

The Complete Obama Timeline

January 2016

Effective January 1, 14 states increase their minimum wage. [85995]

An open-carry law goes into effect in Texas, allowing licensed firearm owners to wear holstered handguns openly in public places. [86009]

Former director of the Office of Management and Budget David Stockman notes, “During November exports shrank by 2% and are now down 12% from the peak, and at the lowest level since March 2010. ...Exports are a **leading indicator** because they foretell a shrinking world economy and the gathering implosion of the 20-year global credit bubble that vastly distorted and bloated the entire economic life of the planet. ...Needless to say, here we are again with the monetary politburo gumming about their success in reviving the US economy based on sharply improved ‘labor market conditions’ and a steadily rising BLS jobs count. And once more the Wall Street stock peddlers are beckoning the retail sheep to the slaughter based on the utterly foolish proposition that the Fed is raising rates after 84 months on the zero bound because the labor market and US economy are so strong. No they aren’t! ...So believe this. Whatever savings and investments the middle-class baby-boomers have left is about to get monkey-hammered good and hard.” [86000]

In a taped address, Obama states, “My New Year’s resolution is to move forward on our unfinished business as much as I can. That’s especially true for one piece of unfinished business: Our epidemic of gun violence. ...The gun lobby is loud and well organized in its defense of effortlessly available guns for anyone. The rest of us are going to have to be just as passionate and well organized in defense of our kids.” (Responsible gun owners most certainly do not defend “effortlessly available guns,” and believe that having guns and being well-trained in their use helps them defend their families.) Politico.com tweets, “Obama urged citizens to stand up against the groups like the NRA.” (Politico is apparently unaware that NRA members are also citizens.) [86024]

Newsmax.com reports that Obama “will meet Monday [January 4] with Attorney General Loretta Lynch to discuss executive actions he could take to make it harder for ‘a dangerous few’ to get their hands on guns. ...A source familiar with the administration’s efforts said Obama is expected to take executive action next week that would set a ‘reasonable threshold’ for when sellers have to seek a background check. That person didn’t know whether it would be based on the number of guns sold or revenue generated through gun sales.” [86004]

TheHill.com reports, “Newly released emails show that Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s office, police and the group responsible for investigating police shootings in the city coordinated their response after the death of Laquan McDonald in October 2014...” The Associated Press, “which filed open-records requests, said that thousands of emails were released regarding the case of McDonald, the black 17-year-old shot by a white police

officer, including messages indicating Emanuel's advisers recognized within months the case's political ramifications. Calls for Emanuel's resignation have erupted in Chicago after police dash-cam footage of the shooting was released in November, more than a year after Officer Jason Van Dyke fired 16 rounds at the teen, who had a knife but was at a distance. The officer pleaded not guilty this week to murder charges. Documents reviewed by the AP show that the head of the city's Independent Police Review Authority exchanged emails with aides to Emanuel, including on handling media interviews. In one email, an Emanuel spokesman told an IPRA spokesman to 'tread lightly' when handling an interview request. Days before the video was released, the Emanuel spokesman wrote to police and the law department saying that they should speak with 'one voice' on the issue." [86051, 86326]

In Valence, France, a man shouting "Allahu akbar!" tries to drive his car into four soldiers guarding a mosque. (Although the driver is a Muslim and it appears his target was the soldiers, the media general reports the incident as an "attack on a mosque." Jihadist propaganda is found on the driver's computer.) [86014, 86015, 86036, 86065]

At a bar in Tel Aviv, an Israeli Arab shoots and kills two and wounds seven. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld tells the BBC, "From what we know until now and as part of the on-going investigation there's a strong possibility that it was in fact a terrorist attack." [86019, 86020, 86023]

Newsmax.com reports that Donald Trump "is featured in a new terrorist recruitment video, according to multiple news reports. In the new video produced by al-Shabab, al-Qaida's affiliate in Somalia, a clip of Trump telling rallygoers in December he was calling for a 'total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what the hell is going on,' is used. The expletive is bleeped out." (Terrorists are not offended by decapitations and crucifixions, but apparently draw the line at the use of the word "hell.") [86027, 86045, 86046, 86052, 86054, 86057, 86338]

Hillary Clinton is also featured in the al-Shabab video, as are Black Lives Matter protesters—which pretty much means the Clinton campaign should not continue to call Trump a recruiter for ISIS (but it will). (The mainstream media gleefully reports that Trump appears in the video, while general failing to mention that Clinton also appears.) [86041, 86050, 86053, 86064]

On January 2 Townhall.com's John Hawkins provides some statistics that "destroy liberal narratives." Among them: "Muslims account for only about 1 percent of the U.S. population but account for about half of terrorist attacks since 9/11. That means Muslims in the United States are about 5,000 percent more likely to commit terrorist attacks than non-Muslims"—according to Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies. Also according to Krikorian, "Just last month, the Senate Judiciary Committee received a report that in just four years, 121 illegal aliens who had been released by ICE went on to murder Americans." [86021, 86022]

Iranians attack and set fire to the Saudi Arabian embassy in Tehran after the Saudi criminal justice system executes 47 people—one of whom is a Shi'ite cleric, Nimr al-Nimr. WND.com reports, "Lebanon's Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council called Nimr's execution a 'grave mistake,' and the Hezbollah group termed it an assassination as Shi'ites took to the streets in protest from Tehran to Kashmir. Shi'ites in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province marched through Nimr's home district of Qatif shouting 'down with the Al Saud,' and several hundred gathered in nearby Bahrain, a Sunni-ruled island kingdom allied to Saudi Arabia. In Iraq, former Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki predicted that Nimr's execution would lead to the downfall of the Saudi government. Most of the 47 executed were convicted of Al-Qaida attacks in Saudi Arabia a decade ago, but four, including prominent cleric Nimr, were Shi'ite Muslims accused of shooting policemen during anti-government protests in recent years. ...The Iranian government said Saudi Arabia would pay a 'high price' for the executions." [86030, 86031, 86037, 86040, 86042]

Deputy White House National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes issues a useless statement: "For a very long time we have expressed our differences with the Saudi government with respect to human rights. What I would also say is for there to be greater stability, safety and security across the region there needs to be improved relations between the communities in the Middle East certainly Sunni and Shia communities. So that is necessary to deal with the broader issues in the region. That's been an ongoing source of discussion between us and Saudi Arabia." [86031]

Iran vows to continue its missile production and testing. Brigadier General Hossein Salami states, "As long as the United States supports Israel we will expand our missile capabilities. ...We don't [even] have enough space to store our missiles. All our depots and underground facilities are full." said in Friday Prayers in Tehran." [86043, 86044]

The United States Postal Service introduces its new stamps for 2016. According to DailyCaller.com, "Among the stamps is a purple-and-gold stamp celebrating the two most significant festivals in Islam: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. The stamp's gold calligraphy (by Mohamed Zakaria of Arlington, Va.) reads Eidukum mumbarak, which translates as: 'May your Eid be bountiful (or blessed).'" [86062]

At a New Hampshire campaign event, a young boy reading from a card asks Hillary Clinton, "When you become president, what is your plan to connect mental health problems and guns to make sure that me [sic], my brothers, and my friends are safe from violence at school?" Clinton responds to the "plant," "I'm gonna [sic] to do everything I can do and I'm not gonna [sic] to stop trying, because right now we lose 90 people a day to gun violence. ...I think we need to pass some laws that I have been advocating for. We need comprehensive background checks. We need to close the gun show loophole, close the online loophole. ...It is really time for gun owners to form a different organization that will do more on gun safety, do more on gun responsibility and stand up for the safety of our children and our communities." (Comprehensive background checks already exist, and they must be passed regardless of whether one buys a gun from a licensed gun dealer at his store or from a booth at a gun show.) [86048, 86049, 86161]

In Biloxi, Mississippi, a crowd of more than 15,000 attends a Donald Trump campaign event. [86032, 86033, 86056, 86058, 86134, 86299]

On January 3 Obama returns from his Hawaiian vacation.

Saudi Arabia severs diplomatic relations with Iran and gives Iranian diplomats 48 hours to leave the country. State Department spokesman John Kirby says, “We believe that diplomatic engagement and direct conversations remain essential in working through differences. We will continue to urge leaders across the region to take affirmative steps to calm tensions.” An unnamed Saudi official says, “Enough is enough. Tehran has thumbed its nose at the West again and again, continuing to sponsor terrorism and launch ballistic missiles, and no one is doing anything about it. Every time the Iranians do something, the United States backs off. The Saudis are actually doing something.” [86047, 86069, 86082, 86083]

On *Meet the Press*, MSNBC’s Chris Matthews says, “I think it’s very possible that no [Republican] establishment candidate wins any primary or caucus—wins *any*. Once you’ve got the taint of the establishment on you this year, you’re dead meat.” [86055]

Newsmax.com reports, “As the campaign to win the nation’s first presidential primary heads into its final weeks, New Hampshire supporters of Donald Trump say they’ve been quietly building a voter database that is nearing 100,000 people—many of whom have never voted in a Republican primary or haven’t voted in several cycles. ‘It’s huge,’ said Stephen Stepanek, a state representative and co-chairman of the Republican presidential front-runner’s New Hampshire campaign.” [86059]

Republicans slam Obama’s anticipated executive orders related to gun control. On *Fox News Sunday*, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie says Obama “is a petulant child. Whenever he doesn’t get what he wants... [he] acts like a king.” Jeb Bush says Obama “has a pattern of taking away rights of citizens. ...The better approach would be to punish people who violate federal gun laws. ...If it’s such a great idea let [Obama] go to Congress.” On *Face the Nation*, Donald Trump says, “The one thing good about executive orders: The new president, if he comes in—boom, first day, first hour, first minute, you can rescind that.” On *State of the Union*, Carly Fiorina says, “It is delusional, dangerous, not to mention unconstitutional. We have long lists of criminals who own guns, who routinely purchase guns. We know who these people are, and we are not prosecuting any of them.” (Predictably, media leftists later call Christie racist for referring to Obama as a “petulant child.”) [85137, 86060, 86072]

At a town hall meeting in New Hampshire, State Representative Katherine Prudhomme-O’Brien (a victim of rape) tries to ask Hillary Clinton about her husband’s history of sexual misconduct. (Prudhomme-O’Brien is a former Democrat who switched parties over the many Clinton hypocrisies.) Clinton says, “You are very rude, and I’m not ever going to call on you.” (Clinton had better get used to the questions, as they will likely continue to be asked all the way to election day.) [86077, 86078, 86084, 86118]

Christine Rousselle reports at Townhall.com, “A group of armed protestors began occupying a federal building in a federal wildlife refuge in Oregon last night, following a rally in support of two ranchers who were convicted of arson. [The ranchers set backfires to counteract lightning fires in the area that threatened their home—something commonly done by ranchers. One acre of federal land was impacted. After serving their sentences, the judge decided to return them to prison to serve even more time, on “terrorist” charges.] While no shots have been fired and nobody is injured, the group is saying that they will stay for ‘as long as it takes.’ The group’s spokesman is Ammon Bundy, son of Cliven Bundy, who made news in 2014 when a stand-off between himself and the federal government.” Former television talk-show host Montel Williams tweets, “Totally fine with a massive use of deadly force in Oregon to take out Ammon Bundy” and “...put this down using National Guard with shoot to kill orders.” (The “tolerant” Williams did not call for shoot to kill orders for Black Lives Matters protesters or Occupy Wall Street protesters when they took over public facilities.) [86070, 86075, 86079, 86080, 86081, 86109, 86144, 86152, 86153, 86298]

On January 4 Obama meets with Attorney General Loretta Lynch to discuss gun control measures he might introduce on his own, in defiance of Congress. (Obama’s eventual action may cause Hillary Clinton some problems. If he overreaches on an executive order and angers millions of Americans, Clinton will be forced by the Republicans to state whether she agrees with Obama’s action. If she agrees, she will anger many gun-owning voters. If she disagrees, she will anger her leftist, gun-fearing base. She may attempt to somehow straddle the middle—and anger both groups.) [86071, 86072, 86073, 86093]

Campaigning on behalf of his wife, Bill Clinton says the election will be about restoring the middle class. (Translation: “The middle class has been destroyed over the last seven years.” Regrettably, details of the discussion Obama and Valerie Jarrett have over Clinton’s remarks will probably not be reported.) Rush Limbaugh calls Clinton’s 28-minute speech “rambling” and “not compelling.” [86074, 86090, 86092]

Rush Limbaugh comments on Saudi Arabia’s eviction of Iranian diplomats: “The Middle East has exploded yet again, and I’ll tell you why. ...I guess the simple explanation... You think that the reason the Middle East has blown up is because the Saudis decided to execute 47 people, one of them some revered, respected sheik? And while that’s a factor, that’s simply the public excuse. What really has the Middle East on fire is Obama and his decision to sidle up with the Iranians and picking that version of Islam, Shi’ite versus Sunni. That has spooked the Saudis like you can’t believe. I mean, we have always... I mean, the Saudis are no great shakes, but they have always been our ally, the lesser of two evils, more cooperative. Take your pick. I mean, there’s not a gold star among ’em, but never have we allied with Iran before. Never in the modern era. Since Ruhollah Khomeini back in 1979, we have never aligned with Iran until Obama came along. And that’s one of the reasons the Middle East is continuing to explode and be a flame.” [86091]

The Saudis are understandably nervous and worried. Obama's actions in the Middle East (abandoning ally Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, helping radical Islamists by ousting Muammar Gaddafi, withdrawing troops from Iraq, not supporting anti-Assad forces in Syria early enough to do any good, allowing ISIS to gain strength, and capitulating to Iran and allowing it to proceed on its path to nuclear weapons) have made the region even more unstable. The House of Saud worries that it is now a target, and does not trust Obama to act with any wisdom—or even rationally.

On Mike Gallagher's radio program, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC), who has endorsed Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) for president, says, "I'm going to vote for the Republican nominee, period. I'm going to vote for the Republican nominee because anyone on our side is better than anyone on their side. I am so tired of having [Democrats] control the executive branch that I am going to vote for whoever is the Republican nominee. ...I hope that people with other candidates not named Marco Rubio will say, 'You know what, let's at least be unified in our desire to pick the next Supreme Court justice, to pick U.S. attorneys in all 50 states, to set our foreign policy.' We have a great field. You may decide you like another one better than Marco. I'd never tell you or any of your listeners who they should vote for." [86100]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at 17,148, down 276 points.

In an interview with David Axelrod, former Obama campaign strategist, Mary Kay Henry, the international president of Service Employees International Union, expresses concern that many SEIU support Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton. She says, "I am deeply concerned about what is stirring, even in our membership... where our members are responding to Trump's message. ...Sixty-four percent of our public members identify as conservative, and are much more interested in the Republican debate than the Democratic debate at the moment. ...Our white conservative membership that we hear is responding to Trump's appeal are more concentrated in the Midwest and the South. ...We're doing one-on-ones with every one of our members right now. We're going into hyperdrive, especially in the pockets of our membership that have a lot of Muslim leaders to stand against what is being said [by Trump]." [86307]

Breitbart.com notes, "Henry's huge union claims a membership of roughly 2 million blue-collar workers, but is actually run by a professional cadre of far-left progressives. That leadership means the union's priorities including many progressive goals, such as greater immigration, more federal regulation of police and boosting the Democrats' power, beyond the labor-market task of fighting for wage and benefits increases for its members. For example, Henry said getting citizenship for more migrants is a 'core agenda' for the union, even though any inflow of unskilled migrants pushes down wages for blue-collar Americans. In 2013, for example, Obama added 2 million foreign workers to the U.S. economy, just as 4 million young Americans began looking for jobs. Henry is typical of these university-trained leaders who exploit unionized workers to win progressive goals. She told Axelrod that she began her political life as a lesbian activist working with other union progressives, not as a blue-collar worker working with other Americans. She's also a strong supporter of Hillary Clinton." [86307]

Donald Trump supporters wait in line in 29-degree weather to later pack an 8,000-seat arena in Lowell, Massachusetts. (In 2012 Obama won the state by 23 points. He won Lowell, the fourth largest city, by a whopping 36 points. The Republican establishment—and Hillary Clinton—should be very worried if Trump is popular in a Democrat stronghold like Massachusetts.) [86097, 86098, 86134]

On January 5 an angry Obama announces changes in gun sales regulations, saying, “Anybody in the business of selling firearms must get a license and conduct background checks or be subject to criminal prosecutions.” Of course, weapons dealers are *already* required to conduct background checks. Obama is arbitrarily changing “in the business” to a vague definition that could allow the government to prosecute an individual who sells a rifle to his neighbor or gives a shotgun to his grandson for his birthday if it chooses to do so. But individuals are not allowed access to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), so they could not perform background checks even if they wanted to. (Obama’s executive order will likely be tossed out by a court the first time he prosecutes such an individual.) During his long-winded and rambling address, surrounded by families of gun violence victims, Obama sheds some (possibly fake, Vicks-VapoRub-on-his-finger-induced) tears—giving leftists in the media reason to praise him even more. Obama also states he will enforce all federal gun laws—an interesting statement, inasmuch as he should have been doing that since January 20, 2009. [86099, 86101, 86110, 86113, 86115, 86116, 86119, 86120, 86121, 86122, 86123, 86131, 86142, 86163, 86216, 86223, 86283, 86333]

Although Obama and his media sycophants seem to want Americans to believe that guns are sold will-nilly without background checks, there were a record 23,141,970 such checks in 2015—with more than 3.3 million in December alone. The simple truth is that almost all guns are purchased legally and with background checks, and the criminals who buy guns illegally or steal them are not going to comply with any new regulations. [86111]

Obama falsely claims, “A violent felon can buy the exact same weapon over the internet with no background check, no questions asked.” (That is a complete lie. A gun ordered over the Internet must be picked up at a licensed gun dealer after the completion of a background check.) [86112, 86175]

While referring to himself 76 times in 33 minutes, Obama also claims, “A recent study showed that 1 in 30 gun buyers from one Internet site were felons and buy guns without a background check.” (If that is the case, that site has been breaking the law. If Obama knows that, why has he not had ATF agents arrest anyone?) [86163]

The Associated Press—either lying or showing its ignorance—tweets, “Obama moves to require background checks for guns bought from dealers online, at gun shows.” (Background checks are already required for gun purchases from dealers, whether at the gun store, at a gun show, or via the Internet.) [86114]

Obama's executive order includes a "snitch provision" that will allow health professionals to report patient names to the government's National Instant Criminal Background Check System for the purpose of preventing them from buying guns. (Although many Americans would argue, "Well, we don't want crazy people from buying guns," the new rule could possibly be greatly abused. An individual who seeks counseling for depression is not necessarily a danger to himself, his family, or the community, but if his counselor chooses to report him he will not be able to buy a rifle and go hunting with his friends. The unintended consequence of such a rule will be that some people might not seek counseling they need because they fear the loss of their gun rights.) [86121, 86132, 86133]

According to Grabien.com, Obama referred to himself 76 times during his 33-minute address. [86135]

Obama laughably insists, "I believe in the Second Amendment, it's written right there on the paper" (the U.S. Constitution is "the paper"). He also insists, "This is not a plot to take away everybody's guns." (In October 2015 Obama said, "We know that other countries, in response to one mass shooting, have been able to craft laws that almost eliminate mass shootings. Friends of ours, allies of ours—Great Britain, Australia, countries like ours. So we know there are ways to prevent it." Australia's response was to confiscate guns—yet Obama says that is not on his mind.) [86186]

Of course, the word "plot" implies secrecy. But there is nothing secretive about Obama's history of opposition to gun ownership and the Second Amendment. As noted in volume 1 of this *Timeline*:

1. While serving as director of the Joyce Foundation board (1994-2001), Obama distributed millions of dollars to gun control organizations like the Council Against Handguns and the Violence Policy Center. Between 1994 and 2001, the Joyce Foundation gave \$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 (George) Soros Open Society Institute, which advocates a worldwide ban on civilian firearm ownership. [346, 444, 834, 1282]
2. In September of 1996, as a candidate for the Illinois State Senate, Obama completed a candidate questionnaire. In the document Obama stated he opposed the manufacture, sale, and possession of all handguns. As a state senator, Obama repeatedly voted for and introduced anti-gun legislation.
3. As a state senator, Obama voted against a bill that specifically allows homeowners the right to use a gun in self-defense during a home invasion. The Illinois Governor vetoed the bill; Obama voted to uphold the veto. Obama proposed increasing Illinois firearm and ammunition excise taxes from 11 to 66 per cent. (A \$55 tax on a \$500 rifle would increase to a monumental \$330.) The tax would essentially be changed from a legitimate wildlife preservation funding fee to a gun-punishing penalty. [93, 315, 444]

4. In 2001, Obama voted against Illinois House Bill 1812, a law designed to toughen penalties for crimes committed in furtherance of organized gang activities. He also voted against a bill that would allow people who receive protective orders (such as domestic violence victims) to carry firearms. When the bill failed, Obama remarked, "...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." (Obama believes a woman being stalked has no right to carry a gun to protect herself.) [92, 444]

5. Obama was the only Illinois State Senator to vote against a bill prohibiting early release for sexual predators. Obama also voted to make a criminal out of a homeowner who uses a gun in his own defense in his own home. Obama refused to vote for a bill in the Illinois State Senate that would increase penalties for drug traffickers. Obama voted against making it a criminal offense for convicts on probation or on bail to have contact with a street gang. Obama voted against a bill that imposes the death penalty on gang members who murder first responders (paramedics, firemen, police officers). [346]

6. Obama voted 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 voted for a bill that would shut down all Illinois firearm-manufacturing businesses (Springfield Armory, Armalite, Rock River Arms, and Les Baer). Obama voted for a bill (S 2579) prohibiting Illinois citizens from purchasing more than one gun per month. [326, 445]

7. Obama voted 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 in their guns or face felony charges.) [444]

8. During his Illinois Senate career Obama voted 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 enlisted 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]

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

Obama's new gun guidelines place Hillary Clinton in a bind, as she will be asked to either support them (and anger many gun owners) or state they go too far (angering those who support Obama's action.) Nevertheless, Clinton brags, "I am very proud of ...Obama's announcement today. In fact, I feel really good because I called for some of those measures a few months ago." (In 1993, Clinton supported a proposal that would

impose a 25 percent national sales tax on all guns and a \$2,500 fee to become a dealer.) [86167, 86168]

Congresswoman Diane Black (R-TN) states that Obama's "contempt for the Second Amendment—and the Constitutional separation of powers—is well documented but that does not entitle him to this childish temper tantrum. This is nothing more than a cheap stunt by a lawless president looking to seal a political legacy in the last months of his failing Administration. What's more, [Obama's] actions lack any basis in fact, as even *The Washington Post* was forced to admit that not a single recent act of mass violence could be prevented by new gun laws. Congress cannot let this backdoor power grab go unchallenged. We must use every tool at our disposal, including the power of the purse and, if necessary, the pursuit of legal action, to put a check on this unconstitutional overreach." [86124]

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) states, "From day one, [Obama] has never respected the right to safe and legal gun ownership that our nation has valued since its founding. He knows full well that the law already says that people who make their living selling firearms must be licensed, regardless of venue. Still, rather than focus on criminals and terrorists, he goes after the most law-abiding of citizens. His words and actions amount to a form of intimidation that undermines liberty." [86124]

At DailyWire.com Ben Shapiro writes, "...Obama just delivered the most stomach-churning press conference in presidential history, complete with histrionics, human props, impassioned pleas for togetherness, and simultaneous indictments of the National Rifle Association, Congress, Republicans, American voters, and the Constitution. And, of course, he cried. The tears will be the subject of a thousand media masturbation sessions today, but they shouldn't come as a surprise: Obama is emotionally manipulative, and his entire gun control push is based on the pathetic, Piers Morgan-esque strategy of standing on the graves of victims of violence. Obama *cares*, you see. And you don't. That's why you're not backing his play. We know he cares, in spite of the fact that he didn't use his original House majority and Senate veto-proof majority to push gun control. We know he cares, in spite of the fact that murder rates are up in virtually every major American city. We know he cares because he has tears. And The Messiah's tears will heal cancer, stop global warming, and prevent gun violence. If you wanted The Messiah not to cry, you'd simply give him what he wants." [86138]

