copied background image, placing the new Obama text over that, and then saving the file as a .jpg document with enough compression (a 45 per cent compression ratio) to attempt to hide the alterations. Lending credence to the forgery suspicion is the fact that the “certificate” used a 2007 form for the background but copied a 2008 seal and signature stamp. [548,549]

The scanned image of the Obama birth document shows no crease marks from having been folded, but those creases should be visible on the document image. A photograph of the document on factcheck.org shows the document, clearly folded and “posed” for the photograph to indicate that it is a “real:” piece of paper. There is no reason why the photograph should show the two folds when the scanned image does not. Had the document been mailed from Hawaii, folded in a regular business envelope, the fold marks would have been visible in both the factcheck.org photograph *and* the scanned image – but the scanned image shows no fold marks. One explanation is that the document was forged, “created” on a computer, with that image published on the Internet. The “document” was then printed, and folded for the photograph to “prove” the form exists. [2391]

More information about the Obama birth certificate is revealed when the document posted on the Internet is examined with a “hex editor.” (A hex editor allows the user to see the raw, exact file contents as opposed to a displayed image.) The hexadecimal information within the Obama document shows that the image was edited with Adobe Photoshop CS3 software, on June 12, 2008, at 8:42 in the morning. A document that is simply scanned and posted on the Internet would have no such information within the raw file information. [2391]

Obama receives endorsements, albeit with reservations, from Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi and North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il. North Korea’s press release remarks, “*We will see a better relationship between the U.S. and the Korean Peninsula with Obama, who sternly criticizes Bush and who would meet the leader of Chosun (North Korea) without pre-conditions, than with the ‘Bush clone’ and scarecrow of the neocons McCain.*” [1360]

In June, 2008, two Muslim women at an Obama rally in Detroit are moved from their seated positions behind Obama in order to prevent the women’s headscarves from appearing in photographs with the candidate. [353]

In June, Obama delivers a speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in which he states that if he is elected president, *“Jerusalem would remain the capital of Israel and it must remain undivided.”* Immediately following the speech Obama reverses himself during a CNN appearance, explaining he only meant that Jerusalem shouldn’t be divided with any *physical* partition. [512]

In June of 2008, Obama’s campaign reveals a customized “Obama Presidential Seal” that hangs from the lectern for his speeches. The seal doesn’t last long; its use is discontinued after intense criticism of Obama’s arrogance... and after the campaign learns it is illegal to create and use a false presidential seal. [353]

Michelle Obama tells a crowd, *“The truth is, in order to get things like universal health care and a revamped education system, then someone is going to have to give up a piece of their pie so that someone else can have more.”* (It doesn’t occur to her – or her candidate husband – that the economy is not a fixed size and it can grow, thus allowing everyone to earn a bigger “piece of the pie” without having to confiscate any from someone else.) [352]

On June 18, a press conference is held by Larry Sinclair at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. during which he charges that he had shared crack cocaine and had sex with Obama on two occasions in November of 1999, in a Chicago cab and at a hotel in Gurnee, Illinois. Sinclair also discusses the murder of Donald Young, the gay choir director of Obama’s church who was alleged to have had sex with Obama. Obama campaign strategist David Axelrod allegedly pays Dan Parisi, of the porno site www.whitehouse.com, \$750,000 to discredit Sinclair. Parisi calls off his “counter press conference” when Sinclair is arrested immediately his press conference, apparently on an old, outstanding warrant from Delaware. The warrant to arrest Sinclair is issued by Beau Biden, Attorney General of Delaware and son of Senator Joe Biden. (Note: The web site www.whitehouse.com was a private site displaying pornography, while www.whitehouse.gov is the official site of the White House. Parisi, the owner of the [.com](http://www.whitehouse.com) site eventually sold the domain; it is now advertised as a non-partisan political web site.) [1991,842, pp. 358-359]

When asked what he would do as President if Osama bin Laden were captured, Obama suggests a trial like the Nazi War Crimes tribunal at Nuremberg. Obama, who agrees with granting terrorist detainees at Guantanamo the right of habeas corpus, states *“I think what would be important would be for us to do it in a way that allows the entire world to understand the murderous acts that he’s engaged in and not to make him into a martyr and to assure that the United States government is abiding by the basic conventions that would strengthen our hand in the broader battle against terrorism.”* Obama is incorrect – those tried at Nuremberg were *not* given the right of habeas corpus (which allows prisoners to question the right of their captors to hold them), and the *military* court proceedings in Nuremberg consisted of international judges from the United

States, Great Britain, France, and the U.S.S.R. Obama may believe that the Nuremberg process is an appropriate civilian model for trying bin Laden... but that is *not* what it was. [2503,2504]

With regard to the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centers (WTC) Obama states, *"What we know is that in previous terrorist attacks, for example, the first attack against the World Trade Center, we were able to arrest those responsible, put them on trial. They are currently in U.S. prisons, incapacitated."* Obama is arguing that attacks on the homeland should be considered criminal acts, rather than acts of war, and those responsible should be treated as criminals. Obama neglects to recognize, however, that only *some* of the terrorists who bombed the WTC were prosecuted, convicted, and jailed. Others involved, including Khalid Sheik Mohammed and Abdul Rahman Yasin, escaped prosecution because of the limitations of treating war as a simple crime. In expressing a preference for civilian court proceedings to deal with the perpetrators of acts of war, Obama is holding up an *unsuccessful* model of prosecution as his ideal. [2504]

By June of 2008, Google has sporadically restricted access to at least seven anti-Obama (mostly Hillary Clinton-supporting) web sites. (After Obama is elected he is frequently seen accompanied by Google CEO Eric Schmidt, who also attends a closed-door meeting with Obama and his economic advisory team. Schmidt is on the "Leadership Council" of a leftist group called "The New America Foundation." Also on the council is Jonathan Soros, the son of billionaire leftist George Soros, a significant donor to leftist candidates and organizations like Daily Kos, ACORN, Media Matters, MoveOn.org, and the Democrat Party.) [353,467,505,712]

A writer for *"Online Journal,"* Wayne Madsen, publishes an article on June 9, 2008 claiming a research team went to Mombasa, Kenya, and located a certificate of the Kenyan birth of Barack Obama, Jr. [248]

Fearing additional publicity of his links to radical socialists, Obama removes all of Mike Klonsky's blogs from his official campaign web site. Klonsky, a political activist and leader of the "New Communist Movement," was a 1960s radical in the Students for a Democratic Society and an avid advocate of Maoism who formed a pro-Chinese sect called the October League – which then evolved into a Beijing-recognized Communist Party. Klonsky, another disciple of Saul Alinsky, was chairman of the party. He was also one of the first westerners allowed to visit the People's Republic of China, and was honored with state dinners in Beijing. [155,201,408]

In an interview with the New Republic, Mike Kruglik, one of Obama's early mentors in the art of community activism, says of Obama, *"He was a natural, the undisputed master of agitation, who could engage a room full of recruiting targets in a rapid-fire Socratic dialogue, nudging them to admit that they were not living*

up to their own standards... he could be aggressive and confrontational. With probing, sometimes personal questions, he would pinpoint the source of pain in their lives, tearing down their egos just enough before dangling a carrot of hope that they could make things better." That modus operandi is similar to what Obama follows on the campaign trail: list the things that many people believe are not going well in their lives; get the crowd riled up, angry and feeling hopeless; and then present himself as the one who can save them from their problems – regardless of whether he can. [239,337]

On June 26 a letter sent by New York Senator Charles Schumer to the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is made public. The letter expresses doubts about the solvency of the IndyMac Bancorp Inc., which specializes in mortgages. (IndyMac had made frequent "liar's loans," where a bank accepts the borrower's statement of job, assets, and income without confirmation; IndyMac made over \$80 billion such loans in 2006 alone.) On June 27, Schumer tells the Los Angeles Times, "*I am concerned that IndyMac's financial deterioration poses significant risks to both taxpayers and borrowers,*" and the "*bank could face a failure if prescriptive measures are not taken quickly.*" Although the bank had been receiving net inflows of money from depositors, the release of Schumer's letter prompts a rush of withdrawals totaling \$1.3 billion. Within a few weeks (July 12) federal regulators seize the bank. It is argued that Schumer's release of his letter caused a run on the bank and caused potential buyers of the bank to change their minds about acquiring it. Schumer's actions may have been illegal. Schumer denies having anything to do with the run on the bank, instead blaming the OTS. Some charge that Schumer intentionally leaked the letter in order to devalue IndyMac and help Democrat donors who planned on purchasing the bank get a better sale price. (Schumer would be serving prison time if such a charge could be proven.) [1179,1180,1385,2189,2194]

On June 27 the Boston Globe reports Obama's associations with Cecil Butler, a campaign contributor who controlled Lawndale Restoration, Chicago's largest subsidized-housing complex. With Obama's assistance Butler received \$51 million in state funds for renovations. Butler also received assistance from Valerie Jarrett's Habitat Company. After a woman making a drug deal drove her SUV into one of the buildings and caused it to collapse in 2004, city inspectors found more than 1,800 code violations in the 97 buildings and 1,200 apartments, including roof leaks, exposed wiring, and raw sewage. The federal government eventually seized the complex in 2006. Lawndale residents staged a protest against Obama in 2004, complaining that he ignored their slum conditions at the same time he accepted \$3,000 in campaign donations from Butler. Obama took no action to improve their housing. [842, p. 202]

Obama's lawyers file a complaint with the Justice Department in an effort to stop the broadcasting of an "American Leadership Project" campaign ad linking Obama to William Ayers. [157]

In July of 2008, a complaint is filed with the Illinois Bar Association alleging that Obama should be disbarred as a result of lying on his bar application. His application concealed his use of another name (Barry Soetoro), his felony drug use (cocaine) in New York, and approximately \$400 in unpaid parking fines. (The bar application requires listing all aliases, drug use, and fines in excess of \$200.) The complaint is filed too late to be effective because Obama had already voluntarily relinquished his law license in early 2007 – perhaps to avoid an embarrassing disbarment. [217,1096]

Obama addresses the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at its 99th annual convention in Cincinnati, where he says, *"I've been working my entire adult life to help build an America where economic justice is being served,"* and pledges that he will *"ensure that economic justice is served."* He does not have to translate "economic justice" to the audience, which understands that when a Democrat uses the term it means "punishing the successful and redistributing their wealth" through government policies and programs. Another of Obama's comments, *"restoring fairness to the economy"* is code for "soak the rich with tax increases." [33]

The satirical web site *"The Onion"* posts an article called, *"Recession-Plagued Nation Demands New Bubble To Invest In,"* which reports, *"A panel of top business leaders testified before Congress about the worsening recession Monday, demanding the government provide Americans with a new irresponsible and largely illusory economic bubble in which to invest. What America needs right now is not more talk and long-term strategy, but a concrete way to create more imaginary wealth in the very immediate future... 'We are in a crisis, and that crisis demands an unviable short-term solution.'" Although the article is meant to be humorous, more than one reader no doubt recognized some truth in it. [1852]*

In a July speech Obama says, *"But understand this, instead of worrying whether immigrants should learn English, they'll learn English, you need to make sure your child can speak Spanish."* It is not known if Obama can today speak another language, but he has recited the Muslim call to prayer, in perfect Arabic, to a New York Times reporter. (Obama states he learned the Indonesian language quickly when he moved to Jakarta as a child, but former teachers and classmates say he never grasped the language and was quiet because of that.) [122,257,353,2288]

Candidate Obama remarks about Hillary Clinton, *"I am confident I will get her votes if I'm the nominee. It's not clear she would get the votes I got if she were*

the nominee.” This is a veiled threat that if Obama does not win the Democrat nomination blacks will stay home rather than vote for Hillary Clinton. [159]

When discussing slavery reparations with a group of “minority journalists,” Obama states, *“I consistently believe that when it comes to...reparations, the most important thing for the U.S. government to do is not just offer words, but offer deeds.”* Several days later, to calm fears of white taxpayers who read his remarks, Obama adds that he’s not calling for *direct* cash payments to descendents of slaves, but *indirect* aid through government programs to “close the gap” between white America and black America. The government programs will be “universal” – such as universal health care, mortgage credits, college tuition, job training, and even universal 401(k) accounts – programs that Obama feels “disproportionately affect people of color.” That is, Obama does not dare propose a program to directly tax whites to give payments to blacks so he instead will offer “universal” programs for everyone, but will design them so that blacks will benefit disproportionately. (The net result would essentially be the same, however. Taxing mostly-white citizens to fund *programs* for blacks may not seem much different than taxing them to give the *money* directly to blacks – even if some blacks end up paying higher taxes in the process.) One of Obama’s advisors is Professor Charles Ogletree, a prominent proponent of slavery reparations. Another avid supporter of slavery reparations is the anti-gun Illinois Congressman Bobby Rush. [275,1600,842, p. 68]

Obama continues to oppose school voucher and school choice programs, including the successful and popular experimental program in the Washington, D.C. system (where students do better using \$7,500 vouchers at private schools than they do at the \$13,400 per-student public schools). To gain the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers, Obama tells the union members he won’t be swayed by *“tired rhetoric about vouchers and school choice.”* Obama’s own children, of course, *have* school choice – and attend the private University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, where annual tuition ranges from \$15,528 for kindergarten to \$20,445 for high school. In a YouTube debate Obama says that was *“the best option”* for *his* children. (In his 1996 candidate questionnaire when running for the Illinois State Senate, Obama responded *“No”* to the question, *“Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools?”*) [274]

Dr. Alveda King, a niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, remarks that Obama’s *“...answer to the ills of society, of higher government spending, weaker national defense, continued tax dollars to Planned Parenthood, and support of gay marriage, are diametrically opposed to everything African Americans truly believe and an anathema to the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”* [160]

Several times on the campaign trail Obama refers to an incident where his white grandmother was approached by a black panhandler, and remarks about her

response being that of a “*typical white person.*” This remark stuns her former co-workers at the Bank of Hawaii, who state that Madelyn Dunham never made comments about anyone’s ethnicity. (Obama’s opponents, of course, would not be able to get away with using the phrase, “*typical black person.*”) [744]

Obama defeats Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton in enough of the primaries to become the likely Democrat candidate for President of the United States. Obama arrives at the Democrat National Convention without technically having won enough committed delegates in the primaries to win the nomination, but manages to persuade enough “super delegates” to vote for him to win the nomination. The “persuasion techniques” include DNC Chairman Dean and his surrogates telling delegates they must vote for Obama or he (Dean) will work to defeat them by funding primary challengers in their Congressional or local races. [161]

In an appearance at the Saddleback Church, Pastor Rick Warren asks Obama when he believes human life begins. Obama, wanting to avoid his controversial pro-abortion votes, responds, “*Well, (sigh), you know, I... I... eh, er, I think that whether you’re looking at it from a theological perspective or, uh, a scientific perspective, answering that question with specificity, uh, you know, is above my pay grade.*” Most of the people in the audience and watching on television believe Obama’s answer is “reflective,” not knowing that he was avoiding the question and that his voting record is likely more pro-abortion than that of any legislator in the nation. (They also likely assume he is intelligent because he used the word “specificity.”) [315,430]

John McCain also appears at the Saddleback Church, and Obama’s campaign accuses him of having been fed his questions by Pastor Warren in advance. Obama staffers make sure NBC reporter Andrea Mitchell repeats the unfounded charges on the evening news. Warren and McCain categorically deny the charge. No apology to Warren or McCain is issued by Obama... or Mitchell. [162]

Reverend Leah Daughtry is named by Obama and DNC chair Howard Dean to be the Democrat National Convention chief. In Daughtry’s home-town “House of the Lord Church” in Brooklyn hangs a banner supporting slavery reparations, which reads, “*They Owe Us.*” [163]

Eric Holder, who was instrumental in persuading Bill Clinton to pardon members of the terrorist group FALN and fugitive financier Marc Rich, leads Obama’s team to select his Vice-Presidential running mate. Holder is also rumored to be a potential Attorney General in an Obama Administration. Working with Holder on the selection committee is James Johnson, former CEO of Fannie Mae, who was found “cooking the books” at the mortgage giant to inflate its earnings and boost his executive bonus. Another former CFO of Fannie Mae, Tim Howard, is a chief economic advisor to Obama. [164,353]

Among the groups working for Obama is “Progressives for Obama,” which is supported by Mark Rudd (who had been trained by the KGB in Cuba and was a former Weather Underground member and close ally of William Ayers); Tom Hayden (former husband of actress Jane Fonda and principal founder of the radical Students for a Democratic Society, who traveled to North Vietnam to give support to the Viet Cong); Bill Fletcher (founder of the Marxist Black Radical Congress); Barbara Ehrenreich (honorary chairman of the Democratic Socialists of America); and actor Danny Glover (recipient of \$20 million from Venezuela’s dictator Hugo Chavez to make a movie about a Haitian communist revolutionary). Ayers is also on the board of a Venezuelan government think tank assigned the task of bringing Cuban-style education to Venezuela. Ehrenreich and Fletcher co-authored the article, *“Rising to the Occasion; Re-Imagining Socialism: A Nation Forum,”* in which they express satisfaction that the American economy is flailing but admit that they and their fellow socialists *“...don’t even have a plan for the deliberative process that... has to replace the anarchic madness of capitalism.”* [218,262,2026]

In support of abortion, Obama remarks that if his daughters ever make a mistake and get pregnant, he wouldn’t *“want them punished with a baby.”* [165,315]

Obama tells Jeffrey Goldberg of *“The Atlantic”* that Israel is a *“constant sore”* that *“infects all of our foreign policy.”* [343]

Obama takes credit in campaign ads for *“...extending health care for wounded troops who had been neglected,”* referring to the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. Obama was not, however, present for voting when that legislation passed, nor was it drafted by him. [351]

A review of campaign donations filed with Federal Election Commission shows that Obama’s campaign receives a substantial number of contributions in unusual amounts, such as \$74.37 or \$42.95, suggesting they were illegal foreign contributions originally made in “even” amounts which were then converted to U.S. dollars. The Obama campaign appears to have made no effort to identify or return illegal foreign contributions. Obama has over \$200 million in contributions of less than \$200, but his campaign has done little to insure that they are legal. The campaign also illegally accepts contributions without requiring donor addresses. Hedge funds around the world are suspected of massive donations to the Obama campaign in an effort to influence his future actions as President. (The Federal Election Campaign Act *“...prohibits any foreign national from contributing, donating or spending funds in connection with any federal, state, or local election in the United States, either directly or indirectly. It is also unlawful to help foreign nationals violate that ban or to solicit, receive or accept contributions or donations from them. Persons who knowingly and willfully engage in these activities may be subject to fines and/or imprisonment.”* The Obama campaign

likely received millions of dollars in illegal foreign campaign contributions.)
[166,167,2284]

Obama's wife criticizes President Bush's \$600 economic stimulus checks at a "working-women's round table discussion," saying, "*The short-term quick fix kinda sounds good, and it may even feel good that first month when you get that check, and then you go out and buy a pair of earrings.*" [168]

Obama visits Iraq in July. Although campaigning publicly for a quick and steady withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, Obama – not wanting the Bush Administration to receive credit for any successes – tries in private to persuade Iraqi leaders to *delay* an agreement on a reduction of American troops. Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari confirms that Obama demanded the delay during discussions with Iraqi leaders, stating that Obama "...asked why we were not prepared to delay an agreement until after the US elections and the formation of a new administration in Washington." Obama tells the Iraqis it is in the interests of both sides not to have an agreement negotiated by the Bush administration in its "*state of weakness and political confusion.*" Zebari relates that he responded to Obama, "*As an Iraqi, I believe that even if there is a Democrat administration in the White House it had better continue the present policy instead of wasting a lot of time thinking what to do.*" (Obama was attempting to thwart U.S. policy, and Zebari told him not to not interfere.)
[169,200,350]

That action by Obama in Iraq is possibly in violation of the Logan Act, which prohibits unauthorized individuals from negotiating with foreign governments. The crime is a felony, and can be punished with a three year prison sentence. (The Logan Act reads, in part, "*Any citizen of the United States, wherever he may be, who, without authority of the United States, directly or indirectly commences or carries on any correspondence or intercourse with any foreign government or any officer or agent thereof, with intent to influence the measures or conduct of any foreign government or of any officer or agent thereof, in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States, or to defeat the measures of the United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.*") After the story is disclosed Obama denies having made the statements. Either Obama or Zebari is therefore lying, but even Obama's own protestations suggest Obama is making the false statements. Because Zebari is fluent in English, he likely would not have misinterpreted Obama's words.
[203,1017,2298]

During the July trip Obama privately remarks that it would be "crazy" for Israel to refuse a deal that would "*give them peace with the Muslim world.*" The source reporting the comment is likely Robert O. Malley, an Obama advisor with strong anti-Israel leanings. [497]

Obama tells Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad that he *“supports the rights of Palestinians to East Jerusalem, as well as their right to a stable, sovereign state,”* but asks them to keep his pledge confidential. Obama’s promise is meant to calm Palestinian fears that developed from a June speech in which he said that if he is elected, *“Jerusalem would remain the capital of Israel and it must remain undivided.”* [512]

At a press conference in Sderot, Israel, when asked about his commitment to protect the Jewish state, Obama responds, *“Just this past week, we passed out of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee – which is my committee – a bill to call for divestment from Iran as a way of ratcheting up the pressure to ensure that they don’t obtain a nuclear weapon.”* (The committee is *not* Obama’s... the Senate Banking Committee is chaired by Christopher Dodd.) When former Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu later asks Obama how his trip is going, Obama responds, *“I could fall asleep now standing up.”* (One assumes Netanyahu was not inspired by Obama’s answer.) [1608]

On a daily basis Obama receives two e-mails from his staff. One e-mail briefs him on major world events over the prior 24 hours, the other e-mail is a set of questions he is likely to be asked during the day, *with suggested answers.* [353]

Obama sponsors the Global AIDS Spending Bill. The bill adds \$50 billion to the \$200 billion in tax dollars already spent on fighting HIV/AIDS around the world. *The bill also lifts a ban on entry into the U.S. of AIDS-infected aliens.* The Congressional Budget Office estimates that U.S. taxpayers will end up spending \$83 billion treating those aliens and their HIV-infected children. [351]

In July, the American flag is removed from the tail of the Obama campaign plane and replaced with his trademark “O” campaign logo. After receiving considerable and immediate criticism, a much smaller U.S. flag is added. (Some have noted a striking similarity between Obama’s “O” logo and the symbol of William Ayers’ Weather Underground Organization.) [353,2447]

On July 14, Obama speaks to the National Council of La Raza (*“The Race,”* the nation’s largest Hispanic special interest group) and promises amnesty for the 12-20 million illegal immigrants in the United States, saying, *“That’s why we need to offer those who are willing to make amends a pathway to citizenship. That way, we can reconcile our values as both a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws.”* (A “pathway to citizenship” is already in place, of course, but it involves following the existing laws of the United States – which Obama apparently considers too great a burden.) [342]

In Berlin, Germany on July 24, Obama addresses a crowd estimated at 200,000 – a crowd that had already conveniently gathered for a free rock

concert – pretty much telling it what it wants to hear in order to ensure enthusiastic applause. Obama had originally wanted to give his speech at Berlin’s historic Brandenburg Gate, where Presidents Kennedy and Reagan had given speeches, but German Chancellor Angela Merkel was opposed to that because Obama is merely a candidate, not a President, and is thus only electioneering. Berlin’s socialist mayor, Klaus Wowereit, eventually manages to arrange for Obama to speak to the rock concert audience. (Some argue that expenses incurred by the city of Berlin to accommodate and protect Obama, because he is only a candidate, represent an illegal campaign contribution from a foreign source, and a complaint is filed with the FEC on February 26, 2009.) During the same trip Obama cancels a visit to wounded soldiers at an Army hospital after he learns the military will not allow campaign photographers to politicize the event. (There is no point in bothering to look sympathetic and caring if no cameras are around to record the event.) [353,1407,1408,1409]

While on his tour of Iraq and Europe, Obama meets with the President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy. In private, Sarkozy refers to Obama’s position on Iran as “*utterly immature*” and consisting of “*formulations empty of all content.*” According to Israeli sources, Sarkozy tells Obama that if the next American president changes his country’s policy toward Iran, that would be “*very problematic.*” [415]

At a meeting with Democratic lawmakers on July 29, Obama, apparently unburdened by even an ounce of humility, says he represents the “*world’s hopes for America*” and “*This is the moment the world is waiting for.*” He then adds, “*I have become a symbol of restoring America to its best traditions.*” [170]

In July and August of 2008, the head of Nigeria’s stock market holds Obama fundraisers in Lagos, Nigeria. An estimated \$900,000 is raised for Obama, despite the fact that it is illegal for the campaign to collect contributions from residents of other countries. The media neglects to investigate the many charges of illegal Obama campaign contributions but, in response to a comedy skit on NBC’s “*Saturday Night Live*” that mocked Republican Vice-Presidential candidate Sarah Palin, does manage to send a reporter to Alaska’s remote Little Diomedede island in order to confirm whether Russia can, in fact, be seen from the United States. (It can... Alaska and Russia are separated by only 2.4 miles of open water at their closest point, something which can be ascertained without dispatching a reporter to Alaska.) [245,1658]

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reports that a Clark County official “*sees rampant fraud in the 2,000 to 3,000 registrations ACORN turns in every week.*” Nevada is a state targeted by Obama as one he believes he can switch from Republican to Democrat. Expected vote fraud may be one the reasons for his confidence. [240]

At an early August campaign appearance in Elkhart, Indiana, a seven year old girl asks Obama why he wants to be president. He responds, *"America is ..., uh, is no longer, uh ... what it could be, what it once was. And I say to myself, I don't want that future for my children."* [2512]

Obama vacations in Hawaii. He spends a mere one hour with his maternal grandmother, Madelyn Dunham. He is not accompanied by his wife or two daughters, who are likely never again to see Dunham, age 86. [329]

In a letter to a homosexual rights group called the *"Family Equality Council,"* Obama pledges he will overturn the Defense of Marriage Act. [337]

At a campaign appearance in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Obama states he would eventually consider a single-payer (socialized medicine) health care system, but not immediately. He admits that, *"If I were designing a system from scratch, I would probably go ahead with a single-payer system."* Although Obama's preference is for a single-payer socialized system that would eliminate private insurance companies and have the government pay all health-care bills with tax dollars, he remarks that *"People don't have time to wait... My attitude is, let's build up the system we got (sic), let's make it more efficient, we maybe over time... (can insure) that there are other ways for us to provide care more effectively."* In other words, Obama will use a back-door approach to implementing socialized medicine. [426]

The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center estimates that Obama's tax plan would add at least \$3.4 trillion to the national debt, including interest, by 2018. (In less than a year it is obvious that the \$3.4 trillion figure is a gross underestimate of the increase in debt that appears likely.) [171]

The media reports that Obama's half-brother, George Obama (b. 1982), lives in poverty in a slum outside Nairobi. Obama provides his brother with no financial assistance (possibly because doing so would do nothing to help his candidacy), but he does support a United Nations "anti-global poverty tax" that would cost Americans approximately \$65 billion per year, with much of it going to Africa – through the incompetent, fraud-plagued United Nations. [173,174,175,277,289]

In addition to Obama's half-brother George in a Nairobi slum, it is learned that the candidate has a half-aunt and half-uncle living in a Boston, Massachusetts slum neighborhood. Zeituni Onyango walks with a cane and, despite being poor and on public aid, manages to scrape together a \$260 donation for the Obama campaign. Onyango is in the United States illegally. She refuses to talk to the media about Obama, but says she will do so after the election. Her request for asylum was rejected by a judge in 2004. Onyango's brother, Omar Onyango

Obama, also lives in poverty in Boston. He had been evicted from a one-room flat for failing to pay his rent. [427,441,968]

Obama's "global poverty program," to the extent it follows the United Nations "Millennium Goals" on which it is based, would be paid for with a "currency transfer tax," a "tax on the rental value of land and natural resources," a "royalty on worldwide fossil energy production – oil, natural gas, coal... fees for the commercial use of the oceans, fees for the airplane use of the skies, fees for the use of the electromagnetic spectrum, fees on foreign exchange transactions, and a tax on the carbon content of fuels." Obama has already introduced the legislation as Senate Bill S 2433. Co-sponsors of the bill include Democrats Maria Cantwell of Washington, Dianne Feinstein of California, Richard Durbin of Illinois, Robert Menendez of New Jersey, and Republicans Chuck Hagel of Nebraska and Richard Lugar of Indiana. [277]

Reporter Stanley Kurtz asks to view the historical public records of the Chicago Annenberg Challenge (CAC), an education reform program led by Obama and William Ayers. There is an initial refusal to release the records, orchestrated by Ken Rolling, former executive director of the CAC and an associate of Obama and Ayers. The records are eventually released – after being "cleansed" of sensitive documents by Rolling and others. Rolling, like Obama and Ayers, is a former board member of the Woods Fund. [176,177]

Obama states, "Nobody has spoken out more fiercely on the issue of anti-Semitism than I have," a claim that is widely ridiculed for its outrageousness. Obama also states that Hezb'Allah and Hamas have legitimate grievances, and offers to sit down with their leaders and the leaders of Muslim nations to listen to their complaints. (Their primary grievance is the very existence of Israel and Jews.) [202]

The Democrat National Convention

Obama gains enough of the uncommitted delegates at the Democrat National Convention to win the party's nomination. He selects Senator Biden (D-MD) as his vice-presidential running mate. Strangely absent from the convention is the usual parade of lifelong friends and co-workers of the candidate giving testimonials about his decades of wonderful accomplishments and the positive impact he had on their lives. Two of the people who probably know Obama better than most, Reverend Jeremiah Wright and William Ayers, were certainly not going to be sent to address the crowd. Instead, the "show" was limited to the pre-packaged image of the candidate that Obama wanted them to see. Hillary Clinton's speech was perfunctory, and she even skipped a line that was in the prepared text, "I've come to know this man..." Columnist Charles Krauthammer points out that although Clinton's withholding of the line "...was vindictive and

self-serving,” it was “jarring, too, because you realize that if she didn’t do it, no one else would.” [2464]

At the four-day event, despite the enormous convention center being good enough for the Kennedy and Clinton speeches, Obama insists on giving his acceptance speech at a football stadium that seats 76,000. Saul Alinsky’s son, Lee David Alinsky, praises Obama for learning his father’s socialist revolution *“lesson well.”* The over-inflated Obama ego is consistent with Alinsky’s advice that *“Ego must be so all-pervading that the personality of the organizer is contagious, that it converts the people from despair to defiance, creating a mass ego.” [267,272]*

Obama is able to get away with such arrogance because he knows how to “play the crowd” (and knows he has the media in his corner). In his book, *“Dreams From my Father,”* he wrote, *“It was usually an effective tactic, another one of those tricks I had learned: People were satisfied so long as you were courteous and smiled and made no sudden moves. They were more than satisfied, they were relieved – such a pleasant surprise to find a well-mannered young black man who didn’t seem angry all the time.”* Obama has anger, but he is skilled at hiding it. [337]

Obama’s acceptance speech is wildly applauded by Democrats and the media. MSNBC’s Keith Olbermann swoons, *“For forty-two minutes not a sour note, and spellbinding throughout in a way usually reserved for the creation of fiction.”* (More open-minded critics listening to the speech likely believe it is, in fact, a work of fiction.) One language and hypnosis expert who has analyzed Obama’s speeches in detail reports how skillfully he uses “linking statements” to get the listener to accept what they might not ordinarily accept. If Obama states, *“We need change, to fix blah-blah-blah... and that is why I will be your next President,”* listeners agree so much with the need for change and the areas he lists in which change is needed that they subconsciously accept the end of the statement (Obama will be President) without applying rational thought processes. The listeners rely on emotion rather than logic, which is precisely what Obama wants (and what he learned from Saul Alinsky’s community activist methods of gaining support). The “linking statement” technique enables a speaker to say, *“2+2=4, 2+3=5, 2+4=6, and 2+5=8”* – and get the listener to unthinkingly react, *“Sure, I agree with that.”* Obama’s other techniques include slow speech, rhythm (sounding much like the late Malcolm X), tonalities (also mimicking Malcolm X), vagueness (*“hope and change”*), visual imagery (*“a breeze is blowing across this nation”*), metaphors (*“write the next chapter in American history”*), and raising of emotion. The vagueness of Obama’s repeated use of “hope” and “change” allows the listener to “fill in the blanks” with regard to what Obama *might* do as President, but most people are unable to detail what was said in his speeches and simply respond, *“Well, he made me feel good.”* That, of course, is his intention – to make the voters *feel* rather than *think*. [1588,2048]

Obama versus McCain

The Obama campaign runs an anti-McCain ad criticizing him for not being computer savvy and not sending e-mails. Apparently Obama's team did not realize McCain has his wife and other people type e-mail responses for him because the North Vietnamese broke his fingers and shattered his arms while imprisoned in Hanoi. The Obama campaign never issues McCain an apology. [185]

Obama receives about \$300,000 in contributions each year from Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, AIG, Countrywide Financial, and Washington Mutual. After less than four years in office those companies and their employees had given Obama a total of \$1,093,329.00. Just over half is from Goldman Sachs alone. [212]

In late August, the Washington post reports that Obama sought more than \$3.4 million in Congressional earmarks for clients of lobbyist Hunter Biden, son of Senator Joe Biden. That same month Obama obtains \$192,000 for St. Xavier University, in Orland Park, Illinois, although he requested \$1.4 million. [839]

When Chicago's WGN radio interviews David Freddoso, author of *"The Case Against Barack Obama,"* Obama's campaign sends an *"Obama Action Wire"* to key supporters, encouraging them to protest the program and call in repeatedly to tie up its telephone lines so that regular listeners can't get through. The same had been done when WGN interviewed Stanley Kurtz, a reporter who had been prevented from trying to gain access to public documents of the Chicago Annenberg Challenge. [183,184]

It is learned that the Obama campaign funneled over \$800,000 to "Citizens Services, Inc." (CSI), a "shell corporation" set up by ACORN in December of 2004. (There are conflicting reports of the name; it may be "Citizens Consulting, Inc.," or there may be two such organizations.) To hide the fact that Obama was giving money to ACORN, the money was instead given to CSI. The campaign then misled the Federal Elections Commission by listing the funds as going toward "stage, lighting, and sound" expenses when, in fact, the cash went toward get-out-the-vote projects. CSI and ACORN headquarters have the same business address. (ACORN and CSI also have over \$3 million in outstanding IRS tax liens.) [284,285,400,1971]

In an interview with ABC's George Stephanopolous, Obama discusses his lack of military experience, stating that *"I had to sign up for selective service when I graduated from High School. I actually always thought of the military as an ennobling and, you know, honorable option."* Obama then makes the remarkable

statement that he chose not to enlist only because the war in Vietnam had ended: *"I graduated in 1979. The Vietnam War had come to an end. We weren't engaged in an active military conflict at that point. And so, it's not an option that I ever decided to pursue."* (Obama is making the outlandish argument that he did not enlist only because the U.S. was *not* at war, and expects people to believe he would have eagerly joined if only he had had the chance to serve in combat in Vietnam. Stephanopolous accepts the statements at face value.) Note that Obama did *not*, in fact, have to sign up for selective service when he graduated from high school in 1979. Draft registration ended on March 29, 1975, and was not re-instated until July 21, 1980... more than a year after Obama's high school graduation. [483,991,1002]

On September 4, Senator John McCain leads Obama in a Gallup poll, 48-45 per cent. McCain has his largest lead, 49-44 per cent, on September 6. On September 4, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is at 11,188.23. [1237,1238]

On September 6 word spreads that mortgage giant Fannie Mae is having financial problems. [1385]

On Thursday, September 11, 2008, with the DJIA at 11,433.71 and John McCain leading Obama in the polls, an unprecedented amount of cash is electronically withdrawn from money market accounts – as much as \$550 billion over a period of a few hours. The unprecedented electronic run on the banks leads the Treasury department to temporarily halt withdrawals. Some speculate the withdrawals are part of an organized, orchestrated plan of economic terrorism to disrupt the American and world economy and lower the value of many banks and investment firms, making it easier for others to swoop down and purchase them at reduced prices, while also creating the confusion, fear, and uncertainties to help elect Obama and make it easier to expand the role of government in socialist directions. The intentional run on the money market accounts has barely been publicized and, if it has been investigated, the results of the investigation have not been disclosed. Hungarian-born leftist billionaire George Soros, who funds Democrat campaigns and organizations like MoveOn.org, is among the buyers of the suddenly de-valued businesses. (While many investors are losing money, Soros makes an astounding \$2.4 billion in 2008, much of it by *betting on a rise in the price of oil and a collapse of the housing market*. While most are losing 40 per cent of their 401(k) and IRA investments, Soros' \$17 billion Quantum Endowment Fund makes 32 per cent. His successes lead some to wonder if Soros was able to manipulate events for his purposes, as he had successfully done in the past with currency manipulations. For tax purposes the Quantum Fund, like most Soros enterprises, is based outside the U.S.) [1152,1177,1183,1201,1215,1238,1389,1390]

Mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac fail, partly because of Enron-like accounting practices, and are rescued in a multi-billion dollar federal bail-out. An Obama economic and housing policy advisor, Franklin Raines, had been chief executive of Fannie Mae in 2002. When staff advised him of bookkeeping problems and earnings manipulations, Raines fired the whistleblowers rather than correct the problems. Raines also forced Fannie Mae employees to falsify accounting records to enable him to receive larger pay bonuses. Another recipient of improperly inflated bonuses was Jamie Gorelick, formerly of the Clinton Administration. Raines was eventually forced out of Fannie Mae because of accounting fraud, after obtaining nearly \$50 million in improperly calculated bonuses. Raines was forced to pay back only a small portion of that amount. (Obama and Christopher Dodd are the top Senate recipients of campaign contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.) Raines was also involved in the collapse of Countrywide Financial, which provided "special loan rates" for "well-connected" people like James Johnson (an advisor to Obama who was on his vice-presidential selection team and who preceded Raines as CEO of Fannie Mae), and Senator Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. Note that Democrats added tens of millions of dollars for ACORN in the original Fannie Mae "bail-out" bill. Those funds are removed before the final bill is passed (but restored by Democrats in a subsequent bill). [179,284,364]

Although the Obama campaign states that Raines has not been an official advisor, the Washington Post reports that Obama has sought "*his advice on mortgage and housing policy matters.*" [364]

On September 12, Lehman Brothers files for bankruptcy protection. The DJIA is at 11,421.99 [1238]

Evidence accumulates suggesting that the Obama campaign is using an experienced public relations firm to produce smear videos attacking Sarah Palin that are posted on YouTube. They are professionally produced and seemingly use the same female announcer hired for some Obama television ads. The videos violate FEC rules because they do not include required references that they are sponsored by the Obama campaign. [2514]

In Dover, New Hampshire, Obama states, "*I can make a firm pledge. Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes,*" and "*You will not see any of your taxes increase one single dime.*" (Obama later breaks that pledge just two weeks into his Presidency when he raises cigarette taxes from \$0.39 to \$1.01 per pack.) [1076,2099]

On September 13, Obama suggests re-instating the military draft, with his remarks that his job as President would include demanding that the American

people recognize an *"obligation"* for military service. *"If we are going into war, then all of us go, not just some."* [340]

On September 14, according to a Gallup poll, Obama re-takes the lead from opponent McCain, 47-45 per cent. [1237]

On September 17, the DJIA is at 10,609.66. The Federal Reserve Board lends \$85 billion to insurance giant American International Group (AIG) to avoid bankruptcy. (AIG's U.S. business had been successfully led by Maurice R. "Hank" Greenberg from 1962 until early 2005, when New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer went after Greenberg and AIG business practices, some say largely to enhance his public image for a later run for Governor. Spitzer's pressure led the AIG board to replace Greenberg with Martin J. Sullivan, who promptly led AIG to colossal losses. Spitzer was elected Governor of New York in 2006, proposed a bill legalizing same-sex marriages and issued an executive order allowing illegal aliens to get drivers licenses. After being identified as a frequent patron of prostitutes Spitzer, citing *"private failings,"* resigned in March of 2008. New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson had called Spitzer the *"future of the Democratic Party."*) [1238,1741,1742]

At a campaign stop in Nevada on September 17, Obama scratches his head while mentioning John McCain and childishly makes the "L" ("loser") sign with his thumb and forefinger, in order to mock his opponent's economic policies. (Obama had made the same gesture when mentioning McCain during an August 4 appearance.) [2048]

Key decisions in the handling of the Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and AIG bail-outs are made by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke, and New York Federal Reserve Bank President Timothy Geithner. Success or failure of the bail-outs belongs to that threesome. The Washington Post writes (under the headline, *"In the Crucible of Crisis, Paulson, Bernanke, Geithner Forge a Committee of Three"*), *"As they chart a government response to the crisis, the stakes could hardly be higher. If they succeed, they could tame the economic downturn and orchestrate a restructuring of Wall Street with minimal collateral damage. If they fail, the toll could be millions of jobs, trillions of dollars in lost wealth and a crisis of confidence in global capitalism."* The trio allowed Lehman Brothers to fail but bailed out AIG. (It is later learned that \$12.9 billion of the AIG bail-out ended up going to Goldman Sachs, Paulson's former employer, which had heavily invested in AIG.) [1785,1786]

On September 18, President Bush reports that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was stepping up its enforcement actions *"against illegal market manipulation."* Bush does not elaborate on what those manipulations

were, but one might suspect that Bush was referring to the \$550 billion in money market withdrawals just a week earlier, on September 11. [1215]

On September 19, President Bush announces that the SEC had “...*launched rigorous enforcement actions to detect fraud and manipulation in the market. Anyone engaging in illegal financial transactions will be caught and persecuted (sic).*” It is unclear if Bush is referring to the September 11, 2008 money market withdrawals. The SEC announces, on the same day, a “*sweeping expansion of its ongoing investigation into possible market manipulation in the securities of certain financial institutions.*” [1215]

Federal Election Commission records reveal that Obama received \$137,950 in campaign contributions from Fannie Mae (and \$68,750 from Freddie Mac), second only to Christopher Dodd (who received \$165,400). John Kerry is in third place with \$111,000. As of September, 2008, Obama’s Senate and Presidential campaigns had also received significant contributions from failed financial institutions that included Bear Stearns (\$570,614) and Lehman Brothers (\$370,524). Lehman Brothers is owed at least \$250 million by BNP Paribas, a French bank whose biggest shareholder is Nadhmi Auchi. Auchi, a friend and financier of Tony Rezko and contributor to Obama campaigns, had made a fortune through the United Nations “Oil for Food” scandal with Saddam Hussein. [178,179,180,181,182]

Practicing his old community activist methods, Obama encourages supporters to be rude to Republicans and undecided independents, telling them, “*I want you to argue with them and get in their face.*” [213,214]

On September 24, lawyers for Obama and the Democrat National Committee file a Joint Motion to Dismiss (on the last day to file a response) the case of *Berg v. Obama*, No. 08-CV-04083, which purports that Obama is ineligible to be President of the United States because he was born in Kenya. Inasmuch as it should have been easier to produce proof of Obama’s birth and citizenship than fight the lawsuit, the delay tactic suggests Obama does not, in fact, have the proof. One of Obama’s lawyers is Joe Sanders, of the Washington law firm of Sandler, Reiff, and Young. Sanders also represents the Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), an organization with terrorist ties which is an un-indicted co-conspirator in the Holyland Foundation Hamas Funding trial. (Interestingly, out of more than one million lawyers in the United States available to represent him, Obama chooses one with direct ties to CAIR, a co-conspirator in a case involving fraud.) [216,226,325,368]

Lawsuits demanding Obama’s proof of citizenship continue to be filed throughout the latter half of 2008. Although lawsuits challenging Obama’s status as a natural born citizen may be unlikely to get him removed from office as they get thrown out by judges for various technical or ideological reasons, they may have the

effect of prompting several states to toughen the rules for getting his name on a future ballot. Obama may therefore find it impossible to appear on the ballots of some states in 2012 unless he provides those states with proof that he is, in fact, a natural born citizen. (In early 2009 Oklahoma State Representative Mike Ritz proposes a bill requiring that anyone running for elected office show proof of U.S. citizenship, and Ohio Representative Diana Fessler proposes a resolution that asks the Electoral College to *“exercise due diligence to ensure that the persons for whom they cast their ballots for president and vice president of the United States are citizens of the United States”* by examining candidates’ birth certificates.) If even one state keeps Obama off its ballot because of his failure to prove he is a natural born citizen, the media – try as it might – will find it impossible to ignore the story. The resulting nationwide attention given the issue could prompt other states to question Obama’s eligibility, and the snowball effect could doom any chances of re-election – or cause him to be forcibly removed from office if he cannot produce proof of his eligibility to serve. It would also be the case that if Obama cannot provide proof of eligibility to satisfy even one state’s rules, it may be evidence that he lied on his candidate papers filed in all 50 states – possibly subjecting him to criminal perjury charges. [1328]

On September 24, as the Wall Street crisis is unfolding and his Republican rival John McCain returns to Washington, Obama remains on the campaign trail and gives a press conference. When asked if he would be going back to Washington he responds, *“So, you know, I think the message is, if you need us, if I can be helpful, I’m prepared to be there at any point.”* (In other words, “If they need me they’ll call me.”) Neither Obama nor McCain make any public comments about the \$550 billion withdrawn from money market accounts on September 11, which arguably precipitated the economic crisis, and neither candidate calls for an investigation of the unprecedented withdrawals, which would disclose who made the withdrawals and for what purpose. [1200,1201]

On Friday, September 26 the House of Representatives rejects the first attempt at the \$700 billion Bush-Paulson bail-out plan. The DJIA is at 11,143.13. On Monday the DJIA drops to 10,365.45. [1238]

Leading “Code Pink” activists and Obama fundraisers Jodie Evans and Medea Benjamin meet with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in New York in September. While in New York, Ahmadinejad gives a speech at Columbia University. His appearance is coordinated by long-time Obama friend Rashid Khalidi, and possibly encouraged by Zbigniew Brzezinski, an anti-Semite and Obama foreign policy advisor who taught international relations at Columbia University. [215,220,395]

Obama and his wife attend the wedding of one of Rashid Khalidi’s daughters. Other guests include William Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn. The date of the event

is believed to be in the months immediately preceding the November election.
[521]

Obama enlists St. Louis County Circuit Attorney Bob McCulloch, St. Louis City Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce, and Jefferson County Sheriff Glenn Boyer as a so-called “truth squad” in an effort to intimidate radio and television stations into not airing ads critical of Obama. They warn citizens that they will bring criminal libel prosecutions against anyone who makes false statements about Obama. The thug-like tactic is immediately criticized by Missouri Governor Matt Blunt, who says, *“The only conceivable purpose of Messrs. McCulloch, Obama and the others is to frighten people away from expressing themselves, to chill free and open debate, to suppress support and donations to conservative organizations targeted by this anti-civil rights, to strangle criticism of Mr. Obama, to suppress ads about his support of higher taxes, and to choke out criticism on television, radio, the Internet, blogs, e-mail and daily conversation about the election.”*
[221,256]

In the first Presidential debate with Senator McCain on September 26, Obama brings attention to a bracelet he is wearing in honor of a slain Wisconsin soldier, Brian Jopek – despite requests from Jopek’s family that Obama stop wearing it and stop referring to it. McCain proposes a spending freeze on all federal spending other than defense, veterans, and entitlement programs. Obama ridicules McCain, saying that would be *“using a hatchet when you need a scalpel”* – but Obama is unable or unwilling to name any significant programs he would cut. [222,1205]

Public Middle Schools in Racine, Wisconsin issue a new student textbook that contains 15 pages complimenting candidate Obama on his “life of service.” The book is published by McDougal, Littell and Company. Alfred L. McDougal contributes to the Obama campaign, and is apparently confident enough he will win the election to have the excessively adulatory books printed. [401,402]

In late September, former Presidential candidate and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson tells a group of Hispanics that *“Barack Obama is the best candidate for the Hispanic community because our community wants a united country. Obama is an immigrant. When he speaks to Latinos, he doesn’t just speak about immigration and civil rights...”* Richardson does not elaborate on what he means by *“Obama is an immigrant.”* It may be an inadvertent public recognition by Richardson that he knows Obama was not born in the United States. [629]

The Military Times conducts a week-long poll of all members of the military (active, reserves, and retired). McCain leads overwhelmingly in all categories of questions – except for black respondents. (For all respondents, 68 per cent favor McCain; counting black respondents only, they favor Obama by 79 per cent.
[2333]

In September and October of 2008, an auditor at the Federal Election Commission requests a formal investigation into Obama campaign contributions, suspecting it of collecting \$200 million or more in illegal contributions, including illegal foreign donations. The auditor states, *"I believe we are looking at a hijacking of our political system that makes the Clinton and Gore fundraising scandals pale in comparison."* [231]

In September, because it appears that the expanded military actions are succeeding, all references to Obama's previous opposition to the successful troop surge in Iraq are removed from the official Obama web sites. [270]

The Obama staffers in charge of the campaign's "small" (less than \$200) Internet campaign contributions are Obama's former college roommates from Pakistan, Muhammad Hasan Chandoo and Wahid Hamid. Those "small" contributions total at least \$223 million and many are believed to be illegal contributions from foreign countries. Campaigns are required to keep track of donor names and verify their nationality as U.S., but the Obama campaign does not – in direct violation of federal election laws. Note that in addition to working directly for the Obama campaign, Chandoo, with his brother, maintains a web site that is arguably anti-American, anti-Semitic, anti-women – and vulgar. [245,332]

Allegations surface that proof of Obama's Indonesian citizenship and adoption are being suppressed by the Indonesian government in exchange for cash and political favors. U.S. Congressman Eni Faleomavaega (a non-voting Democrat Congressman from American Samoa and an Obama supporter) visited Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in July of 2007 and is suspected of having secured government records damaging to Obama's candidacy. In exchange for document turnover and document suppression, money was to be given to the school attended by Obama, more cash for the government would come later, and the Congressman would attempt to foster a "hands off" policy with regard to the Indonesian government's continuing suppression of rights of Christians in Papua. If these allegations are true, and Faleomavaega acted at Obama's request, both are guilty of felonies and violations of the Logan Act. [303,321,323,337,1017,2298]

On October 1, Congress passes a "bail-out bill" called the "Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008." The legislation gives more than \$700 billion to the Treasury Secretary to hand out to Wall Street firms to rescue them from bad investments, such as sub-prime mortgages – mortgages that had been aggressively encouraged by the government itself for 30 years. When asked where the \$700 billion amount came from, a Treasury Department spokesman said, *"It's not based on any particular data point. We just wanted to choose a really large number."* The bail-out bill includes over \$112 billion in "pork," including \$6 million in tax breaks for wooden-arrow manufacturers in Oregon,

\$148 million in tax breaks for wool-producing companies, \$128 million in tax breaks for the manufacturers of auto race tracks, \$10 million in tax breaks for small television and film producers, \$223 million in tax breaks for Alaskan fishermen, and \$192 million in tax breaks for rum producers in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Both Obama and his opponent, John McCain, vote for the bail-out bill. Over the next seven trading sessions the stock market drops 24 per cent. The legislation is arguably unconstitutional because Article I of the U.S. Constitution requires that *“All legislative powers herein shall be vested in”* Congress, yet the bill essentially gives \$700 billion to the Executive Branch (specifically to the Treasury Department) to spend as it sees fit – a violation of the separation of powers. (Congress passes the legislation anyway.) [247,1151,2068,2307]

The bail-out bill also includes \$33 million in tax breaks for corporations operating in American Samoa. One of the two largest employers there is Star-Kist Tuna. Star-Kist’s parent company, Del Monte, has headquarters in San Francisco, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s district. Star-Kist is also a major Pelosi contributor, and Pelosi’s husband owns \$17 million in Star-Kist stock. Star-Kist is the only company operating in U.S. territories that is exempted from federal minimum wage laws. Despite the obvious conflict of interest, Pelosi supports the Star-Kist tax breaks. Obama raises no objections and votes for the bill. [397,398,399]

On October 6, 2008, Obama and the Democrat National Committee file a “Joint Motion for Protective Order to Stay Discovery Pending a Decision on the (9/24/2008) Motion to Dismiss.” With that motion, Obama and the DNC attempt to further stall a lawsuit demanding that Obama provide his original long form birth certificate to prove he is a natural born U.S. citizen eligible to become President. The assumption is that Obama cannot provide a certified copy of a Hawaiian “vault” birth certificate because it somehow damages his candidacy, perhaps by confirming a place of birth other than Hawaii or a father other than Barack Obama, Sr. The attorney who filed the lawsuit, attorney Philip J. Berg – who believes Obama was born in Kenya – asserts that Obama is ineligible to be President, and that *he “...is an illegal alien and therefore should be arrested, tried, and deported. He certainly cannot hold his Senate seat.”* [241,299]

On October 7, WND staff reporter, researcher, and author (*“The Obama Nation”*) Jerome Corsi is detained by authorities in Kenya just as he is about to hold a press conference in which he planned to describe evidence of Obama’s dealings and connections with controversial Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga. The news conference would allegedly be used to *“expose details of deep secret ties between U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama and a section of Kenya government leaders, their connection to certain sectoral groups in Kenya and subsequent plot to be executed in Kenya should Senator Obama win the American presidency.”* Corsi’s detainment is ordered by Obama’s cousin, Raila

Odinga, who had received almost one million dollars in campaign support from Obama. (While on a taxpayer-funded trip to Kenya in 2006, Obama appeared publicly with Odinga to support his pro-Shariah candidacy.) [242,726]

During the October 7 televised debate with John McCain, Obama states, *"I'm cutting more than I'm spending so that it will be a net spending cut."* Obama neglects to state what he will be cutting. [718,1048]

In October of 2008, Obama's newly appointed "Muslim Outreach Advisor," Minha Husaini, is criticized for having met with extremist Islamic groups on September 15. Husaini's predecessor had resigned because of connections to a radical Muslim cleric. Among those meeting with Husaini was Mazen Asbahi (who Husaini had just replaced as outreach director), Mahdi Bray, who has publicly supported Hamas and Hezb'Allah, and Johari Abdul Malik, a Falls Church, Virginia cleric who told followers in November of 2004, *"You will see Islam move from being the second largest religion in America – to being the first religion in America."* [254,829]

In October, ACORN works to remove potentially damaging information connecting Obama with the group from its web pages. Among the items deleted is an article that discusses Obama's training of ACORN leaders. By October, the campaign erroneously claims that Obama had never organized with ACORN and had nothing to do with voter registration drives. [283]

On October 10, stories surface that Tony Rezko may be giving up incriminating information about Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulis, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, and Obama, in order to receive a lighter prison sentence for his 16 felony convictions for receiving kick-backs for political favors. Word also leaks that federal prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald is leading a team of FBI investigators in 10 states working on a RICO case involving ACORN. The investigation may be focused on a conspiracy to commit multi-state voter fraud on Obama's behalf. Fitzgerald is the prosecutor who convicted Tony Rezko and Lewis "Scooter" Libby. (If elected, Obama can fire prosecutor Fitzgerald and shut down the investigation.) [281,282,290,315]

At an October 12 campaign appearance in Holland, Ohio, Obama is asked by a self-employed plumber, Joe Wurzelbacher (who says he is considering starting his own business) why he must pay higher taxes for everyone else's benefit. Obama's response is, *"It's not that I want to punish your success. I just want to make sure that everybody that is behind you, that they have a chance for success too."* Obama then adds a sentiment straight from the socialist handbook, *"I think when you spread the wealth around, it's good for everybody."* [295,312]

After “Joe the plumber” was brought up by John McCain in the third Presidential debate to illustrate Obama’s socialist leanings, Helen Jones-Kelley, director of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, approves a search of the state’s child-support records in an attempt to find damaging information on Wurzelbacher. Jones-Kelley, who contributed \$2,300 to the Obama campaign, states there were “*no political reasons*” for the query. It was later disclosed that Jones-Kelley also looked into whether Wurzelbacher had ever received welfare assistance or was behind in unemployment compensation taxes. At least four separate government agencies conduct improper checks into his background, and Ohio’s Inspector General says he will investigate the incidents. Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, a Democrat, states he is satisfied there were no “*political overtures*” in Jones-Kelley’s actions. [405,436]

It is worth noting, in relation to Obama’s response to “Joe the plumber,” that Obama advisor Cass Sunstein advocates Franklin D. Roosevelt’s proposed “second bill of rights” in his book, “*The Second Bill of Rights: FDR’s Unfinished Revolution and Why We Need It More than Ever.*” Roosevelt’s list of rights includes a right to an education, home, health care, and protection against monopolies. Sunstein argues that these rights should be instituted, but neglects to mention, for example, who will be paying for someone else’s “right to a home.” [403,404]

It is reported that Obama’s public relations staffer, Marilyn Katz, was the “security chief” for the Students for a Democratic Society, and was involved in the 1968 Democrat Party Convention riots in Chicago. Katz advocated throwing studded nails in front of approaching police car tires, and throwing plastic bags of human excrement, cans of urine, and golf balls with nails at the police. As PR person for Obama, one of Katz’ jobs is to downplay the candidate’s past relationship with William Ayers. Katz herself, as a prominent SDS leader, was an associate of Ayers in the 1960s. Of her 1960s activism, Katz says she was for “*sexual freedom and a democratic socialist paradise.*” Katz, a member of Obama’s National Finance Committee, has held fundraisers for Obama in her home and has collected \$50,000 - \$100,000 on his behalf. (A now-revived SDS was behind some of the violence at the 2008 Republican National Convention.) [320,837,1282]

On October 15, 2008, in what later appears to be a massive hoax, “African Press International” (API) reports that Michelle Obama telephoned its offices to complain about reports of people challenging her husband’s eligibility to be President. In the conversation she allegedly states, “*African press International is supposed to support Africans and African-American view(s). It is strange that API has chosen to support the racists against my husband. There is no shame in being adopted by a step-father. All dirt has been thrown onto my husband’s face and yet he loves this country. My husband and I know that there is no law that will stop him from becoming the president, just because some American white*

racists are bringing up the issue of my husband's adoption by his step-father. The important thing here is where my husband's heart is at the moment. I can tell the American people that my husband loves this country and his adoption never changed his love for this country. He was born in Hawaii, yes, and that gives him all the right to be an American citizen even though he was adopted by a foreigner." [306,307,308,309,317]

The story is likely illegitimate but, if true, the candidate's wife, in her statement, unknowingly admits that Obama was adopted by Indonesian Lolo Soetoro, which may mean he may still be an Indonesian citizen ineligible to be U.S. President. She is incorrect in saying there is "*no law*" that will stop him; there certainly are laws defining the eligibility requirements, and if he doesn't satisfy them he cannot be President. Obama's wife also allegedly tells API that if it writes a "*complimentary story*" about her husband they will then be invited to an Obama inauguration ceremony. The Obama campaign denies that his wife spoke with API. API says the conversation was recorded and the tape will be released, after it gives Mrs. Obama a chance to clarify her side of the story. [306,307,308,309,317]

API purportedly agrees to allow Fox News to broadcast the tape of the telephone call from Michelle Obama, but Fox News denies the story. In late October, API is allegedly offered \$2 million by Ed Hale, President of Plains Radio in Texas, to cancel its agreement with Fox. The Obama campaign itself then purportedly offers API a \$3 million bribe to suppress the information, withhold the tape, and renege on its agreement with Fox. API says it will work with its lawyers and treat the cash offer as an illegal bribery attempt. *It is likely that the entire API story is untrue because the alleged recording is never released (or a large amount of money was paid to keep it from being released).* [417,435]

A review of major Obama contributors shows the name James Reynolds, Jr., of Loop Capital Markets, LLC. Reynolds, a close friend of Obama, was caught in FBI wiretaps arranging a "sham" consulting contract and dealing in no-bid contracts; Obama nevertheless places him on his National Finance Committee. [833]

A lawsuit is filed in the State of Washington by Steven R. Marquis demanding that the Secretary of State obtain proof that Obama is eligible to be President of the United States or remove his name from the November 4 ballot. [307,331,406]

James Pethokopukis, reporter for the U.S. News and World Reports, relates on October 16 that a University of Chicago professor he spoke with and who knew Obama considered him "*...as close to a full-out Marxist as anyone who has ever run for President of the United States.*" [314]

The media reports that, at an October 15 Sarah Palin campaign event in Scranton, Pennsylvania, someone in the crowd shouted “*Kill him!*” when Obama’s name was mentioned by the speaker, Congressional candidate Chris Hackett. The report gets quick, widespread coverage by the pro-Obama media, despite the fact that no one in the crowd heard the shout – *except* a reporter for the ScrantonTimes-Tribune. Secret Service agents and police officers present state they did not hear the threat, and everyone they later interview denies having heard it. [311]

Key Obama policy aide Jason Grunet, executive director of the “National Commission on Energy Policy,” states that if Congress doesn’t move within 18 months to tighten rules with regard to carbon dioxide emissions, Obama would instruct the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to institute its own unilateral enforcement crackdown anyway. (In other words, if Congress doesn’t pass the “global warming” laws Obama wants, he’ll go ahead and implement his own regulations on carbon dioxide emissions.) Grunet is concerned (rightly so) that Congress – even a Democrat Congress – will be unlikely to go along with excessive taxes on carbon emissions because they would cause skyrocketing prices, business failures, and massive job losses. Obama would avoid the issue of Congressional approval by simply forcing the EPA to enforce strict “pollution” guidelines – but that will have the same disastrous price and unemployment increase effects. (“Rules for Radicals” author Saul Alinsky specifically suggested using environmental issues as a convenient, and possibly non-legislative, way for a socialist-leaning government to control industry and take over businesses.) [330]

There is speculation that Obama would reward Hillary Clinton with a Supreme Court nomination if he is elected. [337]

Obama receives the endorsement of General Colin Powell, who says on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that Obama “*is a transformational figure.*” Powell admits that Obama has a thin resume, but is “*surrounding himself with people who will be able to give him the expertise that he at the moment does not have.*” For the endorsement Powell receives considerable criticism from his fellow Republicans, although Powell is known to be a “*Republican in Name Only*” (“RINO”) because of his generally weak – if not sometimes almost non-existent – commitment to conservative principles. Powell cites no concrete or logical justifications for endorsing Obama, leading many to believe the move was primarily due to race. [1596]

Obama complains to a North Carolina crowd about attacks suggesting he is Muslim, warning that “*they (meaning whites and Republicans) will try to hoodwink you, to bamboozle you.*” His words are immediately recognized by blacks as those of Malcolm X, repeated in Spike Lee’s film biography of the slain civil rights leader: “*You’ve been hoodwinked, bamboozled, led astray, run amok.*” (Ironically,

Obama uses the words of a black Muslim socialist to attack those he says are calling him a racist, Muslim, and a socialist.) Being black, Obama is able to use socialist “code words” with black audiences (like “tax fairness” to mean “soak the rich white folks”) while enjoying the enviable position of deflecting almost any criticism – valid or not – simply by suggesting his attackers are racist. [1594,1595,1596]

In Fayetteville, North Carolina, a heckler shouts “*Socialist, socialist, socialist!*” at Obama until his supporters make her stop. [1596]

Without realizing reporters are present, Obama’s Vice-Presidential running mate, Joe Biden, says to a public gathering, “*Mark my words. It will not be six months before the world tests Barack Obama like they did John Kennedy. Remember, I said it standing here, if you don’t remember anything else I said. We’re gonna have an international crisis, a generated crisis, to test the mettle of this guy.*” [363]

On October 23, attorney Philip J. Berg states he has a recording of a telephone conversation in which Obama’s paternal grandmother, speaking long distance to someone in the United States, confirms the candidate was born in Kenya and that she was present in the hospital delivery room. The same day Obama heads to Hawaii to visit his ailing maternal grandmother. There is speculation that another purpose of Obama’s trip may be to search Madelyn Dunham’s apartment for documents that may help him fight the lawsuits demanding that he prove he is eligible to serve as President – and to destroy documents that work against him. [367,371,558,580]

The Urban Institute Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center analyzes the McCain and Obama tax policies and calculates that McCain’s proposals would cut taxes by \$628 billion over 10 years, while Obama’s would raise them by \$734 billion over the same period. [337]

Obama’s list of accomplishments in the U.S. Senate consists of getting two bills passed: one to send foreign aid to the Congo and another to name a post office. [337]

By October 24, at least seven additional lawsuits have been filed in state and federal courts in Hawaii, Washington, California, Florida, Georgia, New York, and Connecticut to demand that Obama release his birth records. Lawsuits in Washington and Georgia seek to force the state’s secretary of state, as the chief state elections officer, to require Obama to produce original birth records or remove him from the November 4 ballot. [372]

On October 24, Federal Judge R. Barclay Surrick in Philadelphia, a Clinton appointee, tosses out the Berg lawsuit. A plaintiff, such as Berg, who wishes to have standing to sue, must show (1) a particularized injury-in-fact, (2) evidence showing that the party being sued actually caused the plaintiff's particularized injury-in-fact, and (3) that adjudication of the matter would provide redress. Inasmuch as Berg is an American citizen, that in and of itself should suggest he has standing. Judge Surrick chooses to avoid responsibility in the case and instead dumps the issue in the lap of Congress, certainly knowing that a Democrat Congress will not address the issue. Motions filed by Obama's lawyers prior to Surrick's ruling argued that revealing certain Obama information (birth certificate, citizenship papers, school records, etc.) would "*cause a defined and serious injury*" to Obama, would raise a "*legitimate privacy concern*," and create a risk that "*particularly serious embarrassment will result from turning over the requested documentation.*" (Coincidentally, Christopher B. Seaman, former law clerk for Judge Surrick, is currently employed by Sidley Austin LLP, the former employer of Obama, Michelle Robinson Obama, and Bernardine Dohrn.) [374,375,425]

Judge Surrick states, "*If, through the political process, Congress determines that citizens, voters, or party members should police the Constitution's eligibility requirements for the Presidency, then it is free to pass laws conferring standing on individuals like Plaintiff. Until that time, voters do not have standing to bring the sort of challenge that Plaintiff attempts to bring in the Amended Complaint.*" This response by the judge suggests that a Presidential candidate need not have been born in the United States; it is apparently sufficient for him to simply say that he was born in the United States and the voters can't do a thing about it – *unless and until Congress feels like passing a law.* Attorney Philip J. Berg will likely appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. [374,375,376]

Judge Surrick illogically states that challenger Berg "*would have us derail the democratic process by invalidating a candidate for whom millions of people voted and who underwent excessive vetting during what was one of the most hotly contested presidential primary (sic) in living memory.*" Berg's lawsuit could not, of course, "invalidate" an *eligible* candidate; it could only lead to the removal of an *ineligible* candidate from the ballot. Berg is thus only asking the Court to require proof of eligibility, not to deny anyone the right to vote for a *qualified* candidate. In a remarkable statement that many voters might vehemently disagree with, Judge Surrick argues that a "*candidate's ineligibility under the Natural Born Citizen Clause does not result in an injury in fact to voters.*" (According to the judge, voters are not harmed by fraud perpetrated by an ineligible candidate.) [424]

On October 24, Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) tells the editorial board of The Standard-Times that Obama and the Democrats will slash military spending by 25 per cent, forcing America to withdraw troops from Iraq. [377]

In October, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) suspends all of its funding for ACORN, Obama's main voter-registration drive organization, after learning that \$948,000 had been embezzled from ACORN by Dale Rathke, the brother of ACORN founder Wade Rathke (friend of William Ayers and former SDS member). The embezzlement occurred in 1999, but the information did not become public until June of 2008; Wade Rathke had kept the embezzlement secret even from ACORN board members. No charges have been filed against Dale Rathke, and Wade Rathke remains chief organizer for ACORN International LLC. Wade Rathke also runs a subsidiary of the Tides Foundation called the "Tides Center," a "social action" network and community activist group. The Tides Foundation (a favorite charity of wealthy heiress Theresa Heinz Kerry, wife and benefactor of Senator John Kerry) contributes to leftist organizations like ACORN, the ACLU, CAIR, Earth Justice, PETA National Lawyers Guild, Center for American Progress, and the Institute for Policy Studies. [390,391,1280,1971]

In October, U.S. District Court Judge Edmund Sargus, a 1996 Clinton appointee, rules that Ohio counties must allow homeless voters to list park benches and other locations that are not buildings as their addresses. [410]

The Obama campaign intentionally fails to apply basic security measures to prevent illegal and anonymous contributions from being submitted by credit card via the Internet. Approximately two-thirds of the \$150 million Obama collected in September of 2008 came through Internet credit card donations, including untraceable pre-paid "gift cards" that can readily conceal illegal contributions (such as foreign contributions or donations in excess of the \$2,300 individual limit). [423]

Pittsburgh attorney Heather S. Heidelbaugh tries a case against ACORN in October alleging voter fraud, misrepresentation, and violation of the equal protection clause and due process. A witness testifies in court about Obama's links to ACORN. Although CNN has a reporter and camera at the trial, the story is never aired. Heidelbaugh is told by CNN, "*We're not going with this story, (because) it's a game-changer.*" She is told essentially the same thing by ABC, which also did not want to air a story detrimental to Obama close to election day. CNN and ABC thus intentionally ignore a legitimate, important, and relevant story only because it would hurt Obama. [1469,1472]

A Washington State lawsuit challenging Obama's eligibility to serve as President is dismissed by King County Judge John Erlick, who states the challenge "*may be a positive idea,*" but Washington law clearly prevents the Secretary of State from getting involved and performing any external fact-checking. [411]

On October 27, Leo Donofrio sues the Secretary of State of New Jersey (*Donofrio v. Wells*), demanding that she execute her duties to police the security of ballots from fraudulent candidates ineligible to hold the office of President.

Along with Obama and John McCain, candidate Roger Calero, of the Socialist Workers Party, also appears on the New Jersey Ballot. Calero, a native of Nicaragua, clearly is not a natural born citizen of the United States, yet his name was allowed on the ballot by the New Jersey Secretary of State. Donofrio's lawsuit argues that the Secretary of State, whose office is responsible for running the elections, should insure that a candidate is eligible to serve as President before adding his or her name to the ballot. (*Secretaries of States in some states other than New Jersey had, in fact, refused to place Calero's name on the ballot.*) The Donofrio case appears to be heading to the Supreme Court. In 1968 the Peace and Freedom Party's presidential candidate, Eldridge Cleaver, was not allowed on the California ballot because the state reviewed his birth certificate and confirmed that he had not met the required age of 35; he was 34. There is therefore precedent for reviewing a candidate's birth certificate. [485,507,509,585,1581]

After a late October campaign stop in Sarasota, Florida, an Obama supporter named Peggy Joseph gushes to a reporter, "*It was the most memorable time of my life. It was a touching moment, because I never thought this day would happen. I won't have to worry about putting gas in my car. I won't have to worry about paying my mortgage. You know, if I, if I help him (Obama), he's gonna (sic) help me!*" [449]

In retaliation for their newspapers' endorsements of John McCain, Obama prohibits reporters from the Dallas Morning News, the New York Post, and the Washington Times from boarding his campaign plane – to prevent them from covering the final week of his campaign. They are replaced with writers from magazines like "Glamour." [482]

On October 31, the Director of the Hawaii Department of Health, Dr. Chiyome Fukino, and the Director of the OHSM and State Registrar, hold a press conference and jointly state that they have "*Obama's original birth certificate on record.*" They do *not* provide any details about the document's contents, they merely state that a document exists. Note that the state's "long form" birth certificate, per Hawaii Statute 883.176, allows a birth in another state *or even another country* to be *registered* in Hawaii. Merely *having* a Hawaiian birth certificate does not therefore prove one was born in Hawaii; the long form document itself must be examined to ascertain the place of birth. (The original, detailed long form birth certificate is retained by the state of Hawaii, and a short form COLB is usually given to the individual unless the long form is requested.) The Obama document in Hawaii is in a sealed envelope, unavailable for viewing by anyone other than Obama himself, and that document may very well indicate that his birth occurred somewhere other than Hawaii. [492,1647]

Fukino's statement is, "*I as Director of Health for the State of Hawaii, along with the Registrar of Vital Statistics who has statutory authority to oversee and*

maintain these type of vital records, have personally seen and verified that the Hawaii State Department of Health has Senator Obama's original birth certificate on record in accordance with state policies and procedures." Again, this statement means only that the document exists and that Fukino looked at it. It does not prove that Obama was born in Hawaii, because that state issues birth certificates to children born elsewhere under Hawaii Statute 883.176. Hawaii will release the birth certificate only with Obama's permission – but he refuses to grant that permission. (Obama wrote in *"Dreams From My Father"* that he "found" his birth certificate while looking through a book. He could easily make that document public, without even having to contact Hawaiian officials.) [1647]

On November 2, a San Francisco radio announcer at KGO 810-AM is caught saying, on the air, *"I want mother-fucking Joe the plumber dead."* [451]

New York Congressman Jerald Nadler appears at a gathering of Jewish voters in Boca Raton, Florida, to drum up support for Obama. As Nadler leaves the synagogue he is asked why Obama did not denounce Reverend Jeremiah Wright. Nadler suggests that Obama didn't have the *"political courage"* to make a statement by leaving the church. [522]

On November 3, Obama congratulates McCain on *"the tough race that he has fought."* While making the remark Obama – as he had done to Hillary Clinton during the primaries – scratches his face with his middle finger, childishly and rudely *"flipping McCain off."* [456]

Dr. Vibert White, Jr., a former top-ranking official of the Nation of Islam, confirms in an interview that Obama has deep ties to the group and its vitriolic, anti-Semitic leader, Louis Farrakhan. (Farrakhan had hailed Obama as the *"new messiah"* in his February, 2008 endorsement of the candidate.) Farrakhan has a history of anti-Jew statements, calling them *"bloodsuckers"* and *"satanic."* Farrakhan states that he enjoys an *"open channel"* of communication with Obama. [471,558,559]

Obama aides confirm that his senior foreign policy advisor, Robert O. Malley, had been sent to Egypt and Syria to discuss the new administration's Middle East plans and to pledge that Obama would *"seek to enhance relations with Cairo (Egypt) as well as reconcile with Damascus (Syria)."* The anti-Israel Malley had previously been pressured to leave the Obama staff because he had been in regular contact with the terrorist group Hamas. Obama eventually feels comfortable bringing him back on board, correctly assuming the media would not make Malley an issue. Obama also agrees to sell advanced F-16 fighter planes to Egypt (but will likely try to avoid selling F-22 planes to Israel). [472,473,474]

Obama's maternal grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, dies on November 3. For the last 41 years of her life she lived in the same 10th floor Punahou Circle apartment in Honolulu. Obama lived in the apartment with his grandparents from the time his mother deserted him in 1971, until 1979, when he moved to California to attend Occidental College. [329,515,2243]

Obama continues to refuse to provide the media with school records, passports, college theses, law school records, law firm clients, medical records, Illinois State Senate files, and other documents about his record:

Original vault copy (long form) birth certificate – not released
Certificate of live birth (short form) – alleged counterfeit released
Obama/Dunham marriage license – not released
Soetoro/Dunham marriage license – not released
Soetoro adoption records – not released
Besuki School application – released
Punahou School records – not released
Selective Service Registration – alleged counterfeit released
Occidental College records – not released
Passport (Pakistan) – not released
Columbia College records – not released
Columbia thesis – not released
Harvard College records – not released
Harvard Law Review articles – none released
Baptism certificate – none released
Medical records – not released (except for a one-page statement saying he is healthy)
Illinois State Senate records – not released
Illinois State Senate schedule – not released (alleged to have been lost)
Law practice client list and billing records – not released
University of Chicago scholarly articles – none released (and none perhaps ever written)
Campaign donor analysis – not released
List of all campaign workers who are lobbyists – not released
List of trips outside the U.S. before – not released
[23,29,56,186,239,2510]

The Election

On November 4, 2008, Obama is elected President of the United States. Obama wins 365 electoral votes, John McCain wins 173. Obama garners almost 53 per cent of the vote and McCain gets 46 per cent (with Nader, Barr, Baldwin, McKinney, and others receiving the remainder). Approximately 66.8 million people cast votes for Obama; about 58.3 million vote for McCain. Muslim turnout

in the election is approximately 95 per cent, the highest in history. Obama also garners roughly 95 per cent of the black vote. [457,1112,1984,2510]

Obama appears before a large crowd at Chicago's Grant Park on election night to give his victory speech. Obama wears a black suit with a red tie. His youngest daughter, Natasha, wears a black dress; older daughter Malia wears a red dress; and Michelle Obama wears an arguably unattractive red and black dress that appears to portray a large "X." The stark colors and the "X" suggest to some that the outfits are meant to honor Malcolm "X" (who some believe was Obama's father). Red is the traditional color of socialism, and is associated with social-democrat and socialist political parties; black is the traditional color of anarchism, and black power. [1093,1094,1591,2178,2179]

During election night celebrations in Chicago, most people in the downtown crowds are orderly – partly because police search people to make sure liquor is not present. Nevertheless, several young people overturn portable toilets while people are using them (including an elderly woman who uses a walker); a Chicago Police vehicle is shot at in the 900 block of north Ridgeway; 14 other Chicago squad cars are damaged by people throwing brick, bottles, and rocks, leaving six officers injured; clothing stores and liquor stores are broken into on Madison Street, Chicago Avenue, 16th Street, 47th Street, 63rd Street, Martin Luther King Drive, Cottage Grove Avenue, and Howard Street; police use tear gas to disperse crowds in the 2nd, 5th, 11th, and 15th police districts; in the 7th district, 104 reports of shots fired are received within 30 minutes of Obama being declared the winner of the election; and snow plows are lined up as mobile barricades to control unruly crowds.

Transition and Pay-Back

On November 5, at the news of Obama's election, the DJIA plunges almost 500 points, closing at 9,139.27, and Russian President Dmitri Medvedev promptly announces that Russia will deploy missiles in Kaliningrad in response to U.S. plans to deploy a ballistic missile defense system in Poland and radar installation in the Czech Republic. [477,1238]

On November 6 the DJIA drops an additional 400 points, to 8,695.79. [1238]

On November 6 Obama meets for one hour with top intelligence officers for his first classified briefing on national security. He is not smiling when he leaves the meeting. [1756]

Tough Chicago politician and Congressman Rahm Emanuel is chosen by Obama to be his chief of staff. The profanity-prone Emanuel, known as "*Rahmbo*" to many, has a "take no prisoners" approach, and once sent a large, rotting, dead

fish to a pollster who had ticked him off (in a manner reminiscent of the horse's head in the film, *"The Godfather"*). Some observe that it does not bode well for Obama's pledge of bi-partisan cooperation that Emanuel once said, *"Republicans are bad people who deserve a two-by-four upside their heads."* [458,459,966]

On November 6, Detroit radio station WRIF hosts Mike Clark, Trudi Daniels, and Marc Fellhauer conduct an on-air interview with Kenyan Ambassador Peter N. R. O. Ogego. Fellhauer asks, *"One more quick question, President-elect Obama's birthplace over in Kenya, is that going to be a national spot to go visit, where he was born?"* Ogego responds, *"It's already an attraction. His paternal grandmother is still alive."* Fellhauer asks, *"His birthplace, they'll put up a marker there?"* Ogego answers, *"It would depend on the government. It's already well known."* The remarks by Ogego further corroborate the theory held by some that Obama was born in Kenya. A spokesperson for Ogego later says she could not explain his comments but would later have him call the station to do so; he does not. [551]

On November 7, ABC News reports that Obama's chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, served on the board of Freddie Mac, the Government-Sponsored Enterprise which (along with GSE Fannie Mae) was involved in fraudulent bookkeeping and the massive sub-prime mortgage lending that contributed to the financial collapse in 2008. Emanuel, who served on the board of Freddie Mac during 2000-2001 (and received more than \$320,000 for doing very little work over a 14-month period), was appointed to the position by Bill Clinton. Emanuel resigned from Freddie Mac in 2001 to run for Congress. (Fellow board member Neil Hartigan said Emanuel's job at Freddie Mac was basically to explain to others how to "grease the skids" in Washington through *"the dynamics of the legislative process and the executive branch at senior levels."* According to the Chicago Tribune, Freddie Mac illegally sponsored more than 80 fundraisers to collect \$1.7 million for Congressional candidates... while Emanuel was on its board. Emanuel said he *"can't remember the meeting"* at which the illegal fundraisers were approved.) Emanuel's election to Congress was aided by a hefty amount of assistance from City of Chicago patronage workers, who were illegally working for his campaign when they should have been performing work for the city's taxpayers. (For shenanigans like that Chicago's water department boss, Donald Tomczak, went to jail.) Emanuel also spent about two years at the New York investment firm of Wasserstein Perella (*"Wasserella"*) where he earned more than \$18 million. (Bruce Wasserstein is a Wall Street financier and big donor to Democrat campaigns.) In 2008, Emanuel was the top recipient of Congressional campaign contributions from hedge funds and private equity and investment firms. [464,596,1011,1963,1979,2045]

With regard to the Berg lawsuit which argues that Obama is not an American citizen and is ineligible to serve as President of the United States, Supreme Court Justice David Souter issues a Writ of Certiorari (with the concurrence of at

least three other Justices) and gives Obama and the Democrat National Committee (DNC) until December 1 to respond. [489]

Shortly after the election, Obama's official President-elect web site (change.gov) is introduced. The site announces that "*Obama will call on citizens of all ages to serve America, by developing a plan to require 50 hours of community service in middle school and high school and 100 hours of community service in college every year.*" After being flooded with questions and complaints, the Obama staff modifies the language, and the word "require" is removed. In his book, "*The Plan: Big Ideas for America,*" Rahm Emanuel endorses *mandatory* service for young Americans. He wrote, "*We propose universal civilian service for every young American. Under this plan, all Americans between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five will be asked to serve their country by going through three months of basic training, civil defense preparation and community service...*" Rahm also wrote that "*...Republicans will squeal about individual freedom.*" [460,463]

Web sites with the suffix ".gov" ("dot gov") are limited to government agencies and government use. The General Services Administration (GSA) controls the use of ".gov" domain names, and the law specifically forbids political or campaign information on any ".gov" site, including organizations that engage in lobbying or political campaigning. The Obama campaign was originally properly denied the use of the "change.gov" domain name, but caved in to intense pressure from Obama staffers and illegally granted the use of the name. [734]

At his first post-election news conference on November 7, Obama is asked if he had spoken with former Presidents. He replies that he had, and added, "*I didn't want to get into a Nancy Reagan thing about doing any séances.*" (Obama's comment was likely meant to ridicule Mrs. Reagan for having consulted with astrologers while in the White House, but it was actually Hillary Clinton who was said to have spoken with the "ghost" of Eleanor Roosevelt.) After an immediate firestorm of criticism, Obama calls Nancy Reagan to apologize for his remark. [465]

Obama has a telephone conversation with Lech Kaczynski, President of Poland. A Kaczynski staffer, Mariusz Handzlik, later relates that Obama promised he would proceed with plans to build the missile defense shield promised by President Bush. Obama senior foreign policy advisor Denis McDonough later denies that Obama made the pledge, as does the Polish Foreign Affairs Ministry. [470]

On November 9, John Podesta, Obama's transition-team chief, confirms that Obama is considering reversing President Bush's executive orders on stem-cell research and oil and gas drilling. Obama would also likely reverse plans to open up 360,000 acres of land in Utah for oil and gas drilling, reverse a rule barring international family-planning groups (which receive U.S. aid) from counseling

women about abortions, and allow California authorities to impose tougher automobile emissions standards than those required by the federal government. [462,468,476]

ABC 7's Ben Bradley reports that Valerie Jarrett is Obama's preferred choice for filling his soon to be vacant Senate seat. He states, "*Whether that is merely Obama's personal opinion, or if he intends to lobby on Jarrett's behalf, remains to be seen.*" CNN also reports that Obama wants Jarrett in his Senate seat. (Obama attorney Gregg Craig later states that Obama had "*ruled out communicating a preference for any one candidate.*") [667,678,679,1945]

Just days after the election, before Obama has even been sworn in – let alone done anything – his supporters start pushing for a “national holiday” to honor the candidate. [488]

USA Today reports that Obama staffers have already begun drafting plans to move prisoners of war from the military's Guantanamo Bay facility (“GITMO”) to the United States for trials in criminal courts. [466]

By November 10, Obama's Presidential-transition web site, “change.gov,” is “scrubbed” of much of the agenda which had appeared on his campaign web site, www.barackobama.com, suggesting that some of his campaign promises were nothing more than campaign promises. [469]

On November 10, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, his chief of staff John Harris, Blagojevich's wife Patti, and his Governor's office general counsel, speak on a conference call for about two hours with an Obama transition team member and other “Washington, D.C.-based advisers” about a “deal” in which the governor would name a replacement Senator desired by Obama (probably Valerie Jarrett) in exchange for Obama appointing the governor as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. They also discuss a less suspicious deal in which Blagojevich would appoint the desired replacement and Obama would assist the governor in getting a high-paid position with organized labor's “Change to Win” organization. Blagojevich states in the conversation that he would not name Obama's preferred choice, Valerie Jarrett, to Obama's open Senate seat unless he is offered in return a position that pays between \$250,000 and \$300,000 per year. The call is secretly recorded by federal authorities who have been investigating Blagojevich. The identity of the person representing Obama and Valerie Jarrett in the conversation is not made public; it may have been someone from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), possibly Andy Stern or Tom Balanoff. [645,656,657,658,661,678,1165]

“Change to Win” is a partnership that was founded by labor unions in 2005 for the purpose of strengthening union power. The unions are the SEIU, United

Here, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Laborers' International Union of North America, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, and United Farm Workers of America. [667]

Only hours after the Blagojevich marathon conference call earlier that day, on the evening of November 10 CNN reports that two anonymous Democrat sources confirmed that Valerie Jarrett will not be appointed to Obama's Senate seat, and that he instead wants her serving him in the White House. This about-face suggests that Obama learned the Blagojevich conversation had been taped and he chose to quickly extricate himself from the situation. [667,678]

It is learned on November 11 that the Obama campaign had been in contact with the terrorist group Hamas for months, but Hamas had been asked to keep the discussions secret until after the elections. There are reports that Obama plans to try a more regional approach to the war in Afghanistan and may work toward that by having high-level discussions with Iran. [475,484]

Despite massive evidence of the acceptance of illegal campaign contributions, the Obama campaign likely will not face an audit by the Federal Election Commission because its six commissioners are split evenly between Republicans and Democrats. [487]

General Electric (GE) announces that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) would guarantee up to \$139 billion in GE capital debt. The FDIC (which doesn't have sufficient assets to cover \$139 billion) is a federal agency that insures banks, but GE is not a bank. It is, however, the parent company of NBC and MSNBC, two television networks that heavily promoted Obama's candidacy by giving him largely uncritical and repeatedly "soft" coverage. GE's indebtedness to the federal government likely means that its NBC and MSNBC coverage of the Obama administration will remain fawning, as it tries to avoid biting the hand that is feeding it. [494,1155]

On November 12, Obama associate Valerie Jarrett appears on "The Newshour" and tells host Jim Lehrer that she is not interested in taking Obama's open Senate seat. There is later speculation that Jarrett was placed out of the running because Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich couldn't "get his price" for appointing her. [657]

Obama remarks that his administration will offer Israel an "nuclear umbrella" against the threat of a nuclear attack by Iran, leading many to believe that he expects he will be able to do nothing to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and, even worse, arguably sends a signal to Iran that Obama will not try very hard to halt its nuclear program. Israel likely won't be too impressed by

any “nuclear umbrella” offer if it believes Obama will be reluctant to ever open it. [713]

Ambassador Alan Keyes, presidential candidate of the American Independent Party, files a lawsuit against California’s Secretary of State, Obama, the DNC, and others, questioning Obama’s eligibility to run for and serve as president, and asking that the electors from the state of California be barred from casting their votes for Obama. (While the Keyes lawsuit may have some merit, it incorrectly asserts that “Box 7C” on the Hawaiian “long form” birth certificate, which is labeled “County and State or Foreign Country,” is for indicating the *place of birth*; it is instead for the *place of the mother’s birth*.) [492,730]

On November 12, Illinois Governor Blagojevich discusses a deal for Obama’s Senate seat with an SEIU official (SEIU President Andy Stern, or an Illinois union official, Tom Balanoff). Blagojevich considers the SEIU official to be the “emissary” or “go-between” with the Obama team – a third-party used to keep some distance between Obama and Blagojevich in the event the deal is uncovered or goes sour. [678]

On November 13 DebbieSchlussel.com breaks the story that the Selective Service System registration form showing Obama registered for the draft may be a forgery. The form’s document location number (DLN), 0897080632, indicates a 2008 entry into the federal system, because the first two digits (08) indicate the year. (Had Obama registered in 1980, the first two digits of the DLN would have been 80, rather than 08.) Obama’s document also appears to be a 1990 form, modified to look like a 1980 form. The date the form was signed is July 30, 1980, yet the form has a date stamp of July 29. The date stamp reflects the letters “USPO” for United States Post Office, but in 1980 the letters would have been “USPS,” for United States Postal Service. A retired federal agent had requested the Obama form via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). It took almost a full year for the document to be “found” and a copy given to him. [483,493]

Obama’s story about registering for the draft has changed more than once. He originally said he registered for the draft in 1979, when he turned age 18, but there was no requirement to register at that time. Failure to register with the Selective Service is punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison. It also renders the individual ineligible for any job in the Executive Branch of government or the U.S. Postal Service. (Thus, if Obama’s draft registration is a forgery, not only could he be removed from the Presidency he would not even be able to get a job with the Post Office.) One explanation for a forged Selective Service registration form is not that Obama “forgot” to register, but that he was *not required to register* because he may still have been a citizen of Indonesia in 1980 and therefore not a U.S. citizen. When the FOIA request for the document was received, someone loyal to Obama then contacted his campaign, which eventually “produced” the evidence. [483,493]

An Obama campaign spokeswoman tells reporters that lawsuits attempting to force the candidate to prove he is eligible to serve as President are “garbage.” At the same time, Obama continues to refuse to produce his birth certificate, and has sheriff’s deputies stationed at two hospitals in Honolulu where they prevent media inquiries and other attempts to request copies of records. [490]

Obama’s Weather Underground and Pentagon-bomber friend William Ayers appears at a Washington, D.C. coffeehouse, “Busboys and Poets,” to promote two of his books, “*City Kids, City Schools*,” and “*City Kids, City Teachers*.” [486]

On November 14, Obama names Valerie Jarrett the “Senior White House Advisor and Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Relations and Public Liaison.” [636,678]

The Wall Street Journal reports that “*Obama may decide he wants to keep the road open in certain cases for the CIA to use (prisoner interrogation) techniques not approved by the military.*” This is in direct conflict with Obama campaign promises to apply the Army field manual interrogation standard to all agencies, including the CIA. (Publicly, Obama thus chastises the Bush administration, but privately he realizes he will need to follow some of the same policies he criticizes.) [501]

Obama resigns from his Illinois Senate seat on November 16, shortly after the election. This surprises many because it eliminates the possibility of Obama being able to cast any critical votes in the Senate for two months – votes which may be especially important considering the financial crisis and the fact that his vote might be needed to prevent a filibuster. It may be possible that his early resignation is meant to provide more time to “wheel and deal” for his Senate seat. [704]

On November 16 the British Times reports that Obama would support a Middle East peace proposal calling for Israel to return to its 1949 borders (known as the “Auschwitz borders”). Obama allegedly tells Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas that the “*...Israelis would be crazy not to accept this initiative.*” The one-sided “deal” would require Israel to give up the entire eastern half of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount (the holiest site in Judaism), and retreat from the Golan Heights. Obama advisor Dennis Ross later denies that Obama is planning to make a deal based on the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative. [496,498,500]

Obama appears on “60 Minutes” and confirms that he intends to close the military base at Guantanamo, Cuba and suspend military commission hearings meant to hear the cases of the detainees. Obama does not elaborate on what he intends to do with the approximately 250 terrorists and enemy combatants held

there. Some documents describing the prisoners and their activities had been made public through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Even the leftist New York Times reported that the files contain “*sobering intelligence claims against many of the remaining detainees*” – ordinary criminals these prisoners are not. It is later reported by the Pentagon (January 13, 2009), that at least 61 former Guantanamo detainees have returned to terrorist activities since being released from custody. One former detainee, Said Ali al-Shihri, became the deputy leader of the al-Qaeda branch in Yemen. Another, Abdallah Ali al-Ajmi, made a martyrdom video before blowing himself up and killing 12 Iraqis in the process. (Eric Holder, Obama’s likely pick for Attorney General, is a senior partner in the law firm Covington and Burling, which represents 17 Yemeni prisoners who are held at GITMO. Obama’s order to close GITMO increases the likelihood that Holder’s firm can obtain U.S. trials and their release from custody.) [544,803,901,905,960,962]

Obama names Gregory B. Craig as his White House Counsel. Craig has a reputation for representing high-profile thugs. He is perhaps best known for defending John Hinckley, Jr., the man who shot President Ronald Reagan in 1981. Craig also defended Bill Clinton during his impeachment after the Monica Lewinsky cover-up, represented Elian Gonzalez’s father in order to get the child taken from his family in Miami and returned to Cuba, and defended former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan during the investigation of the Saddam Hussein “oil for food” scandal. Craig’s list of clients also includes Senator Ted Kennedy (during the rape trial of his nephew, William Kennedy Smith), Pedro Miguel Gonzalez Pinzion (a Panamanian who murdered a U.S. soldier), the Panamanian government (during the Manuel Noriega trial), and Victor Posner (a prominent Miami tax evader). [499,502,503,848]

Obama selects Hillary Clinton to be his Secretary of State, despite having said during the primary campaign debates that he did not trust her judgment and that she lacked foreign policy credentials. (Clinton’s confirmation hearing may be marred with questions about the millions of federal dollars she steered to a developer’s mall project at the same time he was donating \$100,000 to her husband’s foundation.) [504,573,784]

Eric Holder, who was Clinton’s Deputy Attorney General, is selected by Obama to be his Attorney General. Holder’s appointment is immediately controversial because he was instrumental in persuading Bill Clinton to pardon members of the Puerto Rican terrorist group FALN (to encourage votes for Hillary Clinton’s Senate run from New York Puerto Ricans). In exchange for large donations by Denise Rich to the Clinton Presidential Library fund and Clinton’s legal defense fund (approximately \$1 million), Holden worked for the pardon of her husband, Marc Rich, who had renounced his U.S. citizenship and fled to Switzerland to avoid prosecution for wire fraud, racketeering, tax fraud, and tax evasion. Holder’s role in securing the Clinton pardons was called “unconscionable” by a

Congressional committee, partly because he kept the deliberations hidden until the last minute in order to avoid protests from U.S. district attorneys. Holder was also second-in-command to Clinton's Attorney General Janet Reno when he made the decision to send Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officers with automatic weapons to kidnap Elian Gonzalez and return the child to Cuba. Holder wrote an amicus brief for the controversial Washington, D.C. Heller case *arguing that Americans have no right to keep firearms in their own homes*. (Obama also supported the D.C. ban on guns even though he should have known, as a former president of the Harvard Law Review and alleged "constitutional law professor," that it would be found unconstitutional.) In the past Holder has also advocated government regulation and censorship of Internet speech. [164,353,408,508,530,536,566,572,796,1326,1662,2171,2500]

Holder also worked to grant Clinton pardons for Susan Lisa Rosenberg and Linda Evans. Rosenberg and Evans were Weather Underground associates of William Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn who had been imprisoned for bombing government facilities. As with other pardons, Holder kept prosecutors from learning about the Rosenberg and Evans pardons in order to prevent objections. Bernardine Dohrn served prison time for refusing to testify against Rosenberg, who was the getaway driver in the Weather Underground robbery in which one Brinks armored car driver and two police officers were killed. Rosenberg was set free by Clinton on his last day in office. Holder also supported the intelligence "wall" between the FBI and the CIA which was implemented by Clinton and Janet Reno; that separation arguably contributed to the inability of U.S. intelligence agencies to "connect the dots" leading to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. [164,408,508,530,536]

Holder is antagonistic toward the Second Amendment right to bear arms and supported the Washington, D.C. ban on all hand-guns – *even for self-defense in the home*. (That law was later found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.) Holder supports federal licensing of all handguns, three-day waiting periods, one gun per month purchase limits, national gun registration, and strict limits on gun shows that would effectively shut them down. The Supreme Court's decision in *Boumediene v. Bush* granted habeas corpus rights to terrorist prisoners at Guantanamo, prompting dissenting Justice Scalia to state that the decision "...will almost certainly cause more Americans to be killed." Holder disagreed and said the decision "...is an important first step but we must go further." Holder did, however, say in a 2002 CNN interview that terrorist detainees "...are not, in fact, people entitled to the protection of the Geneva Convention." Holder also supported the Patriot Act, which passed the Senate in a 98 to 1 vote, and Obama (probably reluctantly) voted for its renewal in 2006. Holder is a senior partner in the law firm Covington and Burling, which represents 17 prisoners from Yemen who are imprisoned at Guantanamo in Cuba. In March, 2004, Holder had been appointed as special investigator to the Illinois Gaming Board by Governor Rod Blagojevich. Holder neglects to disclose that appointment in a 47-page

questionnaire he is required to complete for the Senate Judiciary Committee. [536,720,815,879,960]

On November 17, the Washington Times Weekly runs a full-page ad questioning whether Obama was born in Kenya, raising the issue of Obama's possible Indonesian citizenship, and asking, "*Does the Constitution Still Matter?*" [506]

The mainstream media has not bothered to investigate whether Obama is eligible to serve as President and simply assumes the "short form" birth document his staff posted on the Internet is sufficient proof that he is a natural born citizen. Due to the almost total lack of news reporting and fact-checking regarding Obama's hidden "long form" birth certificate and his exact citizenship status, a large number of web sites created by ordinary citizens emerge to counteract the web sites of official Obama organizations and Obama supporters. Obama fans (if not Obama staffers themselves) do their best to "hack" those opposing sites and shut them down.