"Obama repeatedly complained that Americans who opposed his foolhardy and unconstitutional broad gun confiscation agenda, or any of his myriad foolhardy executive actions of today, simply don't care enough about dead children. This is the same man who was willing to shut down the government to ensure that women would have taxpayer dollars to murder their own children in the womb. Most obviously, though, he blamed everyone but criminals and terrorists for gun violence. He blamed the NRA. He blamed Republicans. He blamed politicians who 'want to win elections'—which is a way of blaming voters. He lied about current federal policy, over and over again—he stated that you could purchase a gun online without a background check, for example. ...Obama said that Republicans wanted those on the terror watch list to have guns for no reason,

even though there is such a thing as *due process* in the United States. Of course, he also shrugged off the Second Amendment as something ‘on paper’ and said that since we restrict First Amendment and Fourth Amendment rights, we should certainly do so with Second Amendment rights. He said that the Second Amendment was like shouting fire in a crowded theater, which is not only bad law, but bad logic.” [86138]

“And then, most ridiculously, he compared gun control to giving women the right to vote and ending slavery. Except that disarming black people and women has always been a goal for those who hate black people and women. But no matter: the tears are all that count. They are the tears of an angel. We have a childish president. He cries because he does not get his way; he cries because he thinks he can convince us to support him through his tears; he cries because he knows that the media will provide him an oral colon cleanse so long as he shows he truly *wants something*. Obama’s tears aren’t crocodile tears. They’re far more dangerous. They’re the tears of a man with nothing left to lose, and a year left to squeeze every last drop out of his waning power.” [86138]

At Breitbart.com Sarah Palin writes, “Obama wept. America is forced to weep over Obama’s release of violent criminals into our communities—like the 121 illegal aliens who committed murders after they were released from custody by the Obama administration instead of being deported. And that doesn’t take into account the others we don’t know about. The whole world weeps waiting for American leadership in these troubled times as Islamic savages commit genocide against the Christians of the Middle East and terrorize innocent people in cities across the globe. Meanwhile, Obama wept as he blamed law-abiding patriots for the nation’s insecurity and sought to strip them of the Constitutional rights that generations of Americans shed blood to protect. Obama wept, while we all continue to weep for our country and the civilized world.” [86213]

Gun stocks surge after Obama’s announcement. Sturm, Ruger is up 6.33 percent. Smith & Wesson is up more than 12 percent for the day. (The assumption is that many Americans will rush out to buy guns before Obama has a chance to implement his new restrictions.) [86128, 86130]

Richmond Times-Dispatch reports, “Longtime Henrico County Sheriff Mike Wade will challenge Rep. Dave Brat for the Republican nomination to represent the 7th District in Congress.” (Wade’s candidacy is the GOP establishment going after Brat for having challenged and defeated Congressman Eric Cantor in Virginia’s June 2014 primary election.) [85127, 86843]

In a December 28-January 3 national poll conducted for NBC, Donald Trump leads GOP candidates with 35 percent, followed by Ted Cruz (18), Marco Rubio (13). In a Reuters poll, Trump leads with 42 percent, Cruz (14), Ben Carson (11), Marco Rubio (8), Jeb Bush (8), Chris Christie (3). [86125, 86126]

At FrontPageMag.com Robert Spencer—no fan of the GOP’s leading candidate—nevertheless writes, “[Donald Trump] infuriates the mainstream media because he, unlike any other major candidate in recent memory, won’t dance to their tune: when Leftist

journalists confront him about some supposedly egregious thing he has said, he doesn't apologize, he doesn't explain, he doesn't back down—generally he doubles down, and with a cheerful defiance that has lifted the heart of everyone who has seen the arena of free discourse inexorably narrowed over the last few decades by the authoritarian enforcers of political correctness.” [86159]

“Many Americans love Trump because he says what they have been thinking, and have been thinking for a long time, even as they have been browbeaten into silence by a media culture that has been working for years to transform genuine and reasoned opposition to its political line into a faux pas, a ‘gaffe,’ a step outside the realm of acceptable political discourse. Not content with electoral victories and effective control of the media, the educational system, and the entertainment industry, the Left has been pressing for total victory: the moment when anyone who dares to utter a commonsensical conservative view, such as ‘We need to take steps to stop Islamic jihad terrorism,’ or ‘We need to secure our Southern border and end this massive illegal immigration,’ will immediately stop, apologize, and correct himself. Trump will have none of it, and that is why he is so widely beloved. ... Whatever happens to the presidential candidacy of Donald Trump, his challenge to [the establishment] has been and is refreshing. If his insouciance in the face of those who set themselves up as our moral and intellectual superiors, and refusal to toe their line, survives his candidacy and spreads to others, he will have done the country an unparalleled service, no matter who is elected in November.” [86159]

SanDiegoReader.com reports, “Among the several dozen Pakistani and Afghan men who have entered the U.S. illegally, coming into San Diego from Tijuana, two were found to have ties to terrorist groups, according to a letter sent by U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter [R-CA] to the Department of Homeland Security. Muhammad Azeem and Muktar Ahmad, both in their 20s, surrendered to U.S. Border Patrol agents in September, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. One was listed on the Terrorist Screening Database for ‘associations with a known or suspected terrorist. The other was a positive match for derogatory information in an alternative database,’ according to Hunter’s letter. Azeem and Ahmad are among dozens of men—described by Border Patrol agents as ‘military age and carrying U.S. cash’ who began entering the U.S. through a Tijuana-based human-smuggling pipeline in September.” [86192, 86256, 86257]

Despite Iran having violated United Nations resolutions with missile tests, the Obama administration chooses not to impose sanctions on the regime—but they “remain on the table.” Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, “Iran pushed the envelope, hard. The US grumbled and vowed to retaliate with wrist slaps. Iran protested, loudly. The US backed off. Another humiliation. The Obama administration has demonstrated a willingness to countenance all sorts of illegal conduct by Iran in the name of maintaining its terrible nuclear agreement. The mullahs in Tehran are fully aware of this dynamic and are routinely probing the extent of their potent leverage. By threatening to destroy Obama’s geopolitical legacy project, the Iranians have discovered that they can extract even more concessions from the United States—as they recently did in response to Congress’ visa new waiver law. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are slamming this latest capitulation, which the White House murkily insists may only be temporary.”

(Meanwhile, Iran makes public a new underground missile facility—just to rub Obama’s and Secretary of State John Kerry’s noses in it.) [86127, 86137]

Hillary Clinton reportedly states she will suspend patents of companies that move overseas to reduce their tax burden. (There is *no* legislation that would give her such authority. Even a leftist Supreme Court would smack her down for such an action.) [86129]

On Laura Ingraham’s radio program, former U.S. Attorney Joe DiGenova says the FBI has “reached a critical mass” in its investigation of Hillary Clinton “and all of her senior staff, and it’s going to come to a head, I would suggest, in the next 60 days. And, I predict Hillary will not make it to the finish line. She’s not going to be able to complete her campaign. ...It’s going to be a very complex matter for the Department of Justice, but they’re not going to be able to walk away from it. She and her staff have committed numerous federal crimes involving the negligent and improper handling of classified information. They are now at over 1,200 classified emails. And, that’s just for the ones we know about from the State Department. That does not include the ones that the FBI is, in fact, recovering from her hard drives. ...I believe that the evidence that the FBI is compiling will be so compelling that, unless [Attorney General Loretta Lynch] agrees to the charges, there will be a massive revolt inside the FBI, which she will not be able to survive as an attorney general. It will be like Watergate. It will be unbelievable. ...The evidence against the Clinton staff and the secretary is so overwhelming at this point that if, in fact, she chooses not to charge Hillary, they will never be able to charge another federal employee with the negligent handling of classified information. The intelligence community will not stand for that. They will fight for indictment and they are already in the process of gearing themselves to basically revolt if she refuses to bring charges.” [86197, 86202, 86227, 86236, 86240, 86242, 86287, 86598]

Meanwhile, the *Daily Mail* reports, “Three months after bowing out of the 2016 competition, the vice president has a few second thoughts about his decision. ‘I regret it every day,’ Biden said Wednesday.” [86241, 86286]

Mark Levin asks on his radio talk show, “Did Obama cry when the precious young lady [Kate Steinle] was murdered in cold blood in San Francisco, a sanctuary city? We didn’t hear from him for 48 to 72 hours. Did Obama cry when an American reporter was decapitated on [video] tape? No, 10 minutes later he was seen laughing and going off to play golf. Did Obama cry in the mass murder in San Bernardino, California when he made his statement? ...Obama has made this a more violent, crime-ridden, terrorist target, this nation. He absolutely has. And what did he do to our police departments? What has he done to them? From Ferguson to Chicago to Baltimore, and everywhere in between... the men and women in blue... are treated like crap!” [86198]

Eight-term Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY) announces he will not seek reelection—a decision some might consider odd inasmuch as serving one more term would give him a substantial federal pension. In 2014 Israel won reelection 54-45 percent. [86136, 86183, 86184]

Donald Trump, referring to the fact that Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) is not a natural born citizen even though most are afraid to discuss the issue, states, “Republicans are going to have to ask themselves the question: ‘Do we want a candidate who could be tied up in court for two years?’ That’d be a big problem. It’d be a very precarious one for Republicans because he’d be running and the courts may take a long time to make a decision. You don’t want to be running and have that kind of thing over your head. ...I’d hate to see something like that get in his way,” Trump tells *The Washington Post*, “But a lot of people are talking about it and I know that even some states are looking at it very strongly, the fact that he was born in Canada and he has had a double passport [that is, dual citizenship].” [86139, 86140, 86141, 86169, 86170, 86180, 86182, 86195, 86245, 86246, 86248, 86309, 86375, 86463]

Like Obama, Marco Rubio, Bobby Jindal, and Rick Santorum, Ted Cruz is *not* a natural born citizen. The historical definition of the term is “birth on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents.” It is laughably absurd for anyone to claim that Cruz, who was *born in Canada to a Cuban father*, is a natural born citizen of the United States. One need only recall 2008, when Democrats and the mainstream media (including Fox News) did their best to insist and “prove” that Obama was not born in Kenya. They did that because it was understood that birth in Kenya to a Kenyan father would mean Obama was not a natural born citizen. It is ridiculous to argue that Obama would have been ineligible to serve as president if he was born in another country to a non-American father while at the same time arguing that Cruz, born in another country to a non-American father, is eligible to serve as president. *One cannot have it both ways*. Those who consider Cruz to be a natural born citizen would have to remain silent and not complain if Obama were to state, “I have been lying all along. I really was born in Kenya.” [86311]

Cruz’s defenders, like Obama’s before him, quote various laws to defend their argument, declaring that the courts have ruled that being born overseas to an American mother makes one a natural born citizen. That is nonsense, and *there are no such court rulings*. The Obama and Cruz apologists typically rely on laws and court cases that refer to “citizen,” rather than “natural born citizen.” That a particular law makes it clear that Obama and Cruz are generic “citizens” is completely irrelevant. The issue is not whether they are *citizens*; the issue is whether they are *natural born citizens*. They are not. Trump is right to bring up the issue. Legal challenges against Cruz and Rubio have already been filed, and the media and political apparatus that covered for Obama might not necessarily cover for Cruz and Rubio. Obama got away with fraud because he was intelligent enough to hide his past, block access to records, destroy records, use stolen Social Security numbers, and forge a birth certificate. Cruz, on the other hand, has admitted that he was born in Canada. That sealed his fate. If the issue goes to court, Cruz *should* lose. (Obama should have lost such cases as well, but the cowardly Supreme Court made sure it never heard any of them.) [86311, 86375]

Once again, the Democrats will have bested the Republicans. The deal with the devil was made years ago, with the GOP telling the Democrats, “We will not challenge Obama if you do not challenge our rising stars, Cruz, Rubio, and Jindal.” The Republicans

foolishly believed they would face Hillary Clinton or defeat Obama in November 2008. They were wrong. The Democrats can now go after Cruz and Rubio on the eligibility issue, knowing the Republicans cannot come forward and admit that they agreed to perpetrate fraud on the American people. The GOP cannot now claim Cruz was not born in Canada, while Obama has gotten away with his forged Hawaiian birth certificate—which was intended either to cover up a Kenyan birth to a Kenyan, or the name of his real father, Frank Marshall Davis.

FoxNews.com reports, “More than a dozen U.S. Army special operations soldiers are trapped in Marjah, Afghanistan, taking cover in a compound surrounded by enemy fire and hostile Taliban fighters after a U.S. special operations soldier [Staff Sergeant Matthew McClintock] was killed earlier in the day, senior U.S. defense officials told Fox News late Tuesday. A U.S. official described the ‘harrowing’ scene to Fox News, saying there were enemy forces surrounding the compound in which the special operations team sought refuge. ‘On the map there is one green dot representing friendly forces stuck in the compound, and around it is a sea of red [representing hostile forces],’ the official told Fox News. ...An AC-130 gunship has been called in for air cover as the U.S. troops now wait out the night.” (According to the Obama administration, the soldier who was killed did not “die in combat” because Obama has declared the war over.) [86145, 86146, 86191, 86224]

Pamela Geller notes, “When Obama took office, the Taliban numbered 11,000, and in 2014 that number increased six fold to over 60,000. For the whole of Obama’s presidency, he strong-armed former president Hamid Karzai into partnering with the Taliban, and Obama used the NATO summit to pressure the Afghan leader to engage with greater urgency with the Taliban about a ‘political settlement’ in Afghanistan. The Obama administration has insisted that [the Taliban is] not a terrorist group. The slaughter of moderate Afghans, the gassing of girls schools, their brutal treatment of women, imposing the vicious sharia, bombing of markets, police stations and schools—what exactly is Obama’s definition of a terrorist?” [86146, 86147, 86148]

The Israel Law Center reports that it conducted an experiment to test Facebook’s policies. The center set up two virtually identical Facebook pages; one was anti-Israel and the other was anti-Palestinian. Complaints were then lodged against both. Facebook responded by immediately removing the anti-Palestinian site but leaving the anti-Israel site in place. Facebook claimed the anti-Israel site was “not in violation of Facebook’s rules.” (From Facebook’s perspective, “Death to all Jews” is acceptable but “Death to all Arabs” is not.) [86155, 86156]

In Iowa, asked about a 10-part Netflix propaganda series called *Making a Murderer*, which tries to persuade viewers that a convicted killer is innocent, Hillary Clinton responds, “I think we do have a systemic problem in our criminal justice system. ...It is true that there’s enough evidence to show that if you are an African-American man you are more likely to be arrested, charged, convicted and incarcerated for doing the same thing as a white man. And there’s just a lot of evidence of that. And of course, if you are

poor that makes it even more likely.” (The series is about killer Steven Avery—who is white.) [86228, 86229, 86239]

On *Hardball*, Hillary Clinton dodges Chris Matthews’ questions about the difference between a socialist and a Democrat. The most he can get her to say is, “I am a progressive Democrat ...who likes to get things done.” (On September 10, 2014 Clinton said she was a “moderate Democrat.”) [86176, 86178, 86196]

At a Donald Trump rally in Claremont, New Hampshire, a man in the audience yells out that “Obama is a Muslim.” Trump responds, “Oh, I’m supposed to reprimand the man. Who was the man that said that? I have to reprimand. How dare you. Okay, I reprimanded him. I reprimanded him, now the press can’t be angry.” [86177]

On January 6 North Korea announces it has conducted a hydrogen bomb test. This would be the first hydrogen bomb it has detonated; North Korea has already detonated atomic bombs, with underground tests. (Atomic bombs, such as used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end World War II, involve fission reactions; they are measured in kilotons of TNT. The far more powerful hydrogen bomb involves a fusion reaction, triggered action by a fission reaction; they are measured in megatons.) In April, 2012 Mitt Romney was ridiculed for stating that the Obama administration had emboldened North Korea. [86143, 86160, 86162, 86173, 86181, 86190, 86193, 86320, 86462]

At DailySignal.com Bruce Klingner, a senior research fellow for Northeast Asia at The Heritage Foundation’s Asian Studies Center, writes, that Kim Jong-Un’s “initial assertion about hydrogen bombs was met with expert skepticism, and it is more likely that Pyongyang has achieved a boosted fission rather than a fusion bomb. Such a weapon would be larger than its first three nuclear tests (and the 1945 U.S. atomic weapons) but not of the magnitude of a hydrogen fusion bomb. If confirmed, North Korea’s fourth nuclear test is a dangerous development. Coupled with ongoing development of several different missile systems, North Korea poses an increasing and direct threat to the United States, South Korea, and Japan. Experts estimate that Pyongyang currently has 10-16 nuclear weapons with potentially as many as 50-100 by 2020. North Korea has likely already achieved warhead miniaturization, the ability to place nuclear weapons on its medium-range missiles, and a preliminary ability to reach the continental United States with a missile.” (North Korea’s Taepo Dong 2 missile can travel 10,000 kilometers and reach much of the United States.) [86193, 86194, 86462]

Secretary of State John Kerry tweets, “The United States and nations around the world unequivocally condemn North Korea’s latest nuclear test.” “North Korea’s highly provocative act is a flagrant violation of multiple UNSC resolutions and a grave threat to int’l peace & security.” “US reaffirms our steadfast commitment to allies in the region. Working closely w/partners on UNSC, 6 Party Talks to take appropriate action.” The United Nations Security Council warns that it will “take further significant measures.” [86171, 86172, 86226]

National Security Council spokesman Ned Price tells reporters, “We will not accept it [North Korea] as a nuclear state.” (The Obama administration is apparently unaware that North Korea already *is* a nuclear state. Even if it only has atomic bombs and not hydrogen bombs, North Korea remains a threat.) [86174]

The Associated Press’ Matt Lee challenges State Department spokesman John Kirby: “Every time this happens, the line comes out from people in this administration and other governments as well... that ‘We will not accept North Korea as a nuclear armed state.’ And, yet it *is*. You also say this about other things too. You say you will never accept Crimea as a part of Russia. And, yet it *is*. Isn’t it time to recognize these things for what they are and not live in this illusion or fantasy where you pretend that things that are, are not?” Kirby responds, “The short answer is no. I would challenge this idea that it’s a fantasy world. Just because, just because, uh—let me put it this way, eh, eh, you know, in, at, at, at this level of foreign policy, you know, you, you have to make choices, and, uh, you don’t have to accept... everything, even at face value. ...No, you, eh, eh, we are not going to accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed state, um, and we’re not gonna [sic] recognize that. Um, we are, however, gonna [sic] deal with their efforts, their efforts at developing that program.” [86212]

Commenting on North Korea’s nuclear test, White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters, “The interests of the United States can be successfully advanced through principled, focused, tenacious diplomatic engagement, and that’s what we’re going to continue to pursue.” (“Diplomatic engagement”—tenacious or otherwise—has had no effect on North Korea in more than 60 years.) Earnest is not asked about Hillary Clinton’s 2009 pledge to “end the North Korean nuclear program.” [86266, 86396]

Al-Qaeda-linked detainees Mahmud Umar Muhammad Bin Atef and Khalif Muhammad Salih Al-Dhuby are released from Guantanamo. [86443]

In Raqqa, Syria, postal worker Leena Al-Qasem is executed for “cooperating with the U.S.-led coalition forces.’ Her executioner is reportedly her own son, ISIS fighter Ali Saqr al-Qasem. [86247, 86318, 86319]

The House of Representatives votes 240-181 to approve legislation to repeal ObamaCare and defund Planned Parenthood. Because the Senate had previously approved the legislation using the reconciliation process, it will go to Obama—for his veto. (Three Republicans vote against the bill: Bob Dold (IL), Richard Hanna (NY), and John Katko (NY). Collin Peterson (MN) is the sole Democrat to vote with the majority.) [86164, 86293, 86360]

Before the vote, Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA) asks, “Why is it they [Republicans] want to take away the very services that actually protect life? Planned Parenthood protects life.” (Whether any other member of the House then told Speier what Planned Parenthood does 350,000 times per year is not known.) Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN) claims that Jesus and Moses would have opposed the legislation repealing

ObamaCare and defunding Planned Parenthood. (Why he thinks he knows their views on abortion is not clear.) [86292, 86294]

Former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson, once a Republican, announces he is entering the presidential race as a Libertarian candidate. [86188, 86189, 86199]

Politico.com reports, “The Canadian company behind the Keystone XL pipeline filed two legal challenges against ...Obama on Wednesday, contending he violated NAFTA and the U.S. Constitution when he rejected the project in November. The legal challenges are unlikely to undo the rejection by Obama, but they may yet revive the lengthy political battle over the controversial Canada-to-Texas pipeline that shook up the oil industry and helped the White House cement its environmental legacy. TransCanada Corp.’s filing of a federal lawsuit and legal notification that it planned to seek more than \$15 billion in damages under NAFTA were hardly unexpected, and State Department officials had been keenly aware of the legal threats during their seven-year-plus review of Keystone.” [86200, 86201]

As Obama enters his final year in office, writers and pundits are falling all over themselves commenting on Obama’s “legacy.” Some conservatives have a different take, including Sylvia Thompson, who wrote in October, 2015: “To the many gullible souls out there who truly think that Barack Obama is ‘legacy building’ in his all-out assault on America, I implore you to bow out of the conversation because you are not seeing clearly. The term *legacy* carries positive connotations of something bequeath [sic; bequeathed] that is to the receiver’s benefit. Everything that Barack Obama does is calculated to destroy America, which he despises. This man no more cares about legacy than he fears being properly prosecuted by the white political leaders whose responsibility it is to remove him from office. I focus on white leaders, because whites are still in the majority and they fill the majority of political offices. If the majority of political operatives were of some other ethnicity, I would lodge my complaint against that group. Ethnicity is an issue only because Obama is half-black and he uses that fact to intimidate guilt-conflicted white people. Otherwise, he would have been impeached and likely in prison for treason by now.” (Author Thompson is black.) [86429]

“Barack Obama’s sole aim has been, since he first entered politics and continues as he winds down this presidency, the complete destruction of America as it was founded. It is an insult to the intelligence of all Americans who must listen to elitist pundits on Fox news and elsewhere, and political drones in either party endeavor to make Obama’s behavior fit a pattern of normalcy. Attributing his destructive policies to ‘legacy building’ is either self-delusion on the part of the people who make that claim or cowardliness. ... Obama’s nuclear deal with Iran has nothing to do with legacy but rather to enable a Muslim nation to wage nuclear war with America and Israel—the two nations that he most despises. Does anyone wonder why Russians praise Vladimir Putin despite what the rest of the world might think of him? Putin cares about his country, that’s why. Obama despises the American military because traditionally it has been a mainstay of America’s strength, and our strength infuriates him.” [86429]

“...Obama reopened relations with Cuba because Cuba is Communist. Legacy is not his concern here either, but rather to scuttle America's attempts to keep Communist influence out of the Americas. That Cuba has major issues with human rights does not matter. Like his Marxist African father before him, he despises the West and all that it represents. Obama lawlessly declares open borders and amnesty for illegal aliens, because he wants to overrun America with third-world people who bring little more than dependency with them. This tactic not only does not ensure a legacy, but rather it guarantees the eventual conversion of America itself into third-world status, if it is allowed to continue. ...The day that we no longer have to hear the prattle about his ‘legacy building’ will not be soon enough for me. Many, many Americans are thoroughly fed up with Barack Obama and the spineless crop of political leaders who ignore his criminality. It is yet unknown whether Republicans will ever garner the backbone to become a true opposition party and hold him accountable. ...Should these positive trends not continue and the 2016 election cycle yield no movement to counter all the harm that Barack Obama has done to this nation, I think there will be massive disruption.” [86429]

USNews.com reports, “Rep. Alan Grayson of Florida, an attorney and Democratic Senate candidate, tells U.S. News he will file a lawsuit challenging [Ted] Cruz’s eligibility should he overtake Trump and win the nomination... ‘If he’s not qualified to be president according to our Constitution, then he certainly should not serve,’ Grayson says, poring over his notes for the possible lawsuit. ‘There’s quite a lot of stuff here.’ In addition to the question of whether Cruz’s birth in Canada disqualifies him from being considered a natural-born citizen, for which there are clashing historical claims, Grayson notes there’s disagreement about whether both parents of U.S. citizens born overseas must be citizens. And then there’s Cruz’s mother, Eleanor Cruz. Grayson says Cruz may have forfeited her U.S. citizenship by taking a Canadian oath of citizenship, and that he’s seen no evidence she actually was born in the U.S.” (Cruz’s mother apparently lived in Canada for a number of years, which suggests she may have become a Canadian citizen. Cruz’s father did not become a U.S. citizen until 2005.) [86203, 86204, 86214, 86215, 86246, 86562, 86720]