Obama selects former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to be his Secretary of Health and Human Services. As HHS Secretary, Daschle would work toward a single-payer, nationalized health care system. In Daschle's revealing book, "*Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis*," he argues that the failure of the Clinton plan in 1993 was the result of providing too much detailed information, which its critics then used against it. *Daschle instead recommends passing an intentionally vague bill, which would set up a "Federal Health Board... charged with establishing the system's framework and filling in most of the details. This independent board would be insulated from political pressure."* In other words, Obama and Congress should *intentionally deceive the American people* in order to stage a national health care coup. As Senate Majority Leader, the pro-abortion Daschle blocked a Senate vote on the Partial Birth Abortion ban. Daschle has earned over \$5 million in the last two years as an "unofficial" lobbyist for various industries, among them are health care business that paid him \$220,000. [510,556,596,1014]

Speculation arises that Obama could easily eliminate the possibility of drilling for oil in the Alaska National Wildlife Reserve (ANWR) by simply reclassifying the area as a "National Monument" – something he could do without Congressional approval. [511]

On November 18, Obama telephones Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and promises to work to establish a Palestinian state as soon as possible. [512]

It is reported that Obama's Secret Service codename is "*Renegade*." Michelle Obama is referred to as "*Renaissance*," and the Obama children are "*Rosebud*" and "*Radiance*." [2509]

In mid-November the United States Supreme Court schedules a "Rule of Four Conference" for December 5 to review the merits of the *Donofrio v. Wells* lawsuit challenging the inclusion of Obama's name on New Jersey's ballot. The lawsuit charges that the Secretary of State, Nina Mitchell Wells, failed to exercise her official duties by not disqualifying ineligible candidates. If at least four of the Supreme Court Justices vote to hear the Donofrio case, oral arguments from both sides would be scheduled. The Donofrio action questions whether Democrat candidate Obama, Republican candidate McCain, and Socialist Workers Party candidate Calero are considered "natural born citizens" and eligible to serve as President. [516,518,580]

Although there is no requirement for a Federal Election Commission (FEC) audit of the Obama campaign because it did not accept public financing, public statements by some FEC officials suggest there may be an "audit for cause" because of widely-publicized allegations of fraud, donations in excess of the \$2,300 limit, and indications of significant amounts of illegal foreign contributions. (In 2007 Obama had worked to stall the confirmation of a Republican FEC Commissioner, wanting to keep the deck stacked in his favor.) [517]

On November 19, Obama's Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, tells the Wall Street Journal, "*You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. And what I mean by that is an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before.*" Emanuel's argument is that a crisis allows the government to usurp power and pass extreme legislation *which the citizenry would ordinarily not accept.* (Emanuel follows the advice of the Russian communist Lenin, who wrote, "*Deepen, exacerbate existing problems, crises, differences, and if they don't exist, create them or convincingly claim that they exist, and then deepen, exacerbate them...and profit (politically, ideologically and even financially) the most from them in any way you can, and, in the resulting chaos, blame our enemies for the whole thing.*" [523]

By November 20, there is speculation that Obama will select Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano as his Secretary of Homeland Security. Napolitano had been on the legal team advising Anita Hill, who testified against Clarence Thomas in his Supreme Court nomination hearings. Napolitano was accused of coaching a witness into changing her testimony. Some suggest Napolitano has no experience to be in charge of Homeland Security and has been "soft on crime" and "easy on illegal immigrants," having vetoed a bill that would cut tuition aid to illegals, vetoed a bill that would have required local police to enforce immigration laws, opposed a border fence, and supported a temporary guest worker program. While Napolitano has been Governor of Arizona trafficking of drugs, weapons, humans, and money have increased, along with crime and gang warfare.

Napolitano, as Governor of Arizona, was careful to be politically correct and not offend Jews or Muslims (on November 29, 2007), by referring to the state capitol's Christmas tree as a "holiday tree." As Arizona Attorney General, Napolitano issued a memo describing "acceptable seasonal decorations," which included snowflakes, icicles, garlands, and poinsettia plants, but prohibited "trees under which gifts could be placed, or Santa himself." Napolitano approved a bill requiring Arizona officials to *not* comply with the "Real I.D." program, which had been passed by Congress in 2005 in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and which requires states to verify the residency of all drivers license applicants. (Hani Hanjour, one of the terrorists who flew a hijacked plane into the Pentagon on 9/11 had an Arizona driver's license.) [353,356,519,534,546,565,589]

There is also speculation that Obama will select Chicago businesswoman Penny Pritzker as his Secretary of Commerce. Although billionaire Pritzker, Obama's campaign's national finance chairwoman, ran the candidate's record-breaking fundraising efforts she was also the former head of the Superior Bank S&L, which failed in 2001 because of improper accounting and irresponsible sub prime mortgage lending in the 1990s. (It also failed too early for her to blame President Bush for her incompetence.) Pritzker's bank's failure resulted in \$360 million in penalties and caused over 1,400 depositors to lose their life savings. [353,356,519,534]

Obama ultimately decides against Pritzker as his Secretary of Commerce, choosing instead New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson for the position. Richardson had in the past offered Monica Lewinsky a job at the United Nations in order to "buy her silence" when her relationship with Bill Clinton became known. Richardson also met with criticism for what some saw as a failure to safeguard nuclear secrets while he was the Secretary of Energy. (West Virginia Senator Robert Byrd has stated he would never again support Richardson for any public office.) [534,586]

Obama's transition team includes unprecedented detailed questions about gun ownership in questionnaires for potential cabinet and staff nominees, prompting criticism from the National Rifle Association. Questions include, "*Do you or any members of your immediate family own a gun? If so, provide complete ownership and registration information. Has the registration ever lapsed? Please also describe how and by whom it is used and whether it has been the cause of any personal injuries or property damage.*" [626]

ABC News reports that the Ludlum Elementary School in Long Island, New York, is renamed the "Barack Obama Elementary School." Most of the school's students are black or Hispanic. The school's original name was in honor of Dr. Charles Ludlum, who had been president of the Hempstead Board of Education for 40 years; it is assumed the Ludlum family is not pleased by the name change. [528]

CBS refuses to air an advertisement produced by “Americans for Job Security” which is critical of the ill-named “Employee Free Choice Act” legislation supported by Obama. The law, if passed, which would allow labor unions to organize employees *without* the protection of secret ballots. Other networks approve the ad for airing. A CBS representative argues that viewers would be “confused” by the ad’s content. [532]

Obama chooses New York’s Federal Reserve Bank President, Timothy Geithner, as his Secretary of the Treasury, and Clinton’s former Secretary of the Treasury, Lawrence Summers, as head of the National Economic Council. Geithner worked at the Treasury Department during the Clinton years, was also with the International Monetary Fund, and was involved in the decision to allow Lehman Brothers to fail in September of 2008 while he schemed with Henry Paulson and Ben Bernanke to bail out AIG and Bear Stearns. Geithner had also worked for Kissinger and Associates, a Chinese financial lobbying firm with ties to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, before beginning a series of government jobs. (CNBC’s Jim Cramer had previously criticized Geithner, saying that if he “...gets a top spot in the (sic) Barack Obama’s cabinet, we are done, finished, kaput. It is that simple.”) Geithner’s father, Peter Geithner, has been director of the Asia program at the Ford Foundation, overseeing the “microfinance program” that Stanley Ann Dunham worked on while she was with that same foundation. (Peter Geithner also attended the International School of Bangkok, Thailand; it has been alleged that he has CIA ties.) Obama names Peter Orszag to direct the Office of Management and Budget.

[520,533,540,541,542,554,555,1176,1735,1736,2156,2204,2205,2206,2275]

Geithner, Summers, and Orszag are all disciples of Robert Rubin, former Clinton Treasury Secretary and Obama advisor who made more than \$100 million giving bad investment advice to Citigroup and running it into the ground – which led to the firm eventually getting tens of billions of dollars in federal bail-out money. (Rubin scored the number eight spot on Market Watch’s list of “*The 10 Most Unethical People in Business*,” and Citigroup still plans on spending \$400 million to get its name on a new baseball stadium for the New York Mets.) With his selection of Geithner and Summers, Obama is arguably placing in charge of fixing the nation’s economic problems two of the Wall Street insiders who were responsible for creating them. (Summers was paid \$5.2 million in 2008 by hedge fund D. E. Shaw, as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars in speaking fees by J.P. Morgan, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, and Lehman Brothers. Summers has also been accused of accepting free rides on a Citigroup corporate jet.)

[520,533,540,541,542,554,555,1176,1735,1736,2156,2204,2205,2206,2275]

Author James Bibbings suggests that Tim Geithner was placed in the Treasury Department because he is “...very clearly connected to the Clintons, two former Treasury Secretaries, Barack Obama, the Ford Foundation, and through his

policy choices, he currently controls the fate of our banking system,” and “...not because of his qualifications but rather as a result of tremendous lobbying power. He is there because forces greater than him are influencing and calling the shots for Barack Obama; at least in the Treasury area (if) perhaps not broadly.” [2206]

Christina Romer is named Obama’s Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors. Romer is a professor of economics at the University of California at Berkeley who will likely advocate expanding the money supply (which can improve an economy in the short term, but at the cost of high inflation in the long run). Melody Barnes is named director of the Domestic Policy Council. Barnes is executive vice president for policy at the Center for American Progress (a leftist organization headed by John Podesta, which has worked to remove conservative commentators from the radio). Attorney Barnes has also served as Edward Kennedy’s chief counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and is an advocate of abortion and affirmative action programs. Barnes has served on the board of Planned Parenthood and “Emily’s List,” an organization devoted to getting pro-abortion Democrat women elected. Barnes, like Obama, is an advocate of a “loose interpretation” of the Constitution and told Fox News that Obama views the document as “...a living and breathing document and that the law and the justices who interpret it have to understand that.” [520,533,540,541,542,596,598]

Podesta’s Center for American Progress (CAP) has received several million dollars from left-wing activist and hedge-fund billionaire George Soros, who also contributed \$60,000 to Obama’s 2004 U.S. Senate campaign. The CAP is essentially Obama’s “action/think tank,” with 180 staffers who dream up leftist ideas and recommendations and then pumps out their details. Shortly after the election the CAP produced for Obama a massive document, “*Change for America: A Progressive Blueprint for the 44th President.*” Obama also has the help of the Brookings Institution. (The CAP and Brookings conservative counterpoints are arguably the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute.) [547,2046]

Obama’s advisors discuss an “economic stimulus package” of from \$175 billion to \$700 billion. [533,540]

Mark Halperin, a writer for Time magazine, tells a group of media analysts at a Politico/USC conference on the 2008 election that the mainstream media engaged in “*extreme bias, extreme pro-Obama coverage.*” He remarks that it was “...the most disgusting failure of people in our business since the Iraq war.” [535]

In a November 22 radio address Obama promises he will “*save or create*” 2.5 million jobs by 2011. In non-recession times such a pledge might be considered modest. Despite the media’s (and Obama’s) gloom and doom reporting about the

economy, the employment rate is at about 93 per cent and the American economy might arguably create 2.5 million or more jobs over two years if Obama does nothing. The use of the “*save or create*” con-artist language by Obama also makes it *impossible* to measure whether his policies are a success or a failure. If, for example, the economy grows by one million jobs, no one can prove Obama wrong if he argues that he also “saved” another 1.5 million. That is, he can argue that, without his policies, the economy would have lost 1.5 million jobs. Even if the economy *loses* five million jobs, Obama can argue that it *would have lost* 7.5 million jobs had his policies *not* been in effect. *Thus, no matter how many jobs have been created or have been lost, Obama can say he fulfilled his promise.* (Obama subsequently modifies his pledge to 3.5 and then 4 million jobs “saved or created,” knowing full well that he has a built-in “out” no matter what the employment and unemployment numbers are at any point in the future.) [594,595,1284]

Obama chooses the private Sidwell School for his daughters, Malia and Natasha. Tuition at Sidwell approaches \$30,000 per child per year. The Washington, D.C. public schools are reputed to be the worst in the nation, despite their very high expenses of about \$13,400 per student. A trial voucher system, opposed by Obama, has received high marks from parents in Washington, D.C. [274,537]

The New York Times reports on November 23 that when Robert Rubin “... was *Treasury Secretary during the Clinton administration, Mr. Rubin helped loosen Depression-era banking regulations that made the creation of Citigroup possible by allowing banks to expand far beyond their traditional role as lenders and permitting them to profit from a variety of financial activities. During the same period he helped beat back tighter oversight of exotic financial products, a development he had previously said he was helpless to prevent.*” Despite Rubin’s involvement in causing the general economic crisis – and especially at Citigroup – Obama nevertheless relies on Rubin as an advisor and selects several of his followers (Geithner, Summers, and Orszag) to head his financial team. [557]

Obama campaign guru David Axelrod appears on Fox News Chicago and states that Obama “*has talked with the Governor (Blagojevich, about his open Senate seat) and there are a whole range of names many of which have surfaced, and I think he has a fondness for a lot of them.*” (After Blagojevich is arrested, Axelrod contradicts this November 23 statement.) [678]

On November 24, one brief report about one of the many lawsuits questioning Obama’s eligibility to serve as President finally appears in the “mass media.” [538]

Judge Bert Ayabe dismisses a lawsuit filed by Andy Martin that demands Obama prove he is a natural born citizen, arguing there is “*insufficient evidence to indicate that the public interest supports*” the release of the candidate’s birth

certificate. It is unclear why Ayabe would not recognize that there is “public interest” in confirming whether Obama is eligible to serve as President, considering the tens of thousands of signatures on petitions demanding proof of eligibility. Further, Ayabe, following the logic of the earlier Berg lawsuit, rules that Martin does not have “standing” under state law because he does *“not have a direct and tangible interest in the vital statistic records being sought, namely the birth certificate of President (-elect) Obama.”* [539]

Delaware Governor selects Ted Kaufman to fill Joe Biden’s vacant Senate seat. Kaufman is a publicly-unknown longtime Biden advisor. Kaufman agrees to accept the position on the condition that he steps down in 2010 in order for Biden’s son, Beau, to run for the Senate (after he returns from his overseas military obligation). [715]

During a November 25 press briefing Deputy White House Press Secretary Tony Fratto ignores a question about the legitimacy of Obama’s birth certificate. Journalist Lester Kinsolving asks, *“The CEO of WorldNetDaily has called on the President-elect to release a birth certificate listing the hospital and names of parents. The White House believes that this would fully satisfy the constitutional requirement, don’t you?”* Fratto responds, *“I don’t think I have anything to say on that, Lester, and I think we’re going to end it right there.”* [550]

Gary Kreep, attorney with the United States Justice Foundation, states that his group will continue to file lawsuits challenging every bill signed by Obama even if he takes office, arguing that he is ineligible to serve because he is not a natural born citizen. Kreep is one of the lawyers involved with the Alan Keyes lawsuit, which argues that *“Should Senator Obama be discovered, after he takes office, to be ineligible for the Office of President of the United States of America and, thereby, his election declared void, Petitioners, as well as other Americans, will suffer irreparable harm in that (a) usurper will be sitting as the President of the United States, and none of the treaties, laws, or executive orders signed by him will be valid or legal.”* [552]

Obama plans to create an “Economic Recovery Advisory Board,” chaired by Austan Goolsbee, who will also be a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisors. Members of the board will include former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker – who pushed the prime rate up to 22 per cent and effectively destroyed American export industries when he was head of the Federal Reserve Board. Some of the other board members will apparently be Rich Trumka (AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer), Jeffrey Immelt (General Electric CEO), Ann Burger (union leader), John Doerr (Silicon Valley venture capitalist), William Donaldson (former Securities and Exchange Commission chairman), David Swensen (Yale Investment chief), Mark Gallogly (director of Dana Holding Corp., who raised \$200,000 for Obama), Robert Wolf (UBS chairman who raised

\$370,000 for Obama), and Penny Pritzker (Hyatt Hotel heiress and former head of Chicago's Superior Bank FSB, which failed as a result of sub-prime mortgages – while she made millions). [553,1930,842, p. 178]

On November 25, Obama states, *"We are going to go through our federal budget, as I promised during the campaign, page by page, line by line, eliminating those programs we don't need and insisting that those that we do need operate in a sensible, cost-effective way."* [718]

On November 27, Pamela Geller's AtlasShrugs web site charges that Google rigged its search results to omit links to that site. AtlasShrugs was instrumental in breaking the first phony birth certificate stories about Obama, and search queries prompt "forbidden" or missing results where there used to be valid responses. Google CEO Eric Schmidt, a friend and supporter of Obama, may be named his "tech advisor," a new position created by the government. [563,567]

On November 29 it is reported that Obama selects Cecilia Muñoz as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, coordinating White House relations with local and state governments. Muñoz is Senior Vice President of La Raza ("The Race"), a Hispanic lobbying group dedicated to open borders, amnesty for illegal immigrants, and increased benefits for Hispanics who cross the border illegally into the United States. Muñoz was born in Detroit, and her parents are from Bolivia. In an essay describing her Hispanic activism, she wrote, *"My outrage... became a propellant of my life, driving me straight to the civil rights movement, where I've worked ever since. I guess outrage got me pretty far. I found jobs in the immigrant rights movement. I moved to Washington to work as an advocate. I found plenty to be angry about along the way and built something of a reputation for being strident."* Muñoz will, like Obama, be a supporter of amnesty for illegal immigrants. Muñoz has called opponents of amnesty programs *"hate groups,"* while calling for allowing illegal agriculture workers to become immediately eligible for permanent legal residency. [690,691]

On December 1, Obama introduces his national security team, Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State, Robert Gates (continuing as Secretary of Defense from the previous administration), General James L. Jones as national security advisor, Janet Napolitano as Homeland Security chief, Susan Rice as Ambassador to the United Nations, and Eric Holder as Attorney General. Jones, Rice, and Clinton are likely to support a plan to establish East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian Authority. Jones has advocated replacing Israeli forces in the West Bank, Judea, and Samaria with NATO-based international troops (which would significantly reduce Israel's intelligence-gathering capabilities and prompt Hamas to install rockets launchers on any new land gained from Israel). Rice, as assistant secretary of state, along with Richard Clark, had persuaded Clinton *not* to accept Sudan's offer to hand over Osama bin Laden to the U.S. Rice, also along with Clark, authored the controversial "Presidential Decision Directive 25"

(PDD-25), which some argue was incredibly naive and led to the 1993 Somalia fiasco (the “Blackhawk Down” battle) in which American troops were killed by crowds and dragged through the streets. Clinton’s non-response to that incident allegedly led Osama bin Laden and others to believe terrorist attacks could weaken the resolve of the American people and allow greater progress by the radical Islamists. Rice also encouraged, or at least supported, Clinton’s decision to do nothing to prevent the Rwanda genocide. Rice has been considered “*wildly incompetent*” by some Washington insiders, and one critic who had worked with her said, “*She doesn’t know what she doesn’t know. And she doesn’t tolerate dissenters. To have her head the U.S. mission to the U.N. is a mind-boggling decision. It is frightening.*” (Rice is married to an ABC news producer, prompting the likelihood that ABC will be unwilling or unable to objectively evaluate Rice’s performance.) [356,360,568,569,590,670]

Former Clinton staffer Mansoor Ijaz states that efforts to capture or kill Osama bin Laden were “*overruled every single time by the State Department, by Susan Rice and her cronies, who were Hell-bent on destroying the Sudan.*” Rice also thwarted the acceptance of anti-bin Laden intelligence aid from the Sudanese, and worked to keep Clinton from preventing genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Despite her apparent incompetence, Obama nevertheless names Rice the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. [628]

An argument surfaces that Hillary Clinton cannot legally serve as Secretary of State because the U.S. Constitution forbids members of the Senate from being appointed to positions in government when the salary for that position was increased during the Senator’s term. Because the Senate had voted to increase the salary of the Secretary of State, Clinton cannot legally be appointed to the position. It is unlikely, however, that Obama or Clinton will allow the Constitution to stand in their way. [571]

After the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, MSNBC’s Alex Witt naively remarks that she hoped that with the “*...incoming Obama administration there would be something of a lull in terrorism attacks. There had been such a global outpouring of affection, respect, hope, with the new administration coming in, that precisely these kinds of attacks, it was thought – at least hoped – would be dampered down. But in this case it looks like Barack Obama is getting a preview of things to come.*” (The terrorists were apparently not as fooled by Obama’s rhetoric as was Witt.) [689]

On December 1 and 3, an organization called the “We the People Foundation” runs a full-page ad in the Chicago Tribune challenging Obama to produce his birth certificate and prove he is eligible to serve as President. The ads prompt several rebuttal columns, including one by Chicago Sun-Times columnist Mary Mitchell in which she ridicules Obama critics and makes incorrect statements about his birth certificate, and another by Tribune writers Sara Olken and James

Janega... which also contains misstatements and misrepresentations.
[570,579,601,602,603]

Cort Wrotnowski, who filed a lawsuit relating to Obama's eligibility to serve as President (*Wrotnowski v. Bysiewicz*, Supreme Court Docket No. 08A469), is told that his application to Justice Scalia would be delayed for seven days due to "*anthrax screening*." [576]

Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) responds to constituent questions about Obama's status as a natural born citizen with an insulting form letter that says the issue is essentially irrelevant because the candidates are "*vettted by voters*" during the primary and general elections. [606]

Former Black Panther and racist Illinois Congressman Bobby Rush (a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus) demands that Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich select a black to complete the remaining two years of Obama's open Senate seat, saying it would be a "*national disgrace*" if he does otherwise.
[577,1362]

On December 2, Republican Senator Saxby Chambliss is re-elected in a run-off election. Chambliss beats his opponent, Jim Martin, by 14 points, despite a concentrated effort by the Democrats to win the seat in an attempt to get Obama a filibuster-proof Senate. [578]

Obama meets with many of the nation's governors at a conference on December 2. Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich attends the conference and speaks with Obama. [781]

On December 3, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson is officially announced as Obama's pick for Secretary of Commerce. Richardson, formerly Bill Clinton's ambassador to the United Nations, is an opponent of offshore oil drilling. Richardson was on the board of Peregrine Systems when, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the company was engaged in massive fraud. The CEO (Richardson's brother in law) pleaded guilty. Obama's communication's director will be Ellen Moran, the executive director of "Emily's List," an organization devoted to getting pro-abortion female Democrat candidates elected. Obama's announced "ethics advisor," Alta Charo, has ties to the human embryo experimentation industry and supports federally funded embryonic research. The supposedly "ethical" Charo opposes the right of health care professionals to refuse to participate in abortions; in her opinion they are not permitted to follow their ethics and morals. [587.596]

On December 3, Dr. Orly Taitz files a California lawsuit, *Lightfoot v. Bowen*, requesting a stay of the December 15 vote of the Electoral College because of Obama's ineligibility to serve as President. [622]

The Chicago Tribune reports that Tony Rezko, tired of being in solitary confinement at Chicago's Metropolitan Correction Center, asked for a sentencing date from the judge. The judge selects January 6, 2009 for the sentencing. [662]

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid telephones Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich on December 3 to tell him he should not select Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., Congressman Danny Davis, or Illinois Senate President Emil Jones as Obama's successor. (All three are black men.) Instead, Reid suggests Illinois Veteran Affairs Director Tammy Duckworth or Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. (Both are white women.) The assumption is that Reid prefers a white female replacement for Obama's Illinois senate seat because she might be more likely to win re-election in 2010 than a black male candidate. When later asked on "Meet the Press" to confirm that he made the telephone call, Reid labels Blagojevich a liar. (Reid is himself likely to face a tough re-election battle in 2010.) [779]

Rahm Emanuel reportedly telephones Blagojevich to tell him that Illinois State Comptroller Dan Hynes, Congressman Jan Schakowsky, and Attorney General Lisa Madigan are "acceptable" candidates for Obama's vacant Senate seat. [779]

Obama's cousin, Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga calls for Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe to be ousted. Odinga's criticism of "power sharing" in Zimbabwe is inconsistent with his own position in Kenya where, after losing his bid for the Presidency in 2006 – despite campaign support from Obama – he used force and violence to broker the deal that made him Prime Minister. [591]

Obama considers giving the job of U.S. trade representative to Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA), an advocate of changing the North American Free Trade Agreement. Becerra was involved in Bill Clinton's controversial pardon of a cocaine dealer. The dealer's family had donated \$15,000 to the Becerra's campaign and paid Hugh Rodham (Hillary Clinton's brother) \$200,000 to negotiate the release of Carlos Vignali, who had been caught shipping 800 pounds of cocaine from Los Angeles to Minneapolis. Vignali had served half of his 14 and one-half year sentence when Clinton set him free. [592,593]

On December 5 it is revealed that an employee of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services was threatened with being fired by a Democrat superior if she did not go along with a scheme to cover up an improper search of Office of Child Support records in an effort to discredit Joe "the plumber" Wurzelbacher. [599]

Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, daughter of former President John F. Kennedy, allegedly tells New York Governor David Paterson she would like him to appoint her to the Senate seat vacated by Hillary Clinton. Kennedy has no political experience and is a terrible public speaker, but an alleged close relationship between Schlossberg and New York Times publisher Arthur "Pinch" Sulzberger may contribute to "good press" for her. [620,714,740,761]

Mark Rudd and Jeff Jones, former Weather Underground radicals, friends of William Ayers, and Obama supporters through the "Progressives for Obama" group, comment that Obama's cabinet picks are a "smokescreen" meant to suggest he will be taking centrist positions when, in fact, he will be moving the government as far to the left as he can, redistributing financial resources downward so that *"even Lenin would be impressed."* (Rudd, as a member of the Weather underground, had supported planting a bomb at an Army dance at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Instead, the bomb exploded prematurely and killed three of Rudd's co-terrorists. Rudd, in reference to the Vietnam War, stated that he wanted *"this country to have a taste of what it had been dishing out daily in Southeast Asia."* [600,1659]

On December 5 the Supreme Court delays deciding whether to grant a hearing of the Donofrio lawsuit which questions whether Obama is a natural born citizen eligible to serve as President. [619]

A lawsuit (Broe v. Reed) is filed by 12 voters in the state of Washington demanding that votes cast for Obama be set aside because he failed to prove he is eligible to serve as President, and because the Secretary of State (Reed) did nothing to confirm Obama's status. The case should not have the "standing" issue that confronted the earlier Berg lawsuit because Washington State law specifically allows any registered voter to challenge the election of someone ineligible to hold the office. The Washington Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the case on January 8, 2009. [621,754]

On December 6, Obama says he will call for the most expansive public works program since the creation of the interstate highway system, arguing it will create jobs. *"We will create millions of jobs by making the single largest new investment in our national infrastructure since the creation of the federal highway system in the 1950s."* Obama neglects to mention how his stimulus program will be paid for (\$400 to \$700 billion has been rumored) or how paying for the expensive program will not cost jobs elsewhere in the economy. Many of the jobs will purportedly be in construction (bridge and highway repair), insuring work for experienced, high-paid union workers, which will do little to help chronic unemployment in traditionally poor areas of the nation. Obama argues, *"We won't just throw money at the problem (of unemployment),"* although the program will

likely do just that – because temporary public works projects don't result in permanent employment. [623,625]

Obama names General Eric Shinseki as his head of the Veterans Affairs Department. [623]

Although Obama campaigned on a promise to end the influence of lobbyists, the Associated Press identifies at least 34 current or former lobbyists on Obama's transition team. One Obama apologist, James Thurber (who teaches "lobbying skills" at American University), remarks, "*I don't think you can govern without them. The important thing is to be honest and transparent.*" [624]

On a December 7 "Meet the Press" appearance, Obama twice makes a "lowering the voters' expectations" comment, "*The economy is going to get worse before it gets better.*" Obama also hints that one or more of the CEOs of GM, Ford, and Chrysler should not be allowed to stay in their positions if federally funding is provided to bail them out. Obama also tells host Tom Brokaw, "*We don't want government to run companies,*" implying he is against nationalization of industries only on practical, and not philosophical, terms. (He does not say, "There is nothing in the Constitution allowing the federal government to take control of private companies.") Unstated by Obama is the problem of no longer being able to criticize other nations for subsidizing their automobile industries if the United States does the same. [623,630,632]

On December 8 the "We the People Foundation" holds a press conference at Washington's National Press Club to summarize the controversies surrounding Obama's questionable "natural born citizen" status. Invited are hundreds of D.C.-area newspapers and radio and television stations. (A video of the presentation, lasting 2 hours and 37 minutes, is available on YouTube.com.) After the meeting, ABC reporter Vickey Mabrey (an African-American) rudely tells one of the presenters, Dr. Orly Taitz, to "*go back home to Russia.*" (Dr. Taitz, who emigrated from Moldova in the former Soviet Union, is an attorney as well as a dentist, and speaks five languages – which is likely four more than reporter Mabrey can speak.) [604,605,671,674,2321]

Also on December 8, the Supreme Court decides not to rule on the Donofrio lawsuit challenging Obama's eligibility to serve as President. The case also challenged the legitimacy of John McCain's candidacy (because he was born in Panama to American parents while his father served in the Navy) and Socialist Workers Party candidate Roger Calero (who was born in Nicaragua to Nicaraguan parents). The Supreme Court's failure to rule on the issue essentially means that political candidates can effectively ignore the Constitution's "natural born citizen" requirement, inasmuch as no one seems to be permitted to present a challenge to a clearly ineligible candidate. (Calero is clearly not a natural born citizen and his name should not have been on the ballot, regardless of the status

of Obama and McCain. It is unclear what would have happened had Calero won the Presidency or why that risk, however minimal, should have been permitted.) [631]

The Supreme Court, while refusing to hear the Donofrio case, agrees to discuss considering another “Obama-is-ineligible” case, filed by Cort Wrotnowski (*Wrotnowski v. Bysiewicz*), on December 12. [642,648]

At 6:15 am on December 9, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich and his chief of staff John Harris are arrested, in handcuffs, by the FBI on federal corruption charges. Federal prosecutors had been investigating Blagojevich (known in Illinois as “*Blago*,” and who was elected in 2002 as a self-proclaimed “reformer”) since 2003, but current prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald apparently chose to (or was ordered to) act before the Governor had the chance to appoint a replacement for Obama’s vacant U.S. Senate seat in Illinois. The charges against Blagojevich include multiple “pay to play” schemes, “shaking down” a children’s hospital, and trading his office’s influence for campaign contributions and financial benefits. Blagojevich is accused of seeking to be named Secretary of Health and Human Services by Obama in exchange for appointing an “Obama-friendly” replacement. (The HHS job is eventually offered to former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, and then to Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius.) Blagojevich is also accused of conspiring to have Chicago Tribune editorial board members (who have been critical of his administration) fired, in exchange for state help with the sale of Wrigley Field – the stadium of the Chicago Cubs baseball team, which is owned by the Tribune. (The newspaper filed for bankruptcy on December 8 and needs the cash a stadium sale would generate.) Critics quickly argue that Fitzgerald had Blagojevich arrested and the investigations ended prematurely so that Obama could avoid further involvement in the scandal. Blagojevich has met in the past with both Obama and Obama’s convicted “money-man,” Tony Rezko. Attorney Fitzgerald states that *“the breadth of corruption laid out in these charges is staggering. They allege that Blagojevich put a for sale sign on the naming of a United States senator.”* [633,634,635,637,638,684]

Wiretaps in the Blagojevich investigation catch him saying, *“I’ve got this thing and it’s fucking golden, and I’m just not giving it up for fucking nothing. I’m not gonna do it.”* He also says that Obama’s open Senate seat *“is a fucking valuable thing, you just don’t give it away for nothing”* and *“I’m going to keep this Senate option for me a real possibility, you know, and therefore I can drive a hard bargain. You hear what I’m saying. And if I don’t get what I want and I’m not satisfied with it, then I’ll just take the Senate seat myself.”* Blagojevich allegedly talked about trading the Senate seat for a cabinet post or ambassadorship. In a November 10th telephone conversation Blagojevich calls Obama a *“motherfucker”* and says he would not appoint an Obama ally to the Senate if he doesn’t get anything in return. *“Fuck him. For nothing? Fuck him.”* Potential Senate candidates may have included Valerie Jarrett (a close Obama ally), Lisa Madigan (Illinois

Attorney General), Emil Jones (Obama's Illinois State Senate "promoter extraordinaire"), J.P. Pritzker (a wealthy Chicago businessman and husband of Obama fundraiser Penny Pritzker), Penny Pritzker, Rahm Emanuel (Obama's chief of staff), Danny Davis (Congressman), Jesse Jackson, Jr. (Congressman), Luis Gutierrez (Congressman), and Tammy Duckworth (Iraq War veteran who failed in her attempt to win a Congressional seat). Blagojevich also attempted to use the open Senate seat "sale" to get his wife, Patti (whose father is Chicago alderman Dick Mell), placed on a corporate board or to the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) where she could collect as much as \$150,000 in salary. In one conversation, Blagojevich remarks, "*I want to make money.*" [635,638,639]

Blagojevich also remarks in one of the conversations that his wife, Patti Mell Blagojevich, could be given a job on a corporate board because she is as qualified or more qualified than Michelle Obama (who managed to get appointed to the TreeHouse Foods board at a \$51,200 salary despite having no experience in the private sector; TreeHouse Foods is a Wal-Mart vendor). As a board member Michelle Obama took part in a 2005 decision to close a pickle plant in La Junta, Colorado, costing 150 laborers (mostly Hispanic) their jobs and devastating the small town's economy. [677,842, p. 119]

Blagojevich's contact at the SEIU was possibly its president, Andy Stern, or another union official, Tom Balanoff. Note that the SEIU COPE-PAC spent over \$13 million on behalf of Obama during the campaign (with phone banks, door-to-door canvassing, voter registration), and Obama gave the SEIU over \$2 million from his campaign fund during the months leading up to the election. Stern or Balanoff was the alleged intermediary between Blagojevich and Obama, who would have arranged high-paying job for the Governor and his wife in exchange for Valerie Jarrett's appointment as Senator. (The founder of ACORN, Wade Rathke, was also the founder of SEIU Local 100; Rathke was an SDS associate of William Ayers.) [661,678]

The complaint against Blagojevich alleges that "Advisor B" felt that, from Obama's perspective, that there would be fewer "fingerprints" on a deal involving Blagojevich taking a position with the SEIU "Change to Win" organization, because it already has funding and thus wouldn't require a new money trail, and "*you won't have stories in four years that they bought you off.*" Advisor B was thus expressing concerns about leaving a trail that would implicate Obama in a quid-pro-quo "job for Senate seat" deal. To any reasonable observer it is clear that Obama knew what was going on in the negotiations, but had go-betweens making the contacts with Blagojevich in order to keep his "fingerprints" off the negotiations. [667]

When questioned about Blagojevich's "pay to play" arrest, Obama said "*I had no contact with the governor or his office*" with regard to filling the open Senate seat.

(Obama did not say that his staff had not had any contact with Blagojevich, or that Obama had not been in contact with anyone else regarding the open Senate seat.) However, Obama's advisor, David Axelrod, said on November 23 that Obama had *"talked to the governor and there are a whole range of names many of which have surfaced..."* Further, the media had reported at the time of the meeting that Obama had met with Blagojevich, on November 5, to discuss his replacement. Obama's December 9 denial is therefore a lie. Obama's staff states that Axelrod "misspoke," but the reported November 5 meeting is not something Obama can readily deny. Axelrod later personally tells the media that he was "mistaken" when he told an interviewer in November that Obama had spoken with Blagojevich. He does not explain how he could have made the mistake. (One media web page that had reported the November 5 Obama-Blagojevich discussion was immediately removed from the Internet after it was used by others – and this timeline – as confirmation of the meeting.) [641,643,645,646,647,652,655,659,660]

It is believed that Obama's chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, was one of the individuals recorded on some of the telephone calls taped during the Blagojevich investigation. (Rod Blagojevich was the Congressman for the Illinois 5th District before Emanuel won that seat.) As of December 9 Emanuel has not yet resigned his Congressional seat and, according to the Chicago Sun-Times, Emanuel discussed with Blagojevich a "deal" which would allow him to return to his Congressional seat after a few years as Obama's Chief of Staff. [672,705,737]

Senior Senator from Illinois Dick Durbin had provided Obama with a list of potential candidates for Obama's open Senate seat and open cabinet positions, and had allegedly been advising both Obama and Blagojevich. [654]

Obama has had a long relationship with Blagojevich and was arguably (along with Rahm Emanuel and campaign co-chair David Wilhelm) one of the top strategists of the governor's 2002 victory. Obama strongly endorsed Blagojevich in his 2006 re-election campaign, even though by that time there were serious questions about the governor's "hiring practices" and it was widely known in Illinois that federal investigations into his activities were already being conducted. In July of 2006, Obama told the Daily Herald, *"I have not followed closely enough what's been taking place in these investigations to comment on them,"* and then supported Blagojevich and campaigned on his behalf, telling a crowd at the Illinois State Fair in August, *"We've got a governor in Rod Blagojevich who has delivered consistently on behalf of the people of Illinois."* [641]

In 1960, the election of John F. Kennedy to the Presidency left his Massachusetts Senate seat open. The Democrat governor of the state, Foster Furcolo, named Benjamin A. Smith II to fill the vacancy. Smith had been Kennedy's college roommate. Smith held the seat only until the November 1962 election, when Edward Kennedy ran for the Senate and won. (Edward Kennedy

first needed to reach age 30 before he could run for the office.) Smith was named Senator only to “keep the seat warm” for Teddy. It is unknown if any cash exchanged hands in the deal, but Joseph P. Kennedy, father of John and Edward, certainly had a lot of it. There is a long history of wheeling and dealing for Senate seats. Blagojevich happened to get caught working a deal in recorded phone conversations. [685]

Obama advisor Franklin Raines testifies before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and says that “*Fannie Mae did not cause the current (financial) crisis,*” despite the fact that its purchase of tens of billions of dollars in risky sub-prime loans while Raines was CEO led to the federal bailout of the government sponsored entity. [640]

It is reported on December 9 that a grand jury has issued subpoenas relating to the Obama purchase of his Chicago mansion and the empty lot next door, which was owned by Rita Rezko, the wife of Obama’s now-jailed money-man, Tony Rezko. The case involves a former Illinois bank official, Kenneth J. Connor, who charges that the appraisal work he performed for Rezko’s empty lot was improperly replaced by a more favorable appraisal. Connor was then fired for questioning the action. Bank officials could be guilty of making false statements, willfully overvaluing property, bank fraud, witness retaliation, willful violation of a subpoena, FDIC violations, and state banking regulations. (When Obama bought the empty lot from Rita Rezko he was aware that Tony Rezko was under investigation for fraud.) [649,650,696]

On December 10, Obama calls for Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich to resign, saying that “*under the current circumstances, it is difficult for the governor to effectively do his job and serve the people of Illinois.*” Obama’s remarks are expected, but could lead an embittered Blagojevich to tell federal prosecutors of any involvement by Obama in previous illegal schemes with the governor. (Blagojevich would certainly not be the first person in history to “spill the beans” if it would help him get a reduced prison sentence.) [644]

Obama announces that Steven Chu will be his Secretary of Energy. Chu is a Nobel Prize winning physicist, director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, and an advocate of alternate energy sources. A believer of the “man-caused global warming” theories of global socialism advocates, Chu is likely to advocate or go along with Obama’s “cap-and-trade” scheme to dramatically increase the cost of using electricity, oil, and coal as a means of promoting conservation and alternate fuels. (Chu said in 2008 that the price of electricity in the United States is “*anomalously low*” – meaning he thinks Americans pay too little for power compared with consumers in other nations.) Lisa Jackson is named by Obama to head the Environmental Protection Agency; Carol Browner will be Obama’s “climate czar.” Together, Chu, Jackson, and Browner will likely work against the use of coal. They are all believers in AI

Gore's unproven theory that "global warming" is a significant mankind-caused danger. Browner was a legislative director for Al Gore when he was Vice-President, head of the Environmental Protection Agency under Clinton, and on the board of Gore's "Alliance for Climate protection." Browner is also one of 14 leaders of a group called "Socialist International." The group's "Commission for a Sustainable World Society" calls for "*global governance*" and the shrinking of the economies of wealthy countries to address climate change. (Soon after her appointment by Obama, Browner's name and biography are removed from the Socialist International web site.) In defense of Browner, Democrat commentator Bob Beckel asks, on Fox News, "*What's wrong with socialism?*" [653,707,708,810]

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, Obama states, "*I have not discussed the Senate seat with the governor (Blagojevich) at any time.*" When asked if Rahm Emanuel or anyone else on his staff spoke with Blagojevich, Obama responds, "*Let me stop you there because... it's an ongoing... investigation. I think it would be inappropriate for me to, you know, remark on the situation beyond the facts that I know. And that's the fact that I didn't discuss this issue with the governor at all.*" Obama does not say that his staff wasn't dealing with Blagojevich; nor does he say that his staff wasn't keeping him informed of any deal that was in the works. Investigation or not, Obama clearly could have said there was no communication if he was certain there was none. [680]

It is reported that Obama chief of staff Rahm Emanuel had multiple conversations with Rod Blagojevich and John Harris about filling Obama's vacant Senate seat. The Saturday before the election Emanuel telephoned Blagojevich and gave him a list of Obama-approved Senate candidates (Valerie Jarrett, Illinois Veterans Affairs Director Tammy Duckworth, state Comptroller Dan Hynes, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan). In addition to dealing over the Senate replacement, Emanuel brought up the 5th Congressional District, which will have a vacancy as soon as Emanuel resigns from his House seat. It is likely that those phone conversations were recorded by the FBI. It is unlikely that Obama was not aware that Emanuel was talking with Blagojevich. [681,683]

At the annual meeting of the Council on American Islamic relations (CAIR), Muslim Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN, and member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus) encourages Muslims to apply for some of the 8,000 jobs available in the upcoming Obama administration. He remarks that now that they have a President with the middle name "*Hussein,*" no Muslims should shy away from work in the government. Ellison had recently made a pilgrimage to Mecca, where he said "*You forget who you are – black or white ad American or African – and where you come from when you are before God circling the Kaaba in a two-piece unstitched garment.*" (Ellison did not indicate whether he would again consider himself an American when he returns to the United States Congress.)

Note that Ellison's trip to Mecca is paid for by the "Muslim American Society," which is a front group for the radical "Muslim Brotherhood," whose "...work in America is a kind of grand Jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within..." (The media largely ignores the Ellison story, even though it is illegal for a Congressman to accept a gift – including travel and travel accommodations – in excess of \$50.) [665,721,1362]

The judge in the Rezko case cancels filing deadlines for sentencing comments, suggesting that Rezko's January 9 sentencing date will be postponed. The delay may be related to additional facts having come to light as a result of the arrest of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, for whom Rezko raised campaign contributions, and delaying the sentencing may encourage Rezko to "talk." [663,700]

On December 11 it is reported that Obama's family in Kenya has been silenced with a gag order and told not to grant any interviews with the media unless they are first approved by the government. This likely resulted from relatives of Obama's father having stated that Obama was born in Kenya and various family members were present at his birth. The Kenyan government says its actions are to "ensure better flow of information." [728,2529]

The December 12 Supreme Court meeting to discuss whether to hear the *Wrotnowski v. Bysiewicz* case is rescheduled for December 15. [669]

Rod Blagojevich tells CNN "I'll have a lot to say at the appropriate time." Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr, meanwhile, tells reporters he is fighting to "get his name back" after being identified as "Senate Candidate 5" in the Blagojevich criminal complaint. Businessmen connected to both Jackson and Blagojevich had planned on raising at least \$1 million for the Governor to persuade him to select Jackson for the open Senate seat. [673,682]

It is reported that a federal grand jury in Albuquerque is reviewing the case of a company, CDR Financial Products, Inc., that in 2004 collected at least \$1.5 million in fees from the New Mexico Finance Authority after donating \$100,000 to Governor Bill Richardson (Obama's chosen Secretary of Commerce) for voter registration drives and 2004 Democrat convention expenses. [686]

The Supreme Court, on December 15, denies the Wrotnowski request to issue a stay in the Electoral College vote based on the lawsuit's challenge to Obama's eligibility. [687]

It is reported that Obama chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, while working for Clinton and Gore in 1996, went to incredible lengths to help the administration get tens of thousands of immigrants granted citizenship in time to register to vote for Clinton

in the fall elections. Emanuel worked with Hispanic community organizers in Chicago, going so far as to have immigration ceremonies at stadiums, like Chicago's Soldier Field, where 11,000 new citizens were sworn. Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) officer Tom Conklin said he was pressured to rubberstamp immigrants even before criminal and national security background checks were completed. Immigrants with arrest records were among those quickly naturalized and registered to vote. Emanuel began pushing Clinton to take advantage of the immigrants' likelihood of voting Democrat. Clinton then had Emanuel and Daniel Solis, head of a Chicago Hispanic group called the "United Neighborhood Organization," fast-track the process of turning immigrants and illegals into citizens who could vote for Clinton. INS commissioner Doris Meissner said she was uncomfortable with the pressure Emanuel was exerting on her. Emanuel later refused to cooperate with an Inspector General investigation of the activities. An investigation found that *"the INS had compromised the integrity of naturalization adjudications"* in attempting to meet a goal of naturalizing at least one million new citizens, and had followed *"inadequate procedures for checking criminal histories and fingerprints."* [695]

Obama picks Arne Duncan as his Secretary of Education. The choice of Duncan, head of the Chicago Public School system, is immediately criticized by conservatives because of his acceptance of a proposal for a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Chicago high school (the "Social Justice High School Pride Campus"). Duncan had done a reasonable job of improving the Chicago schools from their near-bottom reputation (in 2005 the high school graduation rate was 54 per cent and only 6 per cent went on to college). Nevertheless, Chicago parents continue to pull their children out in droves, either to enroll them in private schools or by moving to the suburbs. (The city's school system has lost more than 45,000 students, more than 10 per cent of its population, over the last five years.) Chicago schools still lag many others after Duncan's seven year rein, partly because he was unable to get concessions from the powerful teachers union. (Obama's faith in Duncan was apparently not enough for him to send his two daughters to public schools in Chicago. Duncan also has ties to The Annenberg Challenge, where Obama and William Ayers wasted tens of millions of dollars on ineffective school initiatives in Chicago.) [692,693,706]

Arne Duncan plans on moving to Arlington, Virginia rather than subject his children to the public schools in Washington, D.C. He tells Science magazine, *"My family has given up so much so that I could have the opportunity to serve; I didn't want to try to save the country's children and our educational system and jeopardize my own children's education."* [2469]

At Obama's press conference announcing Duncan as his Secretary of Education, he is asked about Rahm Emanuel's involvement with Blagojevich and the naming of his Senate successor. Obama arrogantly responds, *"...let me just cut you off, because I don't want you to waste your question."* [702]

On December 17 it is announced that Obama's Secretary of Agriculture will be former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack. Colorado Senator Ken Salazar will be Obama's Secretary of the Interior. Salazar is likely to oppose obtaining additional oil and coal from public land, making it even more difficult for America to reduce its dependence on foreign energy sources. [697]

Chicago's ABC-7 reports that Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich once operated as a bookie, regularly paying off the mob in order to operate. The claim came from a former Chicago police officer, Robert Cooley, who later became a mob lawyer and then an FBI informant. He had made the charges prior to Blagojevich's re-election in 2006, but ABC chose then not to report the story. Cooley states, "*I predicted five years ago when he (Blagojevich) ran the first time that he was a hands-on person who would be selling every position in the state of Illinois and that it exactly what happened.*" Blagojevich's lawyer told ABC he was too busy to talk about Cooley's accusations. [710]

The Chicago Sun-Times reports that Obama's pick for Attorney General, Eric Holder, neglected to mention ties to Rod Blagojevich in the 47-page questionnaire he was required to submit to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Holder signed the document five days after Blagojevich's arrest. In 2004, Blagojevich had named Holder "special investigator" for the Illinois Gaming Board, which controls Illinois casino licenses. Blagojevich was under scrutiny for his possible involvement in attempts to grant a casino license to the city of Rosemont (whose mayor was alleged to have mob ties). There were suspicions in 2004 that Blagojevich would use Holder to "steer" any investigations away from him (and Tony Rezko), while still allowing a casino in Rosemont. Rezko was also involved in the casino plans, and had an option to lease a hotel next to the casino site (which he would likely exercise only if the casino deal went through). A Rezko business partner, Christopher G. Kelly, was involved in casino site negotiations. Kelly is also a close friend and fundraiser of Blagojevich. The assumption is that Holder intentionally neglected to list his association with Blagojevich on his Senate Judiciary Committee questionnaire to prevent knowledge of that association from harming his confirmation as Attorney General. Perhaps sensing that "the fix was in," the Gaming Board refused to hire Holder. A casino has yet to be approved for Rosemont, Illinois. [720]

The Democrat National Committee (DNC) states that it is a "private organization" and thus has no authority to tell the 50 states what to do with regard to ensuring that candidates are qualified to run for office, thus the state Attorneys General cannot expect the DNC to properly vet candidates. However, that same DNC readily told Florida and Michigan they could not change the dates of their Presidential primaries, thus contributing to Hillary Clinton's loss to Obama. (Apparently the DNC cannot bother to inform the states as to whether one of its

candidate is a natural born citizen, but it can dictate to the states when to hold their primary elections.) [729]

On December 17 the Supreme Court schedules Philip J. Berg's lawsuit (*Berg v. Obama, et al.*) for conference on January 9. [741,742]

Time Magazine names Obama its "Person of the Year." Runners-up are Hank Paulson (Treasury Secretary), Nicolas Sarkozy (President of France), Sarah Palin (Governor of Alaska), and Zhang Yimou (Chinese Director). [698]

Democrats in the Illinois State House and Senate push to quickly impeach Governor Rod Blagojevich so that the new Governor can appoint another Democrat to Obama's open Senate seat. They oppose a special election because they fear a Republican (such as Congressman Mark Kirk) could win. [699,701]

The Chicago Sun-Times reports that just days after the November 4 election Rahm Emanuel began pushing Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich to name Valerie Jarrett to Obama's soon-to-be-vacant Senate seat. Emanuel may also have discussed the appointment with Blagojevich chief of staff John Harris, who resigned on December 12. Sources report that Emanuel called Harris' cell phone on November 1, before the election, to give him a list of names acceptable to Obama. [668,705]

It is announced that Time magazine's Washington bureau chief, James Carney, will become Joe Biden's White House communications director. Carney is married to Claire Shipman of ABC's Good Morning America. Shipman is thus unlikely to be reporting news that is critical of Biden or Obama. ABC new correspondent Linda Douglass works on Obama's inaugural committee, suggesting her reporting will also likely be "Obama-favorable." [709]

It is reported on December 18 that Obama will select Mary Schapiro to head the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Schapiro is CEO of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FIRA). Although the SEC received significant criticism for not identifying and stopping the Ponzi scheme run by Bernard Madoff that cost investors as much as \$50 billion (some say the figure is closer to \$20 billion), Schapiro's FIRA also failed to do anything about Madoff's massive fraud scheme. [711,723,724,1567]

Ray LaHood will be Obama's pick for Secretary of Transportation. LaHood is a Republican Congressman from Illinois, known for his introduction of wasteful spending via earmarks. His rating from "Citizens Against Government Waste" (CAGW) in his final year in Congress was only 11 (on a scale of 1 to 100, where

100 is voting against all pork and zero is support for all such spending). LaHood has twice been named “Porker of the Month” by the CAGW. [725,1071]

Obama’s decision to have Pastor Rick Warren deliver the invocation at his inauguration prompts criticism from both the left and the right. Leftists are angry with Obama for selecting a minister who is opposed to gay marriage give the prayer, while conservatives are upset with Warren for agreeing to be a part of a ceremony honoring the pro-abortion Obama. Gene Robinson, the controversial and first openly gay Episcopal Bishop, is asked to offer a prayer at the Lincoln Memorial at an inaugural event. Ingrid Mattson, president of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), is slated to speak at an inaugural prayer service. The ISNA, which receives financial support from the jihad-promoting Muslim Brotherhood, is alleged to have ties to the terrorist organization Hamas and was labeled an “un-indicted co-conspirator” in the Holy Land Foundation terrorism trial. [716,805,827]

On December 19 the Chicago Sun-Times reports that sources confirmed conversations took place shortly after the election between Rahm Emanuel and Rod Blagojevich about naming Valerie Jarrett to fill Obama’s vacant Senate seat. Obama continues to deny that any such conversations took place. [717]

Obama selects Congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-CA) to be the Secretary of Labor. Solis is the daughter of Mexican and Nicaraguan immigrants. Solis is firmly in the “union camp,” will be an advocate of easing restrictions on illegal immigrants, and is far to the left politically. A member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus (which essentially consists of socialists serving in Congress), she has addressed the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and sent a representative from her office to a worker’s rights forum held by Socialist International. Solis, along with Obama and his designated Commerce Secretary Bill Richardson, support expanding the H-1B visa program which lets U.S. companies hire tens of thousands of foreign workers in jobs like software design (which could just as easily be performed by Americans). [731,732,751,1362]

Obama and Congressional Democrats indicate they hope to have an “economic stimulus package” of as much as \$850 billion ready for the first 100 days of the new Congress. Obama tells reporters on December 19, “*We’re going to have to be bold,*” but does not indicate where he would get the \$850 billion. (Raising taxes will cause unemployment in areas which do not receive the “stimulus,” printing money will lead to inflation, and selling government bonds will require getting China to finance more of the U.S. national debt.) Obama states he will ignore the growing budget deficit – even though balancing the budget was an issue on which he campaigned. [727]

On December 20 Obama announces that John Holdren will be his science advisor, and Jane Lubchenco will lead the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration. Holdren is a Harvard physicist and Lubchenco is a marine biologist. Both are believers in “man-caused global warming,” and will thus likely support expensive and restrictive taxes and regulations on manufacturing and energy production which will lead to increases in the costs of goods, services, and utilities. [722]

Obama’s Chief of Staff-designate, Rahm Emanuel, heads to Africa for a “*long family vacation*.” There is no official word on whether Emanuel will “tidy up” any Obama birth records while in Kenya, or why he chose that less than common destination for a vacation. [758]

On December 23 the Supreme Court re-schedules Philip J. Berg’s lawsuit (*Berg v. Obama, et al.*) for conference on January 16. [741,742]

On December 23, Obama holds a memorial service for his grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, at the First Unitarian Church in Nuuanu, Hawaii. The choice of church conflicts with Obama’s allegation that his maternal grandparents were Baptists and Methodists. A few days later he and his half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, toss their grandmother’s ashes into the Pacific Ocean, while standing on the shore. Their action is illegal because environmental laws require that the dumping of ashes be done at least three nautical miles from shore. [745,748]

The Obama team’s “internal report” of contacts with Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich completely exonerates everyone on the Obama staff of wrongdoings with regard to the “pay to play” Illinois Senate appointment. The report, which claims Obama “*had ruled out communicating a preference for any one candidate*,” is essentially meaningless because the investigation of Obama’s staff was performed by... members of Obama’s staff. [757,1945]

It is reported on December 25 that, according to county property records, Obama’s \$1.65 million home in Chicago’s Hyde Park neighborhood (5046 S. Greenwood) may be owned by William Miceli, and not Obama. Miceli is an attorney with Miner, Barnhill and Galland, Obama’s former employer, and was Obama’s supervisor when Obama worked on Tony Rezko public housing deals. Cook County, Illinois records purportedly show that that Miceli, not Obama, is listed as the owner of the property, and tax bills on the mansion are addressed to Miceli. [760]

Larry Sinclair charges that Obama’s grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, died on October 21 (not November 3) and was cremated on October 24. Sinclair cites “*sources in the Honolulu coroner’s office*” as saying that death records were falsified at the request of Obama and his half-sister, Maya Soetoro Ng. Sinclair has requested that the Hawaii Attorney General’s office conduct an investigation. It is unclear why Obama would have delayed the death disclosure until

November 3, other than to obtain some “sympathy votes” the very next day, or why Sinclair would have made the charges if they are untrue. [1299]

Obama campaign advisor David Axelrod appears on a Sunday morning talk show and says that retaining the Bush tax cuts is “*something we plainly can’t afford moving forward.*” The Bush tax cuts are in the neighborhood of \$25 to \$40 billion, clearly less than the \$750 billion (or more) “stimulus package” Obama and the Democrats have proposed. Axelrod’s remark indicates that Obama is philosophically opposed to tax cuts for productive Americans while attracted to big-government programs that favor non-productive Americans... and campaign donors. [752]

The New York Times reports on December 28 that ABC, CBS, and NBC have stopped sending full-time correspondents to Iraq, even though it is an active war zone involving U.S. forces. With the troop surge having been successful there is not enough consistently negative news to discredit President Bush, and with the election over there is no longer any need for the media to link the war with John McCain. With the election of Obama, Iraq thus quickly becomes “old news.” [750]

In late December, Democrats and the mainstream media are in an uproar over a parody on racism called “*Barack the Magic Negro.*” The parody song, written by satirist Paul Shanklin, relates to Obama having been called a “Magic Negro” by David Ehrenstein in a March 19, 2007 Los Angeles Times article. The article itself prompted no widespread criticism because it was written by a Democrat, and the parody was played countless times on the radio without raising eyebrows, but its recent distribution by Republicans changed the standard and prompted Democrats and media to cry racism. [755,756,762]

Michigan radio station WRHC cuts the program of Martin Dzuris from two hours to one because of his repeated criticism of Obama, rather than discussion of local issues. The issue of “localism” is likely to be used by Democrats to rein in conservative talk radio and limit criticism of Obama. [749]

Obama states he supports Senate Democrats in their decision not to seat as his Senate replacement anyone appointed by Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. [764]

On December 30, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich selects former Illinois Attorney General Roland Burris to fill Obama’s open Senate seat, defying U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who stated he will refuse to allow the Senate to accept any “tainted” replacement appointed by Blagojevich. The 71 year-old Burris, a career politician and lackey of Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, is black, which will make it politically difficult for Reid to oppose his appointment. Burris ran for governor of Illinois three times, losing to Blagojevich in one

Democrat primary. Illinois Congressman Bobby Rush, a former Black Panther militant, warns the media not to “*hang or lynch*” Burris, thus issuing a thinly-veiled racist dare to Reid. (Many suggest that Reid and his fellow Democrats do not want a black to replace Obama in the Senate because it may be easier for Illinois Republicans to defeat that individual in the 2010 election.) [753,768,779]

The dull but ambitious Burris, a former undistinguished state comptroller, lost the Democrat primary elections for Illinois Governor in 1994, 1998, and (against Blagojevich) in 2002. (Burris was arguably placed on the 2002 Democrat primary ballot not because he had any chance of winning, but to take enough black votes from reform candidate Paul Vallas to enable Blagojevich to win in the three-way race; the Chicago political “machine” wanted Blagojevich in the Governor’s mansion rather than the reputable Vallas, who lost by about 25,000 votes out of 1.3 million cast.) Burris ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Chicago in 1995 and for U.S. Senator in 1984. Burris, whose ego (his children are named Roland and Rolanda) exceeds his talents by a wide margin (he has already built an enormous cemetery tombstone/monument with his accomplishments chiseled in stone), donated more than \$20,000 to past Blagojevich campaigns. Burris’ consulting firm received \$290,000 in state contracts with the Illinois Department of Transportation. Burris, eager for another accomplishment to put on his tombstone, was willing to accept the appointment from Blagojevich even though almost everyone else in Illinois politics is distancing themselves from the disgraced Governor. Burris had previously arranged for the Governor’s wife to be given the job of development director and political fundraiser for the Chicago Christian Industrial League. [759,763,766,770,771,2151]

Obama’s income in 2008 is more than \$2.6 million, much of which is from book royalties. [2359]

2009

More Transition and More Pay-Back

On January 2, 2009, several pages of the 1964 Dunham/Obama divorce decree are made public. The document confirms that Obama’s mother and father were married on February 2, 1961. There had been speculation that Dunham and Obama, Sr. had never been legally married, partly because candidate Obama’s wife Michelle had stated in an interview that Ann Dunham was “*very young and very single when she had him (Barack Obama, Jr.)*” and because there was evidence that Dunham and Obama, Sr. had lived apart. Their divorce decree notwithstanding, it may be the case that their marriage was not legal if Obama, Sr. was still legally married to his first wife in Kenya when he married Dunham. [772]

A group of investors agrees to buy the remaining assets of the IndyMac Bank (which failed because of the release of a critical letter by New York Senator Charles Schumer), for \$13.9 billion. Among the investors is a fund controlled by Obama supporter Gorge Soros. [1385]

A poll of active members of the U.S. Armed Forces shows that 60 per cent of the military is “uncertain” or “pessimistic” about the prospect of Obama as their commander in chief. [765]

On January 3, Obama says his goal is to “*create three million new jobs, more than 80 per cent of them in the private sector.*” Obama is thus promising to add 600,000 new *government* employees at a time when massive deficits should prompt the *reduction* of government payrolls to help balance federal, state, and local budgets. Depending on the level of salaries and benefits paid to those 600,000 new employees, the cost of such a promise would likely be at least \$40 billion per year. Obama does not indicate where he will get the funds for those new employees. [774]

On January 4, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson withdraws from the Secretary of Commerce position offered to him by Obama, citing a pending investigation involving his administration. It is unclear why Obama chose Richardson when it had been widely reported that an investigation into possible “pay to play” activities was underway, and when Obama knew that prominent West Virginia Senator Byrd would oppose Richardson’s approval for Richardson’s failure to safeguard nuclear secrets when he was Clinton’s Secretary of Energy. Rather than admit to a poor vetting process, Obama complains that Richardson wasn’t “*forthcoming.*” The investigation into Richardson involves his dealings with California financier David Rubin. Rubin donated \$28,500 to the Democrat National Committee and the Obama campaign. [534,586,767,769,782]

It is reported on January 5 that Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) plans on changing House rules to make it essentially impossible for Republicans to have any input or impact on legislation. Republicans would be barred from offering alternative legislation, offering amendments to Democrat legislation, or even offering motions for debate. Abuse of the rules by prior Democrat Congresses led the 1994 Republican Congress to institute reforms. Pelosi’s action will reverse those changes, restoring the one-sided “closed door” processes of the past. [773]

Reporters described the first day of school (the expensive, private Sidwell Friends) for the Obama children. Reporter Claire Shipman (whose husband James Carney is Vice-President Joe Biden’s White House Communications Director) gushes that the students enjoy “*an entirely green building, complete with organic lunches, one of the many things that appealed to her (Malia Obama)*”

and her family.” This appears to be the first official word that the 10 year-old child is enthused about “green buildings” and “organic lunches.” No mention is made by Shipman of Obama’s opposition to school vouchers for those parents in Washington, D.C. who can’t afford to send their children to private schools but must send their children to suffer the indignities of public schools that are among the worst in the nation. [709,775]

New York resident Christopher Earl Strunk files a lawsuit demanding that Obama-related documents he requested through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) be provided to him as required by law. Both the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security have refused to release the requested documents, which include passport applications for Obama and his mother, Stanley Ann Dunham. [801]

Obama selects Leon Panetta, former Clinton chief of staff, as his CIA director. The move surprises many because Panetta’s experience is political and not from within the intelligence community. Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA), head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, is less than pleased with Obama’s choice. Panetta’s criticism of “waterboarding,” which some consider torture – and which others argue is pretty much akin to the experience of water skiing or wake boarding – may give terrorists an indication they can expand their activities with only weak responses expected from the Obama administration. Panetta would take over from Air Force General Michael Hayden, who has been strongly supported by and popular with CIA employees. Panetta will face tough questioning from Republicans who are likely to assert that the Clinton administration “dropped the ball” with regard to counter-terrorism in the 1990s. Panetta may also receive criticism over the \$700,000 in lobbying and speaking fees he received in 2008. Obama selects Admiral Dennis Blair, a China expert and former associate director of the CIA, as his national intelligence director. [776,777,1067]

Complicating the confirmation of Leon Panetta as CIA chief is his anti-military daughter, Linda, who has been seen publicly with Hugo Chavez and Daniel Ortega. Linda Panetta is a leader of the “School of the Americas Watch,” an organization dedicated to shutting down the “School of the Americas,” a CIA-related training ground for pro-U.S. military officers in the Western Hemisphere. [850]

While other new Senators are being sworn in on January 6, Roland “tombstone” Burriss, Obama’s designated successor as Illinois Senator, is denied entrance to the U.S. Senate by an official from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s office. Burriss is told his forms are incomplete because his certificate of appointment had not been signed by the Illinois Secretary of State. [778]

Documents obtained by Judicial Watch, through a Freedom of Information Act request, disclose that there was, in fact, contact between the Obama team and Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich in the days leading up to the Governor's arrest. Documents include a December 3 letter from Obama, and a letter from Valerie Jarrett and John Podesta. The December 3 letter thanks Blagojevich for meeting with him (Obama) the day before. The Jarrett/Podesta letter is dated November 17, and expresses "*strong interest in working with you (Blagojevich) in the months to come.*" [780,781]

In an interview with "The Hill," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) states that the Senate will not be a rubber stamp for the new President and that "*If Obama steps over the bounds, I will tell him. I do not work for Barack Obama. I work with him.*" [785]

On January 6 al-Qaeda's second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, releases an audio message accusing Obama of doing nothing to stop Israel's incursion into Gaza to eliminate Hamas rocket attacks. Al-Zawahiri calls Obama's inaction a "*gift to Israel,*" and accuses Obama of killing his Muslim "*brothers and sisters in Gaza mercilessly and without affection.*" [786]

Obama warns of "*trillion dollar deficits for years to come, even with the economic recovery program that we are working on,*" after meeting with his economic team. Obama's plans to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on a "stimulus package" would have to be paid for through massive tax increases, foreign borrowing, or simply printing money (which would cause inflation). He has not made clear how he will finance his plans, or explained how his massive deficit-spending will not harm the economy he is trying to improve; in fact, Obama's use of the words "*even with*" is an admission that his plans will not work, and will merely postpone the day of fiscal reckoning. [788,789]

Joe Biden tells reporters on January 6 it was "*a mistake*" for Obama to have selected Leon Panetta as his CIA director without first consulting Senator Feinstein and the Intelligence Committee. Biden states that both he and Obama called Feinstein to apologize for the blunder. [787,790]

Congressman Jose E. Serrano (D-NY) introduces House Joint Resolution 5, proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to repeal the Twenty-Second Amendment to allow Obama not to be limited to only two terms as President. [818,823]

The Supreme Court's Chief Justice John Roberts agrees to review the case, *Lightfoot v. Bowen*, which challenges Obama's eligibility to serve as President. The case is scheduled to be heard January 23. [793,794,799]

On January 7, President George W. Bush is joined at the White House for photos with former Presidents George H. W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Obama. President Bush tells Obama that Clinton had been helpful and supportive in his dealings with foreign leaders, but warns Obama to be wary of “*James Earl Carter*” because of his “*extremely meddlesome*” and counter-productive interference in foreign policy. [930]

At a January 7 “Economic Recovery Plan” meeting, Obama advisor Robert Reich discusses infrastructure spending as part of the “stimulus package” and says he is concerned “...*that these jobs not simply go to high skilled people who are already professionals or to white male construction workers.*” Reich argues that “*criteria can be set so that the money does go to others, the long term unemployed, minorities, women... people who are not necessarily construction workers.*” Reich’s comments likely will not sit well with average Americans, who would probably prefer that the bridges they drive over be built by experienced engineers and tradesmen, and not inexperienced people who are hired because they happen to be part of a minority group. [873]

Obama remarks on January 8 that the recession could “*linger for years*” unless Congress approves his “economic stimulus” package – ignoring the fact that many critics believe his plans will worsen the economy and extend the recession, just as Franklin Roosevelt’s massive federal programs extended, rather than ended, the Great Depression of the 1930s. Obama pledges to his critics that he would fund only those programs that work, failing to admit that there is essentially no funding for any of his programs and that history has shown that such programs will not be effective. Obama states that the private sector cannot boost the economy, and “*only government can provide the short-term boost necessary to lift us from a recession this deep and severe.*” Obama fails to recognize the opposite, that only the private sector can end a recession, and cutting corporate and capital gains taxes allows the private sector to do so by generating the capital needed for new business start-ups and expansion of existing businesses. Drafts of the stimulus package, in the \$825 billion range, show that it will include the usual wasteful government programs, such as Community Development Block Grants, Community Services Block Grants, and Community Action Programs. [791,841]

The Supreme Court is scheduled to review Philip J. Berg’s Petition for Writ of Certiorari on January 9. The case relates to Obama’s ineligibility to serve as President of the United States because it is alleged that he does not satisfy the natural born citizen requirement. [792]

Congressman John Shadegg (R-AZ) introduces the “Enumerated Powers Act,” which requires that every bill passed by Congress include a “*concise and definite statement of the constitutional authority relied upon for the enactment of each portion of that Act.*” Shadegg introduces the bill every year, and every year it is

ignored by most of the other legislators – who apparently do not want to be restrained by the U.S. Constitution they swore an oath to defend. [2274]

Obama's long-time friend, Columbia professor Rashad Khalidi, writes an anti-Israel article called "*What You Don't Know About Gaza*" that appears in the New York Times. A few weeks later the newspaper issues a retraction of a quote, which turned out not to have been in the Israeli newspaper which Khalidi improperly used as the source. [1007]

Obama chooses CNN correspondent Sanjay Gupta as the next Surgeon General. (Some wonder why the nation even needs a surgeon general.) [795]

The British press reports that Obama will abandon the U.S. policy of isolating Hamas and will implement communications with the terrorist organization. This policy change contradicts Obama's (albeit perfunctory) pro-Israel stance during the election campaign. [797]

Obama states "*There is no disagreement that we need action by our government, a recovery plan that will help jumpstart the economy.*" The CATO Institute later runs ads listing the names of more than 200 economists who do, in fact, disagree with Obama's Keynesian premise that massive federal spending will improve the economy's performance. The CATO Institute argues for "*reforms that remove impediments to work, saving, investment and production. Lower tax rates and a reduction in the burden of government are the best ways of using fiscal policy to boost growth.*" [1041]

The Illinois House votes on January 9 to impeach Governor Rod Blagojevich. A second impeachment vote is held on January 14 because of the seating of new House members elected in November. The only vote against impeachment comes from freshman Representative Deb Mell... who is the sister of the Governor's wife. [808]

In an interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi raises her hand and pledges – with a straight face – that there will be *absolutely no pork barrel spending or earmarks in the economic stimulus bill*. She states, "*I can pledge to you that no earmark or any of that... any description you want to make of it... uh, will be in the bill that passes the House... Absolute flat-out... There will be no earmarks in the economic recovery package that passes the House.*" (The bill eventually passed by the House on January 28 contains so much pork that it also includes \$227 million just for oversight of the pork.) [1055,1056,2394]

Anticipating the swearing in of an anti-gun President and Attorney General, Congressman Bobby Rush (D-IL) introduces H.R. 45, the Blair Holt Act of 2009, which would place significant licensing restrictions on gun owners. (Rush himself

is no stranger to violence and guns. He went AWOL from the Army in 1968 to co-found the radical Illinois Black Panther Party, which generated “revenue” by intimidating local businesses into making “donations.” Rush, who served six months in jail in 1969 for a weapons conviction, barely escaped being shot when Chicago police raided the party’s Chicago headquarters on December 4, 1969 and killed activists Mark Clark and Fred Hampton in retaliation for the murder of two Chicago police officers on November 13. Rush’s son Huey, who was named after radical activist Huey Newton, was murdered in 1999. Rush has no qualms about ignoring the Second Amendment to the Constitution, and “...*would like to see the manufacture and possession of (all) handguns banned... that’s the end game.*” (Rush is also an avid supporter of slavery reparations legislation who said, “*The future of race relations will be determined by reparations for slavery.*”) [1597,1598,1599,1600]

The Washington, D.C. mass transit system announces it will issue 40,000 fare cards with Obama’s picture. The transit system’s hope is that many purchasers will buy the items and save them as “collector’s items” rather than use them for transit, thus generating additional revenue. [798]

It is reported that Obama plans on keeping the 45 per cent estate tax (“death tax”) instead of allowing it to expire as scheduled in 2010. Retaining the tax means that owners of many businesses and farms will have to devote time and money to special estate planning to avoid depriving their families of their inheritances. [806]

It is reported on January 12 that John O. Brennan, Obama’s terrorism and intelligence advisor, heads a firm that was involved in the March, 2008 breach of Obama’s passport file at the State Department. A contract employee of Brennan’s reportedly accessed Obama’s passport file to cleanse it of incriminating or damaging information. Coincidental attempts to access Hillary Clinton’s and John McCain’s files were intended solely to confuse any investigation. Passport files may include copies of birth certificates or naturalization documents which Obama would not want made public if they showed he is not a natural born citizen. A 104-page report of the investigation of the security breach, marked “*Sensitive but Unclassified,*” was heavily redacted and includes multiple pages blacked out to hide all information. [807]

On January 13, Obama dines with conservative political writers at the home of columnist George Will. It is an attempt by Obama to indirectly plead for as long a “honeymoon” as possible, and allows Obama to try to choose the “opposition” columnists he will then expect others to defer to. It also gives Obama an opportunity to attempt to charm potential critics, getting them to like him in order to water down future criticism. Guests include Charles Krauthammer, William Kristol, Larry Kudlow, David Brooks, Rich Lowry, Peggy Noonan, Michael Barone, and Paul Gigot. (Earlier in the day Obama had met privately with

conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh, who encouraged him to pursue tax cuts to stimulate the economy. Limbaugh does not publicly discuss the meeting until his radio show of April 9, out of concerns that the White House will give political “spin” to anything Limbaugh says about it. Limbaugh reveals the meeting took place in response to an untrue and self-serving story from Joe Biden about a meeting he had with President Bush that, according to Bush staffers, never took place.) [802,1694]

Two Alabama teachers uncover a scheme in which their union dues are illegally diverted to the Obama campaign after they were led to believe the funds were to be used for an NEA “Fund for Children.” The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation intends to file a formal complaint with the Federal Election Commission. Although the practice is commonplace, it is illegal for unions to contribute to political candidates using “*dues, fees, or other moneys required as a condition of membership in a labor organization.*” [982]

An Internet story speculates that a certified copy of an Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) form signed by Stanley Ann Dunham has been found which states she entered the United States from Kenya on August 10, 1961. The rumor even includes a document number, CD E509B TECX SQSQPQ. There is, however, no evidence that such a document has been found or exists, and skeptics argue that the alleged document number is not consistent with INS practices.

At the invitation of Chief Justice John Roberts, Obama and Joe Biden visit the Supreme Court on January 14. They meet in private, with no reporters present, leading to ethics questions from litigants who have Supreme Court cases pending that question Obama’s eligibility to serve as President. [804,895]

The confirmation of Obama’s Secretary Treasurer, Timothy Geithner, is enveloped in controversy after it is learned that Geithner failed to pay over \$34,000 in Social Security and Medicare taxes for the several years (2001-2004) he worked for the International Monetary Fund – despite signing forms recognizing the requirement for him to do so. He ended up paying over \$48,000 in delinquent taxes and interest, coughing up the final \$26,000 only after being named by Obama for the cabinet post. Geithner’s initial, public confirmation hearing for January 13 is canceled as a result of the issue, and members of the Senate Finance Committee meet with Geithner privately instead. Obama’s press secretary, Robert Gibbs, remarks that “*Geithner’s service should not be tarnished by honest mistakes.*” (It is not made clear whether Geithner, Obama, or the IRS – for which Geithner will be responsible as Treasury Secretary – will consider “honest mistake” a reasonable defense for other Americans who neglect to pay their taxes during the new administration.) Also at issue are Geithner’s improper deductions as a child-care expense the clearly non-deductible cost of “sleep away” camps attended by his child, and the illegal use of an immigrant maid by

Geithner for three months after the expiration of her work authorization documents. When Senator John Kyl (R-AZ) questions Geithner about his failure to pay required taxes, Geithner, who earns \$398,000 per year as head of the New York Federal Reserve, blames the error on the TurboTax computer software. (The software developer later states the mistake was not caused by its product.) Several nominees of Presidents Clinton and Bush (Kimba Wood, Linda Chavez, and Bernard Kerik) were denied confirmation because of similar tax and “nanny problems.” (Vice-President Joe Biden, who said on the campaign trail that paying taxes is “patriotic,” was not asked whether he thought Geithner was unpatriotic for failing to pay his taxes.) [809,811,824,889,890,937]

Obama’s choice for Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, Annette Nazareth, withdraws for “*personal reasons*” – after a probe into her taxes. Also withdrawing her name from consideration as Undersecretary of International Affairs is Caroline Atkinson, for reasons apparently relating to the vetting process. [2530]

Estimates of the cost of Obama’s inauguration and related festivities approach \$170 million, more than four times the \$42 million price tag of the 2004 events for President Bush. The media criticized Bush heavily for his 2004 expenses. (One 2004 editorial commented, “*In the first inauguration since Sept. 11, 2001, is the image we want to present abroad one of upscale excess?*” and “*...do we really think it’s appropriate to throw a boy-we-can-waste-cash bash?*” Another criticized, “*Bush extravagance exceeds any reason during tough economic times.*”) Criticism of Obama is minor, in comparison. Comments include, “*Historic Obama inauguration will cost only \$170 million,*” and “*Obama spends \$170 million on inauguration; America needs a big party.*” Strangely, President Bush declares the District of Columbia a disaster area in order to free up additional funds from FEMA to cover the inaugural events. On duty for the inauguration will be 10,000 National Guardsmen, 7,500 active duty soldiers, 25,000 police from 99 federal, state, and local law-enforcement agencies. Communication command centers will watch over crowds via 5,265 surveillance cameras, and an entire Army brigade will be on call. [813,814,816,817,845]

Obama’s pick for “regulatory czar” is Cass Sunstein, a Harvard Law School professor whose advocacy for almost unlimited extension of rights includes rights for animals. (Sunstein believes all hunting and meat-eating should be banned, and has argued that animals should be permitted to file lawsuits, with human beings as their representatives in court.) Sunstein is married to Obama advisor Samantha Power. [819,1311]

The New York Times prints a shameless letter Obama wrote to his daughters explaining why he wanted to be President. The self-serving and trite (“*hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself*”) letter was clearly intended by Obama to be published, because its language – and content – was not at a level reasonable for a private letter to his young daughters. (“*I want us to push the*

boundaries of discovery” is not a phrase a child would appreciate.) In the letter Obama claims that his “...own life wouldn't count for much unless” he was able to ensure that his daughters “had every opportunity for happiness and fulfillment” in theirs. [821]

In a January 14 interview with Katie Couric of CBS, in response to a question about the status of Osama bin Laden, Obama says, “*I think that we have so weaken (sic) his infrastructure that, whether he is technically alive or not, he is so pinned down that he cannot function. My preference obviously would be to capture or kill him. But if we have so tightened the noose that he's in a cave somewhere and can't even communicate with his operatives, then we will meet our goal of protecting America.*” Obama's comment unintentionally gives credit to the Bush administration for keeping bin Laden's influence at a minimum, but also intentionally gives Obama “cover” in the event that his administration finds itself unable to kill or capture the terrorist leader. [1797]

On January 15, Roland Burris is sworn in as U.S. Senator from Illinois to fill Obama's vacant Senate seat, despite earlier opposition from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Illinois' senior Senator, Dick Durbin. (In Burris' failed bid for Illinois Governor in 2002 more than 70 per cent of his campaign contributions came from one man, Joseph Stroud., who gave Burris loans of \$800,000 and \$400,000, of which Burris has paid back only \$6,000. Burris told reporters that Stroud hasn't asked for the money back, that “*he's a friend,*” and “*that's all you need to know.*” Congressman Jim Durkin (D-IL) asked, “*Who walks away with \$1.2 million?*” and “*It's just human nature to think that with a loan of this nature that there is a monetary and a personal indebtedness to this individual.*”) [822,1123]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid states, “*If the actions of the President-elect on TARP are any indication, a new day is dawning in Washington, DC, and a good day, a bright day... Barack Obama has also said there will be transparency, there will be oversight, and Barack Obama has said the disbursement of TARP funds will require his signoff; not a Secretary, not somebody in some clerk's office, not a group of people, but every penny will require Barack Obama's personal signoff.*” Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) adds, “*I am going to be voting with the faith that this new administration, with new leadership and new eyes and new vision and new values, will invest this money properly so that we can turn this economy around and build a strong American future.*” Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CN) remarks, “*That is what this President has asked for – both the outgoing and incoming one – to give this incoming President the tools necessary to move forward. Now, I know, as well, there is going to be far better accountability, far more transparency.*” Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) confirms, “*I spoke with the President-elect. He indicated he was totally comfortable with my coming to the Senate floor and saying that he personally guarantees closure on all of those issues... that there will be limits on executive compensation; and that there*

clearly are going to be strong proposals, to re-regulate the financial markets.”
[1903]

Other Democrat Senators chime in that the bail-out money will be spent wisely because Obama is now in charge. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) states, *“So I say to my constituents I will vote for this, and I will do it because of the assurances I have gotten from the President-elect himself that it will be different, that he will use these funds judiciously, that he needs to make sure he has this tool in his pocket. I hope my constituents understand that after hearing that from this President... I feel he deserves my trust at this time.”* Tom Harkin (D-IA) says, *“We have someone new holding that ball, someone by the name of Barack Obama and Joe Biden and their team.”* Patty Murray (D-WA) adds, *“Today, the President will limit executive compensation for executives of companies that take advantage of taxpayer bailout funds. This is the right thing to do.”* Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) states, *“We need to give President Obama the tools he needs to get our economy going again. We shouldn’t hold the misdeeds of the Bush administration against him... This week, the President-elect huddled with us, to talk about how his plan is different than the previous administration. We need vigilance and responsibility that’s what President Obama has pledged.”* [1903]

On January 16 Congressman John Conyers (D-MI, and member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus) introduces House Resolution 40, “Reparations for African-Americans,” to create a commission to study slavery in the United States and “recommend appropriate remedies.” (Conyers has introduced the bill every year since 1989.) Section 3 (7) of the legislation reads, in part, *“(C) Whether, in consideration of the Commission’s findings, any form of compensation to the descendants of African slaves is warranted. (D) If the Commission finds that such compensation is warranted, what should be the amount of compensation, what form of compensation should be awarded, and who should be eligible for such compensation.”* Obama advisor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. is a prominent advocate of slavery reparations, and the co-chair of the “Reparations Movement Coordinating Committee.” [935,936,1362]

It is reported on January 18 that Occidental College officials have been served with a demand by Gary Kreep, of the United States Justice Foundation, to produce records of Obama’s attendance at the school in the early 1980s. One speculation is that the records may show Obama was registered as a foreign national student, with Indonesian citizenship. (Obama’s roommates were foreign national Muslims.) Obama is fighting the release of his school records. [826]

The University of Chicago Hospitals eliminates the position held by Michelle Obama, leading some to wonder what she did to warrant her \$316,962 salary if she doesn’t need to be replaced. [828]

Obama selects Elizabeth Alexander to compose an original poem for the inauguration festivities. Alexander, a Yale African-American Studies professor, is one of Obama's Chicago neighbors and is known for outrageous writings. Her poem "*The Venus Hottentot*" includes lines like, "*her genitalia will float inside a labeled pickling jar,*" "*Since my own genitals are public I have made other parts private,*" "*I am a black cutout against a captive blue sky,*" and "*Monsieur Cuvier investigates between my legs, poking, prodding, sure of his hypothesis. I half expect him to pull silk scarves from inside me, paper poppies, then a rabbit!*" (It is assumed that Alexander will "tone it down a bit" for her inaugural poem.) Alexander has received tax-payer funding from the National Endowment for the Arts for her work. [333,840,871]

On Sunday, January 18, an inauguration celebration is held at the Lincoln memorial with the theme "*We Are One.*" Golf great Tiger Woods, whose father was a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Armed Forces, appears and gives a speech honoring the military. Woods is followed by a performance by the Naval Glee Club. (Woods, who shuns politics, later receives criticism from blacks and liberals for a speech that neither praises nor even mentions Obama.) [849,1528]

En route to Canada for a series of educational events and media interviews, William Ayers is refused entry into the country by immigration officials in Toronto. Ayers later says he did not know why he was turned away. [846]

In a sign that not everyone will be giving the new President of the United States a "honeymoon," Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez states on television that Obama "*brings the same stench*" as President Bush. The remark is partly in response to Obama's criticism of Chavez for supporting the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC). [847]

A complaint for an emergency injunction is filed in New Jersey by members of the Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States demanding that Obama prove he is a natural born citizen. The civil action claims violations of the First, Ninth, Fourteenth, and Twentieth Amendments to the Constitution, and argues that military orders issued by Obama would be illegal if he is not, in fact, eligible to serve as Commander in Chief, and would therefore violate the due process rights of members of the Armed Forces. [898]

The day before the inauguration, Ali Abunimah, a long-time friend of Obama, writes in "*The Electronic Intifada*" that Israel's days are numbered, and "*It is within reach, in our lifetimes.*" With the election of Obama, Abunimah assumes that "*...the other pillar of Israeli power – Western support and complicity – is starting to crack. We must do all we can to push it over.*" [974,975]

The day before the inauguration of Obama, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) closes at 8,281.22. [1434]

On his way to the inauguration via England, Obama's half-brother Samson Obama is denied a visa to enter Great Britain because of allegations of an attempt to sexually assault a young girl in Berkshire, England in November of 2008. (When arrested in 2008 Samson Obama gave a phony name for himself but the address of his mother in Kenya, Kezia Obama. He was then expelled from Great Britain.) It is believed that Samson Obama nevertheless managed to get to Washington, D.C. for the inauguration. [2296,2297]

On and shortly before January 20, as many as 600 "greenhouse gas-spewing" private jets arrive at Dulles Airport, bringing celebrities, lobbyists, politicians, and corporate heads to Washington for the inauguration of the environmentally-conscious Obama. [930]

The Inauguration

On January 20, 2009, Obama is sworn in as the 44th President of the United States. The oath of office is flubbed by both Chief Justice Roberts and Obama. (To correct the error, Obama is later sworn in again, in the White House. Press Secretary Robert Gibbs later says the process was repeated in the Oval Office out of "an abundance of caution.") [870,874,910]

Members of Congress are each given several hundred tickets to the inauguration with the understanding that they are to be given out for free. Many tickets are instead sold to the highest bidder. (Web sites offer tickets for as high as \$40,000.) Many tickets go to lobbyists, big-money political donors, party loyalists, or people to whom Congressmen and Senators owe favors. Lobbyists pay tens of thousands of dollars to attend inaugural events. The Presidential Inaugural Committee sells tickets for as much as \$50,000, despite committee member Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) having said, "*These tickets are supposed to be free for the people,*" and a special law that was passed prohibiting sales of inauguration tickets. [1570]

Obama's presidential address is rather pedestrian and does not live up to its media-driven, sky-high expectations. The media continues its non-stop Obama adoration, however, offering up such gushing remarks as, "*The new president's name, simply his name, was just the restorative the enormous crowds needed.*" ABC's Bill Weir says, "*Never have so many people shivered so long with such joy... (while) from above, even the seagulls must have been awed by the blanket of humanity.*" At the ceremony Rahm Emanuel, Obama's Chief of Staff, rudely thumbs his nose at the outgoing administration. [857,862,863,869,891,892,899,919]

Obama's speech discusses the "...noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness." Tellingly, that is a less poetic re-phrasing of the Declaration of Independence's proclamation of a God-given right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," with Obama omitting the "right to life" (perhaps as a direct message to pro-abortion supporters), downgrading the right to pursue happiness to a mere chance to pursue it, and changing a God-given right to a mere promise. [953]

Michelle Obama wears a dress to the inauguration which, not surprisingly, prompts praise from some and criticism from others. [861]

The inaugural poem, written and recited by Elizabeth Alexander, leaves many in the crowd saying, "Huh?" There is no official word on how much the taxpayers may have been charged for Alexander's contribution. [860]

After the inaugural address a prayer by the anti-Semitic, 87 year-old civil rights leader Joseph Lowery arguably insults all white Americans when he asks God to help mankind work for a day "*when white would embrace what is right.*" The remark is remarkably inappropriate inasmuch as a mostly white America had just elected its first half-black President. Lowery, in a sign that at least some black people are apparently not ready to put race behind them, also asks for help in working for the day when "*black will not be asked to get back*" – despite the fact that the celebration is to honor a half-black man being given the job of perhaps the most powerful man on the planet. Obama smiles during the prayer. [858]

Obama's inauguration is the second most watched in history, with 37.8 million American viewers. The first Reagan inauguration was watched by 41.8 million. [900]

After the inauguration Democrat Party strategist Donna Brazile admits taking Obama's blanket from the ceremony, after he had left it on his chair. No one likely cares that she took the blanket, but she jokes that the theft is not a criminal offense because, "*We have a black president... this was free.*" It is unclear what Brazile, herself a black, meant by the televised comment. [876]

Within minutes of the swearing in ceremony the official White House web page is updated to reflect Obama's plans for supporting the "gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender" agenda, including working against Constitutional amendments to define marriage as between a man and a woman, repealing the Defense of Marriage Act, ending the "don't ask, don't tell" policy for gays in the military, expanding hate-crimes legislation (to include, for example, protection for cross-dressers), passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) which would

(among other things) force churches to hire gays, and expand gay adoption. Almost immediately after the swearing in of Obama, Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel issues a memorandum attempting to rescind recent executive orders issued by President Bush. [859,926]

Gatherings are held at American Embassies around the world to view the inauguration festivities. In Brussels, Belgium, members of the Vlaams Belang Party who had been invited to the festivities were “dis-invited” at the last moment. The Vlaams Belang Party has been active in opposing the rioting Muslims in Europe and escalating anti-Semitic demonstrations. The unprecedented banning of Vlaams Belang may have been the result of Obama being more fearful of offending Muslims than Jews. [887,888]

One inaugural ball guest is Zeituni Onyango, Obama’s aunt from Kenya. Onyango has been in the United States illegally for several years (a judge refused her request for asylum in 2004), illegally collecting welfare payments. Joining Onyango at the ball is her attorney, Margaret Wong, who likely assumes that having a President in the family will help her client continue to avoid immigration laws. Onyango, who had been living in Boston public housing, now lives in Cleveland. [918,968]

Obama is the first President to *not* attend the “*Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball*,” which was created in 1953 to honor recipients of the nation’s highest military award, the Medal of Honor. Forty-eight of the 99 living recipients attend the event. Obama chooses not to honor those 48 brave military heroes, but he does attend 10 other balls in his own honor. [925]

The 1.8 million “not so green” visitors to the National Mall to attend the inauguration leave behind an estimated 100 tons of garbage. Clean-up efforts begin the evening of the inauguration. [924]

The First 100 Days

Immediately after the inauguration the web site WhiteHouse.gov is updated with the communications priorities of the new President, including “...*a campaign promise from the President: we will publish all non-emergency legislation to the website for five days, and allow the public to review and comment before the President signs it.*” (By February 6, Obama will have broken the promise twice, with the signing of his first two non-emergency bills.) [1084,1230]

An unsubstantiated story relates that when he entered the Oval Office for the first time and saw Sir Jacob Epstein’s bust of the great British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (which is on loan to the United States from the British government’s art collection), Obama boomed, “*Get that God damned thing out of here!*” Obama’s

anger likely relates to the fact that his father was a Kenyan. Kenya, which became an independent nation in 1963, had previously been under British rule for more than 50 years – it was known as the British East African Protectorate of Zanzibar – and Obama may therefore harbor resentments against the British. (Obama may want to reconsider his resentment. Had the British not brought railroads, trade, the rule of law, and education to the area, his father would never have learned English and traveled to Hawaii to study Russian and meet Stanley Ann Dunham. Obama would not have been born, let alone become President, had the British and other European nations not brought civilization to Africa.) [1710,1711,1712,1729]

Obama cranks up the thermostat on his first day at the Oval Office, enabling him to work in shirtsleeves. Obama advisor David Axelrod says, *“He likes it warm. You could grow orchids in there.”* There is no word on how much the move will cost taxpayers in higher heating bills, how much it will increase Obama’s “carbon footprint,” or whether Obama asked global-warming alarmist Al Gore for advice on the efficient use of energy. (During the campaign, Obama told a crowd in Oregon that *“We can’t just keep driving our SUVs, eating whatever we want, keeping our homes at 72 degrees at all times...”* but he apparently did not mean that advice for himself.) [481,971,1000]

In his first full day as President, Obama issues a draft order calling for the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to be closed within one year. There is no clarification as to where the approximately 250 prisoners would be placed instead. As he signs the Executive Order to close the detainee facility Obama, apparently unclear as to exactly what he is signing or what his specific order was, says, *“And we then provide, uh, the process whereby Guantanamo will be closed, uh, no later than one year from now. We will be, uh... Is there a separate, uh, executive order, Greg, with respect to how we’re going to dispose of the detainees? Is that, uh, written?”* Greg Craig, Obama’s White House counsel, responds, *“We’ll set up a process.”* [864,1269]

Obama signs an executive order capping salaries of approximately 100 White House aides at \$100,000 per year. Obama’s \$400,000 salary is set by law, but he makes no offer to decline it or give it to charity. (Obama is a millionaire, partly as a result of royalties from sales of his two books.) [896]

Obama’s first Presidential telephone call to a foreign leader is to Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and President of the Palestinian National Authority, pledging to immediately engage in pursuit of a permanent Arab-Israeli settlement. Obama makes no call to Israeli leaders. [865]

The White House indicates that Obama will engage in *“direct diplomacy with Iran without preconditions.”* The Bush administration had been willing to talk with Iran

only if it suspended its uranium enrichment program. Iran views the willingness to talk without pre-conditions a sign of U.S. weakness and a readiness to admit defeat, and will no doubt use the talks to try to end or reduce sanctions... while gaining more time to work on its nuclear program unhindered. Talks with the U.S. would also lift the status of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on the world stage and help him win re-election in June, 2009. [886,2247]

Obama calls for a repeal of the "Defense of Marriage Act" and moves to extend more than one thousand federal marriage benefits (such as filing joint tax returns) to homosexual couples, repeal bans on gays in the military, expand federal hate-crime laws, and include the definition of workplace discrimination to include sexual orientation. [872]

Obama calls for a repeal of the ban on U.S. taxpayer funding of abortions performed in other countries. Since 1984 non-government organizations receiving federal funds had been prohibited from funding or promoting abortions abroad. Obama's change thus forces Americans who oppose abortion to pay for the procedure throughout the world. The Obama administration argues that for the government not to fund abortions would be an "*unconstitutional limitation on free speech*." The policy change is announced late on a Friday afternoon, the usual policy move designed to give a controversial action as little media attention as possible. [877,959]

The Buffalo News produces a story about a former Hawaiian resident, Barbara Nelson, who stated, "*I may be the only person left who specifically remembers his (Obama's) birth*." In fact, Nelson was not present at the birth, and the story consists merely of her having been told by an acquaintance, Dr. Rodney West, about an infant he had heard of whose mother had the unusual name of "Stanley." The story implies that West had delivered the baby in Hawaii. West, an obstetrician, had actually retired from his practice in December of 1956, five years before Obama was born. Nelson later clarifies the situation, saying "*I don't know in what capacity (West) knew about this particular birth*." West died in February of 2008, at age 98. [948,949,950]

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi releases a statement regarding "*Chairman Barney Frank's TARP Reform and Accountability Act, which bolsters transparency, accountability and addresses the foreclosure crisis directly. The House approved the measure late this afternoon by a vote of 260 to 166*." Pelosi's statement continues, "*President Obama and Congress are committed to seeing that funds under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) are used responsibly, with full accountability and transparency, and that help is provided to Americans in danger of losing their homes. Chairman Frank's bill achieves these objectives and ensures that the TARP functions as Congress originally intended. The TARP Reform and Accountability Act will help ease the credit crunch for workers and small businesses, provide at least \$100 billion to help homeowners*

avoid foreclosures, and end golden parachutes for executives whose banks receive TARP assistance.”[1895]

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) states on January 22, *“It should strengthen our confidence to know that President Obama has learned from the mistakes that were made during the Bush administration in administering this sum of (Wall Street bail-out) money. That is not a criticism. Mistakes are made. But we can learn from those mistakes, and we will learn from those mistakes.”* Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) says, *“We saw bankers saying, ‘I got the money. It’s none of your business what we do with it.’ We saw bonuses given that shouldn’t (have been) be given. I am confident that the Obama administration has learned from that,”* and *“We believe the Obama administration will abide by its commitment to follow this bill if it’s passed. I understand the skepticism on the Republican side because we’re telling them that we have a commitment which we accept as valid from a new administration that they will abide by the bill as it passes the House.”* Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) remarks, *“And by the way, my friends, in this language it says no more of these big bonuses and compensation and grandstanding resort packages, no more of that.”* [1903]

A Rasmussen poll on January 22 shows Obama’s “Presidential Approval Index” at +30. The index represents the difference between the percentage of voters who “strongly approve” of Obama’s performance (44 per cent) and those who “strongly disapprove” (14 per cent). [1809]

The Supreme Court is scheduled to discuss the California case, *Lightfoot v. Bowen*, on January 23. It is reported on January 21 that the case (docket No. 08A524), along with most, if not all, other cases questioning whether Obama is a natural born citizen (both pending and resolved cases, including Berg, Donofrio, Wrotnowski, and Schneller) have been removed from the Supreme Court web site. Cases not related to Obama’s legitimacy to serve as president are apparently unaffected. [868]

Hillary Clinton is confirmed as Secretary of State and Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, according to the New York Post and the New York Times, withdraws her bid to obtain Clinton’s vacant New York Senate seat. Although Schlossberg had the stated public support of Obama, criticism of her in the media was more intense than many anticipated. She is considered a lightweight with no qualifications, and her constant use of “*you know*” and “*um*” while speaking makes her subject to ridicule as a “valley girl.” Later the same day (January 21) MSNBC quotes a person close to Schlossberg as saying that she is not, in fact, out of the running and is still interested in the Senate seat. By the next day there are reports that Schlossberg is out of the running because of issues involving taxes or a household employee. (It is known but not widely

reported that the Kennedy clan has done an effective job of sheltering its fortunes from income taxes by having assets in trusts in Fiji.) [866,867,882,883,913]

CatholicVote.com's "*Life: Imagine the Potential*" campaign produces an anti-abortion ad featuring a baby within its mother's womb and the words, "*This child's future is a broken home. He will be abandoned by his father. His single mother will struggle to raise him. Despite the hardships, he will endure. This child will become the first African American President.*" NBC later refuses to air the ad during its February 1 Super Bowl broadcast. [875,1024]

An initial draft of the \$850 billion Obama/Democrat "stimulus package" includes one billion dollars for the manufacturing of "advanced batteries," hundreds of millions of dollars for contraceptives, and \$600 million to "prepare our country for universal health care." [878,911,916]

Republicans in the Senate obtain a delay in the conformation vote of Obama's Attorney General Eric Holder in order to investigate his failure to pay some taxes, and to review the controversial Presidential pardons he negotiated at the end of the Clinton administration. The media charges the GOP with "*denying President Obama the chance to have a key member of his national security team in place as planned.*" (When Democrats forced a 2001 delay in the confirmation of John Ashcroft, Bush's Attorney General nominee, the media reported the delay with the headline, "*Ashcroft Vote is Postponed in Maneuver by Democrats.*" Ashcroft had no legal, tax evasion, or improper pardon issues.) [884]

On January 22, Obama calls on Israel to open its border with Gaza. He does not indicate how he would keep Hamas from smuggling arms across the border or sending suicide bombers into Israel, other than to say there should be an "*appropriate monitoring regime.*" Obama says, "*Our hearts go out to Palestinian civilians who are in need of immediate food, clean water, and basic medical care.*" (Obama does not comment on the fact that it was Hamas which had had prevented those Palestinian civilians from fleeing to safety and had used women and children as human shields, or about the plight of Israelis who have been under rocket attack from Hamas in Gaza for more than five years.) Israeli leaders respond that they will never consider opening the border if it results in the strengthening of Hamas. [885,893,903]

Commentator John Ridley, appearing on PBS station KCET on January 22, remarks that "*Quite simply, quite plainly, just by virtue of his being, Obama is America, and the first true American to lead our nation.*" [996]

Anti-abortion activists demonstrate in Washington, D.C. to protest abortions on the 36th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision that struck down state abortion bans. The "March for Life" organization challenges Obama to witness an abortion

and “*watch the evil deed of a surgical abortion to know what it looks like to pull off the head, arms and legs of a pre-born human.*” Obama issues a statement reaffirming his support for abortions. [894]

Obama visits the White House press corps to pay the media a friendly visit and is annoyed when he is asked why he nominated a lobbyist for defense contractor Raytheon, William J. Lynn III, to be Deputy Defense Secretary. Obama does not answer the question. The selection of Lynn conflicts with Obama’s executive order prohibiting lobbyists from taking government jobs for the first two years after leaving their lobbying jobs. [904,906]

Perhaps signaling terrorists worldwide that they will have a freer rein under the new administration, Obama signs executive orders closing CIA “black sites” (overseas terrorist detention camps) and banning some detention and interrogation methods used by the United States since the September 11 terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. But Obama also orders an inter-agency review of “*enhanced interrogation techniques*” that could lead to exceptions for “*high-value targets,*” thus providing him with some wiggle room on the issue of torture and waterboarding. [902,922,1171]

New York Governor David Paterson surprises and upsets liberals after he picks neither Andrew Cuomo nor Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg to fill Hillary Clinton’s vacant Senate seat. Paterson instead selects Kirsten Gillibrand, age 42, a Congresswoman from upstate New York who is little known outside her district, supports gay marriage, voted against the Wall Street bail-out, is backed by the National Rifle Association (NRA), and has a rating of eight (on a scale of 100) from the American Conservative Union (ACU). Gillibrand has the support of New York’s senior Senator Charles Schumer. Gillibrand will likely face a primary challenge in 2010... assuming she was not forced to agree to a deal not to run after her temporary term expires. [907]

The news media is angered by Obama’s actions to limit the usual access Presidents have allowed reporters and photographers. The self-proclaimed “most transparent” administration refuses to allow the media to photograph Obama’s first day in the Oval Office and instead distributes photographs taken by official White House photographers. That prompts AP, Reuters, and other news services to refuse to run the provided pictures. Reporters are given information on the Guantanamo detention center but are told not to release the names of the administration officials who provided the information. In a “pay-to-play” move, Obama grants his only inauguration day interview to ABC, in exchange for the network having paid millions of dollars to finance the D.C. Neighborhood (Inaugural) Ball. [908,909,910]

At a meeting of the House Ways and Means Committee, Thomas Barthold, deputy chief of staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation, is asked how many jobs

will be created by the Obama/Democrat \$825 billion stimulus package. Barthold responds that he can't, and admits that there is no estimate of the economic effect the legislation would have on the economy. (The administration suggests borrowing almost one *trillion* dollars from somewhere, perhaps mostly China, to stimulate the American economy – with nothing more than a guess as to what the result will be.) [914,915]

The first performance of Robert Gibbs, Obama's press secretary, is arguably less than impressive. Asked by reporters if Obama should "*lead by example*," an overly-cautious Gibbs responds, "*We'll check on that*." [910]

Possibly the first enemy combatant deaths during the Obama administration occur on January 23, when U.S. missiles kill as many as 18 people on the Pakistan side of the Afghan border. The strikes are approved by the Obama administration, but Pakistanis state that 10 people killed in the first strike were civilians and not militants. A second attack later kills eight more people. [912,917,964]

Obama names former U.N. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke (recent member of the board of directors of the failed insurance giant AIG) as envoy to the Pakistan-Afghanistan region. Obama also selects former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell to be his Middle East envoy. The media makes little note of Holbrooke's previous remark in *Foreign Affairs* magazine that "*The situation in Afghanistan is far from hopeless. But as the war enters its eighth year, Americans should be told the truth: it will last a long time – longer than the United States' longest war to date, the 14-year conflict (1961-1975) in Vietnam*." (Few of Obama's supporters likely expect having 70,000 or more American troops in Afghanistan for six more years.) Mitchell's appointment is immediately followed by Israeli bombing of Hamas weapon-smuggling tunnels on the Egypt-Gaza border. [944,945,1013]

The Supreme Court denies an emergency hearing of attorney Orly Taitz's case *Lightfoot v. Bowen* and the case reverts to the lower courts for review. Taitz moves to file a motion to compel the Chief Justice to produce records of his meeting with Obama which took place on January 14, because it is inappropriate for one party in a case (Obama) to meet privately with the judge (Chief Justice Roberts) while the case is pending. [956]

When Republican leaders complain about the enormity of the \$825 billion stimulus package (and the extensive pork it contains), Obama tells them, "*You can't just listen to Rush Limbaugh and get things done*." When Senator John Kyl (R-AZ) remarks that giving income "tax cuts" to people who paid no income taxes is essentially welfare, Obama crassly remarks, "*I won! I'm the President!*" (Obama neglects to consider that the Republican legislators who oppose his plans also won their elections.) Conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh

responds that an effort to focus on him shifts attention from Obama's ill-conceived *"trillion-dollar debacle"* of a stimulus package, which Limbaugh believes is *"...aimed at re-establishing 'eternal' power for the Democrat Party rather than stimulating the economy"* by allowing *"a majority of American voters to guarantee no taxes for themselves"* in perpetuity. At the January 23 meeting Obama also incorrectly complains that Merrill Lynch had used \$1.2 million in federal bail-out money to remodel executive offices. The remodeling was done prior to the distribution of the funds, and thus did not involve any "TARP" money. Obama uses the same Merrill Lynch decorator to redecorate the White House, and neglects to explain why White House decorating stimulates the economy while Merrill Lynch decorating does not. [920,931,932,1030]

Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) money includes \$12 million to OneUnited Bank, a minority community bank under fire for poor lending practices and executive pay abuses. The bank donated \$12,500 to the campaign of Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA). Her husband, Sidney Williams, was one of the bank's directors. Both Waters and Williams have made money buying and selling stock in the bank. Waters had – without disclosing her ties to the bank – originally requested \$50 in TARP money but, perhaps because of its *"operating without effective underwriting standards and practices," "operating without an effective loan documentation program,"* and *"engaging in speculative investment practices"* her request was whittled down to \$12 million. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) eventually cracked down on the bank and its CEO, Kevin Cohee, who had been driving an expensive Porsche SUV provided by the bank. (Cohee charges racism.) It has also been reported that Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA), head of the House Financial Services Committee, specifically inserted a OneUnited Bank provision in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. [1662,1700,2539]

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) grants the Geron Corporation permission to begin embryonic stem cell treatments on human subjects. The FDA says the decision is not related to Obama having been sworn in as President, and the cells to be used by Geron are from lines established prior to the moratorium President Bush placed on creating new, taxpayer-funded lines from aborted babies. [921,929]

Iowa artist Matthew J. Clark honors the new President by arranging for an Obama-mannequin riding a donkey to parade down Des Moines streets, accompanied by waving palm fronds and a simulated Secret Service escort. Clark calls his creation, *"A Simulacrum of Hope: Simulation of the Triumphant Entry of the Christ."* There is no word as to whether taxpayers funded Clark's project with grant money from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA). [928]

It is reported on January 24 that federal prosecutors are looking at the possibility of filing additional criminal charges against Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich,

and have subpoenaed information about any contacts he had with Obama and Obama advisors David Axelrod and Valerie Jarrett. [927]

On “Meet the Press” on January 25, Obama’s senior economic advisor, Lawrence Summers, makes it clear that Obama will allow the Bush tax cuts to expire in 2010. Wage earners in the 35 per cent tax bracket, for example, will thus see their tax rate increased to 39.6 per cent. Bush advisors have said that allowing the tax cuts to expire will cause the average family of four to pay about \$1,900 more in income taxes. [938]

Senator John McCain announces that he will oppose the Obama/Democrat stimulus bill as it is currently written. The bill includes tax money for a “mob museum” and a water park. [952]

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi defends the addition of birth control funding (which would fund both contraceptives and abortion) to the Democrats’ stimulus bill by arguing that it “*will reduce costs to the states and to the federal government.*” Using tax dollars to pay for abortions is, in Pelosi’s view, more cost-effective than providing benefits for poor children who are born. After considerable criticism Obama privately urges Democrats to remove funds for contraception from the bill. The Democrats (who realize they will eventually be able to get the funds restored into another future bill anyway) agree to the removal. Republicans, leery of being overly critical of the popular new President, focus their attacks on the unpopular House Democrats for loading the bill with “pork.” Congressman Peter Roskam (R-IL) exaggerates but makes a valid point when he complains that the stimulus bill contains more money for new sod on the National Mall (\$21 million out of \$200 million for mall renovations) than for small-business tax cuts (\$41 million). The U.S. has approximately 23 million small businesses, each of which would therefore benefit by an average of \$1.78 if their tax cuts total \$41 million. [940,943,952,957]

On January 26, Obama directs federal regulators to move quickly to approve applications by California and other states to tighten local automobile emissions standards. The standards of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) generally take precedence over state rules. Obama’s action will lead to different standards across the nation, making compliance with the varying regulations difficult and expensive for automakers (which, if they are able to remain in business, will pass the costs on in the price of the vehicle). Automakers will likely respond by selling only small, high-mileage vehicles in states with the more strict controls, thus making desired larger vehicles unavailable to many customers. [934]

On the January 26 telecast of the O’Reilly Factor, National Public Radio’s (NPR) Juan Williams remarks about the new First Lady, “*Michelle Obama, you know, she’s got this Stokely Carmichael in a designer dress thing going. If she starts*

talking... her instinct is to start with this blame America, you know, I'm the victim. If that stuff starts coming out, people will go bananas and she'll go from being the new Jackie O(nassis) to being something of an albatross." NPR later asks Fox to hide Williams' connection to NPR by not showing its logo when he appears. [1198]

Chicagoans moving to Washington to work for Obama include Valerie Jarrett (Obama's senior advisor for intergovernmental relations and public liaisons, who years before hired Michelle Obama to work for the City of Chicago); David Axelrod (White House senior advisor and political guru, Obama's "Karl Rove"); Rahm Emanuel (White House Chief of Staff, political hard-ball player and friend of Axelrod); Christina Tchen (White House director of public liaison and friend of Valerie Jarrett); Arne Duncan (Secretary of Education and former head of the failed Chicago school system); Susan Cher (White House associate counsel, who worked for the University of Chicago Medical Center and as corporate counsel for Chicago's Mayor Daley); Cass Sunstein (Office of Management and Budget, taught at University of Chicago Law School, married to Obama advisor Samantha Power); William Daley (advisor to Obama and brother of Chicago's Mayor Daley). [1311]

The Iranian ship "Iran Shahed" enters the Mediterranean Sea on January 26 and is observed by vessels from the U.S. Sixth Fleet, Israeli missile boats, and a Russian anti-submarine destroyer. The Israelis prevent the ship from accessing the shore at Gaza, where it would likely have unloaded Iranian weapons for Hamas. Because the Iranian ship is flying a Cyprus flag (to disguise its true mission), the Cypriot Navy intercepts the vessel. There is speculation that Obama ordered the U.S. Navy to prevent the Israelis from seizing the ship, out of fear of provoking Iran. [994,995]

Obama's first formal television interview as President is granted to an Arabic cable network, "Al-Arabiya." In the close-to-apologetic interview Obama admits that "*We (the U.S.) sometimes make mistakes. We are not perfect.*" He also remarks that Iran's terrorist support was not helpful, but is "a thing of the past" – in complete contradiction to the facts of Iran's ongoing efforts to provide Hamas and Hezb'Allah with weapons and ammunition to use against Israel. Obama states that America is a land of "*Muslims, Christians, Jews*" and others. In placing Muslims first Obama no doubt means to appease the Muslim audience, but likely offends many Americans in the process. Obama also asks Iran to "*unclench its fist*" and engage in unconditional talks with the United States. Iran's President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, responds to Obama through an address to a crowd of militants that the United States must apologize for crimes against Iran and the Islamic world, and withdraw all American troops from other countries. With the remark that he wants a return to "*the same respect and partnership that America had with the Muslim world as recently as 20 or 30 years ago,*" Obama fails to realize that the 30 year period included, among other incidents, the 444-day

hostage stand-off at the American embassy in Iran and the murder of hundreds of Marines sleeping in their barracks in Lebanon. [939,979,981,1022]

Republicans, angered over the incredible amount of wasteful “pork” in the Democrats’ \$825 billion stimulus package, attempt to get Obama to remove some of it by reminding him of his campaign pledge to eliminate “earmarks” from spending bills. Some of the spending includes:

\$200 million to refurbish the National Mall (including \$21 million for new sod),
\$50 million for the National Endowment of the Arts,
\$650 million in coupons to help people switch from analog to digital televisions,
\$2.4 billion for “carbon capture” demonstration projects,
\$4.19 billion for ACORN and other “Community Stabilization Activities” groups (even though ACORN is the subject of a RICO corruption lawsuit),
\$400 million for “global warming” research,
\$335 million for sexually transmitted disease education,
\$2.1 billion for Head Start,
\$2 billion for day care programs,
\$500 million to speed up the processing of Social Security Disability claims,
\$150 million for “livestock insurance,”
\$6 billion for colleges and universities,
\$13 billion in Title I grants for academic support,
\$13 billion for special education grants to states,
\$20 billion for food stamps,
\$1.7 billion to help the homeless,
\$1 billion to pay heating bills for poor people,
\$200 million for senior nutrition programs,
\$200 million for Americorps,
\$300 million for “green” golf carts,
\$30 million for “smart” appliances,
\$5 billion for public housing,
\$87 billion in Medicaid funds for the states,
\$2.5 billion for the National Science Foundation,
\$2 billion for the National Park Service,
\$2 billion for “neighborhood stabilization programs,”
\$650 million for the National Forest Service,
\$600 million for NASA,
\$600 million for new cars for the government,
\$75 million for programs to help people quit smoking,
\$800 million for Amtrak (which hasn’t earned a profit in four decades),

\$150 million for maintenance at the Smithsonian Institution,
\$79 billion to help pay down state debt from reckless spending (in California, New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts),
\$17 billion for Pell Grants, and
\$400 million for “habitat restoration projects,”
\$726 million for an after-school snack program,
\$2.25 billion for national parks (essentially doubling the park service’s budget),
and
\$30 million to save the habitat of the “salt marsh harvest mouse” (which lives in the area of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi).
[940,961,965,1001,1077,1108,1175,1214,1662]

The bill also includes \$88.6 million for the construction of new schools in Milwaukee, even though that city’s school system is experiencing a declining student population, has 15 vacant school buildings, and has no need for any new schools. [1077]

Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) warns that Obama’s stimulus package will cause inflation, lead to a depression, and burden every American with an additional \$6,700 in federal debt. The bill also includes a provision that only American iron and steel can be used in construction projects that are part of the package. That protectionist clause may prompt retaliation from other nations, leading to a worsening of the global economy. Columbia economics professor Jagdish Bhagwati, a supporter of Obama, writes in the New York Times that the “buy American” restrictions will invite certain retaliation. [941,1036,1223]

The Obama administration promises to engage in direct diplomacy with Iran. [942]

Timothy “*I forgot to pay my taxes*” Geithner is confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of the Treasury, in a 60-34 vote. Geithner later selects Mark Patterson as his chief of staff. Patterson is a former Goldman Sachs lobbyist whose hiring violates Obama’s promise not to have former lobbyists in his administration. (The White House “waived the rules” for Patterson, as well as for Raytheon defense contractor lobbyist William Lynn, who was chosen by Obama as Deputy Secretary of Defense. Records show that Obama, engaged in a lot of waiving, has hired at least 21 lobbyists.) [946,1754]

A week after being sworn in as President, Obama’s approval rating drops 15 points (from 83 to 68 per cent). [947,964]

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi refuses to discount the idea of nationalizing the nation’s banks, and the New York Times reports that the Obama administration is

considering creating one, large “bad bank,” which would nationalize the “worst underperforming loans.” [951]

On January 27, South Carolina Senator James DeMint warns that the Obama administration will “*create crisis and widespread panic,*” as President Bush and Henry Paulson did in requesting Wall Street bail-out funds, in order to get Congress to act on the stimulus package without fully evaluating its deficiencies. [954]

Obama publicly applauds a “Saudi Peace Initiative” which would normalize Arab ties with Israel in exchange for extreme concessions from the Jewish state. Prior to his election Obama had denied supporting the plan – which would cost Israel territory, give it difficult to defend new borders, and force it to accept hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. The plan would require that Israel withdraw military and civilians from Gaza, the West Bank, Golan Heights, and eastern Jerusalem (where its sacred Temple Mount is located). Israel does not wish to give up the West Bank because it is within rocket range of Tel Aviv and Israel’s international airport; if Hamas terrorists were to control the West Bank, it could then wreak havoc on Tel Aviv and the airport. The Palestinians want Jerusalem for their capitol; about one-third of Jerusalem’s 724,000 residents are Arab. [958,2303]

As a first step toward a government-run universal health care program, Obama’s economic stimulus legislation includes a *requirement* that *all* Americans release their medical records to the government to place in a federal database. Google CEO Eric Schmidt, a friend and supporter of Obama, is an advocate of the medical database. Schmidt hopes to be able to access the data in order to sell patient information to Google advertising clients. (A company that sells diabetes supplies, for example, would want access to a file of all Americans who have that disease.) Privacy activists are alarmed by the government’s plans, but the issue is given little attention by the mainstream media. The stimulus bill allows electronic health records to be sold for research. Patients can ask that their information not be shared – but they must then pay for their own treatment. [955,2034]

After Washington, D.C. schools are closed on January 28 because of inclement weather, Obama, who has endured brutal winters in Chicago, pokes fun at Washington wimps who can’t handle ice and snow. [963]

A report appears of an enraged parent in the Las Vegas area whose son’s first grade class was forced to recite the Pledge of Allegiance while facing a huge image of Obama projected on the class room wall – rather than the American Flag which stands in the corner of the room. [967]

Congressman John Carter (R-TX) introduces HR 735, the “Rangel Rule Act of 2009,” which would give all taxpayers the same special treatment given to Congressman Charles Rangel and Secretary Treasurer Tim Geithner for neglecting to pay proper income taxes. Carter states, *“We must show the American people that Congress is following the same law, and the same legal process as we expect them to follow. That has not been done in the ongoing case against Chairman Rangel, nor in the instance of our new Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. If we don’t hold our highest elected officials to the same standards as regular working folks, we owe it to our constituents to change those standards so everyone is abiding by the same law. Americans believe in blind justice, which shows no favoritism to the wealthy or powerful.”* The bill will never get out of committee, let alone get passed into law, but Congressman Carter was able to make a public point. Carter also points out that his bill would stimulate the economy because it would free taxpayers from any debts owed the IRS. [1702]

In a speech to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin remarks *that “The entire economic growth system, where one regional centre prints money without respite and consumes material wealth, while another regional centre manufactures inexpensive goods and saves money printed by other governments, has suffered a major setback.”* Putin warns against protectionism, and even warns against embracing socialism. *“Excessive intervention in economic activity and blind faith in the state’s omnipotence is another possible mistake. True, the state’s increased role in times of crisis is a natural reaction to market setbacks. Instead of streamlining market mechanisms, some are tempted to expand state economic intervention to the greatest possible extent. In the 20th century, the Soviet Union made the state’s role absolute. In the long run, this made the Soviet economy totally uncompetitive. This lesson cost us dearly. I am sure nobody wants to see it repeated.”* Obama appears not to have listened to Putin’s warnings. [1274]

On January 28, the House of Representatives approves Obama’s \$825 billion economic stimulus package (which turns out to be “only” an \$819 billion bill, which is roughly equivalent to Australia’s entire economy, and greater than 168 of 180 national economies measured by the World Bank). The vote is 244 to 188, with *no* Republicans voting for the bill and 11 Democrats voting against it. (The Republicans were perhaps following Napoleon’s rule, *“Never interrupt your enemy while he’s making a major error.”*) An alternative Republican bill consisting mostly of tax cuts is defeated, 266-170. Obama and House Speaker Pelosi had wanted Republican support to “provide cover” in the event the legislation fails to do as they hope. When Republicans complained a few days earlier that the bill was heavy in pork and needed tax cuts to stimulate the economy and provide jobs, Obama told them *“Feel free to whack me over the head because I probably will not compromise on that part.”* The bill, which still needs Senate approval, includes \$544 billion in federal spending and \$275 billion in tax cuts. The tax “cuts” include \$800 payments to millions of couples (\$400 for

individuals) who do not make enough in wages to pay taxes in the first place (which arguably makes their checks welfare payments and not tax cuts). The bill also includes tens of billions of dollars for state governments (which would not be a job-creating stimulus but a bail-out for irresponsible legislators who refused to balance their state budgets). The bill also contains billions in increases for food stamps and unemployment benefits, which arguably allows people the opportunity to postpone finding a job. Although Obama “got a win” with the vote because the bill passed the House, he arguably loses some future negotiating strength because his failure to allow Republicans any input on the seriously flawed bill suggests they will not be eager to cooperate with him when he does find himself in need of their votes. With his lack of any willingness to compromise on the bill Obama demonstrates not “hope and change” and bipartisanship... but “business as usual in Washington, D.C.” [969,970,992,1053]

The stimulus package passes the House after only eight hours of debate allowed by the Democrat leadership. Neither Obama nor any member of Congress reads the entire bill (which contains 680 pages). Only 10 per cent of the funds will be spent in 2009, and roughly half of the spending is allocated to agencies or businesses that sponsor or employee members of the Service Employees International Union, federal, state, or municipal employee unions, and other unions connected to the Democrats. The \$819 billion bill is equivalent to giving every unemployed person in the United States a check for \$75,000. (A study by the Heritage Foundations estimates that the \$819 billion “stimulus” will end up adding *\$1.34 trillion* to the national debt because of the welfare spending hidden in the bill.) Democrats who opposed the bill were under intense pressure from the House leadership to vote for it anyway. Tennessee Congressman Jim Cooper later comments on Nancy Pelosi’s strong arm tactics, “*We’re just told how to vote. We’re treated like mushrooms most of the time.*” [1003,1080,1393]

It is reported that the economic stimulus package may end up allowing \$400 and \$800 tax refund checks to go to illegal immigrants. Although the bill specifies that only American citizens will be entitled to the payments, there is no significant enforcement mechanism in place to prevent payments to non-citizens if the worker has a Social Security number or an IRS-assigned individual taxpayer identification number. The term “refund” is also a misnomer for millions of Americans, because those workers with incomes too low to require the payment of federal income tax will nevertheless be entitled to the \$400 (single) or \$800 (married) payments. [1010]

Obama signs his first bill as President, the “Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act,” which extends by 180 days the statute of limitations for filing a claim of pay discrimination based on gender. Ledbetter, who had worked 19 years for Goodyear Tire and Rubber in Alabama, earned less than her male co-workers. After she retired she sued Goodyear, which correctly argued that the statute of limitations had run out. The Supreme Court ruled in Goodyear’s favor. The court

did not address the issue of whether there had been discrimination. Goodyear argued there had not – and submitted Ledbetter’s substandard performance appraisals to support its case. After the bill signing ceremony Michelle Obama remarks that Ledbetter “...knew unfairness when she saw it, and was willing to do something about it because it was the right thing to do,” when, in fact, Ledbetter took no action for 19 years. (In signing the bill Obama broke the campaign promise he had made to pro-abortion supporters that the first piece of legislation he would sign would be the “Freedom of Choice Act” – which would overturn all state pro-life laws, including prohibitions against partial-birth abortions and parental notification requirements for minors seeking abortions. Obama also signed the Ledbetter bill without first posting the text on the Internet for five days, as he promised he would do with all non-emergency legislation.) [132,133,1054,1084]

On January 29 the Illinois Senate votes 59-0 to remove Governor Rod Blagojevich from office. Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn is sworn in as the next Governor of the state. Later that evening Blagojevich tells the media, “I’d like to tell you some of the inside stuff, some of the things they were trying to do, and I’ll talk about that later, if you’re interested.” It is assumed the media will be interested. [972,973]

It is disclosed on January 29 that Obama will name Harvard University professor Samantha Power to the position of Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs at the National Security Council. Power had previously been removed from Obama’s team of advisors during the primary campaign because she publicly referred to Hillary Clinton as a “monster.” Power’s new job will require close contact with Secretary of State Clinton. (In the past Power had advocated sending U.S. troops to “impose a solution” on Israel. Power joins a growing list of Obama advisors with anti-Israel sentiments.) [967]

A military judge denies the Obama administration’s request to delay the case of a terrorist detainee accused of planning the 2000 attack on the USS Cole. [977]

Odds increase that Senate Republicans will attempt a filibuster to stop Obama’s economic stimulus package, after the House vote receives the support of no Republicans and after some public outrage increases over the amount of “pork” and waste in the massive bill. A filibuster would force Senate Democrats to come up with 60 votes to bring the bill to the floor for a vote, rather than the simple majority needed to pass the bill if there were no filibuster. Although the Republicans may not be able to stop the bill’s passage, a filibuster may allow them to force some changes in the legislation that results in reductions in wasteful spending or increases in tax cuts. [978]

It is reported in the New York Post that the economic stimulus package includes the creation of a health council for “Comparative Effectiveness Research.” The

council would identify medical treatment that it considers insufficiently effective or too expensive. According to the House Appropriation Committee, *“Those items, procedures, and interventions... that are found to be less effective and in some cases, more expensive, will no longer be prescribed.”* In an effort to save federal money, such expenses would then not be paid for by Medicare or any future universal health care plan. Tax deductibility for private health insurance might also be limited to policies that meet federal criteria. Preventing private policies from being more generous than a national plan would thus encourage more people to accept the national plan, and taxpayers would have to pay for “non-approved” procedures or treatment out of their own pockets – if the procedures or treatments are even allowed by the government. (In Great Britain, similar policies prohibit the use of the drug Tarceva because the government feels it is not cost-effective. Lung cancer patients are thus prevented from obtaining the drug even though it has been shown to extend the lives of such patients. Under the planned Obama rules, the decision to prescribe a drug like Tarceva will therefore not be up to the patient and the doctor, but the federal government’s council on Comparative Effectiveness Research.) [980,1172]

Further evidence that Obama’s book, *“Dreams from My Father,”* was ghost-written – perhaps by his close friend William Ayers – appears when an anti-war article written by Obama in 1983 surfaces. Obama’s article, *“Breaking the War Mentality,”* was published in Columbia University’s “Sundial” magazine. It contains atrocious grammar and punctuation, and is written in a style which clearly does not match that of the author of *“Dreams From My Father.”* [983]

It is disclosed that Obama’s Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel has private daily phone conversations with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News, and James Carville and Paul Begala of CNN. The discussions are for the purpose of planning media coverage and ideological strategy. While the discussions are not illegal, they are a clear violation of journalistic ethics and make it impossible for ABC and CNN to report objectively on the Obama administration. They also give Obama the opportunity to “grease the skids” in advance when controversial actions are planned. ABC and its parent company Disney receive tens of thousands of complaints about the conflict of interest and demands that the behind-the-scenes contacts be stopped. President of the Media Research Center Brent Bozell asks ABC to *“address Stephanopolous’ apparent conflict of interest,”* and states that Stephanopolous should *“recuse himself from reporting on an Obama administration whose plans and messaging he spends every morning helping to craft.”* The practice continues despite the criticism. [989,1029,1191]

It is reported on January 29 that the Obama administration is preparing a conciliatory letter to Iran, intended to “warm relations” between the two nations in preparation for direct talks between them. The letter would assure Iran that the United States does not intend to topple the Islamic regime. Obama’s intention is clearly to “tone down” the tough rhetoric of the Bush administration, but his softer

stance is unlikely to persuade Iran's President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, to stop its nuclear weapons program or reduce its support of anti-Israel terrorists. (Being reassured that the U.S. will not try to topple the regime may instead prompt it to proceed more boldly.) Ahmadinejad's response to Obama's defensive and apologetic Arab television interview was to demand a U.S. apology for "war crimes" and significant "be nice to the Muslim world and turn your back on Israel" changes from Washington. Obama's interview comment that Iran's support for terrorists was in its "past" – when Iran is clearly still supporting Hamas and Hezb'Allah – suggests that Obama may be willing to "look the other way" in exchange for negotiations with Iran that appear successful in the public's eye, even if they are not successful in fact. [985,986]

Obama criticizes "shameful" Wall Street bankers who received bonuses of \$18 billion in 2008, neglecting to recognize that the amount was down substantially (from \$34 billion in 2006) and that bonuses are often required by employment contracts and cannot be eliminated. Obama also neglects to explain why billions spent by the federal government would stimulate the economy while billions spent by Wall Street executives would not. The significant decline in bonuses to Wall Street employees will also cause the state of New York to lose an estimated \$1 billion in tax revenue. [997,998,999]

Sensing weakness in the new American president, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro demands that the United States end its long-term (since 1903) lease of its naval base at Guantanamo and return the property to Cuba. Castro's demand is met with immediate support from Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez. [987]

It is reported on January 31 that Obama's half-brother, George Obama, was arrested in Kenya and charged with possession of "bhang" (marijuana). From behind bars in Nairobi, George Obama, who did not travel to Washington to attend Obama's inauguration, denied the charges – which were later dropped. [988]

Allegedly at the suggestion of Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid, Obama considers selecting New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg as Secretary of Commerce, in place of New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (who was forced to withdraw because of "pay to play" investigations). Obama's offer can enable him to get an additional Democrat in the Senate because the New Hampshire Governor, who would name Gregg's appointment, is a Democrat. New Hampshire Governor Lynch said, however, that he is "open to appointing a Republican to the seat." [993,1015,1203]

It is reported that Tom Daschle, Obama's pick for Secretary of Health and Human Services, neglected to report as income the services of a chauffeured Cadillac provided to him by his employer during 2005, 2006, and 2007. Daschle illegally avoided over \$101,000 in federal income taxes because of the failure.

Daschle also failed to report \$83,333 in consulting income in 2007, and had to file amended returns for 2005 through 2007 to reduce by \$14,963 the amount of charitable contributions he was legally allowed to claim. Daschle's amended returns cost him an additional \$128,204 in taxes, plus \$11,964 in interest. Daschle's wife's returns are also being reviewed. (A 1999 C-SPAN archives clip shows Daschle telling the Senate, "*Make no mistake, tax cheaters cheat us all, and the IRS should enforce our laws to the letter.*") Since leaving the Senate, Daschle has made millions lobbying for health care and other industries, and his wife is a lobbyist for Boeing, Lockheed, and various airlines. A General Electric (GE) subsidiary, GE Healthcare, has paid Daschle for speeches. GE Healthcare, which specializes in the electronic processing of medical records, would greatly gain from Obama/Daschle plans to computerize the medical records of all Americans. NBC and MSNBC are both owned by GE, suggesting that those networks will be less than critical of Daschle's tax and lobbying issues. (On NBC's "Meet the Press" program of February 1, host David Gregory discusses Daschle without mentioning his connection to GE Healthcare, or the financial gains GE would make if the Obama/Daschle health care plans are implemented.) Obama says he is "*absolutely*" standing behind Daschle, despite his tax avoidance issues. [1004,1005,1014,1023,1027,1028,1034]

During January, in the middle of a nationwide economic crisis, Congress votes to give \$93,000 in "petty cash" to each Congressman. They also give themselves a \$4,700 raise. [1662,1844]

February

On February 1, Obama signs an executive order allowing the CIA to continue using "renditions," which involve agents executing warrants against terrorist suspects in other countries. With this action Obama continues a practice followed by former President Bush, and which prompted worldwide criticism. [1066]

Successful national elections are held in Iraq, with a very strong turn-out and no major acts of violence. Islamist and religious parties do not fare well, while Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's party gains – suggesting a continuing movement to a stable, representative democracy. Iraqis walk for miles to vote and the polls remain open for an additional hour to accommodate the crowds of citizens who risked their lives by lining up as targets for potential suicide bombers. The success of the elections, made possible by the troop surge opposed by Obama, now makes it easier for Obama to reduce the number of American soldiers in the country. The New York Times, which had previously ridiculed President Bush and John McCain for even suggesting that victory in Iraq was possible, writes "*This is what victory in the war in Iraq was supposed to look like: Fifteen million Iraqis voting in free and fair (largely) elections, emerging from their polling stations with their purple-stained fingers in an atmosphere that was free (largely)*"

of intimidation or violence." (Having a Democrat in the White House is apparently enough to change the tune played by the New York Times.) [1059,1145]

Another lawsuit is filed challenging Obama's eligibility to serve as President. It challenges his status as a natural born citizen and names Congress as a defendant for its failure to uphold the Constitutional demand to make sure that a candidate is qualified before it certifies the Electoral College vote that officially makes him President. [1009]

Oprah Winfrey's "Harpo Productions" produces a YouTube video with celebrities who *"pledge to be a servant to our president and (to) all mankind."* [1012]

Less than two weeks into his presidency, some critics of Obama begin portraying him as the "new Jimmy Carter" for his foreign policy naiveté and the likelihood of his causing rampant inflation through reckless spending. [1013]

Obama asks the Joint Chiefs of Staff to reduce the military budget by more than 10 per cent. It is unclear how those reductions can be accomplished with Obama expected to send 70,000 troops to Afghanistan. [1019]

It is disclosed on February 1 that Obama initiated secret negotiations with Iran and Syria even before the November 4 election, according to an international organization of scientists working for nuclear disarmament. Discussions revolved around Iran's nuclear program and the Middle East peace process. Former Secretary of Defense under Clinton, William Perry, served as an Obama campaign advisor and was allegedly part of the discussions. If the allegations are true, Obama and his agents may have broken the law. The Logan Act prohibits private citizens (like Perry) to negotiate on behalf of the United States government. Breaking the law is a felony, punishable by up to three years in prison. *(Obama himself is a private citizen between the time he resigned from the Senate on November 16 and when he was sworn in as President on January 20. During that period he had no legal authority to negotiate or speak for the United States government. Thus Obama could possibly be prosecuted for Logan Act violations.)* [1016,1017,1018,1232]

Perhaps as an indication that many Americans believe Obama will clamp down on gun purchases and strengthen gun registration rules, National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) records show that over 900,000 more firearms purchase requests were processed in the last quarter of 2008 than in the last quarter of 2007. Certain types of guns are selling out quickly, as many people would apparently rather have a gun and end up not needing it than needing it and not being able to get one. (Rock River Arms in Illinois, which Obama tried to shut down in an anti-gun vote in the Illinois Senate, sells 10 AR-15 M4 weapons in less than an hour.) [326,445,1020]

Although there has been no “official ban” on the phrase “war on terror” within the Obama administration, Obama is making a deliberate attempt not to use the term. [1021]

Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett states at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland that the economic crisis is the result of America’s *“profound irresponsibility.”* European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, perhaps noting the size of Obama’s government-expanding stimulus package, predicts that *“Obama is moving toward a European-style (i.e., socialist) model.”* [1022]

Severe winter storms kill 55 people nationwide (24 in Kentucky alone) and leave 470,000 homes and businesses without power for almost one week. The Katrina-sensitive media nevertheless does not criticize FEMA or Obama. [1025,1026]

On February 2 Obama authorizes the expenditure of \$20.3 million *“...from the United States Emergency Refugee and Migration and Assistance Fund for the purpose of meeting unexpected and urgent refugee and migration needs... related to humanitarian needs of Palestinian refugees and conflict victims in Gaza.”* No money is authorized for Israeli victims of Hamas rockets fired from Gaza. A portion of the \$20.3 million will apparently be used to relocate to the U.S. refugees from Gaza (many of whom likely support Hamas and terrorism). [1245,1288,1674]

Palestinian Authority (PA) officials say they are enthusiastic about the tone of the Obama administration and their recent meetings with Obama’s Mideast envoy, George Mitchell, because they expect Obama to force concessions from Israel. Obama essentially guarantees to the PA that Israel will withdraw from the West Bank, and will impose sanctions on Israel if it begins any new construction there. Approximately 200,000 Jews live in the West Bank, which Israel captured in the 1967 Six Day War. [1031]

The group “Americans for Legal Immigration PAC” (ALIPAC) files an arrest request with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) demanding that Obama’s aunt, Zeituni Onyango, be arrested and that Obama order her deported in order to show that he honors the laws of the United States – which he swore to uphold when he took the Constitutionally-required Presidential oath. Onyango has been living in the United States illegally and was denied a request for asylum in 2004. Onyango had been living on welfare in a Boston slum, but media attention forced her to hide with friends in Cleveland. She nevertheless attended Obama’s inauguration and an inaugural ball. (According to the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, asylum is granted only to persons who face persecution in their home country based on race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group or political opinions. As the aunt of

Obama, Onyango would have a difficult time arguing to the immigration judge that she would be subject to persecution in Kenya.) [1032,1789]

New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg accepts Obama's invitation to become Secretary of Commerce. New Hampshire Governor Lynch, a Democrat, names a Republican, J. Bonnie Newman, to temporarily fill the open seat. Judd would likely have won re-election in 2010, but in accepting the cabinet position he leaves the Senate seat vulnerable to a Democrat takeover. The deal made by Obama likely requires that Newman not run for re-election in 2010, further improving the chances of a Democrat win. (It is unclear why Obama can deal with Gregg and Lynch over a Senate seat while former Illinois Rod Blagojevich could not.) [1039]

Former Senator Tom Daschle withdraws his bid to become Secretary of Health and Human Services after intense criticism for failure to pay \$128,000 in income taxes. NBC's Andrea Mitchell, seemingly unaware that most Americans believe even Obama cabinet members should pay their income taxes, remarks that Americans will see the GOP as having "*brought him down.*" Only a few hours before Daschle's announcement, Nancy Killefer also withdraws her bid to become Obama's "chief performance officer." Killefer also faced questions relating to taxes. In Killefer's withdrawal letter to Obama she wrote, "*I have also come to realize in the current environment that my personal tax issue of D.C. unemployment tax could be used to create exactly the kind of distraction and delay those duties must avoid.*" (Killefer did not describe the environment in which it *would* be acceptable for her to fail to pay required taxes.) Although NBC's Mitchell blames the Republicans for "going after" Daschle and causing his downfall, she fails to explain how they could be held responsible for his improper tax filings and disregard for the law. [1033,1037,1040,1130]

An early February Rasmussen Reports opinion poll shows that only 37 per cent of Americans are in favor of the Obama economic stimulus package while 45 per cent support a plan that consists only of tax cuts. Half of those surveyed believe the stimulus plan will likely make things worse. According to a Gallup poll nearly 80 per cent believe the plan will not stimulate the economy enough. [1042,1047]

In a February 3 interview with NBC's Brian Williams, Obama says he "*screwed up*" with his cabinet appointment of tax-dodger Tom Daschle, and then says he needs to send a message that "*there aren't two sets of rules – you know, one for prominent people and one for ordinary folks who have to pay their taxes.*" Obama defends his other appointees, despite some of their tax issues, and brags that "*...not only have we gotten in place a functioning government in record time, but overall the quality of (my appointments) are outstanding.*" It is unclear what record Obama believes he has broken or set. All President-elects have the time between the November election until the January inauguration to make their cabinet appointments and fill staff positions. Arguably, George W. Bush "set the

record” in 2000, because his transition was delayed by the Gore lawsuit challenging his election victory. Bush had about five weeks of preparation, less than half of the 11 weeks enjoyed by Obama – and the Bush appointees were not guilty of tax evasion. (On April 12 the Washington Times reports, *“Hundreds of key Obama jobs still unfilled.”*) [1174,1705,2300]

Impeached Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, although not permitted to call witnesses before the Illinois Senate on his behalf, tells Fox News that at his eventual criminal trial he will call *“every single person”* he *“ever talked to about who the next U.S. Senator should be,”* including Obama’s Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, and Senators Harry Reid (D-NV) and Dick Durbin (D-IL). Blagojevich states he is not ruling out calling Obama as a witness. [1043]

Attorney General nominee Eric Holder is confirmed by the Senate on February 3, despite Republican concerns over Holder’s soft-on-terrorists, soft-on-criminals, and anti-gun stances. [1113]

Former Vice President Dick Cheney slams Obama in an interview with Politico, saying the new administration’s policies dealing with terrorism and international enemies are naïve and dangerous. Simply by closing the detainee camp at Guantanamo will, Cheney argues, inadvertently aid terrorist enemies because they will perceive the United States as weaker under Obama than under President Bush. Cheney remarks, *“When we get people who are more concerned about reading the rights to an al-Qaeda terrorist than they are with protecting the United States against people who are absolutely committed to do anything they can to kill Americans, then I worry.”*[1044]

On February 4, the House of Representatives votes to delay for 155 days the final switch from analog television broadcasts to all-digital. The delay will cost the broadcast industry millions, while benefiting a wireless communications company called Clearwire (with which one of Obama’s advisors was associated). [1045]

Legislators in the House of Representatives introduce House Resolution 133, honoring Obama for the *“significance of his becoming the first African-American President of the United States.”* [1125]

Trying to drum up support for his economic stimulus package, Obama warns that *“A failure to act, and act now, will turn crisis into a catastrophe.”* These words are just two weeks after Obama’s inaugural address, in which he said *“we have chosen hope over fear.”* [1077]

Obama signs into law changes to the “State Children’s Health Insurance Program” (SCHIP), giving an additional \$32.8 billion to states to fund medical care for about 11 million uninsured and allegedly poor children. (Former

President Bush had vetoed similar bills because the tax-funded health care would be going to “poor” children of families making as much as \$125,000 per year.) The bill includes a \$0.62 raise in the federal cigarette tax (from \$0.39 to \$1.01 per pack), and allows illegal immigrants to immediately enroll their children in the SCHIP program. Republicans had argued for a provision to prohibit coverage for them unless they had lived in the U.S. for at least five years, but Obama’s Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel threatened key Democrat Senators that the bill would not be signed by Obama unless immediate benefits for illegal immigrant women and children were included. (The bill that had previously been agreed to by Democrats and Republicans was shelved by Obama, and replaced by the more liberal and expensive Democrat version that preceded the compromise.) [1075,1255,1332,2530]

On February 4 Iran successfully launches a communications satellite, indicating an accelerating development of its ballistic missile technology. (The Safir-2 rocket that launched the satellite into orbit can also be used to launch conventional and non-conventional warheads, and has a range of 2,000 - 3,000 kilometers; that is, from Iran to Israel and southern Europe.) At about the same time, Iran’s President Ahmadinejad signals that talks with the Obama administration will succeed only if the United States accepts Iran’s right to a nuclear program. Iran will likely draw out talks with the United States as long as it can while continuing its nuclear program in the background, assuming that Obama will do little or nothing to stop the activities. [1063,1079]

It is reported that 17,000 additional soldiers and Marines will be sent to Afghanistan within a few weeks, giving U.S. Commander General David McKiernan only about two-thirds of the troops he had requested. Obama’s exit strategy for that warfront has not been announced, nor is it even clear what Obama’s military objectives are. *“There is no military solution for Afghanistan,”* remarks Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. U.S. Commander General David McKiernan said American and NATO forces are *“stalemated.”* The 17,000 troops include two Marine brigades and an armored Stryker brigade. [1086,1294,1298,1627]

A “Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act” is re-introduced in Congress. Similar bills have failed in the past, but Obama is likely to support and sign the bill. Allowing Americans to travel to Cuba will give the poverty-stricken nation tourist dollars to help the communist Castro regime stay in power. Arguably, the bill would mean the abuse or elimination of refugee status by Cuban exiles, because it would be difficult for someone to claim he is a “persecuted political refugee” if he is able to travel freely between the United States and Cuba. [1254]

The stimulus bill also allows Cuba to buy agricultural and food items from the U.S. on credit. The U.S. has always demanded upfront payment from Cuba for those purchases because its government is notorious for late payments. Obama

and the Democrats are apparently willing to let the U.S. taxpayers foot the bill to prop up Castro's government while he takes his time paying for American products and food. In opposition to the changes in U.S. relations with Cuba, Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) says, *"The last thing we need in this economic time is for us to be providing credit to a country that is un-creditworthy."* [1617]

The Senate version of the economic stimulus bill removes the House version's requirement that none of the legislation's construction projects may employ illegal immigrants. The Heritage Foundation estimates that the change by the Senate may cause as many as 15 per cent of the expected new construction jobs to go to illegals. [1049,1617]

Obama's Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, orders the Bureau of Land Management to cancel leases for oil and gas drilling in Utah's redrock area, and to return payments to the companies that had submitted winning bids for the rights. Salazar offers no public comment as to where replacement oil and gas will come from. [1050]

New rules proposed by Obama's Treasury Department will place a limit of \$500,000 on the annual salaries of executives of companies receiving monetary assistance from the federal government, and limit termination packages ("golden parachutes") for top executives. The move will likely prompt many of the most talented executives to flee Wall Street and move to private equity partnerships, at the precise time their skills may be needed most. (Bloomberg quotes compensation consultant James Reda, who states that *"On Wall Street, \$500,000 will get you someone five years out of Harvard Business School or a sixth-year associate at a major law firm. It's not going to get you a lot."* Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) argues for pay caps to extend to *all* businesses (but not to politicians), a move that would likely violate the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: *"...nor shall (any person) be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."* [1051,1052,1078,1162,1163]

On February 5, the Washington Post publishes an op-ed piece by Obama in which he argues for the passage of the Democrat stimulus package. Obama complains that, *"In recent days, there have been misguided criticisms of this plan,"* and warns, *"...if nothing is done, this recession might linger for years. Our economy will lose five million more jobs. Unemployment will approach double digits. Our nation will sink deeper into a crisis that, at some point, we may not be able to reverse."* Obama's fear-mongering remarks are meant to reverse the trend of worsening public support for the bill, as Americans recognize that there is perhaps more waste and pork in the legislation than stimulus. The comments by Obama also provide him with some future cover: if the economy improves he will take credit, but if the economy worsens he will put the blame on the failure of Congress to act fast enough in approving his request for massive spending. His unstated message is, *"the problems of the economy are too important for anyone*

to be wasting time asking where I'm going to spend \$819 billion dollars," and "every minute counts" – although many economists argue that doing nothing would probably help the economy rebound sooner. The stimulus legislation is called "an astounding mishmash of tax cuts, public investments, transfer payments, and special treats for insiders" by Jeffrey D. Sachs of Columbia University. Alice Rivlin, former budget director for Bill Clinton, warns that "money will be wasted because the investment elements were not carefully crafted." Nevertheless, Obama wants it passed as quickly as possible – or else. In support of Obama, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi states, "every month that we do not have an economic recovery package 500 million (sic) Americans lose their jobs. I don't think we can go fast enough to stop that." [1057,1058,1065]

Obama's Washington Post article also lashes out at what he calls the "*misguided criticisms*" of Republicans who believe tax cuts will solve many of the nation's economic problems. "*I reject these theories,*" writes Obama, "*and so did the American people when they went to the polls in November and voted resoundingly for change.*" (Obama must have forgotten that he promised "misguided" tax cuts to 95 per cent of all Americans, a promise which undoubtedly garnered him millions of votes.) [1061]

While Obama is frightening citizens and legislators into supporting his stimulus package, his Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, beats the global warming drum by warning that farms and vineyards could disappear from California. Chu says in an interview that "*We're looking at a scenario where there's no more agriculture in California... I don't actually see how they (Californians) can keep their cities going either.*" Others might argue that if California's cities fail, it will be the result of massive deficit-spending by the legislators in the state capitol, not any rise in temperature. (Chu's scientific experience is totally unrelated to climate study.) [1178]

Another tax-evasion issue surfaces to embarrass Obama when it is reported that the husband of his pick for Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, paid \$6,400 to settle tax liens against his business the day before Solis' nomination was to be considered by a Senate committee. The tax liens resulted partly from unpaid county health and safety permit fees, yet as Secretary of Labor Solis would be responsible for health and safety in the American workplace. The confirmation of the far-left Solis, who advocates reducing restrictions on illegal immigrants, had already been delayed due to questions about her role on the board of "American Rights at Work," and by Senators who are disturbed by Solis' refusal or inability to answer questions at her initial confirmation hearing. Solis also supports organized labor's "card check bill," which will eliminate the right to a secret ballot in union organizing drives – yet she was upset that the election of the head of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus was not held by secret ballot. [1060,1105,1106,1695]

The “Buy American” provisions of the economic stimulus bill prompt criticism from trade groups and officials of European nations, who recall that the protectionist “Smoot Hawley Tariff Act” of 1930 caused a severe reduction of U.S.-European trade that worsened and prolonged the Great Depression. Thirty-one Senators (30 Republicans, plus Democrat Joe Lieberman) vote to remove the “Buy American” requirement from the legislation, but their attempt is defeated 65-31. With that provision left in the bill, odds increase that other countries will retaliate by raising tariffs or blocking American products, thus escalating the global economic problems. [1061,1062,1126]

Obama’s pick for Deputy Attorney General is David Ogden. Ogden is a supporter of on-demand abortions and an opponent of abortion restrictions, including parental notification requirements for minors getting abortions. Ogden also believes that people have a constitutional right to view pornography at public libraries, that owners of private property cannot expel protesters from their own property because that would violate their right to free speech, and that there is a “right” to create child pornography. [1064,1110]

The Times of London reports that Obama has plans to offer a deal with Russia to reduce each nation’s nuclear weapons by 80 per cent. (In a 2007 speech Obama said, *“America seeks a world in which there are no nuclear weapons.”*) The deal likely would involve a re-examination of the U.S. missile defense shield in Eastern Europe, which Russia opposes, and a Russian demand that Georgia and the Ukraine not join NATO. Russia aggressively reacts to Obama’s disarmament plans by paying Kyrgyzstan a reported \$2 billion to close, within six months, the US Air Force base at Manas – which Obama would need to transfer troop supplies to Afghanistan. Pushing Obama to see how far he will lean, Russia also announces plans to establish a Black Sea naval base in Abkhazia, the formation of a “rapid reaction force,” and deployment of offensive missiles in Kaliningrad if Poland and the Czech Republic allow installation of an American missile defense system. Pakistan’s release from prison of its nuclear weapons guru Abdul Qadeer Khan (the father of the Pakistani atom bomb, who also helped Iran and North Korea with their nuclear programs) increases the odds of nuclear proliferation, further working against Obama’s disarmament plan. (One Obama advisor naively proposes persuading Israel to give up its nuclear weapons in order to encourage Iran to end its nuclear program.) The fear of a nuclear Iran is prompting other area nations like Saudi Arabia and Egypt to also pursue nuclear programs. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has stated, *“A nuclear armed Iran with hegemonic ambitions is the greatest threat to Arab nations today.”* Obama, meanwhile, seems eager to reduce the weaponry of the U.S. *“The president is on a path to denuclearizing the United States by refusing to modernize the arsenal or even to fund fully the steps necessary to assure the viability of the weapons we have,”* according to Frank Gaffney, president of the Center for Security Policy. [1068,1140,1202,1308,1974,2037]

Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) states that she has *“already had some discussions with colleagues”* about holding Senate hearings relating to political fairness on talk radio. In the House, Speaker Pelosi is also eager to do something to restrain or censor conservatives on talk radio. (It is assumed hearings would not be planned to discuss political fairness on television or in newspapers, where the liberal viewpoint is overwhelmingly predominant.) The Stabenow/Pelosi argument is that conservative viewpoints need to be offset by “equal time” from liberals – while their liberal viewpoint needs no such offset. Stabenow’s husband is Tom Athans, co-founder of the liberal Democracy Radio and TalkUSA Radio Network, and executive Vice-President of the failed liberal “Air America” network. Should Stabenow succeed in getting “equal time for liberal talk shows” legislation passed, her husband’s business will essentially be guaranteed levels of success it has been unable to generate on its own in the free market. (Athans has been in the news for paying a 21 year-old for sex. The woman was then charged in a February, 2008 prostitution sting and sentenced to six months probation. Athans was not charged.) [1069,1098,1099,1225]

The Senate version of the stimulus bill reaches \$924 billion, as Senators work into the night on February 5 to get it approved. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) warns that if negotiations don’t proceed quickly enough, he will force a cloture vote to cut off debate, and says that if Republicans *“think they’re going to re-write this bill, Barack Obama is going to walk away.”* Obama, in the meantime, continues to warn Republicans not to make *“the perfect enemy of the essential.”* (There is no word on whether Obama believes \$21 million in new sod for the Washington Mall or \$75 million for smoking-cessation programs are an “essential” part of the legislation.) [1070]

On February 5, Obama orders the charges against Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri withdrawn without prejudice. Al-Nashiri was the mastermind for the October, 2000 attack on the U.S.S. Cole that killed 17 American sailors and injured 39. Obama had ordered a 120-day delay in al-Nashiri’s trial, but was overruled by the supervising judge, Army Colonel James L. Pohl. Obama, apparently peeved by Pohl’s ruling, trumped his action by dropping the charges. (Al-Nashiri will remain in custody and the charges can later be reinstated, but Obama’s action will cause additional work and expense for the prosecution’s legal team. The likelihood of al-Nashiri being set free increased with Obama’s actions.) Families of the Cole bombing victims are outraged by Obama’s move. [1072]

At the National Prayer Breakfast Obama says *“There is no God who condones taking the life of an innocent human being. This much we know.”* Strangely, this statement comes within days of his signing an executive order restoring the use of federal funds for foreign abortions, and certainly conflicts with his consistent pro-abortion legislative record. Critics argue that Obama is merely playing word games. Because he does not consider an unborn fetus “a human being” he can

make such statements while still being “consistent” with his abortion views.
[1074]

To a large group of Democrat legislators on February 5, Obama defends the pork and earmarks in their stimulus bill, *“When was the last time that (sic) we saw a bill of this magnitude move out with no earmarks in it? Not one.”* (On January 6 Obama had promised *“We are going to ban all earmarks.”*) Obama adds a Clintonesque qualification that an earmark is *“the process by which individual members insert pet projects without review,”* without defining what he means by “review.” Obama also tells the lawmakers that he will reverse former President Bush’s executive order prohibiting federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. The research requires aborting a fetus in order to “harvest” the cells. (Bush’s order did not prohibit *private* funding of stem cell research.)
[1083,1137,1157]

Chicago’s Mayor Richard M. Daley tells WTTW television’s Elizabeth Brackett that although he has a list of projects to be paid for with Obama’s stimulus package money, he won’t disclose what’s on the list. Daley, no doubt aware of the criticism directed at Obama and Congress over the massive pork and waste in the bill, says *“Yes, we do, we have our list, (and) we’ve been talking to people. We did not put that out publicly because once you start putting it out publicly, you know, the newspapers, the media is going to be ripping it apart... it’s very controversial.”* The Mayor apparently believes that the taxpayers do not deserve to know what they will be getting for their hundreds of billions of dollars in increased taxes. [1081]

As partial payback to the unions for their financial support during the campaign, Obama signs an executive order on February 6 which effectively requires federal agencies to use union contractors on all construction projects, thus eliminating the possibility of giving that work to approximately 85 per cent of the nation’s non-union construction workers. The order will necessarily increase costs for all federal construction because lower bids from non-union construction firms will be rejected. Obama’s order also works against the interests of small minority firms, many of which are not unionized. [1133,1610]

On February 6, Obama meets with families of some of the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the October, 2000 attack on the U.S.S. Cole. Obama has the audacity to tell the group that Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri (who planned the Cole attack) is an *“evil man”* who *“will be charged,”* even though Obama had issued an executive order halting trials of the Guantanamo terrorist detainees (which include al-Nashiri). Because Obama halted his military trial, if al-Nashiri is ever tried and convicted in a civilian court he will likely not face the death penalty a military court might have imposed. Several families of the victims refused to meet with Obama because of his actions. Diane McDaniels, whose son James Roderick McDaniels was killed in the Cole attack, was among those

who were disillusioned and upset with Obama. In a television interview McDaniels states she now feels she made a mistake in voting for Obama. One of the individuals who does visit Obama is Beverly Eckert, chairperson of "Voices of September 11," whose husband Sean Rooney died in the World Trade Center. (Tragically, Eckert dies just six days later, on February 12, in the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 in a Buffalo suburb.) [1072,1089,1090,1114,1119,1419]

Throughout the day on February 6, Obama and top Democrats continue to press Senate Republicans to support the stimulus package. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid warns, *"Republicans must decide today whether they will join the President and Congressional Democrats on that road to recovery. If we succeed, there will be plenty of credit to go around. But if we fail, our entire country will suffer the consequences."* Republican Senator Mitch McConnell responds that his Senate colleagues would not agree to *"an aimless spending spree that masks as a stimulus."* Obama cautions, *"We are not going to get relief by turning back to the very same policies that for the last eight years doubled the national debt and threw our economy into a tailspin,"* while at the same time advocating legislation that precisely does repeat those policies – deficit-spending and a refusal to cut federal spending – on a larger scale. [1082]

Senator John McCain criticizes the Democrat/Obama stimulus bill on the floor of the Senate on February 6, saying *"The whole point, Mr. President, is to enact tax cuts and spending measures that truly stimulate the economy. There are billions and tens of billions of dollars in this bill which will have no effect within three, four, five or more years, or ever. Or ever."* McCain adds, *"Fifty million dollars in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts – all of us are for the arts, (but) tell me how that creates any significant number of jobs? (An) after-school snack program is probably a good idea. (But) do we really want to spend \$726 million on it?"* [1108]

Alarmed by the incredible deficit-spending planned by Obama and the 111th Congress, lawmakers in eight states introduce resolutions declaring state sovereignty under the U.S. Constitution's Ninth Amendment (*"The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people"*) and the Tenth Amendment (*"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."*) The resolutions are an attempt to roll-back the powers unconstitutionally usurped by Congress over the last few decades. (The Civil War was arguably fought over the federal abuse of power, at the expense of state power, as much as it was fought over the issue of slavery.) The sovereignty legislation serves notice to the federal government that states will reclaim their Tenth Amendment rights and refuse to comply with burdensome regulations that impose costs on the states and exceed the Constitutionally-limited powers of the federal government. Some

governors are considering refusing federal stimulus money because they oppose the expensive conditions that will last beyond the cash. (The actual wording of the sovereignty resolutions will determine whether Obama and Congress actually change the way they do business or simply laugh at the states. A sovereignty resolution without any enforcement provisions would be no more effective than the United Nations resolutions and “strongly worded letters of condemnation” that are routinely ignored by dictators. An effective sovereignty resolution might, for example, be one that authorizes that federal tax dollars, such as gasoline tax receipts, be withheld by the state and not turned over to the U.S. Treasury until Congress starts rescinding burdensome regulations and policies.)
[1111,1296,1717,2340]

In what is likely a violation of the U.S. Constitution, Obama takes actions to move control over the Bureau of the Census from the Commerce Department to the White House. Putting the census under the direct control of a partisan in the White House (specifically Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel) will allow the data to be manipulated in a political manner that will benefit the Democrat Party and its constituents. (Emanuel had promised Hispanic and black legislators that Obama would place the census under White House control.) Although the Constitution requires an actual enumeration (a physical head count) of the nation’s citizens every 10 years, the Democrats seek to allow “statistical sampling techniques” which will enable them to inflate population counts for areas of the country where, in their opinion, census takers “missed” some people. “Cooking the books” in such a manner will allow Democrats to redraw Congressional Districts in their favor, and provide for the allocation of more taxpayer dollars (vote-buying “pork”) to Democrat-heavy areas. Obama’s nominee for Commerce Secretary, Republican Judd Gregg, opposes sampling. (Obama chose Gregg to be his Secretary of Commerce and then immediately removed one of the major responsibilities of his position.) In observing Obama’s power grab, Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, recalls Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin’s remark that *“Those who cast the votes decide nothing. Those who count the votes decide everything.”* A career professional at the Bureau of the Census tells the Wall Street Journal’s John Fund that *“There’s only one reason to have that high level of White House involvement, and it’s called politics, not science.”* In 2006, looking ahead to the 2010 census, Emanuel had said, *“If you think redistricting is always partisan and political – which it is – it’s going to be on steroids this time.”* ABC, CBS, and NBC fail to report Obama’s census power grab. [1102,1109,1127,1129,1160,1220,1332]

Obama’s Chief of Staff has a skirmish with ethics when it is disclosed that Rahm Emanuel is living in a basement apartment he is renting from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Because the basement flat changes the building’s zoning status from a single-family home to a multiple-family dwelling, the arrangement is illegal. (The house should be re-zoned and the five years of rent should be reported by DeLauro as taxable income.) Emanuel then changes his story to say he is staying there as a

guest, for free. That, in turn, means that Emanuel runs afoul of ethics standards because he is accepting private gifts from a powerful individual. He finally says he is looking for a house to rent. Emanuel has served as chairman of the Democrat Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC). The DCCC paid pollster Stan Greenberg \$239,996 in 2006 and \$317,775 in 2008. Greenberg, who has also received \$50,000 from Emanuel's own personal campaign committee, is married to Congresswoman De Lauro. [1116,1117,1270,1362]

While living in Congresswoman DeLauro's house illegally, Rahm Emanuel also appears to be getting a tax deduction for the private school tuition of his children. Emanuel and his wife purportedly set up a "Rahm Emanuel and Amy Rule Charitable Foundation," which lists his home address in Chicago as the office of the foundation. The only two donors to the charity have been Emanuel and his wife, Amy. The foundation has donated money to the synagogue he attends and to a Bill Clinton foundation and, in the process, Emanuel takes tax deductions for the donations and other foundation "expenses." Money Emanuel donates to the synagogue enables his children to attend its private school, while he takes a tax deduction for the donation – a convenient way to make school tuition tax deductible. [1530]

On February 7, Senate Democrats persuade several Republicans to go along with the stimulus bill. Majority Leader Harry Reid schedules the bill for a vote on February 9. Democrats estimate the cost of the bill at \$780 billion, while Republicans argue the total is closer to \$827 billion. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi states she is "*very much opposed to the cuts that are being proposed in the Senate.*" (Many Washington insiders say that Pelosi holds considerable sway over Reid.) The Senate version of the bill also limits the (one-time) payroll tax credit to couples with incomes of \$140,000 or less (\$70,000 for singles) – a far cry from the \$250,000 amount set by Obama during the campaign; 95 per cent of American workers will therefore not receive his promised tax credit. The bill will likely pass with all Senate Democrats (58) and some liberal-leaning Republicans voting for it (such as Collins, Snowe, and Specter). A spending bill that costs \$800 billion represents \$2,666 for every man, woman, and child in the United States, assuming a population of 300 million; the economy would arguably be stimulated more quickly by simply giving each family of four a check for \$10,000 (although that approach would likely not result in Americans spending \$335 million on sexually transmitted disease education, as the legislation calls for). [1088]

Where FDR tried to encourage Americans during the 1930s depression by saying, "*We have nothing to fear but fear itself,*" Obama's drive to get his stimulus bill passed essentially has him declaring, "*We have everything to fear if we don't do it my way – immediately!*" In his February 7 Saturday radio address, Obama notes that the unemployment numbers are "*the worst in more than 30 years.*" He warns that his stimulus package must be passed quickly, or the

“...economic crisis could become a national catastrophe.” (Not quite a year earlier, on March 1, Obama said at a campaign appearance that *“America is at its best when it’s not fearful. I mean, if you think about our history, our most shameful times have been when we were afraid.”*) In his radio address Obama criticizes the Republicans for advocating *“tired old theories”* that offer only *“tax cuts as the answer”* to the problems, neglecting to recognize that tax cuts have always been successful in stimulating the economy – while the FDR/Keynesian approach of deficit-spending to “prime the pump” is, in fact, the “tired old theory” that many economists feel should be permanently discarded. (Even Roosevelt’s Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr. eventually admitted as such when he testified before the House Ways and means Committee on May 9, 1939: *“We have tried spending money. We are spending more than we have ever spent before and it does not work. I want to see this country prosperous. I want to see people get a job. I want to see people get enough to eat. We have never made good on our promises. I say after eight years of this (Franklin D. Roosevelt) Administration we have just as much unemployment as when we started... and an enormous debt to boot.”*) [1097,1142,1221]

Although the Supreme Court has ruled against such limitations in the past, the Obama/Democrat stimulus bill includes a restriction against federal money going to colleges and universities that support religious activities, such as prayer services and religious clubs, or which allow “sectarian instruction” or “religious worship.” Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) offers an amendment to remove the restriction from the bill, but the Senate rejects his proposal. The American Center for Law and Justice anticipates filing an injunction against the anti-religion provision as soon as Obama signs the bill into law. [1103,1104]

The leader of the Communist Party of the USA (CPUSA), Sam Webb, expresses his approval of the new administration in his speech, *“Off and Running: Opportunity of a Lifetime.”* In his Ohio speech, Webb says *“We now have not simply a friend, but a people’s advocate in the White House.”* Webb and the CPUSA hope that Obama will act to nationalize the banking, energy, and health care industries. [1118]

The Congressional Budget Office predicts that the economic recession would end in the second half of 2009... *without* Obama’s stimulus bill. *In fact, it estimates that the stimulus legislation will actually harm the economy.* [1368]

A February 8 Rasmussen poll shows Obama’s “Presidential Approval Index” at +11, down from a high of +30 on January 22, (two days after his inauguration). The index represents the difference between the percentage of voters who “strongly approve” of Obama’s performance and those who “strongly disapprove.” The drop to +11 comes after several Obama appointees withdrew after uproar about their failure to pay taxes, and after the public became more

aware of the amount of pork and waste in his incredibly expensive “stimulus package.” [1100]

Although Obama opposes broad tax cuts to revive the economy, an IBD/TIPP poll conducted in the first week of February shows that 67 per cent of Americans favor cutting business taxes, 79 per cent favor cutting individual income taxes, and 62 per cent favor cutting the capital gains tax. [1107]

Obama’s “gloom and doom” scenarios of the economy become so severe and frequent that the Washington Times and other media outlets begin accusing him of seeking to *“terrify Americans into supporting his \$800 billion-plus”* economic stimulus legislation. Since inauguration day, when Obama said the voters had chosen “hope over fear,” he has switched to using fear tactics to get the massive deficit-spending bill passed. *“There’s only so much negativity (the voters) will tolerate from him before they will feel betrayed,”* said pollster Frank Luntz. Obama’s rhetoric also runs the risk of frightening businesses and consumers into “pulling back,” retreating from expansion and spending plans that would help the economy. Also discouraging businesses and consumers are Congressman David Obey (D-WI), who states *“The economy is in danger of absolute collapse,”* and Senator Clair McCaskill (D-MO) *“If we don’t pass this thing, it’s Armageddon!”* (In 2001, President Bush was highly criticized by the media for even suggesting that the economy was “slowing down.”) [1115,1136]

A Rasmussen survey shows that 62 per cent of the voters want the stimulus bill to have more tax cuts and less spending. Although polls show that Americans oppose the massive amounts of waste in the bill, New York Senator Charles Schumer glibly complains about voters concerned about the massive spending in remarks to the Senate: *“Let me say this, to all of the chattering class that so much focuses on those little tiny, yes, porky amendments – the American people really don’t care.”* [1120,1150,1309]

On February 9, Republicans attempt to amend the economic stimulus legislation to require that any entities receiving funds from the bill use the federal “E-Verify” citizenship check system before hiring a new employee. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid blocks the amendment, thus making it possible for illegal immigrants to gain jobs from the \$800-plus billion stimulus bill. [1122]

Investment expert Marc Faber tells Bloomberg TV that the Obama/Democrat stimulus bill will make the economy worse, not better, and will ensure that *“...the unproductive government will continue to grow at the expense of the private sector.”* Faber adds, *“If you have a stimulus package, fiscal deficits go up, and eventually you end up with higher interest rates and inflation. There is no free lunch. Someone has to pay.”* [1124]

Obama holds his first prime time press conference on the evening of February 9, generating some criticism for allowing “non-traditional” media (like rabid liberal talk radio host Ed Schultz) to sit in the front row and ask questions. Obama also responds to a question from the far-left Huffington Post web site’s Sam Stein. (President Bush would have been crucified by the media had he allowed conservative talk show hosts like Rush Limbaugh or Sean Hannity to sit in the front row at his press conferences and ask questions.) Questions posed to the generally defensive Obama are mostly un-provocative, and without vigorous follow-up questions when he fails to provide clear answers. (Obama staffers told the reporters in advance who would be called on by the President. It is therefore unclear why the other reporters bothered to show up for the press conference.) [1146,1148,1171]

Although Syria is on the State Department’s list of state sponsors of terrorism, Obama decides to name an Ambassador to that country. Syria has not had a U.S. Ambassador since 2005, when it was blamed for the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Obama also decides to lift sanctions against Syria despite its aid to al-Qaeda and assistance to North Korea’s nuclear operations. The new ambassador to Syria, Frederic Hof, is close to Obama’s Middle East envoy, George Mitchell. It is unclear what Obama expects by cozying up to Syria. One diplomatic source remarks, *“Congress wants some sort of commitment that Syria will end support to Hamas and Hezb’Allah, but this (move by Obama) is not expected.”* [1232]

Tennessee State Representative Eric Swafford agrees to be a plaintiff in the Orly Taitz lawsuit challenging Obama’s eligibility to serve as President of the United States. Dr. Taitz has four legislator plaintiffs (Swafford, Glen Casada, Stacey Campfield, and Frank Nicely) for a Writ of Mandamus to obtain original birth certificate, immigration records, passports, and other vital records of Obama/Soetoro. Swafford also introduced a bill in the state legislature reclaiming state sovereignty, to protest the federal government usurpation of state power under the Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. [1161,1166,1260]

Word spreads that Obama hired a 29 year-old Democrat researcher, Shauna Daly, for the newly-created position of White House Counsel Research Director. Daly’s only experience has been “digging dirt” on political rivals. The official White House line is that Daly (who is not a lawyer even though she will be on the staff of the White House counsel) won’t be involved in political muckraking, despite that being her “area of expertise.” Before the election, Daly’s job was to prepare Obama for anticipated political attacks. [1128]

It is reported by Bloomberg that the stimulus bill also includes a provision for a “national Coordinator of Health Information Technology.” That bureaucracy will “guide” physician decisions about treatment and enforce uniformity and cost-

saving measures. Health care providers that are not “meaningful users” (who do not “tow the line”) will face penalties. The rules will likely reduce experimental treatment and medications because they are expensive, while discouraging treatment for those with “hopeless diagnoses.” (The health care provisions in the stimulus bill will give Americans a small taste of socialized medicine, as practiced in other countries.) [1143]

Liberal Republicans Collins, Snowe, and Specter join Democrats in a vote to invoke cloture (to cut off debate) on the economic stimulus package, essentially handing Obama and the Democrats a victory on the massive spending bill. [1131]

Obama makes a nationally televised appeal the evening of February 9 to convince Americans that the (now) \$838 billion stimulus bill is needed to strengthen the economy. Obama’s “hope and change” campaign message becomes a “gloom and doom” and “*full-blown crisis*” warning, as he argues that “*only government*” can end the recession. He states that because “*...the private sector (is) so weakened by this recession, the federal government is the only entity left with the resources to jolt our economy back into life.*” (Obama’s statement is reminiscent of the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, who wrote in “*The Doctrine of Fascism*” that “*State intervention in economic production arises only when private initiative is lacking or insufficient, or when the political interests of the State are involved. This intervention may take the form of control, assistance or direct management,*” and “*Fascism should rightly be called Corporatism, as it is the merger of corporate and government power.*”) It is unclear where the government will get the financial resources Obama promises – because it does not have the \$838 billion he plans on spending. While acknowledging that the legislation is not perfect, Obama states that “*doing nothing is not an option.*” (Many prominent economists argue that doing nothing is, in fact, an advisable option, especially with Congress refusing to cut the corporate and capital gains taxes or drastically reduce spending.) In pushing the stimulus bill, Obama pretty much tosses aside his campaign promises of bipartisanship. Christopher C. Hull, adjunct government professor at Georgetown University and president of the public policy firm Issues Management Inc., remarks that Obama’s “*appeals are very clearly breaking with the bipartisanship and changing-the-way-Washington-works that he talked about throughout his campaign. The tone that he is setting is relatively negative, relatively partisan, relatively political and relatively shrill, compared to what he said he was going to do.*” [1131,1164,1780,1781]