“‘I really like Cruz and believe he is a patriot, but he is ineligible,’ says legal activist Larry Klayman, who in 2014 asked the Department of Homeland Security to begin deportation proceedings against Obama. But Klayman believes courts would not take a challenge to Cruz’s status. That’s also the feeling of Soviet-born dentist-turned-lawyer Orly Taitz, who filed several lawsuits arguing Obama was ineligible to be president. She says she believes Cruz is not a natural-born citizen, but says she may not pursue the matter in court after repeated Obama-related defeats.” (According to Ballot-Access.org, an Illinois resident has already challenged Cruz’s right to be on the ballot in that state. In Vermont, a lawsuit charging that both Cruz and Rubio are ineligible has been filed.) [86203, 86204, 86206, 86428, 86944]

At TheDailyBeast.com Tim Mak reports, “When Sen. Marco Rubio was in the Florida House, he teamed up with his scandal-plagued pal David Rivera to co-sponsor legislation that would allow undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates.” (That is, a

student from Chicago who enrolled at a state university in Florida would pay a higher rate of tuition than an illegal immigrant.) [86221, 86222]

In a Public Policy Polling survey in New Hampshire, Hillary Clinton has 47 percent, Bernie Sanders 44 percent, and Martin O'Malley 3 percent. Among GOP candidates, Donald Trump remains in first place with 29 percent, followed by Marco Rubio (15 percent), Chris Christie (11), John Kasich (11), Jeb Bush (10), Ted Cruz (10), Ben Carson (4), Carly Fiorina (4), Rand Paul (3), Mike Huckabee (1), Rick Santorum (1), and Jim Gilmore (less than 1 percent). [86210, 86217]

Congressman Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA) announces he will retire at the end of the session. [86211]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) endorses Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) for president. [86218]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) panders to Iowa voters, saying in Sioux City that he now supports the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) through 2022. (Cruz previously opposed the RFS and called for its repeal, arguing that the government should not be in the business of pushing ethanol simply to please Iowa corn farmers. Laughably, according to EricPetersAuto.com, "Cruz recently stated that 'market access (for ethanol) is critical' and even gone so far as to argue that anti-trust laws be 'vigorously enforced to ensure that the oil and gas industry cannot block access to the market for ethanol producers.' But ethanol has never been *blocked* from entering the market. The problem is just the opposite. Ethanol producers want a 'market' *created* for their product—enforced by government. They want to *suppress* the market's verdict about ethanol, [and] *bypass* the preferences expressed by Americans for gasoline rather than ethanol-adulterated 'gas.' They want ethanol forced down our throats—and into our tanks.") [86219, 86220]

At Breitbart.com Alex Swoyer writes, "Democrat frontrunner Hillary Clinton's disappearance from the debate stage last month left people speculating that the former First Lady took a long bathroom break, but now a law-enforcement source with inside connections is alleging that Clinton was missing from the stage due to health issues stemming from a previous brain injury. These long-lasting symptoms stemming from a concussion and blood clot, according to a neurologist, suggest Clinton is suffering from post-concussion syndrome, which can severely impact her cognitive abilities. ... 'Strong source just told me something I suspected. Hillary's debate 'bathroom break' wasn't that, but flare up of problems from brain injury,' wrote John Cardillo on Twitter." [86232, 86233, 86234]

"Cardillo, who previously worked as an officer who provided VIP security details for the New York Police Department (NYPD), told Breitbart News that he knows of two additional sources who have commented about Clinton's health problems, which have even impacted her ability to walk to her car after delivering a speech. 'I got this from both a [federal agent] ...and I also got it from a New York [NYPD] guy who worked security at a Hillary event in New York City,' Cardillo told Breitbart News, adding:

‘These are two people that aren’t just personal friends. I worked with one and then post law-enforcement worked with another on some related things. So, these aren’t anonymous people. These are good friends. Both of them told me the same thing, that after her speeches, whether she did a talk or a policy speech, she had to sit behind—she would come off the podium backstage—and have to sit and rest before making it back to the car because she was so fatigued, dizzy and disoriented.’ Cardillo said these two security officials don’t know each other and do not live in the same state, but ‘their stories were almost identical.’ One of the men told him that Clinton was ‘very pale, kind of disoriented. He said she looked like she was about to faint. She was very pale, almost sweaty.’” [86232, 86233, 86234]

The Associated Press reports, “A U.S. citizen already accused of going to Pakistan to train with al-Qaida was charged Wednesday with helping build explosives for a 2009 suicide attack on an American military base in Afghanistan. A revised indictment charges Muhanad Mahmoud Al Farekh with conspiracy to murder U.S. nationals, conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction and other crimes. He is to appear Thursday [January 7] in federal court in Brooklyn... The charges stem from an attack on Jan. 19, 2009, involving two vehicles driven by unidentified suicide bombers that were rigged with explosives, the new indictment says. Only one of the bombs detonated. Al Farekh’s fingerprints were later found on packing tape used on the second explosive, the indictment says. ...The 30-year-old Al Farekh, who was born in Texas, ‘allegedly turned his back on our country and tried to kill U.S. soldiers in the course of executing their sworn duty to keep us safe,’ Brooklyn U.S. Attorney Robert Capers said in a statement.” [86207]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Justice Department will drastically increase the number of attorneys it has on staff to deal with what is expected to be a massive push by ...Obama to grant clemency to federal prisoners before the end of his term. The Office of the Pardon Attorney, which handles the federal government’s clemency cases, posted a job listing for 16 attorney advisors on the Justice Department’s website on Tuesday.” [86238]

Global Brent crude oil falls to \$34.93 per barrel—its lowest level since 2004. (The falling price of oil has been propping up the U.S. economy. Wages are stagnant, but paying less at the gasoline pump is like a stimulative tax cut to the American consumer. China is essentially in a recession, Christmas sales in the United States were disappointing in late 2015, the real estate market is less than spectacular, and stock markets around the world are overvalued. When oil prices go back up, there may very well be a recession in the United States. If it happens in 2016, Hillary Clinton’s chances of winning the November election will be reduced dramatically.) [86321]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at 16,906—down 252 points. Trading in China is halted after its stock market plummets 7 percent. [86187]

Charles Woods, the father of Benghazi victim Tyrone Woods, challenges Hillary Clinton to dueling lie detector tests in response to her suggestion that he and the family members of other victims were lying when they said she had told them a YouTube video was to

blame for the planned terrorist attack. On One America News network Woods says, “I would love to sit down with Hillary Clinton, if she’d agree to do it as well, you know at the same table, by the same operator and have a lie detector test.” [86282]

On *Hannity*, Donald Trump, Jr. says of his father, “He’s sick of being on the sidelines watching a bunch of incompetents, in his mind. And in our world, in our business world, these people wouldn’t last five minutes in real companies and he’s sick of them making decisions that are costing our children, their children behind them, trillions of dollars and really giving up the great power we’ve built up over the last 200 years. ...In the end I think the things that he’s saying are things that need to be said. They’re conversations that need to be had. They’re conversations that haven’t been being had [sic]. Everyone knows about it. If you go to a diner in the middle of America, people are having these conversations but our politicians are too scared to bring it up because they’re worried about offending the .0002 percent of the country that may be somehow subject to whatever the conversation may be.” [86236]

On January 7 police in Paris shoot and kill a Muslim with a knife shouting “Allahu akbar.” (An explosive vest he was wearing turns out to be a fake.) The attacker is later identified as Walid Salihi. According to the *Daily Mail*, Salihi was arrested in 2014 in Cologne for sexually abusing women in a night club. ...A friend of Salihi was arrested after the Cologne mass attacks, where hundreds of women were sexually assaulted, leading to suspicion that he may have been part of the mob on New Year’s Eve before travelling to France, Bild newspaper reports.” (Salihi was one of several names the attacker used.) [86208, 86263, 86444, 86445, 86446]

The Telegraph reports, “Some of those involved in a series of sexual assaults against women in the German city of Cologne on New Year’s Eve claimed to be Syrian refugees, according to a leaked police report. The outbreak of violence was also far more serious than previously thought, and at one point senior police officers feared ‘there could have been fatalities.’ ...Ministers have said there is no evidence asylum seekers were involved in the violence. But the leaked police report, published in Bild newspaper and Spiegel, a news magazine, claims that one of those involved told officers: ‘I am Syrian. You have to treat me kindly. Mrs Merkel [German Chancellor Angela Merkel] invited me.’ Another tore up his residence permit before the eyes of police, and told them: ‘You can’t do anything to me, I can get a new one tomorrow.’” [86244, 86260, 86261, 86265, 86373, 86469]

TheBlaze.com later notes, “German investigators suspect the numerous New Year’s Eve sexual assaults were part of a Middle Eastern group sex-assault activity known as ‘taharrush,’ a German newspaper reported. ‘Such crimes are committed by groups of young men... mostly when there are large gatherings of people, such as demonstrations. They range from sexual harassment to rape,’ the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) told the German newspaper Die Welt, according to a translation by American Thinker. ...Taharrush involves groups of men at public gatherings who surround women, then sexually assault and rob them, all under the cloak of the large crowds. Forming a ring around the woman prevents her from escaping and allows the assailants anonymity,

reducing the likelihood they will be arrested. Britain's Daily Mail reported that the phenomenon is also called 'taharrush gamea,' which translates to 'collective harassment.'" [86641, 86642, 86653]

Sexual attacks and harassment by Muslims also took place on New Year's Eve in other German cities; in Helsinki, Finland; in Zurich, Switzerland; and in Austria. [86250, 86251]

Pamela Geller reports, "Germany's largest television station, ZDF, issued an apology Wednesday for not reporting on the New Year's Eve sexual assault scandal in the city of Cologne, where more than 100 women were victims of a 'civil war like' situation. ...Police have apparently been ordered to cover up extent of crimes, so as not to fuel 'right wing extremist debate'—in other words, so as not to aid those who refuse to submit to jihad and sharia." (The U.S. mainstream media has also been remarkably silent. As many as one thousand Muslims harassing and attacking women in Cologne, Germany on New Year's Eve is apparently not newsworthy. It certainly would have been widely reported had one thousand white men attacked black women on Chicago's south side.) Some cellphones stolen from the women in Cologne later turn up in a refugee center. [86252, 86262, 86314, 86315, 86345, 86346, 86349, 86350, 86357, 86827]

Meanwhile, the German police who seem unable to apprehend and arrest refuge thugs who are attacking German women seem more than happy to use pepper spray and water cannons against German patriots protesting against the infiltration of Muslim refugees. [86351, 86356, 86366, 86374]

Two Muslim refugees are arrested in Texas and California on terrorism-related charges. DallasNews.com reports, "According to the FBI's Houston office, Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan, 24, was charged with attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State, unlawfully attempting to gain U.S. citizenship and making false statements. ...The U.S. attorney's office said Aws Mohammed Younis Al-Jayab, 23, was arrested Thursday morning in Sacramento and accused of traveling to Syria to fight alongside terrorist organizations." (Al-Jayab says he wanted to go to Syria because he was "eager to see blood." Hardan, who wanted to bomb Houston's Galleria mall, had told his wife, "Once I get the passport I will leave America, I will leave. I will make a widow of you. I will go to Syria. I am not wacko. I am not wacko. I am speaking the truth. I want to blow myself up. I want to blow myself up... I am against America.") [86253, 86264, 86352, 86353, 86359, 86659, 86660, 86667]

FreeBeacon.com learns "of an additional 41 individuals who have been implicated in terrorist plots in the United States since 2014, bringing the total number of terrorists discovered since that time to 113, according to information provided by Congressional sources. Since August, however, the Obama administration has stonewalled Congressional efforts to obtain more detailed immigration histories of these individuals, prompting frustration on Capitol Hill and accusation that the administration is covering up these histories to avoid exposing flaws in the U.S. screening process. The disclosure of these additional 41 individuals linked to terror operations—many already identified as

immigrants, others' immigration histories shrouded in secrecy—has stoked further concerns about flaws in the U.S. screening process and is likely to prompt further congressional inquiry into Obama administration efforts to withhold details about these suspects, sources said.” [86316, 86317, 86393, 86513, 86514]

In Zilten, Libya, at least 65 people are killed by a bomb-filled truck that explodes at a police training center. TimesofMalta.com writes, “Since the NATO-backed revolt ousted [Muammar] Gaddafi, Libya has slipped deeper into turmoil with two rival governments and a range of armed factions locked in a struggle for control of the North African state and its oil wealth. In the chaos, Islamic State militants have grown in strength, taking over the city of Sirte and launching attacks on oilfields. Islamic State fighters this week attacked two major oil export terminals.” (“NATO-backed” means backed by Obama and then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who foolishly believed they could bring democracy to a Middle East that is largely incapable of dealing with it.) [86254, 86255, 86258, 86259]

In 2011 Gaddafi warned former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, “I want to tell you the truth. It is not a difficult situation at all. The story is simply this: an organisation has laid down sleeping cells in North Africa. Called the Al-Qaeda Organisation in North Africa... The sleeping cells in Libya are similar to dormant cells in America before 9/11. They have managed to get arms and terrify people. People can't leave their homes... It's a jihad situation. They have arms and are terrorizing people in the street. ...I will have to arm the people and get ready for a fight. Libyan people will die, damage will be on the Med[iterranean], Europe and the whole world. These armed groups are using the situation [in Libya] as a justification—and we shall fight them.” (Gaddafi was right; Obama and Hillary Clinton were wrong.) [86254, 86255, 86258, 86259]

WSJ.com reports, “An inert U.S. Hellfire [laser-guided, air-to-surface] missile sent to Europe (Spain) for training purposes was wrongly shipped from there to Cuba in 2014, a loss of sensitive military technology that ranks among the worst-known incidents of its kind. The unintended delivery of the missile to Cuba has confounded investigators and experts who work in a regulatory system designed to prevent precisely such equipment from falling into the wrong hands... Investigators are unclear if the incident was an error or the result of espionage. For more than a year, amid a historic thawing of relations between the U.S. and Cuba, American authorities have tried to get the Cuban government to return the missile.” (Reasonable people might ask why the Obama administration did not have enough sense to demand the return of the missile in exchange for its easing of various travel and trade restrictions on Cuba.) [86324, 86325, 86329, 86407]

Breitbart.com reports, “Tulip Siddiq—the Labour Party MP who is at the forefront of goading the British government into banning U.S. Presidential Candidate Donald Trump from the United Kingdom—is one of her party's members who helped the hard-left, anti-Israel Jeremy Corbyn become its leader. She also claims in a 2014 biography to have campaigned for U.S. President Barack Obama in 2008.” (A Muslim socialist who campaigned for Obama in 2008 is demanding that Trump not be allowed to enter Great Britain—because he dared to state that British police are reluctant to enter Muslim

neighborhoods. Although British Prime Minister David Cameron has criticized Trump for his remarks, some British police officers have confirmed that he is correct. Trump responds that he will cancel more than \$1 billion in Scottish golf course investments if he is banned.) [86209, 86225]

On KFY1550's *The Chris Merrill Show*, asked about Ted Cruz's natural born citizen status, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) says, "I know it came up in my race because I was born in Panama, but I was born in the Canal Zone which is a territory. Barry Goldwater was born in Arizona when it was a territory when he ran in 1964. ...I think there is a question [about Cruz]. I am not a Constitutional scholar on that, but I think it's worth looking into. I don't think it's illegitimate to look into it." [86231, 86237, 86297, 86354]

The cowardly McCain gave Obama a pass on the issue of natural born citizen status when he ran against him for president, yet expresses doubt about Cruz. The liberal Republican McCain is no fan of the conservative Republican Cruz, but McCain's comments would be more acceptable had he not ignored the issue in 2008. McCain, of course, had to ignore the issue in 2008 because, like Obama, McCain is not a natural born citizen. McCain is a U.S. citizen because he had two U.S. citizen parents, but he is not a natural born citizen because he was not born on U.S. soil. McCain claims he was born on the U.S. Navy base in Panama, but he was not; he was born in a hospital in Colon, Panama. That hospital was under Panama's flag, not the U.S. flag. [86297, 86354]

On Sean Hannity's radio program, Roger Stone, author of *The Clintons' War On Women*, says, "I identified 24 women who've been assaulted by Bill Clinton. Now, some of these women are still terrified. Some of them have had IRS audits. Some of them have had their families threatened. But others have come forward. ...We're talking about assaults. I don't want to get out ahead of myself but I think as [Juanita] Broaddrick, and [Kathleen] Willey, and [Paula] Jones speak out, other women are encouraged who have been assaulted, who have been threatened by Hillary [Clinton] are encouraged by the courage of those three women." [86334, 86335, 86583]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at 16,514, down 392 points.

Obama holds an "invitation only" town hall event at George Mason University, hosted by CNN and moderated by leftist Anderson Cooper. During the event Obama ridicules the National Rifle Association for not showing up to debate the issue—neglecting to mention that the NRA had been told it could ask Obama only one question and it had to be pre-cleared by his staff. (That is not an honest debate; it is tyranny.) Outside the town hall event, College Republicans hold a peaceful demonstration protesting Obama's new gun control rules. [86165, 86166, 86291]

Taya Kyle, widow of "American Sniper" Chris Kyle, manages to get an invitation to the event and is able to ask Obama a question. She points out that the criminals do not follow the laws anyway. She asks, "I'm wondering why it wouldn't be a better use of our time to give people hope in a different way" and states that while gun ownership is at an all-time

high, the gun murder rate has been declining. “Why not celebrate that we’re good people and 99.9 percent of us are never gonna [sic] kill anyone.” [86278, 86288]

Confronted by Kimberly Corban, a rape victim who wished she had been able to defend herself, Obama—whose knowledge of guns is close to zero—condescendingly “mansplains” the issue, saying, “What is also true is there’s always the possibility that that [a] firearm in a home leads to a tragic accident.” (Translation, “Women should not arm themselves against rapists because their gun might be misused,” and “Little ladies like you can’t be trusted with big man guns.”) Obama falsely claims, “There’s nothing that we’ve proposed that would make it harder for you to purchase a firearm.” (In fact, if Corban were to seek counseling to help her deal with the trauma of rape, her doctor might be obligated to report her as unstable.) [86280, 86295]

After telling Corban he is doing nothing that would make it more difficult for her to buy a gun, he tells Cleo Pendleton, whose daughter was killed in a shooting in Chicago, “What will at least be consistent across the country is that it’s a little bit harder to get a gun. Now, we can’t guarantee that criminals are not going to have ways of getting guns, but for example, it may be a little more difficult and a little more expensive, and the laws of supply and demand mean that if something is harder to get and a little more expensive to get, fewer people get them, and that in and of itself can make a difference.” (So, “It won’t be more difficult to buy a gun, except that it will be more difficult to buy a gun.” Such statements are the result of Obama speaking without a teleprompter.) [86295]

Obama makes the ludicrous claim, “There are neighborhoods around the country where it is easier for a 12- or 13-year-old to purchase a gun, and cheaper, than it is for them to get a book.” [86281]

Trump addresses a capacity crowd at an event in Burlington, Vermont; 20,000 people sought tickets to the 1,400-seat facility. (Senator Bernie Sanders was once the mayor of Burlington, which is probably why Trump chose to go there.) [86243, 86249, 86285]

While Obama is busy trying to persuade his town hall audience that guns are bad and they should be made more expensive to own, Trump tells his audience, “I will get rid of gun-free zones in schools—you have to—and on military bases on my first day. It gets signed. My first day—there’s [sic] no more gun free zones... “[Do] You know what a gun-free zone is to a sicko? That’s bait.” [86289]

On January 8 Obama vetoes legislation that would have repealed ObamaCare and ended federal funding of Planned Parenthood.

Obama releases al-Qaeda recruiter Faez Mohammed Ahmed al-Kandari from the detainee center in Guantanamo. Al-Kandari, who had been at GITMO for 14 years and reportedly was Osama bin Laden’s “spiritual advisor,” is being sent to his native Kuwait to be “rehabilitated.” [86378, 86414, 86443]

Philadelphia police officer Jessie Hartnett is ambushed in his vehicle and shot multiple times; he miraculously survives. According to Townhal.com, Hartnett “was able to return fire and hit the suspect, 30-year-old Edward Archer, who has [also] survived. Police are now confirming the situation as a terrorism investigation and have revealed the suspect admitted to carrying out the shooting in the name of Islam after pledging loyalty to ISIS. ‘He [the suspect] said he did it for his religious beliefs,’ police officials said Friday in a press conference. Officials also confirmed the gun used to carry out the ambush was stolen. The gun was reportedly stolen from a home, but it is still unclear how the suspect got the weapon. ‘This is a criminal, with a stolen gun, who tried to kill one of our officers,’ another official stated.” [86273, 86300, 86302, 86303, 86313]

Despite the gunman’s statement (“I follow Allah. I pledge my allegiance to the Islamic State and that’s why I did what I did”), and the fact that his mother confirms he is a devout Muslim who traveled to Saudi Arabia in 2011 and Egypt in 2012, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney tweets that the shooting “had nothing to do with any faith. It was a violent assault by a criminal. I urge all Philadelphians to stand together.” [86276, 86277, 86302, 86308, 86340, 86341, 86342, 86343, 86661]

Meanwhile, a study of 452 suicide attacks in 2015 shows that 450 were committed by Muslims, one was by a member of the Turkish underground and another was perpetrated by a woman in a Turkish leftist political group. [86371, 86548]

Secret Service officers arrest Scott D. Stockert, who claimed to be Jesus Christ and the son of John F. Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe, and who drove from North Dakota to Washington, D.C. with guns in the back of his pick-up truck with the intention of kidnapping Obama’s two dogs, Bo and Sunny. [86323]

Wolfgang Albers, head of the police department in Cologne, Germany, is forced to retire as a result of his inadequate response to the Muslim refugee thuggery on New Year’s Eve and a subsequent coverup. (Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer writes that Albers “is just the fall guy. He was probably trying to do [Chancellor Angela] Merkel a favor and cover up exactly how disastrous her refugee policies really are. She is the one who should resign, along with Cologne Mayor Henriette Reker and all the other German officials whose migrant policies have made this invasion possible.”) [86357, 86358]

VOANews.com reports, “New figures on the flow of foreign fighters to Syria and Iraq show the scope of the problem is much bigger than first thought, with would-be militants still finding their way to the battlefield. For the second time this week, intelligence officials have released updated estimates on the number of foreign fighters, now saying more than 36,500 from at least 120 countries have gone to take part in the fight since the start of the conflict. That figure includes at least 6,600 Westerners.” [86505, 86506]

Mexican authorities reportedly recapture Sinaloa drug cartel kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman. (How long it will be before he bribes the police to set him free again is impossible to estimate.) In October 2014 Guzman was interviewed by far-left, Hugo Chavez-admiring actor Sean Penn for *Rolling Stone*. According to DailyCaller.com,

“Hillary Clinton’s top State Department aides gushed over actor Sean Penn in an April 2012 email, State Department records show. ‘I am just so friggin proud of you,’ Clinton’s chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, wrote in an April 26, 2012 email seemingly sent to Penn’s account. The email address is redacted but is listed as ‘CIA.’ ‘Do we call you mr ambassador laureate now?’ Mills’ senior advisor, Caitlin Klevorick, wrote to Penn. ‘Heartfelt congrats. We couldn’t be prouder!’ she added. The pair heaped praise on the small-statured Penn, who had just been awarded the 2012 Peace Summit Award from former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for his work in Haiti following a disastrous 2010 earthquake.” [86275, 86418]

At WashingtonTimes.com L. Todd Wood writes, “Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly is planning payback for ...Obama’s dismissing Mr. Netanyahu’s objections to the Iran nuclear deal last year. Mr. Netanyahu is said to be rallying moderate Arabs to thwart Mr. Obama’s bid to become the Secretary-General of the United Nations after he leaves the White House next year. Mr. Obama has already discussed the issue with Republican, Democratic and Jewish officials in the United States, according to Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Jarida. Mr. Netanyahu recently is said to have gotten wind of Obama’s plans which he calls the Obama Project. ‘Wasn’t eight years of having Obama in office enough?’ Mr. Netanyahu is quoted in the Kuwaiti daily as telling associates. ‘Eight years during which he ignored Israel? And now he wants to be in a position that is liable to cause us hardships in the international arena.’ ‘Obama is the worst president Israel has had to deal with and the worst president for the Middle East and its allies, the moderate Arab states,’ the paper quotes a Netanyahu aide.” [86362, 86363, 86395]

In a story about Obama’s nuclear deal with Iran, *The Wall Street Journal* notes, “Iranian opposition leaders secretly reached out to the White House in the summer of 2009 to gauge Mr. Obama’s support for their ‘green revolution,’ which drew millions of people to protest the allegedly fraudulent re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The demonstrations caught the White House off guard, said current and former U.S. officials who worked on Iran in the Obama administration. Some U.S. officials pressed Mr. Obama to publicly back the fledgling Green Movement, arguing in Oval Office meetings that it marked the most important democratic opening since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Mr. Obama wasn’t convinced. ‘Let’s give it a few days,’ was the answer,” said a senior U.S. official present at some of the White House meetings. ‘It was made clear: ‘We should monitor, but do nothing.’” ...Mr. Obama and his advisers decided to maintain silence in the early days of the 2009 uprising. The Central Intelligence Agency was ordered away from any covert work to support the Green Movement either inside Iran or overseas, said current and former U.S. officials involved in the discussions.” [86391, 86392]

Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer writes, “The three pro-democracy revolts that Obama refused to support were arguably the only [uprisings] that were genuinely worthy of the pro-democracy label: the demonstrations against the Islamic regime in Iran in 2009, the anti-Muslim Brotherhood demonstrations in Egypt in winter 2013, and the pro-secularism demonstrations in Turkey in recent weeks. There is a common thread between these three

that distinguishes them from all the others: in Egypt in late 2012 and early 2013, as well as in Iran in 2009, the demonstrators were protesting against Islamic states; in Turkey, they were protesting against the Erdogan regime that is working hard now to establish an Islamic state. All the other demonstrations were not against pro-Sharia forces, but were led by pro-Sharia forces, and led to the establishment of Islamic states. To be sure, the Iranian demonstrators in 2009 contained many pro-Sharia elements that simply objected to the way the Islamic Republic was enforcing Sharia, but they also included many who wanted to reestablish the relatively secular society that prevailed under the last Shah. Whether the Sharia or the democratic forces would have won out in the end is a question that will never be answered—in no small part thanks to Barack Obama. In every case Barack Obama has been consistent: in response to the demonstrations and uprisings in the Islamic world, he has without exception acted in the service of Islamic supremacist, pro-Sharia regimes.” [86392]

Missing a court-ordered deadline by one week, the State Department releases an additional 1,262 Hillary Clinton emails in an overnight “document dump.” Clinton’s candidacy may—or at least should—be over, with the revelation that in one of her emails to deputy chief of staff Jake Sullivan she wrote:

“If they can’t, turn them into nonpaper w no identifying heading and send nonsecure.”