Although retail sales in the United States increased one per cent in January of 2009, the largest increase in 14 months, Obama continues to paint a severe gloom and doom picture of the economy. He and the media represent it as the worst since the depression of the 1930s, but economists report that the 1973-1975 and 1981-1982 recessions were far worse than the current recession. The

current unemployment rate (7.6 per cent) is less than the peak unemployment rates of both the 1973 and 1981 recessions (9.0 and 10.8 per cent, respectively), and certainly far less than the 25.2 per cent rate in 1932. The current inflation rate of a negative 0.1 per cent compares with 12.2 and 14.6 rates for 1973 and 1981. The 1981-1982 job losses represented 2.2 per cent of the work force, the same percentage of job losses in 2008. Job losses were 4.8 per cent of the work force in 1930, 6.5 per cent in 1931, and 7.2 per cent in 1932. The nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *rose* in 2008, compared to a decline of 1.9 per cent in 1982. The GDP declined 9 per cent in 1930, 8 per cent in 1931, and 13 per cent in 1932. The average rate on a 30-year mortgage is currently 5.3 per cent, while it averaged 10.0 and 18.5 per cent in 1973 and 1981. A few dozen banks failed in 2008, while over 10,000 failed in 1933. The Great Depression did not end until 1946, when the government started easing regulations and ending "stimulus" programs. (It is not correct that World War II ended the depression, although it did certainly caused many of the unemployed to spend several years in Europe and the Pacific. The American economy was still in shambles.) The 1981-1982 recession ended with the stimulation of President Reagan's income tax cuts. Obama and his fellow Democrats are taking a reverse approach, with massive deficit-spending and trillions of dollars of new debt that will take generations of higher taxes to pay off. [1139,1169,1241]

Obama's economic stimulus bill will place the Social Security Trust Fund in an annual deficit *for the first time in its history*. The 2008 Social Security Trustees Report had estimated a surplus of \$54 billion for 2009 (Social Security tax receipts would exceed payments to retirees and other beneficiaries by \$54 billion). But Obama's bill allows workers a refundable tax credit against their Social Security taxes, which will cost an estimated \$145.3 billion in revenue for the Social Security system. In 2009 the Social Security Trust Fund will therefore take in less in taxes than it pays out in benefits. Obama will be taking approximately \$91 billion out of Social Security to help pay for his stimulus bill. (During the October 7, 2008 debate with Senator McCain, Obama had promised, "*I'm cutting more than I'm spending so that it will be a net spending cut.*") [718,1048,1132]

A mere three weeks after the inauguration the media, which had excoriated John McCain and Sarah Palin for suggesting that some of Obama's policies were socialist, changes its stripes – or finally admits to them – in a Newsweek cover story that announces, "*We Are All Socialists Now.*" Advocating an ever-increasing federal government, the article pontificates, "*If we fail to acknowledge the reality of the growing role of government in the economy, insisting instead on fighting 21st-century wars with 20th-century terms and tactics, then we are doomed to a fractious and unedifying debate. The sooner we understand where we truly stand, the sooner we can think more clearly about how to use government in today's world.*" (As far as Newsweek is concerned, individual liberty and economic freedom are outmoded relics of the past.) [1134]

Obama holds a “stimulus rally” in Fort Myers, Florida on February 10 to encourage the public to support his massive spending bill. He may have wished he had not taken questions from the audience, after a woman named Henrietta Hughes begged for a new car, house, a kitchen, and bathroom. College freshman Julio Osegueda (an alleged communications major, which could never have been imagined by anyone listening to his clumsy and convoluted statement/question) moaned that he had worked at McDonald’s for the last four years. An unemployed man whined that his unemployment compensation should be no less than the amount of the salary he had been receiving. It is later reported that Ms. Hughes, allegedly living in her old car, had been offered a free apartment for 90 days by the “We Care Outreach Ministry” in January, but Hughes refused. Tanya Johnson, Director of the We Care program, said Hughes was also offered money, food, and job training courses for her son Corey, but that was also refused. Hughes sold some property in 2003 for \$47,000. (It is also eventually reported that Hughes has owned and sold several homes, and transferred ownership of one to her son in order to “scam the system” and meet requirements for continuing Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicare benefits.) [1147,1211,1380]

On February 10, the Senate votes 61-27 to approve the \$838 billion economic stimulus bill. (The amount of spending in the legislation is the approximate value of *all* currency in circulation in the United States.) The Senate and House versions must be reconciled before a final bill can be sent to Obama to sign into law. Liberal Republican Senators Collins, Snow, and Specter (the former Warren Commission junior counsel who came up with the discredited JFK assassination “magic bullet theory”) vote in favor of passage. Collins argues that she voted for the bill because the “fat” was removed, yet the Senate bill provides for \$8 billion *more* spending than the pork-filled House version. (The 79 year-old Specter has been battling Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a form of cancer, since early 2005. With the help of Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, Specter gets \$10 billion added to the stimulus bill for the National Institute of Health, with \$1.3 billion of that total going to the National Cancer Institute.) John McCain, a Senator who is usually more than willing to compromise to show his “bi-partisanship,” could not be conned by the Democrats this time and called the bill “generational theft.” [1144,1170,1192,1193,1194]

Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN) addresses the House to urge legislators not to accept the health care provisions of the stimulus bill, emphasizing the rationing called for by the legislation’s “Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effective Research.” Burton charges, *“What it’s going to do is it’s going to require that there will be rationing, and it will be based upon some formulas that will say if you only have an expectation of another 8 or 9 years of life left, or 4 or 5 years, that they will ration the care that you get based upon the life expectancy. It’s unbelievable.”* Burton states that Tom Daschle *“...praises Europeans for being more willing to accept ‘hopeless diagnoses’ and ‘forego experimental treatments,’ and he chastises Americans for expecting too much from our health*

care system,” and “Daschle says health care reform ‘will not be pain-free.’ Seniors should be more accepting of the conditions that come with age, instead of treating them. That means the elderly will bear the brunt of what is in this bill.” [2143]

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) warns that the stimulus bill will lead to the federal government consuming an incredible 40 per cent of the nation’s gross domestic product (GDP) in 2010, up from 21 per cent. The annual deficit may exceed \$2.5 trillion in 2009 and \$4 trillion in 2010. [1156]

In a disastrous performance before a Senate committee on February 10, Obama’s Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner unveils an ill-defined, unfocused and even larger new government financial plan, calling for up to *\$1.5 trillion* to buy “bad assets” from banks and expand credit to consumers. This would be federal spending *in addition to* the \$838 billion economic stimulus package before the Senate. The federal government, of course, has neither the \$1.5 trillion nor the \$838 billion. The money will therefore have to come from tax increases, additional borrowing from other nations, or simply printing money (which would be followed by high levels of inflation). The stock market responds to Geithner’s remarks and general failure to answer questions (as well as the Senate’s passing of the pork-laden stimulus bill) with a drop of 382 points, or almost five per cent; bank stocks drop 12 per cent. Investment strategist Ed Yardeni calls Geithner an “*empty suit with an empty plan,*” generously crediting Geithner with actually having a plan. (The “brilliant” Geithner could not even figure out how to respond to the simple “yes or no” questions of TurboTax software, which he blamed on his failure to properly pay taxes.) Although Geithner discusses a “*credit crunch,*” monthly banking data from the Federal Reserve shows that consumer loans have continued to grow at an approximate 10 per cent pace even during the recession. *Qualified* borrowers are able to obtain loans, contradicting arguments Geithner and Obama are making in support of their economic plans. [1135,1141,1149,1156,1208,1209,1334]

It is reported that the head of Obama’s Economic Recovery Advisory Board, Paul Volcker, has called for a “*comprehensive overhaul of the national and international financial systems,*” and wants a global level of financial regulations and oversight. Volcker also has called for “*harmonizing*” tax rates among nations – which would result in higher income taxes for Americans in order to make their taxation similar to that of taxpayers in other countries. Plans like Volcker’s would attempt to “*level the global playing field*” by penalizing Americans, who are generally more productive than workers in other nations – mostly because they are taxed less and have the incentive of keeping more of what they earn than the European socialist governments allow. [1138]

After intense criticism from voters, Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) backs away from her calls for Senate hearings to consider a “Fairness Doctrine” to reduce the

power of conservative talk radio. Stepping up in Stabenow's place is Iowa Senator Tom Harkin (who does not face an election until 2014), who tells Bill Press in an interview that he will support a renewal of the "Fairness Doctrine" censorship regulations. [1153]

The publisher of the financial magazine "Forbes," Steve Forbes, tells Bloomberg TV that the Obama/Democrat stimulus package is a colossal waste of money, and is "...*just a grab bag of every spending proposal that's been banging around Congress for years. They just threw in everything. There's no coherence, no real strategy.*" Forbes argues for reducing the payroll tax in half for two years to get cash into the hands of consumers, and cutting the corporate tax rate (the second highest in the developed world) from 35 to 20 per cent. [1158]

Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) warns that the stimulus bill will worsen, not help the economy. Ryan calls the bill a "*bloated porkfest*" that will increase the deficit, raise government borrowing costs, and increase consumer interest rates. Ryan, who met with Obama and other members of Congress about the contents of the bill, charges that the Democrats are primarily "*focused on ideology, doctrine, and rewarding spending constituencies by satisfying all this pent-up spending demand that they've had for many years. This bill is more about the spending on pet projects that they've wanted to spend on for some time than on actually growing the economy.*" [1159]

During his daily talk radio show on February 11, conservative Rush Limbaugh lambasts Obama and the Democrats for their assault on capitalism, saying "*the leftist Democrats have been seeking this for the longest time. That's why they can't stop themselves. It is Christmas morning every day for these people. There's nobody that can stop them... They are destroying the engine that creates wealth, the private sector, and they are turning it (over) to the government.*" The current economic decline, says Limbaugh, was caused by "*government spending, irresponsible orders from government to banks telling them they had to lend to people who had no business borrowing money.*" [1167]

Veteran correspondent Les Kinsolving asks Obama's press secretary Robert Gibbs, "*How does the president believe that the First Amendment can be upheld if the so-called Fairness Doctrine is reinstated and applied only to electronic media and not to any newspapers, magazines, and wire services?*" Gibbs dodges the question, saying "*Les, I pledge to you to study up on the Fairness Doctrine so that one day I might give you a more fulsome answer.*" (When President Reagan axed the Fairness Doctrine in 1987 there were about 75 radio talk shows in the United States; there are now about 3,000.) [1168]

Successful investor Jim Rogers tells CNBC that Obama's Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and White House economic advisor Lawrence Summers have "*...been dead wrong about everything for 15 years in a row.*" Rogers also said he

expects banks to rebound despite – not because of – actions taken by the federal government. [1181]

On February 12, Obama visits Caterpillar's massive construction equipment factory in East Peoria, Illinois, where he claims that *"If Congress passes our (stimulus) plan, this company will be able to rehire some of the folks who were just laid off."* Caterpillar CEO Jim Owens later states, *"The truth is we're going to have more layoffs before we start hiring again... it is going to take some time"* before the stimulus bill prompts new jobs. Before the visit, Owens had told Obama that if a *responsible* stimulus bill were to be passed he would be able to rehire workers. Obama used Owens' words as though he had specifically endorsed the Obama legislation – which he had not. [1204]

Obama is joined at the Caterpillar plant by Illinois Congressman Aaron Schock. While speaking to the Caterpillar workers, Obama singles out Schock and asks him to *"do the right thing"* and vote for the stimulus bill. After Obama's speech, not one employee approached Schock to ask him to vote for the President's bill. In the previous week Schock had, in fact, received more than 1,400 e-mails, phone calls, and letters from Caterpillar employees asking him to *oppose* the legislation. [1258]

Republican leaders send a letter to the White House demanding that Obama reverse his unconstitutional plan to place control of the 2010 census in the hands of Rahm Emanuel. Court action will likely be taken if the President does not comply. [1220]

To "thank" Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) for voting for their stimulus legislation, Democrats announce on February 12 (Specter's birthday) that his Senate seat will be one of their major targets in the 2010 elections. Senator Robert Menendez, chairman of the Democrat Senatorial Campaign Committee, said that Obama supports the aggressive targeting of Specter. Menendez states, *"We are going to be working with the White House across this entire map. I'm sure that President Obama and those who advise him clearly understand the value of finally getting over 60 votes in the United States Senate after what they have gone through."* It is unclear what Menendez meant by *"what they have gone through,"* inasmuch as their stimulus bill had sailed through the House and the Senate and was generally drafted without any input from Republicans. [1212]

Democrats in the House and the Senate work on February 12 to resolve differences between their two stimulus massive bills. Republicans are not allowed in the meetings. The House leadership releases the bill's language late on the 12th, giving members no chance to read it before an expected vote on the 13th. (All members of Congress had previously agreed to post the bill on the Internet for 48 hours before scheduling a vote; the Democrats break that promise with the stimulus bill.) Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate

Majority Leader Harry Reid both take credit for winning the power struggle. Last-minute changes to the bill included removal of incentives for additional nuclear energy and the elimination of a tax credit for the purchase of any new car, replacing it with a \$9,100 tax credit only for the purchase of plug-in electric vehicles (which, for the most part, don't exist, and cost substantially more than gasoline-powered vehicles). A Republican proposal to offer first-time home buyers a \$15,000 tax credit was scaled down to \$8,000. Brian Riedl of the Heritage Foundation calls the legislation *"25 years of government expansion jammed into one bill and sold as a stimulus."* A former Clinton advisor, William Galston, comments that *"While the stimulus bill is a necessary condition for economic stabilization and recovery, it is hardly sufficient. As the lesson of Japan in the 1990s shows, fiscal stimulus without financial rescue yields stagnation... at best."* [1195,1196,1199,1209,1267]

Citing *"irresolvable conflicts,"* Judd Gregg, Republican Senator from New Hampshire, tells Obama he changed his mind about accepting the position of Secretary of Commerce. In a statement issued by his Senate office Gregg states, *"We are functioning from a different set of views on many critical items of policy."* Gregg tells the media he had made a mistake in accepting the original offer from Obama; Obama tells the media that Gregg was the one who lobbied for the job; Rahm Emanuel states that Harry Reid had suggested Gregg to Obama. Gregg's decision to return to the Senate (from which he had not yet resigned) brings more attention to Obama's unconstitutional power grab in removing the 2010 census operations from the Department of Commerce to the direct control of Rahm Emanuel, who would be expected to "cook the books" for the benefit of Democrats. [1197,1203,1217]

Senators admit on February 12 that they will not have the chance to read the final version of the *1,071-page*, \$787 billion stimulus bill before voting on it. Only one Senator, George Voinovich (R-OH), had read the previous version. According to CBSNews.com, Roland Burris, the newly-appointed junior Senator from Illinois, *"...seemed baffled by the thought of actually reading the entire bill."* (Many Democrat legislators in Illinois have been known to vote based solely on orders from the Chicago political "machine," and Burris may perhaps never have read a bill in his entire career.) The American people, let alone legislators, will not get a chance to review the bill before it is voted on, breaking a pledge Obama gave during the campaign: *"When there's a tax bill being debated in Congress, you will know the names of the corporations that would benefit and how much money they would get, and we will put every corporate tax break and every pork barrel project online for every American to see; you will know who asked for them and you can decide whether your representative is actually representing you."* [1207,1230]

The final stimulus bill is available for reading on the Internet at about 11 pm on February 12, only a few hours before the scheduled vote. [1263]

Without having been given the time to read the bill and with the date perhaps being an omen, House Democrats on Friday the 13th pass the combined House-Senate version of Obama's "stimulus package," 246-183. All Republicans and seven Democrats vote against the \$787 billion legislation. Republican leader John Boehner argues that *"With a price tag of more than \$1 trillion when you factor in interest, it costs every family almost \$10,000 in added debt. This is an act of generational theft that our children and grandchildren will be paying for far into the future."* (The bill is rushed to the floor for a vote so that Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi can leave for an eight day trip to Europe.) [1206,1210]

In a November 22, 2004 radio interview, Obama had complained, *"When you rush these budgets that are a foot high and nobody has any idea what's in them and nobody has read 'em, it gets rushed through without any clear deliberations or debate then these kinds of things happen."* [2259]

The Senate also passes the Obama/Democrat stimulus bill on the 13th, with a vote of 60-38. Collins, Snowe, and Specter are the only Republicans voting for the bill. Although Obama had argued the bill *cannot be delayed*, he heads to Chicago for a Valentine's Day dinner with his wife – postponing for four days the signing of the legislation until the 17th. [1250,1251,1263]

The Heritage Foundation reports that the stimulus bill will provide states with 80 per cent of the money needed for each new person who goes on welfare, and includes a permanent expansion of 17 programs (welfare cash, public housing, food stamps, free medical care, etc.) for poor people. Roughly one-third of the massive bill represents welfare of one sort or another, and will prompt an estimated 20 per cent expansion of federal spending for such programs. Robert Rector, a researcher at the Heritage Foundation who worked on Clinton's welfare reform bill, calls the stimulus legislation a *"welfare spendathon"* and *the largest single year increase in federal handouts in history*. The bill would *"unravel"* most of the 1996 welfare reforms, according to Douglas Besharov, author of a welfare reform study. Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Michael Steele, remarks, *"If you like government dependence, you will love the plan they are jamming through Congress."* [1216,1231]

It is estimated that the stimulus package will cause the federal government to borrow at least \$2.5 trillion in 2009 and \$4 trillion in 2010. The Bush administration added about \$4 trillion to the national debt over eight years. The Obama administration will add at least \$6.5 trillion in debt in its first two years – over \$21,000 for each man, woman, and child in the United States (assuming a population of 300 million). Although the stimulus bill is described as costing about \$787 billion, the Congressional Budget Office reports that the figure will be closer to \$3.27 trillion after factoring in estimates for the cost of mandated programs in the bill and the additional interest caused by the borrowing required to fund the

bill. With the massive spending of the TARP bail-outs and the “stimulus package,” significant problems may surface with coming auctions of Treasury debt. Encouraging foreign investors to buy American debt may require massive increases in interest rates, which will also affect the economy negatively as investors pour money into guaranteed government securities – rather than lend it to businesses for expansion. If foreign investors still don’t buy enough of the debt, the federal government will have to print money to buy the debt. The result will be hyperinflation. [1226,1239,1240]

In criticizing the stimulus bill, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) charges that Democrats simply chose a “...*random dollar amount in the neighborhood of one trillion dollars and then set out to fill the bucket.*” [1250]

In addition to having Democrat majorities in the House and the Senate to pass his stimulus bill, Obama also has the advantage of the mainstream media drumming up citizen support. Between election day and February 10, the Media Research Center’s “Business and Media Institute” reviewed 176 ABC, NBC, and CBS news stories on the stimulus package. Fewer than two per cent of the news stories mentioned that paying for the bill might involve cutting other programs or raising taxes. People interviewed by the networks favored the stimulus spending by a two to one margin. Although the Cato Institute identified 250 economists who opposed the bill, the networks broadcast pro-spending advocates by a five to one margin. Liberal hard-core Keynesian economist and New York Times columnist Paul Krugman appeared five times on network broadcasts. ABC’s pro-stimulus advocates outnumbered opponents nine to one. CBS was the least one-sided, with 59 per cent of its stories being pro-legislation. Only three stories out of 176 raised the issue of how the nation would pay for the stimulus bill. [1297]

A Dallas bookstore displays books about Obama in its religion section. It is unclear whether the store’s action was meant as sarcasm or actual devotion. [1236]

At a Senate hearing Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) inadvertently makes public the fact that unmanned CIA Predator aircraft used against terrorists are being launched from a Pakistani airbase. In disclosing the secret information Feinstein, chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, makes it more difficult for Obama to deal with the Pakistani leaders – who have publicly criticized the Predator attacks while secretly approving them. [1213]

After only a few weeks on the job Obama’s national intelligence director, Admiral Dennis Blair, apparently decides there is no point in trying to get Iran to drop its nuclear weapons program. Blair remarks, “*Whether they (Iran) take it all the way to nuclear weapons and become a nuclear power will depend a great deal on their own internal decisions.*” [1257]

Reports emerge that Illinois Senator Roland Burris, appointed by the now-impeached Governor Rod Blagojevich, was asked by the Governor's brother, Robert Blagojevich (head of the "Friends of Blagojevich" campaign fund) for as much as \$10,000 in exchange for having him appointed to the seat vacated by Obama. Burris now states he declined to pay the cash, but he failed to disclose the incident when testifying under oath before the Illinois House impeachment panel. Burris states "*there were several facts*" he was "*not given the opportunity to make*" during his testimony. State Representative Jim Durkin, who sat on the impeachment committee, called Burris' excuse "...a load of B.S.," and said "*I don't trust anything that comes out of Burris' mouth or from his pen.*" Burris may have committed perjury, prompting Illinois lawmakers to call for a criminal investigation. [1218,1224,1227]

Obama's lawyers file motions to demand that the courts impose monetary penalties against attorneys issuing subpoenas for documents relating to Obama's eligibility to serve as President. The motions are meant to intimidate plaintiffs and prevent the release of Obama's birth certificate, passport records, and school records. Obama's request for sanctions are a result of subpoenas from attorney Gary Krep, on behalf of plaintiff (and 2008 Presidential candidate) Alan Keyes, that were served on Occidental College to produce Obama's school records. Fredric D. Woocher, an attorney representing the college, contacted Krep to ask him to withdraw the subpoena and warned, "*Please be advised, in particular, that in the event we are forced to file a motion to quash and we prevail in that motion, we will seek the full measure of monetary sanctions provided for in the Code of Civil Procedures.*" In order to prevent the release of his birth certificate and school records Obama thus has his attorneys playing hard-ball, threatening plaintiffs with massive fines to dissuade others from filing challenges. [1219,1260]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid moves to schedule a discussion and vote on granting Congressional voting rights for the District of Columbia. Current Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, represents the district but is not allowed to vote on legislation. If the bill passes, House Democrats will essentially be guaranteed one additional perpetual Democrat vote in Congress. Opponents properly argue that granting voting rights to a representative from D.C. is unconstitutional because the District is not a State. (Article I of the U.S. Constitution requires that "*The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States... No Person shall be a Representative who shall not... when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.*") In a quest for more unchecked power, Democrats may attempt to make Washington, D.C. the 51st state – which, in addition to one House vote, would also guarantee two more perpetually Democrat votes in the Senate. [1222,1362]

It is disclosed that Dr. Ezekiel J. Emanuel is advising the Obama administration on health care issues. Ezekiel J. Emanuel is a brother of Obama's Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel. Dr. Emanuel is an oncologist who also serves as the Chair of the Department of Bioethics at the National Institute of Health. In Emanuel's book, *"The Ends of Human Life: Medical Ethics in a Liberal Polity,"* he discusses end-of-life issues and euthanasia, and "...proposes an alternative ideology, a liberal communitarianism that imagines a federation of political communities dedicated to democratic deliberations to guide the formulation of laws and policies." In *"Healthcare, Guaranteed,"* Emanuel proposes that Americans receive health care via a voucher system funded by a national value-added tax. (The new tax would have to generate at least \$2 trillion dollars per year.) [1229]

On the February 15 telecast of CNN's "GPS" program, Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai is interviewed by Fared Zachariah. Hamid, commenting on Obama's remark that *"Karzai has a bunker mentality,"* said he was *"...surprised to hear that statement. Perhaps it's because the administration has not yet put itself together. Perhaps they have not been given the information yet. And I hope as they settle down, as they learn more, we will see better judgment."* [1234]

"Geostrategy Direct" reports that Obama plans to drop sanctions on Iran or companies that aid Iran's nuclear and missile program. A government official states, *"We were told that sanctions do not help the new U.S. policy of dialogue with Iran,"* and *"The administration has abandoned sanctions entirely. It is a completely new ballgame."* It is unclear why Obama would be willing to discard one of the "sticks" that can go along with the "carrots," unless he believes it is possible to negotiate without leverage. (Some would argue that Obama also has few carrots that don't involve compromising the security of Israel.) [1235]

On ABC's February 15 broadcast of "This Week," self-proclaimed "objective" host George Stephanopolous encourages Congresswoman Maxine Waters (a California Democrat and a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus) to act to nationalize the nation's banks. (Stephanopolous may or may not have read *"Das Kapital,"* in which communist Karl Marx wrote, *"Owners of capital will stimulate the working class to buy more and more of expensive goods, houses and technology, pushing them to take more and more expensive credits, until their debt becomes unbearable. The unpaid debt will lead to bankruptcy of banks, which will have to be nationalized and the State will have to take the road which will eventually lead to Communism."*)[1246,1362]

Obama advisor David Axelrod tells Fox News Sunday's Chris Wallace, when asked if Obama would support a renewal of the Fairness Doctrine, *"I'm going to leave that issue to Julius Genachowski, our new head of the FCC, and the president to discuss, so I don't have an answer for you now."* Axelrod's refusal to rule out a renewal of the Federal Communications Commission censorship rules suggests the White House is, in fact, considering it. To reduce public criticism of

such a move any restrictions on conservative talk radio will likely be given a different name as a disguise. Genachowski is one of three Democrat FCC commissioners; there are two Republicans. The three Democrats are thus free to act as they choose in regulating radio or television stations; if they decide a station is not serving the best interests of the public, its broadcast license can be taken away and given to someone more politically "suitable." Genachowski had a hand in drafting Obama's technology agenda, which claims it is meant to *"Encourage diversity in the ownership of broadcast media, promote the development of new media outlets for expression of diverse viewpoints, and clarify the public interest obligations of broadcasters who occupy the nation's spectrum."* "Clarify the public interest obligations of broadcasters" might mean demanding that conservative radio hosts not to be critical of Obama – or the station's license will be yanked. Obama has said he believes there should be *"greater FCC scrutiny and public input should occur more frequently."* That is, he welcomes thousands of his supporters complaining to the FCC about conservative talk radio. Assisting Obama are a number of Democrats who want broadcast licenses renewed every eight years, rather than every three, in an attempt to "keep the stations in line." [1277,2474]

In Venezuela, President Hugo Chavez wins a referendum that would allow him to be President for life. Chavez's campaign tactics included tear-gassing the opposition, but the U.S. State Department says the vote was *"for the most part... fully consistent with democratic process."* [1308]

Obama sends representatives to the February 16th planning session for the United Nations International Conference on Racism that will be held in the spring. The move by Obama suggests he may also be sending representatives to its eventual "Durban Review Conference." (The planning session is chaired by Libya, with participation by Iran, Pakistan, Cuba, and other anti-Israel nations.) Several democracies plan on boycotting the conference, expecting that it will be an Israel-demonizing and anti-west propaganda event, as was the prior conference in September of 2001. Canada and Israel have formally announced that they will not take part in the conference, and both the United States and Israel walked out of the 2001 conference. Hillary Clinton, during the Presidential primary campaign, pledged to lead a boycott of the conference, and will thus likely be at odds with Obama about the 2009 meetings. Obama's Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice (a known anti-Semite), advocates participation. Attendees at the conference will likely concentrate on condemnations of Israel, while arguing that "Islamophobia" is a form of racism that warrants making any criticism of Islam universally illegal. Great Britain and Italy threaten to join Canada and Israel in boycotting "Durban II" if they do not receive assurances it will not be another anti-Semitic, anti-Israel hate-fest. [1247,1344]

A February 16 Rasmussen poll shows Obama's "Presidential Approval Index" at +10, his lowest rating since November 6, two days after election day. (The index

represents the difference between the percentage of voters who “strongly approve” of Obama’s performance and those who “strongly disapprove.”) [1248]

On February 16, New York Times Executive Editor Bill Keller is a guest on NBC’s “Today” show, where he promotes a new book, *Obama: The Historic Journey*. Host David Gregory comments, “...there is that criticism of the news media that we’re somehow cheerleaders for Barack Obama,” and asks Keller whether such a book adds “to that criticism.” Keller responds, “You know I think, as a rule, reporters don’t fall in love with candidates. They fall in love with stories, though,” and adds, “...it’s not a tribute book. It’s a, I hope a slice of history.” [1249]

Obama’s Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrives in Japan at the same time North Korea threatens to test a 105-foot Taepodong-2 missile, allegedly capable of reaching the United States. North Korea’s threat is likely an effort to gain aid and diplomatic benefits from what it sees as a weak new administration. [1256]

Although Obama campaigned on a pledge to remove American troops from Iraq within 16 months, and a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) calls for troops to leave by the end of 2011, it is reported that Iraq is purchasing American helicopters, cargo planes, tanks, and equipment that will require a continuing U.S. military presence for maintenance and training. Some of the equipment will not be delivered until 2012, indicating that American troops will remain in Iraq for some time. Lieutenant General Frank Helmick, who is in charge of training Iraq’s security services and military, suggests that the United States is in for a “long-term strategic relationship.” [1259]

It is reported that the Obama administration pledged to the Palestinian Authority (PA) that it would protest if Israel constructs any new housing developments in the West Bank. PA officials are hopeful that Obama will push Israel to remove more than 60,000 of its 200,000 West Bank residents. [1261]

Alaska Governor Sarah Palin criticizes Congress for passing the stimulus legislation without even reading it, and encourages Obama to veto the bill and return it to Congress for it to be re-worked. [1300]

On February 17 Obama flies to Denver for a special “signing ceremony” to sign into law the massive stimulus spending bill passed on the 13th. He receives some criticism for demanding Congress rush to pass the bill without reading it and then delaying its signing by four days. (There is no official word on what it cost the taxpayers for Obama to be flown to Denver solely for the purpose of signing the bill.) The bill is signed at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, after Obama tours a solar-panel installation and brags that the stimulus bill will allow Namaste Solar to hire 20 additional workers. (Obama did not point out that his Air Force One flight from Washington to Denver to sign the legislation used

more energy than the museum's solar panels can produce over several years.)
[1262,1427,1428]

As Obama signs the stimulus bill into law, hundreds of people protest the massive, pork-laden spending bill at Denver's state capitol building. Many in the crowd carry giant \$30,000 mock checks to signify the approximate amount the bill will cost each taxpayer. [1353]

Senior Illinois Senator Dick Durbin travels on a taxpayer-paid trip to Greece to "assess security in the region." Accompanying Durbin is Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, who is allegedly lobbying to get the Senate seat held by Roland Burris if the Democrats are successful in orchestrating his ouster. (The Giannoulias' family's mob-connected Broadway Bank loaned Obama the money for a townhouse purchase and raised \$100,000 for Obama's Presidential campaign. Giannoulias was arguably elected State Treasurer only because of the support of Obama, when other prominent Democrats were keeping their distance from him because of his inexperience and questionable background.)
[116,117,281,1321]

With the signing of the stimulus bill, the "American Recovery Reinvestment Act," the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) drops 3.79 per cent, or 297.81 points, to 7,552.60. The DJIA has dropped 21.5 per cent since Obama's election, from 9,625.28 on November 4, 2008 to 7,552.60 on February 17, 2009. [1238,1262]

Residents of Mesa, Arizona protest the monumental waste of the new legislation. Mocking the stimulus ("SwindleUs") bill, "gimme-mania," and Obama's response to town hall meeting questioner Henrietta Hughes (who had begged Obama for a car and a house on national television), protesters carry signs saying, "*Obama I wanna 65 inch plasma TV,*" "*I need a beach front condo Mr. President,*" "*I want a free Harvard education too,*" "*Henrietta got a house, all I want's a swimming pool,*" "*Gimme \$,*" "*I want a president with ethics and honor,*" "*I need a new car,*" "*Stimulate the economy and buy me a new Lexus,*" "*He's no Messiah,*" "*Stimulate the economy: give me a tummy tuck,*" and "*Give me liberty or a big-screen TV.*" One woman's sign read, "*Fund bikini wax now,*" and, mocking Obama's big-government, national health care for all plans, claims "*It's a self-esteem and hygiene issue, which makes it a health care issue. I think we're all entitled.*" Many protesters claim that Obama's enormous stimulus bill mobilized his opposition. Reports of the protests appear on local news programs and in Internet reports but, likely in an effort to protect Obama's approval ratings, are ignored by the mainstream media. [1303,1309,1340]

Obama learns quickly that campaigning for President may be easier than being President. With conservatives angered that his stimulus bill passed, and feeling that it will do nothing but saddle future generations with enormous debt, liberals are upset that the bill did not call for even more spending and government programs. University of California (Berkeley) political scientist Jacob Hacker

remarks, *“What we need is a new (FDR) New Deal.”* Bill Clinton’s former Secretary of labor, Robert Reich, said Obama made a mistake in letting congressional leaders write the bill. (Reich may not be aware that the Constitution requires that bills originate in Congress, not the Oval office.) [1264]

The Obama administration launches a web site, www.recovery.gov, which is supposed to allow the taxpayers to see where the money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is going. On day one the site does nothing more than break down the \$787 billion bill into seven broad spending categories. (A private site – not funded with tax dollars – is launched and does a much better job of listing information about stimulus spending: www.recovery.org.) [1265,2301]

Obama is expected to appoint a task force to oversee the domestic auto industry, which has received about \$17.5 billion in bail-out funds (\$13.5 billion for General Motors and \$4 billion for Chrysler) and is likely to beg the federal government for more. Rather than appoint a business expert to the task force, however, Obama is planning to appoint Ron Bloom, a special assistant to the president of the United Steelworkers Union. Although many of the problems in the auto industry are the result of overly-generous and economically unjustifiable union contracts, it seems unlikely that Bloom will push for reduced union power and influence. Some argue that the automakers would be best served by filing bankruptcy and re-structuring their union contracts, but that is not favored by the Obama administration, suggesting that more money from the taxpayers will be forthcoming. (While Obama insists he is not a socialist, taking over an automobile company is certainly not an exercise in free market capitalism. Even Sweden, a socialist nation, is allowing Saab to sink or swim on its own, with a Cabinet minister saying, *“The Swedish state is not prepared to own car factories.”*) [1266,1955]

One of the people assigned by Obama to his auto industry task force is Steven Rattner, a former New York Times reporter and the head of an investment company, the Quadrangle Group, which has been accused of giving a \$1 million bribe to a New York state official to get \$100 million in business from a state pension fund. Although Rattner has not been charged with any “pay to play” wrongdoing, he may be wary of the two individuals currently under indictment implicating him in the scheme. New York Mayor Bloomberg stated that he warned Rattner about *“the disclosure issues”* involved with public service. The White House said it had *“full confidence”* in Rattner. [2395,2397]

On February 17 Richard Davis, CEO of U.S. Bancorp, reveals that the federal government essentially forced the major banks to accept TARP funds, not to lend out more money but to buy banks that were in trouble because of sub-prime loan activity. Davis states, *“I will say this very bluntly: We were told to take it (TARP money). Not asked, told. ‘You will take it.’”* Later in the day Davis tones down his

accusation, saying that once several large banks agreed to take the TARP funds the others, for competitive reasons, found it necessary to do the same. [1272]

Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA), head of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, considers ways of imposing a “Fairness Doctrine” without actually using the term. As an example, Waxman is considering “advisory boards” to act as “watchdogs” to ensure that “community needs and opinions” are treated fairly. Advisory board reports would then be used by the FCC to yank radio licenses at renewal time, in order for them to then be given to new owners more sympathetic to Obama’s political agenda. [1561]

In an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), Obama hems and haws his way through the questions, avoiding direct answers as much as possible. In a startlingly squishy response to the issue of the war in Afghanistan, Obama remarks, *“Well, I think Afghanistan is still winnable, in the sense of our ability to ensure that it is not a launching pad for attacks against North America. I think it’s still possible for us to stamp out al Qaeda to make sure that extremism is not expanding but rather is contracting.”* (In other words, “We haven’t got a chance of defeating terrorism, but we can try to slow it down a bit, and although we might, if we’re lucky, be able to stop terrorists from attacking North America, there’s little hope for the rest of the world.”) [1268]

On February 18, Obama unveils his plan to help bail-out homeowners who irresponsibly and foolishly bought homes they could not afford. Suggesting that everyone has a responsibility for the financial mistakes of others, Obama states, *“If we move forward with purpose and resolve, with a deepened appreciation for how fragile it can be when we fail in our collective responsibilities, then I am confident we will secure (the American dream) for ourselves and for generations to come.”* The Obama bail-out plan would cost taxpayers an additional \$275 billion. Part of Obama’s plan would allow an estimated nine million homeowners who are not delinquent in their mortgages to refinance or have their loans modified, under terms they could not otherwise get because the value of their homes has declined. An estimated \$75 billion would be available for refinancing for “at-risk” homeowners. Responsible taxpayers who are not “upside down” on their mortgages will therefore be footing the bill for those who are, despite Obama’s assurances that no relief will go to speculators or those who bought more than they could afford. (Obviously, if no aid is given by Obama to speculators or to people who bought beyond their means, his program serves no purpose – because responsible buyers do not need to be bailed out. That is, the purpose of his program must necessarily be to bail-out irresponsible individuals, because those are the only people who got into trouble.) [1271,1313,1372,1455]

The former director of Israeli security agency Mossad, Shabati Shavit, warns in an interview that while *“...Obama finishes his (foreign policy) learning curve... the Iranians are going to have maybe (their) first or even more nuclear bombs.”*

Shavit encourages Obama to deal with Iran by working first with Russia, which supports Iran in order to obstruct American foreign policy. [1302]

Despite the election of Obama having allegedly “put race behind us,” his Attorney General Eric Holder, who is black, injects race back into the conversation by calling the United States “*a nation of cowards*” on the issue. In a speech to the Justice Department celebrating “Black History Month,” Holder states that Americans don’t talk about the topic of race enough and “*self-segregate*” on the weekends and in their private lives. Holder receives substantial criticism for his remark, which many Americans consider an insult. (Holder’s wife and family members are black; it is not clear whether Holder intentionally seeks out white bowling partners on the weekends or “self-segregates.”) [1301]

ACORN, gaining hundreds of millions of dollars from Obama’s stimulus package, launches a new “Home Savers” campaign. The ACORN strategy includes encouraging civil disobedience and law-breaking. Residents who cannot afford to pay their mortgages will be encouraged by ACORN to refuse to move out of foreclosed homes, “squatting.” ACORN is training teams of “home savers” to mobilize on short notice and help homeowners forcibly resist eviction attempts. ACORN’s program has the support of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (an Ohio Democrat and a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus), who encourages delinquent payers to “*Stay in your homes. If the American people, anybody out there, is being foreclosed, don’t leave.*” (On February 23, police in Baltimore arrest ACORN activist Louis Beverly, who had cut the locks of a foreclosed property and entered the house, saying “*This is our house now.*” Beverly will be charged with burglary.) [1273,1357,1362]

It is later reported that the home broken into by Beverly was bought by Donna Hanks in 2001 for \$87,000. She subsequently refinanced the original loan for a whopping \$270,000. My mid-2006 Hanks was in foreclosure proceedings. She filed for bankruptcy but failed to make even the reduced payments required by those proceedings. After that, Hanks racked up criminal charges for theft and assault. The court ordered the house sold after giving Hanks multiple chances, over two years, to reverse her situation. The house was sold in mid-2008. In February of 2009 Hanks broke into the house (which was no longer legally hers) with the help of ACORN’s Louis Beverly. Beverly himself has a criminal record for assault, property destruction, battery, assault, and possession of a deadly weapon with intent to injure. It is unclear how many people like Hanks and Beverly will be aided by Obama’s mortgage-relief program and the stimulus bill cash he gave to ACORN. [1376]

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepares to issue rules defining carbon dioxide (CO₂) as a pollutant and regulating its release into the atmosphere. Obama’s EPA chief, Lisa P. Jackson, is a believer in Al Gore’s “mankind is causing massive global warming” theories. Regulating the release of CO₂ into the atmosphere will cause transportation and manufacturing industries

and utilities to drastically raise prices as the cost of complying with the regulations is passed on to the consumers. The Clean Air Act of 1963 was meant to regulate *pollutants* released into the air, not molecules normally present in the atmosphere and which are constantly created by humans and animals through the simple act of breathing. Even some Democrats seem to understand the lunacy of regulating carbon dioxide, with Congressman John Dingell (D-MI) stating that such a process would initiate a “*glorious mess*” that would harm the economy. Republican Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming was more direct, warning Jackson at her confirmation hearing that using the Clean Air Act to regulate CO₂ and address unproven theories of mankind-caused global warming would be a “*disaster waiting to happen.*” The founder of the Weather Channel, meteorologist John Coleman, calls it “*ridiculous*” to classify CO₂ as a pollutant and attempt to regulate it under the Clean Air Act. [1285,1509]

Swiss bank UBS agrees to pay \$780 million in penalties for helping wealthy Americans avoid paying taxes through its offshore accounts, and the Justice Department moves to obtain names of 52,000 account holders. (It had previously been thought that UBS had been shielding “only” 19,000 taxpayers.) UBS will fight the release of the 52,000 names. Robert Wolf, CEO of the American branch of the Swiss banking giant UBS, collected more than \$370,000 in campaign contributions for Obama. [123,448,1286]

On February 19, United Nations officials announce that Iran has sufficient enriched uranium for a nuclear bomb. Iran may now welcome talks with Obama, because it believes it has the upper hand in negotiations and can stall the U.S. while it further develops its nuclear weapons cache and missile capabilities. Ahmadinejad and the Iranian mullahs assume Obama is unwilling or unable to do much to stop them. (Obama believes that pressuring Israel to give up land to Palestinians will eliminate tensions in the Middle East when, in fact, it will only lead to further aggressiveness by Hamas, Iran, and other opportunists eager to pounce on perceived or real U.S. weakness.) [1287,1518]

Contradicting his pledge of transparency, Obama requires Department of Defense (DOD) officials to sign pledges stating they will not share 2010 budget data with anyone outside the federal government. Obama is expected to slash the DOD budget by almost \$50 billion (from about \$585 billion to \$537 billion), but is worried that some department officials may leak information about unpopular cuts in an effort to save them. By demanding secrecy, Obama can insure that most criticism will not come until after it is too late for legislators to gather support for reduced or eliminated programs. [1345]

Obama sends Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to Indonesia to open a “*robust partnership*” with the Muslim country and establish the groundwork for closer American ties to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). While in Indonesia, Clinton remarks that the nation is proof that “*democracy, Islam and moderation*” can coexist. Clinton does not mention the widespread persecution of

Christians by Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, or the fact that 16 of Indonesia's 32 provinces have some form of decidedly undemocratic Shariah law. [1288,1289,1290,1291]

After Bill Clinton publicly supports censorship of conservative talk radio with the statement, *"You either ought to have the fairness Doctrine or we ought to have more balance on the other side,"* Republican Senator James DeMint of South Carolina tries to amend a bill to include with a "Broadcaster Freedom Act" to force Senators to openly choose sides on the issue. Asked DeMint, *"Do you support free speech or do you want to silence voices you disagree with?"* Obama has stated he opposes the reinstatement of the prior Fairness Doctrine, but behind the scenes he will not stop the FCC from more strictly enforcing broad "local rules" which would also reduce the effectiveness of his critics on talk radio – by threatening to take away broadcast licenses. Apparently unaware of the history of Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, or Fidel Castro, California Attorney General (and former Governor) Jerry Brown says, *"A little state control wouldn't hurt anybody."* [1292,1295]

In what may be a sign of inflation on its way, it is reported that wholesale prices increased by 0.8 per cent in January – four times the expected increase. [1293]

Oklahoma City police stop motorist Chip Harrison because his vehicle displays a hand-lettered sign reading, *"Abort Obama not the unborn."* Treating the sign as a "threat" against the President, the officers take the sign from Harrison. Harrison is later visited by the Secret Service. Harrison, who does not believe in abortion, states that the sign meant that he wanted Obama impeached. (*"Abort Bush"* and *"Abort Palin"* signs and bumper stickers have been prominently displayed by many people without any reported police or Secret Service harassment. [1304,1305,1306]

Obama tells Univision Radio host Eddie Sotelo he is *"very committed"* to move on the immigration issue in the next several months. Obama remarks, *"...we're going to make sure that we begin the process of dealing with the immigration system that's broken. We're going to start by really trying to work on how to improve the current system so that people who want to be naturalized, who want to become citizens, like you did, that they are able to do it; that it's cheaper, that it's faster, that they have an easier time in terms of sponsoring family members. And then we've got to have comprehensive immigration reform."* Obama will work with his House and Senate majorities to get as many illegal immigrants turned into Democrat-voting citizens as soon as he can. [1348]

Obama declines an offer from Great Britain to keep a bust of Winston Churchill in the Oval Office, which was initially loaned to former President Bush by Britain's Government Art Collection. The valuable bust had been moved – not just out of the Oval Office but out of the White House completely – and taken to the residence of the British Ambassador to the U.S., Sir Nigel Sheinwald. (One Brit

later remarks that *“the young president could learn a thing or two about leadership from Sir Winston Churchill, the British hero whose bust he so crassly removed from the Oval Office.”*) It is unclear why Obama felt it necessary to remove from the White House a symbol of *“resolve, courage and faith against the enemies of Western civilization,”* or whether he also plans on returning the Statue of Liberty to France. (Obama likely also had a bust of former president Eisenhower removed, and a photo in the March 2 issue of Newsweek shows what looks to be a bust of Martin Luther King, Jr. now in the Oval Office.) [1307,1521,1569,1587,1657,1729]

On February 20 it is reported that the Democrat National Committee still owes the City of Chicago \$1.7 million for Obama’s election night victory speech celebration in Grant Park. The bill covers police services and other support functions. [1310]

The state of Missouri issues a Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC) “Strategic Report” called “The Modern Militia Movement.” (The document originated with the Department of Homeland Security.) It is distributed to state law enforcement officials to keep them aware of the militia movement in the U.S. and point out “activities” that may suggest a citizen is a potential risk to society. The document warns of *“rightwing extremists”* who *“exploit current world events in order to increase participation in their movement.”* It states that *“Due to the current economical and political situation, a lush environment for militia activity has been created. Unemployment rates are high, as well as cost of living expenses. Additionally, President Elect Barrack (sic) Obama is seen as tight on gun control and many extremists fear that he will enact firearms confiscations,”* and *“Many constitutionalists within the movement have claimed that President Elect Obama does not meet the residency (sic) requirements to hold the office of President, and therefore his election is unconstitutional.”* The report suggests that the radical militia members can be identified by “Don’t tread on me” bumper stickers, or items that display *“...Constitutional Party, Campaign for Liberty, Or Libertarian material. These members are usually supporters of former Presidential candidate: Ron Paul, Chuck Baldwin, and Bob Barr.”* It is unclear whether a “Ron Paul for President” or “NOBAMA” bumper sticker might prompt a Missouri state trooper to order a driver to pull over in order to have his vehicle searched, but the report essentially suggests that disagreeing with the government makes an individual dangerous and deserving of police interception. The MIAC document basically warns that the people to “look out for” are those may be against abortion, RFID chips, illegal immigration, the United Nations, the New World Order, income taxes, universal service program, gun control, the Federal Reserve Board, or a new Constitutional Convention. [1830,1884]

Congressman Ron Paul, Bob Barr, and Chuck Baldwin write the Governor of Missouri to register their anger at being singled out in the MIAC document and demand that it be removed from the Internet and no longer circulated to any state agencies. [1946]

Senator Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, prompts the stock market to drop 200 points when he tells Bloomberg Television's Al Hunt on February 20 that the federal government may have to nationalize the banking system. Obama's press secretary, Robert Gibbs, is later sent out to talk down the idea that the administration is considering the action. [1400]

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrives in China for a two-day visit, where she is conspicuously silent about human rights violations and charges of currency manipulation by the Chinese government. Instead, she encourages the Chinese to buy more American debt to finance the Obama administration's enormous deficit-spending. CBS News' Wyatt Andrews reports that, *"The truth is the Administration needs China's help. America's stimulus is very expensive and the U.S. wants China to help finance it."* That debt-financing overrules other concerns. In an interview with Andrews, Clinton states, *"We are relying on the Chinese government to continue to buy our debt."* When Andrews questioned Clinton on earlier pledges by her and by Obama to stop Chinese cheating on trade, she answered, *"That was at a different time when we weren't facing the kind of difficult situations we face today"* – meaning that the U.S. government needs the Chinese to finance its debt more than it needs to protect American jobs. [1465,1466]

Clinton's visit to China prompts an Internet rumor that she conveyed to the Chinese government a *"written agreement which grants to the People's Republic of China, an option to exercise Eminent Domain within the USA, as collateral for China's continued purchase of US Treasury Notes and existing U.S. Currency reserves."* State Department press officer Laura Tischler later confirms, *"There is no factual basis or substance to this report."* [1467,1501]

ABC's Terry Moran continues his steady stream of Obama "suck-up" coverage, telling the "Morning Media Podcast," *"I like to say that, in some ways, Barack Obama is the first President since George Washington to be taking a step down into the Oval Office. I mean, from visionary leader of a giant movement, now he's got an executive position that he has to perform in, in a way."* (Inadvertently, Moran points out Obama's big problem: where he previously only had to give speeches designed to make people feel good about him and his promises, he now has to actually do something productive and get positive results.) Remarkably, Moran then tells his co-host he didn't think the liberal bias of the media skewed coverage in the President's favor. [1350]

The Obama Justice Department sides with the former Bush administration argument that terrorist detainees at Bagram Air Base cannot use U.S. courts to challenge their detentions. Although this contradicts Obama's position regarding the detainees at Cuba's Guantanamo Camp Delta, most Americans know nothing about Bagram. [1333]

Obama sends press secretary Robert Gibbs out to talk to the media in response to widely-publicized criticisms of his mortgage bail-out program made by CNBC analyst Rick Santelli. Gibbs (whose job is to discredit the messenger before the American public realizes it agrees with the message) is unprofessional and condescending in remarks critical of Santelli, essentially dismissing him as a low-life derivatives trader. Gibbs remarks, *"It's tremendously important that (sic) for people who rant on cable television to be responsible and understand what it is they're talking about. I feel assured that Mr. Santelli doesn't know what he's talking about."* Gibbs then states that Santelli *"has argued, I think quite wrongly, that this plan won't help everyone."* Santelli had suggested that Obama find out if Americans really wanted to *"subsidize losers' mortgages"* and asked, *"Or would we like to at least buy cars and buy houses in foreclosure and give them to people that might have a chance to actually prosper down the road and reward people that could carry the water instead of drink the water?"* Santelli posed an on-air question to traders on the floor behind him, *"How many of you people want to pay for your neighbor's mortgage that has an extra bathroom and can't pay their bills? Raise your hand."* When no one raised their hands, Santelli said, *"President Obama, are you listening?"* and commented that *"Cuba used to have mansions and a relatively decent economy. They moved from the individual to the collective, now they're driving '54 Chevys, maybe the last great car to come out of Detroit."* Santelli suggested, *"We're thinking of having a Chicago Tea Party in July,"* and will likely get some positive responses to the offer.

[1324,1329,1366,1372,1374]

After Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood floats the idea of taxing motorists based on how many miles they drive and opposition to the idea is fast and furious, Obama press secretary Robert Gibbs is immediately sent out to quash the story. Oregon's Democrat Governor, Ted Kulongoski, is considering such a tax at the rate of \$0.012 per mile driven, with the information gathered by a required Global Positioning System (GPS) device in every vehicle. Massachusetts has also considered a mileage tax. Supporters say a mileage tax would replace gas taxes, but critics warn that the nation's taxpayers will no doubt end up paying both taxes – and the government will know where you are at all times. [1336,1337,1352]

The Army National Guard scraps plans for a military training exercise in the small Iowa town of Arcadia. The exercise would have involved troops going door to door in a mock "invasion" to confiscate weapons and search for a weapons dealer. Sergeant Mike Kots, readiness NCO for Alpha Company, said that the exercise *would "improve the real-life operational skills of the unit."* Arcadia residents who complained and caused the canceling of the plans, and who are aware of the anti-gun stance of Obama and his Attorney General Eric Holder, may have been worried that the exercise was a pre-cursor of actual future operations to collect weapons of all American citizens. (The White House web site incorrectly states that the Second Amendment *"gives citizens the right to bear arms."* Gun ownership is not a privilege "given" by the government, but an

inherent individual right that is *acknowledged and protected* by the Second Amendment.) [1323,1335,2053,2054]

After one month with Obama in office, the stock market's DJIA is at 7,365.67 – its lowest point since mid-1997. In his first four weeks in office, Obama has signed a \$787 billion stimulus package, pushed a financial stability initiative of at least \$1.5 trillion, and announced a \$275 billion mortgage assistance program. The market's response no doubt reflects the fact that the federal government has no ability to fund those programs without massive borrowing, which will crowd out businesses that need access to funds. The stock market is also reacting to uncertainty – not knowing what Obama or Congress will do next, it assumes the worst and hedges its bets accordingly. [1238,1312]

A Gallup poll (Feb 19-21) shows that Obama's approval rating, after one month in office, dropped from 68 to 63 per cent. His disapproval rating doubled, from 12 to 24 per cent in the same period. After one month in office, George W. Bush's approval rating was 62 per cent, and his disapproval rating was 21 per cent. Clinton and Obama are the only Presidents (in Gallup's polling history) whose disapproval ratings increased during their first month in office. [1369]

CNN refuses to air CatholicVote.com's "*Life: Imagine the Potential*" anti-abortion ad, which NBC had previously refused to air during the Super Bowl. The anti-abortion group had asked to run the ad in a time slot linked to Obama's first address to a joint session of Congress. CNN argues that the ad can't be run without Obama's permission because his name is mentioned, although CNN had not obtained permission from Chief Justice John Roberts to run an ad (incorrectly) suggesting that he supports violence against abortion clinics. [875,1024,1325]

Former Ambassador Alan Keyes, Obama's Republican opponent in the 2004 Illinois Senate race, charges that "*Obama is a radical communist, and I think it is becoming clear... He is going to destroy this country, and we are either going to stop him or the United States of America is going to cease to exist.*" Keyes continued, "*I'm not sure he's even president of the United States, (and) neither are many of our military people now who are now going to court to ask the question, 'Do we have to obey a man who is not qualified under the Constitution?' We are in the midst of the greatest crisis this nation has ever seen, and if we don't stop laughing about it and deal with it, we're going to find ourselves in the midst of chaos, confusion and civil war.*" [1453]

In his Saturday radio address on February 21 Obama says he is determined to "*get exploding deficits under control*" – just days after signing into law a stimulus bill that will add \$787 billion to the deficit. Obama's plan to reduce the deficit includes allowing the Bush tax cuts to expire (that is, he will raise taxes) and cut defense spending. At the same time, Obama plans to expand health care – which will cost even more money the federal government does not have. [1395]

Obama pledges to cut the deficit in half, to \$533 billion, by 2013. *He neglects to mention that he will halve the deficit after first tripling it.* He also neglects to announce that estimates show the deficit growing steadily again in 2014 (\$579 billion), 2015 (\$583 billion), and 2016 (\$637 billion). By the final year in the government's projections, 2019, the deficit will be \$712 billion. The national debt will then be at least \$15.4 trillion, almost double the current \$8.4 trillion. While attempting to "cut the deficit in half," Obama will almost double the national debt. [1396,1482]

Israeli President Shimon Peres selects Binyamin Netanyahu to be the next Prime Minister. Netanyahu will have six weeks to form a coalition government with members of his Likud party and conservatives of smaller parties. The recent elections in Israel, which prompted the change, will make it more difficult for Obama to deal through appeasement with problems with Iran and the Middle East, as Netanyahu will not be as willing to make costly concessions as would his liberal rival, Tzipi Livnia of the Kadima party. Netanyahu will also take an offensive stance against Iran and its nuclear weapons program. Further, while Obama may be willing to open talks with Hamas, Netanyahu is determined to topple the terrorist group's government in Gaza. Obama may be playing a very dangerous "moral equivalency" game by treating Hamas as an equal negotiating partner with Israel. The terrorist thugs in Hamas are not civilized members of a democratic nation, and they will be immune to the charisma and charm that Obama used to attract American votes. Nor is Israel the evil aggressor portrayed by Reverend Jeremiah Wright and Louis Farrakhan. [1338,1339]

It is reported that the terrorist group Hamas gave Senator John Kerry a letter to pass on to Obama while Kerry was in Jerusalem. The letter, allegedly written by Hamas' chief political advisor in Gaza, Ahmed Yousef, congratulates Obama on his campaign victory and asks for open communications with the United States government. Hamas officials believe that Kerry's visit to Gaza is a sign that the Obama administration is open to talks. [1322,1327,1446]

Carol Browner, Obama's "climate czar," says on February 22 that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will soon issue rules regulating carbon dioxide (CO₂), perhaps as early as April 2. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid wants a "climate change bill" by the end of summer, while in the House of Representatives Henry Waxman (a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus) wants a bill by Memorial Day. Browner states that Obama wants a national policy calling for "carbon trading credits." The many critics of such policies point out that regulating CO₂ – which all humans and animals exhale – would burden businesses at a time when they are already struggling.[1330,1362]

Obama selects Louis Susman to be his U.S. ambassador to Great Britain. Susman, a banker and lawyer from Chicago, has no diplomatic experience – but was one of Obama's biggest fundraisers. [2530]

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) closes its file on a complaint filed by Judicial Watch charging that Obama, when he was a Senator in 2005, got preferential treatment for the mortgage on his mansion. The FEC confirms that Obama did, in fact, receive special treatment from the Northern Trust Bank when it gave him a loan at only 5.625 per cent. Obama paid no discount points to obtain the reduced rate, as would most borrowers, and he also paid no loan origination fee. The special break given to Obama saved him approximately \$300 per month in his mortgage payment. Judicial Watch filed the complaint alleging that the special discount constituted an illegal corporate campaign contribution. The FEC decided to exonerate Obama solely on the basis that the bank gave similar deals to others, even though it would not disclose who those “others” were. [1331]

A Palestinian Authority (PA) official states that the Obama administration had given it a “green light” to meet with Hamas about forming a Palestinian unity government, and encouraged Egypt to work on reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah. The PA official told the Jerusalem Post that Obama believes a *“Hamas-Fatah government is good for stability.”* Israel’s new coalition government, to be formed by its new Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, will no doubt be discouraged by Obama’s willingness to give legitimacy to the terrorist group Hamas. Unity talks between Fatah and Hamas, meanwhile, do not include any requirement that Hamas recognize Israel as a condition of Hamas joining the Palestinian Authority. (Fatah also does not recognize the existence of Israel.) It is unclear why Obama believes a Fatah-Hamas coalition will be productive, inasmuch as it will be, according to columnist Caroline Glick (former Assistant Policy Advisor to Netanyahu), *“...nothing more than a... terror consortium committed to waging continuous war against Israel.”* Glick charges that *“Hamas will control the government and Fatah will operate as a junior partner responsible for keeping up international monetary support for the PA. Hamas will not recognize Israel. And Fatah and Hamas militias will be unified in some manner and end all cooperation and coordination with Israel.”* Glick warns that *“The only side that will be blamed for Palestinian aggression will be Israel.”* The historical anti-Israel stance of many of Obama’s foreign policy advisors suggests Glick is correct. Beyond the Middle East, Taiwan and Columbia – and perhaps even South Korea – are likely closely watching the Middle East events, knowing that if Obama reduces its support of Israel, they may be next to “go it alone.” [1341,1748,2017]

The Obama administration releases terrorist Binyam Mohamed from custody at Guantanamo’s Camp Delta. Mohamed is taken to the United Kingdom, where he is later released. The United States had accused Mohamed of being involved in a “dirty bomb” plot, but charges against him were dropped because of his allegations of torture before he arrived at Guantanamo. His terrorist activities include firearms and explosives training at al-Qaeda camps, falsifying

documents, and developing plans to blow up apartment buildings in the United States. [1342]

Obama selects Charles (“Chas”) Freeman, Jr. as his Chairman of the National Intelligence Agency. Freeman is a former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and President of the Middle East Policy Council, an Arab lobbying group (which received tens of thousands of dollars per year from the family of Osama bin Laden). Like many Obama appointees Freeman, who advocates direct dialogue between the U.S. and the terrorist group Hamas, has a decidedly anti-Israel bias. In a 2007 speech Freeman said, *“American identification with Israeli policy has also become total. Those in the region and beyond it who detest Israeli behavior, which is to say almost everyone, now naturally extend their loathing to Americans.”* Freeman praised the terrorist group Hamas as the *“only democratically-elected government in the Arab world.”* Freeman, as chairman of Projects International, Inc., has had business ties with the Bin Laden Group, an enormous construction company founded by Osama bin Laden’s father and which continues to support his large family. (Osama bin Laden reportedly inherited as much as \$50 million in cash and stock from his wealthy father). At a 2005 Middle East Policy Conference Freeman said *“...what 9/11 showed is that if we bomb people, they bomb back.”* Freeman’s Middle East Policy Council worked with “Arab World and Islamic Resources” to sell textbooks claiming that Muslims inhabited North America before the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492, and that natives Columbus met had names like Abdul-Rahim and Abdallah Ibn Malik. (With the nomination of Freeman to a significant intelligence post, Obama apparently believes he can continue to retain the support of Jewish voters regardless of how many anti-Israel decisions he makes.) [1342,1349,1382,1404,1654]

Freeman is known as a *“savage critic of Israel.”* He once said, *“Left to its own devices, the Israeli establishment will make decisions that harm Israelis, threaten all associated with them, and enrage those who are not.”* Freeman served as U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and is very much an apologist for that nation’s leaders. Freeman was President Nixon’s interpreter in China during his 1971 visit, and has stated publicly that the Chinese government did not act quickly enough in going after the protesters at Tiananmen Square. In 2006 Freeman wrote in an e-mail, *“The truly unforgivable mistake of the Chinese authorities was the failure to intervene on a timely basis to nip the demonstrations in the bud, rather than – as would have been both wise and efficacious – to intervene with force when all other measures had failed to restore domestic tranquility to Beijing and other major urban centers in China.”* (In other words, Freeman believed China should have been more brutal against its own people for having demanded freedom of speech.) After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Freeman blamed, not the radical Islamist terrorists, but America’s *“ugly mood of chauvinism”* and said we *“should examine ourselves”* to determine *“what might have caused the attack.”* (This remarkable attitude was evident in an opinion piece by Obama himself after September 11, when he wrote that the terrorist

attack “*derives from the fundamental absence of empathy on the part of the attackers: an inability to imagine, or connect with, the humanity and suffering of others,*” and that the terrorists “*lacked empathy,*” and their attitude “*...grows out of a climate of poverty and ignorance, helplessness and despair.*”) Despite Freeman’s “blame America first” attitude – or perhaps because of it – Obama and his National Intelligence Director, Admiral Dennis Blair, want Freeman to head the National Intelligence Council. [90,1576,1757]

Iran announces it will conduct computer tests at its Bushehr nuclear plant, in preparation for its implementation before the end of 2009. Sergei Kiriyyenko, chief of Russia’s state nuclear company, will be in attendance. [1351]

On the heels of the \$787.2 billion stimulus bill (which Democrats laughingly called “*earmark free*”), Congress gets ready to unveil a whopping \$410 billion spending bill riddled with an estimated 9,000 earmarks (local “pet” spending projects of individual Members of Congress). Obama, who said during the presidential debates with opponent John McCain that “*We need earmark reform, and when I’m president, I will go line by line to make sure that we are not spending money unwisely,*” will either have to fight Congress to get rid of the bill’s earmarks or throw another of his campaign promises under the bus. (The scope of the earmark problem is enormous. As an example, PMA Group, a lobbying firm with close ties to Congressman John Murtha, received more than \$300 million in earmarks for its clients in last year’s defense spending bill. The FBI is investigating PMA for possible illegal campaign contributions.) Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel states that Obama will sign the spending bill despite the fact that it contains billions of dollars in wasteful earmarks he said he would stop. (The group Taxpayers for Common Sense, identified 8,600 earmarks, wasting \$7.7 billion.) [1354,1481,1488]

Obama’s director of the White House Office of management and Budget, Peter Orszag, holds a fiscal responsibility summit meeting with Democrats and others on February 23, in an attempt to come up with ways to deal with an exploding budget deficit. (Many critics wonder how anyone can have the audacity to hold a “fiscal responsibility summit” just days after signing into law a waste-filled \$787 billion spending bill.) The meeting has 130 participants who then split into five sessions. Attendees include lobbyists from unions, health care associations, health policy foundations, racial and ethnic special interest groups (such as LaRaza), groups representing seniors, disableds, and gays, various left and right-leaning think tanks, universities, and other interest groups. One participant later described the meeting as “organized chaos” – although Obama’s head of the National Economic Council, Lawrence Summers, managed to fall asleep during the event. Details of the meeting are unknown, but it is assumed that most attendees argued for budget cuts and higher taxes for everyone else and none for their own special interests. To help reduce the deficit it is clear that the Obama administration plans on allowing the 2001 Bush tax cuts to expire in 2010. That alone will cause federal income taxes to rise for many taxpayers. In

addition to tax rates rising to as high as 39.6 per cent (for the top income bracket), the Child Tax Credit for low-income families would drop from \$1,000 to \$500 per child, the capital gains tax would rise to 20 per cent, and dividends would be taxed as ordinary income (rather than at the existing 15 per cent rate). The “death tax” (inheritance tax) would also likely be renewed by Obama. [1355,1356,1359,1365]

Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), who participated in the fiscal responsibility meeting, later addresses the Senate to discuss his suggestions for reducing federal health care costs. He remarks that “...*some 27 per cent of health care costs are incurred in the last few hours, few days, few weeks of a person’s life.*” Apparently dismayed that the government is spending too much money because old people aren’t dying quickly enough, he encourages people to cooperate by making “...*a decision in a living will*” to authorize pulling the plug before the final costs add up. (Specter himself, however, worked to get an additional \$1.3 billion for the National Cancer Institute included in the stimulus bill. It is assumed that Specter, who has been treated for cancer, will not turn down health care in his own “last few hours, days, or weeks.”) [1386]

Actor George Clooney meets with Obama and Biden to deliver 250,000 postcards from the “Save Darfur” organization, and asks for the U.S. to intervene in the crisis that has displaced more than two million people and killed over 300,000. The United Nations has been virtually useless in dealing with the emergency, which began in 2003 after ethnic African rebels started fighting the government of Sudan. [1377]

In a radio interview on February 23, CNBC analyst Rick Santelli argues that Obama’s press secretary Robert Gibbs went over the line in his remarks criticizing him. Gibbs had stated, in a threat-like comment, “*I’m not entirely sure where Mr. Santelli lives or in what house he lives...*” [1373,1374]

Obama announces the members of his task force to manage the bail-out of the American auto industry. The task force has eight members and 10 senior policy aides. Of the 18 individuals, 16 drive foreign cars. (Tim Geithner drives a 2008 Acura TSX; Lawrence Summers drives a Mazda; Peter Orszag owns a Honda and a Volvo; Jared Bernstein drives a Honda; Austan Goolsbee drives a Toyota.) [1440,2193]

Discussing voter dissatisfaction with Obama’s stimulus bill, South Carolina Senator James DeMint tells the August Chronicle, “*I would think it’s time to start thinking about peaceful demonstrations,*” and calls the stimulus legislation the worst since the adoption of the income tax. He states, “*Freedom is in our hands; it always has been. We’ve entrusted it to people in Washington, and increasingly they have picked our pockets and pulled power from us. We’re just going to have to take it back.*” [1358]

An American soldier serving in Iraq announces that he has signed on to the lawsuit brought by Dr. Orly Taitz challenging Obama's eligibility to serve as President. Because American soldiers must serve their Commander-in-Chief and put their lives at risk by following his orders, the courts will be unable to deny the lawsuit on the grounds that the plaintiff does not have standing. Second Lieutenant Scott Easterling, who risks a court-martial for his action, writes in an open letter, *"As an active-duty officer in the United States Army, I have grave concerns about the constitutional eligibility of Barack Hussein Obama to hold the office of president of the United States."* Easterling states that Obama *"has absolutely refused to provide to the American public his original birth certificate, as well as other documents which may prove or disprove his eligibility. In fact, he has fought every attempt made by concerned citizens in their effort to force him to do so."* Another active-duty soldier joins Easterling as a plaintiff in the lawsuit a few days later. While some might argue that Easterling risks court-martial or other punishment for his actions, others suggest that Obama can do nothing to penalize the soldier without also bringing media attention to the reasons for his court action. Obama has little choice but to ignore Easterling and hope the lawsuit is successfully fought by his high-paid legal team. [1364,1405,2488,2489]

An unnamed official states that Obama will push for at least \$900 million in U.S. financial aid to people who hate the United States and want to destroy Israel. The money would go to the Palestinian Authority to assist Gaza for recovery operations. Not surprisingly, Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum comments, *"We are very happy with this decision."* Many will not be surprised if the funds are not used as intended. A large percentage of U.S. and United Nations funds given to the Palestinian Authority over the years ended up as the personal fortune of Yasser Arafat. His widow, Suha, is alleged to have inherited as much as two billion British pounds (about \$2.8 billion U.S.) which Arafat had hidden in accounts in many countries. Suha Arafat now lives in Paris, far from the miseries of poor Palestinians, and receives an annual payment of 12 million pounds (about \$17 million in U.S. dollars) from the Palestinian Authority. [1367,1383]

Gallup's February 21-23 poll shows Obama's approval rating dropping to 59 per cent and his disapproval rating increasing to 25 per cent. [1370]

In response to a question about Obama's birth certificate, Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) responds, *"Well, his father was Kenyan and they say he was born in Hawaii, but I haven't seen any birth certificate. You have to be born in America to be President."* In response, MSNBC's Keith Olbermann and Richard Wolffe stop just short of calling Shelby insane. [1375]

The New York Times distorts poll results in an attempt to drum up support for Obama's policies. Its February 24 edition states that Obama is benefiting from *"remarkably high levels of optimism and confidence among Americans about his leadership."* The article is critical of Republicans for offering tax cuts as an alternative to Obama's spending plans, neglecting to mention that its own poll

showed more Americans supporting tax cuts (50 per cent) than government spending (41 per cent) to stimulate the economy. [1371]

On February 24, a user adds a paragraph to Obama's biography on the web site Wikipedia.com that reads, "*There have been some doubts about whether Obama was born in the U.S. after the politician refused to release to the public a copy of his birth certificate and amid claims from his relatives he may have been born in Kenya. Numerous lawsuits have been filed petitioning Obama to release his birth certificate, but most suits have been thrown out by the courts.*" Within minutes the entry is deleted, and the submitting user is blocked from additional entries to the site. Wikipedia argues that the information violates its policies against "fringe" material, despite everything in the paragraph being factual and the issue having been covered by newspapers such as the Chicago Tribune. Wikipedia administrators generally keep the Obama information positive and complementary and quickly delete additions that are negative. (There are no references to Reverend Jeremiah Wright or William Ayers, for example, despite their significance to Obama's life and his election campaign.) [1602]

Immigration officers raid Yamato Engine Specialists, an auto parts plant in Bellingham, Washington, and find 28 illegal immigrants. One illegal is apparently deported; the remaining 27 are not. Instead, the Obama administration gives them legal work permits – a major departure from the policies of the Bush administration. (Typically, illegals arrested in immigration raids are jailed until deportation hearings are scheduled.) A spokesman for the Federation of American Immigration reform argues that the easing up on illegals sends a signal that "*...if you can get here, you're pretty much home free.*" Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is purportedly annoyed that the raid even took place, and the Obama administration has requested a freeze on immigrant arrests. A spokesman states that Napolitano was "*...not happy about it because it's inconsistent with her position, and the President's position on these matters.*" The implication is that the position of Obama and Napolitano is *not* to arrest and deport illegals. (Even ACORN would be unable to register them to vote if they are returned to Mexico.) [1395,2117,2118]

Walid Phares, an expert on global terrorism, states that Obama's decision to send 17,000 additional troops to Afghanistan could lead to a Vietnam-like quagmire, and closing the detainee facility at Guantanamo will create an "*awkward situation.*" Rather than just talking with the Iranian leaders, who have pledged to destroy Israel, Phares argues that the United States should talk to the Iranian people and encourage "*Iranian democratic opposition to put pressure on the government.*" [1394]

Houston's city council reverses its plan to give \$3,000 "grants" to individuals who are trying to increase their credit scores enough to qualify for mortgages. The Obama-like plan was hatched in order to encourage people to purchase homes in a poor area of the city, but when word of the action spread the mayor and

council members were inundated with complaints. *"I do not understand how we can ever justify spending taxpayer dollars to pay somebody's credit card,"* said Councilwoman Pam Holm. *"I don't understand how it can be even considered to come up. I am truly embarrassed. I think it shows poor leadership."*

Councilwoman Anne Clutterbuck added, *"Giving people the ability to increase their credit score artificially because we're allowing them to pay off their credit cards is exactly what got us into this (national economic) crisis in the first place."*

Irate complaints from Houston residents echoed national criticism of Obama's mortgage bail-out plans: *"This proposal is a slap in the face for the average Joe who is trying to get ahead,"* *"The government should not punish taxpayers and bail out those who cannot buy homes,"* and *"If you can't afford it, and you can't qualify, then you shouldn't have it."* [1378]

Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen joins the growing list of governors who are reluctant to have their states accept all of Obama's stimulus funds because of the expensive "strings" attached. By accepting \$141 million in funds for unemployment insurance, for instance, the state of Tennessee would be required by Washington to expand the program permanently (with looser eligibility rules and more generous benefits), which would in turn increase state costs long after the federal money runs out. Bredesen is a Democrat. [1379]

By a vote of 83 to 13 the Oklahoma House of Representatives passes a state sovereignty resolution, resolving *"That the State of Oklahoma hereby claims sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States over all powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government by the Constitution of the United States,"* and advising the federal government to *"...cease and desist, effectively immediately, mandates that are beyond the scope of these constitutionally delegated powers."* Observers predict the resolution will also pass in the Oklahoma Senate and will be signed by the governor, even though he is a Democrat. If additional states pass such measures, the act of state defiance may place pressure on Obama, Pelosi, and Reid to roll back their plans for expanding federal power to unprecedented levels. [1381]

Montana becomes the 21st state to introduce a sovereignty resolution (along with AZ, AL, AK, AR, CA, CO, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, ME, MI, MO, NH, NV, OK, PA, TX, and WA). The Montana resolution ends with: *"(22) That if any act of Congress becomes law or if an Executive Order or Judicial Order is put into force related to the reservations expressed in this resolution, Montana's 'Compact With the United States' is breached and all powers previously delegated to the United States by the federal Constitution and Bill of Rights revert to the states individually. (23) That any future government of the United States shall require ratification of three-fourths of the states seeking to form a government and shall not be binding upon any state not seeking to form a government. (24) That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President of the United*

States and to each member of the United States Congress.”
[1387,1388,1454,1575]

Carroll D. Childers, Major General (retired), becomes a plaintiff in the Orly Taitz lawsuit which challenges Obama's eligibility to serve as President. [1416]

On February 24 Obama gives an address to a joint session of Congress where he outlines his domestic and foreign policy plans. When Obama remarks that he asked for the stimulus bill *“not because I believe in bigger government – I don’t,”* there are quiet titters but most in the audience are too polite to laugh out loud. When Obama says, *“Now, I’m proud that we passed a recovery plan free of earmarks,”* many in the assembly roar with laughter. Obama's speech provides a broad outline of a considerably larger government, but without providing details, prompting criticisms of a *“stirring speech with no substance.”* The next day Ben Willis of VDM Institutional Brokerage remarks that *“Evidently the people on Wall Street are not as joyful as Ms. Pelosi was yesterday jumping up 60 times,”* and *“There was nothing in it (the speech). Wall Street hates uncertainty. We keep being told by this administration ‘it’s coming, we’re gonna give you the details, we’re gonna give you the details,’ and when they don’t come we demonstrate our disappointment by taking the stocks lower.”* [1391,1439,1554]

In Obama's address he states his administration has *“...begun to go line by line through the federal budget in order to eliminate wasteful and ineffective programs”* and says *“we have already identified \$2 trillion in savings over the next decade.”* The Washington Post quickly follows up on the unlikely figure and learns that the \$2 trillion “saved” amount was not really “saved.” It was arrived at by including more than \$1 trillion in tax hikes, and from assuming first that Iraq expenditures would continue until 2019 and then considering that money “saved” by deciding troops would not, in fact, remain until 2019. (By that logic Obama could plan a \$10 trillion project to land a man on Mars and then “save” that \$10 trillion by immediately canceling the project.) In other words, Obama did *not* identify \$2 trillion in savings by eliminating programs; he lied. [1524,1559]

In Obama's speech he states, *“...our economy did not fall into decline overnight,”* and then makes the incredible charge that the recession was caused by a failure to find new sources of energy, the cost of health care, and inadequate schools – when the recession was the result of a bursting housing bubble, reckless spending, unsound investments in mortgage-backed securities, house-flippers, naïve homebuyers, and incredibly unsound decisions by the Federal Reserve Board. Obama improperly identifies his three causes of the recession only to justify his desire to spend trillions of tax dollars in those areas and to further his radical political agenda. [1560]

Although media commentators, as expected, give the President's speech high marks, few, if any, asked the key questions posed by economist and author

Thomas Sowell: *"How much will it cost?" "Who pays for it?" and "Will it work?"* [1413]

After Obama's address, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal gives the Republican response. As he approaches his microphone MSNBC's mockingly moans *"Oh God,"* while others laugh in the background. [1392]

Alarmed by the planned massive federal spending and the waste-filled stimulus bill, Senator Jim DeMint (R-NC) tells the August Chronicle, *"I would think it's time to start thinking about peaceful demonstrations."* DeMint, aware that Congress won't stop spending unless it hears from the voters, remarks that *"It's just whether or not the American people are going to stand up and say enough is enough."* He adds, *"It's the people's government, and the people are going to have to take it back. They can do it with their voices and with their votes – and they may have to do it with their legs. People are going to have to show that they're not going to take it anymore,"* and states that legislators might think twice *"...if they had several hundred people standing outside one of their state offices asking, 'What in the world are you thinking?'"* [2043]

Obama's third pick for Commerce Secretary (after the withdrawals of Bill Richardson and Judd Gregg) is Gary Faye Locke, former Democrat Governor of Washington and a lawyer for an international firm which specializes in China. Locke, an American with Chinese ancestry, has connections to and has received campaign contributions from John Huang. Huang, who worked in Bill Clinton's Commerce Department, pleaded guilty in 1999 to felony conspiracy charges for violating campaign finance laws. Locke eventually returned some of Huang's contributions. The New York Times reports that Locke has a *"largely scandal-free resume."* (Apparently the Times does not feel that Americans deserve *completely* scandal-free cabinet members.) Locke received almost \$14,000 in campaign contributions from monks and nuns at a Redmond, Washington Buddhist temple, many of whom gave \$1,000 but could not recall making the donations; some of them were not even sure they were U.S. citizens. (The assumption is that someone else illegally gave the cash to the monks and nuns to then donate to Locke's campaign.) [1398,1399,1417,1420]

On February 25, the House of Representatives passes a \$410 billion spending bill – on top of the \$787 billion spending in the recently-passed stimulus bill. The vote is 245-178, with 16 Republicans voting for the bill and 20 Democrats voting against it. The bill includes a provision (inserted by Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, a top-10 recipient of cash from the National Education Association teachers union) that eliminates school choice in the Washington, D.C. public school system by canceling the \$14 million "DC Opportunity Scholarship Program." The cancellation of the popular program comes despite an American Legislative Exchange Council ranking of public schools in the 50 states and Washington, D.C. which places the nation's capitol dead last. Obama and the Democrats claim the bill has no wasteful earmarks; others claim there are about 9,000. But

while eliminating the popular school program in Washington, D.C., the bill includes \$9 million for the nation's largest provider of abortions, Planned Parenthood, and \$50 million for the United Nations Population Fund (which is involved in forced sterilization in China). The bill provides for \$22 million for an addition to the JFK Library, \$200,000 for tattoo removals, \$473,000 for the Hispanic lobbying group LaRaza that advocates illegal immigration, and \$5.8 million for an "Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the Senate." Other earmarks include \$819,000 million for the study of the catfish genome, and \$800,000 for "oyster rehabilitation." (Some Washington, D.C. parents may be disturbed to learn that the education of their children is less important than catfish genome studies, oyster rehabilitation, sterilizations in China, or upgrading the library of a president who's been dead for 45 years.)
[1397,1406,1412,1421,1433,1542,1582,1750]

A budget expert at the Heritage Foundation, Brian M. Riedl, states that the \$410 billion spending bill likely breaks all records for the most wasteful earmarks in any legislation. It includes \$1.8 million to research "*swine odor and manure management*," \$41.5 million to upgrade the Presidential libraries of Democrats Roosevelt, Johnson, and Kennedy, \$2.9 million for shrimp-breeding studies, \$209,000 to improve blueberry production, and \$6.6 million for Formosan subterranean termites. Also included in the bill are \$1.7 million for a honey bee laboratory, \$1,049,000 for the study of crop-eating crickets, \$333,000 for an aviation museum, \$199,000 for the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, \$75,000 for a "Totally Teen Zone" in Albany, New York, \$400,000 to combat bullying in schools, and \$150,000 for lobster research. [1543]

Obama will not veto the eventual bill, despite a campaign promise to end earmarks. (In a September 2008 debate with John McCain, Obama said, "*Absolutely we need earmark reform, and when I am president we will go line by line to make sure we're not spending money unwisely.*") Riedl estimates the number of identified earmarks at 9,287, costing the taxpayers \$14.3 billion. Obama tries to place the blame on former President Bush, saying the earmarks are carryovers from the prior administration – but they were "carried over" precisely because President Bush refused to sign a bill that contained them. If signed into law now, Obama cannot disown responsibility for them. [1543]

The spending bill also includes \$238,000 for the "Polynesian Voyaging Society in Honolulu," \$500,000 for fruit fly control in Hawaii, \$650,000 for beaver management, \$150,000 for a rodeo museum, \$95,000 for Hawaii public radio, \$118,750 for an aircraft display, and \$380,000 for Maine lighthouses – all of which Obama apparently believes are justified expenses even though the nation is enduring a recession. [1554]

Washington, D.C.-area parents are discouraged and angered by the Obama-Democrat decision to cancel the DC opportunity Scholarship Program. Virginia Walden Ford, executive director of the DC Parents for School Choice, states "We

are empowering parents to tell their stories to Congress in order to save the program. We are writing letters to the editor... parents are calling the congressmen's offices, they're e-mailing, we are preparing parents to go up and speak with Congress members." Ford complains that "...Obama chose the school that was in the best interest of his child(ren), and our message to him would be, 'Give us the same opportunity.'" [1479]

Although Obama railed against Congressional earmarks during the campaign, the \$410 billion spending bill includes projects he himself (and others in the new administration) proposed before the inauguration, including \$7.7 million for a "Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Vocational Institution." (That item was sponsored by then-Senator Obama and co-sponsored by then-Senators Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton.) Other earmarks in the bill include projects costing \$94.9 million requested by Biden, \$5.4 million from Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, \$31.2 million from Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, \$3.9 million from Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, \$38.4 million from Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, and \$109 million from Hillary Clinton. [1457]

The stock market, unimpressed by Obama's big-government, high-cost solutions to problems (real, exaggerated, and imagined) and unsure what Washington will do next, drops 1.1 per cent, or 80.05 points. [1401]

Obama proposes his \$3.6 trillion budget, which will, over 10 years, increase taxes on individuals by at least \$636 billion and on businesses by at least \$353 billion. The tax increases include the expiration of the 2001 Bush tax cuts, eliminating itemized deductions for high-income Americans, raising the capital gains tax, and various tax increases on the oil industry (which will be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices). Obama advisor Robert Reich (who was Clinton's Secretary of Labor) admits unashamedly to the New York Times that Obama's budget represents *"the biggest redistribution of income from the wealthy to the middle class and poor this nation has seen in more than 40 years."* Marking a return to old liberal tax-and-spend philosophies, Reich adds, *"It is the boldest budget we have seen since the Reagan administration, and drives a nail in the coffin of Reaganomics. We can basically say goodbye to the philosophy espoused by Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher."* (In the first 45 days of the Obama administration more debt spending has been authorized than in the entire eight years of the Reagan administration.) [1402,1414,1460,2070]

Most of the media members, aligned as they are to the far left, find it impossible to be objective about Obama's budget, its blatant liberal agenda, the inflation it will cause, and the incredible debt it will impose on future generations of Americans. The Associated Press states, *"Breathtaking in its scope and ambition, President Barack Obama's agenda for the economy, health care and energy now goes to a Congress unaccustomed to resolving knotty issues and buffeted by powerful interests that oppose parts of his plan."* Afraid to use the word "liberal," Obama's budget is instead called a plan *"to undo major elements*

of Ronald Reagan's conservative movement." The Washington Post declares that Obama "...transformed the domestic political landscape with a breathtakingly bold budget plan," and "President Obama's budget is so ambitious, with vast new spending on health care, energy independence, and services for veterans, that experts say he will need to hire tens of thousands of government workers to realize his goals." (The Heritage Foundation estimates more than 250,000 new federal employees will be hired – at great expense to the taxpayers.) President Bush's \$450+ billion deficit was (rightly) called a "deficit disaster" by the media, but a projected deficit of \$1.75 trillion is a result of Obama being "breathtakingly bold." The media does not explain why Obama's plan to spend money the government does not have is considered "bold" rather than "foolhardy." [1808]

Federal spending in 2009 will approach \$4 trillion, or 28 per cent of the gross domestic product of the United States. This represents a one-third increase in the size of government – *in one year*. The estimated \$1.75 trillion deficit is larger than the last five Bush deficits *combined*. Obama's budget contains \$1.4 trillion in tax increases, increases that will ultimately affect all Americans because of higher prices passed on to consumers. The \$646 billion energy tax hike (which the Obama administration calls "climate revenue") will, for example, be passed on by industry, businesses, and utility companies to *all* customers – certainly not just those earning at least \$250,000 per year. Obama's \$3.6 trillion budget represents the largest (non-war) federal expansion since Roosevelt's largely unconstitutional "New Deal." According to the Heritage Foundation, "*domestic discretionary spending (including the stimulus funds) has been hiked by nearly 80 per cent over 2008 levels.*" Where Bush spent 3 per cent of GDP on anti-poverty programs, Obama hikes that to 20 per cent. Bush cut taxes by \$2 trillion, while Obama is raising them by at least \$1.4 trillion. [1431,1489,1806]

Obama's budget projections are based on incredibly unlikely gross domestic product (GDP) growth projections of 3.2 per cent in 2010, 4.0 per cent in 2011, 4.6 per cent in 2012, and 4.2 per cent in 2013. Growth of 2-3 per cent is more likely, according to many economists, which would mean even higher federal deficits than Obama projects. [1436]

The Wall Street Journal points out that even if the IRS taxed all Americans earning over \$250,000 at *100 per cent* (rather than the 39.6 per cent Obama is demanding), the government would *still* collect nowhere near enough in taxes to fund Obama's massive programs. Obama's "*two per cent illusion*," that the top two per cent of income earners can fund everything the other 98 per cent want, is just that, an illusion. Obama's spending must therefore be paid for either by increasing taxes on Americans at lower income levels, or printing money – which will lead to hyperinflation. Rising inflation, the devaluation of the dollar, and interest rates kept artificially low by the Federal Reserve Board will lead individuals (and nations) to liquidate their Treasury bonds and look elsewhere for a better return on their money. That will further collapse the debt market. [1415]

Obama's budget increases tax revenue partly by ending the deferral of U.S. taxes on some income earned by multinational corporations overseas. Because the U.S. has the world's second-highest corporate tax rate, operating a subsidiary in Europe currently allows American corporations to defer U.S. taxes until their payment is less destructive. By eliminating that tax deferral, Obama will also eliminate the ability of many American companies to compete at all – forcing them out of business or encouraging them to relocate overseas in their entirety. [1622]

Critics of the budget will spend considerable time attacking specific Congressional earmarks which, although they well deserve criticism, represent only a tiny portion of the budget. The real problem is the overwhelming size of the federal government, which will absorb approximately *one-third* of the nation's entire Gross Domestic Product. (Add state and local government costs to that percentage and total government spending exceeds more than 40 per cent of the nation's GDP.)

Obama sneaks into the budget a footnote (page 127, footnote 1) which states the *"estate tax is maintained at its 2009 parameters."* The estate tax (often referred to as the "death tax" because it taxes assets a person leaves in his will upon his death) was scheduled to be repealed for one year in 2010, and Republicans have, for the last eight years, been attempting to repeal it permanently. Obama's footnote (assuming his budget is approved as is) *will leave the death tax at a permanent 45 per cent.* The high estate tax increases the likelihood that when the owner of a small business or family farm dies, his heirs will be forced to sell the business or farm in order to raise enough money to pay the tax; that will result in job losses. (One study suggests that the death tax is responsible for lowering employment figures by 1.5 million.) Sneaking his estate tax into the budget via a footnote suggests that Obama knows he would have a difficult time getting its extension approved on its own merits. [1708]

Prompted by CNBC analyst Rick Santelli's remarks critical of Obama's homeowner-bailout program, at least 40 "tea party" protests are scheduled across the nation. Many of the groups will gather on February 27 and April 15 to protest both high taxes and irresponsible federal deficit spending. (As a sign of the times, the protests likely will not involve the actual dumping of tea in any body of water lest the Environmental Protection Agency arrest and fine the protesters.) [1403,1424]

Obama's Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, blames banks for America's loss of confidence in the economy, saying, *"They've created a deep hole of public distrust and anger which is enormously damaging, and they have a huge obligation to try to restore that basic trust and confidence. And we're going to make sure they do it by making sure that our assistance comes with conditions."* Geithner neglects to acknowledge the federal government's role in the current economic crisis, or explain that banks made tens of thousands of subprime loans

at the insistence of Congress. At the same time, White House economic advisor Paul Volcker calls for more banking regulations, failing to admit that it was federal regulations that required banks to make substandard loans for “politically-correct” purposes. (It is unclear why Obama, Geithner, and Volcker expect bankers to cooperate while they are being continually castigated.) [1410,1411]

Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad meets with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga (Obama’s cousin) to discuss mutual interests. [1450,1451]

On February 26, Obama’s Middle East envoy George Mitchell arrives in Israel, likely to attempt to persuade the country to remove Israelis from Judea and Samaria. Mitchell will probably also try to get the new Netanyahu government to accept a combined Fatah-Hamas government in Gaza – which the Bush administration had rejected, but which Obama would accept in order to pressure Israel to give up even more land to the Palestinians. Supporting a combined Fatah-Hamas government means the Obama administration is legitimizing the terrorist group Hamas. Mitchell’s activities, on behalf of Obama, start out in a generally anti-Israel direction. [1447]

A complaint is filed with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) on February 26, alleging that Obama received illegal foreign campaign contributions by virtue of accommodations and security provided to him by the city of Berlin when he gave a speech there on July 24, 2008. [1409]

At the Conservative Political Action Conference on February 26, Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) warns that Obama and his fellow Democrats are seeking a “*Europeanized economy*” with greater government control of the energy and health care industries. Ryan criticizes Obama’s mortgage bail-out program, saying, “...if you acted responsibly, if you saved your money and you kept paying your mortgage like 93 per cent of the rest of Americans do, you’re out of luck. You’re not getting a lower house payment, and the government will force you to sacrifice even more through higher taxes to bail out reckless lenders and irresponsible borrowers.” Ryan remarks that Obama is re-writing Karl Marx’s famous saying, “*From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs,*” to “*from the suckers who followed the rules, to those who borrowed beyond their means.*” [1422]

At the Marine Corps’ Camp Lejeune, North Carolina on February 27, Obama commits to removing all *combat troops* out of Iraq by August 31, 2010. Obama has, however, committed to keeping 35,000 to 50,000 troops in Iraq indefinitely in support and training positions, and for “limited” counterterrorism efforts. (Rather than “combat troops,” they will be referred to as “Advisory Training Brigades” or “Advisory Assistance Brigades.”) Setting a withdrawal date signals to the terrorists that they will have free rein after that date, and tells al Qaeda when it will be safe for more of them to re-enter Iraq. Obama’s dilemma is that if he

quickly withdraws troops from Iraq and declares a victory, he will necessarily be giving the credit to former President Bush – because Obama will have done nothing to contribute toward that victory. (If democracy in Iraq succeeds, Obama will have had no part in establishing it.) If Obama quickly pulls out all troops and a disaster ensues, he will be held responsible. (Most withdrawn troops will likely be sent to Afghanistan, not back to the United States.) If Obama stays the course and continues the Bush policies, he will alienate the liberals who elected him to get the troops out of Iraq immediately – and certainly do not want to see 50,000 left behind. During the campaign Obama had promised to withdraw all troops within 16 months (not from any expert strategy position on his part, but simply because there were then 16 brigades in Iraq and military experts warned that removing more than one brigade per month was unwise). [1423,1452,1463]

As Obama enters the room to deliver his speech at Camp Lejeune, *none* of the assembled Marines applaud him. The only applause comes from a few officers seated on the podium. (That contrasts dramatically with the strong applause President Bush always received when introduced to the troops.) One CNN anchor reluctantly notes the *“tepid response”* received by Obama. [1573]

Although Obama pledged to remove all combat troops from Iraq by August 31, 2010, he left himself substantial “wiggle room,” with advisors reminding the media that his withdrawal plan is subject to *“conditions on the ground.”* Further, Congressman John McHugh, ranking Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, was *“assured”* by Obama that he will *“revisit the tempo of the withdrawal, or he will revisit the withdrawal plan if the situation on the ground dictates it,”* and that there is a *“Plan B.”* According to NBC Pentagon correspondent Jim Miklaszewski, *“Military commanders... are already making plans for a significant number of American troops to remain in Iraq... and one senior military commander told us (NBC) that he expects large numbers of American troops to be in Iraq for the next 15 to 20 years.”* [1580]

A “tea party” protesting Obama’s massive tax and spending increases held in San Diego attracts about 600 people. Protestor signs include, *“Repeal the pork or your bacon is cooked.”* At a protest in North Carolina a young child wears a shirt with the words, *“Obama, get your hands out of my piggy bank!”* About 600 people protest in Nashville, and 100 of them march to Democrat Jim Cooper’s office to complain about his stimulus bill vote. *“Free markets, not free loaders”* reads one sign. In Cleveland, a young child holds a sign that charges *“I read as much of the stimulus bill as my Congressman.”* A protestor in Washington, D.C., wearing a Revolutionary War uniform, holds a sign that says, *“Give me liberty or give me debt.”* [1425,1426]

After weeks of revelations that several Obama appointees have failed to properly pay their income taxes, White Counsel Gregory Craig takes control of the vetting process. It is then (barely) reported that Craig’s wife, Derry Noyes, runs a

business, Noyes Graphics, out of their Washington, D.C. home – without the business permits or registration with the city’s division of corporations. [1429]

By a vote of 87-11 the Senate approves Senator DeMint’s “Broadcaster Freedom Amendment,” which would prohibit the FCC from reinstating the “Fairness Doctrine.” That is quickly followed by an amendment from Illinois Senator Dick Durbin to encourage the FCC to promote “diverse media ownership.” Durbin’s amendment, which passes 57-41 (along party lines), essentially renders DeMint’s useless because federally-mandated “affirmative action” among radio station owners can also be used by Democrats to reduce the influence of conservative radio talk show commentators. [1483,1526]

CNBC’s Lawrence Kudlow writes that Obama’s budget essentially is a declaration of war on *“investors, entrepreneurs, small businesses, large corporations, and private-equity and venture-capital funds.”* In essence, Obama’s plans will work to destroy the engine of capitalism and expand the size of government to 30 per cent of gross domestic product – nearly double the percentage when conservative Republicans last balanced the budget in the 1990s. Kudlow warns that any middle-class tax cuts will be more than offset by higher prices on energy caused by Obama’s punishing cap-and-trade regulations, while Obama’s *“tax hikes will generate lower growth and fewer revenues”* and his *“...rosy scenario of four per cent recovery growth... is not likely to occur.”* [1430]

Obama’s budget will raise the 33 per cent tax bracket to 36, and the 36 per cent bracket to 39.6. Capital gains and dividends taxes will rise from 15 to 20 per cent for upper-income earners. Itemized deductions would be reduced as well. Opposition to Obama’s tax increases will likely grow steadily as the legislation heads to the House of Representatives. Congressman Jeb Hensarling warns, *“You cannot help the job-seeker by punishing the job creator.”* The top 20 per cent of taxpayers currently pay 80 per cent of all income taxes, while 40 per cent of households pay no income tax at all. Obama’s plan will increase those numbers to 90 per cent and almost 50 per cent. A budget analyst at the Heritage Foundation, Brian M. Reidl, states that *“...Obama is offering a free lunch to a lot of Americans on the backs of 5 per cent of the taxpayers. That can be called class warfare. I think a lot of Americans believe that even the rich should not face tax rates that add up to about 50 per cent.”* Reidl warned that *“You can only increase taxes on the rich so much before they stop working, saving and investing, and that reduces economic growth for everybody.”* Dustin Stamper, a tax analyst at Grant Thornton LLP, warns that Obama is *“being so generous at the lower-income level that making \$200,000 is going to be like falling off a cliff. Say what you want about the Bush tax cuts favoring the rich, but this (Obama’s tax plan) is just becoming punitive.”* If people making \$200,000 - \$500,000 stop spending, the economy will grind to a halt. [1486,1487]

Obama's budget includes a doubling of foreign aid, to about \$50 billion, and an approximate 10 per cent increase in the State Department's budget, to \$51.7 billion. Nations receiving foreign aid include Israel, Egypt, Pakistan, Jordan, Kenya, South Africa, and Mexico. An estimated \$8 billion will go to the International Monetary Fund. Additional funds will also go to international programs on "global warming." [1506]

Sales of Ayn Rand's monumental novel, *"Atlas Shrugged,"* almost triple over the first seven weeks of 2009, compared with 2008 sales. The increase is likely the result of the similarities of the "producers versus parasites" plot line of the book compared with the Obama-Democrat "redistribute the wealth" policies and actions to increase the size and power of the federal government at the expense of the individual. *"Who is John Galt?"* placards are seen at events protesting Obama's policies. *"Colony 14"* is another novel (by the author of this timeline) which many readers remark contains ominous parallels with current events. Sales of *"Colony 14"* have increased as well. Gun sales have also skyrocketed, with many Americans worried that Obama and Holder will soon make it difficult – if not impossible – to purchase weapons and ammunition. [1432]

Attorney General Eric *"nation of cowards"* Holder tours the terrorist detainee facility at Guantanamo Bay, inadvertently emphasizing a conflict of interest by his presence. If Holder reports that detainees are treated favorably, that works against the interests of his former law firm (Covington and Burling), which is representing several prisoners who have alleged torture and mistreatment. Although Holder is no longer with the firm, he still has ties with his former partners and is due a substantial amount of severance pay, and it is in the interests of the law firm for Holder to state that there is, in fact, abuse and mistreatment of prisoners. [1464]

On February 27 the DJIA closes at 7,062.93, its lowest level in 12 years, and a drop of over 1,200 points since Obama's inauguration. [1238]

Attorney General Holder intentionally keeps silent about a Justice Department victory in a Voting Rights Act lawsuit against the Noxubee, Mississippi Democrat Party Chairman Ike Brown. The Fifth Circuit Court issues its decision on February 27, saying that the defendants had *"...intentionally discriminated against the county's... voters in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act," "engaged in improper, and in some instances fraudulent conduct,"* and *"committed blatant violations of state election laws... for the purpose of diluting... voting strength."* Although the Justice Department normally issues a press release to announce court victories, it did not do so with this case – despite it having been about one of the worst cases of intentional voting discrimination in 40 years. It appears the reason for Holder's silence is that the defendants in the case were black, and the blatant discrimination that took place was against white voters. [1888]

The Internet site msn.careerbuilder.com posts an arguably smarmy article suggesting that employees can “accelerate” their careers or simply “hang onto” the jobs they have now by emulating Obama. The article states, *“The president stands out not only for his political talent, but because he knows how to share credit, accept blame, be self-deprecating, talk straight and make sure that both senior and junior colleagues stand out. Whether you’re a senior executive, a manager or an intern, you can learn lessons from President Obama that will make you great on the job.”* [1683]

Economists point out that the Obama budget and tax plan will have a disastrous impact on Americans earning between \$250,000 and \$500,000 because of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) and changes to reduce the amount of deductions that can be itemized. Although Obama pledged that their tax rates would merely go back to levels that were in place under the Clinton administration, his pledge apparently applied only to the *rate* of taxes. By *also* imposing limitations on itemized deductions – primarily mortgage interest and charitable deductions – Obama will be forcing taxpayers into higher brackets. Taxes will therefore rise sharply for people earning more than \$250,000 – *significantly* more than many anticipated on election day. [1435]

Conservative talk radio commentator Rush Limbaugh gives a nationally-televised speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in which he defends conservative principles and his previous comment that he hoped Obama would fail. Limbaugh states, *“This notion that I want the President to fail, folks, this shows you a sign of the problem we’ve got. That’s nothing more than common sense and to not be able to say it, why in the world do I want what we just described, rampant government growth indebtedness, wealth that’s not even being created yet that is being spent, what is in this? What possibly is in this that anybody of us wants to succeed?”* and *“So what is so strange about being honest to say that I want Barack Obama to fail if his mission is to restructure and reform this country so that capitalism and individual liberty are not its foundation? Why would I want that to succeed?”* [1461]

Although many liberals in the media make a tremendous fuss over Limbaugh’s comment that he wants Obama to fail (in implementing his leftist policies), Fox News reports that on the morning of September 11, 2001 Democrat strategist James Carville met with a group of Washington reporters and told them, *“I don’t care if people like him (President Bush) or not, just so they don’t vote for him and his party. That’s all I care about. I hope he doesn’t succeed, but I am a partisan Democrat.”* (Carville’s Limbaugh-like comments were not reported by the media because, minutes later, the World Trade Centers were struck by hijacked airliners.) [1650,1666]

Liberals are as annoyed by Limbaugh’s speech as conservatives are encouraged. Hugh Hewitt writes afterward, *“Rush gave a speech... that will be*

talked about for years and even decades,” while liberals described the speech as “angry” and alienating to “moderate voters.” [1477]

Quick-witted and sharp-tongued columnist and author Ann Coulter also appears at CPAC, remarking that *“it’s amazing the media keeps comparing Obama to Lincoln and Reagan. The press apparently can’t think of a Democrat worthy enough to compare him to.”* Coulter downplays Obama’s election victory with only 53 per cent of the vote, saying that beating McCain is *“the equivalent of George Foreman in his prime beating Helen Thomas in the twelfth round on a technical knockout.”* [1468,1473]

A panel discussion at CPAC discusses the influence of the activist group ACORN, to which Obama and the Democrats had just funneled hundreds of millions of dollars via the stimulus bill. Heather Heidelbaugh, vice president of the Republican National Lawyers Association, remarks that ACORN’s *“antics include embezzlement, cover-ups, document destruction, misuse of taxpayer funds for political purposes, voter fraud, campaign finance violations, and non-profits abuse.”* She charges that while many people believe *“ACORN is all about trying to conduct massive voter register drives,”* that is *“just a ruse. What ACORN is trying to do is change the very core of what America is. And they’re using poor people and people of color to do it.”* [1469]

It is reported on February 27 that Obama may not send representatives to the “Durban II” conference. Israel and Canada had already decided to boycott the meetings due to their likely anti-Semitic bias, and some Jewish groups in the United States have been pushing for a boycott by the U.S. [1448]

The Obama administration files a brief relating to the court case *Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation et al. v. Obama, et al.* The plaintiffs charged that their conversations were illegally intercepted by the National Security Agency, and asked for a review of a classified document which allegedly will prove illegal eavesdropping. Obama’s brief argues that the court has no right to request the document, and a refusal to release it is at *“...the discretion of the Executive Branch, and is not subject to judicial review”* and *“the Court does not have independent power... to order the Government to grant counsel access to classified information when the Executive Branch denied them such access.”* The brief essentially argues that anything Obama wants to keep secret can be kept secret, no court can order its release, and the President’s decision is final. (As a Senator and candidate, Obama criticized President Bush for similar claims of executive privilege.) [1490,1491]

Word spreads that Obama will pick Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius to be his Secretary of Health and Human Services (in place of Tom Daschle, who withdrew because of controversy over his failure to pay income taxes). Because of Sebelius’ pro-abortion stance (Kansas has been “the place to go” for late-term abortions because of her efforts to prevent enforcement of abortion restrictions),

her nomination will result in immediate criticism and opposition. Critics point to a 2007 event at the governor's residence attended by Dr. George Tiller, who was then under investigation by the Attorney General, and who had donated to Sebelius' campaigns. (Tiller, who donated \$35,450 to Sebelius campaigns between 1994 and 2002, went on trial in March of 2009 on 19 charges of violating Kansas' restrictions on late-term abortions; he was acquitted of all charges. Tiller still risks the loss of his medical license for violations of the Healing Arts Act, for *"performing an abortion on a fetus that was viable without having a documented referral from another physician not legally or financially affiliated with him."*) [1437,1746,2020,2083,2319,2508]

Obama moves to rescind a Bush administration rule that helps protect the jobs of doctors and nurses who, on moral grounds, refuse to perform or participate in abortions. The Bush guidelines require that institutions receiving federal funds certify that they are complying with anti-discrimination rules. Obama's action prompts the Christian Medical Association's (CMA) CEO, David Stevens, to warn that infringing on the right to practice medicine according to life-affirming ethical standards will force physicians and nurses to leave the profession and lead to the shutting down of hospitals and clinics. Stevens states that four out of 10 of the CMA's members have reported *"being pressured to violate ethical standards,"* and states that physicians lose positions and promotions, and residents lose training privileges because they refuse to perform abortions, and some students decide against a career in obstetrics because they do not want to be forced to perform abortions. The President of the Catholic Health Association, Sister Carol Keehan, relates, *"We have seen a variety of efforts to force Catholic and other healthcare providers to perform or refer for abortions and sterilizations."* Stevens adds that *"The move to rescind the healthcare provider conscience regulation imperils women's healthcare access, threatens healthcare professionals' freedom to practice medicine according to ethical standards, and exposes the myth of moderation in Obama's abortion policy."* [1438,1444,1759,1935]

On February 28, a Rasmussen poll places Obama's approval index at +10, with 39 per cent strongly approving his job performance and 29 per cent strongly disapproving (a new high). Americans sees deficit reduction as the most important issue outlined in Obama's speech to Congress on the 24th, but also view it as the least likely to be achieved. [1441,1442]

Despite cold, windy weather, over 1,000 people gather at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis to protest Obama's tax-and-spend policies. Radio host Dana Loesch rallies the crowd and emcees the event. *"We are mad as hell and we need to stay mad as hell. Don't let up,"* states Jackie Smith (former tight end for the St. Louis Cardinals football team). [1462]

It is reported that Obama's Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, has endorsed the concept of embedding radio chips in driver's licenses. The "enhanced driver's license" (EHD) could be read by a remote reading unit even if

the license remains in the individual's wallet or purse. The potential for abuse is substantial because the government could know the identity of every individual present at an event (such as an abortion protest, anti-government rally, gun show, etc.) simply by having an agent with an inconspicuous reader present in the crowd. [1443]

The Arkansas legislature passes a ban on partial-birth abortions. The legislation is expected to be signed into law by Governor Mike Beebe, putting the rule on a collision course with the ill-named "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA). The FOCA seeks to eliminate *all* state limits on abortions, but would arguably be in direct violation of the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution. Challenges to the FOCA, which will force all public hospitals and health programs with maternity services to provide abortions, will be taken to the Supreme Court if the legislation passes and is signed into law by Obama. [1445,1759]

In a video message, Obama delivers the 10th annual "State of the Black Union" address to a gathering of black politicians and entertainers in Los Angeles on February 28. Obama brags that he had done *"more in these past 30 days to bring about progressive change than we have in the past many years."* (To most politically-aware blacks and far-left Democrats, "progressive" is a code word for "socialist.") He added that his policies are *"...closing the gap between the nation we are and the nation we can be."* [1458]

Obama appears willing to have the United States party to the International Criminal Court (ICC). In February his Ambassador to the U.N., Susan Rice, supported the ICC in a closed door meeting of the U.N. Security Council, saying it *"looks to become an important and credible instrument for trying to hold accountable the senior leadership responsible for atrocities committed in the Congo, Uganda and Darfur."* Being signatory to the ICC would also, however, allow members of the U.S. military to be charged with crimes and prosecuted for atrocities by the ICC. Many would assume that an American soldier captured in Iraq or Afghanistan and arraigned on possibly trumped-up charges would get less-than-friendly treatment by a U.N. court. [1613]

March

A March 1 Rasmussen poll places Obama's approval index at +8, with 38 per cent strongly approving his job performance and 30 per cent strongly disapproving. [1459]

Obama considers canceling the production of additional F-22 Raptor fighter jets. Such a decision could cost as many as 95,000 jobs nationwide. [1668]

Sources report that American International Group, Inc. (AIG) will receive another \$30 billion in federal bail-out funds – on top of the \$150 billion in loans already provided by the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP). [1480]

The White House releases a statement claiming that Obama's stimulus bill was responsible for the reopening of Republic Windows and Doors, a Chicago company that had closed down in late 2008. No stimulus money, in fact, had gone to that company; it had simply been bought by a California business that was able to negotiate a good purchase price because of its closing. [1485]

Obama's "cap-and-trade" tax proposal for dealing with "global warming" causes a number of House and Senate Democrats concern. Some legislators want a portion of the "climate revenue" to be given to their states while others, especially in the industrial and coal-producing states, justifiably fear that Obama-caused job losses and higher utility costs will anger voters. (Cap-and-trade legislation will lead to higher prices for every American who drives or flips a light switch – not just those who earn more than \$250,000.) James Rogers, CEO of Duke Energy Corp., predicts that Obama's plan would *"increase electricity bills by as much as 40 per cent in some U.S. states,"* and Obama is *"not talking cap-and-trade, he's talking cap-and-tax."* Some opponents of the cap-and-trade scheme believe that Obama's ambitious plans will work against him. *"We want to thank the administration for killing all industry support for cap-and-trade. President Obama has consolidated the opposition,"* said William Kovacs, an energy specialist at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. And while NASA's chief (and increasingly discredited) climate scientist James Hansen leads a March 2 global warming protest in Washington, D.C., the Northeast is hit with a blizzard that dumps as much as 14 inches of snow in some areas. [1474,1475,1476,1532,1533]

On March 2, Adolfo Carrion becomes Obama's director of the White House Office on Urban Policy. Carrion, the just-resigned former president of New York's Bronx borough, received thousands in campaign contributions from developers whose projects he advocated, sponsored, or for which he approved zoning changes. Carrion received more than \$70,000 in donations from Boricua College employees and the Atlantic Development Group, which did construction work for the school. Carrion, in return, sponsored at least \$7.5 million in taxpayer funds for the projects. Carrion agreed to support construction of the new Yankee Stadium only if some local contractors like Tri-Line Construction received some of the work. Tri-Line raised \$83,700 for Carrion. [1478]

The publication Computerworld reports that classified information relating to Marine One (the Presidential helicopter) was leaked in the summer of 2008. The information was found in a publicly shared folder on a computer in Tehran, Iran. Other classified documents were found on the computer. The data appears to have originally come from a military contractor in Bethesda, Maryland. [2329]

Obama continues to have trouble finding Democrats who properly pay their income taxes. It is reported that Obama's nominee for U.S. trade Representative, Ron Kirk, owes approximately \$10,000 in back taxes. Kirk neglected to report speaking fees he received as taxable income, and he improperly deducted the cost of season tickets to the Dallas Mavericks basketball team. [1484]

On March 2, in an intentional effort to embarrass the Bush administration, Obama releases several long-secret White House documents relating to anti-terrorist policies considered after the September 11 attacks. One memorandum showed that the administration was contemplating ways to use wiretaps without first obtaining warrants. By releasing personal memoranda and discussion notes, however, Obama may inadvertently be setting a watered-down "executive privilege" precedent which may make it easier for others to obtain documents from his own administration. [1492,1505]

Obama sends a private letter to Russian president Dmitri Medvedev offering to consider discontinuing the planned defensive missile system for Poland and a radar installation in the Czech Republic if Russia agrees to help stop Iran from gaining nuclear weapons. Medvedev one-ups and humiliates Obama by making the offer public, and stating that he will gladly accept Obama's plans to drop the defensive missile program but there is no need to use Iran to haggle about it. The blunder by Obama (who had previously indicated that he might be willing to cancel the planned Eastern European installations) suggests he is certainly not a skilled poker player. A letter from 35 Congressmen to Obama had warned him "*...it is unwise and premature to offer such a concession,*" and suggested that the Russians couldn't be trusted with such a deal anyway. [1493,1504,1840]

Obama embarrasses Great Britain's Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, by meeting with him in the White House and then refusing to hold the traditional Rose Garden joint press conference with him afterward. Obama also decides not to have any British flags on display when they meet. The snub is a result of ineptitude, or perhaps an indication that Obama does not want to share the limelight for any economic recovery that may take place or give Brown credit for his proposed "global new deal." (Obama had recently annoyed Great Britain by returning a bust of Winston Churchill which had been displayed in the Oval Office.) [1494]

During his visit, Prime Minister Brown presents Obama with a signed, first-edition seven-volume biography of Winston Churchill, by Randolph Churchill and Sir Martin Gilbert. Obama gives Brown a set of 25 DVDs, purportedly from the American Film Institute's list of the top 100 American films. (The DVDs presented to Brown are not even playable in Great Britain, where different "region codes" make American DVDs unusable. Further, Brown is blind in one eye and his sight is failing in the other eye.) Brown also presents Obama with a pen holder crafted from the wood of the British ship *H.M.S. Gannet* (the first British ship to fight slave trade, and the sister ship of the famous British warship, "*The Resolute*,"

which was stuck in the ice in the Arctic, abandoned by the British, and later retrieved by Americans and returned to England). The pens are meant by Brown to symbolize the friendship between the U.S. and the U.K., and match a Presidential desk made from the H.M.S. Resolute which was previously presented to the U.S. (It is unclear what Obama's DVDs are meant to symbolize, or whether Obama will "re-gift" the pen holder or the Churchill books. Critics of Obama's gift-giving should note, however, that he does not give gifts to his children at Christmas, so he may have relatively little experience with the practice.) [357,161,1566,1611,1626,1729]

Although Obama insisted during the campaign that he would improve relations with other nations (which he argued President Bush had caused to deteriorate), his initial meeting with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown suggests Obama and his staff have a lot to learn about foreign relations. Obama is excoriated in the British press for his treatment of Brown. One report remarks that *"The Prime Minister was given a humiliatingly low key reception at the White House at the hands of a new U.S. Administration that seems to care little for the Anglo-American alliance or even the basics of international diplomacy."* The London Daily Telegraph writes, *"Obama has been rudeness personified toward Britain."* Despite Brown's unpopularity in England its citizens still expect him to be treated with dignity, prompting the media comment, *"No British leader in modern times has been greeted with less decorum by his American counterpart, and the amateur reception he received was more fitting for the arrival of a Third World potentate than the leader of America's closest ally."* One Obama staffer allegedly told the Brits, *"There's nothing special about Britain. You're just the same as the other 190 countries in the world. You shouldn't expect special treatment."* His remark may prompt Great Britain to re-think treatment it might give Obama in the future. [1587,1729,2007]

On the Senate floor on March 2, John McCain lambasts Obama for reneging on his campaign promises, saying, *"If it seems like I'm angry, it's because I am."* McCain quotes Obama's words from one of their three debates, *"We need earmark reform and when I'm president, I will go line by line to make sure we're not spending money unwisely."* McCain then remarks, *"That's the quote, the promise of the President of the United States made to the American people in a debate with me in Oxford, Mississippi. So what is brought to the floor today – 9,000 earmarks. So much for change."* [1495]

In the face of a continuing economic downturn and the stock market in a continuing decline, Obama turns his attention to a massive health care program and education spending... when the federal government cannot afford to engage in additional spending for either. To many observers Obama seems indifferent to the plunging stock market. His overall lack of a plan or strategy and the impractical tax-and-spend policies Obama has proposed work to create uncertainty and a shortage of confidence on Wall Street – precisely what needs to be avoided to get out of a recession. [1496,1497]

In a videotaped message, Obama tells more than 100 labor officials that the “Employee Free Choice Act” (EFCA) will be passed. The stealth-named legislation (which might better be called the “Employee No Choice Act”) is supported by organized labor, ACORN, and MoveOn.org, and will allow unions to organize workforces *without* secret ballots, enabling them to use pressure tactics to gain more power in the workplace. The resulting forced unionization will, at the very least, cause affected businesses to raise prices and, at the worst, force more companies overseas or out of business. (Even liberal former Senator George McGovern opposes the bill, calling it a “*disturbing and undemocratic overreach, not in the interest of either management or labor,*” and saying that the concept runs “*counter to ideals that were once at the core of the labor movement.*”) Republican Congressman Tom Price calls the bill the “*union worker intimidation act.*” In defense of the right to a secret ballot, Price, along with Congressman John Kline (R-MN), introduce the “Secret Ballot Protection Act.” The EFCA has passed in the House previously, but Democrats could safely vote for it and placate organized labor because they knew President Bush would veto the bill. The equation changes with Obama, who has promised to sign the EFCA. If Democrats now vote *against* the bill, they will anger organized labor (which gives them incredibly generous campaign donations). If Democrats vote *for* the bill, they will be responsible for the resulting higher prices and unemployment (for which they will be blamed in Republican campaign commercials). They will also anger the voters, who overwhelmingly support the right to a secret ballot. (Further, statistics show that roughly one-third of the workers who originally agree to a union organizing vote end up voting *against* the union when protected by a secret ballot. That difference reflects the union and co-worker pressure placed on employees to sign up for elections in which they are really not interested.) Congressman John Kline (R-MN) warns that independent studies show that passage of EFCA would cause the loss of at least 600,000 jobs. [1534,1535,1695,1997,2352]

After visiting Egypt, where she pledges \$900 million in U.S. aid to Gaza reconstruction, Secretary of State Clinton meets with Israel’s president, Shimon Peres. She later remarks, “*During the conference (in Egypt), I emphasized President Obama’s and my commitment to working to achieve a two-state solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and our support for the Palestinian Authority.*” Clinton’s words were no doubt carefully weighed by Israel’s Prime Minister-designate Binyamin Netanyahu, who will form a government that is likely to bristle at demands from Obama and Clinton for Israel to give up more land to the Palestinians. Clinton also states she is “*very doubtful*” that diplomacy alone can persuade Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions (even though Obama, while on the campaign trail, led voters to believe he would accomplish that). [1498,1499]

While Hillary Clinton, on Obama’s behalf, plans an “aggressive” pursuit of peace in the Middle East (at Israel’s expense), Binyamin Netanyahu argues that

weakening Iran is the key to ending Middle East conflict. An aide to Netanyahu says, *“Iran’s growing power and intransigence give great advantage to the radical elements among Palestinians and in Lebanon,”* and *“Any progress in the Middle East peace talks will require Hamas’ weakening which can be achieved only if Iran is seen as weakened.”* Although Israel supports peaceful international efforts to resolve the problem of Iran’s quest for a nuclear weapon, it refuses to rule out military action as a last resort if negotiations or sanctions fail. If Israel sends bombers to take out Iran’s nuclear facilities, it will have to cross Iraqi airspace to do so. (Other routes would require too much fuel, and Israel does not have the in-flight refueling capabilities of the U.S.) It remains to be seen whether Obama would allow Israel to fly over Iraq on its mission – or what it would do to prevent it from doing so. [1684]

Although Clinton argues that none of the \$900 million in aid to Gaza relief operations will end up in the hands of the terrorist group Hamas, only \$300 million of the amount is designated for humanitarian aid. Money will go to the Palestinian Authority (PA), nongovernmental organizations, and the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA). Israeli critics argue that aid to Gaza necessarily helps Hamas, and that corruption will likely leave Hamas getting some of the cash (just as leader Yassir Arafat was able to amass a personal fortune from funds given to the PA). The UNRWA’s reputation for corruption prompts Congressman Mark Kirk (R-IL) to warn, *“To route \$900 million to this area, and let’s say Hamas was only able to steal 10 percent of that, we would still become Hamas’ second-largest funder after Iran. If it goes thru UNRWA, which has not had an outside audit, then there’s going to be grave concern.”* The UNRWA has used the state-owned Commercial Bank of Syria for fund-raising. The U.S. Treasury imposed sanctions on the bank for laundering money in the U.N.’s scandalous Iraqi “oil for food” program, and the bank has also handled transactions that involved terrorist financing. Secretary of State Clinton does not provide details as to how the \$900 million would be properly and safely distributed. [1502,1508,1516,1584]

While Obama is giving \$900 million in aid to Gaza with too few restrictions, the U.S. is cutting back on its military aid to Israel. In an effort to push Israel toward accepting Obama’s demands to appease the Palestinians, Pentagon guidelines will now require a detailed accounting of how the Israeli Defense Forces uses every single item purchased with U.S. funds. In the meantime, unprovoked Palestinian rocket attacks against Israel have returned to levels that preceded “Operation Cast Lead,” and Iran and Syria have continued to supply Hamas with weapons and ammunition. [1517]

Their ears still ringing from hearing constituent complaints about the \$787 billion stimulus bill, some Democrats appear less than eager to wholeheartedly support Obama’s \$410 billion spending bill and \$3.6 trillion budget. Congressman Harry E. Mitchell of Arizona states, *“I don’t agree with the administration about letting all those tax cuts expire for upper-income families.”* Congresswoman Gabrielle

Giffords, also of Arizona, remarks, *“A lot needs to be done to help people keep their homes. But I’m just not sure about this (mortgage bail-out) bill,”* and *“...I could not vote for the omnibus \$410 billion spending bill.”* One fomenting problem is that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi allows little time for debate or amendments, and expects all Democrats to simply fall into line and vote as she demands. Connecticut’s John B. Larson comments, *“Everything’s coming at them fast and furious. The more that people get an opportunity to go back and forth... the greater the comfort level they will have.”* [1500]

ABC News reports on taxpayers who are working on ways to reduce their incomes to just under the \$250,000 level, to avoid the substantial tax increases in Obama’s proposed budget. *“We are going to try to figure out how to make our income \$249,999,”* states an attorney in Lafayette, Louisiana. *“We have to find a way out where we can make just what we need to just under the line so we can benefit from Obama’s tax plan. Why kill yourself working if you’re going to give it all away to people who aren’t working as hard?”* Boulder, Colorado dentist Sharon Poczatek remarks, *“The motivation for a lot of people like me – dentists, entrepreneurs, lawyers – is that the more you work the more money you make. But if I’m going to be working just to give it back to the government... it’s demotivating and demoralizing.”* [1503]

Alaskan State Senator Kim Elton resigns from his seat to accept a job as Director of Alaska Affairs for the Department of the Interior. The job is considered by some a reward from Obama for Elton’s role in pushing the investigation of Governor Sarah Palin, who wanted a state trooper fired for various incidents (drinking on the job and “taser” his step-son, who happened to be Palin’s nephew). [1514]

The New York Times prints an opinion piece by self-proclaimed moderate David Brooks, in which he expresses amazement that Obama is a leftist. Brooks writes that he is *“...forced to confront the reality that Barack Obama is not who we thought he was. His words are responsible; his character is inspiring. But his actions betray a transformational liberalism that should put every centrist on notice. As Clive Crook, an Obama admirer, wrote in The Financial Times, the Obama budget ‘contains no trace of compromise. It makes no gesture, however small, however costless to its larger agenda, of a bipartisan approach to the great questions it addresses. It is a liberal’s dream of a new New Deal.’”* It is unclear why Brooks is surprised by Obama’s actions, which are entirely consistent with his past actions and pronouncements and with someone who is, as columnist Laura Hollis describes him, *“...an ultra-left ideologue who is going to spend the country into oblivion in order to try to achieve his Marxist coup d’etat.”* [1522,1539]

Dick Morris, political commentator and former Bill Clinton advisor, charges that Obama is engaging in a *“War on Prosperity”* in order to achieve his own ideological agenda of wealth redistribution. Morris states that Obama *“...is the*

enemy of prosperity. He, literally, favors redistribution of income as being more important – and more a function of the president – than the creation of wealth.” Morris argues that with his spending and tax plans Obama is essentially telling people, *“Spend a lot of money now, invest a lot now, and don’t worry about it. In two years, I’m going to cut your head off.”* Morris charges that by over-taxing the top income earners – the economy’s job-creators – Obama is *“...dooming his administration to worse and worse economic data.”* Those who, like Obama, ridicule the concept of “trickle down economics” will be in for a rude awakening when they learn that any significant reduction in spending by the top five per cent of the nation’s taxpayers will have a devastating effect on the bottom 95 per cent. [1507]

Although House Speaker Nancy Pelosi insured that the stimulus legislation was as far left a bill as any in memory, she nevertheless manages to anger the far-left by not doing more to get troops immediately withdrawn from Iraq. Although a blizzard kept Pelosi from attending a “global warming” rally on March 2, her critics were there to level a few barbs. “Code Pink Women for Peace” activist Leslie Angeline says, *“I don’t believe in her at all. I’m a constituent. I am from San Francisco and she has failed us in every way. She didn’t get us out of the war. She knew about torture before it started happening and she did nothing to stop it. I mean, the woman is a farce.”* Activist Jamie Henn warns, *“Pelosi needs to know that we are behind her if she is bold but we are also willing to vote her out of office if she doesn’t take action.”* [1511]

Tim Geithner, Obama’s Secretary of the Treasury, tells the House Ways and Means Committee on March 3 that Obama will propose legislation to limit the ability of U.S. companies to shelter foreign earnings from U.S. taxes, and will also try to limit the use of tax havens by wealthy Americans. (Geithner does not indicate whether the Kennedy family, which shelters a large portion of its wealth in Fiji, would be exempted from the new rules.) After hearing criticism that the Obama budget will raise taxes during a recession, Geithner responds that the budget reflects *“a deep moral imperative to make our society more just.”* Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI) warns that *“This massive hidden (cap-and-trade) energy tax is going to work its way through every aspect of American life. How we light our homes, heat our homes and pay for the gas in our cars, in every phase of our daily lives, we will be paying higher costs.”* Obama’s budget director Peter Orszag reluctantly admits to the Committee that Obama’s energy proposals would increase costs for consumers. (The Capitol building itself is heated by the Capitol Power Plant just a few blocks away, which relies on coal and is the largest single source of air pollution in Washington, D.C.) [1510,1513,2009]

Aware that Obama is planning on closing the terrorist detainee facility at Guantanamo without any concrete plans on what to do with the detainees, Congressman John Shadegg (R-AZ) introduces a bill preventing any of the approximate 250 detainees from being allowed into the United States. Says

Shadeegg, *"No American family should ever have to worry about their own government placing a terrorist in their community,"* The bill will be up for a vote only if it can get through the House Judiciary Committee, which is controlled by Democrats. [1512]

Although the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged to 6,763 on March 2 – its lowest close since April 25, 1967 – and millions of Americans have lost hundreds of billions in retirement assets as a result – Obama says on March 3 that he doesn't look at *"the day-to-day gyrations of the stock market,"* but follows whether businesses are investing and the unemployed are going back to work. He adds that, *"The stock market is sort of like a tracking poll in politics. It bobs up and down day-to-day. And if you spend all your time worrying about that, then you're probably going to get the long-term strategy wrong,"* but he seems not to have noticed that the "bobbing" has been going only down – and businesses are not investing and the unemployed are not going back to work. Obama continues, *"What you're now seeing is... is, uh... profit and earning ratios are... are starting to, uh, get to the point where buying stocks is a potentially good deal if you've got a long term perspective on it."* His remark may not install much confidence in those who were planning on retirement in the near future (four out of every seven American families experienced stock losses, realized or unrealized, of at least \$100,000 during the current bear market, according to Kiplinger's, BTN Research), or those who understand that "*P and E*" stands for "*price to earnings*" ratio, not "*profit and earning ratio*." If Obama does not understand the price to earnings ratio, he may perhaps not even realize that money is made in the stock market in only two ways: capital gains and dividends – and he is raising taxes on both. [1515,1527]

The Senate votes 63-32, mostly along party lines, against an attempt by John McCain (R-AZ) to remove 8,500 earmarks totaling about \$2 billion from the \$410 billion spending bill. The bill will therefore retain \$1.7 million for "pig odor research," \$2 million for the "promotion of astronomy," \$6.6 million for termite research, and \$2.1 million for the "Center for Grape Genetics." [1519]

Two Democrat and two Republican Congressmen introduce a bill to make the Census Bureau an independent agency, under the control of neither the Commerce Department nor the President. The move is an attempt to prevent Obama from placing the 2010 census under the control of Rahm Emanuel, who would be expected to "cook the books" to insure that the results favor Democrats. [1520]

CNBC host Jim Cramer calls Obama's budget a *"radical agenda"* and says *"This is the greatest wealth destruction I've (ever) seen by a President."* Obama's press secretary, Robert Gibbs, having no legitimate defense for the charge instead ridicules the ratings of CNBC, remarking, *"If you turn on a certain program it's geared to a very small audience. No offense to my good friends, our friends at CNBC. But the President has to look out for the broader economy and*

the broader population.” Cramer had been a strong supporter of Obama during the campaign. [1523]

At least one of the soldiers who is a plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging Obama’s eligibility to serve as President has been ordered by his commanding officer not to speak with the media. [1525]

Republicans are quick to come out publicly in opposition to Obama’s \$3.6 trillion budget, but even some prominent Democrats have some problems with it. Charles Rangel (D-NY), powerful chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, expresses a reluctance to go along with Obama’s plan to reduce the tax deductibility of charitable contributions, saying *“I would never want to adversely affect anything that is charitable or good.”* Secretary of the Treasury Geithner admits that consumers would face higher utility bills because of Obama’s “greenhouse gas fees,” saying, *“...if people don’t change how they use energy, then they will face higher costs for energy.”* [1529]

Harvard University economics professor and researcher Robert Barro estimates the odds of the U.S. falling into a depression are one in five. *“If we are lucky,”* says Barro, *“the current downturn will also be moderate, though likely worse than the other U.S. post-World War II recessions, including 1982.”* Barro is not confident that the Obama administration is doing the right things, however, and states, *“I think it more likely that the economy will eventually recover despite these policies, rather than because of them.”* Investment guru Jim Rogers echoes Barro’s sentiments, and criticizes the government for not allowing businesses to go bankrupt, saying *“None of (this) does much for the economy down the road. It’s trying to postpone some pain we’re going to have to take.”* [1531]

Democrat Senators Birch Bayh (D-IN) and Russ Feingold (D-WI) sharply criticize Obama’s \$410 billion spending bill and say they will vote against it. Bayh slams the bill, calling it *“a sprawling, \$410 billion compilation of nine spending measures that lacks the slightest hint of austerity from the federal government or the recipients of its largess.”* Feingold tells RollCall.com, *“I’m going to vote against it. I’m not going to vote on this.”* [1536]

Obama nominates Julius Genachowski as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Attorney Genachowski graduated from Harvard Law School in 1991 and clerked for Supreme Court Justices William Brennan and David Souter. Conservative criticism over Democrat plans to reinstate the “Fairness Doctrine” led Obama to say he will not do so, but it is believed the FCC will attempt to reduce the influence of conservative talk radio by using legal technicalities to yank broadcast licenses (which expire every seven years) from some radio stations in order to turn them over to minority broadcasters who would remove commentators like Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity from their schedules. Legally, the Fairness Doctrine can be reinstated by

the FCC; the action does not require an act of Congress or the signing of a bill by Obama. It can therefore be reinstated while he maintains that he is in opposition to it. [1547,1548]

The administration unveils a new emblem to identify “stimulus projects” from the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The symbol consists of white stars on a blue field with the URL recovery.org, an outline of leaves on a green background, and cogged wheels. All are contained within a large “O” to continually remind the public that Obama is responsible for the project – something that may work against Obama when Americans see taxpayer-funded work crews wasting time doing nothing on a construction site. [1590]

Stephanie Miller, host of a barely-listened-to liberal radio talk show, calls the Larry King television broadcast on March 3 and states that for daring to criticize Obama and hoping that his policies fail, conservative talk-show host Rush Limbaugh “...*should be executed for treason.*” King neither challenges nor questions Miller’s remark. [1553]

At a press conference in Israel on March 3, Secretary of State Clinton announces that Obama will be sending senior envoys to Damascus to begin “*preliminary conversations*” on improving U.S. ties with Syria. The very next day U.S. ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), George Schulte, charges at its Board of Governor’s meeting that Syria has been hiding its nuclear weapons activities and blocking U.N. inspectors from four suspected nuclear sites. Hours later Senator John Kerry, who had just returned from a trip to Syria, tells the Brookings Institute that the U.S. is attempting to appease Syrian President Bashar Assad. Obama is apparently willing to loosen sanctions on Syria for its help in pressuring Israel to surrender the Golan Heights. Israel will be the loser in the deal, while the U.S. would seem to be gaining nothing. The Obama administration appears to be working more toward sacrificing Israel for the sake of Palestinian statehood than preventing Iran and Syria from obtaining nuclear weapons. [1583]

Congressman Joseph Crowley (D-NY) warns Treasury Secretary Geithner about bonuses to AIG executives at a March 3 hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee. “*Just last month AIG paid 343 employees of AIG FP, their Financial Products division that created the financial hole that AIG is in, and in turn a multibillion-dollar bill for American taxpayers – \$56 million in bonuses and are slated to pay an additional \$162 million in bonuses to 393 participants in the coming weeks. There’s more,*” lectured Crowley. “*Further bonus payments totaling approximately \$230 million are due to 407 participants at AIG’s Financial Products division in March 2010. This makes no sense to my constituency.*” (Despite having attended this hearing, Geithner later claims he was not aware of the payment of AIG bonuses until March 10 and did not inform Obama until March 12.) [1901]

On March 4, conservative talk show giant Rush Limbaugh, responding to Democrat attempts to paint him as the de facto head of the Republican Party, challenges Obama to a debate on his radio program. Limbaugh says, *"If these guys are so impressed with themselves, and if they are so sure of their correctness, why doesn't President Obama come on my show? We will do a one-on-one debate of ideas and policies."* He then adds, *"I am offering President Obama to come on this program – without staffers, without a TelePrompTer, without note cards – to debate me on the issues. Let's talk about free markets versus government control. Let's talk about nationalizing health care and raising taxes on small business... Let's talk about the New Deal versus Reaganomics... Let's talk about closing Guantanamo Bay, and let's talk about sending \$900 million to Hamas. Let's talk about illegal immigration and the lawlessness on the borders. Let's talk about massive deficits and the destroying of opportunities of future generations..."* [1537,1563]

Business competitors of insurance AIG complain to Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke that the massive amount of federal bail-out funds given to AIG has allowed it to lower prices on policies and unfairly undercut its competition. AIG is therefore gaining new customers and increasing its market share, aided by the government, at a time when the government has been stating that AIG had to be saved from bankruptcy because it was *"too big to fail."* [1926]

Odds increase that Israel will take military action against Iran to prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons. Affecting the situation is Russia's pledge to supply Iran with its S-300 surface-to-air missile system, and Israel's perception that it will have to *"go it alone,"* with little support from the Obama administration. [1538]

Despite (or perhaps because of) the profligate spending of the Obama administration, billionaire investor Warren Buffet says in a letter to Berkshire Hathaway shareholders, *"We're certain... that the economy will be in shambles throughout 2009 – and, for that matter, probably well beyond. But that conclusion does not tell us whether the stock market will rise or fall."* [1540]

Fifteen Republican legislators in Missouri propose an amendment to their state constitution that would require Presidential candidates to provide official copies of their birth certificates to confirm that they are natural born citizens. The proposal is an attempt to keep Obama off the November, 2012 ballot, in the belief that he is not a natural born citizen eligible to serve as President. [1593]

Former Secretary Treasurer James Baker says in the Financial Times that failing banks should not be rescued but be allowed to fail. *"We should divide the banks into three groups: the healthy, the hopeless, and the needy. Leave the healthy alone and quickly close the hopeless. The needy should be reorganized and recapitalized, preferably through private investment or debt-to-equity swaps but, if necessary, through public funds."* Chairman and CEO of WL Ross and Company, Wilbur Ross, argues against nationalization of any banks, telling

CNBC that “...if you also make the big commercial banks government-owned, it will be that the government is the only place where you can get a loan and if you nationalize a few government banks, why would a big depositor deposit his money anywhere but a government bank?” [1540,1541]

On March 5, Obama’s friend William Ayers appears with controversial professor Ward Churchill at a student rally for academic freedom in Boulder, Colorado. Churchill, who was fired from his Colorado University teaching job on charges of plagiarism, is infamous for calling the victims of the WTC attack “*little Eichmanns*,” while Ayers’ history includes terrorist bombings and spending years hiding from the FBI. [1544]

In a staged photo op, Michelle Obama dishes food at “Miriam’s Kitchen,” a soup kitchen not far from the White House, to show that “she cares” and to encourage others to volunteer to help the less fortunate. At the scene a homeless man waiting in line to be served by the First Lady takes her picture with his cell phone camera. She does not ask how he can afford cell phone service if he is unemployed, where his cell phone bill is mailed if he is homeless, or whether he owns a computer for downloading and printing the photos he takes. (But she does support her husband’s \$3.6 trillion budget, which calls for a substantial increase in welfare spending over the prior year’s federal budget.) [2123]

A “Geithner motion” is filed in federal District Court to dismiss the case *U.S. v. David Jacquot* (Case Cr 080-1171) on the basis that Jacquot was not treated in the same manner as politically prominent and persons. Jacquot intends to subpoena Secretary Treasurer Timothy Geithner and Congressman Charles Rangel who, because of their political connections and “elite” status, escaped prosecution for failure to properly pay required income taxes. Jacquot claims the IRS harassed him because of his successful defense of clients against the federal tax agency. (One judge sided with Jacquot and awarded his clients hundreds of thousands of dollars in attorney fees for having to defend themselves against a bogus case brought against them by the government.) Jacquot’s corporate law firm tax returns were investigated four years in a row and it was ultimately decided that not only had he not underpaid taxes he had reported too much income. [1703,1704,1705]

The Washington Times reports that Obama’s Economic Recovery Advisory Board includes big campaign donors, a union official who pleaded the Fifth Amendment rather than testify in a federal investigation (Richard L. Trumka, who helped to illegally divert \$150,000 in union funds for the re-election of Teamster President Ron Carey in 1996), and a billionaire friend who led her Chicago bank to failure because of its extensive approval of subprime mortgages (Penny Pritzker). Obama says the group brings “...a diverse set of perspectives and voices... to bear in the formulation and evaluation of economic policy.” (It is unclear why Obama believes someone whose bank “cooked its books” and then failed should be involved in shaping the nation’s economic policy.) Other

members of Obama's economic advisory board include Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of General Electric (which has received federal bail-out funds), Mark Gallogly (director of Dana Holding Corp., who raised \$200,000 for Obama), and Robert Wolf (who raised \$370,000 for Obama and who is head of the American branch of UBS Investment Bank – which is infamous for helping wealthy Americans shelter income in Switzerland to avoid taxes). [1544,1594]

Sweden's Social Democratic Workers' Party (a leftist-Marxist party that is often referred to as simply the "Social Democrats") engages Thomas Gensemer and his Blue State Digital company to assist in winning 2010 elections. Blue State Digital was widely used by Obama to drum up early support and to collect tens of millions in Internet campaign contributions – many of which were poorly documented and may have been illegal foreign contributions. [1546]

It is reported that Syria is building an additional chemical weapons factory adjacent to a long-range missile base and hiding evidence of a nuclear weapons program. Syria receives funding for the projects from Iran, possibly in preparation for a war against Israel if it should elect to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities. Obama, rather than getting tougher on Syria is doing the opposite, having approved the export of repair parts for Syria's Boeing 747 aircraft fleet (which has been used to deliver weapons from Iran to Hezb'Allah terrorists in Lebanon). Over the last six years Syria's weapons budget has grown from \$100 million to \$3 billion, largely through the help of Iran. [1549]

On March 5 the stock market's DJIA closed down 281 points, dropping 4.1 per cent for the day. *Since Obama was inaugurated, investors have lost an estimated \$2.5 trillion dollars, and the Dow has lost 20.4 per cent since the swearing in ceremony.* The stock market is understandably reacting negatively to Obama's \$787 billion "stimulus" bill, pending \$410 billion spending bill, \$3.6 trillion budget, \$634 billion health care plan, and \$1 trillion (or more) in tax increases, and sees no end in sight to his massive deficit-spending plans that will be a monumental drag on the economy. [1550]

The Federal Reserve Board states that over the previous five months the U.S. money supply has almost tripled, increasing by 271 per cent. The eventual release of that cash into the economy will result in price increases, because the amount of money will have increased while the amount of goods and services has remained relatively static (or even been reduced, by virtue of a decline in the Gross Domestic Product). More money chasing fewer goods and services necessarily results in inflation – the result of the increase in the money supply by the Federal Reserve Board. The incredible deficit-spending of the Obama administration will continue into the future, prompting additional increases in the money supply. The eventual resulting inflation is likely to be even higher than Americans have experienced since Jimmy Carter was President in the 1970s. The problem faced by Obama and the Federal Reserve Board's Ben Bernanke is that they have no more bullets left in their gun; that is, there are no other policies

they can try. Either the massive deficit-spending will adequately “prime the pump” and get the economy moving again or it will not. Even if their policies work, inflation will necessarily appear somewhere down the line. (Never in the history of the world has a government inflated the money supply without causing price increases.) And if their policies do *not* work (which many economists say is likely), the nation will be faced with both a struggling economy *and* inflation. [1775]

CNBC analyst Jim Cramer blasts Obama, saying he “*has undeniably made things worse by creating an atmosphere of fear and panic rather than an atmosphere of calm and hope.*” Cramer had been an Obama supporter. [1551]

A federal judge, on March 5, throws out a lawsuit challenging Obama’s eligibility to serve as President, calling the case a waste of time. U.S. District Judge James Robertson’s written opinion states, “*This case, if it were allowed to proceed, would deserve mention in one of those books that seek to prove that the law is foolish or that America has too many lawyers with not enough to do.*” [1564]

Obama names Vivek Kundra his Federal Chief Information Officer, where he will direct “*the policy and strategic planning of federal information technology investments*” and be “*responsible for oversight of federal technology spending.*” Obama states that “*Kundra will bring a depth of experience in the technology arena and a commitment to lowering the cost of government operations to this position*” and “*he will play a key role in making sure our government is running in the most secure, open, and efficient way possible.*” (Within a week Kundra is on a leave of absence, after an FBI raid of his former place of employment, the technology office of the city of Washington, D.C. Although several of his former co-workers are arrested, there is no immediate indication that Kundra is a target of any investigation.) [1697,1698,1699]

A crowd generously estimated at 50,000 marches on New York City’s city hall on March 5, demanding that the state’s budget not be cut because of a \$15 billion shortfall. The governor, David Paterson, has proposed across the board cuts in education, health care, senior services, disability services, housing assistance, and crisis intervention programs; many of the protesters are state workers and union members. Protesters demand raising state taxes on those earning more than \$250,000... on top of the Obama tax increases coming for that group. It is unclear what solution they will propose when, out of economic self-defense, a large number of those high-income earners choose simply to leave the state. [1574]

The public interest group Judicial Watch announces on March 5 that it has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit on behalf of Joseph Wurzelbacher – “Joe the plumber” from late in the Presidential campaign, who was told by Obama, “*It’s not that I want to punish your success. I just want to make sure that everybody that is behind you, that they have a chance for success too. I think when you spread the*

wealth around, it's good for everybody." The lawsuit charges that Ohio officials violated Wurzelbacher's rights when they illegally accessed his private information from government databases, allegedly in an effort to smear his reputation and discourage others from challenging Obama's policies. [295,312,1552]

The nonprofit government watchdog group Freedom Watch files a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for documents relating to the involvement of special interest groups in writing the Troubled Asset Relief program (TARP) legislation. The founder of Freedom Watch, Larry Klayman, states, *"It is important that the American people know who is pulling the strings of our government, especially when those are this nation's purse strings. With budget projections over the next eight years ranging from such substantial sums of money as \$3.5 trillion in 2010 to a whopping \$4.9 trillion in 2018, the time for transparency is now, in the initial stages while the budget is still being finalized. The accountability has to start now, the exposure has to happen now; otherwise we may find ourselves in another Iraq-like economic and political debacle, only this time it may be a financial insurgency without end. Instead of roadside bombs, it will be bank failure and corporate bankruptcy, instead of sectarian violence, it will be the 'haves' clashing against the 'have-nots,'" [1555]*

When constituents ask Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) to look into Obama's possible ineligibility to serve as President because he may not be a natural born citizen, he responds with a form letter with the lame answer that *"Presidential candidates are vetted by voters at least twice – first in the primary elections and again in the general election. President-Elect Obama won the Democratic Party's nomination after one of the most fiercely contested presidential primaries in American history.... The voters have made clear their view that Mr. Obama meets the qualifications to hold the office of president."* Senator John Kyl (R-AZ) responds to similar inquiries by referring constituents to web sites Snopes.com which, in turn, refers readers to FactCheck.org – run and financed by Obama supporters. Neither Martinez nor Kyl confront the issue directly. [1556,1557]

Senate Republicans, with help from several Democrats, block approval of Obama's pork-filled \$410 billion spending bill. Most Senators oppose the bill because of the massive waste it includes, while several object to its easing of travel restrictions to Cuba without getting any concessions from the Cuban government in return. (The ailing Senator Ted Kennedy is brought in to vote for the bill.) The House had previously approved the bill 245 to 178, with 20 Democrats voting against it. A stop-gap Senate bill is needed to fund government operations until the legislation can be amended to gain approval of more Senators. [1558]

Obama declines Rush Limbaugh's offer to debate, but the Democrat National Committee (DNC) childishly decides to enter the fray by placing an anti-Limbaugh billboard where he will allegedly see it as he drives around his

neighborhood in Palm Beach, Florida. The DNC invites Democrats across the country to compose insults (of 10 words or less) for the billboard, with a “free T-shirt” going to the winning slogan. In response to the DNC, Limbaugh says on his radio show that he hopes they are not spending taxpayer stimulus funds on the billboard. Wisely or not, Obama is making a concerted effort to “go after” Limbaugh, going so far as to have an unidentified senior White House aide “*tasked with helping to guide the Limbaugh strategy.*” Using taxpayer dollars to pay a White House aide to engage in political mudslinging is arguably illegal. (The aide may perhaps be Shauna Daly, who has the newly-created job of White House Counsel Research Director. The 29 year-old Daly’s job experience consists mostly of digging dirt on political rivals. She is no doubt aided by political gamesman David Axelrod.) Obama’s anti-Limbaugh antics boost the talk show host’s ratings significantly. By the end of March, revenue for Limbaugh’s talk show will likely exceed its entire 2008 revenue. (The eventual winning entry for the Democrat billboard is the unimaginative and unimpressive “*Americans didn’t vote for a Rush to failure.*”) The Obama administration also shows signs of intentionally going after Congressman Eric Cantor (R-VA) for his strong opposition to the Obama agenda. [1128,1562,1568,1572,1585,1633,1663,2183]

Forbes, Inc.’s CEO Steve Forbes charges Obama with repeating the mistake of George W. Bush in continuing “mark-to-market” accounting for banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions. The practice requires revaluing assets to their current market value, which prompts even stable assets to be downgraded. (If a home’s value drops from \$400,000 to \$300,000, for example, but the mortgage is for \$350,000, some argue the investment should be downgraded to \$300,000. On the other hand, if the homeowner is staying in the home and making his mortgage payments promptly each month, the mortgage-holder might still consider the loan a valuable asset worth \$350,000.) [1565]

Word is leaked on March 6 that Obama will soon sign an executive order reversing restrictions on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. Tax dollars will then be used for obtaining stem cells from aborted fetuses, as scientists start applying for taxpayer-funded grants through the National Institute of Health. Researchers want Obama to reverse the policy in order to receive NIH money. Non-controversial research on *adult* stem cells has so far produced 72 cures and treatments, while worldwide *embryonic* stem cell research has produced none. (In fact, one Israeli child with a lethal brain disease was injected with fetal stem cells that ended up triggering fatal tumors in his brain and spinal cord.) Most private money has flowed to adult stem cell research because it has been yielding results. Investors know there are as yet no proven uses for embryonic stem cells. Supporters of abortion view embryonic stem cell research as a way to justify abortions by creating an aura of a “noble cause” around the gruesome practice. [1571,1618,1635,1636]

Michael J. Boskin, a professor of economics at Stanford University and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, writes in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece,

“Obama’s Radicalism is Killing the Dow,” that “It’s hard not to see the continued sell-off on Wall Street and the growing fear on Main Street as a product, at least in part, of the realization that our new president’s policies are designed to radically re-engineer the market-based U.S. economy, not just mitigate the recession and financial crisis.” [1653]

Aboard Air Force One a reporter asks Obama, *“Are you a socialist, as some people have suggested?”* Obama responds, *“You know, let’s take a look at the budget – the answer would be no.”* After returning to the White House Obama apparently has misgivings about his response to the question, and he takes the unusual step of making a defensive “It wasn’t me who broke the window with my baseball” telephone call to reporters. He deflects the big-government argument by blaming President Bush for starting the ball rolling, saying, *“I did think it might be useful to point out that it wasn’t under me that we started buying a bunch of shares of banks. It wasn’t on my watch. And it wasn’t on my watch that we passed a massive new entitlement – the prescription drug plan – without a source of funding. And so I think it’s important just to note when you start hearing folks throw these words around that we’ve actually been operating in a way that has been entirely consistent with free-market principles and that some of the same folks who are throwing the word ‘socialist’ around can’t say the same.”* (As Senator, Obama voted for the original Wall Street bail-out in 2008. Obama was not yet a Senator when the prescription drug bill was passed. It is difficult for Obama to argue, however, that he would have voted against a federal prescription drug plan for seniors when he has always been a supporter of a single-payer national health plan.) [1601]

When asked by reporters on Air Force One if the United States is winning the war in Afghanistan, Obama answers, *“No.”* He states that he might be willing to reach out to some of the Islamic fundamentalists in the Taliban, somehow separating the hard-core radicals from the rest. It is unclear how he would distinguish one group from the other, how he would persuade the less radical elements to turn against the other insurgents, or how he would prevent the “moderates” in the Taliban (if there even are any) from abusing women and continuing Shariah law. It is also unclear how Obama could “deal” with some elements of the Taliban. Afghanistan is a sovereign nation, and any agreements must be made with its government. (Similarly, the Afghan government must deal with the United States government, not with the Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, or Green Party.) Further, Taliban leader Mullar Omar is not one to make deals – especially when he believes the Taliban is winning. It is unclear why Obama would think he could negotiate with the Taliban at a time when he publicly states the U.S. is *not* winning the war and the Taliban believes it *is*, because he would be negotiating from a position of weakness. [1592,1627]

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visits Brussels, Belgium to meet with the European Union’s Parliament, where she remarks she has *“...never understood multiparty democracy. It is hard enough with two parties to come to any*

resolution, and I say this very respectfully, because I feel the same way about our own democracy, which has been around a lot longer than European democracy.” It is unclear where Clinton got the mistaken idea that American democracy pre-dates European democracy (and the United States of America is technically a *republic*, not a democracy), but she does make it clear that she feels it would be easier to govern or “rule” without the “annoyance” of other political parties. (Republicans and Independents, in her opinion, are apparently entitled to democracy only if they support Democrats.) Clinton further insults her hosts by referring to foreign policy chief Javier Solana as Javier “*Solano*,” and external relations commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner as “*Benito*.” [1577]

While in Brussels, Clinton proposes a high-level conference on Afghanistan to which both Pakistan and Iran would be invited. Obama’s approach was described as emphasizing a “*non-military means of blunting the power of the Taliban*.” It is unclear what “non-military means” might dissuade the Taliban from curtailing its violent methods. [1586]

Clinton visits Russia to meet with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and presents him with a gift, a small box with a red “reset” button intended to represent a “resetting” of Russian-American relations under the new Obama administration – but strangely evocative of the 1950s and 1960s fears of the Soviet Union pressing the red “nuclear button” to annihilate the U.S. The button (which resembles the “easy button” from the Staples television commercials) is mislabeled, however, with the Russian word for “*overcharge*” rather than the word for “reset;” apparently the State Department needs better English-Russian language translators. (Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spoke fluent Russian and would not have made the translation mistake; nor would the Bush administration have presented the Russians with a tacky button – something no doubt dreamed up by one of the inexperienced and naïve members of the Obama foreign relations team.) [1577]

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez encourages Obama to “*come over to the dark side*” in remarks he makes on the state-run television. “*I recommend to Obama – they’re criticizing him because they say he’s moving towards socialism – come Obama, ally with us on the path to socialism, it’s the only road.*” [1579]

After the media in the United Kingdom erupts in outrage over Obama’s shoddy treatment of Prime Minister Gordon Brown, sources close to the White House say Obama has been “*overwhelmed*” by the economic crisis and he is “*not getting enough rest*.” (Obama has been in office less than two months.) British officials remark that Obama’s aides were seemingly unfamiliar with the requirements of a state visit. (Obama’s snub of Brown was either an intentional insult or an act of incompetents who are in over their heads.) A “well-connected Washington figure” observes that “*Obama is overwhelmed. There is a zero sum tension between his ability to attend to the economic issues and his ability to be a proactive sculptor of the national security agenda. That was the gamble these*

guys made at the front end of this presidency and I think they're finding it a hard thing to do everything." [1603]

The Pentagon reports that five Chinese ships harassed a U.S. Navy surveillance ship operating in international waters. Officials say the incident occurred on March 8, after several days of *"increasingly aggressive"* acts by Chinese ships. Many assume the actions are simply an effort to test and intimidate the new U.S. President, to see whether he sends U.S. ships right back into International waters near China (with a powerful escort), or simply orders the Navy to "back off." (Obama does later order the Navy to "back off" and cease surveys in Chinese territorial waters.) [1634,2521]

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (who was responsible for the federal government's last balanced budgets) remarks that Obama's attack on Rush Limbaugh is a *"deliberate strategy"* to take attention from more pressing issues. *"I think what they did with the whole Rush Limbaugh thing – they can't defend signing the 9,000 earmarks, they can't defend an energy-tax increase, they can't defend Geithner's failure to pay his income taxes, so they decide, 'Let's have a fight over Rush Limbaugh.' It is the exact opposite of what the president promised... to focus on large things, not small things."* The White House attacks on Limbaugh are also reminiscent of Richard Nixon's "enemies list" of the early 1970s – and just as beneath the office of the Presidency. [1605]

Dr. Sanjay Gupta declines Obama's offer to become Surgeon General, saying he wants to *"focus more on his medical career and his family."* (Some say Gupta withdrew because of criticism over his *"flimsy political record."*) [1628,2530]

Radio station KFI-AM hosts a Los Angeles-area "tea party" tax revolt on March 7 that draws an estimated 8,000-15,000 demonstrators protesting the high taxes and deficit-spending of the California legislature, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and the Obama administration. [1623,1624]

On March 8, Obama's Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, is interviewed on a Palestinian television show. Clinton is asked, *"A little young girl from a village in Ramallah wants to know what you would do if your daughter Chelsea was unfortunate enough to have been born under occupation, to be born deprived of freedom and liberty?"* Clinton takes the bait and responds, *"Well I would do what so many parents here in the West Bank and in Gaza do. I would love her, I would take care of her, I would get the best education I could for her, and I would never lose hope, I would never give up on the dream of a Palestinian State. No matter what happens, no matter what people do to try and derail that dream. I would tell my daughter and I would hope my daughter would believe with all of her heart that she has the same opportunities for the best future that any child anywhere in the world does and that's what my goal will be."* Clinton fails to mention that the vast majority of Palestinians (over 90 per cent) are subject to the rule of the Palestinian National Authority, Fatah, and Hamas – *not* Israel. (The town

mentioned in the question, Ramallah, is the administrative capital of the Palestinian National Authority.) Arabs living in Israel, the Middle East's only democracy (other than the one emerging in Iraq), have far more rights than those who live in the other area nations. Arabs living in Israel are not "deprived of freedom and liberty," but Clinton either does not know that or chooses not to correct the interviewer. [1728,1729]

A March 9 Rasmussen poll places Obama's approval index at +6 (*a new low*), with 38 per cent strongly approving his job performance and 32 per cent strongly disapproving (*a new high*). [1604]

Former Congressman Pat Toomey, who came close to beating Senator Arlen Specter in the 2004 primary, indicates he may try again in 2010. *"We could've had a constructive pro-growth compromise. Instead, these guys (Senators Specter, Collins, and Snowe) just completely sold out (by voting for the stimulus bill)." Toomey charges that Obama's tax-and-spend policies won't work to help the economy recover, partly because they promote uncertainty. "There's a real danger that capitalism is going to go on strike, because the capitalists don't know what the government is going to do next. And this episodic, quasi-nationalization of financial services companies, and perhaps the car companies and others, is very, very disturbing and destabilizing. So some certainty about government policy would be enormously helpful. The best thing we could do is make the 2003 tax cuts permanent," Toomey states. "But while we're at it, let's just eliminate capital gains taxes, and how about temporarily suspending the payroll tax?"* [1606]

The Obama administration challenges all "signing statements" issued by former President Bush. Signing statements are comments issued when the President signs a law which clarify parts of the law he may find unconstitutional, but not significant enough to warrant a veto of the entire bill. (They are used because a line-item veto has never been authorized by Congress.) Obama argues that before anyone agrees to Bush's signing statements, officials should first consult with Attorney General Holder – who will apparently be deciding which of Bush's orders should be ignored. Obama himself plans on continuing the practice of issuing "signing statements," and his will no doubt not be second-guessed by Holder. [1612]

On March 9 Obama signs an executive order allowing taxpayer dollars to fund expanded research using embryonic stem cells. Obama calls his decision a *"difficult and delicate balance."* (It is unclear why the decision would be difficult for him. Killing a fetus for medical research would seem, to someone who supports unrestricted abortions, easily more justifiable than killing a fetus because the mother simply decided not to have the baby). Obama also indirectly brings up the global-warming controversy, saying that promoting science *"...is about letting scientists like those here today do their jobs, free from manipulation or coercion, and listening to what they tell us, even when it's inconvenient"*

especially when it's inconvenient. It is about ensuring that scientific data is never distorted or concealed to serve a political agenda and that we make scientific decisions based on facts, not ideology." Obama laughingly contradicts himself with his statement because he has already decided for the nation that the "science is settled" with regard to man-caused "global warming." In May of 2007 Obama voted for a bill that requires "global warming" be factored into federal project plans – hardly a reasonable requirement if the government should be making "...*decisions based on fact, not ideology.*" (An agreement disputing any global warming crisis has been signed by more than 31,000 American scientists, a number more than sufficient to refute Obama's claim that there is a "consensus" on man-caused global warming. A Gallup poll found that 41 per cent of Americans believe that climate change warnings are exaggerated. The President of the European Union, Czech President Vaclav Klaus, stated that global warming alarmists "*want to change us and our behavior. Their ambition is to control and manipulate us.*") [97,1619,1727,1729,1747]

Generally unreported by the media is Obama's rescinding of Bush's executive order that provided federal funding for "induced pluripotent stem cell" research, that uses adult stem cells mimicking embryonic stem cells, but without their associated high risk of inducing tumors. Obama's executive order thus eliminates federal funding for the more promising research, while authorizing funding for that which is less promising and riskier. [1669]

Obama's stem cell policy comments include the remark that "...*we will ensure that our government never opens the door to the use of cloning for human reproduction,*" thus apparently leaving the door open for cloning for *other* purposes – not so that parents can someday be able to "re-create" a child that dies, but to clone a human for the purpose of killing it to obtain its stem cells. Lobbyists have already pushed legislation that would legalize cloning human embryos for the purpose of harvesting their stem cells. Even if no cloning is performed, Obama's executive order means that taxpayer funds will now be used to create and then kill human life for the sole purpose of scientific experimentation and exploitation. (A California company dealing with in vitro fertilization already advertises "gender selection," allowing pregnant mothers to choose to have an early abortion should the fetus have the "wrong" gender, eye color, or hair color.) Obama does not make clear why cloning for the purpose of *creating* life is worse than cloning for the purpose of *destroying* it. [1649,1664]

Former President Bill Clinton is interviewed by CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta and, in an attempt to defend Obama's executive order on stem cell experimentation, inadvertently reveals an astounding ignorance of the origin of human life. Clinton remarks that "*I think the American people believe it's a pro-life decision to use an embryo that's frozen that's never going to be fertilized for embryonic stem cell research*" and says that scientists should only use embryos that "*have been placed beyond the pale of being fertilized before their use.*" Clinton apparently does not understand that it is the *egg* that is initially *unfertilized*, while the embryo

is, *by definition*, the result of an egg that has been fertilized. When Clinton argues that he opposes stem cell experimentation if there is any chance that the embryo can become a human being, he is missing the point that the embryo already *is* a human being. Researchers cannot use stem cells from unfertilized eggs *because there are none* – the stem cells do not exist before the egg has been fertilized and the embryo is formed. Thus, Clinton is either colossally ignorant, or he is playing with words to make stem cell research less objectionable to people who don't know any better. Dr. Gupta neither corrected Clinton nor challenged his incorrect assertions during the interview – perhaps because Gupta (along with other CNN personalities) has participated as a “featured attendee” in Clinton Global Initiative annual meetings. [1689,1691]

Billionaire investor and informal Obama advisor and supporter Warren Buffet tells CNBC that investors see no clear plan coming from Washington, and that is contributing to the nation's economic difficulties. *“And I think we've had, and it's the nature of the political process somewhat, but we've had muddled messages and the American public does not know. They feel they don't know what's going on, and their reaction then is to absolutely pull back,”* remarks Buffet. Obama's press secretary, Robert Gibbs, reacts defensively, saying no one should be surprised that *“all of the problems that took many years to take hold haven't necessarily been solved.”*[1706,1707]

Amid criticism that Obama is unable to “perform” in public without a TelePrompTer, reports surface that he uses TelePrompTers not just for prepared speeches but for notes. That is, information and “talking points” are being fed to Obama while he is answering questions. White House technicians are allegedly also working on a small computer device for him to place on the lectern. [1706]

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announces a \$1 million scholarship program to help Palestinian students enroll in universities in the Middle East and the United States. Clinton says the program will allow students from the West bank and Gaza to *“compete along with students in other countries for the opportunity to further their academic training in America.”* Neither Clinton nor Obama explain why U.S. tax dollars should go toward the education of students who have been raised to hate Americans. [1656]

Dr. Orly Taitz, an attorney representing plaintiffs challenging Obama's status to serve as President of the United States, meets Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on March 9 at a reception. Taitz manages to get to the microphone at the event and asks Justice Scalia if he will hear her case, in which she represents nine state legislators and 120 military officers. Taitz relates later that *“Scalia stated that it would be heard if I can get four people to hear it. He repeated, ‘you need four for the argument.’ I got a feeling that he was saying that one of these four (of the Supreme Court Justices) that call themselves constitutionalists went to the other side.”* When Justice Scalia later autographs his book for her, Dr. Taitz asks, *“Tell me what to do, what can I do, those soldiers (the plaintiffs) can*

be court-martialed for asking a legitimate question, who is the president, is he legitimate." Justice Scalia responds, *"Bring the case, I'll hear it, I don't know about the others."* The inference is that Justice Scalia and two others would be willing to hear the case, but one more is needed. (Four of the nine must agree to review the case or it will be ignored.) The other Justices are John Roberts, Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas (who tend to follow the Constitution more strictly), Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, David Souter, John Paul Stevens (who tend to be more "loose" in interpreting the Constitution, finding "rights" that aren't there), and Anthony Kennedy – who is often considered to being the "swing" vote on controversial issues. [1646]

After almost two months of waiting for the promised brilliant economic plan by Secretary of the Treasury Tim Geithner and not seeing evidence of any plan at all, the Intrade prediction market adds a "future" on whether Geithner would resign or be fired by the end of 2009. As of March 9 the odds are 22 per cent, with an 8 per cent chance of him not lasting beyond June 30. The magazine *"The Nation"* calls Geithner possibly *"Obama's biggest mistake."* [1621,1652]

Obama's energy and climate change "czar," Carol Browner, tells U.S. News and World Report the U.S. needs to use electricity in a more cost-effective way, and looks forward to *"...a system where an electric company will be able to hold back some of the power so that maybe your air conditioner won't operate at its peak, you'll still be able to cool your house, but that'll be a savings to the consumer. And so (we will be) giving people and companies a role in the management of how we use electricity."* Obama's energy czar apparently will be "looking after" Americans by ensuring that their air conditioners lose power at the hottest time of the day. [1744]

It is reported that a former correspondent for CNN en Espanol, Mauricio Funes, is a Presidential candidate in El Salvador. Funes is a member of the communist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). The U.S. State Department has lodged complaints against Funes for using photographs of Obama in his campaign. He considers himself to be *"El Salvador's Barack Obama"* and uses his *"Yes we can!"* campaign theme. [1625]

After Obama remarks that he would like to reach out to "moderates" in the Taliban, a spokesman for the terrorist group, Qari Mohammed Yousuf – who, unlike Obama, understands that the Taliban has no moderates – responds *"This does not require any response or reaction for this is illogical. The Taliban are united, have one leader, one aim, one policy... I do not know why they are talking about moderate Taliban and what it means. If it means those who are not fighting and are sitting in their homes, then talking to them is meaningless. This really is surprising the Taliban."* The Taliban, in addition to believing that they are winning the war, think that an additional 17,000 troops sent by Obama will not be enough to defeat them. They further believe the United States will not be willing to make the financial or military commitments necessary to win. (One of the alleged

“moderates” in the Taliban, Abdullah Ghulam Rasoul, was released from the detention camp in Guantanamo in December of 2007. The U.S. handed him over to the Afghan government, which subsequently released him as well. Rasoul changed his name to Mullah Abdullah Zakir and is now in charge of Taliban operations against U.S. and Afghan forces in southern Afghanistan.) [1629,1641]

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) states it is not planning on suspending the “mark-to-market” rule that forces banks to lower the value of assets. Some argue the rule forces unjustified write-downs that contributed to the banking collapse. [1630]

After an article appears that describes how negative information about Obama is being promptly eliminated from his biography on Wikipedia, the web site locks most users from making any entries on that page. The result is a mostly glowing biography about Obama, free of references to William Ayers, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, or his birth certificate controversy. [1631]

On March 10 Vice president Biden tells NATO allies the U.S. is “...*not now winning the war (in Afghanistan), but the war is far from lost.*” [1632]

An amendment is introduced in the Senate to renew the popular and successful Washington, D.C. school voucher system (the “DC Opportunity Scholarship Program”) that was canceled in the recently-passed \$410 billion spending bill. Of the 58 votes to kill the amendment, 54 are cast by Democrats (most of whom have sent their own children to private schools). A study by the Department of Education that substantiated the effectiveness of the voucher program was kept secret until after the vote. The Hoover Institution’s Deroy Murdock states that the winners in the vote to kill the program are “*the teachers’ unions, who hate school choice, hate vouchers, and don’t give a damn about school kids when they threaten union pay, benefits, and control of classrooms.*” (Teachers’ unions have donated more than \$55 million to political candidates between 1999 and 2008, with virtually all of the cash going to Democrats.) [2433]

On February 25, the House of Representatives passes the \$410 billion spending bill – on top of the \$787 billion spending in the recently-passed stimulus bill. The vote is 245-178, with 16 Republicans voting for the bill and 20 Democrats voting against it. The bill includes a provision (inserted by Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, a top-10 recipient of cash from the National Education Association teachers union) eliminating the \$14 million DC Opportunity Scholarship Program. The cancellation of the popular program comes despite an American Legislative Exchange Council ranking of public schools in the 50 states and Washington, D.C. which places the nation’s capitol dead last. Obama and the Democrats claim the bill has no wasteful earmarks; others claim there are about 9,000. While eliminating the popular school program in D.C., the bill includes \$9 million for the nation’s largest provider of abortions, Planned Parenthood, and \$50 million for the United Nations Population Fund (which is involved in forced

sterilization in China). The bill provides for \$22 million for an addition to the JFK Library, \$200,000 for tattoo removals, \$473,000 for the Hispanic lobbying group LaRaza that advocates illegal immigration, and \$5.8 million for an “Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the Senate.” Other earmarks include \$819,000 million for the study of the catfish genome, and \$800,000 for “oyster rehabilitation.” (Washington, D.C. parents may be less than pleased to learn that the education of their children is less important than the catfish genome.) [1397,1406,1412,1421,1433,1542,1582,1750]

A New York Times “puff piece” on Michelle Obama swoons over her commitment to healthy eating after she hands out food at a non-profit facility serving the homeless. The article goes to great lengths to criticize former First Lady Laura Bush, who “...insisted that fresh, organic foods be served in the White House, but did not broadcast that fact to the public.” The editor of “Gourmet” magazine was rounded up to praise Michelle Obama for “...making a point. She thinks communities across the nation deserve to have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.” The article does not indicate which American communities, if any, lack access to fresh fruits and vegetables. [1673]

Although a fan of Obama in the past, columnist Howard Fineman begins to publicly doubt Obama’s abilities in a March 10 column in Newsweek. Fineman writes that, although Obama’s general public poll numbers remain high, “...in ways both large and small, what’s left of the American establishment is taking his measure and, with surprising swiftness, they are finding him lacking.” Fineman argues that Obama “...gave up the moral high ground on spending not so much with the (stimulus bill) but with the \$400 billion supplemental spending bill, larded as it was with 9,000 earmarks,” is “...throwing good money after bad in at least two cases – the sinkhole that is Citigroup (there are many healthy banks) and General Motors (they deserve what they get),” and proposed “...a 2010 budget that tries to do far too much, with way too rosy predictions on future revenues and growth of the economy. This led those who fear we are about to go over Niagara Falls to deride Obama as a paddler who’d rather redesign the canoe.” [2190]

Charles W. Freeman decides not to accept Obama’s offer to chair the National Intelligence Council, after relentless criticism of his anti-Israel stance, overly pro-China attitude, and closeness to the Saudis. Congressman Mark Kirk (R-IL) remarks that “The administration made yet another mistake not doing its homework before nominating someone to a senior position of unique sensitivity, and then learned from the press further and further embarrassing details. He (Freeman) was heavily encumbered by multiple conflicts of interest involving Chinese, Saudi and other business dealings that all should have been disclosed long before.” New York Senator Charles Schumer said that Freeman showed an “irrational hatred of Israel.” Freeman published a letter on the web site of Foreign Policy magazine in which he “concluded the barrage of libelous distortions of my record would not cease upon my entry into office.” Freeman, who for some

reason Obama thought would be able to give him sound security advice, had sent a 1989 e-mail defending the Chinese government in its attack on demonstrators at Tiananmen Square, saying it was not “...*acceptable for any country to allow the heart of its national capital to be occupied by dissidents intent on disrupting the normal functions of government, however appealing to foreigners their propaganda may be.*” (Chinese citizens demanding the right to free speech are, in Freeman’s view, dispensing “propaganda.”) The White House attempts to cover Obama’s tracks by saying that the President had “*not been informed*” of Freeman’s appointment by the National Intelligence Director, Admiral Dennis Blair. (Blair himself has been criticized by many for denying that Iran is making nuclear weapons.) [1637,1644,1671,1757]

On March 10 the Senate passes the \$410 billion spending bill on a vote of 62-35, despite the massive amount of waste it contains. (It includes \$747,000 for the removal of driftwood from the Potomac River.) Obama later signs the bill in private – perhaps to avoid anyone reminding him of his campaign pledge to “*go line by line to make sure that we are not spending money unwisely.*” Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi warns that Congress should “*keep the door open*” for yet another stimulus bill, and remarks that “*The word of the day is confidence. Confidence in our markets, confidence in lending, confidence in our financial institutions.*” A lack of confidence in the federal government, however, is at the heart of the stock market’s reluctance to gain ground, because investors have no faith in what Washington will do or how it will pay for its schemes. Republican Senator Mitch McConnell warns that “*We’re spending the first 50 days of this new administration at the rate of one billion dollars an hour.*” [1638,1639,1640,1676]

Republican Senators who voted for the \$410 spending bill are Lamar Alexander (TN), Christopher Bond (MO), Thad Cochran (MS), Lisa Murkowski (AK), Richard Shelby (AL), Olympia Snowe (ME), Arlen Specter (PA), and Roger Wicker (MS). Because Speaker Nancy Pelosi refused to allow any changes to the pork-filled bill in the House, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid made a deal with Senate Republicans to allow them floor time to propose amendments *after* they passed the bill – knowing full well the amendments would never pass but would give Senators some “cover” with their constituents back home. The bill also includes an easing of travel restrictions on Cuba. No reciprocal concessions have been received by Obama from the Castro regime. [1642,1645]

Seventy-five members of Congress ask House leaders to close a loophole in the stimulus bill that allows jobs to go to illegal immigrants. The original bill had language requiring that employers require workers must be legal residents, but that was removed by someone “*high up*” in the Democrat Party – possibly Obama, Pelosi, or Reid. The state of North Carolina has introduced a bill requiring that state contractors receiving federal funds verify workers’ residency. [1643]

The U.S. and the United Nations criticize Sudan for expelling Darfur humanitarian aid groups. The action was taken by Sudan's President, Omar al-Bashir, after he was indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for his campaign against Darfur rebels that involved rapes, atrocities, and the killings of thousands of innocent people. Obama states the violence, which has been going on since 2003, is *"not acceptable,"* and *"We need to be able to get those humanitarian organizations back on the ground. The United States wants to work as actively as possible with the United Nations to try to resolve the immediate humanitarian crisis and to start putting us on a path toward long-term peace and stability in the Sudan."* A group of Sudanese jihadists and Darfur Arabs called the "Alliance of Jihadist Suicide Groups" threatens to carry out a "new 9/11" in the U.S. and other nations that support the ICC's actions against al-Bashir. [1679,1680,1681]

An unscientific MSNBC online survey asks *"If you were grading Barack Obama on his performance as president, what (grade) would he get?"* The 109,047 responses broke down as A (16 per cent), B (6.4 per cent), C (5 per cent), D (12 per cent), and F (60 per cent). [1648]

The American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) estimates that Obama's national health care plan will cost as much as \$2 trillion over 10 years. Obama has estimated the cost to be \$637 billion. (The federal government has neither the \$637 billion nor the \$2 trillion.) [1651]

On March 11 Obama signs an executive order creating a "White House Council on Women and Girls." According to the New York Times, the new council would *"...help eliminate the challenges faced by women and girls and to ensure that cabinet level agencies coordinate their policies and programs that affect women and families."* There is no indication as to how much the new council would cost taxpayers, or exactly where authorization for its creation can found in the U.S. Constitution. [1672]

A unit commander at Fort Campbell, Kentucky orders all soldiers under his command to provide the location and registration number of any *private* weapon they own. The order is quickly rescinded, however, and a base spokesperson says the letter was a "mistake." One soldier who lives off-post and who objected to the order said, *"It just seems a little coincidental to me that within 90 days (after) the most anti-firearm president in history is inaugurated, some of the nastiest anti-firearm laws are put on the table in Washington, and then the Army comes around wanting what amounts to a registration on all firearms, even if they are off post, and doesn't provide any reason or purpose as to why."* [1889]

On March 12 former law enforcement officials hold a press conference to demand a renewed investigation of a 1970 bombing murder of a San Francisco police officer, which they believe involved William Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn (former Weather Underground terrorists and friends of Obama). Former FBI informant and Weather Underground infiltrator Larry Grathwohl states that Ayers

told him Dohrn planted the bomb, which killed Police Sergeant Brian V. McDonnell. Grathwol relates that several years ago "...the FBI and the San Francisco Police Department were looking to prosecute Bernardine Dohrn for murder. They were really pushing it and then it dropped off the radar." Between January of 1969 and April of 1970 there were more than 4,330 bombings in the United States, an average of nine every day. It is unknown how many were the work of the Weather Underground, but it was certainly more than a few. [1659,1678]

Attorney General Holder's Justice Department later tells San Francisco police officers to remain silent about their belief that Ayers and Dohrn were involved in the 1970 bombing. The officers had made public a letter stating, "*There are irrefutable and compelling reasons to believe that Bill Ayers and his wife Bernardine Dohrn are largely responsible for the bombing of Park Police Station.*" The letter called for bringing "...those responsible for the murder of Sgt. Brian McDonnell and the injuries to other officers to the justice they have so long eluded." Although William Ayers has stated, "We killed no one and hurt no one," former FBI informant Larry Grathwohl says in his book, "*Bringing Down America,*" that Ayers described the details of the event to him. Grathwohl quotes Ayers as having said, "*It was a success. But it's a shame when someone like Bernardine has to make all the plans, make the bomb and then place it herself. She should have to do only the planning.*" It is unclear why the Justice Department wants the San Francisco police officers to remain quiet. [1940]

Bernard Madoff pleads guilty to 11 counts of fraud in his multi-billion dollar investment scheme. His bond is immediately revoked and he is sent to jail to await sentencing. Madoff, a Democrat, has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Democrat candidates – none of whom offer to return the cash to help some of the investors who were bilked by Madoff's Ponzi scheme. [1690]

Democrats in both the Senate (Tom Harkin) and the House (George Miller) introduce the "Employee Free Choice Act," which would allow unions to avoid secret ballots when organizing workers. The legislation would make it far easier to unionize a company, which would necessarily result in higher prices when the costs of the demanded increased wages and benefits are passed on to consumers. In many cases unionization will drive companies overseas or out of business. Although Obama has promised he would sign the bill – as payback to the massive campaign support he received from organized labor – it is unclear whether the bill can get enough votes to pass in the Senate. [1665]

A survey of 49 economists gives Obama and his Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, failing grades for their handling of the economy. Obama receives a grade of 59 (out of 100). Geithner's grade of 51 is even lower than the score of 57 given to his predecessor, Henry Paulson. [1667]

Obama tells reporters he has no plans to send federal troops to Texas to stop violence that has spilled over the border from the Mexican drug wars and claimed more than 7,000 lives in that country, despite the pleas for assistance from Texas Governor Rick Perry. Obama said, *"We've got a very big border with Mexico. I'm not interested in militarizing the border,"* leaving Perry and Texas to fend for themselves. (It is not just drugs and Mexicans that enter the U.S. through its southern border; the terrorist group Hezb'Allah uses the drug routes to smuggle personnel.) Obama offers the excuse that *"The average person who's seeking serious substance abuse treatment in a big city like Dallas or Chicago typically has a three, four, or six-month waiting list to get enrolled"* – which could be construed by some as meaning he doesn't want to cut off the illegal drugs of anyone who has not yet received substance abuse treatment. Obama also makes the argument that *"If we can reduce demand, obviously that allows us to focus more effectively where interdiction is needed,"* when, of course, cutting off the supply of drugs at the border renders the demand side of the equation meaningless. (The police departments of Phoenix and Tucson report the kidnappings of more than 400 Americans by Mexicans, but Obama is not interested in militarizing the border.) [1670,2016,2063]

In a 65-28 vote the Senate confirms "porn lawyer" David Ogden as Deputy Attorney General. Ogden's opponents include Richard Shelby (R-AL), who states that Ogden *"...is more than just a lawyer who has had a few unsavory clients. He has devoted a substantial part of his career, case after case, for 20 years, in defense of pornography."* Former Justice Department official Pat Trueman and pornography prosecutor says that Ogden *"...was picked for a reason, and that's because of his radical agenda. I don't think President Obama picked him because he's going to help pornographers. I think he picked him because he's a radical attorney who's going to radicalize the Justice Department."* [1675,1701]