In other words, Clinton was telling a State Department subordinate who was having fax machine problems to *remove* the heading from a message and send the document via a *non-secure* method. That is a felony. How Clinton, her campaign, her lawyers, and the leftist media will attempt to spin the story remains to be seen. But in a rational world, she would be forced to withdraw from the presidential race and use her time to prepare her legal defense. (Removing the heading is a way to prevent a document or message from being captured in a Freedom of Information Act request. In addition, the heading would indicate whether the message is classified as confidential, secret, or top secret.) [86267, 86268, 86270, 86271, 86301, 86330, 86339, 86370]

Among the newly-released Clinton emails are 66 deemed classified. According to FoxNews.com, “All but one of the 66 messages have been labeled ‘confidential,’ the lowest level of classification. The remaining email has been labeled as ‘secret.’ The total number of classified emails found on Clinton’s personal server has risen to 1,340 with the latest release. Seven of those emails have been labeled ‘secret.’” (Clinton has claimed she never sent any emails marked “classified.” That is an attorney’s way of avoiding reality. The actual classifications are “confidential,” “secret,” and “top secret.” None would be labeled with the word “classified”—but that is irrelevant.) [86267, 86268, 86269]

HotAir.com notes 18 USC 793:

“ d) Whoever, lawfully having possession of, access to, control over, or being entrusted with any document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blueprint, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, or note relating to the

national defense, or information relating to the national defense which information the possessor has reason to believe could be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any foreign nation, willfully communicates, delivers, transmits or causes to be communicated, delivered, or transmitted or attempts to communicate, deliver, transmit or cause to be communicated, delivered or transmitted the same to any person not entitled to receive it, or willfully retains the same and fails to deliver it on demand to the officer or employee of the United States entitled to receive it; or

(e) Whoever having unauthorized possession of, access to, or control over any document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blueprint, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, or note relating to the national defense, or information relating to the national defense which information the possessor has reason to believe could be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any foreign nation, willfully communicates, delivers, transmits or causes to be communicated, delivered, or transmitted, or attempts to communicate, deliver, transmit or cause to be communicated, delivered, or transmitted the same to any person not entitled to receive it, or willfully retains the same and fails to deliver it to the officer or employee of the United States entitled to receive it; or

(f) Whoever, being entrusted with or having lawful possession or control of any document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blueprint, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, note, or information, relating to the national defense,

(1) through gross negligence permits the same to be removed from its proper place of custody or delivered to anyone in violation of his trust, or to be lost, stolen, abstracted, or destroyed, or

(2) having knowledge that the same has been illegally removed from its proper place of custody or delivered to anyone in violation of its trust, or lost, or stolen, abstracted, or destroyed, and fails to make prompt report of such loss, theft, abstraction, or destruction to his superior officer—

Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.”

If Sullivan followed Clinton’s order, both he and Clinton may be subject to fine and imprisonment. [86269]

Former federal prosecutor Joe DiGenova observes, “This is gigantic. She caused to be removed a classified marking and then had it transmitted in an unencrypted manner. That is a felony. The removal of the classified marking is a federal crime. It is the same thing to order someone to do it as if she had done it herself. ...This makes it impossible for the bureau [the FBI] not to recommend charges. This makes it impossible not to go forward, and it certainly ties the hand of the attorney general.” [86270, 86271]

The Weekly Standard’s Stephen Hayes tweets, “Former senior Intel official on new HRC [Hillary Rodham Clinton] email: ‘Bombshell.’” [86272]

Behind closed doors, the House Select Committee on Benghazi interviews former CIA director General David Petraeus. (He later describes the meeting as having been “very constructive.”) [86361]

At NYTimes.com victim-blaming Anna Sauerbrey comments on the New Year’s Eve attacks by Muslim refugees on women in Cologne: “The real question we should be asking is not whether there is something inherently wrong with the refugees, but whether Germany is doing an effective job of integrating them—and if not, whether something can be done to change that.” (Translation: “It’s not the fault of the Muslim refugee thugs, it’s the fault of Germany for not letting them know that robbery, rape, and molestation are wrong.”) [86328, 86355, 86410]

In a January 4-7 Fox News poll, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) leads Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire, 50-37 percent. (In the November poll Sanders led 45-44.) “Voters under age 45 pick him over Clinton by a 24-point margin (55-31 percent).” (Sanders offering a free college education, paid for by the taxpayers, explains his 55-31 lead over Clinton—but those young voters fail to comprehend that Congress would never pass such legislation, and the money to fund “free” college does not exist.) [86306, 86312]

Breitbart.com reports, “A document uncovered by Breitbart News indicates that the parents of Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) were named on a Calgary list of electors for Canada’s federal election of July 8, 1974. Ted Cruz’s parents are listed as ‘Cruz, Eleanor, Mrs.’ and ‘Cruz, Raphael, self employed,’ both at 920 Riverdale Avenue, South West in Calgary, Alberta. Canadian law restricts (and restricted) federal voting rights to Canadian citizens.” (*If Eleanor Cruz renounced her U.S. citizenship and became a Canadian citizen, the date is important. Ted Cruz was born in 1970. If his mother became a Canadian citizen before his birth, he was born in Canada to a Cuban father and a Canadian mother. Not only is he not a natural born citizen of the United States, he would not even be a U.S. citizen—unless he went through the naturalization process when the family emigrated to the United States. Cruz defenders promptly argue that the Canadian lists are “prone to errors.”*) In 2014 Cruz renounced his Canadian citizenship, which of course means he was acknowledged that he was a citizen of Canada. (It is absurd for anyone to argue that a Canadian citizen can be a natural born citizen of the United States. The point of the natural born citizen requirement is to prevent individuals with divided loyalties from serving as president.) [86304, 86305, 86310, 86354]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at 16,346, down 167, despite a report that the economy created 292,000 jobs in December. The unemployment rate remains unchanged at 5.0 percent. Average hourly wages fell \$0.01. The workforce participation rate is a dismal 62.6 percent, up from 62.5 percent in November. The unemployment rate of Asian-Americans is 4 percent; for blacks it is 8.3 percent; for Latinos it is 6.3 percent. [86284, 86290]

David Stockman, former director of the Office of Management and Budget, explains at Newsmax.com that only 11,000 jobs were created in December. The 292,000 figured reported by the government includes a “seasonal adjustment” of 281,000. “This is done

on the apparent truism that December is generally colder than November and that workers get holiday vacations. Of course, this December was much warmer, not colder, than average. And that's not the only deviation from normal seasonal trends. The Christmas selling season this year, for example, was absolutely not comparable to the ghosts of Christmas past. Bricks and mortar retail is in turmoil and in secular decline due to Amazon and its e-commerce ilk, and this trend is accelerating by the year." (There are other signs the global economy is slowing down. Cross-Atlantic shipping has reportedly slowed considerably. In 2015 railroad traffic fell to its lowest level in six years.) [86336, 86380, 86394, 86421, 86701]

Despite the poor economy, auto sales increased 9 percent in December, and a record 17.47 million new vehicles were sold in 2015. Sales were boosted by lower gasoline prices, warmer than usual weather, low interest rates, discounted prices, and absurd 72-month loans. [86447, 86448, 86452]

The *Chicago Tribune* reports, "One person was killed and two injured in a shooting Friday evening in the North Center neighborhood, about four blocks from Mayor Rahm Emanuel's home. The three were among 10 people wounded since Friday morning in Chicago, including five in one incident late Friday evening on the West Side."

According to a Fox News poll conducted January 4-7, Obama's approval/disapproval ratings are 42/53 percent. Only 28 percent describe the nation as "strong and confident; 71 percent say they do not. Democrat primary voters prefer Hillary Clinton to Bernie Sanders 54/39, but 38 percent "wish there were other options." On the GOP side, the percentage are: Trump, 35; Ted Cruz, 20; Marco Rubio, 13; Ben Carson, 10; Jeb Bush, 4; Carly Fiorina, 3; Chris Christie, 2; Rand Paul, 2; John Kasich, 2. In a general election match-up, Trump leads Clinton 47-44; Cruz leads Clinton 50-43; Rubio leads Clinton 50-41; and Bush ties Clinton 44-44. Since the prior Fox poll, Clinton's decline has mostly been among women voters. (Bringing out Bill Clinton to help her may have been a grave mistake. Younger voters are far less forgiving of sexual misconduct than the aging hippies who supported Clinton in the 1990s. To today's millennials, "no" certainly means "no." As they learn about Bill Clinton's history of abusing women, and the efforts to stamp out the many "bimbo eruptions," they are turning against his greatest enabler, Hillary Clinton—who PJMedia.com's Roger L. Simon calls "Our Lady of Chappaqua.") [86420, 86435, 86717]

On *PBS NewsHour*, *New York Times* faux-conservative columnist David Brooks remarks, "[Ted] Cruz is somehow beginning to get some momentum from Iowa and elsewhere, and so people are either mimicking him, which [Marco] Rubio is doing a little by adopting some of the dark and satanic tones that Cruz has..." Brooks argues that Cruz's speeches are "combative," "angry," and "apocalyptic." "It is an ugly world in Ted Cruz's world." *Mother Jones*' smug Washington Bureau Chief David Corn adds, "Well, actually, if you go to a speech from his [Cruz's] dad, who is a pastor, evangelical, Rafael Cruz, it actually is satanic. He—I watched a speech in which he said Satan was behind the Supreme Court decision to legalize gay marriage." [86409, 86530, 86563]

Donald Trump addresses a massive crowd at Winthrop University Coliseum in Rock Hill, South Carolina. (During the event, hijab-wearing Muslim activist Rose Hamid is ejected—after promising when she entered that she would not cause a disruption. Hamid is a columnist for the Charlotte Observer, who most certainly went to the event looking for an excuse to write an article condemning Trump and his supporters. She is the Shari’ah-supporting president of the Muslim Women of the Carolinas, opposes Israel, and supports Palestinian terrorism. Hamid was fired from her job as a US Airlines flight attendant for refusing to work without her head scarf—even though she had often worked without it. The incident prompts South Carolina State Representative John King—who has apparently never heard of the First Amendment—to draft a resolution calling for Trump to be banned from the state.) [86296, 86397, 86432, 86441, 86495]

Not only does Hamid wear a hijab to the event, Sunny Lohmann notes that she fastened to it an eight-pointed yellow star with the word “Muslim” written on it. The star is clearly meant to identify with the yellow, six-pointed Jewish star with the word “Jude” that Jews were forced to wear on their coats in Germany. (Hamid is probably too ignorant to know that the Jewish star has six points, not eight.) Hamid’s “point” is apparently that Muslims are being singled out and savagely discriminated against, as were the Jews in Germany. That is, of course, an absurd claim. There is almost no discrimination against Muslims in the United States; there are far more hate crimes against Jews than against Muslims. Further, it is Muslims in the Middle East who are killing Muslims—not German Christians. Every Jew in the world should be offended by Hamid’s action—especially when one considers that Muslims cooperated with Adolph Hitler. [86495]

Author Frederick William Dame points out to this *Timeline*, “The Jewish badge, or yellow Star of David badge was an Islamic policy designed to humiliate the Jews and make them easily recognizable in case there was a desired pogrom against them. Requiring Jews to wear special markings so that Jews could be distinguished from other non-Muslims (dhimmis) in Muslim-dominated countries was begun by Umayyad Caliph Umar II [682-720, ruled from 717] in the early 8th century. This requirement was continued and reinforced by Caliph Al-Mutawakkil [822-861, ruled from 847]. It remained in practice as a method of discrimination for centuries. Already in 807, the Abbassid Caliph Haroun al-Raschid [766-809, ruled from 786] gave the order that all Jews had to wear a yellow belt and a tall, cone-like hat.” [86604, 86605, 86606]

“A document dated in the year 1121 writes the following description of Jewish star decrees issued in Baghdad: ‘The Jews are to display ‘two yellow badges, one on the headgear and one on the neck. Furthermore, each Jew must hang round his neck a piece of lead with the word Dhimmi on it. He also has to wear a belt round his waist. The women have to wear one red and one black shoe and have a small bell on their necks or shoes.’” [86607, 86608, 86609]

On January 9 Obama recognizes National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day by playing golf with ESPN’s Tony “the Tea Party is like ISIS” Kornheiser and Michael Wilbon, and White House aide Joe Paulsen. [86327, 86365, 86367, 86368]

At Observer.com John R. Schindler suggests "...the biggest problem [for Hillary Clinton] may be in a just-released email that has gotten little attention here, but plenty on the other side of the world. An email to Hillary from a close Clinton confidant late on June 8, 2011 about Sudan turns out to have explosive material in it. This message includes a detailed intelligence report from Sid Blumenthal, Hillary's close friend, confidant, and factotum, who regularly supplied her with information from his private intelligence service. His usual source was Tyler Drumheller, a former CIA senior official and veteran spy-gadfly, who conveniently died just before EmailGate became a serious problem for Hillary's campaign. ...Remarkably, the report emailed to Hillary by 'sbwhoeop,' which was Mr. Blumenthal's email handle, explains how Sudan's government devised a clandestine plan, in coordination with two rebel generals, to secure control of oil reserves in the disputed region of Abyei. This is juicy, front-page stuff, straight out of an action movie, about a region of Africa that's of high interest to the American and many other governments, and the report is astonishingly detailed." [86339, 86470]

"...[T]his is generating a lot of talk in Sudan, where the media is asking about this shady affair—and how Sid Blumenthal, who's not exactly an old Africa hand, knew all about it. But the most interesting part is that the report describes a conversation 'in confidence' that happened on the evening of June 7, just one day before Mr. Blumenthal sent the report to Secretary Clinton. It beggars the imagination to think that Sid's private intelligence operation, which was just a handful of people, had operators who were well placed in Sudan, with top-level spy access, able to get this secret information, place it in a decently written assessment with proper espionage verbiage, and pass it all back to Washington, DC, inside 24 hours. That would be a feat even for the CIA, which has stations and officers all over Africa. ...I know what SIGINT reports look like, because I used to write them for the National Security Agency, America's biggest source of intelligence. SIGINT reports, which I've read thousands of, have a very distinct style and flavor to them and Blumenthal's write-up matches it, right down to the 'Source Comments,' which smack very much of NSA reporting and its 'house rules.'" [86339]

"No surprise, NSA is aflutter this weekend over this strange matter. One Agency official expressed to me 'at least 90 percent confidence' that Mr. Blumenthal's June 8 report was derived from NSA reports, and the Agency ought to be investigating the matter right now. There are many questions here. How did Sid Blumenthal, who had no position in the U.S. Government in 2011, and hasn't since Bill Clinton left the White House fifteen years ago, possibly get his hands on such highly classified NSA reporting? Why did he place it in an open, non-secure email to Hillary, who after all had plenty of legitimate access, as Secretary of State, to intelligence assessments from all our spy agencies? Moreover, how did the State Department think this was Unclassified and why did it release it to the public?" [86339]

NYTimes.com reports that former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg "commissioned a poll last month testing how he would fare against Mr. Trump and Mrs. Clinton, according to two sources close to Mr. Bloomberg." Townhall.com's Guy Benson later writes, "Would a third-party gambit from Bloomberg—a multi-billionaire who'd be able to self-fund and position himself as a 'sensible' third way alternative—actually

improve [Donald] Trump's chances of becoming president, if he's the GOP nominee? In that race, you'd have three uber-rich plutocrats [Bloomberg, Trump, and Hillary Clinton] from New York, only one of whom seems to command very much genuine blue collar appeal, only one of whom is running as (an alleged) social conservative, only one of whom is (currently) pro-guns, and only one of whom is channeling populist anxieties about immigration and national security. Bloomberg might end up being the vessel through which centrists and left-leaning voters register their distaste for Hillary's ethical foibles and serial dishonesty—without having to pull the lever for that awful Trump fellow, or offend their culturally liberal sensibilities. Plus, how many center-right voters would manifest their distaste for Trump by supporting [Bloomberg]... an Obama-endorsing, tax-hiking, nanny-stater, abortion fanatic and climate change warrior who's spent millions on behalf of gun control? I can certainly be convinced otherwise, but it's not my immediate conviction that Bloomberg would hurt Trump more than Hillary.” [86450, 86451, 86466, 86467, 86983]

Donald Trump addresses a rally in Clear Lake, Iowa. [86337]

On January 10, at about 2 a.m. in Calgary, Canada, a Muslim opens fire in the Ten X Nightclub. According to Global News, “Two of the club's bouncers are being credited for saving more people from being shot, as they put their lives on the line to tackle the gunman. ...At around 1:30 a.m., three men pulled up in front of the nightclub. Two waited in the car, while the other walked up to the front door and fired several shots inside, when one victim was shot, police said. ...One passenger in the vehicle tried to help the shooter and got away. The third person in the car was arrested [along with the gunman]. ...Mohamed Elmi, 31, and Mohamed Salad, 29, both of Calgary,” face charges. [86385, 86386, 86388, 86600]

The *Express* reports, “Would-be jihadis eager to carry out a Paris-style attack in the UK have been handed a chilling step-by-step guide by Islamic State (ISIS) thugs. The booklet, called Safety and Security Guidelines for Lone Wolf Mujahideen, offers a chilling insight into the levels of preparation expected of those wishing to cause carnage in Europe. The 58-page terror manual, which has burning western-style buildings on the front cover, gushes about the importance of surprise when launching an attack to cause maximum impact. ...The main thrust of the instruction booklet is the necessity to blend in with the western way of life and to avoid ‘looking like a Muslim’ so as to stay below the radar of the security services. ...Readers are urged to wear a Christian cross, splash on the aftershave, cut off beards and even shun prayer meetings and mosques to avoid detection. There is even advice about what jewelry to wear and on which hand to wear a watch.” [86389, 86390]

CBS' Mark Knoller tweets, “WH announces that a Syrian refugee to have a seat in the First Lady's Box for the State of the Union Address Tuesday night.” (It can be assumed he will have to relinquish any suicide vest before being allowed to enter the chamber.) Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) invites to the event Ahmed Shedeed, president of the Islamic Center of Jersey City. Shedeed is also treasurer of Egyptian Americans for Democracy and Human Rights—which supports the radical Muslim Brotherhood.

Dozens of other Muslims will attend the State of the Union address, invited by Democrat Congressmen. They include: Nezar Hamze, regional operations director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Florida and Sameena Usman, an official with CAIR's San Francisco chapter. [86364, 86384, 86413, 86460, 86507, 86508, 86512, 86516, 86517]

In response to Obama's announcement that he will leave an empty seat in the guest box for his January 12 State of the Union address "to honor the victims of gun violence," Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) tweets, "If I'm elected POTUS, there'll be an empty seat for the over 50 million unborn children killed since Roe [v. Wade]." [86369]

White House chief of staff Denis McDonough tells reporters, "We'll do audacious executive action over the course of the rest of the year, I'm confident of that. ...Process is your friend, but process also dictates what you can do, and we do want to make sure that the executive actions we undertake are not left hanging out there, subject to Congress undoing them." (Translation: "Congress won't give Obama what he wants; Obama will issue executive orders to get around Congress; and we will do our best to engineer such actions so that they cannot be reversed by the next administration.") [86531, 86532, 86568]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Almost 50 percent of all California driver's licenses issued in 2015 went to illegal immigrants, according to recent state reports, wrapping up the first year of a state-wide program designed to provide Department of Motor Vehicle services to those without citizenship. In total, California issued 605,000 driver's licenses to illegals a year after the program started Jan 2, 2015, which is far more than the anticipated number, the Orange County Register reports. The program is expected to cost the state \$141 million over a period of three years. There have been 830,000 applications from illegals, based on numbers from Dec. 31, 2015." [86416]

On *Face the Nation*, Hillary Clinton dodges a question about the controversial email in which she ordered staffer Jake Sullivan to send an apparently classified message via a non-secure method. She says, "...That's just not the way I treated classified information. ...There's nothing to that, like so much else that, uh, has been talked about in the last year. ...It's another effort by, uh, people looking for something to, uh, throw against the wall... to see what sticks. But there's no there there." [86398, 86415]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Bob Woodward comments on the issue: "Well, here you have the Secretary of State in 2011 saying let's subvert the rules... Whether that's, uh, some sort of crime I think is not the issue. The issue is it shows she kind of feels immune, and she lives in a bubble, and no one's gonna [sic] ever find this out. Well, now we have." [86398, 86411]

Also on *Fox News Sunday*, White House chief of staff Denis McDonough insists Obama will close the terrorist detainee facility even if Congress continues to oppose the action. Host Chris Wallace challenges McDonough on Obama's abuse of executive orders, quoting the U.S. Constitution: "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a

Congress of the United States...” Not surprisingly, McDonough dodges the issue. [86434]

On Fox and on ABC’s *This Week*, McDonough says, “We are seeing an epidemic of heroin and opioid abuse in this country. So, we’re going to stay on top of this, with our Mexican counterparts, until we get that back in the box.” (He does not explain how that will be done or why Obama did not do it during his first seven years in office.) [86422, 86423]

Laurence Tribe, a Harvard Law School professor who taught both Obama and Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), tells *The Guardian*, “Despite ...Cruz’s repeated statements that the legal/constitutional issues around whether he’s a natural-born citizen are clear and settled, the truth is that they’re murky and unsettled. ...The kind of judge Cruz says he admires and would appoint to the supreme court—an ‘originalist’ who claims to be bound by the historical meaning of the constitution’s terms at the time of their adoption—Cruz wouldn’t be eligible because the legal principles that prevailed in the 1780s and [17]90s required that someone be born on US soil to be a ‘natural born’ citizen. Even having two US parents wouldn’t suffice for a genuine originalist. And having just an American mother, as Cruz did, would clearly have been insufficient at a time that made patrilineal descent decisive. ...On the other hand, to the kind of judge that I admire and Cruz abhors—a ‘living constitutionalist’ who believes that the constitution’s meaning evolves with the needs of the time—Cruz would ironically be eligible because it no longer makes sense to be bound by so narrow and strict a definition. There is no single, settled answer. And our supreme court has never addressed the issue.” (Luckily for Tribe, Elena Kagan was head of Harvard Law School when he was caught—along with Charles Ogletree—plagiarizing for several of his books. Kagan not only did not fire them, she imposed no penalties whatsoever.) [86419, 86498, 86684]

In the *Los Angeles Times*, Fordham Law School’s Thomas Lee writes, “People looking to the Supreme Court to settle the [natural born citizen] debate once and for all are likely to be disappointed. The federal courts have repeatedly refused to allow voters to bring lawsuits disqualifying presidential candidates on the basis of the ‘natural born Citizen’ clause because voters don’t have the proper ‘standing’—their alleged injury is too generalized to justify a court order of relief. But voters do have recourse: The ballot box may be the final arbiter of the constitutional meaning of the clause. In other words, if you are an originalist, vote against [Ted] Cruz because he is ineligible to be president. It’s a neat irony: The most conservative constitutional interpreters must find Cruz ineligible to be president; liberals must grin and bear him. Cruz himself purports to embrace originalism as the correct view of the Constitution. To be faithful to his understanding of what the Constitution means, the senator may have to disqualify himself.” (Of course, Cruz will not do that—because he is a politician before he is a patriot.) [86438, 86439, 86440, 86684]

On *Aaron Klein Investigative Radio*, Kathleen Willey, one of Bill Clinton’s molestation victims, says, “I would just like to encourage any woman who has suffered at the hands of Bill Clinton to please try to find the courage and bravery to come forth. Because it’s

okay now. Nobody can hurt you now. It's as simple as that. Nobody can touch you now. The word is out. You will be okay but you will be doing the right thing for all the right reasons and you will be helping your fellow sisters." Willey suggests that Donald Trump should ask Hillary Clinton, "Mrs. Clinton, is it okay with you that your husband flies around in private jets with a convicted pedophile [Jeffrey Epstein] to a private island called 'Orgy Island' and be entertained by underage girls? The real word for that is pedophilia and human trafficking. Is that okay with you?" [86372, 86379]

Willey explains, "My mission here is to educate. What I would like to be able to do is talk to college students who don't know about what happened. Explain it to them. And make them understand what exactly happened back then. And then let them know all of the horrible, horrific, terrorizing details of what his wife did to his victims. That's the story here. That's the story... Instead of using that whole thing and feeling betrayed by it, she used it all as a political opportunity. You try to explain to people the consequences of what happens to these women when Hillary Clinton goes on the attack. It's another woman who claims to be a woman's advocate attacking these women. I mean, this woman absolutely terrified me. And I don't get afraid easily. I'm pretty independent." [86372]

Willey provides examples of how she was intimidated by the Clinton machine: "My wonderful German Shepherd—big girl, never left my side. [She] Disappeared into clear air for three days. I mean, I was absolutely panicked trying to find her... and three days later she just reappears... I came home and found a beautiful, one-year old healthy cat dead on the deck of my house, and the only way to get to my deck of my house is through my house. It has no access to the yard. ...I found a man in the middle of the night at the door of my walkout basement. I opened my car door, my tires were all slashed. Somebody found the car, found me, and flattened three tires with a nail gun. I opened up my car door one day and there was an unidentified, strange cell phone sitting right in the driver's seat." [86372]

Willey states, "I would like to challenge Hillary Clinton to take a lie detector test. And I would also like to challenge her to stand before her daughter and her granddaughter and explain why she will or will not take a lie detector test. And I would also like to add that I took one. And I volunteered to take one. I drove to Washington and it was administered by the top polygraph expert in the country at the FBI Headquarters and I passed it." (Willey, a lifelong Democrat, supports Donald Trump.) [86372, 87502]

The nation's number one abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, formally endorses Hillary Clinton for president. Clinton says, "First of all, I will always defend Planned Parenthood. And I will say, consistently and proudly, Planned Parenthood should be funded, supported, and celebrated—not undermined, misrepresented, and demonized. I believe we need to protect access to safe and legal abortion, not just in principle, but in practice. Any right that requires you to take extraordinary measures to access it is no right at all—and not as long as we have laws on the books like the Hyde Amendment making it harder for low-income women to exercise their full rights." (Clinton most certainly does not feel the same way about Second Amendment rights.) "I shudder to think about

what the Republicans would do, if given the chance,” Clinton said. “We know any Republican president will accelerate the assault on access to safe and legal abortion. And think about this: The next president could easily appoint more than one justice to the Supreme Court.” [86426, 86473]

At DCClothesline.com retired Colonel Lawrence Sellin, Ph.D., writes, “Those who equate ‘citizen’ with ‘natural born citizen’ often misinterpret Constitutional law and statute law, the latter meaning that Congress may pass laws only defining the manner in which one becomes a citizen, either citizen by birth or a naturalized citizen, not the Constitutional concept of natural born citizenship. ...That there is a difference between ‘citizen’ and ‘natural born citizen’ has been clear since the writing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787 and its ratification on June 21, 1788. A first draft of what would become Article II, Section 1, Clause 5, submitted by Alexander Hamilton to the Constitutional Convention on June 18, 1787 stated: ‘No person shall be eligible to the office of President of the United States unless he be now a Citizen of one of the States, or hereafter be born a Citizen of the United States.’ Fearing foreign influence on the President and Commander in Chief of the American military, the future first U.S. Supreme Court Justice, John Jay, on July 25, 1787, asked the convention presiding officer George Washington to strengthen the requirements for the Presidency: ‘Permit me to hint, whether it would be wise and seasonable to provide a strong check to the admission of Foreigners into the administration of our national Government; and to declare expressly that the Command in Chief of the American army shall not be given to nor devolve on, any but a natural born Citizen.’” [85131, 86375]

“...As understood by the Founders and as applied to the U.S. Constitution, the term ‘natural born citizen’ derived its meaning less from English Common Law, than from [Emerich] Vattel’s ‘The Law of Nations.’ They knew from reading Vattel that a ‘natural born citizen’ had a different standard from just ‘citizen,’ for he or she was a child born in the country to two citizen parents (Vattel, Section 212 in original French and English translation). That is the definition of a ‘natural born citizen,’ as recognized by numerous U.S. Supreme Court and lower court decisions (*The Venus*, 12U.S. 253(1814), *Shanks v. Dupont*, 28 U.S. 242 (1830), *Scott v. Sandford*, 60 U.S. 393 (1856), *Minor v. Happersett*, 88 U.S. 162 (1875), *Ex parte Reynolds*, 20 F. Cas. 582 (C.C.W.D. Ark 1879), *United States v. Ward*, 42 F. 320 (1890); *Wong Kim Ark*, 169 U.S. 649 (1898), *Ludlam, Excutrix, & c., v. Ludlam*, 26 N.Y. 356 (1863) and more) and the framers of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, the 14th Amendment, the Naturalization Act of 1795, 1798, 1802, 1885, and our modern 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1401.” [86375]

The Venus, 12 U.S. 8 Cranch 253 253 (1814)

“The citizens are the members of the civil society; bound to this society by certain duties, and subject to its authority, they equally participate in its advantages. The natives or indigenes are those born in the country of parents who are citizens. Society not being able to subsist and to perpetuate itself but by the children of the citizens, those children naturally follow the condition of their fathers, and succeed to all their rights.” [86375, 86582]

Dred Scott v. Sandford, 60 U.S. 393 (1857)

“The citizens are the members of the civil society; bound to this society by certain duties, and subject to its authority, they equally participate in its advantages. The natives, or natural-born citizens, are those born in the country, of parents who are citizens. As society cannot perpetuate itself otherwise than by the children of the citizens, those children naturally follow the condition of their parents, and succeed to all their rights. ...[T]o be of the country, it is necessary to be born of a person who is a citizen; for if he be born there of a foreigner, it will be only the place of his birth, and not his country...” [86375, 86582]

In 1862 John Bingham, father of the 14th Amendment, stated on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, “All from other lands, who by the terms of [congressional] laws and a compliance with their provisions become naturalized, are adopted citizens of the United States; all other persons born within the Republic, of parents owing allegiance to no other sovereignty, are natural born citizens.” In 1866 Bingham also stated on the House floor: “Every human being born within the jurisdiction of the United States of parents not owing allegiance to any foreign sovereignty is, in the language of your Constitution itself, a natural born citizen.” [86375, 86427]

Minor v. Happersett, 88 U.S. 162 (1875)

“The Constitution does not in words say who shall be natural-born citizens. Resort must be had elsewhere to ascertain that. At common law, with the nomenclature of which the framers of the Constitution were familiar, it was never doubted that all children born in a country of parents who were its citizens became themselves, upon their birth, citizens also. These were natives or natural-born citizens, as distinguished from aliens or foreigners. Some authorities go further and include as citizens children born within the jurisdiction without reference to the citizenship of their parents. As to this class there have been doubts, but never as to the first.” [86375, 86582]

United States v. Wong Kim Ark, 169 U.S. 649 (1898)

“At common law, with the nomenclature of which the framers of the Constitution were familiar, it was never doubted that all children, born in a country of parents who were its citizens, became themselves, upon their birth, citizens also. These were natives, or natural-born citizens, as distinguished from aliens or foreigners.” [86375, 86582]

Sellin notes, “As recently as September 2008, in a Michigan Law Review article entitled ‘Originalism and the Natural Born Citizen Clause,’ Lawrence B. Solum, then John E. Cribbet Professor of Law at the University of Illinois College of Law, wrote: ‘What was the original public meaning of the phrase that establishes the eligibility for the office of President of the United States? There is general agreement on the core of its meaning. Anyone born on American soil whose parents are citizens of the United States is a natural born citizen.’ Citizen parents, plural.” [86375]

ABCNews.com reports, “A woman stopped a Philadelphia police officer on the street Saturday night [January 9] to warn police about other allegedly radicalized men like the gunman accused of shooting a Philadelphia cop several days ago, according to an

incident report. ...[T]he woman, listed as anonymous, said that the threat to police is not over. She said [gunman Edward] Archer is part of a group consisting of three others and that he is not the most radical of the four. The report said the three other men frequent the area where the shooting took place and that officers should be careful there.” [86376, 86377, 86382, 86383]

In an interview with Breitbart.com, 91-year-old conservative icon Phyllis Schlafly says Donald Trump “is the only hope to defeat the Kingmakers. Because everybody else will fall in line. The Kingmakers have so much money behind them. ...The Kingmakers have picked our last bunch of losers. And there’s one loser after another because they were more interested in maintaining their flow of money from the big donors and their cooperation with the Democrats—their bipartisanship—and that’s not my goal. I’m for America and America first.” Schlafly calls immigration the “most pressing issue facing the country today. ...And that’s why Trump is doing so well. People recognize that is the biggest thing. In the first place, it’s just about destroying our schools. All of these kids, who can’t read in any language, are coming in and expecting to be taught by our English-speaking teachers. And it’s not going to work. And yet we have to babysit them all day.” [86381, 87025]

“If we don’t stop immigration—this torrent of immigrants coming in—we’re not going to be America anymore because most of the people coming in have no experience with limited government. They don’t know what that is. They look to the government to solve all of their problems, and as soon as we have a high majority of people who think that, it’s going to be a different country. We have thousands of young people, who are first time entry into the job market and they need a job—they need an entry-level job—and they are frozen out by these immigrants coming in. And there’s nothing un-American about saying, ‘No.’ We said no to everybody [during the mid-20th century]... we paused in taking anybody in and we had every right to do that. That’s one of the indicia of a sovereign power. ...I think we ought to have a total pause until we catch up—and, in indelicate words, as Trump said, ‘until we know what the hell we’re doing.’” [86381, 87025]

“...Except for the obvious financial interests of the big corporations who want the cheap labor, I can’t think of any other reason that [loose immigration policy] even makes any sense. Because it is ruining our country... and the Democratic Party all thinks they’re [the immigrants are] going to be Democratic votes. And they’re breaking our bank by bringing them in because they all immediately go on U.S. welfare. And it’s not just welfare—it’s all the associated things. The children go in our schools, and we’ve had to hire all of teachers who speak foreign languages to teach these foreign children—there’s no reason why we should do that at all. And these commentators who talk about the Constitutional rights of the immigrants—they don’t have any Constitutional rights. They’re not entitled to any U.S. Constitutional rights unless they’re residents in this country, and they’re not.” [86381, 87025]

At AmericanThinker.com Karin McQuillan writes, “Among the lies about himself Obama consistently repeats is that he was a constitutional law professor. Lie one: Obama

was never a professor; he was a lecturer. He did not have the qualifications to be a professor. Obama never published a single law paper. He was hired by the University of Chicago when they learned he had been given a book contract on race and law directly after graduating from Harvard. There was no book—just the contract, which he later reneged on. This is not the normal level of accomplishment for a University of Chicago professor or even lecturer. Obama was not capable of writing, and eventually, after failing to deliver, he changed it to a memoir, which he also struggled with. Finally, he asked Bill Ayers to write his memoir for him, using tapes that Michelle dropped off...” [86387]

“Lie two: Obama did not specialize in the Constitution. Obama cared about and taught only one subject: race. One course was about race in the Constitution. It is on this flimsy basis that he attempts to pawn himself off as a constitutional scholar. ...Lie three: Obama calls himself a constitutional law prof to imply that he loves the Constitution. Obama gives the lie to this himself. He is on record—literally, a radio interview done when he was a lecturer—slamming the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the Constitution because they never tried to invent a right to ‘redistribute wealth’—a failing he describes as a ‘tragedy of the civil rights movement.’ Obama laments the constraints on government power (what we would call liberty) imposed by our Constitution. Obama himself contrasts following the Constitution with being a community organizer, creating ‘coalitions of power,’ which could ‘redistribute wealth’ and create ‘economic justice.’” [86387]

As noted in Volume 1 of this *Timeline*, the syllabus for a class Obama taught in the spring of 1994, “Current Issues in Racism and the Law,” covered the topics, “Discussion of Reconstruction and Jim Crow,” “Discussion of Black Response,” and “Discussion of Civil Rights/Backlash.” Student discussion topics suggested by Obama included, “The All-Black, All-Male School,” “Interracial Adoptions,” “Racial Gerrymandering,” “Race and the Criminal Justice System,” “Racial Bias in the Media,” “Welfare Policy and Reproductive Freedom,” “Affirmative Action,” and “Reparations.” For the slavery reparations discussion, Obama posed such sample questions as, “Do such proposals have any realistic chance of working their way through the political system?” and “Would there be any legal impediments to such a broadly-conceived reparations policy?” Required reading assigned by Obama included works by Derrick Bell, his critical race theory professor at Harvard. If most of the classes taught by Obama were in a similar vein (another of his classes was called “Race, Racism, and the Law”), he should be considered a former teacher of race and the law, rather than a professor of constitutional law. His choice of subject matter suggests that the issue of race affects every aspect of his life. [2620, 2621, 2622, 2623]

In Hollywood, armed guards and security dogs protect the (mostly) anti-gun attendees at the annual Golden Globes Awards. Introducing two Latino actresses, host Rick Gervais says, “Eva Longoria and America Ferrera aren’t just beautiful, talented actresses. They’re also two people who your future president, Donald Trump, can’t wait to deport.” [86406, 86408, 86412, 86417, 86742, 86743]

On January 11 Fox News' Catherine Herridge and Pamela Browne report, "The FBI investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of private email as secretary of state has expanded to look at whether the possible 'intersection' of Clinton Foundation work and State Department business may have violated public corruption laws, three intelligence sources not authorized to speak on the record told Fox News. This new investigative track is in addition to the focus on classified material found on Clinton's personal server. 'The agents are investigating the possible intersection of Clinton Foundation donations, the dispensation of State Department contracts and whether regular processes were followed,' one source said. The development follows press reports over the past year about the potential overlap of State Department and Clinton Foundation work, and questions over whether donors benefited from their contacts inside the administration." [86400, 86401, 86405, 86436, 86437, 86468]

"...Inside the FBI, pressure is growing to pursue the case. One intelligence source told Fox News that FBI agents would be 'screaming' if a prosecution is not pursued because 'many previous public corruption cases have been made and successfully prosecuted with much less evidence than what is emerging in this investigation.' ...Fox News is told that about 100 special agents assigned to the investigations also were asked to sign non-disclosure agreements, with as many as 50 additional agents on 'temporary duty assignment,' or TDY. The request to sign a new NDA could reflect that agents are handling the highly classified material in the emails, or serve as a reminder not to leak about the case, or both. 'The pressure on the lead agents is brutal,' a second source said. 'Think of it like a military operation, you might need tanks called in along with infantry.'" [86400, 86401, 86405, 86436, 86437, 86468]

Clinton claims the Fox report is false, "unsourced," and "irresponsible." (She does not explain how she would know what is happening within the FBI.) Herridge tells *The Kelly File's* Megyn Kelly she has three independent sources. Judge Andrew Napolitano tells Kelly, "I have a source that says the FBI has a 'treasure trove' of financial documents showing financial improprieties as well as a pattern of decisions by Mrs. Clinton as Secretary of State and favorable treatment for the people for whom she made those decisions and [who] then [made] contributions to the Clinton Foundation." [86433, 86598]

Adam Kredo reports at FreeBeacon.com, "Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton considered a secret plan created by her then-advisers to foment unrest among Palestinian citizens and spark protests in order to push the Israeli government back to the negotiating table, according to emails released as part of the investigation into the Democratic presidential frontrunner's private email server. In a Dec. 18, 2011, email, former U.S. ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering suggested that Clinton consider a plan to restart then-stalled peace negotiations by kickstarting Palestinian demonstrations against Israel. ...Pickering noted that the administration must keep its role in the demonstration a secret, so as not to aggravate ties with Israel." (It is worth noting that Clinton's pal Pickering headed up a State-Department-sponsored investigation of the Benghazi attack—an investigation which did not even bother to include an interview of Clinton and conveniently determined she had done nothing wrong.) [86402, 86403, 86589, 86640]

“...As relations with Israel remained tense, another Clinton confidant, Anne Marie Slaughter, sent a staff-wide email to Clinton staffers recommending that they undertake a ‘Pledge for Palestine’ campaign aimed at convincing U.S. millionaires and billionaires to donate significant portions of their wealth to the Palestinian cause. The effort, Slaughter wrote in the September 2010 email, could help shame Israel. ...Slaughter, who described the effort as a ‘crazy idea,’ suggested tapping the ‘Clinton fundraising network’ in order to raise the money needed. ‘With even 30 calls to the right people in the Clinton fundraising network it should be possible to generate a substantial enough amount quickly enough to capture the public imagination,’ she wrote in the email, which was sent to top Clinton staffers, including Cheryl Mills and Huma Abedin.” (Pickering and Slaughter were encouraging secret actions in opposition to Israel—while Obama and Clinton were insisting they were great friends of the Jewish state. Clinton is no friend of Israel—although, for political purposes, she certainly pretends to be.) [86402, 86403, 86515, 86640]

MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell complains that the Benghazi movie *13 Hours*, which opens January 15, “could give wider circulation to conspiracy theories, despite denials, that CIA operatives were told to stand down and not rescue four Americans, including an ambassador, who died in that assault. How could it affect Hillary Clinton's campaign? ...[H]ow does Clinton-world deal with it?” [86459, 86569, 86612]

In an interview with MSNBC’s Chris Hayes, Hillary Clinton says that if elected she will try to increase tax revenue by going after various tax shelters: “We’re now in a position, I think, where we can go after some of these schemes that you did read about, the kind of misclassifying of income, trying to make it look like it’s a capital gain, when it’s really ordinary income, going ahead and routing income through the Bahamas or the Cayman Islands or wherever.” [86487]

DailyCaller.com notes, “Before Hillary Clinton was appointed secretary of state and while she was still in the U.S. Senate, Bill Clinton was a partner in an investment fund, Yucaipa Global Partnership, which is registered in the Cayman Islands, a British Overseas Territory located in the Caribbean Sea which is a popular tax haven for the wealthy. As a partner to the firm between 2002 and 2007, Clinton was paid an estimated \$10 million, according to a Washington Post article from 2008. He was also rumored to been in negotiations with Burkle for a \$20 million payout when he separated for [sic; from] the firm in 2008, the Wall Street Journal has reported. ...The former president earned money from Cayman interests in other ways. As Clinton financial records show, Bill Clinton was also paid \$225,000 by a company called Whisky Productions to speak at a March 28, 2011 ‘event that will target the business community in Grand Cayman.’ ...Marc Mezvinsky, the Clintons’ former Goldman Sachs banker son-in-law, is a partner at Eaglevale Partners, a hedge fund with entities incorporated in the Cayman Islands. The investment company operates Eaglevale Partners Offshore Fund, Ltd. and the Eaglevale Hellenic Opportunity Offshore Fund Ltd., which are both incorporated in the offshore tax haven.” [86487]

The Obama administration releases terrorist Muhammad Abd Al Rahman Awn Al-Shamrani from Guantanamo, to be returned to his native Saudi Arabia. Breitbart.com reports, “U.S. officials determined [Al-Shamrani] be a ‘high risk’ for recidivism, warning he would likely re-engage against the West should he be released from the detention facility. He also allegedly told guards at the facility that he would ‘kill Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan if released,’ according to his leaked confidential file.” (Obama ordered him released anyway. Another 10 detainees are expected to be released on January 14.) [86442, 86443, 86579, 86610, 86688]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest, commenting on the ambush of a police officer in Philadelphia on January 8, tells reporters more gun control laws are needed to keep guns out of the hands of such people. (The weapon used had been stolen from a police officer. Whether Earnest is suggesting that police officers not be allowed to have guns is not clear.) Earnest refuses to label the shooting terrorism: “This is something that is still being investigated by the Philadelphia Police Department, and they have not concluded that it actually is an act of terrorism, but given some of the circumstances of the event, obviously, that is something that we’re all wondering right now.” (Earnest is one of the few people wondering. The attacker said he had pledged allegiance to ISIS, acted in the name of Islam, and that the police were targets because they enforce laws that are not compliant with Islamic Shari’ah law.) [86404, 86474]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) files a motion to dismiss an action challenging his eligibility to run for president because he is not a natural born citizen. (Rubio was born in Florida in 1971. At that time his parents were still citizens of Cuba. Although they emigrated to the United States in 1956, before Fidel Castro came to power, Rubio has falsely claimed they fled his regime.) [86586, 86587, 86588, 86663]

Popular Iowa Governor Terry Branstad says it is “fair game” to question whether Ted Cruz is eligible to serve as president: “When you run for president of the United States, any question is fair game. So let the people decide.” [86799, 86800]

In a Quinipiac poll in Iowa, Donald Trump leads Ted Cruz 31-29 percent. Marco Rubio has 15; Ben Carson, 7; Chris Christie, 4. In a New Hampshire poll, Trump leads with 32 percent; Ted Cruz has 14; John Kasich, 14; Marco Rubio, 12; Chris Christie, 8; Carly Fiorina, 5; Jeb Bush, 4; Rand Paul, 4; Ben Carson, 3; Mike Huckabee, 1. Trump also leads Cruz in both Iowa and New Hampshire in an American Research Group poll and an NBC/Marist poll. [86424, 86425, 86449]

According to a Gallup poll, only 29 percent of Americans call themselves Democrats—the lowest percentage it has ever recorded. Twenty-six percent label themselves Republicans, and 42 percent claim to be independents. If independents are asked whether they lean Democrat or Republican, the Democrats have a slight advantage, 45-42. (In “hope and change” 2008, the Democrats had a 52-40 lead.) [86454, 86455]

The *Chicago Tribune* reports, “Seven people were shot to death and 30 more were wounded across Chicago over the weekend, raising the number of shootings in the city to

more than 100 in just over a week into the new year, according to police.” (Obama has no comment.) [86458]