On March 12, Dr. Orly Taitz files a motion to the Supreme Court to reconsider her case, *Lightfoot v. Bowen*, which challenges Obama's eligibility to serve as President of the United States. Arguments made by Dr. Taitz include the fact that the case was not forwarded from conference to oral argument, even though at least one Justice (Antonin Scalia) had never even heard of the case or similar cases. (This implies that court clerks improperly pulled the case or misrepresented it before the Justices who, on the basis of faulty information, ruled not to hear the case.) Taitz' argument for reconsideration also includes the charge that Clerk of the Court Danny Bickel intentionally mishandled the case, and that the case was erased from the docket two days before the Court was scheduled to meet on the issue. Taitz further argues that her case was prejudiced by a private meeting Obama had with eight of the nine Justices prior to its scheduled review. [1682]

The FBI raids the technology office of the city of Washington, D.C., and its acting chief security officer, Yusuf Acar, is held without bond as a flight risk after \$70,000 in cash was found in his home. A former employee, Sushil Bansal, was

released but ordered not to travel. Acar (who is a native of Turkey) and Bansal (who is from India) allegedly defrauded the government by billing the city for computer items that were never delivered and hiring “ghost” employees. Their former boss, Vivek Kundra, was chosen by Obama to be his coordinator of federal computer systems. Kundra is now “on leave” from his White House job. Obama’s press secretary states the case is a “*serious matter.*” Kundra, whose job involves changing the way the government buys technology from vendors, is reportedly not a target of the investigation. In a speech given on March 12 Kundra said, “*Imagine the vast depository of information the federal government has and what people could do if they had access to it – how it could change the engagement model and help create a more perfect union.*” [1685,1699]

South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford rejects \$700 million of Obama’s stimulus bill money because the “strings” attached to the cash would harm his state financially in the long run. State legislators are expected, however, to overrule Sanford’s objections and accept the cash – along with its accompanying burdensome restrictions. The stimulus bill included specific language, inserted by Democrat Congressman James Clyburn of South Carolina, to allow state legislatures to overrule their governors as a way of forcing the rules and restrictions. (That language likely violates the Constitution’s Tenth Amendment.) Sanford points out the obvious that millions refuse to see, “*What you’re doing is buying into the notion that if we just print some more money that we don’t have and send it to different states, we’ll create jobs. If that’s the case, why isn’t Zimbabwe a rich place?*” (The nation of Zimbabwe has been continuously printing money in an effort to improve its economy, with predictably disastrous inflationary results. Prices have gone so high that the country has \$100 trillion currency denominations. Citizens are billionaires, but even a trip to the market can cost hundreds of millions in Zimbabwe currency. At one point the country’s annual inflation rate was an astounding 230 million per cent.) [1686,1815,1847]

In New York’s 20th Congressional District, vacated by Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand when she was appointed to Hillary Clinton’s vacant Senate seat, Republican candidate Jim Tedisco leads his challenger by 14 points. The election, which many might consider a referendum on Obama’s policies, will be held March 31. New Jersey chooses a new Governor in November of 2009, and in the polls incumbent Jon Corzine trails potential challengers Christopher Christie (49 to 34 per cent) and Steve Lonegan (43 to 35 per cent). [1687,1692]

Although the \$410 billion spending bill includes a provision to end a temporary experimental practice of allowing Mexican trucks to cross the border into the U.S. (within a 20 mile corridor) for deliveries, the Obama administration is working to restore the policy. Mexico insists that the United States must allow the practice in order to comply with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), but opponents argue that inspections have shown hundreds of safety violations by long-haul rigs allowed on U.S. roads. (A survey commissioned by the Arizona Republic newspaper found that the Mexican trucks operating in the U.S. had a

better safety record than U.S.-owned trucks.) Critics, like Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), who previously charged that President Bush was *"Hell-bent on opening our borders"* without requiring that *"Mexican drivers and trucks meet the same safety standards as U.S. drivers and trucks,"* will now be fighting Obama for the same reasons. [1688,1874]

Obama meets with 65 CEOs from the Business Roundtable, where he asks for support of his health care, education, and energy agendas, and suggests that in return he might be willing to lower the corporate tax rate (which stands at 35 per cent, second only to Japan's 39.5 per cent). *"Obama said he would be willing to consider lowering the 35 percent corporate tax rate as he closes other business-tax loopholes,"* according to the Wall Street Journal. Obama tells the group – allegedly with a straight face – *"I've always been a strong believer in the power of the free market. It has been and will remain the very engine of America's progress – the source of a prosperity that has gone unmatched in human history."* (In his book, *"The Audacity of Hope,"* Obama clearly states he does not care for free enterprise capitalism; he describes it as *"chaotic and unforgiving,"* and says he'd like to roll back the *"ownership society."*) In complete contradiction to his actions since becoming President, Obama says, *"I believe that jobs are best created not by government, but by businesses and entrepreneurs like you who are willing to take risks on a good idea. And I believe that our role as lawmakers is not to disparage wealth, but to expand its reach; not to stifle the market, but to strengthen its ability to unleash the creativity and innovation that still makes this nation the envy of the world."* [271,1693,1723]

On Friday the 13th two deputy U.S. marshalls visit Jesse H. Merrell because he had written a "passionate" letter to U.S. District Court Judge James Robertson. Merrell criticized Robertson for dismissing a lawsuit (*Hollister v. Soetoro*) that challenged Obama's natural born citizen status and eligibility to serve as President. The Judge had written that *"The issue of the president's citizenship was raised, vetted, blogged, texted, twittered, and otherwise massaged by America's vigilant citizenry during Mr. Obama's two-year-campaign for the presidency, but this plaintiff (retired Air Force Colonel Gregory Hollister) wants it resolved by a court."* Merrell relates that he told the marshalls, *"Unless the First Amendment had been repealed, or they were going to arrest me, we had nothing to talk about."* According to Merrell, the marshalls cited *"some obscure law which made it illegal to say anything that caused 'emotional distress' to a federal judge."* Merrell allegedly said in his letter, *"How dare people use a flimsy thing like the Constitution to darken your sanctimonious door! The insane idea that a (candidate) slashing our Constitution has to prove U.S. (natural born) citizenship – as our silly old Constitution demands – is too absurd to consider in the sacred chambers of the tiny tin gods of the Potomac, adorning the royal purple and sipping Jim Jones Kool-Aid. Thanks to smug, slimy shysters like you, Obama gets a free ride – snootily stomping on our foolish Constitution, which supercilious idiots like you have long ago shredded for their own stupid opinions!"* Although Merrell's letter did not contain any specific threats against Judge

Robertson, it is admittedly inflammatory. Merrell states that his anti-government attitude can be attributed perhaps to his fourth-great-grandfather, Captain Benjamin Merrell, who was hanged and drawn and quartered by the British for protesting high taxes in 1771. [1791,1890]

Obama appoints Derek Anthony West as Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Civil Division. West was the attorney who represented John Walker Lindh, the American who was captured in Afghanistan fighting for the Taliban and later sentenced to 20 years in prison. President Bush refused to pardon Lindh, but since the inauguration of Obama prison officials have "eased restrictions" on the "American Taliban." West was also the finance co-chair for Obama in California, where he raised a record \$65 million. [2003,2004,2005]

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao warns the United States not to devalue the dollar through reckless spending. China holds an estimated \$1 trillion in U.S. bonds, which would be worth considerably less in real terms if Obama finances his massive spending plans by printing money and causing hyperinflation. *"Of course we are concerned about the safety of our assets. To be honest, I'm a little bit worried,"* said Wen. *"I would like to call on the United States to honor its words, stay a credible nation and ensure the safety of Chinese assets."* If the U.S. is not careful, China will stop buying bonds – *or even start selling them off* – leaving Obama with the problem of finding buyers for the enormous debt he is accumulating. (China was also noticeably annoyed that Secretary Treasury Geithner, prior to his confirmation hearing, had claimed it had been manipulating its currency.) The president of the China Investment Company, Gao Xiqing, warns, *"Be nice to the countries that lend you money."* [1696,1761,1832]

As China warns the United States to get its economic house in order, the Obama administration – which had been preaching nothing but gloom and doom and an "economic catastrophe" in an effort to get its spending programs passed without much scrutiny – quickly starts talking up the economy and the stock market. Obama's top economic advisor Larry Summers says that stock prices are now the *"sale of the century,"* Obama himself says we are at *"...the point where buying stocks is a potentially good deal if you've got a long term perspective,"* and we have *"the most dynamic free market economy on earth."* (The U.S. does not enjoy a free market economy; a totally free market operates without government intervention.) Obama's press secretary Robert Gibbs says *"there is no safer investment in the world (than) that in the United States."* To reassure the markets and the Chinese, Obama (sounding suspiciously like the John McCain he strongly criticized just a few months ago for saying *"the fundamentals of the economy are strong"*) declares that *"If we are keeping focused on all the fundamentally sound aspects of our economy – all the outstanding companies, workers, all the innovation and dynamism in this economy – then we're going to get through this."* [1515,1527,1709]

A California judge tosses out a lawsuit brought by Presidential candidate Alan Keyes challenging Obama's eligibility to serve as President. The lawsuit argues that the Secretary of State, the person responsible for running elections, has an obligation to confirm that an individual is qualified before placing his name on the state's ballots. California Secretary of State Debra Bowen argued she had no "*ministerial duty*" to demand proof of citizenship, and the judge, Michael P. Kenny, found Bowen's argument "*persuasive.*" Legally, therefore, anyone can be placed on the ballot in the state of California, because the Secretary of State feels she is under no obligation to challenge the candidate's qualifications. (In 1968 California Secretary of State Frank Jordan had "Peace and Freedom Party" candidate Eldridge Cleaver removed from the ballot after determining from his birth certificate that he was only 34 years old, and an individual must be at least 35 to serve as President.) The judge argues that only Members of Congress can challenge the qualifications of the President – *which is convenient for a President whose political party controls both the Senate and the House.* Nowhere in the U.S. Constitution does it state that a candidate's eligibility can be challenged only by Congress. [1713]

Congressman Bill Posey (R-FL) introduces H.R. 1503, an amendment to the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971. Posey's amendment would require presidential candidates to provide birth certificates and other documents to prove they meet the Constitution's eligibility requirements. Posey's spokesman, George Cecala, states that "*Once we pass this bill, we can be assured that future elections won't have this (Obama eligibility) problem. It's not an attack on President Obama; it's just clarifying for future elections.*" With Democrats in control of both the House and the Senate, the odds of the amendment passing are zero. [1714]

At a public event where Joe Biden points out how \$1.3 billion of stimulus money would help rebuild train stations and rail lines, a former Senate colleague addresses him as "*Mr. Vice-President.*" Not realizing the microphone is on, Biden chides the Senator, "*Give me a fucking break!*" [1731]

The Obama administration decides to stop using the term "enemy combatants" and instead will embrace "international law" as its basis for holding terrorist suspects at Guantanamo. The new policy, according to the Justice Department, "*...provides that individuals who supported al Qaeda or the Taliban are detainable only if the support was substantial. And it does not employ the phrase 'enemy combatant.'*" (It is unclear how much support a terrorist has to provide for it to be considered "*substantial*" by the Obama administration.) The new policy "*...draws on the international laws of war.*" Attorney General Holder remarks, "*As we work toward developing a new policy to govern detainees, it is essential that we operate in a manner that strengthens our national security, is consistent with our values, and is governed by (international) law.*" The new Attorney General apparently prefers following international laws than those of the United States – which he took an oath to follow and protect. (Mindful that our Founding Fathers

fought a revolution to free themselves from British law, Georgetown University professor Nicholas Quinn Rosenkranz has proposed a Constitutional Amendment to outlaw the practice of using foreign laws to interpret or change U.S. laws. The Amendment reads simply, "*This Constitution was ordained and established by the People of the United States, and so it shall not be construed by reference to the contemporary laws of other nations.*") [1715,2067]

Dr. Orly Taitz, an attorney who has filed several lawsuits challenging Obama's eligibility to serve as President, travels to the University of Idaho to attend a public event featuring Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. During the question and answer session after Roberts' remarks, Dr. Taitz is able to mention the *Lightfoot v. Bowen* case and complain that court clerk Danny Bickle sabotaged her efforts to get the case reviewed by the Supreme Court. Dr. Taitz had brought with her 350,000 signatures on petitions asking that the case be heard, along with all the relevant documents of the case (including Taitz's motion to reconsider *Lightfoot v. Bowen*, *Quo Warranto Easterling et al v. Obama*, 3,300 pages of petitions, and a copy of a 164-page dossier sent to Attorney General Holder). Members of the audience listen attentively to the question – until they realize the lawsuit to which Dr. Taitz is referring is directed against Obama, at which point some people laugh. Chief Justice Roberts agrees to accept the documents, stating, "*I will read your documents, I will review them. Give them to my Secret Service Agent and I will review them.*" [1716,1726,1737]

The New York Times reports that the Obama administration may be considering taxing employer-provided health insurance to raise as much as \$246 billion per year in tax revenue. During the campaign in 2008 Obama harshly criticized his opponent, Senator John McCain, for even considering such a proposal. Under McCain's plan, the taxing of employer-paid health insurance would be *offset* by tax credits for the cost of purchasing health insurance. The logic of that proposal is that, acting in their own economic self-interest, employees would, with the help of the tax credit, purchase their own health insurance policies – policies that would likely be much less expensive than what their employers provide. (For example, an employee might buy a policy with a high deductible or out-of-pocket limit in order to save money on premiums, or a policy that covers the "big-ticket" items but not occasional physician visits for things like strep throat.) The Obama administration's plan would more likely tax the employer-provided health insurance but *not* also provide a tax credit to buy an individual policy. Instead, the employee would – in order to avoid taxes – simply elect to be covered by Obama's nationalized health plan. Thus, Obama would force socialized health care on the nation *by making it economically impractical to remain under an employer plan*. Obama could therefore argue that his plan provides "choice" – but the choice would be between a highly-regulated federal plan and a tax penalty to remain under a private plan. Obama's budget director, Peter Orszag, has also previously suggested taxing employer-provided health benefits. Orszag's current position is that the option "*most firmly should remain on the table.*" [1718]

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar cancels oil and gas leases on 77 parcels of federal land, covering about 130,000 acres in Utah. Republicans, meanwhile, urge Salazar to approve offshore drilling with 31 previously planned oil and gas lease sales. There are an estimated 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas off U.S. coasts, according to the Interior Department, but it is unclear how Obama intends to make the U.S. “energy independent” while prohibiting drilling for oil and gas. The cancellation of the leases will cause job losses in Utah and cost that state millions of dollars in annual tax revenue. (The December 19 lease sales were disrupted by an environmental activist, Tim DeChristopher, who offered the winning bid, \$1.8 million, for leasing 31 of the 77 parcels. It turned out that DeChristopher is a University of Utah student who never had any intention of paying for the leases – and likely doesn’t have the \$1.8 million either – but wanted to prevent legitimate businesses from gaining access to the drilling rights. Federal charges may be pressed against DeChristopher, despite Salazar having canceled the leases.) Placing U.S. continental and offshore oil and gas field off-limits for drilling, while imposing massive energy taxes on anyone who dares to emit carbon dioxide, prompts some to label Obama’s “energy plan” nothing more than, *“Lock up the best and tax the rest.”* [1719,1720,1721,1722,2304]

State sovereignty resolutions run into opposition in Arkansas, Washington, and New Hampshire, where Democrats kill them in committee or in floor votes. Roughly half of the remaining states with current resolutions in progress have Democrats controlling one or both houses in the legislatures, making passage less likely. Despite strong grass roots support for the resolutions in many states, Democrats seem unable to muster the courage to recognize, let alone support, the Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. [1724]

Polls reflect that an ever-increasing number of Americans suspect Obama is “in over his head.” Actions taken by Obama to help the economy may actually make it worse, according to 83 per cent of those surveyed; 82 per cent are worried about the incredible rise in the national debt; 78 per cent believe inflation is on the way; and 69 per cent have no confidence in government-mandated “fixes.” Only 60 per cent believe the stimulus bill will actually stimulate the economy – and 12 per cent believe it will unfairly help irresponsible people. Nevertheless, Obama’s generic approval ratings remain relatively high – mostly because Americans currently blame Congress more than him. [1725]

North Korea announces it will launch a rocket over Japan and toward the Pacific Ocean between April 4 and 8. Japan protests and announces it has the right to shoot down the rocket because its trajectory is a danger to the nation. (The first stage of the rocket is expected to land within 75 miles of Japan.) *“Legally speaking,”* said Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura, *“if this object falls toward Japan, we can shoot it down for safety reasons.”* A launch by North Korea would be in violation of a 2006 U.N Security Council resolution banning any ballistic missile activity by the communist nation. A launch would *“threaten the*

peace and stability in the region,” states U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Obama’s State Department spokesman, Robert Wood, says, “We think the North needs to desist, or not carry out this type of provocative act, and sit down ... and work on the process of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.” Some argue that Obama’s election created a “power vacuum” and the world’s more dangerous nations, sensing weakness in the new President, intend to fill it. North Korea’s action is seen by some as a provocation simply to see what Obama will do, with the expectation that he will do nothing but issue a weak statement of condemnation followed by no action. [1730]

At a time when the economy is in less than ideal shape and the national debt is growing by trillions of dollars, Obama decides the federal government needs to spend tax money on a new White House staff position. The new employee, Kareen Dale, will be charged with “overseeing arts and culture.” (Dale, a partially-blind lawyer, had been the Obama campaign’s “national disability director.”) The White House describes the new position as “*a big step forward in terms of connecting cultural and government with mainstream administration policy.*” (A justification for a federal employee charged with “overseeing arts and culture” is nowhere to be found in the U.S. Constitution.) [1732]

The “Organizing for America” (OFA) project is officially unfurled. OFA is a “grass roots movement” according to Obama (it is not), but is sponsored and funded by the Democrat National Committee. OFA will use a massive database of Obama supporters (10 million or more) gathered during the campaign to “*mobilize support for the president’s legislative agenda.*” Individuals who sign up are asked to take a pledge – *to Obama and his “bold plan.”* Obama will use OFA to enable him to quickly contact people most willing to lobby for his proposals. When he feels that he needs to “round up the troops,” OFA will, for example, issue mass e-mails to members requesting them to pressure their Congressmen or neighbors or local community leaders to “help Obama succeed.” The web site asks individuals to “*Create a Pledge Project Canvass in your neighborhood on Saturday, March 21st, to knock-on-doors and ask your neighbors to take a pledge of support for President Obama’s bold approach to renew America’s economy and invest in energy, health care, and education.*” [1849,1850,1875]

The “OFA” web site includes planned activities such as an April 4 Chicago workshop, “*Getting Paid to cause Trouble: Careers in Organizing for Social Change (Community Service).*” An article in “The American Thinker” points out that organizers from various Illinois unions will be present at the event, and asks “*Since when is training union organizers, or recruiting people into a union organizer training program, ‘community service’?*” [1994]

The New York Times reports, “*The Obama administration is signaling to Congress that the president could support taxing some employee health benefits, as several influential lawmakers and many economists favor, to help pay for overhauling the health care system. The proposal is politically problematic for*

President Obama, however, since it is similar to one he denounced in the presidential campaign as "the largest middle-class tax increase in history." [2530]

On CNN's "State of the Union" program on March 15, former Vice-President Dick Cheney warns that Obama's policies "*raise the risk*" of a terrorist attack, and points to the scheduled closing of the detention camp at Guantanamo, limiting interrogation methods, and suspending military tribunals for captured terrorists. Cheney states, "*When you go back to the law enforcement mode, which I sense is what they're doing ... they are very much giving up that center of attention and focus that's required, and that concept of military threat that is essential if you're going to successfully defend the nation against further attacks.*" Cheney also confirms that the policies Bush had in place, which Obama is trying to eliminate, successfully prevented a number of specific terrorist attacks after September 11, 2001, but adds that the information is "*...still classified. I can't give you the details of it without violating classification, but I can say there were a great many of them.*" Cheney is also critical of Obama's choice of Christopher Hill as U.S. Ambassador to Iraq. "*He's not the man I would have picked for that post. He doesn't have any experience in the region. He's never served in that part of the world before. He doesn't speak the language,*" and has "*none of the skills and talents*" of his predecessor, Ambassador Ryan Crocker. Cheney said that Crocker deserves credit, along with former Iraq commander General David Petraeus, for "*the success we've seen now in Iraq.*" Hill had been an ineffective negotiator with North Korea over its nuclear program. Cheney remarks that, "*I didn't think the North Koreans were going to keep their end of the bargain in terms of what they agreed to, and they didn't.*" Cheney likely suspects Iran will be no more trustworthy than North Korea, and that its regime can hoodwink Hill as easily as had North Korea. [1733,1758]

Obama's chairwoman of the Council of Economic Advisors, Christina Romer, appears on NBC's "*Meet the Press*" and is asked if the fundamentals of the economy are sound. She replies, "*Of course they are sound,*" even though Obama budget director Peter Orszag had said only a week before that "*fundamentally, the economy is weak.*" (During the campaign, when the economy was in better shape and the Dow Jones Industrial Average was about 4,000 points higher, Senator John McCain was criticized by Obama and the media for insisting that "*The fundamentals of the economy are strong.*") Romer states that \$730 million of the \$787 billion stimulus package would be available to help owners of small businesses via reduced lending fees and higher loan guarantees. "*We know that small businesses are the engine of growth,*" said Romer. "*We absolutely want to do things to help them.*" If the administration believes that small businesses are the engine of job growth, it is unclear why it would allocate less than one-tenth of one per cent of the "stimulus bill" funds to stimulate small businesses. Further, the \$730 million allocated to help small businesses at a time of economic crisis is even less than the \$900 million the Obama administration previously pledged to the Palestinian Authority. Some wonder about Obama's priorities, when more money is given more quickly to

people who hate the United States than to those who maintain the engine of the American economy. (\$730 million for the 23 million small businesses in the U.S. averages out to only \$31.74 per business if it were to be disbursed equally.) Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell remarks that the Obama administration is *"...taking advantage of a crisis in order to do things that had nothing to do with getting us into the crisis in the first place."* [1734,1743,1749,1782]

On March 15 as many as 4,000 angry citizens gather at Cincinnati's Fountain Square, in the latest of many "tea party" tax protests directed at high taxes and wasteful government spending. *"I'm frustrated with the way things are going in Congress. They need to remember that they work for us, and right now, we don't approve,"* says protestor Sean Lynch. *"This is not a Democrat thing or a Republican thing, it's a government thing."* One five year-old girl in the crowd holds a sign reading, *"Where's my free pony?"* and her mother expresses concern that her daughter's generation would be stuck paying for *"today's excessive government spending."* To date, at least 150 such tea party protests have been held or have been scheduled. Nationwide tea party protests are scheduled for April 15, 2009. [1738,1745,1755,1859,1938]

A March 15 Rasmussen poll shows Republicans leading Democrats 41 to 39 per cent on a "generic congressional ballot." This marks a significant change, as the "generic Democrat" candidate has for years led the "generic Republican" candidate in the poll. [1792]

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke appears on CBS's "60 Minutes" on March 15 and says the recession might end in 2009 if banks lend more freely again and the financial markets start working more normally. (To some critics Bernanke's remark is about as astute as, "The blizzard might end if the wind dies down and it stops snowing.") Bernanke continues, *"We've seen some progress in the financial markets, absolutely, but until we get that stabilized and working normally, we're not going to see recovery. But we do have a plan. We're working on it. And, I do think that we will get it stabilized, and we'll see the recession coming to an end probably this year."* Bernanke also warns that the unemployment rate of 8.1 per cent will likely keep climbing. [1740]

Obama's March 16 Rasmussen Presidential approval index is +4, his lowest rating to date. The +4 represent the difference between those who strongly approve of Obama's performance (36 per cent) and those who strongly disapprove (32 per cent). [1739]

Obama names Van Jones to a newly-created position as special advisor on "green" jobs. Jones is an admitted radical communist and black nationalist, and is the founder of "Standing Together to Organize a Revolutionary Movement" (STORM). [2323,2324]

Obama, top Democrats, and more than a few Republicans excoriate AIG for issuing \$165 million in bonuses to executives, after having received federal bail-outs of \$173 billion. (\$173 billion is enough to pay the electric bill of every American for an entire year.) Obama states he's doing everything he can to stop the payment of the bonuses and asked Treasury Secretary Geithner to *"pursue every single legal avenue."* If the bonuses are required by employee contracts he has little, if any, ability to rescind them. (Stopping the bonuses would be tantamount to taking away a sales commission defined in one's employment contract.) It is also the case that the bail-outs, which Obama voted for as Senator, were approved with "no strings." Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CN) even inserted language in the bail-out bill to exempt the bonuses from being rescinded. The bill provided an *"exception for contractually obligated bonuses agreed to on or before February 11, 2009."* (Dodd is the Senate's largest recipient of campaign donations, \$103,100, from AIG. Obama was close behind, collecting \$101,332 from AIG.) If the government is able to prevent the payment of the \$165 million in bonuses, it is effectively also removing that \$165 million from the New York economy. The bail-out money was essentially given to the Secretary of the Treasury (first Hank Paulson, and then Timothy Geithner) to disburse as they saw fit. (ABC's George Stephanopolous later remarks, *"They (Obama and Geithner) feel caught in a bind. When they respond to this populist anger, they feel they get a very negative reaction from the business community and the stock market. When they try to appease the business community and the stock market, the public rises up. It's a tough dilemma."*) While Obama criticizes AIG's bonus payments, it is disclosed that \$93 billion of the \$173 billion that was given to AIG went not to AIG but to Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (former employer of Secretary Paulson, which received \$12.9 billion) and several European banks, including Germany's Deutsche Bank (\$11.8 billion), France's Societe Generale (\$11.9 billion), Great Britain's Barclays (\$8.5 billion), and Switzerland's UBS (\$5 billion). U.S. taxpayer money was thus used to bail out a company whose major investors are German, French, British, and Swiss.

[1743,1760,1762,1763,1774,1785,1787,1796,2111]

Had AIG been allowed to file bankruptcy and not been given federal bail-out money in the first place there would have been no fuss about executive bonuses, because salary and bonus contracts would have been nullified and voided under the bankruptcy provisions. There would have been a liquidation and sale of the company's assets – and the taxpayers would have saved \$173 billion. Obama and Geithner pretend as though they knew nothing of the executive bonuses, but it was Geithner who was the main architect of the AIG bail-out months earlier, working on bail-outs with Paulson and Bernanke even before Obama's inauguration. [1788]

While Obama and Congress feed the public's "hate Wall Street" frenzy for its massive *losses*, most Americans and the media seem to have forgotten that less than a year earlier everyone was consumed with anger over Exxon Mobil's record *profits*. The oil giant made \$11.68 billion in profits in the second quarter of

2008 (\$1,485.55 in profits per second), and also paid \$32.36 billion in taxes (\$4,114 in taxes per second). It is not clear what the politicians and American citizens expect from private enterprise, when being successful and making a profit results in scorn and resentment, and losing money generates hatred and anger. (It is assumed that Congress will not consider legislation requiring that all Americans businesses earn exactly \$0.00 profit and generate \$0.00 losses.) [1877]

The Department of Defense terminates its sale of expended military brass to re-manufacturers. New rules require that fired brass shell casings be destroyed, rather than sold for re-use. Re-manufacturers will no longer be able to buy surplus brass from the government. It will instead be shredded and sold as scrap – most likely to China (one of the world's largest purchasers of U.S. metals). This policy change will make it more difficult for ammunitions manufacturers to meet consumer demands, and cause prices to skyrocket. [1751]

In response to former Vice-President Dick Cheney's warning that Obama's policies "*raise the risk*" of a terrorist attack, Obama's press secretary, Robert Gibbs, sarcastically tells the press on March 16, "*I guess Rush Limbaugh was busy so they trotted out the next most popular member of the Republican cabal.*" Gibbs adds that "*The president has made (it) quite clear that keeping the American people safe and secure is the most serious job that he has each and every day,*" but does not address the specific points made by Cheney: that the closing of Guantanamo and CIA detention camps, weakening detainee interrogation methods, and suspending military tribunals for enemy combatants will merely embolden terrorists who believe the new administration is weak. [1733,1758]

In retaliation for the termination of an experimental NAFTA program allowing Mexican trucks to cross the border into the U.S. (up to 20 miles) for deliveries, Mexico announces a 90 per cent tariff on U.S. products. The tariff is expected to affect \$2.4 billion in annual trade and at least 90 agricultural and industrial products. Teamster President James Hoffa, Jr. calls the tariff increase an "*absurd reaction,*" and adds that "*The right response from Mexico would be to make sure its drivers and trucks are safe enough to use our highways without endangering our drivers. The border must stay closed until Mexico upholds its end of the bargain.*" Obama is expected to work to re-instate the NAFTA program. If the dispute is not resolved, Americans will be selling billions of dollars less in products to Mexico. (There are about 6.5 million trucks in the U.S.; the NAFTA program has involved fewer than 100 from Mexico.) [1688,1764,1874,2530]

William Poole, former St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank President, lambastes the Obama administration for its ineptness in handling the economic crisis. "*Everyone agrees that the bailout regime cannot be allowed to persist, and yet federal authorities seem not to have a clue as to what our financial course is or should be,*" said Poole. "*We are in a terrible situation right now, lurching from*

crisis to crisis with no direction as to where we are going. The bailout regime in which we find ourselves is an affront to the market and an affront to democracy. Along with many citizens, I am angry, frustrated and worried.” He adds, “What is incomprehensible a full year after the Bear Stearns bail-out is that there is still no plan for the future. We have a right to expect of our leadership a plan that will guarantee that we will never be stuck in this situation again,” and warns that “Washington does not have a clue as to what reforms to put in place.” [1765]

In an interview with the German publication “Spiegel,” Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano is asked, “...in your first testimony to the U.S. Congress as Homeland Security Secretary you never mentioned the word ‘terrorism.’ Does Islamist terrorism suddenly no longer pose a threat to your country?” Napolitano responds, “Of course it does. I presume there is always a threat from terrorism. In my speech, although I did not use the word ‘terrorism,’ I referred to ‘man-caused’ disasters. That is perhaps only a nuance, but it demonstrates that we want to move away from the politics of fear toward a policy of being prepared for all risks that can occur.” White House press secretary Robert Gibbs explains that Obama is using “different words and phrases (than war on terrorism) in order to denote a reaching out to many moderate parts of the world that we believe can be important in a battle against extremists.” There is no word on how Obama and Napolitano plan on responding to a significant Islamist “man-caused disaster,” whether they will continue to vigorously fight the “war on man-caused disasters,” or whether female suicide bomber attacks will be referred to as “female-caused disasters.” [1767,1921]

Veterans groups are outraged over an almost unbelievable Obama administration plan that would force private health insurance to cover the expense of injuries incurred by soldiers *while on active duty*. The plan would allegedly save the federal government \$540 million. Such a plan would end up causing military families to be hit with increased premiums and even lose private coverage, because maximum plan limitations could easily be reached for treatment of serious war injuries. (If, for example, a family health insurance policy had a \$1 million limit on payments and the wounded soldier’s treatment quickly used up that \$1 million limit, his wife and children would then have no insurance at all.) Further, businesses would be reluctant to hire veterans because it could mean skyrocketing insurance rates. [1766,1790]

Craig Roberts, media manager for the American Legion, calls Obama’s plan a “desperate search for money at any cost.” After meeting with Obama, Rahm Emanuel, and Veteran Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki to object to the plan, the American Legion’s Commander David K. Rehbein says, “This reimbursement plan would be inconsistent with the mandate ‘to care for him who shall have borne the battle,’ given that the United States government sent members of the Armed Forces into harm’s way, and not private insurance companies... the American Legion does not and will not support any plan that seeks to bill a

veteran for treatment of a service-connected disability at the very agency that was created to treat the unique need of America's veterans." [1766,1790]

The Obama administration defiantly tells 11 veterans service organizations that if they don't like his plan they should come up with another way to generate \$540 million in revenue. Obama's plan is intended to *"make the insurance companies pay their fair share,"* but it is not, of course, the insurance companies that send the troops into battle. Service-related injuries have traditionally been paid for by the government; in fact, health insurance policies typically *exclude* coverage for injuries or illnesses that are the result of service in the Armed Forces. Roberts states that Obama ignored the argument that the government has a moral responsibility to pay for the treatment of injured soldiers. *"The president deflected any discussion when it got into any moral issue..."* he said. *"Any attempt to direct the conversation (to the moral aspect of the issue) was immediately deflected."* A letter of protest from the 11 veterans organizations said *"there is simply no logical explanation"* for a plan to bill veterans' personal insurance *"for care that the VA has a responsibility to provide."* The letter called it *"unconscionable"* to shift the burden of the country's *"fiscal problems (to) the men and women who have already sacrificed a great deal for this country."* [1766,1790]

Democrat Senator Charles Schumer of New York warns on March 17 that AIG employees should refuse to accept their bonuses because he plans to get a law passed that will tax them more than 90 per cent, saying, *"We will take this money back by taxing virtually all of it. So let the recipients of these large and unseemly bonuses be warned. If you don't return it on your own, we will do it for you."* Obama's press secretary states that lawyers are *"looking through contracts to see what can be done to wrest these bonuses from their recipients."* Ten Democrats in the House introduce a bill to tax all AIG bonuses beyond \$100,000 at 100 per cent. Such "vengeance tax" legislation is clearly in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Many legislators likely assume the bill would be found unconstitutional but will vote for it anyway to keep their angry constituents happy, even though they are violating their oath of office by casting a vote that knowingly violates the U.S. Constitution. (If Congress is able to successfully pass an illegal bill of attainder, it could arguably then go after any other target of its choosing, taxing, for example, conservatives at a higher rate than liberals.) [1769,1770,1837]

The Obama administration in general and Treasury Secretary Geithner in particular start getting harsh criticism from lawmakers in both parties for the handling of the AIG bail-out – which was orchestrated by Geithner, Paulson, and Bernanke. Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) remarks, *"There's either competence or incompetence going on here, and it looks like a lot of incompetence. I think this is the tip of the iceberg."* Appearing on the CBS "Early Show," Shelby also states, *"I think Secretary Geithner does not have his hands around the details of this, and if he does, then there's a lot more questions to be asked. I don't know if he should resign over this. That's up to – you know, he works for the President of*

the United States.” According to press secretary Robert Gibbs, Obama has “*complete confidence*” in Geithner. Gibbs also says that based on what he “*read in the newspaper*” the administration learned about the (large AIG employee) bonuses the prior week – despite having given AIG another \$30 billion in early March. Many legislators believe Geithner knew of the existence of the bonuses. Congressman Scott Garrett (R-NJ) comments, “*So it’s only now that it’s making headlines that the president is coming back and basically second-guessing his own treasury secretary on this. Why Secretary Geithner didn’t raise this when he first understood it is beyond me.*” Republican minority leader John Boehner asks, “*What is the government’s exit strategy from this sweeping involvement in private business?*” [1768,1769,1785,1786]

The predicament facing Obama and Geithner with the AIG bonuses is that if they come down too hard on the executives of the firm, many may simply leave the company and let it fall even further into disarray. The whole point of “retention bonuses” is to provide a financial incentive for executives to remain at AIG and help get it back on a sound financial footing, rather than just let it disintegrate. If Obama removes those incentives, the executives may simply walk away from the debris – and lesser-paid, less knowledgeable newcomers may have a difficult time reviewing and straightening out the firm’s records. If Obama addresses the issue of the AIG bonuses in too timid a fashion, Americans will be angry that he didn’t do more and will be less willing to support future bail-outs he may request. The issue may ultimately be decided by lawyers. [1771]

Maurice “Hank” Greenberg, former CEO of AIG, states, “*Nobody during my tenure (at AIG) had a contract, starting with me. No one was ever paid a retention bonus. You believed in the company – or you didn’t.*” Greenberg had successfully run AIG for more than 40 years, until New York Attorney General Spitzer went after the company and got Greenberg to resign. (Many argue that Spitzer was out to make a name for himself. Spitzer later successfully ran for Governor of New York, and then had to resign in disgrace after his name surfaced in a prostitution investigation.) Greenberg’s successor, Martin Sullivan, then destroyed the company to the point where it required a taxpayer bail-out. Sullivan’s government-picked successor, Edward Liddy, is now attempting to stay out of the public limelight. Some argue that had Greenberg remained with AIG its problems would have been significantly less serious. Greenberg also stated that “*Although AIG stockholders could have fared better if the company had filed for bankruptcy protection, other stakeholders – like AIG’s Wall Street counterparties in swaps and other transactions – would have fared worse.*” (That is, Geithner, Paulson, and Bernanke orchestrated the federal bail-outs to save their Wall Street friends, not the shareholders.) [1741,1742,1772,1785,1786]

Attorney General Eric Holder moves to use Mexico’s drug violence to frighten Americans into accepting tougher gun regulations and restrictions. Holder says, “*As President Obama indicated during the campaign, there are just a few gun-related changes that we would like to make, and among them would be to re-*

institute the ban on the sale of assault weapons. I think that will have a positive impact in Mexico, at a minimum.” National Rifle Association (NRA) President Wayne LaPierre responds that Holder’s argument is “*bizarre,*” and “*It’s a delusion to say that diminishing the Second Amendment in America is somehow going to stop these ruthless drug cartels in Mexico.*” Holder supports H.R. 45, the Blair Holt Act of 2009, which will place significant licensing restrictions on all gun owners – and not just on “assault weapons,” as Holder incorrectly implies. The law also allows the attorney General to personally add categories of guns to a list of banned weapons, thus making Holder the sole arbitrator of whether civilians are allowed to own a particular gun. Many members of Congress in both parties will be reluctant to support H.R. 45 because they will worry it will cause their defeat in their next election. At least 65 House Democrats say they would oppose attempts to revive the weapons ban that Bill Clinton signed in 1994 but which was later allowed to expire by President Bush. Gun critics argue that the Mexican drug warlords are obtaining their guns from the United States and claim that simply preventing Americans from owning guns will keep them from finding their way into Mexico. (According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, and Tobacco, about 17 per cent of weapons recovered from Mexican crime scenes come from the U.S., but Holder, Clinton, and the media continue to say the figure is 90 per cent. Other black market weapons get into Mexico from South Korea, China, Spain, Israel, the Russian mafia, Columbia, Asia, and Guatemala. There is also evidence that many of the weapons used by Mexican drug dealers and gang members come from *corrupt members of the Mexican military or deserters.* The passage of H.R. 45 won’t prevent Mexicans from buying or stealing guns from their own government.) Beefing up border security will reduce the flow of (civilian) guns from the U.S. into Mexico while, at the same time, reducing the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs into the U.S. The money saved by not providing hundreds of thousands of additional illegal immigrants with welfare, health, and education benefits would more than offset the cost of increased border security. [1597,1598,1599,1600,1773,1845,2010,2198]

It is disclosed that the corrupt activist group ACORN – which Obama had worked with for years and still continues to support with federal tax dollars – will be used to assist in the 2010 census, leading critics to express concerns that the enumeration operation will be wrought with fraud. Congressman Lynn A. Westmoreland (R-GA), ranking member of the U.S. Census subcommittee, says, “*It’s a concern, especially when you look at all the different charges of voter fraud. And it’s not just the lawmakers’ concern. It should be the concern of every citizen in the country. We want an enumeration. We don’t want to have any false numbers.*” ACORN claims to be non-partisan but it has a history of primarily assisting Democrats through its frequently fraud-ridden voter registration drives. (In 2007 five ACORN employees were convicted in Washington State in “*the worst case of election fraud*” in the state’s history.) The GOPUSA’s Bobby Eberle comments, “*ACORN has been accused of voter fraud, embezzlement, and more... and yet this is a group that the federal government wants helping with the census?*” [240,1776,1795]

On March 17 Obama confronts critics of his record-breaking budget, admonishing them with the statement, *"If there are members of Congress who object to specific policies and proposals in this budget then I ask them to be ready and willing to propose constructive alternative solutions. 'Just say no' is the right advice to give your teenagers about drugs. It is not an acceptable response to whatever economic policies are proposed by the other party."* Many of Obama's critics argue however that 'just say no' is, in fact, the best response to the overblown budget, and the government should definitely say 'no' to a multitude of projects and programs that are not practical, cost-effective – or even consistent with the U.S. Constitution. Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC), meanwhile, have done more than 'just say no' by introducing a bill to rejuvenate the economy that is based mainly on tax cuts. [1777,1797,2126,2164]

Addressing a March 17 House panel on science, Obama's new Energy Secretary, Steven Chu, suggests raising tariffs on imported goods to protect American manufacturers from low-cost competition if the U.S. imposes cap-and-trade taxes and regulations and other nations do not. Chu states, *"If other countries don't impose a cost on carbon, then we will be at a disadvantage... (and) we would look at considering perhaps duties that would offset that cost."* The mainstream media takes little notice of Chu's threat, but the Chinese respond immediately and state that such a move would be a *"disaster"* and simply an *"excuse to impose trade restrictions."* Obama's cap-and-trade plans would impose massive taxes on U.S. industries, putting them at a significant disadvantage against nations that do not succumb to "global warming" fears. High U.S. tariffs imposed on imported goods would simply prompt retaliation from other nations, with the same disastrous results seen during the 1930s when mindless protectionism prompted trade-destroying tariffs. (The Department of Energy was established in 1977 to lessen U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Its annual budget is approximately \$25 billion; it has about 16,000 federal employees and 100,000 contract employees; and U.S. dependence on foreign oil has more than doubled since 1977.) [2075,2076,2436]

During a St. Patrick's Day visit to the White House, the TelePrompTer malfunctions during a speech by Ireland's Prime Minister Brian Cowen. Following the on-screen text, Cowen inadvertently begins repeating Obama's comments. Cowen turns to Obama to say, *"That's your speech."* Obama then returns to the lectern to speak. The Teleprompter, now updated with Cowan's speech, causes Obama to *"thank President Obama"* for his hospitality. [1931]

In a test near Hawaii on March 17, the U.S. military successfully shoots down a medium-range ballistic missile using a ground-based missile defense system, thus vindicating the *"Star Wars"* missile defense system initiated by President Reagan in 1983. Obama has called the program a *"boondoggle and unmitigated failure,"* although Defense Secretary Gates favors the continuing development of

the system. Obama also recently offered not to implement the system in Poland in exchange for Russia's assistance in preventing Iran from gaining nuclear weapons. Russian President Dmitri Medvedev called Obama's bluff and quickly accepted his offer to not deploy the defense system in Poland... but said he won't use Iran for haggling. [1439,1504,1839,1840]

Secretary Treasurer Geithner writes a letter to House Speaker Pelosi in which he says he *"will impose on AIG a contractual commitment to pay the Treasury from the operations of the company the amount of the retention awards just paid. In addition, we will deduct from the \$30 billion in assistance an amount equal to the amount of those payments."* AIG will therefore be forced to write a check to the government for the \$165 million amount of the employee bonus payment, *and* the next bail-out payment to AIG will be reduced by \$165 million, *and* Congress intends to tax the bonus payments at 90 per cent. (Some might look at that as penalties of almost three times the amount of the bonuses.) [1879]

Caterpillar, Incorporated, the largest maker of construction and mining equipment in the world, announces that an additional 2,365 workers are being laid off (for an expected six months) and 89 will be let go permanently. (The company had laid off 22,000 workers in January.) Obama visited the company's East Peoria, Illinois factory on February 12 and claimed that *"If Congress passes our (stimulus) plan, this company will be able to rehire some of the folks who were just laid off."* Caterpillar CEO Jim Owens later says, *"The truth is we're going to have more layoffs before we start hiring again... it is going to take some time"* before the stimulus bill prompts new jobs. [1204,1778,1906]

Jason Furman, deputy director of the White House National Economic Council, admits that the administration's \$646 billion estimate of the cost of Obama's cap-and-trade tax program to "fight global warming" will actually cost two or three times that amount. The estimated \$1.3 to \$1.9 trillion in new energy taxes would be spread out over the first eight years of a 40 year program, and those costs will be passed on to consumers – because businesses and utility companies can't print money. The administration's revised cost estimates come at a time when Americans are becoming increasingly skeptical of man's influence on climate change. (A Gallup poll found that 41 per cent of Americans believe that climate change warnings are exaggerated.) According to energy analyst Margo Thorning, Obama's cap-and-trade plan would, *"In dollar cost terms, probably (be) an additional \$700 to \$1,400 per family per year, starting around 2012."* Thorning's study was done *before* the admission that the tax will end up costing not \$646 billion, but two to three times that amount. Other experts place the eventual cost of Obama's global warming tax at \$2,000 to \$5,000 per family per year in added energy expenses – and not just families earning \$250,000 or more per year. [1747,1779,1793,1794,1821,1822]

In March 18 testimony to a congressional committee, AIG head Edward Liddy defends the bonuses paid to its executives because those employees had

specialized knowledge of the business operations and were critical to analyzing and disposing of its complex securities. Liddy accepts the criticism being leveled against AIG, saying *"We have been the beneficiary of the American people's forbearance and patience. And we are acutely aware not only that we must be good stewards of the public funds we have received, but that the patience of America's taxpayers is wearing thin."* Liddy is pressed by Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) to provide a list of the names of AIG executives who were paid bonuses. Liddy refuses, citing death threats the employees had received. (Liddy reads from a threatening letter warning that all bonus recipients should be *"executed with piano wire around their neck,"* and another that asks for *"...all the CEOs' names, kids, where they live, etc."*) Liddy also confirms that the Federal Reserve Board knew about the bonus payments in advance. While legislators from both parties criticize AIG for bonus payments, it is reported that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are also issuing large bonuses to keep key executives from leaving. [1783,1816,1817,1834]

It is reported that a network of Iranian lobbyists has gained considerable access to the Obama administration, with the group seeking to influence U.S. policy toward Iran. The lobbyists have also been giving contributions to members of Congress, and are purportedly supported by high-level leadership in Tehran. [1973]

Ron Kirk, Obama's pick for U.S. trade representative, opposes the pending U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and says the deal *"simply isn't acceptable."* The FTA, negotiated by the Bush administration, agrees to eliminate the U.S. tariff on cars made in South Korea (2.5 per cent) and the South Korean tariff (8 per cent) on U.S. automobiles, thus lowering costs for consumers and increasing the sales of American cars in South Korea. The United Auto Workers (UAW) union nevertheless opposes the FTA and is pressuring the Obama administration accordingly – *despite* the estimated \$10 billion in annual exports it would mean for the United States. Even though the FTA would be good for American business, Obama cannot support it without angering supporters in organized labor. [1784]

As of March 18 the Intrade prediction market lists odds at 25 per cent that Obama's Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, will be asked to resign by the end of 2009. Representatives Connie Mack (R-FL) and Darrell Issa (R-CA) call for Geithner to resign immediately. *"Quite simply, the Timothy Geithner experience has been a disaster,"* says Mack in a written statement. *"The Treasury Department is in disarray."* Issa, who sits on the House Government Reform Committee, issues a statement saying that *"Secretary Geithner either didn't know about the bonuses and was grossly negligent, or he did know and failed to bring this to the president's attention. Either way, the end result has been a significant waste of taxpayer dollars and he should take immediate responsibility and resign."* Obama, meanwhile, states *"I have complete confidence in Tim Geithner and my entire economic team."* Not all criticism comes from Republicans.

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) remarks, *“The president goes out and says this is not acceptable, and then some backroom deal gets cut to let these things (AIG bonuses) get paid out anyway. They need to put this to bed once and for all.”* AIG bonuses or not, Geithner’s future may hinge on the stock market and the economy. The longer the Dow Jones Industrial Average remains low and unemployment remains high, the more likely Geithner will be asked to resign – because Obama has to throw someone other than himself under the bus. [1621,1832]

The Federal Accounting Standards Board (FASB) decides to allow cash-flow accounting, rather than mark-to-market accounting. That change may lead to more reasonable valuations of assets, reducing the bankruptcy chances for some investment firms and banks and increasing the likelihood of stock market improvement. Many investment losses have, in fact, not been actual cash losses but write-downs due to mark-to-market rules. The severity of the financial crisis would have been considerably less had mark-to-market rules been changed sooner. [1788]

It is reported on March 18 that the Obama administration is working to eliminate the program qualifying airline pilots to carry firearms, by shutting off the funds for the training and certification program. Instead, the money will be used to hire additional field inspectors to keep an eye on the pilots. The Washington Times calls the move a *“completely unnecessary harassment of pilots.”* Congress authorized pilots to carry handguns aboard airlines after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. But because the program requires that all pilots re-qualify for weapons use every six months, Obama can effectively eliminate all guns in cockpits within one year simply by ending the training and qualification programs. Terrorists will eventually learn of the program’s cancellation, and will realize they can more easily be able to storm a cockpit and take control of an aircraft. [1798,1801]

The next day, federal officials and the Airlines Pilots Association International (APAI) deny the Washington Times story that the administration is working to take weapons away from pilots. The APAI issues a statement saying the Times story *“couldn’t be further from the truth.”* The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) states that pilots union representatives *“met with TSA executives and were told in no uncertain terms that TSA embraces the FFDO program, that there are no plans to reduce or restrict its growth, and that in fact the agency fully intends to grow and expand the program.”* [1828]

Israeli Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Gabi Ashkenazi travels to Washington to meet with U.S. top officials but is turned away. Although Ashkenazi has met with key government officials in the past, the Obama administration turns a cold shoulder on him during his current visit. He is unable to meet with Obama, Vice-President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Admiral Michael Mullen (his counterpart on the U.S. Chiefs of Staff), or National Intelligence director

Dennis Blair. One diplomat remarks, *"The administration is sending a very clear message to Israel, and this is we want to talk about Palestine and not Iran."* Critics sense that the Obama administration is only willing to meet with people who will *"tell them what they want to hear."* [1800,1893]

Obama appears willing to meet with Iran despite its likelihood of being uncooperative and unresponsive, while Israel would prefer that the U.S. maintain a hard line on Iran and work to prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons. Ashkenazi is eventually allowed to meet with National Security Advisor James Jones, but not with anyone with authority to direct or change U.S. policy. Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton says, *"The Obama administration believes that Israel is as much or more of a problem as it is an ally, at least until Israel's disagreements with its neighbors are resolved."* Obama is likely to continue trying to establish direct talks with Iran, while pressuring Israel to give up land to Palestinians and accept a Fatah-Hamas coalition. One source states that *"The Israeli government and military have been alarmed by the rapid and dramatic reversal in the U.S. policy toward Iran. This reversal took place without any consultation with Israel, Gulf Arab countries or even Congress."* Ashkenazi purportedly is in Washington to encourage the administration not to become too quick to deal with Iran at Israel's expense, and to request additional weapons systems. The rebuff of Ashkenazi by Obama will be seen by Iran as evidence that Obama will not be as likely to come to the assistance of Israel as previous administrations. Obama is thus seen by some as strengthening Iran's negotiating power. [1800,1893]

On March 18 the Federal Reserve Board announces it will be buying as much as \$300 billion in long-term U.S. Treasury securities, as well as additional hundreds of billions in mortgage-backed securities. The government is now essentially printing money to increase the supply of credit, because the yield on Treasury notes (2.53 per cent) is too low to attract other buyers with "real" money. The actions of the Federal Reserve Board cause the value of the U.S. dollar to drop, because foreign buyers of dollars realize that American currency is now worth less. Combined with other moves, the Fed will be adding as much as \$1.15 trillion into the economy through bond purchases. Inflation will be the ultimate result, because the money supply will have grown while the amount of goods and services is shrinking with the declining Gross Domestic Product. More money chasing fewer goods and services yields higher prices, and individuals and institutions holding low-interest bonds and securities will suffer when inflation and taxes consume more than the return on their investment. The Fed also leaves the federal funds rate at 0 to 1/4 per cent and suggests they will remain low for some time. Keynesian economists and the media call the Fed's move *"bold"* – *as though printing worthless money requires bravery.* In response to the Fed's "bold move," the value of the U.S. dollar immediately drops and the price of gold rises. [1802,1814,1851]

The Federal Open Market Commission's (FOMC) press release makes the surprising statement that it *"expects inflation will remain subdued"* – despite the trillion dollars or more the government will be printing in order to buy up federal debt. The FOMC then says that it *"sees some risk that inflation could persist for a time below rates that best foster economic growth and price stability in the longer term,"* suggesting there is some "ideal" inflation level that the government would be happy with and that *"fosters economic growth."* (It is unclear how the administration believes inflation can foster economic growth, when it is essentially a hidden and incredibly regressive tax on all Americans.) It appears that one government goal is to increase inflation in order to get real estate prices back up to satisfy angry property owners – also known as voters – who have seen a significant decline in the market value of their homes and commercial real estate. At the same time, the inflationary policy contradicts government efforts to make housing more "affordable," and harms people with low incomes who are most hurt by inflation. (It is impossible for the government to "target" inflation so that it affects only home prices and nothing else.) [1814]

With regard to the continuous running of the printing presses, investment expert Peter Schiff states, *"This week the Federal Reserve finally made clear what should have been obvious for some time – the only weapon that the Fed is willing to use to fight the economic downturn is a continuing torrent of pure, undiluted, inflation... In its statement the Fed announced its intention to purchase an additional \$1 trillion worth of U.S. treasury and agency debt. The purchases, of course, will be made with money created out of thin air through the Fed's printing presses. Few can doubt that they will persist with these operations until the economy returns to its former health. Whether or not this can ever be accomplished with a printing press alone has never been seriously considered. Bernanke himself admits that we are in uncharted waters, with no map or compass, just simply a hope that more dollars are the answer."* [1882,1905]

Hispanic lawmakers meet with Obama and say afterward that he will present plans for immigration reform in 2009. Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) member Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) notes that Obama *"was clear and eloquent and determinate (sic) to let us know that we are all together in the route of comprehensive immigration reform."* Gutierrez also states that CHC members made *"absolutely clear that this is the civil rights issue of our community and that we will all be judged on how we act on this issue."* The likelihood is that the CHC, most Democrats, and Obama will work toward amnesty and increased benefits for illegal immigrants, even though an increasing number of Americans are concerned about jobs going to illegals, border security, drug violence, and the steadily increasing costs of providing welfare, education, and health benefits to illegals. But where many Americans view illegal immigrants as a problem, most Democrats view them as potential future votes. [1803]

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, meanwhile, tells a mostly-Hispanic San Francisco audience that raids by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency

(ICE) are “*un-American*” and “*must be stopped.*” Pelosi makes her comments at a church, where she was invited to speak by Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) as part of a cross-country “united families” tour. Pelosi also calls immigrants “*very, very patriotic*” – although she does not say which country they might be patriotic toward. [1811,1856,1857]

Attorney General Eric Holder admits that some of the terrorist detainees currently being held at the detention facility at Guantanamo may be released *into the U.S.* Holder tells reporters the administration is still reviewing the approximately 250 cases to decide which detainees can be tried and which can be released, and states that for “*people who can be released there are a variety of options that we have and among them is the possibility is that we would release them into this country. That process is ongoing and we’ve not made any determinations or made any requests of anybody at this point.*” [1813]

It is reported that the U.S. Army is launching an investigation into how and why 22 active duty troops from Fort Rucker were patrolling the streets of Samson, Alabama, after a murder spree by Michael McLendon, a former police officer, on March 10. The use of the troops was likely a violation of federal law. A dispatcher at the five-man Samson Police Department said the soldiers “*came in to help with traffic control and to secure the crime scene.*” It is initially reported that the troop activity was not ordered by the Samson Police Department, Alabama Governor Bob Riley, the Defense Department, or Obama. Improper use of federal troops within the United States is a violation of several laws, including the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878 (Title 18, Section 1835 of the U.S. Code), which reads, “*Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorized by the Constitution or Act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or the Air Force as a posse comitatus or otherwise to execute the laws shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.*” (The Posse Comitatus Act is meant specifically to keep the federal government from exercising direct control over states and localities.) Another statute, Title 18, Section 375 prohibits any member of the Armed Forces from participating in a “*search, seizure, arrest or other similar activity, unless participation is otherwise authorized by law.*” The Insurrection Act of 1808 (Title 10, Section 331) gives the President the power to authorize troops “*to restore order and enforce the laws of the United States*” in the event of an insurrection, but securing a crime scene is not an insurrection (and Obama did not order the troop movements). [1804,1805]

On March 18 Obama addresses a crowd in Costa Mesa, California, where he continues to drum up support for his already-passed stimulus bill by announcing the addition of an eastbound lane for SR91 in Orange County. When he completes his remarks and turns to audience questions Obama, trying to maintain his image of being a “fighter for populist causes,” addresses the issue of AIG bonuses – even though no one asked a question about them. When asked if he will seek re-election in 2012, Obama answers, “*If I could get done what I think needs to get done in four years, even if it meant that I was only president for four*

years, I would rather be a good president – to take on the tough issues for four years – than a mediocre president for eight years.” Obama also tells the gathering that the issue of immigration can’t be “dealt with in pieces”– meaning that he won’t step up border security without also granting amnesty to illegal immigrants and giving them a “path to citizenship.” [1829,1831]

Author, columnist, and political observer R. Emmett Tyrrell remarks that Obama *“...is the most ill-prepared man to be president of the United States since Lincoln’s Vice-President Andrew Johnson abruptly became president... and Johnson had the excuse of being an alcoholic.”* He adds, *“Obama simply is a man without any executive experience. He has spent his time as a community organizer or agitator. He has spent some time as a lawyer for the poor. And he’s spent a lot of his time daydreaming at the University of Chicago about what Utopia ought to be like. Now he’s planning to bring Utopia down on us and it’s going to very, very expensive,”* and *“It’s astonishing. Imagine, the Democratic Party worries about the civil liberties of terrorists in Gitmo. I worry about the civil liberties of ordinary Americans here in the United States with people like Obama and his aides in power.” [1838]*

On March 19 it is reported that the Samson, Alabama police chief did, in fact, request assistance from troops at Fort Rucker after a March 10 mass murder. The 22 soldiers and five vehicles were allegedly sent to Samson under a “mutual aid agreement” which Fort Rucker has with local law enforcement agencies. It is unclear how such an agreement came about or whether it is legal. [1812]

U.S. Pacific commander Admiral Timothy Keating tells Senators at a hearing there is a *“high probability”* that the Navy could knock down a missile North Korea is planning to launch in early April. The U.S. commander in South Korea, General Walter Sharp, says the North Korean threat *“is real.”* A missile launch by North Korea would be a violation of a United Nations Security Council resolution. [2092]

Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CN) continues to say that he was *“completely unaware”* of the AIG executive bonus payment plans, despite evidence that he sanctioned the deal. Instead, Dodd blames his staff for diluting the executive pay provision in the economic stimulus bill. Dodd claims he was *“...the one who has led the fight against excessive executive compensation, often over the objections of many. I did not want to make any changes to my original Senate-passed amendment, but I did so at the request of administration officials.”* Dodd refuses to name the administration officials. Dodd shamelessly blames the legislative process when he argues, *“The alternative was losing, in my view, the entire section on executive excessive compensation. Given a choice, this is not an uncommon occurrence here, I agreed to a modification in the legislation, reluctantly.”* Dodd (whose father, the late Senator Tom Dodd, was one of few Senators ever censured for financial misconduct while in office) is up for re-election in 2010. Dodd, who is also under investigation for alleged “sweetheart”

mortgage deals he got from Countrywide Financial Corporation, currently trails his likely Republican opponent, Rob Simmons, 43 to 42 per cent. Dodd's wife, Jackie Clegg Dodd, worked for IPC Holdings, Ltd., a company affiliated with AIG, between 2001 and 2004. [1818,1819,1823,1824,1864,1976]

Obama and Geithner continue to repeat that they knew nothing of the AIG executive bonuses until the second week of March. Evidence suggests, however, that the administration and many members of Congress had known about them for months. Obama press secretary Robert Gibbs refuses to provide a timeline of "who knew what and when did they know it." A November, 2008 filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) related that retention bonuses would be paid in order to keep valuable employees from leaving. Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) states, *"There was outrage brewing already. I'm saying (to AIG CEO Edward Liddy), 'Be a good citizen, do something about this.'"* Lawyers for the Federal Reserve Board also began reviewing the bonuses while examining retention and compensation plans, but came to the conclusion that the employees would probably win a lawsuit if their payments were withheld. In January of 2009, Congressmen Joseph Crowley of New York and Paul Kanjorski of Pennsylvania had asked the Federal Reserve Board and the Treasury Department to scrutinize the bonus program, knowing that *"all Hell would break loose"* if they didn't *"put the information out there so we wouldn't have the shock..."* In February, legislators removed from the stimulus legislation restrictions on bonuses negotiated before February 11, 2009. Remarkably, by mid-March everyone involved seemed surprised that AIG executives would be receiving bonuses. The stimulus bill also had a provision added by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) that would have capped bonuses at \$100,000. That provision was removed – but no one will say whether that was done by top Democrats in the Senate or ordered by the Obama administration. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) remarks, *"It's shocking that the administration would come to us now and act surprised."* [1833,1844]

Obama nominates Federal Judge David Hamilton to a vacancy on the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Obama says Hamilton has a *"long and impressive record of service and a history of handing down fair and judicious decisions."* Although the media also attempts to portray him as "moderate," the Committee for Justice argues that Hamilton is a *"...classic, liberal judicial activist on issues like abortion, criminal issues such as suppression of evidence and sex offenders, separation of church and state issues."* The Judicial Confirmation Network states that Hamilton *"appears to have made rulings that show his willingness to bend the law to reach outcomes favored by his ACLU allies, which are inconsistent with the proper role of a judge under our Constitution."* Hamilton once ruled that it was unconstitutional for the Indiana Legislature to say a prayer before each session. (The Seventh Circuit, to which Hamilton is now being appointed, overturned that ruling saying it was outrageous.) Hamilton is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which routinely advocates anti-religious positions, and has engaged in fund-raising for Obama's favorite voter registration

organization, ACORN. Republicans will likely not have enough votes to stop Hamilton's confirmation, but Senator James Imhofe (R-OK) threatens to filibuster the appointment. [1820,1916]

It is disclosed that Obama signed an agreement with Crown Publishing Group to write another nonfiction book after he leaves office. The dollar amount of that deal was not made public. Obama also approved a "children's version" of his book, *"Dreams From My Father,"* for which he received an advance of \$500,000. (Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich was roundly criticized for a book deal while he was in office. The White House said Obama's book deal – which he conveniently signed only days before the inauguration in order to avoid ethics charges – is not really a book deal, but a "license" agreement. It is unclear why Obama was so eager for cash that he couldn't wait until after leaving office to negotiate the "license" fee.) [1825,1913]

Ten Republican Congressmen are angered by a Department of Justice (DOJ) civil rights probe into the practices of Sheriff Joe Arpaio, of Maricopa County, Arizona. Arpaio is well known for his tough stance on crime, particularly when it involves illegal immigrants. The Congressmen send a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder, stating *"It is important that state and local law enforcement officers and the public are reassured that the investigation is proceeding in a judicious and fair manner, and not for the purpose of politicizing or chilling immigration efforts."* Arpaio alleges that the federal probe was prompted by his efforts to aggressively go after illegal immigrants in and around Phoenix, and denies that his deputies engage in racial profiling. Arpaio does not apologize for enforcing the law, and has a hot line for reporting immigration violations. Congressman John Conyers (D-MI), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, requested the DOJ investigation. [1826]

Faced with immediate and intense criticism of an attempt to save federal revenue by forcing the cost of medical care for wounded veterans onto private insurance carriers, Obama quickly drops the plan. Obama's press secretary Gibbs claims the idea was floated as an attempt to *"to maximize the resources available for veterans."* Gibbs announces the plan's cancellation with the statement, *"The president listened to concerns raised by the VSOs (veteran service organizations) that this (program) might, under certain circumstances, affect veterans and their families' ability to access health care. Therefore, the president has instructed that its consideration be dropped."* (In other words, the administration recognized that its plan to eliminate medical coverage for veterans would, in fact, eliminate medical coverage.) [1827]

On March 19 the House of Representatives votes to levy a 90 per cent tax on executive bonuses issued to AIG executives, and employees of other companies that have received \$5 billion or more in federal bail-out money. The vote is 328-93. Democrat Charles Rangel snidely remarks, *"We figured that the local and state governments would take care of the other 10 percent."* Although House

Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) calls the bill “crap,” 85 Republicans vote for the bill – mostly to appease angry voters. Boehner says of the vote, “*This is nothing more than an attempt for everyone to cover their butt up here.*” Six Democrats vote against the bill. Some critics, noting the “bill of attainder” restrictions in Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution, as well as the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, argue that the bill is unconstitutional in singling out a specific group of individuals to whom a special tax rate applies. Most legislators follow the polls more closely than the Constitution, however, and a national telephone survey shows that three out of four Americans want AIG executives to return the bonuses. Legislators choose to ignore Obama’s words from his address to a joint session of Congress, “...*that in a time of crisis, we cannot afford to govern out of anger, or yield to the politics of the moment.*” (A Rasmussen poll shows that 81 per cent of U.S. voters believe Congress “*does not have the right to raise taxes on all Americans retroactively.*” Apparently most Americans don’t want taxes raised retroactively on *themselves*, but believe it is acceptable to raise them on AIG employees and others.) [1835,1836,1837,1860,1871,1961]

Harvard law professor Lawrence Tribe (a former Obama professor) argues that an incredibly confiscatory tax that singles out a small group of people can somehow be made constitutional. In “The Atlantic” Tribe writes, “*It would not be terribly difficult to structure a tax, even one that approached a rate of 100 per cent, levied on some or all of the bonuses already handed out (or to be handed out in the future) by AIG and other recipients of federal bailout funds so that the tax would survive bill of attainder clause challenge... The fact that the individuals subject to the tax in its retroactive application would in principle be readily identifiable would not suffice to doom the tax either from a bill of attainder perspective or from a due process perspective... All things considered, I believe it very likely that Congress could design a fully constitutional means of clawing back into the federal treasury all amounts paid (or to be paid in the future) in the form of retention bonuses...*” In other words, Tribe is arguing that Congress can pass a tax that is clearly unfair and punitive as long as it is careful to word it so it can withstand

Constitutional scrutiny; Congress can be mean, cruel, and tyrannical – as long as it pretends otherwise. Contradicting Tribe is Jonathan Turley, a law professor at George Washington University who successfully fought a bill of attainder battle in a federal appeals court. Turley states, “*I am not so confident that it (Congress’ 90 per cent bonus tax legislation) would pass constitutional muster. While courts give Congress great discretion in the tax area, this would require a case of willful blindness.*” [1872,1907]

Within days of its decision the Department of Defense (DOD), under pressure from ammunition manufacturers and Montana Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester, decides it will allow spent ammunition casings to be resold rather than crushed for scrap and sold to China. The quick reversal suggests that the DOD had simply made a policy decision without thinking it through, and that it was not

part of an Obama “stealth plan” to abrogate the Second Amendment right to bear arms. [1751,1846]

It is reported that Richard Holbrooke, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under Bill Clinton and current Obama administration special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, served on the board of AIG between 2001 and mid-2008. During that period AIG accumulated the investments that eventually led to its downfall and a federal bail-out. (Holbrooke resigned just two months before the company collapsed.) White House spokesman Tommy Vietor said that Holbrooke *“had nothing to do with and knew nothing about the bonuses,”* although they were approved while Holbrooke, who was a member of the board’s compensation committee from 2001 to 2005, was still on the AIG Board. (The White House expects Americans to believe that the approval of a \$165 million payout was too little for AIG’s Board of Directors to be concerned with.) A Holbrooke spokesman declined comment. Obama has stated that *“Nobody here (in my administration) was responsible for supervising AIG and allowing themselves to put the economy at risk by some of the outrageous behavior that they were engaged in.”* [1848]

With the economy in shambles, the stock market in the tank, calls for his Treasury Secretary to resign, Iran close to acquiring nuclear weapons, and North Korea poised to launch an ICBM as a show of force... Obama finds time to appear on Jay Leno’s “Tonight Show” on March 19. (This is likely because Obama would rather be in “campaign mode” than “governing mode;” he is better at the former than the latter.) Obama also manages time for an interview with ESPN’s Andy Katz, where he reveals his NCAA picks. (His “final four” picks are North Carolina, Louisville, Memphis, and Pittsburgh.) There is no official word on how much time Obama spent filling out the full bracket (college basketball fans know it can be time-consuming) or how much taxpayer money was spent on the specially-made bracket board, complete with Presidential seal. Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski remarks that *“Somebody said that we’re not in President Obama’s Final Four. As much as I respect what he’s doing, really, the economy is something that he should focus on, probably, more than the brackets.”* [1842,1843,1896]

In his appearance on the Tonight Show Obama accepts responsibility for the AIG bonus fiasco... right before blaming it on others. Obama also mentions how his bowling game has been improving as a result of practice in the White House bowling alley. (Obama had bowled a pathetic score of 37 at a Pennsylvania bowling alley during the campaign, prompting one critic to ask, *“If he bowls like a fag, does that mean he is one?”*) Obama tells Leno *“I bowled a 129.”* Leno responds, *“That’s very good, Mr. President.”* Obama then remarks, *“It’s like the Special Olympics or something.”* The White House quickly attempts to play down Obama’s comment, sending deputy press secretary Bill Burton out to the media to state, *“The president made an off-hand remark making fun of his own bowling that was in no way intended to disparage the Special Olympics. He thinks the*

Special Olympics is a wonderful program that gives an opportunity for people with disabilities from around the world." From Air Force One, Obama calls the chairman of the Special Olympics, Tim Shriver (a nephew of John F. Kennedy), to apologize for his offensive remark. MSNBC's Alex Witt later attempts to convince viewers that Obama's remark was actually a *compliment* of disabled athletes. NPR's Nina Totenburg says of Obama's "Tonight Show" appearance, *"...he calmed me down... I thought it was just a masterful performance."* [856,1853,1858,842, p. 404]

NBC's "Today Show" does its best the next morning to avoid discussing Obama's Special Olympics gaffe, with Meredith Vieira saying only that he *"said something that forced the White House to issue an explanation afterward."* (Viewers would have to look elsewhere to find out what that "something" was.) On "Good Morning America" Special Olympics head Tim Shriver (an Obama supporter and campaign donor) states that Obama *"...apologized in a way I think was very moving."* [1917,1933]

A House panel hears testimony from Heather Heidelbaugh, the lawyer of a Democrat "whistleblower" who worked for ACORN, that the activist group sold "protest for hire" services to liberal and leftist organizations and coerced donations through a mob-like "protection" racket. Heidelbaugh's accusations include tax violations, campaign finance violations, and other violations of the law by ACORN – Obama's favorite voter registration group. Heidelbaugh states that *"...protesting was used to get companies to negotiate. The companies would pay money to get the protesting to stop. In addition to calling this activity 'Muscle for the Money,' the insiders at ACORN called it 'protection.'"* (ACORN was paid by the Service Employees International Union to harass the private equity firm Carlyle Group. Other "shakedown" targets included Sherwin-Williams, H&R Block, Jackson Hewitt, and Money Mart. The shakedown tactics are similar to those followed by Jesse Jackson, who "persuades" large companies to give donations to his "Operation P.U.S.H" in exchange for "protest peace.") Despite its many questionable activities ACORN receives substantial funding from the taxpayers, including money from the massive stimulus bill recently passed by Democrats and signed by Obama. After hearing Heidelbaugh's testimony, House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers (D-MI) proposes hearings to look into charges against ACORN. *"I think that it would be something that would be worth our time. We've never had one person representing ACORN before the committee. I think in all fairness we ought to really examine it."* One former ACORN employee charges that more than half of ACORN's voter registrations from the last election were fraudulent or otherwise invalid. ACORN itself purportedly considers 40 per cent an "acceptable" level of accuracy for its workers. Congressman Jerry Nadler (D-NY) fights the idea of an ACORN hearing, saying he will consider an investigation only when he sees *"credible evidence"* of wrongdoing. [1865,1922,1972,2089]

Lloyd Marcus, a self-described “American black conservative,” writes a song called “*American Tea Party*” to be performed at tax protest in Orlando, Florida on March 21. The first lines are, “*Mr. President! Your stimulus is sure to bust; It’s just a socialistic scheme; The only thing it will do; Is kill the American Dream.*” [1854]

A report issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) suggests that Iran may already have produced enough uranium for a nuclear weapon. Further threatening Israel is the revelation that Russia may sell its advanced S-300 air defense system to Iran. The S-300 system would protect Iran against attacks because it is able to engage targets at altitudes as high as 27,400 meters at a range of 150 kilometers. Retired General Richard Hawley (U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command) says that for non-stealth aircraft the Russian system “*represents a virtual no-fly zone.*” Israel’s F-15I and F-16I aircraft would be effective in taking out Iran’s nuclear facilities only until it deploys an S-300 defense system; after that Israel would want to purchase F-22 Raptor stealth aircraft from the United States. Obama is considering canceling the production of the F-22, which would leave both the U.S. and Israel weaker – and cost as many as 95,000 jobs in the U.S. [1688,1855]

The American Family Association announces it is organizing more than one thousand tax protest tea parties to be held across the nation on April 15. [1859]

The House of Representatives approves H.R. 1388 (the “Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act,” or “GIVE Act”), which funds the existing Americorps and National Senior Service Corps. (The vote is 221-191, with two Republicans voting for the bill and four Democrats voting against it.) The bill also includes \$6 billion for “*new programs and studies,*” which some worry will result in the “National Civilian Security Force” (or “Civilian National Security Force”) which Obama called for at a Colorado campaign appearance on in July, 2008. The legislation discusses whether “*...all individuals in the United States were expected to perform national service or were required to perform a certain amount of national service,*” and “*The means to develop awareness of national service and volunteer opportunities at a young age by creating, expanding, and promoting service options for elementary and secondary school students, through service learning or other means, and by raising awareness of existing incentives.*” Under the “GIVE Act,” groups of “volunteers” would be “*grouped together as appropriate in campuses for operational, support, and boarding purposes. The Corps campus for a unit shall be in a facility or central location established as the operational headquarters and boarding place for the unit... There shall be a superintendent for each camp.*” A “*service learning plan*” would be “*a mandatory part of the curriculum in all of the secondary schools served by the local educational agency.*” (It is unclear how Obama’s “voluntary” program can also be “mandatory.”) The legislation discusses uniforms to be worn by the volunteers, and a “*public service academy, a 4-year institution*” for training future “*public sector leaders.*” Critics rightly question the concept of the program and

wonder if it isn't something similar to the "Hitler Youth" of the 1930s.
[129,276,1861,1954]

The GIVE Act (Section 6104, subsection B6) calls for a commission to investigate *"Whether a workable, fair, and reasonable mandatory service requirement for all able young people could be developed, and how such a requirement could be implemented in a manner that would strengthen the social fabric of the Nation and overcome civic challenges by bringing together people from diverse economic, ethnic, and educational backgrounds."* The federal government is thus considering *forcing* all American youth to be "volunteers." "Overcome civic challenges" means "How can we force people to cooperate when the plan will face tough opposition across the country?" [1948]

The GIVE Act also includes \$115 million for a "Foster Grandparent Program," \$97 million for a "Learn and Serve America" program, \$70 million for a "Retired and Senior Volunteer Program," \$55 million for a "Senior Companion Program," \$12 million per year for the "Silver Scholarships and Encore Fellowships" programs, \$10 million per year for a "Volunteers for Prosperity Program," and \$50 million per year (escalating to \$100 million in 2014) for a "Social Innovation and Volunteer Generation Fund." Even if the federal government were not running trillion dollar deficits one would be hard-pressed to find justification for these programs in the U.S. Constitution. Columnist Michelle Malkin reports that Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) *"successfully attached an amendment to the GIVE Act to bar National Service participants from engaging in political lobbying; endorsing or opposing legislation; organizing petitions, protests, boycotts or strikes; providing or promoting abortions or referrals; or influencing union organizing."* While they are supporting a "mandatory" volunteer program, supporters of the legislation are screaming censorship and demanding that the Foxx amendment be dropped – making it clear that the programs are less about volunteerism than they are about indoctrination of leftist ideology. [1958]

The American Thinker states that Obama *"...plans to double the Peace Corps' budget by 2011, and expand AmeriCorps, USA Freedom Corps, VISTA, YouthBuild Program, and the Senior Corps. Plus, he proposes to form a Classroom Corps, Health Corps, Clean Energy Corps, Veterans Corps, Homeland Security Corps, Global Energy Corps, and a Green Jobs Corps. Here a corps – there a corps – everywhere a corps corps."* [1992]

Alaska's Sarah Palin joins the list of governors turning down some of the Obama's stimulus bill funds because of the excessive federal "strings" attached. In a later op-ed article for the Anchorage Daily News called *"Shovel-Ready or Digging a Hole?"* Palin says her *"...job is to help Alaskans count the cost for the long term, not sell our birthright for short-term gain."* She writes that stimulus funds are tempting, but Alaska *"...must consider whether they create sustainability, help develop our resources, reduce dependency on Washington, and all without mortgaging our kids' futures. Unfortunately, a disproportionate*

percentage of the federal package available to Alaska would increase government operations. It's a stretch to certify that more spending on more bureaucracy actually grows an economy," and "When stimulus money runs out in two years, who will pay for the expanded government programs...? My administration will not willingly and knowingly dig a hole for Alaskans to fill under this enormous, debt-ridden, Washington spending plan." [1862,2072]

Chief Financial Officer of Goldman Sachs, David A. Viniar, has a conference call with reporters and tells them that his company never needed federal bail-out funds and would not have collapsed if AIG, in which it held some collateral (about \$20 billion in total), had failed. Goldman Sachs was given \$12.9 billion of the more than \$180 billion in federal funds handed out to AIG under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). Former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson was also a former CEO of Goldman Sachs. The disclosure raises even more doubts about the government's insistence in late 2008 that it had to act quickly to save failing companies, and the motives behind the efforts of Henry Paulson, Timothy Geithner, and Ben Bernanke to orchestrate the bail-outs. [1964]

Obama records a video to the Iranian people, with subtitles in the Farsi language, for release on March 20, the first day of spring. Obama says, *"So in this season of new beginnings I would like to speak clearly to Iran's leaders. We have serious differences that have grown over time. My administration is now committed to diplomacy that addresses the full range of issues before us, and to pursuing constructive ties among the United States, Iran and the international community."* The words "liberty," "freedom," and "democracy" are not used by Obama, who seems to be appealing more to Iran's repressive leaders than its repressed people, and he gives no indication that he will stand in the way of Iran's nuclear ambitions. To Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Obama states, *"This process will not be advanced by threats. We seek instead engagement that is honest and grounded in mutual respect," and "The United States wants the Islamic Republic of Iran to take its rightful place in the community of nations. You have that right, but it comes with real responsibilities, and that place cannot be reached through terror or arms, but rather through peaceful actions that demonstrate the true greatness of the Iranian people and civilization."* [1863,1866]

To the surprise of almost no one, Iran responds to Obama's videotaped message by saying it sees no change in U.S. policy under the new administration. Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini says in a speech to a crowd of thousands, *"They chant the slogan of change but no change is seen in practice. We haven't seen any change," and "He (Obama) insulted the Islamic Republic of Iran from the first day. If you are right that change has come, where is that change? What is the sign of that change? Make it clear for us what has changed."* As Khomeini speaks, the crowd chants *"Death to America."* [1887]

Obama is awarded a "Newsmaker of the Year" award by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (also known as the Black Press of America), a federation

of 200-plus black community newspapers. The award ceremony is held in the State Dining Room of the White House. The self-described “most transparent administration in history” closes the event to press coverage. [1867,1868]

Perhaps as an indication of things to come under Obama’s future global warming cap-and-trade taxes and regulations, almost 100 gas stations in California are being forced out of business by the state’s new vapor emissions reduction requirements. One station owner, George Fasching, relates, *“I came to the decision that I was too small a volume operator to continue on with the expenses imposed by the bureaucracy of the state.”* The required equipment will cost owners *\$11,000 per pump*, which many operators will not be able to afford. For those who are able to stay in business, the cost of the equipment (and the interest on any loans needed to pay for it) will simply be passed on to consumers through higher prices – and the owners and employees of 100 stations will be unemployed. [1869]

Bankers respond to the AIG bonus taxation legislation, warning that the industry will be significantly harmed if the most talented people are driven away by Congressional witch hunts. One banker warns, *“Finance is one of America’s great industries, and they (the Obama administration and Congress) are destroying it,”* and *“This is the most profoundly anti-American thing I’ve ever seen.”* The crusade against the banks may work against the government’s efforts to loosen the “credit crisis” if the banks simply decide the hassle of the bail-out money is not worth it and return the cash. One Wall Street executive cautions, *“There are three big industries where the U.S. has global leadership: financial services, media and technology. Introducing this 90 per cent tax is like taking one of those industries out back and shooting it.”* Some of the best commodity traders may simply move to other industries, leaving the banks and investment firms with less talented employees to resolve the massive problems. Firms that have not accepted TARP funds are, in fact, actively recruiting the best employees of TARP companies, luring them with “Obama-penalty-free” salaries and bonuses [1870]

Alarmed by Obama’s \$3.6 trillion budget, a growing number of Democrats call for significant spending cuts. A group of 51 Democrats releases a list of budget cuts totaling \$40 billion per year. That same group of legislators is also unlikely to give Obama free rein in passing expensive and economy-damaging cap-and-trade global warming legislation. The “blue dog” Democrats hope to re-establish some degree of budget discipline with a pay-as-you-go system, which will require increased spending in one program offset by cuts elsewhere. [1873]

In a CNN interview on March 20 Secretary Treasurer Geithner half-heartedly accepts blame for the AIG bonus controversy, saying *“On Tuesday (March 17) I was informed about the full scale and scope of these specific bonus problems. You know, it’s my responsibility, I was in a position where I didn’t know about these sooner. I take full responsibility for that.”* The problem with Geithner’s apology is that long before March 17 officials knew of the bonus payments, and

Geithner himself was questioned about the AIG bonus payments by Congressman Joseph Crowley at a March 3 appearance before the House Ways and Means Committee. [1880]

The chief political advisor for the terrorist group Hamas, Ahmed Yousef, says he is hopeful Obama will be less supportive of Israel than his predecessors. *"We hear all the time statements (from Obama) promising change will come to the region, and that's what we count on. All the time the Israelis try to use their military might to destroy all chances of peace. Under Bush, America backed everything Israel did. Obama is someone who everyone looks to in a different way than Bush. He is willing to see things differently and take a more evenhanded approach toward Israel."* Yousef would like Obama to withhold U.S. financial support from Israel to force it to make concessions. The Hamas charter calls for the destruction of Israel and the death of all Jews yet Obama advisors, including Paul Volcker and Zbigniew Brzezinski, have been pushing for a U.S. dialogue with the terrorist group Hamas. Supporting that position is Brent Scowcroft, former National Security Advisor under President George H.W. Bush. Scowcroft is rumored to be the next chairman of Obama's National Intelligence Council, the position originally offered to the anti-Israel Charles Freeman. [1891,1893]

Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, Kent Conrad (D-ND), states that Obama has underestimated the projected 10-year deficit of \$7 trillion by at least \$1.6 trillion. (The Congressional Budget Office numbers also understate spending because they do not count the off-budget printing of money by the Federal Reserve Board.) In a totally incongruous statement, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says, *"You can't say we're going to do less because the numbers are pessimistic. You say, we have to do what we do in light of those numbers."* Making sure to mention Obama's triad of pet projects, Pelosi adds *"We have to recognize that education, a change in energy policy and healthcare reform are what will turn the economy around, bring money to the Treasury, make us competitive internationally and put the economy on a much more stable footing as we go into the future."* She does not explain how spending trillions the government does not have will "bring money to the Treasury." Senator Judd Gregg, also on the Senate Budget Committee, says *"The budget that was sent up is not sustainable for our nation. They are creating a structural failure in our economy, in our country, and in our governing. If you have debt in 2013, public debt at 67 percent of GDP under the president's score, and you have a deficit of over 3 percent of GDP, and that goes on forever... you're on a path where you are basically bankrupting the nation."* [1881]

Obama's Budget Director Peter Orszag concedes at a March 20 news conference that the projected annual deficits are *"ultimately not sustainable."* But like Obama and Pelosi, Orszag also predicts that everything will be rosy if Congress simply nationalizes health care, spends more money on education, forces America to "go green," and cuts the deficit – despite the first three goals being in conflict with the last. A skeptical Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA)

remarks, *“People can afford only so much government spending, even for the worthiest-sounding causes.”* [1885]

In a Sean Hannity interview on Fox, former Senator Fred Thompson weighs in on the AIG bonus fiasco and states, *“I think clearly the administration knew about it last year, the Fed knew about a year ago, apparently, and it’s not like they don’t talk to the Treasury. And of course, Geithner was head of the operations that supervised AIG when they took him over, so they had to know... When I see Geithner (at) this late date say something like ‘I didn’t know the full scale and scope,’ I know he needs a good cross-examination. I hope someone gives him that... Not only did they agree to it and pass on it, they got with Dodd, as you pointed out, and figured out a way to save it in that last bill, and then feigning outrage when it all came to light. You know, it is – it was a blown cover-up... he (Senator Christopher Dodd) got caught in a flat-out lie, and just at a time when you think the American people can’t get any more cynical, I think they are... And people are going to keep their money under the mattress until they have that confidence, and when they see that people in the administration are not being frank with them about relatively – some people might say minor things – then they don’t have any confidence in them with regard to anything else.”* [1923]

In his Saturday radio address of March 21 Obama presses for approval of his budget. He accepts that Congress may end up making some changes to it, but argues that the final budget must address health care reform, invest in education, reduce dependence on foreign oil – *and cut the deficit*. He makes that amazing deficit demand despite the fact that his own budget calls for a record \$3.6 trillion in spending and will, according to congressional auditors, generate a \$9.3 trillion increase in the national debt over 10 years. Obama states, *“I realize there are those who say these plans are too ambitious to enact,”* but “ambitious” is generally not the word used for criticizing his budget. In the weekly Republican radio address, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour slams Obama for his enormous spending spree the nation cannot afford, saying that Obama’s budget *“...spends too much, taxes too much and borrows too much.”* [1876]

Obama’s budget will generate far more deficits than he admits, partly because he assumes overly rosy scenarios with regard to growth in the nation’s Gross Domestic Product. His budget proposal also assumes savings from the expiration of spending for certain programs after 2011. An understandably skeptical Congressman Paul Ryan, ranking Republican member of the Budget Committee, remarks, *“We are supposed to believe that Nancy Pelosi, Charlie Rangel, Henry Waxman, and Ted Kennedy are going to allow spending for programs ranging from education for disabled kids, to Pell Grants, to Head Start, to child nutrition programs to fall off a cliff two years from now.”* Allowing two dozen of the most popular such programs to continue would, according to the Congressional Budget Office, tack an additional \$3.27 trillion to the national debt over the next 10 years. (Obama’s budget numbers are fraudulent because they count the “savings” from expensive programs that could be ended in a few years – when

he most certainly knows there is no livelihood of those programs being voted down.) Adding even more to the deficits will be money for his national health care program, the cost of which Obama seriously underestimates in his budget proposal. [2071]

While the U.S. government is busy printing money, a United Nations panel plans on recommending that the world stop using the U.S. dollar as its reserve currency. *"It is a good moment to move to a shared reserve currency,"* said Avinsah Persaud, a member of the U.N. panel. Persaud has argued that the Chinese yuan will eventually replace the dollar as a global currency reserves. [1892]

On behalf of "Military Families United" the organization's president, John Ellsworth, writes a letter to all Members of Congress asking that the federal government not allow prisoners currently at Guantanamo to be brought to the U.S. after its detention facility is closed. The letter is in response to Attorney General Holder's recent public statement that among the options the administration has is *"...the possibility is that we would release them (some of the detainees) into this country."* [1813,1878]

Dr. Orly Taitz, who represents several plaintiffs in lawsuits challenging Obama's eligibility to serve as President, writes FBI chief Robert Mueller and charges that *"...there was tampering with documents and records by employees of the Supreme Court and the justices never saw (her legal) briefs."* She believes there was *"...forgery of court records, tampering with court records, cyber crime, erasing of court records from the docket, fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud and other related crimes."* Taitz' case, *Lightfoot v. Bowen*, had been scheduled for a Supreme Court hearing but it never took place. Justices Scalia and Roberts have both stated they never heard of the case, which contradicts other court information. [1883]

While Obama pushes for "green jobs" and "clean energy," environmentalists have the support of Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) in trying to prevent solar energy production and wind farms on 500,000 acres in California's Mojave Desert. To save the habitat of the desert tortoise, Feinstein plans on legislation to turn the land into a national monument, free from future development. The "Wildlife Conservancy" says the solar projects would *"...destroy the entire Mojave desert ecosystem."* (The Mojave Desert covers about 25,000 square miles.) Most would assume that a hot, cloudless, dry desert is the ideal location for solar power installations. It is unclear how Obama expects to make America "less dependent on foreign oil" if he and his fellow Democrats do not allow drilling for oil and natural gas in the U.S. or offshore – and if solar projects can't be built in the desert. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger remarks, *"If we cannot put solar power plants in the Mojave Desert, I don't know where we can put it (sic)."* [1886,1897]

Obama's choice for Solicitor General is Elena Kagan, former dean of the Harvard Law School. Although Kagan has never argued a case before the Supreme Court, Kagan is well respected by Democrats and Republicans. [1898,1899,1900]

The New York Times reports that the Obama administration will call for *"increased oversight of executive pay at all banks, Wall Street firms and possibly other companies."* Details are not provided. [1904]

At the "Gridiron Dinner" Vice President Biden jokes, *"You know, I never realized just how much power Dick Cheney had until my first day on the job. I walked into my office, and you know how the outgoing president always leaves the incoming president a note in his desk? I opened my drawer and Dick Cheney had left me Barack Obama's birth certificate."* The mainstream media chooses to ignore Biden's remark because it might prompt people to wonder, *"Why is that funny? Does Obama have a problem with his birth certificate?"* [1905]

A March 21 tea party tax protest in Orlando, Florida attracts approximately 4,200 protesters. One placard reads, *"Obama lied, liberty died."* Others read, *"The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money"* and *"Obama – he's robbin' U.S. not Robin Hood."* The event's emcee, radio host Bud Hedinger, tells the crowd, *"We have had enough of massive government-driven bail-outs using our money."* The increasing numbers of anti-tax and anti-Obama public protests with thousands of participants receive almost no national media attention, although the New York Times does find space to report about an ACORN bus tour of the expensive homes of AIG executives – an event which had more reporters than protesters in attendance. [1910,1932]

The Obama administration states that it will sign a United Nations declaration that calls for the worldwide decriminalization of homosexuality. The document is allegedly non-binding, but critics worry that it will lead to the U.N. defining laws within the United States. [1911]

On ABC's "This Week" on March 22, Biden's economic advisor Jared Bernstein says the House bill to tax AIG bonuses at 90 per cent may have gone too far and that there may be *"...some legal issues, constitutional validity, using the tax code to surgically punish a small group. That may be a dangerous way to go."* Appearing on CNN's "State of the Union," Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) warns, *"...let's not overreact in a way that basically has the Congress grabbing its pitchforks, and charging up the hill, and abusing what is a core authority of a government, which is the authority to tax its people."* Gregg expresses concern over Obama's budget, saying *"The practical implication of this is bankruptcy for the United States. There's no other way around it. If we maintain the proposals which are in this budget over the 10-year period that this budget covers, this country will go bankrupt. People will not buy our debt. Our dollar will become*

devalued.” Obama’s budget will produce an estimated \$9.3 trillion in deficits over the next 10 years – quadruple the deficits of the Bush administration. [1912]

Obama supporters work to block Internet access to Pamela Geller’s popular Atlas Shrugs web site, forcing readers to find proxy sites to access her articles and news stories that the mainstream media refuses to cover. In one instance, an “overzealous” employee at Secure Computing (which is owned by the software security company McAfee) purportedly decided on her own that certain sites warrant being given a “hate/discrimination” classification – apparently for daring to be critical of Obama or radical Islamic jihadists. [1918,1919]

The liberal New York Times starts to become critical of Obama in its March 22 edition. Frank Rich writes that until Obama “*addresses the full depth of Americans’ anger with his full arsenal of policy smarts and political gifts, his presidency and, worse, our economy will be paralyzed*” and “*(Obama economic advisor Larry) Summers is so tone-deaf that he makes Geithner seem like Bobby Kennedy.*” Paul Krugman lambasts the Obama/Geithner bank recovery plan, saying, “*This plan will produce big gains for banks that didn’t actually need any help; it will, however, do little to reassure the public about banks that are seriously undercapitalized. And I fear that when the plan fails, as it almost surely will, the administration will have shot its bolt: it won’t be able to come back to Congress for a plan that might actually work. What an awful mess.*” One bank executive says, “*I don’t see how they are going to get the banks to sell (the questionable assets)*” because they are likely to get a price far lower than the value on their books, and if the sale forces the recording of a substantial loss the bank will fail the legislation’s “stress test” and thus be taken over by the government. Obama and Geithner incorrectly assume that if only the banks could unload their “bad assets” they will start lending again and the economy will recover. The banks will, however, be more cautious than ever in their lending practices, not wanting to be burned again by highly-leveraged investments or subprime mortgages. At the same time, individuals will be less likely to borrow when they are trying to pay off debt that appears more frightening with the values of their homes having declined and their jobs less secure. Businesses will be reluctant to add debt or expand their operations with a slow economy and the worry that accompanies the unknown – with the unknown being, “*What will Obama, Geithner, Bernanke, and Congress do next?*” [1925,2069]

Obama appears on “60 Minutes” to discuss the state of the economy. Despite the seriousness of the subject of the sour economy – and with millions of Americans unemployed – Obama laughs and chuckles several times during the interview. Asked about auto industry troubles, Obama laughingly states, “*I just want to say that the only thing less popular than putting money into banks is putting money into the auto industry.*” Obama’s lack of seriousness prompts CBS interviewer Steve Kroft to remark, “*You’re sitting here. And you’re... you are laughing. You are laughing about some of these problems. Are people going to look at this and say, ‘I mean, he’s sitting there just making jokes about money...’ How do you*

deal with... I mean, explain...” and asks Obama, “*Are you punch-drunk?*” Obama answers, “*No, no. There’s gotta be a little gallows humor to get you through the day.*” Referring to Wall Street investors who lost money, Obama says with a chuckle, as though he’s pleased that thousands of capitalists lost fortunes, “*I mean there were a whole bunch of folks who, on paper, if you looked at quarterly reports, were wildly successful, selling derivatives that turned out to be... completely worthless.*” In the interview Obama also expresses confidence in his battered Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, and says, “*Sorry buddy, you’ve still got the job.*” [1924,1927,1934]

On his weekly radio program Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez accuses Obama of “*exporting terrorism*” and calls him a “*poor ignorant person*” who “*should read a little bit so that he learns about... the reality of Latin America.*” [1928]

On March 23 the Obama administration unveils a “Public-Private Investment Program” (PPIP) to buy up \$1 trillion in “toxic assets” from the economic downturn. Under the new program the government would offer hundreds of billions in low-interest loans to encourage private investors to buy the troubled assets. The program would also allow the Treasury Secretary to seize a firm with the agreement of Obama and the Federal Reserve Board. The seized firm would essentially be in conservatorship, as in a bankruptcy. (It is unclear why that federal conservatorship program is needed, when the firm could more easily be allowed to file bankruptcy with essentially the same results.) [1914,1915]

Attorney Dr. Orly Taitz resubmits her case, *Lightfoot v. Bowen*, to the U.S. Supreme Court. She alleges that court clerk Danny Bickell mishandled the original filing and that many of the original documents she submitted in December were either not received or were kept from the Justices. Dr. Taitz also files a Motion for Leave to File Writ of Quo Warranto. (A *quo warranto* – Latin for “*by what warrant?*” – is essentially a legal request to compel a person to show by what authority or right he is exercising some power or authority, such as compelling an elected official to prove his is eligible to serve.) [2344,2345]

At the Gridiron Club’s annual dinner, Vice-President Biden pokes fun at Obama with the remark, “*He can’t be here tonight because he’s busy getting ready for Easter. He thinks it’s about him.*” [2320]

The stock market reacts favorably – if only temporarily – to the news that the Federal Reserve Board and the Treasury Department will pour more money into the banking system via a Public-Private Investment Program. The DJIA closes at 7,775.86 on March 23, up 497.48 points (6.8 per cent). Shortly after the announcement of the new program, Pacific Investment Management Company (PIMCO) announces it would be willing to buy some of the “troubled assets” that will be available at bargain prices. On the up-side, PIMCO can possibly make a substantial return on its investment. On the down-side, the taxpayers will be

lending money to the investors to buy the assets, and the taxpayers will share in any losses. (The government promises to put a “floor” on losses of only 10-20 per cent of what the investor pays for the assets.) Douglas Elliott, of the Brookings Institution, explains why the program can be a win-win for investors (but a loss-loss for the taxpayers). *“For example, it could be rational for investors to offer 40 cents on the dollar, calculating that they would benefit sharply if the price went to 50 cents, while the government (the taxpayers) would absorb most of the losses if the value fell to 30 cents on the dollar.”* PIMCO argues that the government should dump an additional \$3 trillion into the economy. *“Right now, the Fed has spent about \$3 trillion. We believe there has (sic) to be further stimulus policies put in place,”* said the CEO of PIMCO Asia, Ltd., Brian Baker. (PIMCO likely believes it would profit from the resulting hyperinflation, even though most Americans will suffer greatly.) [1937,1980]

Although PIMCO may be eager to get involved in the federal program, many investors may shy away if they worry that making a profit off the purchase of troubled assets will result in the same abuse experienced by AIG executives (death threats, retroactive 90 per cent tax increases, public humiliation, ACORN tours of executives’ homes, media criticism and ridicule). Some of the assets have had willing buyers for months, but many banks have been reluctant to sell them at greatly reduced prices and have been waiting for a federal (that is, taxpayer-funded) program from which they might get a better return. By promising a bail-out program, therefore, Obama and Geithner aggravated and extended the economic crisis by inadvertently encouraging the banks to hold on to their assets. (The bankers essentially thought, “Why sell ‘asset X’ for \$50 million today when I can wait a while and get \$75 million from Obama and Geithner later?”) [1937,1980]

Obama states that the goal of the bank bail-out plan *“...is to get banks lending again, so families can get basic consumer loans, auto loans, student loans, (and so on) that small businesses are able to finance themselves, and we can start getting this economy moving again.”* The real problem, however, is the lack of savings by Americans. Without an increase in savings, banks have limited funds to lend. If the government assists the banks in unloading their “toxic assets,” the banks will still be reluctant to lend until the savings rate increases. In fact, banks will be stricter than ever in order to avoid the subprime loans and over-leveraged loans that contributed to the problem in the first place. Eventually, when savings levels increase and the banks have more cash, they will lend it. Those who favor nationalizing the banks don’t want to wait for the recession to wind down and the savings rates to improve. They know the government will be more eager to lend money, and not worried about depleting reserves because the Fed can always “print more money.” The economy has not, as Obama argues, experienced a “credit crunch,” it has experienced a “debt explosion,” and expanding debt will not return the economy to normalcy. The federal government, regrettably, discouraged people from saving by keeping interest rates artificially low, while encouraging them to invest unwisely with the same low interest rates.