At TakiMag.com Jim Goad writes, “When it comes to sexual equity in the workplace, the biggest ‘gender gap’ of all is the fact that men suffer around 92% of all job-related fatalities. According to Bureau of Labor statistics from 1992-2014, women laborers accounted for 43% of total hours worked, yet they suffered a scant 8% of workplace fatalities. In what world could this possibly be considered respectful of women’s endless quest for equality? We still hear about the ‘wage gap’ almost daily, and even though it’s a myth, we should still marshal our resources to rectify this imaginary injustice. Yet no one is willing to stand tall and address the fact that selfish men are robbing female workers of the right to die on the job at a ridiculously unfair rate of almost thirteen to one.” [86430]

“...Women have been making strides toward equality in every aspect of the American workplace except for the jobs that actually kill you. The ladies simply aren’t dying on the job nearly as frequently as men do, and this savage inequity needs to be addressed. It behooves us as radical egalitarians to remove all the barriers that prevent women from performing deadly work. ...The ‘glass coffin’ is a term coined by graphic designer Kevin Slaughter to describe the fact that women haven’t quite “broken through” toward equality when it comes to working jobs that can kill you. Sure, we often hear about the impermeable ‘glass ceiling’ that prevents women from becoming CEOs and billionaires and Supreme Court justices and running for president, but our male-dominated society turns a deaf ear to women’s righteous quest for equality when it comes to sharing the right to suffocate under a ten-ton tsunami of human waste while working in a sewer because that’s supposedly a ‘man’s’ job.” [86430]

DailySignal.com reports, “Indiana may crack down soon on employers who hire illegal immigrants, under a new bill that would prohibit those convicted of doing so from practicing business in the state. The legislation, announced in the Indiana General Assembly last week, would enable judges to revoke business licenses from employers who repeatedly and ‘knowingly’ hire illegal immigrants. State Sen. Mike Delph, R-Carmel, told IndyStar that he introduced the bill to strip financial incentives from employers ‘who profit off of illegal immigration.’ ...At least three states—Alabama, Arizona, and Missouri—already have laws in place that strip business licenses from employers who hire illegal immigrants. ...Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow at The Heritage Foundation, said the constitutionality of revoking business licenses from employers who hire illegal immigrants was settled in 2011.” [86461]

Politico.com reports, “The State Department has agreed to process for public release an archive of 29,000 pages of emails longtime Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin sent or received on a private account while working as deputy chief of staff to Clinton from 2009 to 2013. ...At a court hearing in September, a Justice Department attorney said State had no plans to process for release all of the emails submitted by Abedin and other top aides such as Chief of Staff Cheryl Mills and Director of Policy Planning Jake Sullivan. However, a legal filing Monday in a lawsuit brought by the conservative group Judicial Watch indicated State has acceded to a request to process all the emails Abedin turned

over, except for news articles and summaries. ...The agency has agreed to begin turning Abedin's personal-account emails over to Judicial Watch in March at a rate of at least 400 pages a month, with releases complete by April 2017. U.S. District Court Judge Beryl Howell adopted the proposed schedule as an order later Monday." [86431, 86456]

In Iowa, Hillary Clinton says, "I have come out against the [illegal immigrant deportation] raids. I do not think the raids are an appropriate tool to enforce the immigration laws. In fact, I think they are divisive, they are sowing discord and fear. And I also have come out in favor of guaranteeing that unaccompanied children have government-sponsored counsel, so that as they go through the process, they will not be lost in the process, confused by the process, and will have a chance to tell their story." (Translation: "Don't expect me to deport many illegal immigrants.") "...But how we implement our immigration laws does have some ability for the executive to make choices. And I would prioritize criminals, people who are plotting or planning or taking action that is against our public safety or our property—those are the kinds of people who would be on my list [to deport]." (Translation: "If you're not a terrorist, feel free to enter the United States illegally and I will leave you alone.") Clinton whines that illegal immigrants are "are afraid to go to work. They are afraid to send their kids to school. They are afraid to go to the hospital, or even the grocery store." (They should have considered that before sneaking across the border or overstaying their visas.) [86472, 86628]

At ThePostEmail.com Creg Maroney points out that Martin Van Buren has long been considered the first "natural born citizen" to serve as U.S. president. Van Buren was born in 1782 to two U.S. citizen parents. Every president who preceded Van Buren was born *before* the founding of the nation on July 4, 1776, and therefore could not have been born to U.S. citizen parents—*because there was no such thing as a U.S. citizen before that date.* [86464, 86465]

Article II, Section 1, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution states:

"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; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."

The way the presidential eligibility requirement is worded is further proof that the term natural born citizen means born on U.S. soil to U.S. citizen parents. The key is the inclusion of the words, "*or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution.*" That wording serves only *one* purpose: to *temporarily* allow individuals who are *not* natural born citizens to serve as president. Why was that exception necessary? When the Constitution was written, the only natural born citizens were *children*—who were born on or after July 4, 1776. *There would be no 35-year-old natural born citizens until July 4, 1811!* (George Washington, for example, was born in Virginia to two British subjects. Of course, the majority of the colonists were British subjects. George Washington became a "generic" U.S. citizen on July 4, 1776, but he was

not a natural born citizen by virtue of the fact that he was born to non-U.S. citizens. He was born a British subject.)

An earlier draft of the Constitution required only that the president be a “born citizen,” without regard to the citizenship of the parents. John Jay (who later became the nation’s first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court) wrote George Washington and asked that the rule be strengthened so that individuals with “divided loyalties” could not serve as president. The drafters agreed, and the “born citizen” requirement was changed to a “natural born citizen” requirement. But changing the wording to “natural born citizen” also meant that no one could legally serve as president until July 4, 1811—when children born on July 4, 1776 turned 35 and met the presidential age requirement. [85131]

It was therefore necessary to add the “grandfather clause” to the presidential eligibility requirement: “or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution.” *That* wording made it possible for Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and others to serve as president. They were *not* natural born citizens—because they were not born to U.S. citizen parents. But they *were* “Citizen(s) of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution.” (Eventually, of course, everyone who was a “Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution” would be dead, and only natural born citizens would then be allowed to serve as president.)

Those who argue that the term natural born citizen can mean born on foreign soil to only one citizen parent or born on U.S. soil to non-citizen parents need to explain why the grandfather clause was included in the presidential eligibility requirement. Why was that clause needed? Why is the requirement not as simple as:

“No Person except a natural born Citizen, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.”

The grandfather clause is in the eligibility requirement *for a reason*. Those who argue that Obama (born in Kenya or Hawaii to a British-citizen father), Ted Cruz (born in Canada to a Cuban-citizen father), Marco Rubio (born to two Cuban citizens), Bobby Jindal (born to Indian-citizen parents), Rick Santorum (born to an Italian-citizen father), and Nikki Haley (born to Indian-citizen parents) can legally serve as president (or vice president) should be made to explain the purpose of the grandfather clause. *They will not be able to do so*. That is why the Obama eligibility challenge, *Kerchner v. Obama*, was refused by the Supreme Court. The Justices would have had to rule against Obama—because *they* understand the purpose of the grandfather clause. Fearing race riots, the Justices took the cowardly way out and refused to hear the case. (Cruz supporters should be asked, “If Cruz can be president despite having been born in Canada to a Cuban father, what if he had been born in Cuba to that same father?”)

Those who argue that only one parent needs to be a U.S. citizen should be reminded that (fair or not) it has been the case historically that the *father’s* citizenship is passed on to the child. In addition, many pundits have referred to the text of laws and regulations that

only use the term “citizen,” and do not even mention the term “natural born citizen.” If a law uses the term “citizen” but never uses the term “natural born citizen,” one cannot infer that the law pertains to both. One would flunk out of law school with such shoddy reasoning. (A law that refers to motorcycles, for example, does not also apply to truck and cars—even though all are vehicles.) Even worse, some of Obama’s attorneys have shamelessly omitted the words “of parents” when quoting legal texts and historical documents, in their attempts to argue on his behalf.

In 2008 the political pundits and the so-called “experts” declared that Obama was eligible to serve as president despite having been born a British subject. (In 1961 what is now known as Kenya was still a British Protectorate. Obama was therefore born a British subject—regardless of the place of his birth.) In addition, Obama’s supporters insisted he was not born in Kenya, because they knew most Americans would insist he could *not* serve then as president if he was foreign-born. In 2016 the “experts” now suddenly declare the opposite—that birth in Kenya would *not* have rendered Obama ineligible—because they also want to break the rules for Cruz, Rubio, Jindal, Santorum, and Haley. But, unlike Obama, Cruz made the mistake of admitting (albeit reluctantly) that he was born in Canada; he had not bothered to create a fake birth certificate “proving” he was born in the United States and had not spent years developing a phony life story. As a result, the natural born citizen issue is back in the news. The Supreme Court will likely again lack the courage to rule on the question of the meaning of the term—because if it rules against Cruz it will necessarily also be ruling against Obama.

Of course, there is another possible scenario: The Democrats and media leftists push the issue, charge that Cruz, Rubio, et al. are ineligible, and file one or more lawsuits. (Congressman Alan Greyson (D-FL) has already stated that he will do so.) After it is too late for the Republicans to change their presidential and vice presidential nominees, the issue makes its way to the Supreme Court—which will necessarily rule the GOP candidate(s) ineligible. But wouldn’t that *also* render Obama’s entire eight-year reign illegitimate? No, not if Obama were to conveniently announce, “I just learned from DNA tests that my real father was Frank Marshall Davis—so I most certainly *did* have two U.S. citizen parents.” Checkmate. Obama’s “legacy” is undisturbed; Hillary Clinton gains the White House; and the GOP’s rising stars join Bob Dole, John McCain, and Mitt Romney on the loser list.

At WashingtonPost.com constitutional law professor Mary Brigid McManamon writes, “Donald Trump is actually right about something: Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) is not a natural-born citizen and therefore is not eligible to be president or vice president of the United States. ...Cruz is, of course, a U.S. citizen. As he was born in Canada, he is not natural-born. His mother, however, is an American, and Congress has provided by statute for the naturalization of children born abroad to citizens. Because of the senator’s parentage, he did not have to follow the lengthy naturalization process that aliens without American parents must undergo. Instead, Cruz was naturalized at birth. This provision has not always been available. For example, there were several decades in the 19th century when children of Americans born abroad were not given automatic naturalization.” [86490]

“...In this election cycle, numerous pundits have declared that Cruz is eligible to be president. They rely on a supposed consensus among legal experts. This notion appears to emanate largely from a recent comment in the Harvard Law Review Forum by former solicitors general Neal Katyal and Paul Clement. In trying to put the question of who is a natural-born citizen to rest, however, the authors misunderstand, misapply and ignore the relevant law. First, although Katyal and Clement correctly declare that the Supreme Court has recognized that common law is useful to explain constitutional terms, they ignore that law. Instead, they rely on three radical 18th-century British statutes. While it is understandable for a layperson to make such a mistake, it is unforgivable for two lawyers of such experience to equate the common law with statutory law. The common law was unequivocal: Natural-born subjects had to be born in English territory. The then-new statutes were a revolutionary departure from that law.” [86490]

“...Katyal and Clement put much weight on the first U.S. naturalization statute, enacted in 1790. Because it contains the phrase ‘natural born,’ they infer that such citizens must include children born abroad to American parents. The first Congress, however, had no such intent. The debates on the matter reveal that the congressmen were aware that such children were not citizens and had to be naturalized; hence, Congress enacted a statute to provide for them. Moreover, that statute did not say the children were natural born, only that they should ‘be considered as’ such. Finally, as soon as [James] Madison, then a member of Congress, was assigned to redraft the statute in 1795, he deleted the phrase ‘natural born,’ and it has never reappeared in a naturalization statute. When discussing the meaning of a constitutional term, it is important to go beyond secondary sources and look to the law itself. And on this issue, the law is clear: The framers of the Constitution required the president of the United States to be born in the United States.” [86490]

On January 12, 2016 a Syrian refugee suicide bomber kills 10 and wounds 15 outside the Blue Mosque at Sultanahmet Square in Istanbul, Turkey. [86453, 86457, 86510, 86511, 86518]

At a refugee center in Stavanger, Norway, several migrants rape a three-year-old boy. [86591, 86592]

A bus full of British schoolchildren returning from a trip to Italy is attacked by Muslim refugees in Calais, France. According to the *Express*, “One child was said to have suffered an epileptic fit following the horrifying attack which marred the end of a dream school trip for the children, some of whom are as young as 12. The harrowing incident also underlines the growing violence of migrants in Calais, who are now arming themselves and resorting to increasingly desperate methods in their attempts to reach Britain. Terrified truckers have repeatedly warned that it is only a matter of time before someone is killed as clashes with migrants become both more heated and regular.” [86594, 86595]

An Iranian drone flies directly over a U.S. aircraft carrier operating in international waters in the Persian Gulf. Navy spokeswoman Lieutenant Commander Nicole

Schwegman states, “The UAV [Unmanned Aerial Vehicle] was unarmed and posed no risk to the carrier’s flight operations. While the Iranian UAV’s actions posed no danger to the ship, it was, however, abnormal and unprofessional.” (Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer later writes, “How the weakness and pusillanimity of American leadership, and all its impotent schoolmarmish tut-tutting, must amuse the Iranians. ‘Hitler reoccupies Rhineland—French say it’s ‘abnormal and unprofessional.’ Cowardice in the face of an aggressive bully only emboldens the bully and encourages him to do more bullying. That is where we are with Iran today: once again, it is showing the U.S. who’s boss, and seeing how far it can push the Obama Administration. How far can it push the Obama Administration? Right off the cliff.”) [87264, 87265]

On NBC’s *Today* program, Obama gives Matt Lauer a preview of the State of the Union address. He says, “Sometimes we look at the past through rose-colored glasses. It’s been pretty divided in the past. There have been times where people beat each other with canes, and we have things like the Civil War. So there have been times where it’s been pretty rough. But there’s no doubt that politics in Washington with so much more divided than the American people are [sic]. Part of what I want to do in this last address is to remind people, ‘You know what? We got [sic] a lot of good things goin’ for us, and if we can get our politics right, it turns out that we’re not as divided on the ideological spectrum as people make us out to be here in Washington, and that there’s [sic] a lot of good things happening out there you just don’t know about.” [86483, 86519]

Obama continues, “Y’know [sic], we went through a lot over the last 10 years. Uh, we went through [Hurricane] Katrina. We went through the Iraq War. We went through, uh, the worst financial crisis in our lifetimes. We are still battling terrorism. Uh, people are still recovering from some of the economic blows that hit. And it is sometimes important for us to step back and take measure of how far we’ve come.” (Translation: “Everything sucked under George W. Bush and I’ve made things much better, but I don’t get enough credit.”) [86483, 86519]

WJS.com reports, “More than six years after the economic expansion began, 93% of counties in the U.S. have failed to fully recover from the blow they suffered during the recession. Nationwide, 214 counties, or 7% of 3,069, had recovered last year to prerecession levels on four indicators: total employment, the unemployment rate, size of the economy and home values, a study from the National Association of Counties released Tuesday found.” [86629, 86630]

The far-left MoveOn.org endorses socialist Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) for president, based on 78.6 percent report from 340,000 followers in an online poll. [86471, 86475]

Meanwhile, Sanders moves ahead of Hillary Clinton in a Quinnipiac poll in Iowa, 49-44. (One month earlier, Clinton led 51-44.) In New Hampshire, Sanders leads Clinton 53-39 in a Monmouth University poll. [86476, 86477, 86478]

In a CBS/NYT national poll, Donald Trump leads GOP rivals with 36 percent, followed by Ted Cruz (19), Marco Rubio (12), Ben Carson (6), and Jeb Bush (6). [86502]

At NewsWithViews.com Kelleigh Nelson writes that Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) “is definitely a globalist, and a very dangerous one at that. ...Cruz undoubtedly agrees with his friend, Henry Kissinger, on trade. (Kissinger was also part of the NAU Task Force like wife Heidi). On January 24, 2015, Cruz said that he is for ‘fast tracking’ trade agreements and supports Obama doing same. Apparently Cruz cares little about American jobs, and even less about American sovereignty, but of course, this was before he decided to run for President. ...Obviously Mr. Cruz has not seen the decimation of ranchers, family farms, and manufacturing in America since the passing of NAFTA! The loss of middle class jobs is astronomical. And our trade deficit tells a whole different story than Cruz tells. ...The entire purpose of fast-track is for Congress to surrender its power to the Executive for six years. Legislative concessions include: control over the content of legislation, the power to fully consider that legislation on the floor, the power to keep debate open until Senate cloture is invoked, and the constitutional requirement that treaties receive a two-thirds vote. Legislation cannot even be amended. ...Once Cruz decided he was running for president and found out that the American people did not even want this horrid new trade deal, he backtracked on everything and actually voted against fast tracking. Can you say flip-flop?” In addition, Cruz’s wife Heidi spent “five years at the Council on Foreign Relations helping to write the North American Union...” [86667]

Iran captures two small U.S. Navy vessels near Farsi Island in the Persian Gulf, and is holding 10 sailors. The Blaze.com reports, “Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook told The Associated Press that the boats were moving between Kuwait and Bahrain when the U.S. lost contact with them. ‘We have been in contact with Iran and have received assurances that the crew and the vessels will be returned promptly,’ Cook said.” White House press secretary Josh Earnest states, “This is obviously a situation that we are monitoring closely.” [86479, 86480, 86481, 86482, 86484, 86485, 86491, 86509, 86520, 86521, 86523, 86524, 87279]

Reacting to the Iranian action, White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells CNN’s Jake Tapper, “That is why the United States and [Obama] made it a priority to organize the international community, to reach an agreement with Iran that will prevent them from obtaining a nuclear weapon. This agreement is actually the best way for us to ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon.” Tapper responds, “I hear you, but they have 10 American sailors in their custody right now, Josh. I think there are probably a lot of Americans watching this thinking, ‘Why are we about to give them sanction relief?’ They have 10 Americans in... a boat, in a cell, whatever.” Earnest: “Because these were sanctions that were imposed on Iran over their nuclear program, and as soon as Iran takes the steps that they’ve committed to take and those steps can be verified by international nuclear experts, then we’ll know that Iran will not develop a nuclear weapon.” (Translation: “The deal with Iran did not state that they cannot continue to act like thugs in non-nuclear areas, so well pretend nothing happened.”) “We continue to be concerned about this situation. That precisely is why [Obama] made preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon a top national security priority, and we’re making progress in actually accomplishing that goal.” (In other words, the Obama administration is clueless and

Obama is so eager to cement his “legacy” with the nuclear deal that he will risk the lives of 10 U.S. sailors rather than upset Iran.) [86522, 86482]

Fox News’ Catherine Herridge reports, “There is growing evidence that ISIS is experimenting with chemical weapons as the number of foreign fighters hits a new high, according to current and former government officials. Photos taken by the Kurds in northern Iraq last summer and fall and reviewed by Fox News show burns and blistering on the skin that a source on the ground there said are consistent with the use of chemical agents. The agents were described as ‘odorless, colorless and absorbed through the clothing,’ causing burns or illness hours later.” [86492]

According to a Gallup poll, only 23 percent of Americans are satisfied with the direction the nation is heading—down from 32 percent in January 2015. [86486]

Chelsea Clinton goes on the campaign trail to help her mother, attacking Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and charging he wants to “dismantle” ObamaCare and Medicare. (The claim is, of course, absurd. Socialist Sanders would like nothing more than to expand both programs, and make the federal government the sole provider of health care for all Americans. TheHill.com writes, “Democrats note that Chelsea Clinton taking on a more aggressive role in the campaign could make her a target, particularly for Republicans. She has given paid speeches on behalf of the Clinton Foundation, has close ties to Wall Street and benefited from the Clinton name in securing a media job with NBC in 2014 that reportedly paid \$600,000 annually.” Political analysts Dick Morris and Eileen McGann observe, “Hillary is getting more and more desperate. Trotting the clueless Chelsea out with a hatchet in her hand is a sign that Hillary is panicking. She’s crashing in the polls and will do or say anything to knock Sanders. That’s typical Hillary. But sending out Chelsea to do the dirty work and try and scare people was a stupid strategy. Her charges are easily disproved and she’s not a credible messenger. Fortunately for Bernie, no one takes Chelsea seriously. She’s an opportunist who has used her family name to worm her way into jobs and positions that she’s not qualified for and would not have received if she had a different last name. As for Bernie, the Clinton attacks led to \$1.4 million in new donations on that day.”) [86648, 86649, 86729]

Grabien.com posts a video compilation of “140 unfulfilled promises” from Obama’s past State of the Union addresses. (They include curing cancer, colonizing outer space, inventing “material thinner than paper but stronger than steel,” passing comprehensive immigration reform, ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, reducing Americans’ energy bills by “billions of dollars,” cutting the deficit in half by the end of his first term in office, making Social Security sustainable, passing health reform that lets Americans keep their doctors and their plans, cutting programs we don’t need to maintain a balanced budget, securing America’s borders, lowering the corporate tax rate and eliminating loopholes, slowing the rising costs of health-insurance premiums, raising the minimum wage to \$9/hour, slashing bureaucracy through executive orders, ensuring that Iran will stop installing advanced centrifuges.) [86488, 86489]

Home Depot co-founder Bernie Marcus tell the Fox Business Channel's Neil Cavuto that Obama "has the colored glasses that are just marvelous. And the optimism that he sees is just not out there. If [Obama] got up tonight and the first thing he said, Neil, was, I have decided to take the next nine months and really work on my golf game, this—I would be the happiest person in the world. I think he ought to work on his golf and be the lame-duck president that he should be, because everything that comes out of the White House and everything that comes out of the EPA, the Department of Labor, and the NLRB, and I hope not the FBI, but I certainly know that the IRS and everything else has been corrupted. ...I just don't have [trust in government] anymore. And part of the reason is, we hear speaking, and then we see the actions, and the actions don't work. There are more people out of the work force today than ever before in the history of this country. We have kids out of college. Almost 50 percent are living with their parents. It's true they don't have to [do] the jobs that they were trained for in schools. They're taking jobs as waiters. They're working in places in order to keep alive. And this is not the America that we wanted. It's not the one I remember. And we see more small businesses failing than opening. The middle class has gone down dramatically. And, by the way, this is not my idea and this is not what I think is happening. We have the numbers that tell us over and over again that this is where the world is." [86557, 86611]

Obama delivers his final State of the Union address. (Before Obama starts to speak, Congressman Steve King (R-IA) walks out of the chamber in memory of the 55 million victims of abortion, and because he "can't abide being lectured to one last time.") The White House had said it would be short and not contain the usual laundry list of goals for the year. The speech lasts just under an hour and does contain a laundry list—albeit shorter than usual: "helping students learn to write computer code to personalizing medical treatments for patients (where Obama found that federal responsibility in the U.S. Constitution is not clear)," "fixing a broken immigration system," "protecting our kids from gun violence," "equal pay for equal work," "paid leave," and "raising the minimum wage," along with free pre-school ("Pre-K for all"), free community college, curing cancer (using language sounding remarkably similar to that used in an episode of the television series *West Wing*), addressing global warming, more "green" energy, the Tran Pacific Partnership trade agreement, an unexplained "system of wage insurance," comprehensive immigration reform, campaign finance reform, criminal justice reforms. (Obama may get the last item.) [86497, 86499, 86525, 86546, 86547, 86554, 86564, 86566, 86570, 86572, 86619, 86686]

Obama's address is arguably strange, disjointed, boring, and full of lies. (He takes credit for reducing the deficit, but neglects to mention that he first tripled it. He absurdly claims, "Health care inflation has slowed.") It is mostly a lecture by an arrogant man who believes he knows better than anyone else in the chamber or watching at home. It is part community activist and part preacher. Apparently sensing that everyone is disinterested, at the very end Obama raises his voice and almost yells out his final sentences. (Few will call it a great speech, and even some members of his own party will—if they are honest—be critical.) [86499]

Obama does not mention the 10 U.S. soldiers captured by the Iranians earlier in the day. Nor does he mention the five Americans who are being held in Iranian prisons. [86399, 86527]

Obama's address concentrates on "four big questions": "First, how do we give everyone a fair shot at opportunity and security in this new economy? Second, how do we make technology work for us, and not against us—especially when it comes to solving urgent challenges like climate change? Third, how do we keep America safe and lead the world without becoming its policeman? And finally, how can we make our politics reflect what's best in us, and not what's worst?" [86499]

Like most State of the Union addresses, Obama's includes statements that make people nod their heads in agreement when, in fact, there are meaningless, such as, "[W]e should recruit and support more great teachers for our kids." No one would disagree with such statements, but what is Obama's point in including it? Of course parents want great teachers for their children. But education is a local issue in which the federal government should not be involved at all. Obama declares, "And we have to make college affordable for every American. Because no hardworking student should be stuck in the red. We've already reduced student loan payments to ten percent of a borrower's income. Now, we've actually got to cut the cost of college." (Federal policies have actually made college *less* affordable, because the availability of federal loans and grants provides colleges and universities with the opportunity to increase their tuitions and fees. It is easy to say college costs should be reduced, but difficult to do it. Obama addresses only the former.) [86499]

Similarly, Obama says, "Social Security and Medicare are more important than ever; we shouldn't weaken them, we should strengthen them." He then moves on to the next item. (Translation: "You guys figure out how to do it; I'm just here to criticize you for not having done it.") [86499]

Some of Obama's statements are simply outrageous: "I think there are outdated regulations that need to be changed, and there's red tape that needs to be cut." (He has spent seven years imposing new rules and regulations.) "Food Stamp recipients didn't cause the financial crisis; recklessness on Wall Street did." (Actions by the federal government and the Federal Reserve caused the 2008 financial crisis.) "Immigrants aren't the reason wages haven't gone up enough; those decisions are made in the boardrooms that too often put quarterly earnings over long-term returns." (The free market decides wage rates. The local small construction company does not even have a boardroom, but it knows that an illegal immigrant will work for less than a U.S. citizen.) [86499]

"Look," says Obama, "if anybody still wants to dispute the science around climate change, have at it. You'll be pretty lonely, because you'll be debating our military, most of America's business leaders, the majority of the American people, almost the entire scientific community, and 200 nations around the world [there are only about 195 nations] who agree it's a problem and intend to solve it. But even if the planet wasn't at stake; even if 2014 wasn't the warmest year on record [it was not]—until 2015 turned out

even hotter [it was not]—why would we want to pass up the chance for American businesses to produce and sell the energy of the future?” [86499]

Obama says, “I told you earlier all the talk of America’s economic decline is political hot air. Well, so is all the rhetoric you hear about our enemies getting stronger and America getting weaker.” (The nation’s enemies *are* getting stronger, but Obama cleverly combines that with “America getting weaker.” That is a “community activist” trick to get the audience and viewers to believe ISIS, Iran, Russia, et al are not getting stronger. Mixing a true statement with a false statement confuses the listener. When Obama calls it “political hot air,” some listeners automatically and subconsciously apply the hot air designation to both parts of the statement.) [86499]

Obama absurdly claims, “Surveys show our standing around the world is higher than when I was elected to this office, and when it comes to every important international issue, people of the world do not look to Beijing or Moscow to lead—they call us.” (That is a flat-out lie. Surveys have consistently shown U.S. standing in the world has declined since Obama entered the Oval Office. Enemies fear the United States less, while allies do not trust Obama to stand up for them. Only politeness keeps members of Congress from laughing out loud when Obama makes the claim. The only nations with improved U.S. relations are possibly Iran and Cuba—because Obama is giving them what they want.) [86499]

“...But as we focus on destroying ISIL [ISIS], over-the-top claims that this is World War III just play into their hands. Masses of fighters on the back of pickup trucks and twisted souls plotting in apartments or garages pose an enormous danger to civilians and must be stopped. But they do not threaten our national existence.” (Few have claimed that ISIS represents World War II; that is just another of Obama’s infamous straw man arguments. But to claim that terrorists, Iran, or North Korea do not “threaten our national existence” is to deny reality. A terrorist poisoning the New York City water supply could kill hundreds of thousands of people. One well-placed nuclear explosion in the atmosphere—an EMP attack—could destroy the electrical grid and most electronic devices over a multi-state area, killing tens of millions of Americans.) [86499, 86519]

“That’s the story ISIL wants to tell; that’s the kind of propaganda they use to recruit. We don’t need to build them up to show that we’re serious, nor do we need to push away vital allies in this fight by echoing the lie that ISIL is representative of one of the world’s largest religions. We just need to call them what they are—killers and fanatics who have to be rooted out, hunted down, and destroyed.” (To recognize the threat of ISIS is not to “build them up.” It is to accept reality. We are not “push[ing] away vital allies” by describing ISIS as radical Islamists; that is what their fighters are. What is dangerous is to pretend that radical Islam does not exist and welcome those radicals into Europe and the United States as refugees—where they will commit heinous crimes cry “Islamophobia!” when criticized, let alone arrested and convicted.) [86499]

Obama makes the extraordinarily inaccurate statement, “Even as their economy contracts, Russia is pouring resources to prop up Ukraine’s and Syria—states they see slipping

away from their orbit.” (Ukraine is certainly not a Russian territory “slipping away from its orbit.” It is a sovereign nation Russia invaded in 2014. Russia’s resources are being used not to “prop up” Ukraine, but in an attempt to fully take over the country. Casey Michel, a post-Soviet affairs expert, tells DailyCaller.com, “It was amazing and embarrassing. ...[T]his was the capstone speech to Obama’s presidency ...editors, aides and the president all looked at this [and let the error go through].” [86621]

Obama again plays the Osama bin Laden card: “[T]he American people should know that with or without Congressional action, ISIL will learn the same lessons as terrorists before them. If you doubt America’s commitment—or mine—to see that justice is done, ask Osama bin Laden. Ask the leader of al-Qaeda in Yemen, who was taken out last year, or the perpetrator of the Benghazi attacks, who sits in a prison cell. When you come after Americans, we go after you. It may take time, but we have long memories, and our reach has no limit.” (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, on multiple occasions Obama nixed operations to go after bin Laden, based on his and advisor Valerie Jarrett’s fears that they might fail. Then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta eventually gave the operation the go-ahead—and essentially pulled Obama from the golf course to tell him it was too late for him to stop it.) [86499]

“...We also can’t try to take over and rebuild every country that falls into crisis. That’s not leadership; that’s a recipe for quagmire, spilling American blood and treasure that ultimately weakens us. It’s the lesson of Vietnam, of Iraq—and we should have learned it by now. Fortunately, there’s a smarter approach, a patient and disciplined strategy that uses every element of our national power. It says America will always act, alone if necessary, to protect our people and our allies; but on issues of global concern, we will mobilize the world to work with us, and make sure other countries pull their own weight. That’s our approach to conflicts like Syria, where we’re partnering with local forces and leading international efforts to help that broken society pursue a lasting peace.” (Obama pointing to Syria as one of his successes is stunning. Syria is one of his most obvious failures. He toyed with helping the rebels but did next to nothing. He called for the removal of Bashar al-Assad and then did nothing. He drew a “red line” over Assad’s use of chemical weapons and did nothing. His lack of action allowed ISIS to grow and establish a power center in Syria. All the while, several hundred thousands of Syrians were killed in its civil war—and millions fled the region. Even the Democrats will be hard-pressed to defend Obama’s claim on Syria.) [86499]

“That’s why we built a global coalition, with sanctions and principled diplomacy, to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. As we speak, Iran has rolled back its nuclear program, shipped out its uranium stockpile, and the world has avoided another war.” (As Obama makes this statement, Iran holds captive 10 U.S. sailors—and has five Americans imprisoned on various trumped-up charges. Whether another war has been avoided remains to be seen. Obama is taking a victory lap while only a few feet off the starting blocks.) [86499, 86550]

Toward the end of his speech, Obama says, “one of the few regrets of my presidency [is] that the rancor and suspicion between the parties has gotten worse instead of better.

There's no doubt a president with the gifts of Lincoln or Roosevelt might have better bridged the divide, and I guarantee I'll keep trying to be better so long as I hold this office.' (Obama has been one of the most divisive leaders in American history—and has the audacity to imply that it is the fault of others.) "...We have to reduce the influence of money in our politics, so that a handful of families and hidden interests can't bankroll our elections—and if our existing approach to campaign finance can't pass muster in the courts, we need to work together to find a real solution. We've got to make voting easier, not harder, and modernize it for the way we live now. And over the course of this year, I intend to travel the country to push for reforms that do." (Translation: Obama hates photo ID laws for voting.) [85185, 86499]

Obama calls the nation "Clear-eyed. Big-hearted. Optimistic that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. That's what makes me so hopeful about our future. Because of you. I believe in you. That's why I stand here confident that the State of our Union is strong. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America." [86499]

Obama is probably less than pleased to see sitting in the audience two of House Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-WI) guests: two nuns from Little Sisters of the Poor—whose Catholic charity is fighting the Obama administration in court over its demand that it provide its employees with contraceptives and abortifacients. Planned Parenthood claims the invitation shows "disrespect." (Meanwhile, Michelle Obama sits in the gallery while wearing a \$2,000 dress by designer Narcisco Rodriguez.) [86493, 86494, 86745, 86746, 86824]

Obama takes a swipe at Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), saying, "Our answer needs to be more than tough talk or calls to carpet bomb civilians. That may work as a TV sound bite, but it doesn't pass muster on the world stage." (Cruz has said that the U.S military should "carpet bomb" ISIS out of existence. He did not call for the intentional killing of civilians.) [86499, 86525]

Both Obama—and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley in her Republican response speech—criticize Donald Trump (without mentioning him by name). Obama says, "When politicians insult Muslims... that doesn't make us safer. That's not telling it like it is. It's just wrong. It diminishes us in the eyes of the world. ...We need to reject any politics that targets people because of race or religion. This isn't a matter of political correctness. It's a matter of understanding what makes us strong. The world respects us not just for our arsenal; it respects us for our diversity and our openness and the way we respect every faith." ("Muslim" is not a race, of course, but that does not stop people from labeling people racists for opposing Islam. Obama is clearly targeting Trump for suggesting that Muslim immigration be temporarily halted.) Haley also indirectly attacks Trump, saying, "During anxious times, it can be tempting to follow the siren call of the angriest voices. We must resist that temptation. No one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws, and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country." (Ann Coulter tweets, "Trump should deport Nikki Haley.") That both Obama and Haley (who *Vogue* magazine in 2012 that she became attracted to politics after hearing Hillary

Clinton speak) criticized Trump means the Democrats and the GOP establishment are afraid of him. [86500, 86549, 86551, 86552, 86557, 86558, 86567, 86571, 86575, 86581, 86623, 86632, 86633, 86637, 86645]

Not surprisingly, Trump—and Obama and Hillary Clinton—supporters criticize Haley for attacking him, while members of the GOP establishment (Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, et al) praise her address. Trump himself says Haley is “weak on illegal immigration, and she certainly has no trouble asking me for campaign contributions, ’cause over the years she’s asked me for a hell of a lot of money in campaign contributions. So, you know, it’s sort of interesting to hear [her criticize me].” Carly Fiorina says Haley’s comments hit “the wrong note.” Jeb Bush says her address was “spectacular.” Marco Rubio calls it “fantastic.” Chris Christie says she did a “phenomenal job.” Mike Huckabee disagrees, saying, “I’m not sure why she needed to do that because it very well could be Donald Trump may be the nominee and if he is, then we need to unite behind him.” [86581, 86623, 86639]

Wayne Allyn Root delivers the Tea Party response to Obama’s address. Root says, “The remarkable irony is that I am the college classmate of ...Barack Obama, Columbia University, Class of ’83. We graduated on the same day, from the same college 33 years ago. And we’ve never had anything in common, ever again.” Root announces a 13-point Tea Party plan to address the major problem faced by the nation, including: “Throw out the entire IRS Code and empower American taxpayers and Small Business with a Low Flat Tax.” “Reign in the EPA and Reduce Job-Killing Green Energy Regulations.” “Build the wall and secure our borders.” “Declare a National Debt Emergency.” “Impose Term Limits.” [86528, 86529]

The Republicans also give a Spanish language rebuttal to Obama’s address. It is delivered by Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL). At Townhall.com Phyllis Schlafly writes, “According to a translation provided by the Miami Herald, Diaz-Balart promised that Republicans would work toward ‘a legislative solution... to those who live in the shadows’ (i.e., amnesty), and would also ‘modernize the visa system and push the economy forward’ (i.e., import even more low-wage guest workers).” (That is, the GOP establishment wants white, black, and legal immigrant voters to believe it is on their side, while telling illegal immigrants it is, in fact, on their side.) [85161]

At Breitbart.com Joel B. Pollak lists the “Top 10 Lies in Obama’s State of the Union” address, among them, “[W]e’ve done all this while cutting our deficits by almost three-quarters.” (Obama tripled the deficit before it started moving downward.) “As someone who begins every day with an intelligence briefing, I know this is a dangerous time.” (Obama skips most daily briefings and allegedly reads them on an iPad.) [86503]

Mary Katherine Hamm tweets, “The President is very disappointed in us for not fulfilling the promises of his ’08 speeches.” [86537, 86685]

On January 13 Iran releases the 10 U.S. sailors captured the night before—and their two boats (after confiscating the GPS equipment). Also released is a hostage video showing

the nine men and one woman weaponless and on their knees—in an obvious attempt to humiliate the United States in general and Obama in particular. [86496, 86526, 86533, 86534, 86536, 86545, 86553, 86559, 86573, 86576, 86596, 86597, 86602, 86603, 86618, 86664, 86687]

The videos released by Iran include Lieutenant David Nartker apologizing, “It was a mistake, that was our fault, and we apologize, for our mistake.” Whether the sailor was forced by the Iranians to make the statement is not clear, but he violated the Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces, which requires that captured personnel are “required to give name, rank, service number and date of birth... evade answering further questions to the utmost of [their] ability” and “make no oral or written statements disloyal to [the] country and its allies or harmful to their cause.” If the sailor was forced to deliver the apology, the Obama administration should take action against Iran. If the apology was not forced, the sailor should be disciplined. (Retired General Jack Keane states, “That’s not an apology from the United States government, that’s an apology from the youngster who’s trying to protect his crew, and his behavior will be held accountable for in any investigation to determine whether that was justified or not.”) [86620, 86664, 86665, 86706]

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters comments, “He wasn’t being tortured, but this is what our military has come to. That was aid and comfort to the enemy. He should be court-martialed. ... You don’t make buddy buddies with your captors... They’re sailors. They’re supposed to do their duty.” Retired Commander Christopher Harmer says, “whether they intended to [apologize] or not, they are representing the United States Navy, and by that, an extension of the U.S. government.” [86706]

Secretary of State John Kerry says, “I express my gratitude to Iranian authorities for their cooperation in swiftly resolving this matter.” Kerry tweets, “Peaceful and efficient resolution of this issue is a testament to the critical role diplomacy plays in keeping our country secure & strong.” (Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani calls for Kerry’s resignation, saying, “It’s time to retire when you don’t check the facts before you make a statement like that and you congratulate a country that has killed thousands and thousands of Americans.”) [86535, 86541 86542, 86593, 86631, 86652]

Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, head of Iran’s armed forces, states, “This incident in the Persian Gulf, which probably will not be the American forces’ last mistake in the region, should be a lesson to troublemakers in the U.S. Congress.” (Translation: “How dare members of Congress interfere with Obama’s acts of capitulation!”) [86593, 86599]

Vice President Joe Biden insists the United States did not apologize to Iran: “The Iranians picked up both boats—as we have picked up Iranian boats where, that needed to be rescued ...and realized they were there in distress and, uh, and said they would release them, and released them—like, you know, ordinary nations would do. ...No, there was no apology; nothing to apologize for. [Iran claims the Obama administration apologized.] When you have a problem with the boat, [do] you apologize the boat had a problem? No. And there was no looking for any apology. ...This was just standard nautical practice.”

(“Ordinary nations” do not confiscate weapons, make the sailors remove their boots and kneel with their hands behind their heads, make women don head scarves, blindfold them, and demand that the boat’s commander apologize on videotape.) [86560, 86596, 86601, 86634, 86744]

The New York Times outdoes itself with the ludicrous headline, “Iran’s Swift Release of U.S. Sailors Hailed as a Sign of Warmer Relations.” [86538]

The Media Research Center reports, “Upon learning of Iran’s capture of 10 U.S. Navy sailors yesterday, Secretary of State John Kerry reportedly told Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif that the incident could ‘be a good story for both of us.’ Kerry’s comment was revealed during State Department conference call with the media immediately after it was reported that the sailors had been freed on Wednesday.” [86682]

Actor James Woods, noting Iran’s photograph of humiliated U.S. sailors on their knees with their hands behind their heads, tweets, “All jawboning by [John] Kerry and other numbskulls aside, this photo will forever represent the disaster that was Obama.” (Adding to the humiliation, the one female sailor is forced by the Iranians to wear a hijab.) [86539, 86540]

Dan Pfeiffer, former Obama advisor, tweets, “I must have missed all the apology tweets this AM from the pundits & politicians who freaked out abt [about] the Iran ‘hostage’ situation last night.” (Pfeiffer apparently wants media pundits to apologize for stating the fact that Iran humiliated the United States and Obama with their actions. That the 10 sailors were released the next day is irrelevant and does not remove the humiliation portrayed in the photographs. Iran likely returned the sailors quickly because it is only days away from getting back some \$100 billion in assets to be released in the nuclear deal. What the Obama administration *should* do is delay the release of the funds until after the results of national elections in Iran in about one month—to see whether the new leaders are even more anti-American.) [86543, 86590]

At TheResurgent.com Brian Sikma writes, “‘They must know that we will protect our ships, and if they threaten us, they will pay a price.’ With those words, President Ronald Reagan justified his approval of Operation Praying Mantis, a day-long engagement in which U.S. Navy and Marine forces delivered a powerful response to the Iranian assault of the USS Samuel B. Roberts. A hidden Iranian mine had struck the frigate in the open waters of the Persian Gulf on April 14, 1988. No sailors died, but several were injured and the ship was severely damaged. Operation Praying Mantis remains the largest surface battle engaged in by the U.S. Navy since World War II, and its outcome was decisive. According to official reports released afterward, using a combination of anti-ship missiles, naval gunfire, and aircraft launched from several ships, including the aircraft carrier the USS Enterprise, the Navy destroyed two oil platforms used by Iran for intelligence collection, sank 4 small Iranian Navy boats, sank an Iranian frigate, and severely damaged another Iranian warship. But that was all on April 18, 1988. Back when the United States believed in delivering swift, decisive responses to enemy provocations.” [86577]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest says, “I don’t think there’s any reason for anybody to be embarrassed” by the video of U.S. sailors being humiliated by the Iranians. “We’re pleased that our sailors were released promptly and unharmed. ...I think the only people who are unhappy about it are the Republicans. It underscores the value of responsible, mature presidential leadership. [Obama] didn’t start a war over this.” (Iran could drop nuclear weapons on Tel Aviv and New York City and Obama would not go war. He would call it “an unfortunate tragedy” because of the greenhouse gases emitted.) [86744]

Judicial Watch reports, “For more than a decade the U.S. government has known that ‘Arab extremists’ are entering the country through Mexico with the assistance of smuggling network ‘cells,’ according to State Department documents obtained by Judicial Watch that reveal among them was a top Al Qaeda operative wanted by the FBI. Some Mexican smuggling networks actually specialize in providing logistical support for Arab individuals attempting to enter the United States, the government documents say. The top Al Qaeda leader in Mexico was identified in the September 2004 cable from the American consulate in Ciudad Juárez as Adnan G. El Shurkrjumah. The cable was released to Judicial Watch under the Freedom of Information Act.” [86733]

On CNN’s *The Situation Room*, Wolf Blitzer interviews Jordan’s King Abdullah II and tries his best to get the monarch to excoriate Donald Trump. The King does not take the bait. Blitzer asks, “What’s your reaction to Donald Trump saying there should be a temporary ban on Muslims coming into the United States until the U.S. can figure out what’s going on?” The King replies, “Well, I think that’s the same challenge that we’re being pushed to at the moment with the group [of refugees] that we’re talking about. ...[The United States has told us] you need to allow these refugees into the country [of Jordan]. So, we’re going back to the United States, where these comments are being made, saying that we understand, we are trying to bring these people in, but we’re trying to make sure that the mechanisms that we put in place... make it as sterile as possible. ...Obviously, it’s those that are ill [who we let in], the elderly, women and children... but as you saw in California and you’ve seen in Paris recently, women have been part of terrorist organizations and terror strikes...” [86891, 86892]

Blitzer presses: “Because Donald Trump isn’t just talking about refugees, he’s talking about all Muslims on a temporary basis not being allowed to come into the United States. You’re a major Muslim leader of a major Muslim country; you hear these comments—your reaction.” Abdullah shuts Blitzer down: “You’re into an election cycle, so I don’t think it’s fair for you to ask a foreign leader to express his opinion on candidates in your country running for election.” [86891, 86892]

NYTimes.com reports that the federal government will soon be requiring some “real estate companies to disclose names behind cash transactions.” The action “is likely to send shudders through the real estate industry, which has benefited enormously in recent years from a building boom increasingly dependent on wealthy, secretive buyers. The initiative is part of a broader federal effort to increase the focus on money laundering in

real estate.” (Of course, most real estate transactions with secret buyers are not for the purpose of breaking the law. In the 1960s, for example, Walt Disney set up shell corporations to buy thousands of acres of central Florida land. That was not done to cheat the government or launder money. It was done to enable Disney to accumulate sufficient acreage for what would eventually become Disney World. Had property owners known from the beginning that Disney was interested in their largely useless scrub land, they would have demanded far more than it was worth—and the vacation capital of the world would never have been built.) [86681]

Donald Trump tells CNN’s Erin Burnett that South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley “is right. I am angry, and a lot of other people are angry too at how incompetently our country’s being run. I don’t care, let her refer to me. As far as I’m concerned, anger and energy is what this country needs.” [86584, 86585]

On KNUS, Peter Boyles interviews retired Commander Charles Kerchner (*Kerchner v. Obama*) who explains why Ted Cruz is not a natural born citizen. [86504]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “Eurotunnel officials have decided to flood the areas surrounding the tunnel entrance near Calais, northern France, in a bid to stop desperate people [refugees] from climbing onto the tracks. By allowing water levels to rise, Eurotunnel officials hope the marshland will serve as a ‘natural environment layer of protection,’ a spokesperson said today. Security around train tracks to the Eurotunnel and around the port of Calais has been reinforced since last October, which has led to frequent clashes between migrants and the police.” (In other words, they are building a moat to keep the Muslim refugees from accessing the tunnel to get to England.) [86544]

DailySignal.com reports that the Obama administration has a “‘Gender Identity Mandate’ in the works. [It] would require doctors and insurers to provide or cover ‘gender transition’ treatments or face discrimination charges and loss of federal funds and Medicaid reimbursements.” [86617]

At Examiner.com Jack Dennis writes, “In an open letter to Hillary Clinton, one of her husband’s former lovers has come out swinging, calling the Democratic candidate for president ‘completely evil, heartless, and totally selfish.’ Sally Miller, of Little Rock, Arkansas, gave consent to this writer on Tuesday to make public her letter to Hillary Clinton. The message admonishes and defines Mrs. Clinton for the ability to ‘slash my life to shreds clearly indicates your revengeful power.’ Miller is currently writing a chronicle of her life as Miss Arkansas, a Miss America finalist, radio talk show host, candidate for mayor, and world traveler. In her memoirs, Miller, who was known as Sally Perdue in 1983, elaborates on then Gov. Bill Clinton’s recklessness, including snorting cocaine and smoking marijuana during their sexual interludes. But most relevant to current events, Miller is not holding back on what she knows about Hillary Clinton.” [86650]

“...It’s been well established, but underreported by American media, that Hillary Clinton unleashed her operatives, including Ron Tucker, to threaten Miller beginning in 1992.

Soon after she began talking to the press during the first year of Bill Clinton's presidency, at a meeting in a restaurant with Tucker, Miller was told to be a 'good little girl' and was offered a federal job. If she didn't accept the offer, 'then they knew if I went jogging by myself and couldn't guarantee what would happen to my pretty little legs,' Miller recalled. 'Things just wouldn't be so fun for me anymore. Life would get hard.' What Tucker didn't realize, was that Miller had someone sit nearby to witness and confirm the threat and bribe attempt. At one point, Miller informed the FBI, including an account of 'Hillary's operatives smashing a window' in her Jeep and placing shotgun cartridges in the driver seat. Miller revealed one of the threatening letters she received stated 'Marilyn Monroe got snuffed.'" [86650]

"'I'm sick of professional politicians, I'm tired of hearing canned speeches with the same old tired promises and the same pledges to listen and work for the people,' Miller remarked. 'Career politicians have put America's future in serious jeopardy.' 'I believe we need someone with strong business experience to put America back on track and a leadership that respects our veterans, our military, and this country's traditions,' she added. 'I am voting for Donald Trump in 2016.'" [86650]

General Electric announces it is moving its headquarters from Fairfield, Connecticut to Boston, Massachusetts. [86738, 86739]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at 16,161, down 364 points.