(Americans were essentially forced to speculate because the return they got on their savings was negative as a result of income taxes and inflation.) [2136]

On March 23 Missouri Director of the Department of Public Safety, John Britt, sends a letter of apology to Congressman Ron Paul, former Congressman Bob Barr, and presidential candidate Chuck Baldwin for being singled out in its MIAC document that suggested their supporters were possible dangers to the community. Britt tells them, *"I have ordered that the offending report be edited so as to excise all reference to Ron Paul, Bob Barr or Chuck Baldwin and to any third-party political organizations."* Two days later the head of the Missouri State Highway Patrol orders the Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC) to stop distributing the provocative and inaccurate report. It may likely be replaced with something only slightly less disturbing, however, and it is assumed that other states may still be using similar reports based on information from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). There is a suspicion that the MIAC report originated from the Southern Poverty Law Center, which would mean that the DHS is relying on left-wing political groups to create "police-profiles" or "political profiles" of conservatives. The Missouri Highway Patrol states it will investigate the origin if the report. The state's Lieutenant Governor, Peter Kinder, suggests placing the director of public safety on leave until the matter is investigated. Missouri's Governor, Jay Nixon, states that *"Under a previous system, MIAC would prepare and distribute these reports to law enforcement agencies without review or approval from the colonel of the Highway Patrol or the director of Public Safety. That's simply not acceptable."* [1946,1993,2080]

The "Pay for Performance Act of 2009" is introduced in the House on March 23. The legislation prohibits the payment of "unreasonable and excessive" compensation. Treasury Secretary Geithner will define "unreasonable or excessive" – giving one Washington bureaucrat the power to tell Americans how much they can earn. [2084,2085]

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) – free to outsource because of the elimination of "buy American" provisions in a recent appropriations bill – announces that it will now be distributing condoms purchased from companies in China and other countries, rather than its Alabama supplier, Alatech. The change will cost as many as 300 American jobs in the small town of Eufaula, because the American company charges \$0.05 per condom, while they can be purchased overseas for as little as \$0.02 each. [1929]

It is reported by Politico that Obama's six-week-old, 16-member, blue-ribbon panel to resolve the economic crisis has yet to hold its first official meeting. It appears, however, that *"...some members of the panel are meeting, in smaller gatherings that have not been announced or opened to the public,"* which *"...raises the question of whether an administration that (brags about its) openness and transparency is in fact finding it more convenient to conduct public business in private."* In the past there has been public and media furor over

“secret meetings” by government officials, such as with Hillary Clinton’s health care task force and former Vice President Cheney’s energy policy task force. Wake Forest Law University professor Sidney Shapiro remarks, *“If (Obama) wants private advice, he should pick up the telephone. He can call anybody he wants. If he wants to form a presidential advisory committee, they (sic) ought to meet in public.”* [1930]

The army of Obama supporters envisioned by the Organizing for America (OFA) project turns out to be more of a battalion, according to early reports. The plan to get as many as one million Obama volunteers going door to door on March 21 to drum up citizen support for Obama’s \$3.6 trillion budget fizzles. The initial door-to-door campaign attracts only about 1,200 volunteers, who managed to collect only 642,000 signatures of people willing to support adding \$9.3 trillion to the national debt. Although volunteers rang doorbells at tens of thousands of homes their efforts appear to have been wasted, as they did not result in a flood of calls to legislators demanding they pass Obama’s budget. Legislators said they felt little or no pressure from the canvassing, and many were unaware of the canvassing effort. Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) remarks, *“News to me.”* Professional pollsters comment that rallying behind a budget is not the same as drumming up support for a candidate. [1936,2163]

OFA manages to attract about 30 volunteers in the Birmingham, Alabama area to canvas shopping centers and other public locations to ask for signatures pledging support of Obama’s enormous budget. Before the group is sent out organizer Chris DeHaven tells the volunteers, *“If we don’t change these three things (“green” global-warming-free energy, nationalized health care, and massive public education funding) in the next 10 to 15 years, America is over as we know it.”* DeHaven later states, *“We’re looking for supporters. We’re not looking for a fight. That will come later, when we have an army”* – suggesting that at least some Obama followers will be eager to resort to violence if they do not get their way. [1944]

Roman Catholics express outrage that the University of Notre Dame will give the pro-abortion Obama an honorary degree and allow him to deliver a May 17 commencement address, and ask for a withdrawal of the invitation. The national director of the Pro-Life Action League, Joe Scheidler (a Notre Dame alumnus), says *“My alma mater should not be providing a platform for this president. Starting from his first week in office, President Obama has enacted a string of executive orders, appointments and policy decisions that contradict Catholic teaching on the sanctity of life – a teaching that Notre Dame is supposed to uphold. Father Jenkins cannot expect pro-life Catholics to stand back and allow the most pro-abortion president in U.S. history to make a mockery of Notre Dame’s Catholic identity.”* Many anti-Obama and anti-abortion demonstrators will likely be present at the event, considering that more than 130,000 anti-abortion Catholics signed petitions objecting to the Obama appearance. Eric Scheidler, of the Pro-Life Action League, states *“And you know if Jenkins won’t do the right*

thing and disinvite Barack Obama, then we are absolutely going to have no choice but to go out and rain on Barack Obama's parade on May 17 in South Bend, Indiana. We are already working with pro-life leaders around the country, especially throughout the Midwest, to put on the mother of all protests." The mainstream media, eager to avoid stories emphasizing Obama's rigid pro-abortion stance, essentially ignores the story. [1941,2021,2022,2062]

Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz says in an interview that the Obama-Geithner bank bail-out plan "...is very badly flawed" and offers "*perverse incentives*" because the upside goes to the investors while the downside goes to the taxpayers. "*Quite frankly,*" says Stiglitz, "*this amounts to robbery of the American people. I don't think it's going to work because I think there'll be a lot of anger about putting the losses so much on the shoulder of the American taxpayer.*" Stiglitz also warns that even if the banks can unload their riskiest assets, they may still be unwilling to make subsequent new loans with the prospect of rising inflation and income taxes further putting the brakes on the economy. [1942]

Another Nobel Prize economist, Paul Krugman, also says the bank bail-out plan will fail. "*This (plan) is more than disappointing,*" Krugman writes in The New York Times. "*In fact it fills me with a sense of despair. But the fact is that financial executives literally bet their banks on the belief that there was no housing bubble, and the related belief that unprecedented levels of household debt were no problem. They lost that bet. And no amount of financial hocus-pocus – for that is what the Geithner plan amounts to – will change that fact.*" Krugman adds, "*If this plan fails – as it almost surely will – it's unlikely that he (Obama) will be able to persuade Congress to come up with more funds to do what he should have done in the first place.*" [1943]

Obama nominates Harold H. Koh to be Legal Advisor of the Department of State. Koh is the Dean of Yale University Law School and served in the Clinton administration as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. The "transnationalist" Koh is critical of the U.S. for failing to "*obey global norms,*" and believes the U.S. should ratify the International Criminal Court (ICC) treaty and obey ICC demands to eliminate the death penalty. Koh supports a "*transnational legal process*" with "*transnational interactions*" in order to "*internalize*" into U.S. law global legal interpretations. Koh believes U.S. courts "*must look beyond national interest to the mutual interests of all nations in a smoothly functioning international legal regime,*" have "*a central role to play in domesticating international law into U.S. law,*" and should "*use their interpretive powers to promote the development of a global legal system.*" (In other words, Koh believes that the U.S. Constitution should be considered subservient to the laws the rest of the world would like imposed on Americans.) [1965,1966,2246]

At the March 24 White House news briefing, press secretary Robert Gibbs ignores 46 reporters and allows all questions to come from only a handful of

journalists. Gibbs takes six questions from Fox News, six from Bloomberg, five from CBS radio, four from the Wall Street Journal, and four from American Urban Radio. Although no reporters would expect to always be able to ask a question at the briefings, Gibbs intentionally focuses on only a few and ignores the rest. [1947]

In a March 24 newspaper editorial called "*A Time for Global Action*," Obama, apparently totally unaware of the actions he and Congress have taken over the first two months of his administration, states "*We must put an end to the reckless speculation and spending beyond our means.*" He argues that "*...we need not choose between a chaotic and unforgiving capitalism and an oppressive government-run economy...*" at the same time that he is working to prevent Americans from even being allowed to choose capitalism over big government. [2023]

A group of 33 Senators (25 Republicans and 8 Democrats) writes Senate Budget Chairman Kent Conrad and ranking member Judd Gregg asking that they oppose use of the budget reconciliation process to "grease the skids" for Obama's cap-and-trade taxes. (Budget reconciliation allows a usually *minor* amendment to the budget to be added without the possibility of being blocked by a filibuster.) The letters argues that "*Legislation so far-reaching should be fully vetted and given appropriate time for debate, something the budget reconciliation process does not allow,*" and charges that "*Using this procedure would circumvent normal Senate practice and would be inconsistent with the Administration's stated goals of bipartisanship, cooperation, and openness.*" [1949]

The Heritage Foundation reviews Obama's budget proposal, compares White House deficits with those of the Congressional Budget Office, and confirms that the administration's massive spending plans will cause record-setting deficits and an incredible increase in the already gargantuan national debt. [2086]

Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) indicates he will oppose the "card check bill" (the intentionally misnamed "Employee Free Choice Act") if brought up for a vote in its present form. The bill would allow unions to organize companies *without* a secret ballot, thus enabling the bullying of workers to get them to vote for union representation. Because the Democrats will likely be unable to get the bill passed without the support of liberal Republican Specter, organized labor is staging an all-out effort to pressure him into supporting the legislation – which Obama has promised union leaders he will sign. The AFL-CIO tells Specter it will encourage Democrat members to switch to Republican ballots in the 2010 primary to help Specter fight off expected challenges from conservatives. Several Democrats in the Senate may also have trouble supporting the bill, specifically Blanch Lincoln and Mark Pryor of Arkansas, who will be reluctant to vote for a bill that causes Wal-Mart's growth to slow and its profits to shrink. (Wal-Mart is the largest employer in Arkansas and is also non-union). A Gallup poll reflects that 53 per

cent of those polled “favor” the proposed “Employee Free Choice Act” – but the generally left-leaning Gallup organization conveniently neglects to mention that the law would eliminate secret ballots, and merely asks, “*Generally speaking, would you favor or oppose a new law that would make it easier for labor unions to organize workers?*” If the poll question were, “*Would you favor a law that eliminates your right to a secret ballot in union elections?*” the results would certainly be different. Employees at Dana Corporation in Albion, Indiana are among those who have experienced tremendous pressure and threats from organized labor’s thugs during a “card check” drive. [1950,1951,1959,2088,2389]

Democrats who support the “Employee Free Choice Act” may have forgotten their admonishment of Mexico in 2001, when many of them said, “*The secret ballot is absolutely necessary in order to ensure that workers are not intimidated into voting for a union they might not otherwise choose.*” In 2008 the highest court in Mexico affirmed the right to a secret ballot. Obama and some U.S. legislators apparently do not believe that American workers deserve the same protections afforded to Mexican employees. [1955]

Secretary Treasurer Geithner asks Congress on March 24 for the power to take control of large insurers, investment firms, and hedge funds, and not be limited to seizing only banks. “*The proposed resolution authority would allow the government to provide financial assistance to make loans to an institution, purchase its obligations or assets, assume or guarantee its liabilities and purchase an equity interest,*” Geithner tells the House Financial Services Committee. Obama says he hopes “*it doesn’t take too long*” for Congress to give Geithner the unprecedented powers. But even Democrats may be reluctant to turn over such power to one man – especially one whose performance has been considerably less than impressive. Federal Reserve Board chairman Ben Bernanke tells the committee he wanted to sue AIG to prevent the executive bonus payments, but was told by legal counsel that was a risky course of action because the laws in Connecticut (where AIG is based) would award the employees substantial punitive damages if the government were to lose the lawsuit. Constitutional lawyer Mark Levin, author of the best-selling “*Liberty and Tyranny: A Conservative Manifesto,*” flatly and correctly states “*There is no Constitutional authority...*” for giving Geithner the power he has requested. “*We have an administration full of czars, full of people who don’t comply with the Constitution. The question today is, ‘What is your authority, Mr. Secretary, to do this? I would like to know what’s the president’s authority to do this?’*” [1953,2051]

On March 24 Obama gives his second prime-time news conference, where he continues to pound the theme that if the government spends more money on “green” energy, health care for all, and education, all will be well. (He is careful to use the term “investment” to trick Americans into believing that spending tax dollars is something other than spending tax dollars.) “*Let’s make the investments that ensure that we meet our growth targets that put us on a*

pathway to growth as opposed to a situation in which we're not making those investments and we still have trillion-dollar deficits," said Obama. He argues that the biggest cause of long-term deficits is *"huge health care costs,"* which he claims his budget addresses. (His budget spends hundreds of billions on health care but also dramatically increases the deficit.) Obama states, *"This budget is inseparable from this recovery because it is what lays the foundation for a secure and lasting prosperity,"* yet critics argue it will add \$9.3 trillion to the national debt over the next 10 years. Most of Obama's remarks consist of "nothing disguised as something," including *"We will recover from this recession, but it will take time, it will take patience, and it will take an understanding that when we all work together, when each of us looks beyond our own short-term interests to the wider set of obligations we have to each other – that's when we succeed."* When asked why he took so long to respond to the AIG bonus issue, Obama quickly gives a well-rehearsed answer, *"It took us a couple days because I like to know what I'm talking about before I speak."* (Critics say he needed a few days to ensure that everyone in the administration would agree to the same "spin" about who knew what when.) Obama also has the audacity to brag that he would cut the deficit in half in five years – while neglecting to mention that he will first *triple* the deficit. Obama takes credit for an increase in housing sales, saying that his economic program is already showing results. Arguably, however, the sales increase is simply the result of savvy buyers taking advantage of the depressed housing prices and low mortgage rates – and has nothing to do with Obama's "stimulus bill." Incredibly, Obama also tells the reporters present that his budget, which reduces tax exemptions for charitable donations, will have no negative effect on charities. (Some argue that Obama's plan to influence a reduction of charitable donations is intentional, and is a way for him to create more voter-dependent federal programs which would "take up the slack.") [1952,2007]

Stung by criticism that Obama is unable to speak adequately without the assistance of a TelePrompter, it is not used for his March 24 evening press conference. In its place, however, is a large-screen television positioned behind the reporters seated in the East Room, from which Obama reads his opening remarks. It is unclear why the White House thought no one would notice the television and its purpose, although the media can truthfully say that Obama *"did not use a TelePrompter during the press conference."* (Columnist Michael Gerson refers to the TelePrompter as a *"linguistic push-up bra."*) [1956,2008]

Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) appears on the CBS "Morning Show" on March 25 and criticizes Obama's budget proposal, saying, *"We're looking at inflation and financial and economic destruction. We cannot go down this road."* Host Maggie Rodriguez, seemingly incapable of appreciating that "economic destruction" might be something worth avoiding, asks Shelby, *"But it looks like we are, and what good does it do the American people to – to point that out? Why not work with the President to try to reach a compromise?"* Rodriguez's "don't worry, be happy" treatment of the budget is indicative of the mainstream

media's coverage, which treats anything Obama proposes and supports as good, and everything else as negative and counter-productive. [2234]

Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek, speaking before the European (Union) Parliament on March 25, lambasts Obama's unfathomable spending plans and calls it a *"road to Hell"* that EU governments must avoid. Obama, in contrast, argues that the European nations need to engage in even more deficit spending to stimulate the world economy. Most Western European nations are, in fact, digging themselves into financial holes as quickly as is the U.S. under Obama, but the Eastern European countries (like the Czech Republic) are more familiar with the failures of socialism and are less willing to head back in that direction. Obama nevertheless insisted at his March 24 press conference that his budget *"is inseparable from this recovery, because it is what lays the foundation for a secure and lasting prosperity."* [1960]

Eager for additional revenue for Obama's massive spending plans, the administration announces plans to close the "tax gap" by finding ways to be more aggressive in collecting taxes, with a goal of an additional \$300 billion per year – *approximately \$1,000 for every man, woman, and child in the U.S.* Budget Director Peter Orszag states on March 25, *"The task force on tax reform that will be formed by the Volcker board will be examining ways of being even more aggressive on reducing the tax gap, which could provide funding for tax provisions."* [2000]

In an apparent effort to keep the U.S. dependent on foreign oil, on March 25 the House approves (285-140) a bill placing 1.2 million acres of land in Wyoming off-limits for resource development. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) states that the legislation (which has already passed the Senate) *"...would permanently take 8.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 300 million barrels of oil out of production."* The bill creates 60 federally protected wildernesses in nine states, and prevents oil and gas exploration in 26 million acres of existing BLM-managed land. Congressman Tom Price (R-GA) comments, *"This is not the agenda of the American people. With Americans looking for economic relief, now is not the time to obstruct American energy production."* [1999]

On March 25 Obama's Treasury Secretary, Timothy Geithner, remarks that he is *"quite open"* to China's suggestion to move away from a dollar-based reserve currency. (Just the day before Geithner had told the House Financial Services Committee that he *"categorically renounces"* the idea.) In order to stop critics from assuming he is a supporter of a single, world-wide currency, Geithner adds his viewpoint should be viewed as an *"evolutionary building on the current architecture rather than moving us to a global monetary union."* His clarification will likely do little to stop the rumor from spreading that he supports a global currency. Just ten minutes after Geithner's "quite open" statement the dollar declines 1.3 per cent against the Euro. Congressman John Shadegg (R-AZ) criticizes Geithner, saying *"Beginning with his tax difficulties, and continuing*

through the puzzling narrative of when and what he knew about the AIG bonuses, Treasury Secretary Geithner has done little to inspire the confidence of the American people. Oddly, Secretary Geithner continued his bizarre and puzzling conduct this week, making flatly contradictory statements about the dollar in a span of only 24 hours. This weakens confidence not only in him, but in the currency he is entrusted to protect... Is it too much to ask that (his) position remain unchanged over a 24 hour period?" [1962,2001]

Within days of Geithner's conflicting remarks, Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann (R-MN) introduces legislation barring the recognition of any currency other than the dollar as its reserve currency. Bachmann warns, *"If we give up the dollar as our standard, and co-mingle the value of the dollar with the value of coinage in Zimbabwe, that dilutes our money supply. We lose control over our economy. And economic liberty is inextricably entwined with political liberty. Once you lose your economic freedom, you lose your political freedom."* [2019]

George Soros, billionaire friend of Obama and financial supporter of far-left organizations like MoveOn.org, states *"I'm having a very good crisis."* While millions of people world wide were losing trillions of dollars in the stock market, Soros made an estimated \$1.1 billion in 2008 – *by betting the U.S. economy would collapse.* (Many wonder if Soros acted behind the scenes to help the economy collapse, as he had previously manipulated currency markets to increase his personal fortune.) The world economic collapse prompted an increased growth in government world-wide, and the election of Obama and the rise of his socialist policies in the U.S. *"It is, in a way, the culminating point of my life's work,"* Soros tells the newspaper The Australian. 1967,1968,1969]

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visits Mexico and meets with its President, Felipe Calderon, to discuss the worsening problem of drugs and violence in Mexico and at the border with the U.S. Clinton states, *"Our insatiable demand for illegal drugs fuels the drug trade,"* and *"Our inability to prevent weapons from being illegally smuggled across the border to arm these criminals causes the deaths of police officers, soldiers and civilians."* Clinton announces that the U.S. will give Mexico helicopters and night-vision goggles to help with its enforcement. Meanwhile, Congress has failed to completely fund the "Merida Initiative," a \$1.4 billion drug counter-trafficking program. Many contend that most of the weapons are not, in fact, smuggled across the border. The Mexican drug dealers obtain many weapons by bribing the Mexican military. U.S. Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO) states that *"The heavy weaponry is not coming from the U.S."* and points out that the many Mexican Army deserters (more than 110,000 over the last few years) take their weapons with them when they flee so they can sell them on the black market. [1970,2036]

Senator Joseph Lieberman, chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, says that Obama is not doing enough to control drug violence or protect the U.S.-Mexico border. Obama has asked for 500 additional federal agents for border

posts; Lieberman wants more funding for at least 1,600. *"I don't think it's enough,"* says Lieberman at a committee hearing. *"The danger here is clear and present. It threatens to get worse."* More than drugs and illegal Mexican immigrants cross the border; Hezb'Allah uses the same routes for getting its terrorists into the U.S. (Michael Slackman of the New York Times has called Hezb'Allah not a terrorist organization but a *"military, political and social organization..."*) [1975,2041,2354]

Stephen Pidgeon, an attorney representing Washington state plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging Obama's eligibility to serve as President, claims he has been "tailed" by federal officers of the Department of Homeland Security and the local police department. *"There's definitely observation,"* said Pidgeon. *"Maybe observation in anticipation of making an arrest."* Pidgeon states that three black vehicles with agents wearing camouflage had been parked near his home, and he was followed as he drove around town. [1977]

NBC reports that the Obama administration has decided to stop using the term "global war on terror" and will instead use the phrase, *"Overseas Contingency Operation."* (Some staffers purportedly suggested the term, "Global Struggle Against Violent Extremism," or "GSAVE.") Obama has been using the term *"Global Contingency Operation"* for several weeks. The change has likely not caused many terrorists to cringe in fear, but it may have prompted laughter. (Columnist Doug Giles asks why the White House doesn't simply call it the *"Hello Kitty Campaign?"*) Secretary of State Clinton remarks, *"The administration has stopped using the phrase and I think that speaks for itself."* (Columnist Jonah Goldberg wonders if the Obama administration was influenced by Leo Tolstoy's epic novel, *"Overseas Contingency Operations and Cessation of Overseas Contingency Operations..."* more commonly referred to as *"War and Peace."*) [1978,1982,2037,2077,2306]

Secretary of State Clinton warns that if North Korea fires a ballistic missile it would be considered a *"provocative act"* that would have *"consequences."* Neither Clinton nor Obama define what the consequences would be. [1981]

The Washington post confirms that North Korea is holding two American journalists hostage, possibly as leverage to keep Japan or the U.S. to interfere with its upcoming test firing of a ballistic missile. Euna Lee and Laura Ling were kidnapped by North Korean soldiers while they were filming from Chinese territory. The administration has been keeping the situation quiet, while North Korea knows Obama wants to avoid an international crisis. [1983]

Alarmed by the speed of Obama's power grabs and eagerness to tax-and-spend Americans into a European-socialist economy, Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) urges citizens to stand up to Obama before it's too late to fight back. Bachmann charges that *"nefarious activities were taking place in Washington"* with regard to global warming policies, and tells her constituents, *"I*

want people in Minnesota armed and dangerous on this issue of the energy tax because we need to fight back. Thomas Jefferson told us 'having a revolution every now and then is a good thing,' and the people – we the people – are going to have to fight back hard if we're not going to lose our country. And I think this has the potential of changing the dynamic of freedom forever in the United States." Bachmann asks Republicans to "...do everything they can to thwart (the Democrats) at every turn to make sure that they aren't able to secure a power base that for all time can never be defeated." [1985]

A federal criminal complaint is brought against Obama by retired U.S. Navy officer Walter Francis Fitzpatrick III, charging that he is an *"imposter"* who gained the White House by *"...force of contrivance, concealment, conceit, dissembling, and deceit."* A defiant Fitzpatrick, who has been visited by Secret Service agents, said *"They either have to come and get me or get Mr. Obama's eligibility proved. He has an officer in his military saying he is guilty of trespass on the Constitution."* [1986]

On March 26 Obama's National Intelligence Director, Dennis Blair, holds a news conference and confirms that some of the Guantanamo detainees who are considered "non-threatening" *may be released into the United States as free men.* The U.S. allegedly cannot return them to their home countries because their governments won't take them (perhaps because they are not, in fact, "non-threatening") or the U.S. fears they will be tortured upon their return. Blair said the prisoners would have to get some form of assistance to begin new lives in the U.S. because *"we can't put them out on the street."* Blair's response suggests the former terrorists would be treated like individuals in a "witness protection program" or would go on welfare – with the taxpayers footing the bill. The "relocation program" apparently would involve 17 *"Uighers,"* Chinese Muslim separatists who received terrorist training from al Qaeda and the Taliban in Bora Bora. The Uighers were captured at an al-Qaeda training camp and are members of the "East Turkistan Islamic Movement" (ETIM). [1995,1996,2492]

An unconfirmed report surfaces that Obama has asked actor Bob Basso to the White House to discuss the popular and controversial YouTube videos in which Basso appears in 18th century garb as Thomas Paine, author of the "Common Sense" pamphlet that helped spark the American Revolution. Basso says he was personally invited by Obama *"to discuss the disturbing nature of the videos."* More than one million Americans have seen Basso's videos. The second video excoriates Congress for approving the *"largest spending bill in history without reading it."* Basso's videos take neither a Democrat nor Republican stance, but the pro-liberty stance of the Founding Fathers, with such statements as, *"Wake up, America. While you were playing with the toys of your consumer wealth, you lost much more than your bloated economy of living beyond your means. You lost your representative democracy. Your servants have become your masters. Taxation without representation is tyranny."* If the videos are "disturbing" to the administration, it may be because they have ignited the spark of protest,

encouraging millions of citizens to engage in tax protests and send tea bags to the White House – in honor of the “Boston Tea Party” tax protest against the British on December 16, 1773. [2042,2056]

Obama holds an “Open for Questions” forum on March 26 in which he takes questions selected from over 100,000 Internet submissions. Most are generic “puff” questions, such as *“How do you plan to restore education as a right and core cultural value in America?”* *“Why can we not have a universal health care system, like many European countries, where people are treated based on needs rather than financial resources?”* and *“...are you willing to have teachers on the platform, in the committees, as a part of developing (education) plans?”* The pre-selected questions allow Obama a chance to give lengthy stump speeches on his three “pet” projects: “green” energy, increased education spending, and national health care. Obama also takes questions from an audience, all of which come from (later identified) Obama campaign supporters. [2032,2033,2114]

During his “Open for Questions” forum Obama laughs off a question about legalizing marijuana (the most frequent topic of all on-line questions submitted) but replies that he would not consider doing so. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) reports that its donations quadrupled over the subsequent 24 hours, with many contributors disappointed that Obama did not take the question seriously. [2035]

In a closed-door meeting of the House Democrat Caucus, Obama tells Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) *“Don’t think we’re not keeping score, brother!”* Obama’s remark was prompted by DeFazio’s vote against the massive stimulus bill. Using adviser Valerie Jarrett as the “point person,” the White House keeps in contact with MoveOn.org, Americans United for Change, and other leftist groups to coordinate efforts to “go after” Republicans and any “wayward Democrats” who don’t fully support the official Obama agenda. The groups put pressure on Democrats to “tow the line” and threaten them with primary challengers if they do not. [2163,2530]

An editorial in The Economist suggests it may have been wrong in supporting Obama. It criticizes Obama’s *“...failure to grapple as fast and as single-mindedly with the economy as he should have done. His stimulus package, though huge, was subcontracted to Congress, which did a mediocre job: too much of the money will arrive too late to be of help in the current crisis. His budget... is wildly optimistic. And he has taken too long to produce his plan for dealing with the trillions of dollars of toxic assets which fester on banks’ balance sheets.”* It also criticizes his political mistakes, stating *“If Mr. Obama cannot work with the Republicans he needs to be certain that he controls his own party. Unfortunately, he seems unable to. Put bluntly, the Democrats are messing him around.”* [2055]

Senator David Vitter (R-LA) introduces an amendment to the National Service Act that would prohibit federal funds from going to the controversial leftist activist

group ACORN. Vitter states, *“At the heart of this debate is whether this new federal bureaucracy would, in effect, politicize charitable activity around the country, which we certainly do not want.”* Although ACORN workers have been arrested for voter registration fraud activities in 17 states (one Ohio man says that ACORN was given cash and cigarettes by ACORN to register to vote 72 times), the amendment is defeated, 53-43. [2011,2012]

The Senate passes the “GIVE Act,” with the support of two liberal Republicans from Maine (Collins and Snowe). [2013]

An attorney for former Ambassador Alan Keyes states that Keyes will appeal his “Obama eligibility” lawsuit. The court had ruled that the California Secretary of State has *“no duty to demand proof of eligibility from candidates.”* Keyes’ attorney, Gary Kreep, criticizes Judge Michael P. Kenny’s decision, arguing that his *“...ruling in the case that only Congress and only on January 6 of each year following a presidential election can object as to whether the nominee is eligible to serve as president of the United States is, in our opinion, completely wrong and eviscerates the requirements for serving as president in the United States Constitution.”* Kreep reminds the media that *“Obama, as far back as 2006, had a relationship to a law firm that was coincidentally researching ways to get around the Article 2 requirements of the U.S. Constitution for service as president.”* (Kreep is likely referring to Sarah P. Herlihy, of the Chicago law firm of Kirkland and Ellis LLP, who authored *“Amending the Natural Born Citizen Requirement: Globalization as the Impetus and the Obstacle,”* in which she argues for the elimination of the natural born citizen requirement of the U.S. Kirkland and Ellis law partner Bruce I. Ettleson was a member of Obama’s campaign finance committee.) [581,582,588,598,2001]

Former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan (husband of NBC reporter Andrea Mitchell) states in the Financial Times that banks should be prevented from getting too big to fail. *“The solution is to have graduated regulatory capital requirements to discourage them from becoming too big and to offset their competitive advantage.”* (Greenspan does not suggest that government should similarly be prevented from growing too large.) [2006]

The United Nations’ Human Rights Council approves a proposal urging the passage of laws offering *“protection against acts of hatred, discrimination, intimidation and coercion resulting from defamation of religions and incitement to religious hatred in general”* – but the resolution singles out only Islam for protection. The resolution states that *“Islam is frequently and wrongly associated with human rights violations and terrorism.”* The United States is not a member of the council and does not cast a vote. Previous Presidents ignored the council (and its predecessor, the Human Rights Commission) because of its continual anti-Israel statements. Obama’s Ambassador to the U.N., Susan Rice, has a decidedly anti-Israel bias and may prompt changes in U.S. policies toward the U.N. [1247,1344,2015,2140]

An Oakland, school, the *Alternative Learning Community*, is being renamed the “*Barack Obama Academy*” at the request of its students, who are primarily low-income blacks. Eight-grader Mikela Mosely told the school district that “*To graduate from Barack Obama Academy means I am part of history in the making, and I want to be a part of history. This is an inspiration to me and for many generations to come.*” According to the San Francisco Chronicle, many of the school’s students have “*...a history of poor grades, lax attendance, and school discipline (problems).*” [2018]

Obama presents his Afghanistan plans on March 27, which he describes as a “*comprehensive new strategy.*” Although Obama states “*This is not simply an American problem,*” and says “*It is instead an international security challenge of the highest order,*” he will be unlikely to get other nations eager to commit large number troops and substantial sums of money to an area he calls “*the most dangerous place in the world.*” Obama calls for “*a stronger, smarter and more comprehensive strategy,*” more money for the war, and recognition of the “*connection*” between the “*future prospects of Afghanistan and Pakistan.*” He also orders 4,000 additional U.S. troops to the region (to add to the 17,000 recently requested, and the 38,000 already there), and asks Congress for \$1.5 billion each year for five years to rebuild “*schools, roads, and hospitals*” in Pakistan. Obama’s “*strategy*” appears to many observers to be a “*work in progress,*” lacking any details. His stated goal in Afghanistan is advancing “*security, opportunity and justice, not just in Kabul but from the bottom up in the provinces.*” (Obama’s plan sounds remarkably like the “*nation-building*” in Iraq for which he frequently criticized former President Bush.) [2024,2025,2168]

The risk with Obama’s Afghanistan strategy is that it is partly based on his debate pledge to “*get Osama bin-Laden.*” If he is able to do so, he can withdraw troops and take considerable credit for their heroics. If he is unable to capture or kill bin-Laden, Obama will then be under pressure to keep upping the ante with more troops until he does so. If he fails to get bin-Laden, the Republicans will instead have Obama’s head on a platter. But the more troops he sends into Afghanistan’s dangerous mountainous regions, the more likely the LBJ/Obama, Vietnam/Afghanistan analogies will be drawn in the media. It is therefore a risky game, played with perhaps as much as \$1 trillion in tax dollars – and the lives of thousands of American soldiers.

Obama’s public statement on Afghanistan is accompanied by a March 27 position paper released by the White House, called the “*White Paper of the Interagency Policy Group’s Report on U.S. Policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan.*” The document states, “*The ability of extremists in Pakistan to undermine Afghanistan is proven, while insurgency in Afghanistan feeds instability in Pakistan. The threat that al-Qaeda poses to the United States and our allies in Pakistan – including the possibility of extremists obtaining fissile*

material – is all too real. Without more effective action against these groups in Pakistan, Afghanistan will face continuing instability.” The document, like Obama’s public statement, is vague and obtuse. There are no clear attainable objectives, no clear exit strategies, no end to the troop deployments, and no end to the tax dollars sent to Afghanistan and Pakistan. The likelihood is that in another 10 years those two nations will still be run by corrupt and ineffective governments and Islamic fundamentalists who hate the U.S. The administration appears to be on a path to “nation-building,” involving a long-term military and financial investment in one of the most backward regions on earth, an area which is even less prepared than Iraq to know what to do with a democracy. [2135]

Obama meets with CEOs of 15 financial institutions on March 27; they include the heads of Bank of America, Citigroup, Freddie Mac, and American Express. The meeting is not as cordial as the media reports, with the term “mutual wariness” later being used. Obama tells the group, *“My administration is the only thing between you and the pitchforks.”* Some might argue that Obama, with his incessant trashing of corporate America, has been providing the pitchforks and riling up the citizenry for his own political purposes. [2176,2177]

It is reported that Obama has made a concerted effort to add Muslims to administration positions. The stated goal of the “Congressional Muslim Staffer Association” (CMSA) is *“...to effectively represent the Islamic faith and the Muslim American community to Representatives, Senators, Congressional Staff, and other government organizations and officials. CMSA seeks to promote the active participation of Muslim Americans in U.S. public affairs, contributing to and strengthening American pluralism, multiculturalism, and democratic institutions.”* Apparently on Obama’s behalf, CMSA coordinator J. Saleh Williams has reviewed more than 300 resumes, but the project has not been promoted. *“It was mostly under the radar,”* said Williams. *“We thought it would put (Obama) in a precarious position. We didn’t know how closely he wanted to appear to be working with the Muslim American community.”* The leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood (founded in 1928, with the goal of instilling the Quran as the *“sole reference point for... ordering the life of the Muslim family, individual, community... and state”*) has said that its work in the U.S. is *“a kind of grand jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and ‘sabotaging’ its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated and God’s religion is made victorious over all other religions.”* [2029,2030,2031]

On March 28 a Common Law Grand Jury (“citizen grand jury”) in Stockbridge, Georgia returns an indictment against Barack Hussein Obama (aka Barry Soetoro aka Barry Sutoro) on charges of fraudulently taking the office of the Presidency. The sealed indictment, which includes counts of fraud and conspiracy to commit fraud, is presented to prosecutors on March 30. The Fifth

Amendment to the U.S. Constitution allows the citizens to instigate criminal charges when they believe the government is abusing power. [2057,2058,2059]

Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) delivers the Republican response to Obama's radio address of March 28. Gregg states, *"In the next five years, President Obama's budget will double the national debt, in the next ten years it will triple the national debt. To say this another way, if you take all the debt of our country run up by all of our presidents from George Washington through George W. Bush, the total debt over all those 200 plus years since we started as a nation, it is President Obama's plan to double that debt in just the first five years that he is in office."* [2103,2104]

London's Sunday Times of March 29 reports that several European nations aren't too eager to support the calls of Obama and Great Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown for additional "stimulus" spending for their purported \$2 trillion "global new deal." German Chancellor Angela Merkel states, *"I will not let anyone tell me that we must spend more money,"* and Spain's finance minister comments that, *"In these conditions I and the rest of my colleagues from the Eurozone believe there is no room for new fiscal stimulus plans."* Not all national leaders are as eager to print worthless money as are Obama and Brown. [2044]

Defense Secretary Robert Gates tells "Fox News Sunday" that the U.S. will not attempt to shoot down the missile expected to be fired by the North Koreans by April 8. Gates tells host Chris Wallace, *"I would say we're not prepared to do anything about it"* – despite the fact that the firing violates a U.N. resolution and only a week earlier U.S. Pacific commander Admiral Timothy Keating told Senators at a hearing there is a *"high probability"* that the Navy could knock down the missile. Japan had previously suggested it had the right to shoot down the missile, but Gates says that is now unlikely. Gates further remarks, *"If this is Kim Jong-Il's welcoming present to a new president, launching a missile like this and threatening to have a nuclear test, I think it says a lot about the imperviousness of this regime in North Korea to any kind of diplomatic overtures."* Others might suggest it also says a lot about Obama – weakness and naiveté – and that North Korea is looking to see what Obama would do if pressed and learning that he will likely do nothing. (A non-response by Obama may encourage even more aggressive activity from Kim Jong-Il.) The change in public statements over only a week suggests that Obama specifically told the Defense Department to allow North Korea to proceed unhindered with its violation of a U.N. resolution. [2091,2092]

A "tea party" tax protest planned for Coral Gables, Florida may be canceled because of permit and insurance requirements imposed by the local government. The city officials want an insurance policy taken out by the organizers, as it expects a large crowd and wants to protect itself against possible losses that might occur. Nationwide, organizers of anti-tax, anti-deficits, and anti-Obama

rallies are running up against roadblocks caused by permit costs, restrictions, red tape, and demands for insurance. (Leftist demonstrations run into those same roadblocks, but with years of “community activist” experience and financing from wealthy backers their organizers “know the ropes.”) [2090]

The Obama administration forces General Motors (GM) chairman and 32-year company veteran Rick Wagoner to resign – apparently as part of a deal in which the automaker will receive additional federal bail-out cash. In an amazing display of cowardice and lack of patriotism, Wagoner submits, rather than call for a press conference to defy and expose the unconstitutional power grab by Obama and his comrades. Although the United Auto Workers Union is as responsible as Wagoner for the company’s failure, the UAW’s president, Ron Gettelfinger, is not asked to resign. The firing of Gettelfinger is later called for by Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work organization. (Obama has *no* Constitutional authority to force *anyone* not working in the Executive Branch of the federal government or the military to resign.) Wagoner was unable to provide a restructuring plan for GM that satisfied the government, which likely demanded that GM manufacture fewer profitable SUVs and trucks and more unprofitable “green” vehicles, while not accepting any desperately needed union concessions. GM is given additional funds to carry it for an additional 60 days, at which point it will be expected to submit yet another restructuring plan. (GM has been on the road to insolvency for 30 years; if it were capable of coming up with a decent restructuring plan it would have done so long ago.) Obama – who fired Wagoner mostly for symbolism – also selects his replacement, calls for new board members, and sends a team of government advisors to develop a new business plan and negotiate bankruptcy terms with bondholders and the United Auto Workers union. [2047,2065,2066,2093,2187,2281,2520]

Chrysler is ordered to work out a merger deal with Italy’s Fiat within 30 days or be left to sink or swim on its own, without additional federal money. (Chrysler is expected to be given an additional \$6 billion in federal funds if it arranges a Fiat deal.) White House aides predictably blame former President Bush on the automakers’ problem, but the head of the popular auto web site Edmunds.com, Jeremy Anwyl, calls the Obama move “*political theater*” just to make the public think something productive is being done. (GM is not too big to fail economically, just politically – because Obama is in debt to organized labor for its enormous campaign contributions.) David Cole, chairman of the Center for Automotive Research, states “*I don’t think you would see any shift or significant change at all with Rick’s leaving. I think the course that they’re on, they’re on.*” Wagoner arguably made it possible for GM to survive to 2009, by reducing the number of employees from 177,000 to 92,000, closing unprofitable factories, and improving vehicle quality – but that was not enough to offset the massive union wage and benefits costs that decimate the company’s profits. White House critics complain that GM relied too long on high-profit trucks and SUVs... *but those were precisely the vehicles that kept it in business.* Both GM and Chrysler may end up in bankruptcy, which some argue should have been allowed to happen months

ago and would have saved the taxpayers billions in wasted bail-out money that did nothing but prolong the agony. Obama is trying to avoid automaker bankruptcies in order to protect the union contracts, which would be abrogated under a formal bankruptcy. [2047,2065,2066,2093,2187]

Only hours after Obama's announcement of his auto industry plans affected workers start complaining that "Wall Street was treated better than Main Street," with the financial firms getting billions repeatedly, while GM and Chrysler are essentially told "shape up in 30-60 days or else we'll allow you to go bankrupt." The President of United Auto Workers Union Local 602, Brian Fredline, remarks, *"You have all kinds of funding available to banks that are apparently too big to fail, but they're also too big to be responsible. But when it comes to auto manufacturing and middle-class jobs and people that don't matter on Wall Street, there are certainly different standards that we have to meet – higher standards – than the financials. That is a double standard that exists and it's unfair."* The stock market reacts to the possibility of GM and/or Chrysler ceasing to exist with a drop in the DJIA of 254 points, to 7,522.02. Nevertheless, equity analyst Dan Greenhaus states, *"This will be devastating in the short term; to many lives, to the stock market, to our economic performance. But in the long term, our country will benefit from more productive and innovative companies which no doubt will spring up to take the place of GM, Ford and Chrysler."* Is unclear how General Motors can be expected to survive when the government is demanding that the company discontinue 11 of its high-profit trucks and SUVs – even though they generate the bulk of its domestic profits – because they are not energy-efficient enough for Obama's tastes. (Before becoming President, Obama drove a gas-guzzling Chrysler 300C with a large, gas-guzzling, Hemi V-8 engine.) The White House expects GM and Chrysler to thank it for bail-outs by building "green" cars, but those are not the vehicles that contribute to the profits needed to keep the companies in business. Even the Treasury department admits that GM's electric Chevrolet Volt is *"too expensive to be commercially successful."* If Obama expects the automakers to eliminate many trucks and SUVs and concentrate on small cars, the taxpayers will be subsidizing those vehicles for a long time to come. [353,2074,2078]

Appearing on television as though he were a salesman pitching a new car, Obama tells potential buyers, *"It is my hope that the steps I am announcing today will go a long way toward answering many of the questions people may have about the future of GM and Chrysler. But just in case there are still nagging doubts, let me say it as plainly as I can – if you buy a car from Chrysler or General Motors, you will be able to get your car serviced and repaired, just like always. Your warranty will be safe. In fact, it will be safer than it's ever been. Because starting today, the United States government will stand behind your warranty."* Columnist Ann Coulter notes, *"To promote the sales of GM vehicles, Obama says the government will stand by your GM car warranty. And all the taxpayers will get a lube job. The new GM owner's manual will come with a disclaimer: 'Close enough for government work.'"* Obama made the warranty

announcement without having any authority to do so; no legislation has been passed calling for such a plan. (The White House will no doubt start getting telephone calls asking for the warranty department and a car repair appointment.) [2113,2149]

Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) calls Obama's firing of Wagoner *"a major power-grab by the White House on the heels of another power-grab from Secretary Geithner, who asked last week for the freedom to decide on his own which companies are 'systemically' important to our country and worthy of taxpayer investment, and which are not. (This is) ...a marked departure from the past," "truly breathtaking," and something that "should send a chill through all Americans who believe in free enterprise."* Obama is himself taking a significant risk in deciding to have the government control GM and Chrysler. As additional workers are laid off, those who are affected will start blaming Obama as much as company management; if Obama avoids lay-offs by dumping more federal cash into the car companies, he will anger the taxpayers who are tiring of bail-outs with their tax dollars. Obama can avoid criticism only if the automakers recover quickly – which is perhaps no more likely than balancing the federal budget within the next four years. [2087]

As Obama prepares to leave for a G20 summit meeting in Europe, some note that the worldwide economic downturn may dampen the Continent's enthusiasm for his visit. Eagerly welcoming "hope and change" must now be replaced with the hard reality of dealing with a crisis and evaluating economic policies. Obama's massive deficit-spending has alarmed some European governments, especially because he expects them to do the same and contribute even more than they have already. Germany in particular is worried about the massive debt the U.S. government will incur to finance Obama's \$787 billion stimulus package. During his European trip Obama will also be asking other nations to offer military and financial assistance for the war in Afghanistan but that is likely to be a tough sell – especially if he refers to it not as a "global war on terror" but uses the new officially-sanctioned White House term, *"Overseas Contingency Operation."* [1978,1982,2037,2060,2064]

The Guardian reports on the "necessities" Obama will bring with him to London for the G20 summit. Obama will arrive with *"limousines, helicopters, 200 U.S. secret service staff and a six-doctor medical team."* *"More than 500 officials and staff will accompany the president on his tour... along with a mass of high-tech security equipment, including the \$300,000 presidential limousine, known as 'The Beast.' Fitted with night-vision camera, reinforced steel plating, tear-gas cannon and oxygen tanks, the vehicle is the ultimate in heavy armoured transport."* *"Obama will be constantly minded by his personal aide Reggie Love, who dials his BlackBerry, fetches his jacket and tie and supplies him with snacks."* Love also stands at the ready to "shoot hoops" on the basketball court and watch television sports with Obama, should the temporary resident of the Oval Office run out of things to do. Obama will also take along four speechwriters, 12 TelePromTers, a personal chef, and his own food and water. [2137]

Obama's Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, receives the "Margaret Sanger Award" from the nation's largest pro-abortion organization, Planned Parenthood. The award is for Clinton's *"leadership, excellence, and outstanding contributions to the reproductive health and rights movement."* It is not clear whether Clinton is aware that Sanger once referred to blacks as *"human weeds,"* and encouraged the intentional reduction of their numbers through abortion. [2061]

On March 30, investigator Andy Martin sends a letter to Obama inviting him to attend the *"National Conference on Barack Obama's Missing Birth Certificate and College Records"* scheduled for April 3 and 4 in Washington, D.C. [2073]

By the end of March the White House receives over one million empty red envelopes. The back of the envelope reads, *"This envelope represents one child who died in abortion. It is empty because that life was unable to offer anything to the world. Responsibility begins with conception."* The "Red Envelope Project" is the grass-roots idea of Christ Otto, an anti-abortion activist, who says that the red *"envelopes represent the innocent blood shed through abortion."* [2081,2082]

It is reported that during 2008 the New York Times had spent months gathering facts about Obama's connection to the activist group ACORN but decided not to run additional final stories, developed by reporter Stephanie Strom, because they would be damaging to the Obama campaign. Among other things, Strom learned that the Obama campaign had provided ACORN with a copy of its complete donor list, which includes those who contributed less than \$100, even though the campaign refused to make that full list public. Providing the list to ACORN was a violation of the law. The decision to drop the story was allegedly made by the New York Times on October 21, 2008. Strom told her ACORN source the editors wanted the story killed because *"it was a game changer."* Reporter Strom telephoned her whistleblower source to tell her, *"I have just been asked by my bosses to stand down... they want me to hold off on coming to Washington. Sorry, I take my orders from higher up... ah... sometimes. Anyway, umm... I'm sorry about this and we'll still be in touch..."* (The New York Times, somehow expecting critics to believe the public would not be interested in knowing that Obama was not only involved with ACORN he was breaking the law to assist its operations, later states that *"...political considerations played no role in our decision about whether to cover this story."* The Times statement is, perhaps tellingly, issued on April 1.) [2108,2141]

Yet another Obama cabinet nominee is caught not properly paying income taxes. Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Obama's pro-abortion pick for Secretary of Health and Human Services, recently paid \$7,040 in back taxes (and \$878 in interest) for 2005-2007. Sebelius said the mistake was the result of *"unintentional errors."* Sebelius was chosen by Obama for the position after Tom Daschle withdrew from consideration – because of unpaid tax issues. Sebelius' husband is a federal magistrate judge in Kansas. The issue suggests either that federal

income taxes are too complicated for even a Governor and a Judge to figure out – or Democrats in high places have a tendency to disregard IRS rules. Sebelius will nevertheless likely be confirmed by the Democrat-controlled Senate, but opponents will put up a fight. [2094,2096]

The Obama administration decides the U.S. will join the United Nations Human Rights Council. The U.S. has never been a member because of the council's decidedly anti-Israel bias, but Obama's also decidedly anti-Israel U.N. Ambassador to the U.N., Susan Rice, joins Secretary of State Clinton in announcing the change on March 31. Rice states, *"The U.S. is seeking election to the Council because we believe that working from within, we can make the council a more effective forum to promote and protect human rights. We hope to work in partnership with many countries to achieve a more effective Council."* Just days before the Human Rights Council had approved a proposal urging the passage of laws offering *"protection against acts of hatred, discrimination, intimidation and coercion resulting from defamation of religions and incitement to religious hatred in general"* – but the resolution singled out only Islam for protection. In 2006 the U.N. General Assembly actually voted down a U.S. proposal that the Human Rights Council only allow members that protect human rights, prompting the U.S. to withhold funding for the council. Obama is reversing that policy. There are 191 member nations in the U.N.; the Human Rights Council has issued condemnations against Israel more often than all the other nations combined, and prohibits any condemnation of Islamic human rights violations. The Council is essentially a stacked deck of anti-Israel members – which Obama now chooses to promote with U.S. membership and funding. [1247,1344,2015,2095,2140]

Baitullah Mehsud, head of the Pakistan Taliban, announces on March 31 that he will soon *"amaze everyone in the world"* with an attack on the U.S. Capitol or the White House. Mehsud has made similar claims in the past, and he is considered the prime suspect in the December 2007 killing of former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. [2102]

The March 31 election in New York's 20th Congressional District finishes "too close to call" and as many as 6,000 absentee and military ballots will end up deciding whether the victory goes to Democrat Scott Murphy or Republican Jim Tedisco. The special election was held to fill the seat vacated when Democrat Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand was appointed Senator (to fill Hillary Clinton's vacated seat). Political analyst Dick Morris states, *"This is a seat held by a Democratic congresswoman in one of the bluest of the blue states, 70 days after a (Democrat) president was overwhelmingly elected... Let's remember that 57 percent still approve of what Obama is doing, and the fact that Tedisco came so close that the absentee ballots might put him over the top I think was an extraordinary showing... To expect a takeaway to the Republican Party this early in a president's administration I think is facile. I think what it really demonstrates is that Obama is in trouble. The fact that he can't win an election like that by a*

significant margin I think really shows that people are beginning to tire of his agenda.” He adds, “...*the issue is not why didn’t the Republican win (if he indeed did not), but why didn’t the Democrat win by a lot.*” Gilliland beat her Republican opponent in her November, 2008 re-election contest 62-38 per cent (and Obama handily beat McCain in her district). If Murphy is her successor and he wins by just barely exceeding 50 per cent, some will look at the race as a drop-off in Obama’s appeal and opposition to his massive spending plans. Should Tedisco lose the election by a close margin, a court challenge may be filed because the New York Board of Elections mailed the military absentee ballots far too late (March 12 and 13) for them to be received by approximately 1,000 soldiers, filled out, postmarked by March 30, and returned by the April 7 counting deadline. (The Military Postal Service recommends mailing them at least 60 days before the election; two Democrat members of the New York State Board of Elections voted *against* mailing the ballots earlier.) [2097,2098,2100,2153]

March unemployment figures show that 663,000 jobs were cut by employers that month, raising the unemployment rate to 8.5 per cent, its highest level since 1983. Many economists predict a 10 per cent rate by the end of 2009 and believe it may take years to drop back down to 5 per cent for years. [2147]

April

While in London for the G20 summit on April 1, Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announce they will meet later in the year and attempt to work out an arms control treaty that reduces the number of nuclear weapons. They issue the joint statement, “*We are instructing our negotiators to start talks immediately on this new treaty and to report on results achieved in working out the new agreement by July.*” Russia is likely to take advantage of Obama’s desire to limit nuclear arsenals by persuading him to drop U.S. plans for a missile defense system in Eastern Europe that it vehemently opposes. Obama may believe he will score “peace points” by reducing the number of nuclear warheads, but Russia will emerge the clear winner if it stops a missile defense system that is designed to neutralize its weapons. (Russia would likely rather have fewer missiles that cannot be intercepted than more missiles that can.) Medvedev later referred to Obama as “*my new comrade,*” and expressed pleasure that he was not pursuing President Bush’s “*mistake*” of a missile shield. (The U.S. has not yet ruled out the missile defense installation planned for Poland, but Russia is clearly pressuring Obama to cancel it.) [2101,2152]

Gun stores around the nation continue to experience increased sales of weapons and ammunition. Demand is so great that many stores run out of ammunition shortly after their shelves are stocked, and manufacturers are working around the clock to keep up with orders. A Denver resident tells KMGH-TV, “*Just about everywhere I’ve been, it’s sold out.*” A National Rifle Association (NRA) spokesman states, “*Folks have been experiencing shortages all over the country. Since the election there has been a great increase in firearms sales as well.*”

Background checks are up, enrollment in training and safety classes is up, concealed weapons permits are up, gun sales are up – and ammo manufacturers can't keep up with demand.” One NRA member explains, *“Everybody's just worried about the new government coming in and trying to ban guns and make everything more difficult to obtain. Well, the way (Obama) has been acting, there may be a little truth to the rumor.”* The owner of a gun shop says that even *“old ladies and young people and liberals”* have been buying ammunition from his store, and that Obama's ill-advised (but revealing) campaign remark about how people *“cling to guns or religion”* may have sparked the fears and the purchases. [2105]

More than 60 Members of Congress ask Obama to withdraw his nomination of Dawn Johnsen to the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, mostly as a result of her having described pregnancy as a form of slavery. Congressman Steve King (R-IA) complains that Johnsen has *“...compared pregnancy to slavery and described it as involuntary servitude.”* Johnsen has described pro-life activists as *“terrorists,”* and in arguing a case before the Supreme Court, Johnsen stated, *“The woman is constantly aware for nine months that her body is not wholly her own: the state has conscripted her body for its own ends. Thus, abortion restrictions ‘reduce pregnant women to no more than fetal containers.’”* [2106]

The honeymoon – or at least the media adulation – is not yet over for Obama, as NBC's “Today Show” notes that Queen Elizabeth will be overwhelmingly thrilled just to meet Obama and his wife during a break in the G20 activities. *“This is gonna (sic) be the most exciting encounter of her (the Queen's) long and successful reign. I think she'll be absolutely fascinated.”* [2119]

When Obama and his wife meet England's Queen Elizabeth II on April 1, he illustrates that he and his staff learned very little from the Gordon Brown DVD gift fiasco. Obama presents the Queen with a Chinese-made iPod. (She has had one since 2005.) Obama also presents her with a songbook autographed by the great American composer, Richard Rodgers. (Rodger and Hammerstein's *“Oklahoma!”* is one of the Queen's favorites musicals.) The Queen gives Obama a signed photo of herself and her husband, a gift she typically presents to visiting foreign dignitaries. The Queen says nothing to suggest the Obama visit is her “most exciting encounter” since her 1953 coronation, nor is it clear how she will react upon learning that the iPod contains not an *“Oklahoma!”* soundtrack but a recording of Obama's 2004 DNC speech and his 2009 inauguration address.) [2107,2124]

Although Obama shakes the hand of Queen Elizabeth upon meeting her, he bows from the waist when later presented to King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. Proper protocol would have been a handshake for both Queen Elizabeth and the Saudi king, but no one but a Muslim would bow to a Saudi Wahhabi. One columnist writes of Obama's act of submission to the Muslim that it *“...is not the*

protocol, and is most unbecoming a president of the United States.” Jamie Glazov (author of *“United in Hate,”* which “...analyzes *“The left’s romance with tyranny and terror”*) is less generous in his criticism of Obama and comments, *“And people don’t know what’s going on here? Are we kidding? This is simply the continuation of fellow traveling. It’s to be totally expected.”* Obama was the only foreign leader to bow, and several laughed as Obama did so. (Whether Obama kissed the ring of the king is unclear from the available video of the event.) It is worth noting again that Obama had attended Harvard Law School with the help of Khalid Abdullah Tariq al-Mansour. Al-Mansour is the principal financial advisor to Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, the nephew of Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah (the world’s 19th wealthiest person, worth \$29.5 billion, who donated \$20 million to Harvard to fund an Islamic studies program, and gave \$1.35 million to the families of Hamas suicide bombers out of gratitude for their having killed innocent Jews). Although protocol states it was most certainly improper for Obama to bow before the Saudi king, for perhaps more than one reason he felt obligated to bow. (Al-Waleed bin Talal is also the largest shareholder in Citigroup, which received billions in bail-out dollars from American taxpayers and which has donated generously to Obama campaigns.)

[41,380,381,382,408,558,2144,2150,2203,2312]

The White House is put in damage control mode and denies that Obama bowed to the Saudi king, even though the action was caught on videotape. An Obama aide claims, *“It wasn’t a bow. He grasped his hand with two hands, and he’s taller than King Abdullah.”* (The video clearly shows Obama’s left hand at rest until after he rises from the bow; England’s Queen Elizabeth is shorter than King Abdullah and Obama did not bow to her.) Although the White House unconvincingly argues that Obama’s bow was not a bow, at least one Saudi newspaper recognized the gesture and stated, *“Obama wished to demonstrate his respect and appreciation of the personality of King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, who has made one of the most important calls in the modern era, namely the call for inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue to defuse the hatred, conflict and wars.”* The Washington Times called the bow a *“shocking display of fealty to a foreign potentate”* that violated centuries of American tradition of not deferring to royalty.

[2238,2263]

George Soros, billionaire and financial supporter of both MoveOn.org and Obama, tells the Times of London that if the G20 summit meeting fails it could *“push the world into depression.”* The leftist investor who has made a fortune betting on other people’s failures, states *“I have to admit that actually I flourish, I’m more stimulated by the bust. On the one hand, there’s the tremendous human suffering, which is very distressing. On the other hand, to be able to handle the situation is exhilarating.”* [2109]

While in London for the G20 summit, Obama leaves reporters steamed by prohibiting coverage of most of his activities and demanding that they not mention by name any “senior administration officials” they interview in his place.

The media is left to cover the many demonstrators, whose protest themes seemed to be class warfare, anti-capitalism, and global warming. Some protesters are violent, wrecking a bank and attacking police officers. (The crowds of G20 demonstrators are considerably smaller than those of the recent tea party tax protests in the U.S., which the mainstream media generally did not cover.) [2110,2128,2169]

On April 1 the Senate votes 67 (41 Republicans and 26 Democrats) to 31 (all Democrats) against using the budget “reconciliation” process to sneak Obama’s cap-and-trade legislation into the federal budget. The defeat for Obama and the Democrat leadership means that Senators will need fewer votes to amend or stop the legislation, which many fear will dramatically raise consumer costs and cause massive job losses. Knowing he cannot get his desired “global warming” bill through Congress, Obama will hide behind the skirts of Carol Browner (his climate czar) and Lisa Jackson (EPA chief) while they regulate carbon dioxide as a “pollutant” – thus giving him much of the energy regulation he wants without the “burden” of the legislative process. [2115,2125,2170]

The “Cybersecurity Act of 2009” is introduced in the Senate. The legislation, if passed, will give Obama authority over private-sector Internet services, applications, and software. Without Congressional review, Obama could “*declare a cyber-security emergency and order the limitation or shutdown of Internet traffic to and from*” any “*critical infrastructure system or network.*” General Counsel of the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT), Greg Nojeim, states Obama “*...would decide not only what is critical infrastructure but also what is an emergency.*” The law would also impose federal standards for security software, testing, licensing, and security professional certification. Nojeim warns, “*Requiring firms to get government approval for new software would hamper innovation and would have a negative effect on security. If everyone builds to the same (federal) standard and the bad guys know those standards it makes it easier for the bad guys.*” Although the legislation contains some arguably worthwhile methods for fighting cyber-crimes and global cyber-espionage, critics fear individual liberties and freedom of speech will be restricted by an over-zealous government – in the name of “protecting” the citizenry. The legislation would give the administration access to privately owned information networks critical to the nation’s infrastructure “*without regard to any provision of law, regulation, rule or policy restricting such access.*” [2167,2184]

Obama’s aunt, Zeituni Onyango, temporarily avoids deportation to Kenya when the judge reschedules her case to February of 2010. (A favorite saying of immigration lawyers is, “*It ain’t over until the alien wins.*”) [2180,2186]

Vice-President Biden visits a fire station in Pikeville, North Carolina to brag about how Obama’s stimulus legislation will bring billions of dollars to rural communities across the nation. Biden states, “*We’re investing in places like this all across the country to demonstrate the vital role towns like this play in the recovery.*” State

Senator David Rouzer, however, confirms that he helped get the fire department funds from the prior administration. Rouzer complains, *“They’re (the Obama administration) coming in and cherry picking the best projects and switching out the money, saying it’s stimulus money. But it was already approved and in the pipeline. It’s totally disingenuous to come down here and say this is stimulus money, when regardless of whether a stimulus bill passed, they were getting the money.”* [2121,2122]

On April 2 House Republicans release their budget proposal, an alternative to Obama’s \$3.55 trillion budget. Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI), the ranking Republican on the House Budget Committee, tells the media the GOP budget proposal would include lower spending, deficits, taxes, debt, and more job creation. Congressional Budget Office (CBO) numbers show the Obama budget increasing the national debt from 40 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 82 per cent over 10 years; under the GOP proposal the percentage will still be high, but a lower 60 per cent. The last federal budget prepared and passed by a Republican majority was in 2006 for fiscal year 2007; its deficit was 1.2 per cent of GDP. Obama’s first budget’s deficit is 13.1 per cent of GDP – *the largest in U.S. history*. Obama’s budget calls for 34 per cent more spending than the previous year’s budget, and represents 28.5 per cent of the nation’s GDP; more than one-quarter of the nation’s productive output will therefore be consumed by the federal government. The GOP proposal will also repeal the \$787 billion “stimulus legislation.” According to *The American Spectator*, the *“GOP alternative budget includes no tax increases. Instead, it reforms income taxes, with a low rate of 10 per cent applying to the first \$100,000 in income, and a top rate of 25 per cent applying to all income after that. Those lower tax rates will provide powerful incentives to boost the economy, by allowing producers to keep a higher percentage of what they produce. At the same time, the GOP alternative budget will also show an eventual balanced budget, as scored by (the) CBO.”* More than 25 years earlier liberals complained that Ronald Reagan was drastically cutting taxes to make it impossible for Congress to increase spending; conservatives now complain that Obama is drastically increasing spending to make it impossible to cut taxes. [2112,2116,2126,2127]

Obama’s new envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration, arrives in Khartoum with *“hands open”* to establish a relationship of *“friendship and cooperation”* between the two countries. It is not clear why Obama now seeks relations with a regime that has engaged in an Islamic jihad and killed over two million innocent people in Sudan and Darfur. On March 4 the International Criminal Court had issued a warrant for the arrest of Sudan’s President, Omar al-Bashir, for his war crimes. Obama nevertheless wants to establish normal relations with the al-Bashir regime. [2197]

It is reported that the FBI is engaged in a criminal fraud investigation against Joseph Cassano, former head of the Financial Products Group of AIG. Cassano allegedly set up multiple companies (some outside the U.S.) to handle fraudulent

transactions in an effort to keep the details off the books of AIG and to hide the deals from regulators. [2120]

A Zogby poll shows Obama's approval rating at 49 per cent. Other polls (such as Gallup) still show Obama at around 60 per cent, but they count "fair" ratings together with "good" and "excellent," while Zogby counts only "good" and "excellent" as favorable, lumping "fair" and "poor" as not favorable. Polls also usually count more Democrats in their sampling than Republicans. Says pollster John Zogby, *"fair is a negative because it doesn't get you anywhere. Presidents don't run on the basis of saying re-elect me, I did a fair job."* [2129]

At London's G20 economic summit Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France, states that the world economic breakdown is *"not a crisis of capitalism"* but the result of drifting *"away from capitalism's most fundamental values."* Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown fail to get the G20 leaders to commit hundreds of billions of dollars for their proposed "Global New Deal," as most nations are unwilling to replicate the massive budget deficits that the U.S. and Great Britain have generated. [2130]

At a press conference in London on April 2, attended by about 2,500 journalists, Obama finishes calling on reporters from his "official list" and takes questions from the others, saying he'll take a question from *"a foreigner."* After he catches his error he quickly admits, *"I am the foreigner."* Believing she is a Muslim who will toss him a softball question, Obama then calls on Simrat Ghuman, a television reporter from India, who asks if he discussed Pakistan terrorism against India with the Indian Prime Minister. Clearly unable to answer the question, Obama instead says, *"First of all, your Prime Minister is a wonderful man,"* teases the reporter about whether she supports him, and then finishes with, *"I think he's a very wise and decent man. And he's done a wonderful job of guiding India, even prior to being prime minister, along a path of extraordinary economic growth that is a marvel, I think, for all the world."* The media gushes about how Obama "charmed" the Indian reporter, but most reports fail to mention that Obama never answered her question. [2161,2162]

The Senate votes on April 2 to reject Obama's plan to reduce the tax deductibility of charitable donations. Obama planned on limiting the tax deduction for charitable giving in order to generate an additional \$318 billion in additional tax revenues, but critics argued the proposed change would significantly reduce donations to charities. Obama naively claimed that charities would not suffer with his tax change proposal. The Senate believed his critics. [2131]

The House of Representatives approves Obama's massive \$3.55 trillion budget on April 2 by a vote of 233-196. Two less expensive Republican budget proposals were voted down 322-111 and 293-137. [2132,2138]

A federal grand jury indicts former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich on April 2. The 19 count indictment includes 16 felony counts for racketeering, conspiracy, wire fraud, extortion conspiracy, attempted extortion, and making false statements. Also charged were Blagojevich's former chief of staff Alonzo Monk, his subsequent chief of staff John Harris, and several others. The 75-page indictment references Blagojevich's wife Patti and Obama money-man Tony Rezko. Some of the charges relate to Blagojevich's attempt to "sell" the Illinois Senate seat vacated by Obama. Obama Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel is "Congressman A" in the Blagojevich indictment. [2133,2148]

At the G20 summit Obama greets Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, saying, *"This is my man, right here. I love this guy."* The two-term socialist President, generally referred to simply as "Lula" in Brazil, had recently said that the world economic *"...crisis was caused by the irrational behavior of white people with blue eyes, who thought they knew everything and now show they know nothing."* (The White House did not confirm whether Obama loves Lula because he is a socialist or because he is critical of blue-eyed white people.) [2175]

The G20 economic summit meeting ends with little positive to show for the efforts of 20 governments other than a few official grandiose-sounding but essentially bland statements that something will be done soon to improve the failing economies. Obama backs off on key issues to make the meetings appear more successful than they were. He wanted Germany to implement a massive stimulus package of its own; it refused to do so. Obama wanted the European Union to bail out European banks while Germany wanted the IMF to do so; Germany got its way. Obama also wanted a substantial troop commitment from Germany to assist in Afghanistan; he did not get it. The meetings ended with *"...a lot of promises, few specifics, and no identification of who will pay."* The summit's participants, all being in government and believing in it, generally refuse to accept that government is the cause of the global economic crisis and thus will return home to pursue additional deficit-spending (which will lead to inflation as more currency is printed) and tighter regulations on business (which will lead to a slowdown of needed economic growth). None of the nations involved in the summit is likely to take the difficult but most reasonable approach: let the recession run its course, with losses for those who made bad investments and lessons learned by all. The summit does result in a commitment to give \$1.1 trillion to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), without identifying the source of the funding. (Perhaps as much as \$250 billion of the \$1.1 trillion will come from U.S. taxpayers. The worldwide recession destroyed as much as \$50 trillion in capital in 2008; distributing \$1.1 trillion to several third-world countries will do little to prompt a recovery.) The major success of the summit appeared to be an agreement to resist protectionist measures – but Obama's own cap-and-trade proposal would seem to include harsh penalties on goods from nations that don't also go along with stop-global-warming schemes. It remains to be seen whether

the G20 nations will, in fact, refrain from imposing trade restrictions. [2134,2139,2174]

Arguably, Obama attended the G20 with hopes of getting some concessions but failed because he had nothing with which to bargain. He came across as pleasant and cooperative because he did not demand anything. President Bush had occasional bad relations with the European Union mostly because he was prepared to confront them; Obama was more concerned with his image and thus did not pressure the other nations. Obama preferred a “consensus of nothing” to criticism for demanding something, and France’s Nicolas Sarkozy and Germany’s Angela Merkel departed the winners. [2207,2412]

On the down side, the G20 nations agreed to a “Financial Stability Board” (FSB) that would allegedly be an “early warning system” for future economic crises. It would also “...extend regulation and oversight to all systemically important financial institutions, instruments and markets...” and “...endorse and implement tough new principles on paying compensation and to support sustainable compensation schemes and the corporate social responsibility of all firms.” With his endorsement of the FSB, *Obama essentially agreed to place American financial businesses under the control of standards set by the 19 other nations of the G20.* Great Britain argues that the FSB favors Germany and France and left it at a disadvantage. The appeal of the FSB to Europe is that it will attempt to “level the international playing field” by punishing the U.S. with strict regulations and standards, reining in the American free enterprise system so that it cannot continue to outperform the sluggish economies of socialist Europe. (In other words, the U.S. is to be punished for being successful, with the consent of Obama. It apparently does not occur to Obama that he is undermining the U.S. Constitution by giving other nations the power to regulate the American financial industry.) [2195,2224,2244]

The Senate passes Obama’s massive budget by a vote of 55-43. The House and Senate versions must be reconciled before Obama can sign the approximately \$3.6 trillion budget, with a deficit of at least \$1.2 trillion – *the largest deficit in the history of the world*, and more than double the deficit of President Bush’s final budget. All Republican Senators vote against the budget, as well as Democrats Bayh of Indiana and Nelson of Nebraska. *A full one-third of Obama’s first budget – \$1.2 trillion out of \$3.6 trillion – is deficit-spending.* [2142]

While on his G20 and NATO trip, Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown are asked by BBC political editor Nick Robinson, “*A question for you both, if I may. The prime minister has repeatedly blamed the United States of America for causing this crisis. France and Germany both blame Britain and America for causing this crisis. Who is right? And isn’t the debate about that at the heart of the debate about what to do now?*” Brown turns and forces the question on Obama who, lacking his TelePrompTer, responds, “*I, I, would say that, er... pause ...if you look at...pause ... the, the sources of this crisis ... pause ... the*

United States certainly has some accounting to do with respect to... pause ... a regulatory system that was inadequate to the massive changes that have taken place in the global financial system ... pause ...I think what is also true is that ... pause ...here in Great Britain ... pause ... here in continental Europe ... pause ... around the world. We were seeing the same mismatch between the regulatory regimes that were in place and er ... pause ... the highly integrated, er, global capital markets that have emerged ... pause So at this point, I'm less interested in ... pause ... identifying blame than fixing the problem. I think we've taken some very aggressive steps in the United States to do so, not just responding to the immediate crisis, ensuring banks are adequately capitalized, er, dealing with the enormous, er ... pause ... drop-off in demand and contraction that has taken place. More importantly, for the long term, making sure that we've got a set of, er, er, regulations that are up to the task, er, and that includes, er, a number that will be discussed at this summit. I think there's a lot of convergence between all the parties involved about the need, for example, to focus not on the legal form that a particular financial product takes or the institution it emerges from, but rather what's the risk involved, what's the function of this product and how do we regulate that adequately, much more effective coordination, er, between countries so we can, er, anticipate the risks that are involved there. Dealing with the, er, problem of derivatives markets, making sure we have set up systems, er, that can reduce some of the risks there. So, I actually think ... pause ... there's enormous consensus that has emerged in terms of what we need to do now and, er ... pause ...I'm a great believer in looking forwards than looking backwards." [2155]

Rasmussen's April 3 poll places Obama's "Presidential Approval Index" at its lowest point so far, +3, with 35 per cent of those polled strongly approving of Obama's performance and 32 per cent strongly disapproving. [2145]

On April 3, Obama holds a "town hall meeting" in Strasbourg, France. After his prepared TelePrompTer speech, Obama tells the thousands gathered in the sports arena where the event is staged that he welcomes questions from average citizens because "...oftentimes during these foreign trips, you see everything from behind a window. And what we thought was important was for me to have an opportunity to not only speak with you, but also to hear from you, because that's ultimately how we can learn about each other." Obama then takes a mere five questions, none of which are from French citizens, and all of which are "softballs," such as, "I was wondering if the dog (that Obama promised his daughters during the campaign) was already in the White House or not" – which was asked by a Chicagoan attending a school in Strasbourg. When a Hungarian student asks if he ever regrets running for President, Obama mentions the loss of privacy, but says "there's nothing more noble than public service." [2146,2160]

Obama thrills the French with his remark, "In America, there is a failure to appreciate Europe's leading role in the world. Instead of celebrating your dynamic union and seeking to partner with you to meet common challenges,

there have been times where America has shown arrogance and been dismissive, even derisive." (It is unclear why Obama should be critical of arrogance, which many would consider his signature trademark.) The President of France then invites Obama to visit the cemetery in Normandy, where thousands of American soldiers who gave their lives on D-Day to liberate Europe from Hitler's Nazi regime are buried. Obama declines, saying he does not wish to "offend" any Germans – or perhaps not believing it is important to pay respects to the thousands of fallen soldiers who "arrogantly" liberated France in World War II. (A few days later Obama visits an Islamic mosque in Istanbul, suggesting he cares more about pleasing Muslims than honoring American military achievements.) [2312,2343]

On April 3, Obama learns at his first meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO) that charming American voters is easier than persuading other nations to provide troops and money for his expansion of the war in Afghanistan. Obama, who was a vocal critic of former president Bush for not getting more cooperation from U.S. allies, persuades the British to offer only a few hundred extra British soldiers – but only for security during the next Afghan elections. Belgium offers 35 military trainers; Spain offers 12. France and the other nations offer no assistance at all to Obama, who recently ordered 21,000 additional American troops to Afghanistan. Obama tells the group, *"Europe should not simply expect the United States to shoulder that burden alone,"* but Europe resoundingly responds that Obama and the U.S. will, in fact, be shouldering it alone. NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer states, *"We are (in Afghanistan) to defend universal values and when I see... a law (Shariah) threatening to come into effect which fundamentally violates women's rights and human rights, that worries me. I have a problem to explain to a critical public audience in Europe, be it the U.K. or elsewhere, why I'm sending the guys to the Hindu Kush."* Off the record, a "senior European diplomat" says of the attempt by Obama to get more help for Afghanistan, *"No one will say this publicly, but the true fact is we are all talking about our exit strategy from Afghanistan. We are getting out. It may take a couple of years, but we are all looking to get out."* The American media had blamed Europe's reluctance to assist the U.S. in Afghanistan on its dislike for President Bush; with Obama's popularity in Europe the reluctance is still there, but the media does not bother to ask why. [2154,2276]

Obama also attempts to dump Guantanamo prisoners on any of the G20 and NATO nations willing to take them, without much luck. Austria's Interior Minister, Maria Fekter, reasonably argues that if the prisoners are dangerous they should be kept at Guantanamo, and if they're not dangerous then Obama shouldn't mind letting them loose on American streets. (Columnist Charles Krauthammer points out, *"When Austria is mocking you, you're having a bad week."*) [2277]

Obama warns North Korea on April 3 that its upcoming missile launch would be *"provocative"* and would not go unpunished. Obama has already signaled, through Defense Secretary Gates, that the U.S. would not shoot down the

missile. *"Should North Korea decide to take this action, we will work ...to take appropriate steps to let North Korea know that it can't threaten the safety and security of other countries with impunity."* It is unclear what Obama would do to punish the regime. [2157]

Robert F. Bauer, attorney for Obama, sends a letter to attorney John Hemenway demanding that the appeal of *Hollister v. Soetoro* be withdrawn. Bauer warns, *"Should you decline to withdraw this frivolous appeal, please be informed that we intend to pursue sanctions, including costs, expenses, and attorney's fees..."* Hemenway refuses to be intimidated, responding to Bauer that he will continue to *"...write and protest and attack those (who are) against the demand that Obama show proof of his birth..."* Hemenway notes that sanctions under Rule 11 are unlikely, because they would give the plaintiff standing in the court of appeals – *which Obama desperately wants to avoid.* [2499]

Alaska Governor Sarah Palin suggests that the state's new Senator, Democrat Mark Begich, should resign and allow a new election. Begich won a close election after Republican Ted Stevens was convicted of lying on financial disclosure forms. On April 1 the Justice Department finally asked the judge to drop the charges, saying prosecutors withheld evidence that could have cleared Stevens. Had the evidence been presented and Stevens been acquitted, he easily would have won re-election to the Senate, but Democrats so desperately wanted to gain 60 votes in the Senate that they went after Stevens with a vengeance. Palin states, *"Alaskans deserve to have a fair election not tainted by some announcement that one of the candidates was convicted fairly of seven felonies, when in fact it wasn't a fair conviction."* Begich states he will not step down, and Obama needs his Democrat vote to help stop Republican filibusters in the Senate.

On April 3 William Black, a former senior regulator who helped expose the Savings and Loan fraud of the 1980s, appears on "Bill Moyers' Journal" to discuss the causes of the current economic crisis. The targets of his criticism include Democrats, Republicans, Wall Street executives, and the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations. Black states that Obama's Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, *"...is covering up. Just like Paulson did before him. Geithner is publicly saying that it's going to take \$2 trillion – a trillion is a thousand billion – \$2 trillion taxpayer dollars to deal with this problem. But they're allowing all the banks to report that they're not only solvent, but fully capitalized. Both statements can't be true. It can't be that they need \$2 trillion because they have massive losses and that they're (also) fine."* Black says of Obama, *"First, the policies are substantively bad. Second, I think they completely lack integrity. Third, they violate the rule of law. This is being done just like Secretary Paulson did it. In violation of the law. We adopted a law after the savings and loan crisis called the Prompt Corrective Action Law. And it requires them to close these institutions. And they're refusing to obey the law."* When Moyers asks, *"Are you saying that Timothy Geithner, the Secretary of the Treasury, and others in the administration,*

with the banks, are engaged in a cover up to keep us from knowing what went wrong?" Black responds, "Absolutely." (Black is the author of *"The Best Way to Rob a Bank is to Own One,"* and is an Associate Professor of Economics and Law at the University of Missouri.) [2194]

The administration announces that Obama plans to lift travel restrictions on Cuba, allowing Cuban-Americans to visit the island and bring with them unlimited funds. Arguably, the ability to travel freely back and forth between the U.S. and Cuba works against the asylum pleas of Cuban refugees. Obama gets no concessions from Fidel Castro. In exchange for the easing of restrictions – which will move more money to Cuba and further protect the Castro regime – Obama could have called for the release of political prisoners, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and even private enterprise. Castro may have agreed to none... but Obama apparently did not try too hard to broker a deal. (Castro is also kept in power with lop-sided European trade; Europe lends Cuba cash to buy European products, and Castro neglects to re-pay the debt. Cuba owes Europe as much as \$29 billion, and the island nation has only 11 million residents.) The Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) expressed support for easing restrictions on Cuba, even though it is opposed to the Castro regime. Critics of U.S. policy charge that the U.S. embargo of Cuba hasn't helped free its citizens because it keeps them poor and subservient to Castro; that argument is invalid... the embargo is not a blockade, and Cuba trades freely with other nations. Cubans are poor because of communism, not a lack of American merchandise. [2196,2223,2332]

Ray Gonzales, Street Supervisor of Burleson, Texas, tells organizers of a "tea party" tax-and-spend protest they will not be allowed to hold their demonstration. Gonzales, a Democrat, says it is *"not in the public interest."* Organizers will appeal to the city manager. Meanwhile, the American Family Association (AFA) announces there are almost 1,600 "tea parties" scheduled for April 15, to protest the administration's reckless spending and accumulation of insurmountable debt. AFA chairman Donald E. Wildmon warns, *"The runaway spending by President Obama and Congress will have a definite negative effect on our families. We are leaving a debt of trillions of dollars to be paid by our grandchildren and great-grandchildren."* Hundreds of other protests are planned for July 4 and various Saturdays over the next several months. [2159,2165]

Dr. Orly Taitz, an attorney who has submitted lawsuits challenging Obama's status as a natural born citizen, writes the Supreme Court and asks that it cooperate with an FBI investigation into "cyber crimes" related to her cases. Taitz filed a complaint with the FBI alleging that a Supreme Court clerk intentionally interfered with her appeals, including deleting them (and other Obama-related challenges) from the Supreme Court docket. Because the Justices are also victims in the crime, their cooperation is needed in order for the FBI to conduct a thorough investigation. [2166]

After the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) gives the Obama administration a legal opinion that it would be unconstitutional to give Congressional voting rights to the District of Columbia because it is not a state, Attorney General Holder defies the opinion and "shops around" for one to his and Obama's liking – from one of his own appointees, deputy solicitor general Neal K. Katyal. Holder refuses to make public the OLC opinion, which is consistent with over 45 years of legal opinions on the D.C. voting issue. Holder had promised at his confirmation hearing that *"We don't change OLC opinions simply because a new administration takes over,"* and any review *"will not be a political process, it will be one based solely on our interpretation of the law."* The issue, if pursued by Democrats in Congress, will end up in the Supreme Court – which will more likely rule in accordance with the U.S. Constitution than with the political schemes of Obama and Holder. The District of Columbia's non-voting delegate to the House, Eleanor Holmes Norton, seems more than willing to ignore the U.S. Constitution when she remarks, *"I don't think members are in the least bit affected in their votes on the question of its constitutionality. People vote their politics in the House and in the Senate."* A Department of Justice spokesman said that Holder *"...made his own determination that the D.C. voting rights bill is constitutional."* [2171,2172,2173]

Under pressure from Wall Street and the Obama administration, the Federal Accounting Standards Board (FASB) relaxes "mark to market" valuation rules. The action will allow banks and investment firms to value their assets at "more appropriate" (that is, higher) levels. The result is that "toxic assets" might be re-valued higher than they should be, allowing Wall Street and the administration to say, "Hey, things are getting better!" when they are not. (If a homeowner with a \$500,000 mortgage defaults after the house has declined in value to \$300,000, the bank will lose money – even if the "book value" of the loan was valued at \$500,000.) [2182]

An April 3-4 "National Conference on Barack Obama's Missing Birth Certificate and College Records" ends with the announcement of a boycott of Hawaii's tourism, products, and businesses, in response to the state's refusal to release historical documents relating to Obama. [2272]

It is reported that the Obama administration has *refused* an offer from at least one large, prominent bank to return all the TARP money it received late in 2008 and which it says it does not need. There is no justification for the government's refusal to accept the return of taxpayer cash – other than the desire of the Obama administration to be able to control the bank's executive payroll and lending practices. According to the Wall Street Journal, the bank has been *"threatened with adverse consequences if its chairman persists"* in trying to return the money. [2188,2476]

On April 5, in violation of a 2006 U.N. Security Council resolution, North Korea goes through with its threat to launch a rocket; the communist nation announces

publicly that it successfully sent a communication satellite into orbit. The U.S., which had been monitoring the activities, confirms there was a launch but no satellite or object made it into orbit. With a satellite in orbit or not, North Korea demonstrates that it has the ability to launch ballistic missiles, perhaps as far as 2,000 miles. That is sufficient to prompt an emergency meeting of the U. N. Security Council later the same day. (Iranian officials are reportedly present to witness the North Korean launch, and Israel is well within 2,000 miles of Iran.) Obama responds to the launch by saying, *“North Korea broke the rules once more by testing a rocket that could be used for a long-range missile. This provocation underscores the need for action – not just this afternoon at the U.N. Security Council, but in our determination to prevent the spread of these weapons.”* It is unclear what action might be taken in retaliation, other than a strongly-worded statement from Obama and U.N. Had Kim Jong-Il been worried about a tough response he would not have launched the missile, and North Korea still holds hostage two American journalists it had apprehended at its border with China. (The Security Council takes no action, and Russia’s foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, states that *“any threat of sanction”* against North Korea *“would be counterproductive.”*) [2181,2185,2208,2252]

In Prague on April 5, as Kim Jong-Il upstages him, Obama repeats his call for a world without nuclear weapons, saying *“The basic bargain is sound: countries with nuclear weapons will move toward disarmament, countries without nuclear weapons will not acquire them.”* He adds, *“This goal will not be reached quickly, perhaps not in my lifetime,”* and *“(everyone) must ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change. We have to insist, ‘Yes, we can.’”* (It is not clear how Obama will be able to “uninvent” nuclear weapons, or why he believes it is a good idea for America to “lead the way” and dismantle its nuclear weapons – while terrorists are scrambling to obtain them and China, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Russia, Great Britain, France, India, and Pakistan will never give up theirs.) Obama says he will negotiate a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (SALT), but his odds of getting it ratified by the Senate are likely slim. (Clinton’s 1999 agreement was rejected by the Senate.) Strangely, Obama suggests he would continue U.S. plans for a missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic, even though he has long hinted he is willing to give that up in exchange for concessions from Russia. *“As long as the threat from Iran persists,”* said Obama, *“we will go forward with a missile defense system that is cost-effective and proven.”* Obama’s “out” may be the words, “cost-effective and proven,” which he can use as an argument against any missile defense system, and Obama can use his own criteria to determine whether Iran is a threat. [2191,2192,2202,2231,2235]

Although the crowd in Prague cheered Obama’s call for a world without nuclear weapons, clearly the U.S. has no intention of dismantling its nuclear arsenal. Even the Obama administration admits the remark was simply a sop to the masses, with White House arms control advisor Gary Samore saying, *“In terms*

of a nuclear-free world, we recognize this is not a near-term possibility. Rather, the call was an attempt to 'seize the moral high ground' in order to increase pressure on countries such as North Korea and Iran." The odds that Obama's "let's all play nice" remarks will have a helpful effect on North Korea or Iran are likely close to zero. As one columnist points out, Obama has replaced Teddy Roosevelt's saying, *"Speak softly and carry a big stick"* with *"Speak apologetically and carry a big shtick."* (The Arabs have an ancient proverb, *"An army of lions led by a sheep is easily defeated by an army of sheep led by a lion."*) [2242,2305]

Although the crowds in Europe welcomed Obama, some in the British press are less thrilled with him than they were six months earlier. An editorial in the Telegraph remarks that Obama's *"speeches have long under-delivered, usually leaving a faintly empty sensation,"* some of the answers at his press conference *"were interminable, windy and not very impressive. At points there were pauses so long that it appeared he had simply lost his train of thought,"* and *"...I'll wager that within a year or so he'll be marked down as a wind-bag."* [2229]

Hundreds of anti-abortion demonstrators attend a rally at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana to protest the school's decision to present the pro-abortion Obama with an honorary degree and have him give the commencement address on May 17. The pro-abortion New York Times calls the criticism of Obama's planned visit *"high-pitched indignation"* and *"insulated and narrow-minded."* [2219,2226]

A group of more than 100 prominent scientists – including a Nobel Prize winner – sends a letter to Obama, sponsored by the Cato Institute, telling him his climate change views are *"simply incorrect,"* and that his oft-repeated statement that the global warming *"science is beyond dispute"* is not true. The letter reads, in part, *"We, the undersigned scientists, maintain that the case for alarm regarding climate change is grossly overstated. Surface temperature changes over the past century have been episodic and modest and there has been no net global warming for over a decade now,"* and *"The computer models forecasting rapid temperature change abjectly fail to explain recent climate behavior. Mr. President, your characterization of the scientific facts regarding climate change and the degree of certainty informing the scientific debate is simply incorrect."* Obama nevertheless is charging down a path of imposing punitive taxes on carbon dioxide emissions to slow down what he believes is man-caused global warming. [2193]

Obama visits Turkey on April 6 and gives a speech to its parliament, where he says the U.S. has been *"enriched by Muslim-Americans"* and offers *"deep appreciation for the Islamic faith, which has done so much over the centuries to shape the world – including in my own country"* – no doubt leading many skeptical critics on a search to find any shred of evidence that Islam has *"shaped the U.S."* (Some might argue that Muslims *"re-shaped"* the New York skyline on

September 11, 2001.) Obama states, *“Many other Americans have Muslims in their family, or have lived in a Muslim-majority country. I know, because I am one of them.”* (The New York Times calls the statement a *“bold move,”* because of *“right-wing web site”* claims Obama is a Muslim.) Obama adds, *“America’s relationship with the Muslim community, (and with) the Muslim world, cannot and will not just be based upon opposition to terrorism. We seek broader engagement based on mutual interest and mutual respect.”* With his comment Obama suggests that it is only the issue of terrorism that divides the U.S. and Muslim countries; he ignores the fact that millions of Muslims hate the U.S. (and Western Europe) for substantive core reasons – such as democracy, rights for women, capitalism, and comparatively unrestricted freedoms – that simply capturing Osama bin Laden and some terrorists will not resolve. And although Obama also states, *“The United States is not and never will be at war with Islam,”* a large part of Islam is arguably at war with the United States. Obama says nothing to challenge “moderate Muslims” to stop radical Islamists from engaging in terrorist activities that reflect negatively on their religion. Obama also pledges support for Turkey’s desire to join the European Union. (French President Sarkozy then tells French television the decision is, of course, certainly not Obama’s to make, essentially telling Obama to mind his own business. Europe does not want Turkey in the EU because of concerns about open borders and massive emigration from Turkey into Western Europe – and because Turkey does not embrace European culture and is not a European country.)

[2199,2201,2207,2227,2233,2267,2313]

Obama’s address in Turkey also includes the astounding statement, *“We do not consider ourselves a Christian nation or a Jewish nation or a Muslim nation. We consider ourselves a nation of citizens bound by ideals and a set of values”* – a statement that is totally at odds with the history of the United States and the beliefs of its citizens. Obama, apparently wishing to please the citizens of Turkey, chose instead to insult the American people. (He is willing to disown America’s history and Judeo-Christian heritage more readily than he can disown his own minister, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, for his two decades of racist and anti-American sermons.) [2283]

Obama also touches on the topic of the Turkish massacre of millions of Christian Armenians, Greeks, and Syrians by the Turks in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which many nations consider to have been genocide. Obama chooses to refer to the victims as mere casualties of war, to avoid arousing Muslim anger. And rather than dare blame Muslims for murdering Christians, Obama instead blames Americans for killing Indians, saying, *“Our country still struggles with the legacy of our past treatment of native Americans.”* More than once during his trip Obama makes “America is bad” comments. Obama also states, *“An enduring commitment to the rule of law is the only way to achieve the security that comes from justice for all people. Robust minority rights let societies benefit from the full measure of contributions from all citizens. I say this as the President of a country that not too long ago made it hard for someone who looks like me to vote,”* falsely

suggesting that blacks in the U.S. have not had the right to vote until “not long ago.” When he remarks that “...*we recently ordered the prison at Guantanamo Bay closed, and prohibited – without exception or equivocation – any use of torture,*” he implies that he personally ended torture when, in fact, the practice of “waterboarding” (which some would not classify as torture) was banned by the military in 2006, before Obama had even announced his candidacy. [2199,2201,2207]

Although Obama’s refusal to use the term genocide to describe the Turkish killings of Armenians placates the Turks, it immediately arouses the anger of Armenians. The Armenian National Committee of Americas (ANCA) had endorsed Obama, who said in January of 2008 that he had a “*firmly held conviction that the Armenian genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence.*” While in Turkey, however, Obama referred only to the “*terrible events of 1915,*” suggesting that both sides shared blame, and said “...*the best way forward for the Turkish and Armenian people is a process that works through the past in a way that is honest, open and constructive.*” The ANCA responds that Obama fell “*far short of the clear promise he made as a candidate that he would, as president, fully and unequivocally recognize this crime against humanity.*” [2222]

Not everyone in Turkey is as impressed with Obama as the American media lapdogs. One Turkish television station broadcasts a parody of Obama featuring an actor wearing blackface make-up. [2241]

The American mass media gushes over Obama’s trip, calling it a success even though it was remarkably unsuccessful because he accomplished none of his planned goals. Obama fails to get massive stimulus spending from European nations, troop commitments for Afghanistan, assistance from Russia in slowing Iran’s nuclear program, help from China in reining in North Korea’s Kim Jong-Il, and a place to dump terrorists he wants to remove from Guantanamo. Many in the media are, however, clearly happy to hear Obama repeatedly apologize to the rest of the world for American arrogance, abuse of world resources, the bombing of Hiroshima, slavery, torture at Guantanamo, failing to show more respect for Islam, and mistreating native Americans. (Some suggest that Obama came close to making Jimmy Carter appear patriotic.) CNN calls for Obama to “*teach Americans about Islam,*” saying that many “...*Americans see Islam as an ideology instead of a religion, and maybe, President Obama has to kind of... kind of put a definition on it from the American standpoint in Turkey.*” CNN fails to recognize that to a great extent Islam is, in fact, an ideology more than it is a religion. Reporter Christiane Amanpour states that Obama was “*trying to smooth over and correct (the) terrible rupture*” between the U.S. and the Islamic world over the past eight years – suggesting to ill-educated viewers that Muslims have held the U.S. in contempt only since George W. Bush became President, and

totally ignoring all the pre-2001 history that demonstrates centuries of hatred of Western civilization by Muslims. [2230,2312]

The European media and European governments are less impressed by Obama. French officials call Obama's efforts to re-brand the U.S. "unoriginal, unsubstantial, and overrated." Obama's call for a world-wide reduction of nuclear weapons is called "hot air" and "rhetoric – not a speech on American security policy" but words meant only to improve the U.S. image. At the NATO summit in Strasbourg, Obama was purportedly siding with Turkey's refusal to endorse the appointment of the new NATO Secretary General; French President Sarkozy and German Chancellor Merkel allegedly had to persuade a weak-willed Obama to stand up to Turkey. (The new NATO Secretary general will be Denmark's Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who Turkey opposes because of "anti-Islam" political cartoons that appeared in Danish newspapers in 2005.) [2371,2372]

London's Financial Times reports that the Obama administration is considering allowing Iran to enrich uranium, as long as it "promises" to use it for fuel and not weapons. [2232]

April 7 a federal judge throws out all charges against Stevens. U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan, who says, *"In nearly 25 years on the bench, I've never seen anything approaching the mishandling and misconduct that I've seen in this case,"* even orders a special prosecutor to conduct a criminal investigation of the prosecutors who handled the case. [2158,2210]

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is asked at an April 7 press conference about her offer to deal with "moderate" members of the Taliban. Clinton replies that if the moderates lay down their weapons the U.S. would work to help them become part of the Afghan government. Afghan diplomats later remark, *"She's wrong. The vast majority of the Taliban are extremists. Had she said that, we would agree with her. To say the vast majority are moderate is not the truth."* (The Taliban would, of course, welcome an opportunity to be handed "part of" the Afghan government on a silver platter as an alternative to defeat on the battlefield.) [2245]

Obama's Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, announces a 15 per cent cut in U.S. defense spending at a press conference discussing the 2010 defense budget. The "vehicle component" of the Army's Future Combat Systems (FCS) program will be canceled (which means a delay in obtaining more bomb-resistant vehicles for combat troops). No additional F-22 Raptor fighter jets will be purchased beyond the first 187. A \$26 billion satellite program will be cancelled. Missile Defense Agency funding will be cut by \$1.4 billion – despite North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile just the day before. Other defense cuts include reducing the number of aircraft carriers from 11 to 10; delaying amphibious ship programs; halting a planned increase of ground-based interceptors in Alaska; ending development of a new search and rescue

helicopter; canceling plans for a new stealth fighter bomber; ending the C-17 transport aircraft; and canceling the Airborne Laser (ABL) Missile Defense program (which is designed to destroy enemy ballistic missiles in their vulnerable boost phase). [2232,2261,2286]

Retired Air Force General Thomas G. McInerney tells Human Events, *"I am appalled at the decisions just made by the (defense) secretary, as are other very senior Air Force general officers."* The General wonders why the F-22 (stealth) Raptor is being canceled, when *"the F-35 cannot survive a Russian S-300 surface-to-air missile, and the F-22 (is the only one that) can,"* and adds that Obama *"does not understand airpower."* (The F-22 is the world's most advanced multi-role air superiority aircraft – and Obama wants it cancelled.) McInerney is also critical of Obama's "gag order" on the military, prohibiting discussion of details of the defense budget. *"It's the first time it (the gag order) has ever been done in history. If I was one of the (Joint) chiefs (of Staff), I would have said there is no way I'm signing anything."* One unnamed general tells Human Events that a *"...serious naiveté has begun to fester (in Washington),"* and the White House and senior defense officials *"want to shape the military the way they think it should be without debate. They don't see Russia or China as a threat. And the idea that we should not focus on future potential conflicts – from guerrilla operations to even air or sea battles – is troubling."* Former deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Pacific, retired Major General Paul E. Vallely, comments, *"There is no overriding strategy, not only for the war against radical Islam – the planners don't even know what to call it anymore – but no broad strategy for the Middle East and beyond. We do not seem to have senior people – particularly among the political appointees – who understand the threats against us, much less how to develop a strategy to meet those threats."* (Obama's defense budget is less than four per cent of U.S. Gross Domestic Product. During World War II the budget was as much as 34 per cent of GDP.) [2232,2261,2286]

Obama's billionaire pal, leftist George Soros, states the economy will not recover in 2009, because "the banking system as a whole is basically insolvent." He also brings up the issue of a "currency basket" comprising of dollars, euros, yen, and sterling to replace the dollar as the sole world reserve currency. [2200]

An earthquake in L'Aquila, Italy kills at least 130 people, injures more than 1,500, and leaves tens of thousands homeless. A State Department spokesman, Robert Wood, tells reporters, *"We send our heartfelt condolences to the families of those killed in the earthquake. Our embassy in Rome will provide 50,000 (dollars) in emergency relief funding."* An Internet article about the donation prompts readers who recall that the Obama administration had recently pledged a whopping \$900 million to the Palestinians for Gaza relief, to post comments like, "I bet if this was in some Muslim crap hole they would give about \$50 million," and "Don't send money, send ACORN, they are better then cadaver dogs, they can even find people that were never even there." [2211,2212]

Despite North Korea's provocative missile launch just days before, and Iran's determined efforts to obtain nuclear weapons, the Obama administration announces on April 6 that it will cut the missile defense system budget by \$1.4 billion. (Obama's move will no doubt please Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and North Korea's Kim Jong-Il.) [2225]

The White House confirms that it has received more than 2.5 million red envelopes meant to protest the nation's continuing abortions and Obama's plan to remove the "conscience clause" so that physicians and facilities that oppose abortions cannot refuse to perform them. One White House mail worker states, "*I've been here 35 years, so I've seen presidents come and go. This campaign ranks up there with the big ones.*" [2220]

On April 7, on his way back to the U.S. from Turkey, Obama makes what the media calls a "surprise" stop in Baghdad to visit the troops and meet with Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. (Any visit by an American President to a war zone is necessarily a "surprise" because it would be asinine to give the enemy advance notice of the trip.) In a photo-op with about 600 soldiers assembled in one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces, Obama says, "*We've made significant political progress,*" but "*There is still a lot of work to do here.*" [2221]

Obama's Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issues a nine-page document warning about rising "rightwing extremist activity." While it is unknown whether Obama personally authorized or approved the report, its contents are not inconsistent with his stated public views and actions. The authors of the report – apparently totally unaware of the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution – define right-wing extremism as including groups that reject "*federal authority in favor of state or local authority.*" The document, called "*Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment,*" was distributed to police and sheriff's departments across the U.S. The document generally reads as though the administration believes conservatives who support the U.S. Constitution are a major threat to the security of the United States. The document warns that returning veterans could be dangerous, with the statement, "*The possible passage of new restrictions on firearms and the return of military veterans facing significant challenges reintegrating into their communities could lead to the potential emergence of terrorist groups or lone wolf extremists capable of carrying out violent attacks.*" The report alleges that "*rightwing extremist groups' frustration over a perceived lack of government action on illegal immigration has the potential to incite*" violence, ignoring that the lack of action is certainly not "perceived" but real. The report claims that "*prominent civil rights organizations have observed an increase in anti-Hispanic crimes over the past five years.*" Such crimes are shameful, but are no doubt inconsequential in number compared to the increases in crimes committed in the U.S. by illegal immigrants. The document mentions six arrests in 2007 for various weapons and explosives violations by "right-wingers." It does

not state the number of weapons arrests involving illegal immigrants in that same year, but it is certainly thousands of times greater than six. The report also makes the amazing statement that *“Many rightwing extremist groups perceive recent gun control legislation as a threat to their right to bear arms.”* The authors of the report apparently believe Americans should welcome a diminution of their Second Amendment rights. [2334,2346,2348]

The DHS “beware of the right-wing” report essentially warns law enforcement of the potential danger of anyone who opposes illegal immigration, gun control, martial law, a global “new world order,” outsourcing of American jobs, citizen detention camps, abortion, ignoring the U.S. Constitution. (The DHS may thus have to round up and arrest most of the nation’s citizens, leaving only Democrat members of Congress, the media, and illegal immigrants free to roam the streets.) The White House tries to make the media believe Obama knew nothing of the report, and attempts to turn the criticism against those who were offended by the report when spokesman Nick Shapiro says, *“The President is focused not on politics but rather taking the steps necessary to protect all Americans from the threat of violence and terrorism regardless of its origins. He also believes those who serve represent the best of this country, and he will continue to ensure that our veterans receive the respect and benefits they have earned.”* [2334]

National Commander of the American Legion veterans group, David K. Rehbein, sends Homeland Security head Janet Napolitano a letter complaining about her release of the “Rightwing Extremism” report, telling her, *“I think it is important for all of us to remember that Americans are not the enemy. The terrorists are.”* Despite the significant amount of negative response prompted by her report, Napolitano states she stands by its contents. Afraid to use the word “terrorism” with regard to bombings by radical Islamists (calling them *“man-caused disasters”*) Napolitano – and, by extension, Obama – have no problem using the term “terrorist” to define veterans and conservative Americans who believe in the U.S. Constitution, the right to bear arms, free speech, secure borders, and the limited government espoused by the nation’s Founding Fathers and required by the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution. Civil liberties officials at DHS warned about some of the language in the report, but it was nevertheless issued. [1767,1921,2350,2353,2390]

In criticism of the DHS document, Congressman Peter King, (R-NY) tells MSNBC that the Department *“has never put out a report talking about look out for mosques. Look out for Islamic terrorists in our country. Look out for the fact that very few Muslims come forward to cooperate with the police. If they sent out a report saying that, there would be hell to pay.”* The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) immediately complains that Muslims are being stereotyped. King responds, *“I stand by everything I said. I consider any attack by CAIR to be a badge of honor.”* [2440]

Conservative talk show host Michael Savage works with the Thomas More Law Center of Ann Arbor, Michigan to file a civil rights action against Janet Napolitano and the DHS for its "Rightwing Extremism" report, claiming violations of the First and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution. Savage seeks a court order enjoining the policy. The Law Center's Richard Thompson charges that the DHS document *"...is not an intelligence report but a diatribe against those who oppose the policies of the Obama administration... It is a declaration of war against the American people and our constitution. It is a prelude to extreme gun control legislation and hate speech laws targeting Christian churches and others who oppose abortion and same sex marriage. The federal government should be focusing its attention on the 35 radical Muslim compounds in the U.S. training its followers on how to kidnap and kill Americans."* [2384,2429]

On his visit to Iraq the media notes that Obama was "cheered wildly by U.S. troops," which was in stark contrast to the virtually applause-free reception he received when visiting Camp Lejeune for a February speech. The enthusiastic welcome was the result of "pre-screening" by officials who asked soldiers beforehand *"Who voted for Obama?"* and then moved those who raised their hands to the front of the line. Digital cameras were passed out to the soldiers, who were told to display them prominently for the media. [2326]

Seven Democrat U.S. Congressmen, led by Barbara Lee (D-CA) and including former Black Panther Bobby Rush (D-IL), visit Cuba and are warmly greeted by dictator Fidel Castro, who asks *"How can we help President Obama?"* The naïve legislators return home gushing about how pleasant Castro is, while they ignored Castro's human rights violations, the plight of the more than 100,000 political prisoners he has imprisoned since 1959, and the destitute poverty of the Cuban people. Lee (who didn't ask to visit any political prisoners) states, *"It is time to open dialogue and discussion. Cubans do want dialogue. They do want talks"* – without recognizing that Castro will not allow his own people to speak freely. Strangely, several of the visiting Congressmen are black and seem unaware that blacks face even more difficult hardships in Cuba than the whites who hold power. Congressman Emanuel Cleaver announces on his return to Washington, *"If there is repression in Cuba we didn't see it,"* and *"We've been led to believe that the Cuban people are not free, and they are repressed by a vicious dictator, and I saw nothing to match what we've been told."* (Meanwhile, Castro's friend, Venezuelan socialist president Hugo Chavez, was in Beijing declaring, *"The power of the U.S. empire has collapsed."*) [2252,2254,2258,2282,2285]

In an interview with CNN, Vice-President Biden says Israel should not plan on taking out Iran's nuclear facilities in a military strike, but does not *"believe Prime Minister (Binyamin) Netanyahu would do that. I think he would be ill-advised to do that. And so my level of concern is no different than it was a year ago."* (Biden may not have noticed that both Iran and North Korea are much further along in their nuclear programs than they were a year ago, and Iran's statements regarding Israel have not become any less aggressive.) Netanyahu has,

however, made it clear that Israel cannot tolerate a nuclear-armed Iran, saying *"You don't want a messianic apocalyptic cult controlling atomic bombs. When the wide-eyed believer gets hold of the reins of power and the weapons of mass death, then the entire world should start worrying. That is what is happening in Iran."* Biden and Obama have, so far, not suggested how to stop Iran's nuclear program. The more Obama seems willing to accept a nuclear-armed Iran, the more likely Israel will feel obligated to strike militarily. Some Arab nations, such as Saudi Arabia, would likely even welcome such a move by Israel because they also fear a nuclear Iran and threats to their own regimes. [2239,2240,2286]

The White House announces that tickets for its annual "Easter Egg Roll" are being set aside for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender organizations. The executive director of the "Family Equality Center," Jennifer Chrisler, said *"The Obama administration actually reached out to us as an organization, and said we want gay families there, and they are an important part of the American family fabric."* More than 100 gay and lesbian families are expected to participate in the egg roll. Although gays and lesbians have attended the event since 2006, the Bush administration chose not to make a fuss about it because the event is for children and not for pushing an agenda. The 2009 event will apparently focus on the parents and not the children. [2237]

Obama appoints Harry Knox to the White House Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. The move angers many Christians, because Knox is an open homosexual and director of the Human Rights Campaign's Religion and Faith program, which is alleged to be "fundamentally bigoted against Christians." Critics charge that Knox will use his influence to keep Christians out of government-funded programs. Roman Catholics are angered by the appointment because Knox has called Catholic bishops and Pope Benedict XVI *"discredited leaders"* because they oppose same-sex marriage. [2228,2265]

Obama's science advisor, John Holdren, is interviewed by the Associated Press and states the U.S. may have to consider "climate engineering" because *"We don't have the luxury of taking any approach off the table."* One process would involve firing pollution particles into the upper atmosphere to reflect the sun's rays and reduce "global warming." Holdren also proposed "artificial trees" to suck carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and then put it in storage. (Holdren made his remarks with a straight face.) Senior meteorologist at Accuweather, Joe Bastardi, later comments, *"The idea that you will shoot pollutants in the air to cool the atmosphere shows the lunacy of the people advising President Obama."* [2236,2280]

On April 8 pirates seize a U.S.-flagged ship loaded with relief aid for Africa, the Maersk Alabama, in waters off the coast of Somalia. Crew members later manage to retake control of the ship, but not until the pirates take the captain (and perhaps one member of the crew) hostage and flee in one of the lifeboats. Secretary of State Clinton states, *"We're deeply concerned and we're following it*

very closely. More generally, the world must come together to end the scourge of piracy." Denis McDonough, a senior foreign policy advisor at the White House, remarks, *"The administration has an intense interest in the security of navigation."* Terrorists worldwide are likely watching to see what, if anything, Obama will do beyond making public statements, and Senator John Kerry (D-MA) calling for hearings. A weak response from the U.S. will signal to its adversaries that they may be free to attempt more significant actions. At an April 9 homeowner refinancing discussion Obama is asked about the situation by reporters but he declines to comment, telling them, *"Guys, we're talking about housing right now."* Democrat strategist Doug Schoen called the piracy both *"a real test of national resolve"* and *"a distraction."* (The ship captain being held hostage and his distraught family likely are not using the word "distraction" to explain how they feel.) [2248,2249,2250,2251,2253,2256,2264]

CIA director Leon Panetta announces on April 8 that the agency will be closing all of its secret detention centers. (There is no official word from the Obama administration as to how terrorists responded to the announcement.) [2273]

Israel's Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, in words clearly intended for Obama, states *"Those who think that through concessions they will gain respect and peace are wrong. It's the other way around – it will lead to more wars."* There is no doubt that Israel will be a thorn in Obama's side, with Obama wanting significant concessions from the Jewish state in order to appease Palestinians, Iran, and the rest of the Arab world, and Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu wanting to stop Iran's nuclear program and prevent further attacks from Hamas and other terrorists backed by Iran and Syria. Israeli President Shimon Peres states that while he hopes that U.S.-Iran talks could be productive, if they are not Israel will "strike him (Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad)." [2320,2331]

The White House announces that Obama plans on immigration legislation this year to find a path for illegal immigrants to become legal. (There already is a path for them, of course, but it involves returning to their homeland and then entering the U.S. legally.) Such a bill may be a tough sell in the middle of a recession. Roy Beck, executive director of NumbersUSA – an organization that favors tighter controls on immigration) – states, *"It just doesn't seem rational that any political leader would say, let's give millions of foreign workers permanent access to U.S. jobs when we have millions of Americans looking for jobs."* [2257]

Obama asks Congress for \$83.4 billion for continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, despite having criticized former President Bush for making the same kind of off-budget supplemental funding requests in the past. [2266,2530]

Obama's vice-president, Joe Biden, is called a liar by Republican strategist Karl Rove, for a story Biden told about an alleged encounter with former President Bush. Biden claims that Bush had once told him the Oval Office, *"I'm a leader,"* and Biden allegedly replied, *"Mr. President, turn around and look behind you. No*

one is following.” Biden also alleges he had spent “many hours” speaking with Bush. Rove states the story is “fictional,” and says, “*If you notice, all of these incidents have the same structure: Joe Biden courageously raises the impudent question; the president befuddles the answer; and Joe Biden drives home the dramatic response.*” More than a few former Bush staffers agree with Rove. (Biden has a history of making up stories, exaggerating events, and plagiarizing.) [2268]

Pharmacy chain Walgreens pulls the “Chia Obama” product off its shelves after some shoppers complain that it makes fun of “Afro” hairstyles and is “racist.” The “Chia Obama” is the latest addition to the “Chia pet” line of planters shaped like animals or people that grow “hair” from tiny plants. The product’s inventor and promoter, Joseph Pedott, had asked Jesse Jackson for his opinion, and he replied, “*I think this is a fine product.*” Pedott’s ad campaign includes the pitch, “*Can you grow one? Yes you can!*” [2269]

Obama’s head of the National Economic Council, Lawrence Summers, addresses the Economic Club of Washington on April 9 and says the unemployment rate will likely go higher. “*I don’t think we can hold out the prospect that unemployment would stabilize at the current level,*” said Summers. When asked to guess how high the rate might go he refuses to be pinned down, saying, “*There are seven cameras there, which means there are seven too many for me to provide a number for the number at which it might be likely to peak.*” [2279]

Attorney Philip J. Berg announces that he will appeal the Hollister case. The case is one of many that challenge Obama’s eligibility to serve as President. The judge, James Robertson, had denied the lawsuit not on the basis of law but because he felt the issue of Obama’s citizenship had been sufficiently “*vetted, blogged, texted, twittered*” during the campaign. [2342]

Texas Governor Rick Perry announces his support of the state’s sovereignty resolution, stating, “*I believe that our federal government has become oppressive in its size, its intrusion into the lives of our citizens, and its interference with the affairs of our state. That is why I am here today to express my unwavering support for efforts all across our country to reaffirm the states’ rights affirmed by the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I believe that returning to the letter and spirit of the U.S. Constitution and its essential Tenth Amendment will free our state from undue regulations, and ultimately strengthen our Union. Millions of Texans are tired of Washington, D.C. trying to come down here to tell us how to run Texas.*” [2341,2351]

On April 9 Obama hosts a Jewish Seder dinner. Aides say it was likely the first President-hosted Seder at the White House. Columnist Debbie Schlusel calls it a “*stunt and a Jewish minstrel show,*” and hypocritical because the food served was not Kosher but simply Jewish ethnic food. Schlusel labels the event “*lipstick*

on a(n unkosher) pig." No rabbi or religious scholar joins Obama for the meal, but political advisor David Axelrod (who is Jewish) is invited. [2338,2339,2356]

Kentucky's Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Leslie A. Fugate asks the state's Attorney General, Jack Conway, to investigate the issue of Obama's eligibility to be on the ballot in Kentucky. Whether Conway will act on the request remains to be seen. [2294]

Shareholders of AIG add former and current Treasury Secretarys Henry Paulson and Timothy Geithner to the list of defendants in their \$200 billion class action lawsuit against former SEC head Christopher Cox, AIG CEO Edward Libby, Richard Holbrooke, Martin Feldstein, and others. The complaint alleges that the constitutional rights of shareholders were violated by denying them the right to property – their own shares of stock. The lawsuit charges that the defendants *"jointly and severally, have seriously undermined and damaged AIG's financial health and valuable past reputation by systematically causing and/or permitting the company to engage in a litany of highly risky, detrimental and reckless business dealing... that have caused the company to verge on bankruptcy and which have required in excess of \$190 billion dollars to date of government provided monies to prevent total company failure."* [2295]

Obama has a pizza chef flown from St. Louis, Missouri to the White House to make pizzas for the first family. Obama enjoyed the pizza at Chris Sommers' restaurant, where he had made a campaign stop, and no one in the administration was apparently willing to tell him that flying in the chef was ridiculously wasteful of tax dollars. (Al Gore was not asked to calculate the "carbon footprint" of the flight or the baking of the pizzas.) [2299,2311]

Hillary Clinton addresses reporters about the hostage situation off the coast of Somalia and laughs when noting that piracy is still an issue after hundreds of years. The family of the hostage is likely not similarly amused, but the U.S. Navy is later able to successfully intervene after Captain Richard Phillips jumps overboard to flee from the Islamic terrorists (Somali terrorists) who had been holding him captive. Three of the four pirates (all teenagers) are killed by expert Navy Seal snipers and one (Abduhl Wal-i-Musi) is taken into custody. The media makes a big fuss about how "Obama ordered the action" to give him some sort of special credit for the situation's positive outcome when, in fact, normal military rules of engagement would have allowed the actions that were taken.

(Permission from Obama would have been needed to take out the pirates only if he had previously ordered them *not* to do so.) Somali pirates holding other ships immediately threaten action against Americans in retaliation, saying *"Every country will be treated the way it treats us. In the future, America will be the one mourning and crying."* Upon hearing that their captain had been saved by the U.S. Navy, the crew of the Maersk Alabama chants, *"We are the best! We are Americans!"* – which no doubt annoyed Obama, who had recently returned from his "apologize for America" tour of Europe. Crew members later say that their

ship had been under attack for a week even before the hostage situation and implied the Navy could have arrived sooner to prevent the incident. (NBC later removes that criticism from its news reports of the incident.)

[2308,2309,2315,2325,2335,2337,2381]

It is later alleged that Obama's interference with the pirate/hostage situation significantly delayed the rescue operation. Obama had first ordered not to attempt a rescue; he insisted on a "peaceful outcome." Although Navy Seals quickly at the scene and could have taken out the pirates, Obama purportedly insisted on no action until "his people" – FBI agents – arrived on scene. That took an additional 24 hours or more of prep and flying time. The FBI could only "negotiate," as they did not have the shooting skills of the Navy Seals. When Captain Phillips jumped overboard from the lifeboat the Navy snipers could then have taken out the pirates, but Obama had specifically restricted the use of force unless the hostage's life was in *imminent* danger. The pirates forced Phillips back on board. Eventually the on scene commander (OSC) took it upon himself to decide whether Phillips' life was in imminent danger, and ordered the snipers to fire. If these accusations are accurate, the Navy needed Obama's order to act *only because he had first ordered them not to act*. Had he stayed out of the situation completely the snipers could have taken out the pirates days earlier.

[2405,2408,2414,2495]

Obama's choice of Caroline Kennedy to be U.S. ambassador to the Vatican is rejected because of her pro-abortion stance. (Two other candidates were rejected for the same reason.)

[2530,2532]

Rasmussen's April 12 poll places Obama's "Presidential Approval Index" at its lowest point so far, +2, with 34 per cent of those polled strongly approving of Obama's performance and 32 per cent strongly disapproving.

[2145]

It is reported that the Obama administration may, in fact, participate in the United Nations' anti-racism "Durban II" conference scheduled for April 20. (In late February it had been suggested that Obama would not send representatives to the conference. Israel and Canada are boycotting the meetings because of its expected anti-Semitic bias.) Jewish groups in the United States have been pushing for a boycott. The keynote speaker for the "anti-racism" event will be Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has called Israel a "*stinking corpse*" that should be wiped off the map.

[1448,2370]

After several months in Washington, D.C., the allegedly Christian Obama is still looking for a permanent church to attend. His indecision is likely the result of trying to choose a church that helps him politically (or at least does not hurt him politically). His first appearance in church since becoming President takes place on Easter, at St. John's Episcopal Church (located across the street from the White House).

[2302,2356]

Obama finally gets around to giving to his daughters the dog he had promised during the campaign. The “first pet” is a six month-old “Portuguese water dog” named “Bo.” The dog is a gift from Senator Edward Kennedy. [2310]

Obama moves closer to getting one more leftist vote in the U.S. Senate, as a Minnesota court declares comedian Al Franken the winner in his contest against Norm Coleman. Coleman, who argues that thousands of absentee ballots were not properly counted, has 10 days to appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court. As long as appeals continue, Governor Tim Pawlenty could conceivably keep Franken out of the Senate by delaying the signing of a required election certificate. [2316]

“Unnamed sources” state that Obama is less than thrilled with the performance of his Vice-President, Joe Biden. Some advisors believe he has been unpredictable and often “not on message.” The recent accusation by former Bush advisor Karl Rove that Biden “made up” a story about the former President likely didn’t help matters, especially when even Democrats believe Rove was correct. [2320]

Virginia legislators vote to turn down the portion of Obama’s “stimulus” funds allocated for higher unemployment compensation benefits because the money comes with expensive “strings” attached that will cost the state money in the future – and force it to raise taxes in businesses in the state. [2322]

While Obama worries about his war in Afghanistan, concerns rise over Pakistan, where its government is weak and the Taliban has control of the Swat and Malakand regions where it has imposed strict Shariah law. Terrorists are increasingly moving from Afghanistan into Pakistan, where al Qaeda is already headquartered. Terrorist control of Pakistan’s estimated 100 nuclear weapons would create a much greater problem than anything American troops face in Afghanistan or Iraq. David Kilcullen, former Bush advisor and now consultant to the Obama administration, states, *“We have to face the fact that if Pakistan collapses it will dwarf anything we have seen so far in whatever we’re calling the war on terror now.”* [2336]

On April 14, Obama gives a speech on the economy in Georgetown University’s Gaston Hall. In the speech Obama suggests there has been economic progress since he became president and there are *“glimmers of hope,”* but warns the nation is not *“out of the woods just yet.”* He admits, *“Now, I realize that for some, this isn’t enough. I know there is a criticism out there that my administration has somehow been spending with reckless abandon, pushing a liberal social agenda while mortgaging our children’s future.”* Obama then proceeds to argue why his deficit-spending is not wasteful, but based on *“investment.”* Although stained glass windows of the hall are visible behind Obama, the White House insisted that the monogram “IHS” behind him on the wall be covered up. (IHS stands for Jesus Christ, from the Latin “Iesus Christos.”) [2363,2364]

In his Georgetown address Obama says America's future depends on following his *"foundation built on five pillars,"* which he states should be increased education spending, federal funding of "green" energy research, expanded federal healthcare programs, increasing regulations on the financial industry, and reducing the deficit. It is unclear how he Obama plans on reducing the deficit when his other four pillars will contribute to rising federal spending and reduced tax revenues. Strangely, Obama used the concept of "five pillars" in his speech. To most people, the term brings to mind the *"Five Pillars of Islam,"* which are the foundation of Muslim life: faith (imam) in Allah and the prophet Muhammad, five scheduled daily prayers (salah), alms for the needy (zakat), self-purification through fasting (sawm), and the pilgrimage to "Mecca" (hajj). [2368,2369]

By April 14, 2009, over 50 lawsuits had been filed challenging Obama's status as a natural born citizen eligible to serve as President of the United States. A number of the cases have been dismissed on technical grounds, such as lack of plaintiff standing, but no judge has so far allowed an evidentiary hearing on the merits of the natural born citizen dispute. One upcoming case allegedly includes a plaintiff who is a blood relative of Obama. Hawaii allows a birth certificate to be requested by (among other persons) *"...a person having a common ancestor with the registrant (e.g., a sibling, grandparent, aunt/uncle, or cousin)."* [2422,2423,2424,2425]

It is reported that 8.7 million square feet of retail store space has been vacated in the first quarter of 2009, compared with 8.6 million square feet in all of 2008. Much of the newly vacated space is due to store closings at malls and strip malls. Many landlords have lowered rents in an effort to keep tenants, but that isn't enough to keep a failing businesses from closing. Victor Calanog, with the real estate research firm Reis, states that it is likely to get worse before it gets better, with mall vacancies not stabilizing until mid-2012. *"Commercial real estate usually shows a lag based on jobs growth. In the last down cycle, commercial rents didn't turn positive until 18 months after jobs started to grow,"* said Calanog. [2349]

Hundreds of thousands of Americans at more than 1,000 locations protest high taxes and the administration's unbridled deficit-spending with tax day (April 15) "tea party" demonstrations across the country. When a protestor tossed a box of tea bags over the White House fence, police and Secret Service officers forced thousands of demonstrators away from the area. (A "robot" used for bomb inspection was sent to examine the tea bags.) An estimated 15,000 turn out in Atlanta; 13,000 in New York City; 8,000 in the leftist stronghold of Madison, Wisconsin; 4,000 in Chicago; 5,000-plus in Denver; 5,000 in Olympia, Washington; 5,000 in Oklahoma City; 5,000 in Sacramento (AP reported the enormous crowds with, *"Hundreds protest tax increases in California,"* but the police estimated the Sacramento crowd to be 5,000); 3,000 in Washington, D.C. (in a cold rain), 1,000 in Bellevue, Washington; 2,500 in Boise, Idaho; 7,000 in Lansing, Michigan; 3,000 in Hartford, Connecticut; 1,200 in Columbus, Indiana;

4,000 in Cincinnati; 7,000 in Houston; 5,000 in Phoenix; 10,000 in Overland Park, Kansas; 8,000 in Kansas City; and between 15,000 and 20,000 in San Antonio. In California's capitol, Congressman Tom McClintock comments, *"In the 27 years since I came to this building I have never seen a protest this large. The silent majority is no longer silent."* Annoying the mainstream media, protesters participated in such subversive activities as reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and signing the National Anthem. In an attempt to play down the political significance of the tax protests, the White House laughingly states that *"...the President is unaware of the tea parties and will hold his own event today."* [2355,2361,2362,2373,2374,2375,2376,2377]

One report estimated that more than one million Americans attended tea party protests at over 1,000 locations in all 50 states. *"The Obama administration has awakened a sleeping giant,"* said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. (He likely realized that few of the protesters had ever publicly demonstrated for or against anything.) *"The establishment in Washington, D.C., is terrified. There were no such demonstrations four months into the administrations of Democratic presidents Carter or Clinton."* [2385]

At the tax protest rally in Chicago, reporters were clearly annoyed that anyone would dare demonstrate against the administration, and seemed more eager to promote Obama's agenda than report the events unfolding in front of them. CNN reporter Susan Roesgen rudely interrupts a demonstrator she is interviewing when he starts talking about individual liberty, yelling, *"Sir, what does this have to do with taxes? What does this have to do with your taxes? Do you realize that you're eligible for a \$400 credit?"* and *"Do you know that the state of Lincoln gets \$50 billion out of the stimulus? That's \$50 billion for this state, sir."* (It apparently does not occur to Roesgen that the federal government can only give \$50 billion to the state of Illinois if it first *takes* that \$50 billion from the taxpayers.) Roesgen gives up interviewing people when people in the crowd started shouting at her, *"You're not a reporter!"* She finished her report with, *"I think you get the general tenor of this, uh, it's anti-government, anti-CNN since this is highly promoted by the right-wing conservative network, Fox."* (To the extent CNN is considered an unofficial "mouthpiece" for the Obama administration, the demonstrators likely are anti-CNN; Fox News coverage of the tax protests draws about three times as many viewers as CNN.) [2358,2359,2367,2380,2386]

Because reporter Roesgen wouldn't let the person being viewed discuss individual liberty, one person in the crowd tells her to "Shut up" – prompting her to say *"...this is not really family viewing."* Her own network's Anderson Cooper later intentionally makes a vulgar on-air comment about conservative tax protesters and Republicans when he says, *"It's hard to talk when you're tea-bagging."* The "tea-bagging" term has nothing to do with dumping tea into Boston harbor to protest taxes; it relates to a homosexual practice involving testicles ("tea bags") in someone's mouth. Throughout the day similar comments are made by innumerable sophomoric leftists on CNN and MSNBC posing as

“journalists.” (CNN apparently believes that the broadcast of a rude reporter being told to “shut up” because she would not allow the speaker to finish his brief comment is not “family viewing,” while a crude sexual remark intended to ridicule conservatives – and the American patriots of 1773 – is acceptable.) The fact that Cooper even chose to use the term may bring to mind the proverb, *“What occupies your mind your mouth will sing about.”* While the overwhelmingly majority of Americans are no doubt unfamiliar with the CNN host’s homosexual reference (this author had to look it up) Cooper and his laughing guest David Gergen certainly knew what it meant. (Cooper, who many believe to be homosexual, and Gergen have refused to apologize or comment.) The media’s ridicule of and anger toward the tax protests is a reflection of its fear, fear that protests will continue and opposition to Obama’s policies is mounting – and fear that it is unstoppable. The media was able to get Obama elected, but it will not be able to keep him popular if and when his policies fail. After Roesgen’s on-air report ends, several people in the crowd explain to her why CNN’s coverage is missing the point – it not simply taxes that are at issue, it is federal spending run amok and total disregard for the taxpayers in Washington, D.C. That conversation is not aired by the network, but was recorded by [foundingbloggers.com](#) and is viewable on YouTube. (CNN works to remove the controversial Roesgen clips from YouTube in an attempt to control the controversy.) Critics take note of Roesgen coverage of liberal demonstrations where she is polite and accommodating to the protesters. [2358,2359,2367,2380,2386,2415,2417,2431,2432]

Complaints against Anderson Cooper, CNN, and MSNBC are filed with the Federal Communications Commission for their on-air vulgarity and violation of broadcast standards. [2538]

Reporter Roesgen also confronted a protestor who was equating Obama with fascism, asking him *“Why do you say he’s a fascist? He’s the president of the United States. Do you realize how offensive that is?”* In a 2006 report covering New Orleans residents who wanted more federal assistance after hurricane Katrina, Roesgen noted someone with a George W. Bush mask that made him look like a combination of Hitler and the devil. She remarks that *“...while a look-alike showed up with a wad of (phony) cash, Mr. Bush did not.”* Roesgen did not suggest the Bush=Hitler=devil costume was offensive. [2457]

At a tax protest rally in Austin, Texas, some in the crowd yelled *“Secede!”* while Governor Rick Perry speaks. When reporters later ask Perry about secession, he responds, *“There’s (sic) a lot of different scenarios. We’ve got a great union. There’s absolutely no reason to dissolve it. But if Washington continues to thumb their nose at the American people... who knows what might come out of that. But Texas is a very unique place, and we’re a pretty independent lot to boot.”* One protestor says the firing of General Motors CEO Rick Wagoner was what pushed her over the edge. *“When a president can fire the head of a company, that’s too much.”* One protester in Florida, who was attending her first political rally, said, *“I*

have never in my entire life demonstrated, and I'm in my mid-sixties," and complained that legislators are "signing these bills giving out money. They haven't even read them." Another said that Obama has no "...knowledge of running businesses to appreciate what it's like to be able to pay your taxes, pay your employees, pay all your bills," and "He thinks that he's got an endless pot of money that he can continue to spend, and he's mistaken. He does not. People are just at the tipping point right now, and if they don't change their ways in Washington, people are going to stop... maybe they just stop paying taxes. If everyone stopped paying their taxes, I think that would really impact what's going on." [2357,2378]

In Chicago and its suburbs, thousands of protesters demonstrated at a multitude of locations. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) said the tea parties were "*despicable*" and a "*shameful political stunt.*" Illinois State Representative Darlene Senger (R-Naperville) blasted Governor Pat Quinn's proposal to increase the Illinois state income tax by a whopping 50 per cent. "*How many of you have had an increase of 50 per cent in revenue this year?*" Senger asked. (Quinn's increase would not be limited to those earning \$250,000 or more.) [2382]

The mainstream media reluctantly covers the tax protests, but does its best to discredit the demonstrators, ridicule them, and call them angry, stupid, extremists. ABC's Dan Harris charges that the tax protests are "*...not a real grassroots phenomenon at all, that it's actually largely orchestrated by people fronting for corporate interests,*" but he offers no evidence. (Nor is there any mention that typical left-wing protests are funded by liberal political action groups, like ACORN, and boost attendance by unions pushing members to attend.) Dean Reynolds of CBS is eager to point out that a recent Gallup poll shows "*61 per cent of Americans see their federal income taxes as fair,*" but neglects to mention that the tens of millions who pay no income taxes at all would of course consider the situation "fair." (A proper poll would only count people who actually pay income taxes. A 2006 Tax Foundation study estimated that 121 million Americans pay no federal income taxes, many of whom do not even file tax returns.) The media reports focus mostly on the issue of taxes, ignoring the fact that most of the protesters are also angry about the government's massive deficit-spending that will add trillions to the national debt. The media ignores that aspect of the story because it has no reasonable response. More tax protests are scheduled for May 30 and July 4. [2359,2360,2365]

The mainstream media is clearly confounded by the demonstrators, possibly because their experience with past protests left them unprepared for throngs of polite people who had showered before attending the event. Looking for a way to discredit the protesters, the media attempts to portray them as racists simply opposed to a black president and his "progressive" agenda, but fails to note that big-spending Republicans did not escape the wrath of the demonstrators.

Columnist Michelle Malkin points out that “...a crowd of 2,000 repeatedly booed G.O.P. Senators Orrin Hatch and Bob Bennett, who both supported the \$700 billion TARP bailout, and protested GOP Governor Jon Huntsman’s decision to accept \$1.6 billion in porky stimulus funds.” Malkin notes that California Republican party chairman Ron Nehring and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger got their share of boos and catcalls, and in Greenville, South Carolina Republican Congressman Gresham Barrett was “practically booed and heckled off the stage at a Tea Party... for supporting the trillion-dollar TARP and embracing the pork-laden stimulus law.” Moderate Republicans who have fallen into the liberal global warming line were also less than favorites with the crowds, which consisted mostly of people fed up with high taxes and wasteful government spending by legislators – regardless of the party affiliation. [2407,2470]

In what may be his most bizarre and extreme appointment to date, Obama selects far left-wing Rosa Brooks to be “principal advisor” to Michele Flourney, the Defense Undersecretary for Policy. The anti-military Brooks has no military experience or defense knowledge; she is merely a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Brooks has served as Special Counsel to the President at George Soros’ “Open Policy Institute.” The anti-Semitic Brooks has also worked for Harold Koh, Legal Advisor of the Department of State (who believes that the U.S. Constitution should be subjugated to international law). Brooks believes the federal government should subsidize newspapers and grant licenses to them in order to control their operations (that is, to eliminate conservative viewpoints). Brooks has also pushed for war crimes trials for former President Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney. She is the daughter of radical socialist and atheist Barbara Ehrenreich (the honorary chairman of the Democratic Socialists of America and active supporter of Progressives for Obama). In Brooks’ position she will have access to classified information within the Pentagon. Thrilled when an Iraqi threw his shoes at President Bush, Brooks wrote, “He reminded the powerful and powerless alike that a single gesture can be more effective than a thousand grenades.” Many Defense Department officials were “shocked” at the appointment of Brooks, who has called former President Bush “our torturer in chief,” and said that Bush and Dick Cheney “should be treated like psychotics who need treatment.” And global socialist George Soros is pleased that he has an inside contact in the Pentagon. [2443,2444,2445,2446,2455,2493]

In an editorial, Great Britain’s Telegraph says of the Brooks appointment, “It is hard to think of a more inappropriate political appointment at a time when America needs a hard-headed approach to winning a global war instead of defeatist, far-left rhetoric. Let’s hope this isn’t the kind of advice the new administration takes on for the war in Afghanistan.” The choice of Brooks apparently came from her new boss, Michele Flourney (a Clinton administration re-tread); Secretary of Defense Robert Gates “did not hire her,” a Department of Defense official was quick to emphasize. [2460]

Congressman Peter Hoekstra (R-MI) of the House Intelligence Committee asks the Director of National Intelligence ombudsman to investigate the authorization of the Department of Homeland Security report that labeled almost all conservatives as “right-wing extremists.” Hoekstra states, *“Beyond apologizing for its obviously offensive references, the administration needs to get to the bottom of how and why a report like this was written, and put standards in place to keep it from happening again. This report has significant analytic shortcomings and does not deserve to be called an intelligence product.”* Congressman Bernie Thompson (D-MS) said he was *“dumbfounded”* by the report’s release, and it raises *“significant issues involving the privacy and civil liberties of many Americans – including war veterans.”* [2366,2396]

North Korea, emboldened by the lack of response – other than a condemnation by the U.N. Security Council – to its launching of a ballistic missile on April 5, ejects inspector from the International Atomic Energy Agency. The communist regime plans to reactivate its nuclear facilities and continue with the reprocessing of spent fuels for nuclear weapons. North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il also pulls out of the six-party talks (with China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, and the U.S.). [2430]

As special envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell meets with Palestinian Authority (PA) officials, the Obama administration’s plans for “peace” become clearer. One PA negotiator states a Palestinian state will be established *“more quickly than anyone could imagine.”* Obama appears not to care that Israel’s new Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, will be opposed to most of the concessions he expects from the Jewish state. The PA confirms that the U.S. negotiating team told them, *“We don’t mind who is (running) the government in Israel. Things will be closed (for a Palestinian state) and more quickly than anybody could imagine.”* Obama expects Israel to fully withdraw from Gaza, the West Bank, Golan Heights, and eastern Jerusalem, and also wants Israel to accept any Palestinian refugees who wish to move within Israel. For Israel, those terms are suicidal. Arab control of those areas will mean Hamas rocket capable of striking Tel Aviv and the international airport, and the assimilation of Arabs into Israel will give them the voting strength to destroy the Jewish state completely. (Palestinian refugees live in U.N. camps because no Arab nation will accept them, preferring to use them as pawns in their anti-Israel politics. Israel would prefer that Jordan accept the refugees, because it is already approximately 65 per cent Palestinian.) Of the plan upon which the Mitchell negotiations are based, Obama stated, *“Look at the proposal that was put forth by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia... I might not agree with every aspect of the proposal, but it took great courage to put forward something that is as significant as that.”* Obama does not make clear why it takes *“great courage”* to devise a plan in which the enemy is expected to give considerable concessions while the other side gives up nothing. Obama, unwilling to confront Iran, is instead attempting to restrain Israel – essentially preventing it from defending itself. If Israel attacks Iran to take out its

nuclear facilities, Iran may respond by blockading the Strait of Hormuz to prevent deliveries of crude oil. Obama, who is desperately trying to avoid taking any decisive action, would then be forced to act – or submit to Iran’s demands. [2387,2388,2487]

Obama visits Mexico City on April 16 to discuss cooperation between Mexico and the U.S., on his way to Trinidad and Tobago for the Summit of the Americas. The White House states the Mexican visit would focus on environmental issues and the economic crisis. Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano states the Mexico trip is *"not about pointing fingers, it's about solving a problem: What can we do to prevent the flow of guns and cash south that fuel these cartels?"* She makes no mention of stopping the flow of Mexicans into the U.S. Critics expect Obama to use the drug issue to help him enact strict weapons bans in the U.S. [2379,2383]

At the Fifth Summit of the Americas Obama remarks, *"Too often, the United States has not pursued and sustained engagement with our neighbors. We have been too easily distracted by other priorities and failed to see that our own progress is tied directly to progress through the Americas."* It is unclear where Obama got the idea that the U.S. has not engaged in "sustained engagement with our neighbors;" his statement is ludicrous on its face (although he personally never set foot in Mexico or any Central, South American, or Caribbean nation before becoming President). Eager to apologize for the U.S. as he had recently done in Europe, Obama tells "CNN en Espanol" that the American governments have been *"heavy-handed when it comes to foreign policy in Latin America..."* which he says *"...dates back to the Monroe Doctrine."* Obama, unaware of the U.S. history for which he is apologizing, does not realize that the Monroe Doctrine was *not* a "heavy-handed" policy used against Latin America, but was intended to *protect* their emerging democracies from European heavy-handedness. [2392,2393]

While at the Summit of the Americas, Obama meets greets Venezuela’s president, socialist Hugo Chavez. The photo of the friendly, smiling greeting and handshake may arguably not play well back in the U.S. Chavez presented Obama with a book that is highly critical of U.S. involvement south of the border, *"The Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent."* (Tellingly, Time magazine later states the book is an appropriate gift because Obama *"gets it."* That is, he appreciates and understands the America-hating sentiment in the book. The book has been widely discredited and its allegations disproved; it is called by some an "idiot’s bible.") Former U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela Otto Reich warns that Obama’s smiling greetings with the socialist leader gave Chavez the *"greatest triumph in Venezuelan diplomacy ever,"* and said *"I think it's very unfortunate. I don't think President Obama really understands, perhaps out of lack of experience in international affairs, the importance of symbolism."* In Venezuela, Chavez is portraying the meeting as an

endorsement of his policies by Obama, thus leading anti-Chavez factions in the country to believe they no longer have a friend in the U.S. Obama also listens to a 50-minute speech by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, most of which was severe criticism of the U.S. Obama and Hillary Clinton (who also attends the summit) choose not to make any public criticisms (beyond Obama remarking that the speech was *"50 minutes too long"*). Obama jokes, *"I'm grateful that President Ortega did not blame me for things that happened when I was three months old,"* but makes no effort to challenge Ortega's rabid denouncement of the United States or defend his own country. (Obama's reference was perhaps to Kennedy's failed April, 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion to overthrow Castro's communist regime and put an America-friendly leader in place until free election could be held. Obama's remark continues his "don't blame me, just blame my country" approach to foreign policy, although it is unclear whether Obama would have welcomed a successful 1961 invasion had it led to democracy in Cuba. His remark, if that's what he meant, got the date wrong: the Bay of Pigs invasion took place several months before Obama was born, not when he was three months old.) [2409,2411,2441,2451,2471,2540]

An unscientific poll on MSNBC.msn.com asked readers to rate Obama's performance as president. As of April 18, with 2,229,092 votes cast, the results were 29 per cent rating Obama "A," 6.2 per cent "B," 5.6 per cent "C," 15 per cent "D," and 45 per cent "F." [2398]

Obama declassifies several memos from the Bush administration that detail terrorist interrogation methods. Obama is immediately criticized by conservatives for releasing the information, and by liberals for saying he would not prosecute any CIA agents who followed the practices. The practices described in the memos included sleep deprivation, keeping detainees in cold cells for long periods, allowing liquids but no solid foods, slapping detainees, and threatening to put insects in the cell of someone who was afraid of insects. Former CIA Director Michael Hayden and former Attorney General Michael Mukasey charge in a Wall Street Journal editorial that the release of the information will *"...invite the kind of institutional timidity and fear of recrimination that weakened intelligence gathering in the past, and that we came sorely to regret on September 11, 2001,"* and *"assures that terrorists are now aware of the absolute limit of what the U.S. government could do to extract information from them, and can supplement their training accordingly and thus diminish the effectiveness of these techniques."* Some critics decry the use of torture by the U.S. (although others might believe it's a strain to include threatening someone with an insect as torture). Retired Army Colonel Bob Maginnis states, *"We're at war. It's a strategic mistake on the part of the president to release the details on how we will address would-be or confirmed terrorists who may have information that could lead us to stop pending attacks. I find it unacceptable completely."* Maginnis adds that sleep deprivation and slapping *"seem to be rather benign given what goes on the world."* Treatment of the detainees included "dietary manipulation," giving the

terrorists healthy and nutritional but bland and unappetizing food. Obama's release of the memoranda tells terrorists around the world what the U.S. is – and is not – prepared to do to stop them. Seeing what little we actually do may prompt them to take even bolder actions. Former Pennsylvania Senator Rock Santorum remarks, *"I'd say if I'm a terrorist I'm feeling pretty good. I am now going to know every trick in the book that if I am captured they will use to interrogate me,"* and charges, *"This is an absolute betrayal of the national security of this country, to give away these techniques to the enemy."* [2399,2400,2452,2466,2467,2523]

Obama's Attorney General, Eric Holder, has his own experience with "sleep deprivation as torture." In February, 1993 Bill Clinton's Attorney General, Janet Reno, ordered an allegedly dangerous religious compound of "Branch Davidian" surrounded by federal agents. The stand-off lasted 51 days, during which those inside were subjected to sleep deprivation from constant loud noise and music. Reno eventually ordered tanks to attack the buildings. Fire ensued, shots were fired, and 76 people inside were killed – including 23 children. Reno's second in command was Eric Holder. Tanks came from Fort Hood, commanded by Wesley Clark. Most who today argue that the government should not use sleep deprivation against terrorist detainees because they consider it torture did not protest against Clinton, Reno, Holder, and Clark for their use of the method in 1993. [2466,2467]

On April 18 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states it will begin regulating "greenhouse gases," such as carbon dioxide, because of the "grave danger" they pose to the planet and human health. The EPA will have no choice but to make arbitrary and inconsistent rulings because of its decision, inasmuch as every living creature exhales carbon dioxide, and it is created by millions of furnaces, automobiles, and production processes. (Water vapor is also a "greenhouse gas," and even a hydrogen-powered car emits water vapor – as does the simple act of taking a shower or exhaling on a cold day.) The regulations will impose incredibly high costs on virtually all businesses – costs which will necessarily be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices for all goods and services. While the Obama administration is preparing to tax Americans hundreds of billions of dollars to prevent "global warming," new studies show that ice is expanding in Antarctica, not melting. The publication "The Australian" reports that the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research report prepared for last week's meeting of Antarctic Treaty nations in Washington showed the South Pole had *shown "significant cooling in recent decades."* Some widely-reported loss of ice in the west Antarctic has been more than offset by expansion of ice in the east Antarctic – expansion which has been ignored by the fear-mongering media. The conclusion of an extensive report prepared for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce recommends *"that the Committee should consider again, and carefully, the question whether the anthropogenic effect on global mean surface temperature has – albeit inadvertently – been considerably exaggerated. Upon this question*

all else depends. If climate sensitivity is as low as theory and the satellite data are agreed in showing it to be, then that is the end of the 'climate crisis,' and it would be foolish to spend trillions on addressing a non-problem when there are so many real problems that need to be addressed." [2401,2403,2404]

Iran convicts an American journalist of spying and sentences her to prison for eight years. Roxana Saberi, an Iranian-American from Fargo, North Dakota, was arrested in January and accused of working without press credentials. Charges were later upgraded to spying. The U.S. State Department says the imprisonment is not helpful and said Iran could gain the "good will" of the U.S. if it responds *"in a positive way."* The conviction and sentencing are no doubt an indication that Iran views Obama as weak and is willing to push him to see how far he will lean, as well as an effort to buy more time for its nuclear program while it "negotiates" an easing of sanctions in exchange for the release of the reporter. Iran's Ahmadinejad is well aware that what may have worked well at home for Obama politically ("I'm willing to sit down with no pre-conditions") may mean he is ripe for the picking on the world stage. [2402,2412]

The anti-war sentiments so prominent before the election die down to almost nothing with Obama in the White House. American troops are still in Iraq, they are not leaving as soon as Obama had promised during the campaign, and he is continuing to send additional troops to Afghanistan – where he has less support from other nations than President Bush had in Iraq and lacks an "exit strategy" that seemed so critical before he became President. MoveOn.org, which was vehemently anti-war during the previous administration, is strangely silent about Obama's continuation of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Obama's call for additional troops in Afghanistan is met mostly with silence. [2406]

The Obama administration announces that it will not, in fact, send representatives to the United Nations' anti-racism "Durban II" conference, because of objectionable language in its final document. Obama was likely pressured by his U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice and others to send a representative, but others at the State Department eventually were more persuasive. Sweden, Australia, the Netherlands, Germany, Canada, and Israel have also announced they will not attend the conference. Poland and New Zealand later join in the boycott. [2410,2419,2426]

It is reported that the Obama administration may, in fact, participate in the United Nations' anti-racism "Durban II" scheduled for April 20. (In late February it had been suggested that Obama would not send representatives to the conference. Israel and Canada are boycotting the meetings because of its expected anti-Semitic bias.) Jewish groups in the United States have been pushing for a boycott. The keynote speaker for the "anti-racism" event will be Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has called Israel a *"stinking corpse"* that should be wiped off the map. [1448,2370]

Obama's State Department states that it will not accept Israel's demand that Palestinians accept the Jewish state's right to exist as a pre-condition to peace talks. It also appears that the U.S. is willing to proceed with discussions without first demanding an end to Iran's nuclear weapons program. Obama may be heading on a collision course with Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, expecting Israel to change its borders, give up strategically important land, allow mass migration of Palestinians into Israel, and accept the continuance of Iran's nuclear program – while giving Israel nothing in return but vague promises of peace. Israel is expected by Obama to accept the existence of 56 Islamic nations in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, but Obama will not press Palestinians to recognize the existence of Israel. [2418]

While the Obama administration is doing everything it can to undermine the security of Israel, Israel's Defense Force (IDF) is engaging in drills as practice for a possible strike against Iran's nuclear facilities. A former (1989-1996) chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, Shabtai Shavit, states, *"My concern is that until Obama finishes his learning curve of the subject, the Iranians are going to have maybe the first or even more nuclear bombs."* [2420]

Obama's Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, warns about rising global temperatures and rising sea levels that will cause more intense hurricanes and flooding in Caribbean nations, Gulf Coast states, and California. Chu states global temperatures have risen by 0.8 degree, another 1 degree is *"certain"* to occur, and *"there's a reasonable probability we can go to 4 degrees Centigrade to 5 and 6 or more."* A climate report prepared for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce states that *"there has been global cooling for (the last) seven years, at a rate equivalent of 3.5 Fahrenheit degrees per century,"* the world is experiencing *"...an exceptionally low level of hurricane and tropical storm activity,"* and sea levels are rising, on average, at only *"about one-fifth of the mean centennial rise... over the past 10,000 years."* In September of 2008 Chu stated he felt the U.S. should figure out how to raise the price of gasoline to European levels (approximately \$8.00 per gallon at that time) in order to encourage a change in the habits of Americans. [2404,2428,2497]

Bama political strategist David Axelrod appears on CBS' "Face the Nation" on April 19 and is asked whether the tax day protests signaled not just displeasure with the government but with Obama. Axelrod replies, *"I think any time that you have severe economic conditions, there is always an element of disaffection that can mutate into something that's unhealthy."* (The Obama administration believes that the concerns of Americans over high taxes and massive deficit-spending have "mutated" into something "unhealthy.") [2481,2482]

On April 19, while attending the Summit of the Americas conference, Obama says he is *"gravely concerned"* about Roxana Saberi, the Iranian-American reporter convicted of espionage in Iran and sentenced to eight years in prison.

"She is an American citizen and I have complete confidence that she was not engaging in any sort of espionage... it is appropriate for her to be treated as such and to be released," said Obama. Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said she would be allowed to file an appeal and offer a full defense. North Korea holds two American reporters hostage; they were abducted by troops while allegedly on the Chinese side of the border. [2427]

The New York Times reports that the Obama administration is considering converting the preferred stock it holds in 19 banks to common stock. Owning common stock gives the government voting rights with regard to company policy management. (The government would become Citigroup's largest shareholder.) If the government owns enough common stock, it essentially controls the bank – that is, socialism. Some banks, reluctant to go along with the move, are eager to return government money received under TARP, but the Obama administration is making it difficult to allow the repayment by first demanding that the banks pass a financial "stress test" – a test devised and interpreted *by the government*. [2472,2476]

It is reported that Michelle Obama travels with two "aesthetic assistants" who do her hair and make-up. Make-up assistant Ingrid Grimes-Miles is allegedly responsible for "toning down" Obama's angry-looking arched eyebrows. The Obamas purportedly paid for the travel expenses of the two assistants on their recent trip to Europe, although it is unclear whether taxpayers are paying for their salaries. [2433]

The Jerusalem Post reports that Ya'acov Katz, chairman of the National Union, sent Obama chief of staff Rahm Emanuel a letter reminding him not to forget his Jewish and Israeli origins. The letter is partly in response to a private meeting in which Emanuel condescendingly told an American Jewish leader, *"In the next four years, there will be a peace agreement with the Palestinians on the basis of two states for two peoples, and it does not matter to us (the Obama administration) who is the prime minister."* Emanuel's threat is that regardless of what Israel believes is best for itself it will be expected by Obama to give up territory and surrender to Palestinian demands. [2450]

Iran's President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, delivers the keynote address at the U.N. anti-racism summit. His speech is so vehemently racist itself in its attacks on Israel (*"a cruel and repressive racist regime"*) that many attendees walk out of the auditorium. (Several nations, including the U.S., had not sent representatives to the event, assuming it would be an anti-Israel hate-fest.) State Department spokesman Robert Wood tells reporters, *"The comments that he made... frankly feed racial hatred. If Iran... wants a different relationship with the international community, it's got to change its behavior and stop this horrible rhetoric."* The Obama administration is still planning on talks with Iran – apparently even if it does not change its behavior. [2454,2487]

Three months into his administration, Obama finally holds his first cabinet meeting on April 20, and asks the members to identify a combined \$100 million that can be cut from the budget. The effort, a defensive response to the April 15 “tea party” protests, is intended to signal to the public that Obama is serious about cutting spending and reforming government, but the \$100 million amount is laughingly minuscule when compared with his \$3.5 trillion budget that will cause a deficit of at least \$1.2 trillion. (\$100 million is 0.008 per cent of the projected budget deficit, or 8 cents out of \$1,000; it represents perhaps 15 minutes of federal spending.) Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) responds, *“Any amount of savings is obviously welcome, but (\$100 million is) about the average amount we’ll spend every single day just covering the interest on the stimulus package that we passed earlier this year.”* The Heritage Foundation points out that \$100 million out of the \$3.5 trillion budget is like cutting \$1.00 from a family’s \$40,000 annual budget. The Obama administration may believe that a mere promise to look for \$100 million in budget cuts is a great accomplishment, but when criticized just a few weeks earlier for \$8 billion or more in “earmarks” that amount was considered “minuscule” by the White House. More than likely, Obama is betting that Americans aren’t intelligent enough to know the difference between millions, billions, and trillions; that may prove to be a foolish bet. [2434,2435,2449,2456,2461]

Obama visits the CIA for a “pep talk” because of low morale over the release of terrorist interrogation documents. Speaking like a teacher to first-graders, Obama tells professional CIA officers, *“Don’t be discouraged that we have to acknowledge (that) potentially we’ve made some mistakes. That’s how we learn.”* It is assumed his visit did *not* improve morale, because he said nothing to suggest that CIA actions won’t continually be hindered by public criticism and lawsuits. [2534,2535]

Former Vice-President Dick Cheney criticizes the Obama administration for releasing only one side of the terrorist interrogation documents, and calls for the CIA to also release documents that show the interrogations were successful in thwarting other attacks on U.S. soil after September 11, 2001. *“One of the things that I find a little bit disturbing about this recent disclosure,”* said Cheney, *“is they put out the legal memos, the memos that the CIA got from the Office of Legal Counsel, but they didn’t put out the memos that showed the success of the effort. And there are reports that show specifically what we gained as a result of this activity. They have not been declassified.”* (The “waterboarding” interrogation technique used by the CIA on al-Qaeda leader Khalid Sheik Mohammed prompted him to give up information about an attack on Los Angeles that the government was then able to prevent.) Cheney also criticizes Obama’s tendency to bad-mouth the U.S., saying, *“What I find disturbing is the extent to which he has gone to Europe, for example, and seemed to apologize profusely in Europe, and then to Mexico, and apologize there, and so forth. And I think you have to be very careful. The world outside there, both our friends and our foes, will be quick to take advantage of a situation if they think they’re dealing with a weak president*

or one who is not going to stand up and aggressively defend America's interests. The United States provides most of the leadership in the world... I don't think we have much to apologize for." (The CIA used the waterboarding technique only three times. In 2004 it had told the Justice Department it would be used only when it had "*credible intelligence that a terrorist attack is imminent,*" "*substantial and credible indicators that the subject has actionable intelligence that can prevent, disrupt or deny this attack*" and other "*interrogation methods have failed to elicit the information within the perceived time limit for preventing the attack.*") [2459,2465,2473]

Hillary Clinton is asked by a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee if she agrees with former Vice President Dick Cheney that additional documents should be released to confirm that the heavily criticized interrogation methods were, in fact, successful. Clinton replies, "*Well, it won't surprise you, I don't consider him a particularly reliable source of information.*" Although Clinton and members of Congress are eagerly denouncing the treatment of terrorist detainees to disparage the Bush administration, CIA leadership reported details of its techniques to members of Congress between 2002 and 2006 and had received permission to follow the practices. Confirmation of the disclosure comes from Obama's national intelligence director, Dennis Blair, according to an April 22 *WeeklyStandard.com* story. Members of Congress repeatedly signed off on "enhanced interrogation methods," such as waterboarding. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi was a member of the House Intelligence Committee during the period she claims to have known nothing about the interrogation techniques. The *Washington Post* reported that in September of 2002 Pelosi attended a meeting on the subject and "*...was given a virtual tour of the CIA's overseas detention sites and the harsh techniques interrogators had devised to try to make their prisoners talk.*" Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) was also in attendance. There were more than 30 such briefings, and former CIA director Porter Goss states, "*Among those being briefed, there was a pretty full understanding of what the CIA was doing.*" One Congressman recalls that "*the reaction in the room was not just approval, but encouragement.*" Blair has stated that "*...these techniques have hurt our image around the world, the damage they have done to our interests far outweighed whatever benefit they gave us, and they are not essential to our national security.*" Blair apparently believes that preventing a terrorist attack against Los Angeles was not worth it. [2479,2480,2498,2535]

There are reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had agents following the tax protest "tea parties" of April 15, and keeping track of the organizers of each local event. FBI agents allegedly engaged in covert video surveillance and data collection, independent of local law enforcement. [2437,2442]

In an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Company on April 20, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano states the U.S. needs stronger border security because of 9/11 terrorists entering the country across the border with

Canada. She is immediately corrected by the interviewer, who points out that none of the perpetrators of 9/11 entered the U.S. via Canada. Napolitano's strange response is, *"I can't talk to that. I can talk about the future. And here's the future. The future is we have borders."* [2468]

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu cancels plans to attend the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) summit in May because Obama is not willing to meet with him during the conference. [2453]

Having intentionally released "torture memos" from the Bush administration, Obama is questioned on April 21 about criminal investigations into the involvement of former officials. He responds, *"If and when there needs to be a fuller accounting of what took place during this period, I think for Congress to examine ways that it can be done in a bipartisan fashion, outside of the typical hearing process that can sometimes break down and break entirely along party lines... that would probably be a more sensible approach to take."* Although Obama states he will not prosecute CIA interrogators who were following orders, he would not rule out prosecuting those who drafted the orders and their related legal opinions – even though he had previously promised that he would not support prosecutions. *"I would say that is going to be more of a decision for the attorney general, weighing the parameters of various laws and I don't want to prejudge that. There are a host of very complicated issues involved there."* (Chief of staff Rahm Emanuel had stated on April 19 that there would be no such prosecutions; White House aides later said Emanuel "misspoke.") Publicly going after CIA or Bush administration officials may have the effect of watering down future interrogation techniques to the extent that they will become ineffective, because those involved will tread lightly out of fear of prosecution. Terrorists following the situation will be pleased if there are prosecutions, as it will signal to them that they have less to fear if apprehended. [2458,2494]

On April 21 Obama states that if Congress wants an investigation of the background of the alleged CIA tortures of terrorist detainees he would prefer an independent commission *"outside of the typical (Congressional) hearing process"* and it should include *"independent participants who are above reproach and have credibility."* Two day later the White House changes its mind, with press secretary Robert Gibbs saying, *"The president determined that the concept didn't seem altogether that workable in this case."* [2506]

Obama has not suggested how his administration would obtain information from Osama bin Laden should he be captured. If bin Laden has been following the U.S. media, he knows he will be well-fed, given first-rate medical care, cannot be slapped, cannot be deprived of sleep, will not have to listen to obnoxious music, is guaranteed tasty meals and a warm cell free of insects, and cannot be "waterboarded."

Obama angers members of the National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) over the issue of a class action lawsuit known as the Pigford case. In 2007, during his campaign for the presidency, Obama introduced legislation that would extend the time period for farmers filing discrimination claims against the Department of Agriculture. Obama is now arguing for a \$100 million cap on the claims; there are an estimated 65,000 pending claims that could add up to \$2 or \$3 billion. John Boyd, head of the NBFA, states, *"You can't blame it on the Bush administration anymore. I can't figure out for the life of me why the president wouldn't want to implement a bill that he fought for as a U.S. senator."* [2530,2531]

Former U.N. ambassador and presidential candidate Alan Keyes warns that Obama will not hesitate to declare martial law should there be another terrorist attack against the U.S. *"It's obvious that they (the Obama administration) will stop at nothing. We may wake up one day and there's a series of terrorist attacks, the economy is paralyzed... martial law will be declared everywhere in the United States and it won't end until the crisis ends."* Americans will then be lucky to see an election in 2012, cautions Keyes. *"If we don't wake up and work to (ensure) that it happens, we will not see another election. The minute they think they can get away with it, they will end this system of government and that is their intention."* From Keyes' perspective, Obama's plan to create a "civilian national security force" is part of an ultimate agenda to disarm Americans and create a police state. [2486]

The State of Illinois sells out 1,800 special license plates featuring the image of Obama. Obama fans shelled out \$50 for the ultimate vanity plates, and the privilege of sporting his face on both ends of their vehicles – perhaps unwittingly reminding others that Obama will tax you whether you are coming or going. [2477,2478]

David Kellerman, chief financial officer and 16-year veteran of mortgage giant Freddie Mac, is found dead in his Washington, D.C. home of an apparent suicide. Kellerman, age 41, allegedly hanged himself in the basement, while his family was upstairs. Freddie Mac, which owns or guarantees about 13 million home loans, is under investigation for possible improper accounting and disclosure procedures. Kellerman recently received a \$850,000 retention bonus. [2483]

Obama flies to Iowa to make an "Earth Day" speech at a plant that manufactures wind turbines. His trip consumes an estimated 9,000 gallons of fuel... a considerable amount for an unnecessary trip by someone who believes mankind is causing global warming and destroying the planet. (With 9,000 gallons of fuel an automobile that gets 25 miles per gallon can be driven 225,000 miles – about 15 years of driving at 15,000 miles per year.) [2485]

In another move that has Israel on guard, Obama endorses a large sale of Turkish arms to Lebanon. Lebanon has threatened Israel on more than one

occasion, and pledged the use of its army to help the terrorist group Hezb'Allah in any fighting against the Jewish state. (Many members of the Lebanese army are Shiites who are loyal to Hezb'Allah.) The action was apparently taken without the Obama administration warning Israel. One assumption is that Obama is trying to force Israel into making concessions to the Palestinians. [2496]

At the April 22 shareholders meeting of General Electric (GE), company heads are bombarded with complaints and questions from people critical of MSNBC's leftward political slant (GE owns MSNBC and NBC). One shareholder complained about a meeting where GE CEO Jeff Immelt and NBC CEO Jeff Zucker allegedly told broadcasters and "on air talent" to be less critical of Obama. (Immelt denied the charge, but some would argue that CNBC's Jim Cramer has become less vocal in his criticism of Obama, and Rick Santelli says he was sent by NBC to a "re-education camp.") Attendees said that people who voiced criticism of MSNBC or CNBC were applauded, while Immelt was booed when he tried to defend those networks. (Immelt is on Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board; GE has received federal bail-out funds; GE has a joint venture that might make billions off an Obama cap-and-trade program; and GE Healthcare, which specializes in the electronic processing of medical records, would gain billions of dollars in business from Obama's demand to computerize the medical records of all Americans.) [553,1544,1594,1930,2517,2522]

It is reported that the "Obama for America" campaign fund paid the law firm of Perkins Coie \$688,316.42 in the first three months of 2009, and \$378,375.52 in the last quarter of 2008. The law firm's Robert Bauer represents Obama in the lawsuits challenging his eligibility to serve as president. [2484]

In an April 23 press statement, Congressman Peter Hoekstra (R-MI) says "*Obama should release the memo in the attacks prevented,*" not just the memos describing interrogation techniques. Hoekstra states that "*...Congress repeatedly approved and funded this (terrorist detainee interrogation) program on a bipartisan basis in both Republican and Democratic Congresses.*" Hoekstra charges that Obama's about-face decision to investigate the authorization of the interrogation techniques is a capitulation "*...to left-wing groups and some in Congress who are demanding show trials over this program.*" Because some of those now criticizing the interrogation methods had, in fact, been informed of them and approved of them beforehand, Hoekstra asks Obama's national intelligence director, Dennis Blair, to provide "*a list of the dates, locations and names of all members of Congress who attended briefings on enhanced interrogation techniques.*" In an interview on CNN the prior day, Hoekstra warns that because of the release of the memos by Obama and the risk of prosecution, CIA officers are "*becoming more cautious, risk averse, and are going to lawyer up,*" and "*This is some reckless behavior on the part of this administration.*" And while CIA officers are "lawyering up," America's enemies are leaning how little they can expect in the form of interrogation. [2490,2491,2492]

Obama meets with House Republicans on April 23, chiding them several times for having voted against his stimulus bill. GOP sources say Obama mentioned the lack of support several times and appeared “thin skinned” over the issue. Obama also threatened to push through his massive health care proposal using the “budget reconciliation” process, a move that would enable him to avoid a filibuster in the Senate. Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader, later states, *“Fast-tracking a major legislative overhaul such as health care reform or a new national energy tax without the benefit of a full and transparent debate does a disservice to the American people, and it would make it absolutely clear they (Democrats) intend to carry out their plans on a purely partisan basis.”* [2527]

The World Bank confirms that since the G20 meetings a few weeks earlier, nine of the 20 participating nations have imposed or are considering additional trade restrictions. Those countries, the United States, Brazil, Argentina, India, Russia, France, Germany, and Great Britain, are all making the same mistake made during the Great Depression – restricting trade when the world economy needs more, not less, business activity. Most economists agree that protectionism in the late 1920s and early 1930s worsened the depression. [2507]

In an interview with CNN, Obama’s Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, says that *“crossing the border (from Mexico to the U.S.) is not a crime per se. It is civil.”* With that remark coming after her incorrect statement that the 9/11 terrorists entered the U.S. through Canada, and her department’s memo branding American conservatives and returning veterans as potential terrorists, millions of citizens are furious with her – and members of Congress are calling for her resignation. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) comments, *“It is breathtaking that a Cabinet secretary, bestowed by the public with the responsibility to protect our nation's borders, could be ignorant of the indisputable fact that it is a violation of the criminal code to enter our country illegally.”* Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) asks, *“Has this homeland security secretary gone absolutely stark raving mad? She needs to come before Congress. She needs to answer a few questions.”* Congressman Michael Burgess (R-TX) says, *“Janet Napolitano should resign or be fired.”* Obama aides call the criticism *“political theatre.”* [2519]

At the last minute, the House Energy and Commerce Committee rescinds an invitation to Great Britain’s Lord Christopher Monckton to testify at its April 24 global warming hearing. Monckton, science advisor to former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, had arrived from London but was turned away from the meeting by House Democrats. Al Gore was scheduled to appear before the committee and Republicans invited Monckton, but Gore and the committee’s Democrats said *“absolutely not”* to his appearance. Monckton has previously challenged Gore to debate the issue of man-caused global warming, but Gore insists on appearances where he does not have to face tough questioning from anyone of scientific stature who disagrees with him. Lord Monckton later remarked, *“The Democrats have a lot to learn about the right of free speech*

under the US Constitution. Congress Henry Waxman's (D-CA) refusal to expose Al Gore's sci-fi comedy-horror testimony to proper, independent scrutiny by the House minority reeks of naked fear." [2518]

The Obama administration decides to release to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) 44 photographs showing abuse of prisoners in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The ACLU has been requesting the photographs and other information since 2003, and the Bush administration had been fighting the release in court. Some argue that Obama should have fought the release as far as the Supreme Court, but chose to give in to further embarrass Republicans and the Bush administration. Critics say there is no justification for the document release, and it will only further degrade morale in U.S. intelligence agencies and the military. Former Assistant Director of Central Intelligence for Analysis and Production, Dr. Mark D. Lowenthal, says *"We ask these people to do extremely dangerous things, things they've been ordered to do by legal authorities, with the understanding that they will get top cover if something goes wrong. They don't believe they have that cover anymore,"* and releasing the photographs *"will make it much worse."* [2524]

Former Senator Fred Thompson states that Obama's decision to release prisoner photographs serves no purpose *"...other than to serve as propaganda tools for our worst enemies,"* and his handling of national security issues reveals *"naiveté, ineptitude, and unbelievable arrogance and lack of experience."* Obama's decision to release CIA interrogation memos was, according to Thompson, meant *"...to make him look good internationally and to the left wing here at home,"* but *"It did a lot of damage. In one stroke of a pen he declassified top-secret documents that people would otherwise go to jail for releasing. It gave al-Qaeda and the Taliban a blueprint as to the outer limits of our interrogation techniques."* Thompson warns that Obama has *"...opened up a terrible Pandora's Box and there's going to be a price to pay before this thing is ended."* [2542]

The web site offering Obama a cash reward for producing his original long form birth certificate ups the ante to \$25,000,000. The owners of the site pledge to *"increase the amount of the reward until it is so huge that the American people will begin to question why he has sealed all his background info to hide something."* [2525]

Felipe Calderon, President of Mexico, declares a national emergency in response to an outbreak of swine flu in his country. At least 20 deaths have been confirmed, and more are suspected. Archeologist Felipe Solis, who met with Obama on his visit to a museum during his April 16 visit, died the very next day; swine flu is suspected of being the cause. [2526]

As Obama approaches his first 100 days in office, the New York Post runs an article on April 26 listing Obama blunders, titled, *"100 Days, 100 Mistakes."* [2530]

Porter J. Goss, former CIA Director (2004-2006) and chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (1997-2004) writes in the Washington Post that member of committee from both political parties were briefed by the CAI on interrogation techniques. He insists the members, *"understood what the CIA was doing," "gave the CIA (its) bipartisan support,"* and *"gave the CIA funding to carry out its activities."* Goss warns the Obama administration that *"It is certainly not trust that is fostered when intelligence officers are told one day 'I have your back' only to learn a day later that a knife is being held to it. After the events of this week, morale at the CIA has been shaken to its foundation."* [2536]

The paperback edition of a book by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, *"The Good Fight,"* is released with an epilogue called *"The Obama Era."* In that new section relates that he complimented Obama on an anti-war speech, telling him, *"that speech was phenomenal..."* Reid states that Obama responded, *"I have a gift, Harry."* [2541]

Harvard Law School professor Mary Ann Glendon turns down the University of Notre Dames' *Laetare Medal* because it would be awarded to her at the May 17 graduation ceremony where the pro-abortion Obama will give the commencement address. [2543]

The Treasury Department announces on April 27 that it will borrow a record \$361 billion for the three-month period of April through June. An estimated \$515 billion will be needed for the next quarter. (The federal fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30 of the following year.) The national debt is now at \$11.1 trillion. [2544]

The swine flu outbreak in Mexico that has claimed lives prompts calls for the southern border of the United States to be completely closed. William Gheen of the Americans for Legal Immigration Political Action Committee (ALIPAC) warns that *"The Obama administration's failure to secure our borders against a possible pandemic is putting American lives at risk at a time when days and hours matter. The weak and inadequate 'passive surveillance' described during Sunday's press conference is offensive to the rational mind."* (Administration officials appeared on television April 26 to remind Americans to wash their hands often and cover their mouths when they cough.) As of April 27, there were 44 reported cases of swine flu reported in the U.S. and 11 in Canada. Mexico has reported 149 deaths, some of which may turn out not to be the result of swine flu. (In a typical year more than 25,000 Americans die from common flu viruses.) [2545,2546]

The administration authorizes a low-altitude flight mission involving a Boeing 747 (a back-up “Air Force One”) and several FG-16 fighters near the Statue of Liberty and New York City. Although the New York City Police Department was aware of the flights, the Federal Aviation Administration said not to discuss it. Many frightened New Yorkers ran from buildings, believing it may be another terrorist attack. The White House later apologized in a written statement by Military Office Director Louis Caldera, which said, *“It’s clear that the mission created confusion and disruption. I apologize and take responsibility for any distress that flight caused.”* [2547,2548]

As Obama approaches his 100th day in office, his approval ratings (if “fair” ratings are counted along with “good” and “excellent” as positive) are in the upper 60s, which is typical of most presidents at that point in their administrations.

On April 29, Obama’s 100th day in office, a painting portraying him as a “crowned messiah” is placed at New York’s Union Square. The painting features Obama with outstretched arms and a crown of thorns. [2537]

References:

References are listed in “The Obama Timeline: References,” which can be found in the left side-bar at www.colony14.net.