CNSNews.com reports, "U.S. Border agents say they confiscated around 31 pounds of marijuana dropped in the Arizona desert by a drone late last year. The Nov. 16 incident is the 'first drone drug incursion' detected by Customs and Border Protection, the agency announced on Tuesday." [86555]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The latest release of Hillary Clinton's State Department records contains a doozy of an email in which the then-secretary of state ordered one of her top aides, Huma Abedin, to remove the identity of the author of a memo she had received. The author? Sidney Blumenthal, Clinton's longtime friend and off-the-books intelligence provider. 'Can you print for me w/o any identifiers?' Clinton asked Abedin, after receiving the March 9, 2011 memo from Blumenthal, a former journalist who worked on Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. 'Yes,' replied Abedin, who serves as vice chair of Clinton's current presidential campaign. ...Included in ...60 emails were 15 that Blumenthal had sent to Clinton or received from her which she did not provide to the State Department when she handed over her records in December 2014. That finding undermined Clinton's claim that she gave the agency all of her work-related emails." [86574]

"...While it is not exactly clear why Clinton ordered Abedin to strip Blumenthal's identity from the March 9, 2011 memo, the contents of the intel report provide some clues. Entitled 'Serious problems for Libyan rebels,' Blumenthal relayed information from his intelligence community sources who claimed that Libyan dictator Moammar Gaddafi was confident that he would be able to push back rebel forces attempting to

depose him. Clinton was one of the most ardent voices in the Obama administration for Gaddafi's ouster. And as it turns out, Blumenthal was also heavily interested in regime change. In 2011 and 2012, it was later revealed, he was working on behalf of a defense contractor called Osprey Global Solutions which hoped to secure contracts in a post-Gaddafi Libya." [86574]

According to a YouGov.com, in a three-way race between Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and Marco Rubio, Trump garner 45 percent, Cruz 30, and Rubio 21. [86578]

At FoxNews.com Hollie McKay writes, "Hollywood stars make their living delivering lines written by others, and on the subject of gun control many are quoting a script written by an unlikely source—the White House. An email sent last week to Tinseltown's A-listers by Associate Director of Public Engagement at the White House Jesse Moore—titled 'Artists & Entertainers Unite to #StopGunViolence' and addressed to 'Family'—offered Twitter-ready talking points for showing support for ...Obama's gun control agenda. FoxNews.com, which obtained a copy of the email, compared it to tweets sent by such stars as Ashton Kutcher, and found that the stars passed the thoughts on to adoring fans with little or no ad-libbing. 'This seems an unprecedented abuse of White House influence to manipulate the public into believing celebrities genuinely supported the president,' said Dan Gainor, vice president of business and culture at the Media Research Institute. 'Hollywood is just an extension of Obama's press office.'" (In other words, the White House is telling Hollywood leftists what to tweet—and they do just that.) [86580]

On *The Steve Malzberg Show*, investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson says, "We... spoke to sources and have some email evidence that talks about special forces that were not far away in Europe that we were told were assigned to respond in the event of a case just like this [in Benghazi on September 11, 2012], and yet were turned back according to witnesses. This is something that [Obama] and the White House has steadfastly denied, but there's now what I would call an overwhelming body of evidence that leads us to believe that somebody stopped a number of teams and potential rescuers from entering Libya or going to Benghazi to help while those attacks were underway. They could have gotten there. According to experts and people that have information we spoke to, they could have gotten there before the last two Americans died. Those attacks went on for eight hours. ...We spoke to, again a CIA team leader expert, an anti-terrorism expert who says the only person who stops those forces that spun up automatically without waiting to be told—the only force is the commander in chief, slash the White House, an authority that comes from him." (That is, the "stand down order" came from Obama.) [86636]

On *The Kelly File*, an emotional Patricia Smith, the mother of Benghazi victim Sean Smith, tells Megyn Kelly, "I want to see Hillary in jail. It was her department and she's been lying." [86616, 86643, 86674, 86676]

Donald Trump addresses a crowd of almost 12,000 in Pensacola, Florida. (Polls show Trump far ahead of his GOP rivals in Florida, which holds its primary on March 15.) [86635, 86644]

On January 14 R. Emmett Tyrell writes at Townhall.com, “Within two weeks to 60 days, the Bureau will recommend to the Justice Department that [Hillary] Clinton and certain of her aides face charges for the way they have handled classified information on her server. My sources tell me that the Bureau already has the case ‘locked. ...They are building a case that is unassailable.’ And another source said the case that the FBI has built was ready two weeks ago. ...The charges will consist of some of the following: 1. Improper disclosure or retention of classified information. 2. Destruction of government records. 3. Lying to federal agents. 4. Lying under oath. 5. Obstruction of justice. One source told me that, ‘the top floor of the FBI [the leadership] is deeply engaged in the investigation.’ And another said the Bureau has ‘no choice’ but to ask Attorney General Loretta Lynch for indictments.” [86613]

The White House tweets, “‘The main impotence for a better politics is going to be the American people. They have to demand it’ — POTUS at a town hall in Baton Rouge.” (The White House later issues a correction: “The main impetus for a better politics is going to be the American people.”) [86614]

Planned Parenthood announces it is filing a lawsuit against the Center for Medical Progress (CMP) for its undercover videos that made public the abortion mill’s practice of selling baby parts. CMP’s David Daleiden responds, “Planned Parenthood is under investigation by the United States Congress and multiple law enforcement agencies, while their business is drying up and the public is turning against their barbaric abortion for baby parts trade. Now they are filing a frivolous lawsuit in retaliation for CMP’s First Amendment investigative journalism that has done nothing more than tell the truth about Planned Parenthood’s lawless operations. This last-ditch move of desperation is going to expose all of the sordid dealings of the California Planned Parenthood affiliates to the light of the legal system and the public will see them for the corrupt abortion and baby body parts profiteers that they really are.” [85197, 86829]

BizPacReview.com writes, “A University of Nebraska-Lincoln associate professor was given a personal invitation to meet ...Obama following a speech in Omaha Wednesday [January 13] because of her staunch anti-gun activism. The woman, Amanda Gailey, an English professor, is also the director of a group known as Nebraskans Against Gun Violence, according to her Facebook profile. In addition to her anti-gun position, Gailey doesn’t appear to be much of a fan of law enforcement either. In a public post on her Facebook page dated Dec. 28, 2015, less than a month before she met the president and the same day it was revealed that a Cleveland police officer would not face charges in the shooting death of Tamir Rice, Gailey unleashed a profanity-laced diatribe cursing the police, the National Rifle Association, prosecutors and others. ‘F**k police officers who undertook a job that carries inherent risk but think any perceived threat to them whatsoever justifies instantaneous lethal force,’ she wrote. ‘F**k police officers who pull up as close as possible to an alleged threat so that they can execute the person as quickly as possible without assessing the situation first.’” (The Obama administration apparently cannot vet college professors any better than it can vet refugees.) [86622]

In Jakarta, Indonesia, at least two people are killed and 24 are injured in a terrorist attack at a shopping center. ISIS claims responsibility. [86624, 86625, 86657, 86658]

State Department spokesman John Kirby tells reporters, “The Geneva Convention applies for a time of war between nations, and we’re not at war with Iran, so it’s difficult to see how the provisions of the Geneva Convention can be applied here or us citing them as violations of it, because we’re not at war with Iran. If we were at war with Iran or another country, then, yes I think you could look at what happened as a breach of the protocols in there, but they don’t apply.” (Translation: “Because we’re not at war with Iran, the Obama administration will not stand in the way when it mistreats and humiliates members of the U.S. military.”) [86678]

Congressman Tom Rooney (R-FL), a member of the House Intelligence Committee, tells DailyCaller.com, “[W]e do know that the State Department did talk to those guys [the 10 sailors] before he [Lieutenant David Nartker] made that comment, so it was very kind of, honestly, suspicious why he would just come out and make that kind of a statement. ...It almost seems like it was cooked in the books for part of the release to make it look better that he would apologize for drifting into the water and then they would be released.” [86724]

CNSNews.com reports, “The federal government took in a record of approximately \$765,645,000,000 in tax revenues in the first three months of fiscal 2016 (Oct. 1, 2015 through Dec. 31, 2015), according to the Monthly Treasury Statement released today. That equaled approximately \$5,107 for every person in the country who had either a full or a part-time job in December. ...As it was hauling in these record revenues, the Treasury spent approximately \$981,190,000,000, and ended up the first three months of the fiscal year with a deficit of approximately \$215,546,000,000, according to the monthly statement.” [86646]

Sears Holding Corp. announces it will close 100-120 Sears and Kmart stores. Macy’s has announced the closing of 40 stores and the lay-off of 4,800 employees. [86651]

Campaigning in Charleston, South Carolina, Carly Fiorina says, “Hillary Clinton wants to go to the White House, but the truth is she is only qualified for the big house. This a woman who has escaped prosecution more times than El Chapo. I’m sure Sean Penn is waiting to interview her.” Fiorina also says, “Unlike some other women in this race, I actually like spending time with my husband.” [86675, 86679]

DCWhispers.com writes, “Word is Bill and Hillary Clinton are both increasingly desperate to successfully navigate the looming results of a broad FBI investigation into not only Mrs. Clinton’s email scandal that has her sending and receiving classified information via an unsecured private email server, but even more ominous, is the ongoing 12-month corruption investigation into BOTH Mr. and Mrs. Clinton that has the ultimate D.C. power couple bracing for what could prove a brutal end to their political legacies. The former president is said to be especially concerned to the point of suffering bouts of temporary depression. He feels himself being ‘locked out’ of the defense process being

utilized by close Hillary associates like longtime personal assistant, Huma Abedin. Observers noted Bill Clinton's performance at a political rally for his wife in New Hampshire yesterday as being notably devoid of the former president's normal enthusiasm at such events. Mr. Clinton appeared both tired and at times, disinterested. At one point he is said to have been disorientated backstage regarding his location, confusing the current city for a previous one visited earlier that day. There were flashes of former campaign-trail glory as Clinton shook hands and smiled, but then the smile would fade, his steps would slow to a slope-shouldered shuffle, and he would glance around himself as if trying to determine where he was." [86718]

"As for Hillary, she has been interestingly absent from the campaign trail in recent days as she huddles with an odd brew of political advisers, operatives, and a quickly growing legal team. Mrs. Clinton's only public appearances are carefully scripted interviews via favored media figures. Her immediate schedule also shows a long list of fundraisers—but no campaign stop rallies. It is that schedule which allows Hillary much greater ability to continue planning and preparing with her army of lawyers should the pending FBI investigation situation suddenly erupt around her. For the Clintons, they once again find themselves in personal and political survival mode. The shadow that looms largest over them at this moment is that of FBI Director, James Comey." [86718]

"The six-foot-eight-inch Comey and his pending FBI investigation towers over both the Clinton campaign and the Obama White House. Comey has taken significant measures to isolate the hundred-plus operative investigation from influence by outside forces intent on protecting the interests of the Obama White House and/or the Clinton political machine. The Obama/[Valerie] Jarrett White House either has, or is, attempting to determine if Hillary's potential demise threatens their own future livelihood. That determination will then be brought to bear against the FBI and Attorney General Loretta Lynch. The relationship between Director Comey and Barack Obama is said to be, 'guarded at best,' like two snarling wolves slowly circling each other. If Director Comey comes out with a recommendation to pursue charges against Hillary Clinton, (and quite possibly Bill Clinton as well according to sources) the immediate impact upon the national political landscape will be unlike anything this country has seen in decades. The Clintons are now bracing for that impact and like they have done so many times before—survive it." [86718]

WashingtonPost.com reports that Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) "downplayed a report late Wednesday that he had not listed personal loans he and his wife received before donating roughly the same amount to his 2012 Senate campaign, calling the matter an 'inadvertent filing question.' ...Cruz and his wife, Heidi, obtained two loans, the New York Times reported Wednesday: one from Goldman Sachs and another from Citibank, totaling about \$750,000. The amount later increased to \$1 million before being paid down. Heidi Cruz, a managing director at Goldman Sachs, is currently on leave while her husband runs for president. After receiving the loans, the Cruzes injected more than \$1 million into his successful Senate bid. ...The loans do not appear in financial disclosure forms candidates are required to file with the Federal Election Commission detailing money borrowed to finance a campaign, the paper reported." (Candidates are required to disclose loans.

Obama has been guilty of the same mistake. He did not disclose student loans when he ran for the U.S. Senate, yet during the 2008 campaign he claimed he had only “recently” paid off those loans.) [86626, 86627]

Kyle Sammin writes at TheFederalist.com, “Thanks to our First Amendment, there is nothing the Obama administration can do about [the release of the movie *13 Hours*]. Government may not censor films about current events, politics, or any other subject even if they might affect an election. Indeed, they may not be censored even if they are *designed* to affect an election. That seems obvious to anyone with even a passing knowledge of our First Amendment, but the Supreme Court did not firmly decide this principle until 2009. That year, in a 5-4 decision, the court overturned a law in which Congress had granted the administration the power to censor just such a film. By one vote in *Citizens United v. FEC*, the Supreme Court struck down the government’s power to censor films or other publications intended to influence elections. In that case, the Federal Election Commission sought to uphold their power under the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (BCRA) to limit communications close to the time of an election. Specifically, the FEC wanted the Supreme Court to turn back a challenge to their right to bar a group, Citizens United, from putting a film, ‘Hillary: The Movie,’ and all advertising for it on the airwaves until after the 2008 election.” (Obama and his fellow Democrats portray the *Citizen United* decision as interfering with free speech right. In fact, it defends free speech.) [85156]

KIMT.com posts the results of an (unscientific) Online Iowa Straw Poll: Donald Trump (34 percent), Rand Paul (18), Marco Rubio (9), Ted Cruz (8), Ben Carson (8), Chris Christie (4), Jeb Bush (3), Carly Fiorina (2), John Kasich (1), Mike Huckabee (1). Among Democrats: Hillary Clinton (40 percent), Bernie Sanders (39), Martin O’Malley (4). [86774]

The Republican candidates debate in Charleston, South Carolina. The question of whether Ted Cruz is a natural born citizen comes up. Cruz argues that if he is not a natural born citizen then neither is Donald Trump, because Trump’s mother was born in Scotland. (Cruz neglects to mention that Trump’s mother was naturalized and became a U.S. citizen *before* her son was born. Trump was therefore born in the United States to two U.S. citizen parents.) As noted previously, Cruz is *not* a natural born citizen because he was born in Canada to a Cuban-citizen father. Cruz’s mother was a U.S. citizen, but that was only sufficient to make him a U.S. citizen; it did not make him a natural born citizen of the United States. [86654, 86655, 86656, 86662, 86668, 86669, 86670, 86671, 86672, 86673, 86690, 86691, 86692, 86694, 86711, 86714, 86735, 86754]

Although Cruz scores some points in the “birther” exchange (even though he has the facts wrong), he may lose in the wrong run because many viewers and voters are probably unaware he was born in Canada to a Cuban father and an American mother. (They are no longer unaware.) Trump then evens the score with a heartfelt response to an ill-advised Cruz remark about “New York values. Trump says, “New York is a great place. It’s got great people, it’s got loving people, wonderful people. When the World Trade Center came down, I saw something that no place on earth could have handled more beautifully,

more humanely than New York. ... You had two 110-story buildings come crashing down. I saw them come down. Thousands of people killed, and the clean-up started the next day, and it was the most horrific clean-up probably in the history of ... construction. I was down there. ... And the people in New York fought and fought and fought, and we saw more death, and even the smell of death—nobody understood it. And it was with us for months, the smell, the air. And we rebuilt downtown Manhattan, and everybody in the world watched, and everybody in the world loved New York and loved New Yorkers.” [86690, 86693, 86696, 86727, 86755]

Arguably, “New York values” are also American values. They are exemplified by General Anthony McAuliffe who, when surrounded by the Germans at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, responded to a call for surrender with the response, “Nuts!” (This *Timeline* suggests that although Donald Trump is no Winston Churchill, he may be a George S. Patton—and a General Patton may be just what the nation needs at this point: rough around the edges and a blunt talker, but focused on a goal and determined to reach that goal in as short a time and by as direct a route as possible. A president McAuliffe, Patton, or Trump would have told Iran, “If you want us sitting down at a table to negotiate anything, you had better first release every American you have in your prisons. You have 24 hours to decide.” Instead of New York values, the nation has Obama and John Kerry values: “Yes, Supreme Leader, whatever you say, Supreme Leader.”) [86695]

Returning to the “birther” issue, those who believe Cruz is a natural born citizen should examine 8 U.S. Code § 1401 - Nationals and citizens of United States at birth:

“The following shall be nationals and citizens of the United States at birth:

- (a) a person born in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof;
- (b) a person born in the United States to a member of an Indian, Eskimo, Aleutian, or other aboriginal tribe: Provided, That the granting of citizenship under this subsection shall not in any manner impair or otherwise affect the right of such person to tribal or other property;
- (c) a person born outside of the United States and its outlying possessions of parents both of whom are citizens of the United States and one of whom has had a residence in the United States or one of its outlying possessions, prior to the birth of such person;
- (d) a person born outside of the United States and its outlying possessions of parents one of whom is a citizen of the United States who has been physically present in the United States or one of its outlying possessions for a continuous period of one year prior to the birth of such person, and the other of whom is a national, but not a citizen of the United States;
- (e) a person born in an outlying possession of the United States of parents one of whom is a citizen of the United States who has been physically present in the United States or one

of its outlying possessions for a continuous period of one year at any time prior to the birth of such person;

(f) a person of unknown parentage found in the United States while under the age of five years, until shown, prior to his attaining the age of twenty-one years, not to have been born in the United States;

(g) 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 five years, at least two of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years: Provided,

That any periods of honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States, or periods of employment with the United States Government or with an international organization as that term is defined in section 288 of title 22 by such citizen parent, or any periods during which such citizen parent is physically present abroad as the dependent unmarried son or daughter and a member of the household of a person (A) honorably serving with the Armed Forces of the United States, or (B) employed by the United States Government or an international organization as defined in section 288 of title 22, may be included in order to satisfy the physical-presence requirement of this paragraph. This proviso shall be applicable to persons born on or after December 24, 1952, to the same extent as if it had become effective in its present form on that date; and

(h) a person born before noon (Eastern Standard Time) May 24, 1934, outside the limits and jurisdiction of the United States of an alien father and a mother who is a citizen of the United States who, prior to the birth of such person, had resided in the United States.”
[86638]

It is rule (g) that applies to Cruz.

Is Cruz “a person born outside the geographical limits of the United States and its outlying possessions”? Yes. He was born in Calgary, Canada, not the United States or a U.S. possession like Guam.

Was Cruz born “of parents one of whom is an alien” Yes, his father was, at the time of Ted’s birth, a citizen of Cuba.

Was Cruz’s other parent “a citizen of the United States”? Yes, his mother was reportedly a citizen of the United States (if one assumes she did not at some point become a citizen of Canada—which is suggested by her working in Canada for an extensive period and her name appearing on a Canadian voter list).

Prior to the birth of Ted Cruz, was his mother “physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least

two of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years”? Yes, that is assumed to be the case.

Because the answers to those questions are yes, Ted Cruz would be considered a *citizen of the United States*, according to 8 U.S. Code § 1401.

But this question must be asked: What if Cruz’s mother had been physically present in the United States for *fewer than five years*? If that had been the case, Cruz would *not* have been considered a U.S. citizen under the statute. (Even Cruz supporters must accept that interpretation.) The statute is clear: if an individual is born outside the United States to only one U.S. citizen parent and that parent resided in the United States for fewer than five years, that individual is *not* a U.S. citizen.

Consider that the statute only declares that an individual who satisfies one of the above sets of requirements is a U.S. *citizen*. It does *not* state that he or she is a *natural born citizen*. The statute refers only to “citizen” and not to “natural born citizen.” The statute does *not* declare that an individual like Cruz is a natural born citizen. It makes it clear that he is only considered a generic citizen. One either has natural born citizen status at birth or one does not. It does not and cannot have anything to do with how long a parent lived in the United States. It is based solely on place of birth and the citizenship of the parents at the moment of birth.

Yet some *still* argue that Cruz is a natural born citizen of the United States simply because his mother was a U.S. citizen. But if the mere fact that Ted Cruz’s mother was a citizen is sufficient for him to be considered a natural born citizen, that leaves one with the *absurd* scenario in which he would be a natural born citizen *but not a citizen* had his mother lived in the United States only four years! That is precisely why the statute refers only to citizen and not natural born citizen status. It was never intended to impose natural born citizen status on anyone. Ted Cruz may be a U.S. citizen, but he is *not* a natural born citizen.

At FamilySecurityMatters.org author and retired Colonel Lawrence Sellin, Ph.D. writes, “According the Department of State, Ted Cruz’s parents should have applied at a US Consulate for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (CRBA) and/or a U.S. passport to have registered him as a U.S. citizen. Failure to promptly document a child who meets the statutory requirements for acquiring U.S. citizenship at birth may cause problems for the parents and the child when attempting to establish the child’s U.S. citizenship and eligibility for the rights and benefits of U.S. citizenship, including entry into the United States. By law, U.S. citizens, including dual nationals, must use a U.S. passport to enter and leave the United States. Ted Cruz has not released any documents directly related to how and when he obtained US citizenship. Being a US citizen at birth does not necessarily make you a ‘natural born citizen’ and eligible for the Presidency. ...Only since 2008 and the candidacy of Barack Obama, have those believing in a ‘living’ Constitution interpreted ‘natural born citizen’ as simply a citizen at birth of one US citizen parent. There are no Supreme Court decisions describing it in that way, but many decisions including statements referring to natural

born citizens as US citizens of two US citizen parents, for example: *The Venus*, 12 U.S. 253 (1814), *Shanks v. Dupont*, 28 U.S. 242 (1830), *Scott v. Sandford*, 60 U.S. 393 (1856), *Minor v. Happersett*, 88 U.S. 162 (1875). ...To demonstrate transparency, Ted Cruz should release documents directly related to how and when he obtained US citizenship, such as a CRBA. Separately, there should be a resolution by proper adjudication of the dispute over the definition of 'natural born citizen' and, thereby, eligibility for the Presidency; not simply amending the Constitution by press release or via the pronouncements of talking heads." [85186, 86684, 87008]

Devvy Kidd notes, "The statutes governing this naturalization process state: 'A child born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent or parents may acquire U.S. citizenship at birth if certain statutory requirements are met. The child's parents should contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to apply for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (CRBA) to document that the child is a U.S. citizen. If the U.S. embassy or consulate determines that the child acquired U.S. citizenship at birth, a consular officer will approve the CRBA application and the Department of State will issue a CRBA, also called a Form FS-240, in the child's name...' Not only has Cruz yet to produce his CRBA, the statute reads, "may" acquire citizenship, not "shall." That is a significant legal difference. Cruz can simply not be considered a natural born citizen because that status is acquired naturally and automatically by the circumstances of one's birth. One is either born with that status or not. The word "may" means that Cruz might or could have been granted U.S. citizenship. It also means he is *not* a natural born citizen. [87008]

In 2014 Cruz renounced his Canadian citizenship. In doing so, he admitted that he was born a Canadian citizen. How then could he be a natural born citizen of the United States if he was born a citizen of Canada? One cannot relinquish foreign citizen to become a natural born citizen of the United States; one is either born with that status or not. In giving up his Canadian citizenship, Cruz may as well have said, "I've been a Ford owner all my life, and to prove it I am going to sell my Chevrolet!"

Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee comments on Cruz's status: "When it first surfaced, I didn't think it did [pose a problem]. But after now reading a number of very thoughtful pieces by constitutional experts, yeah, I think it should give everybody a little concern. It's an issue that's got to be dealt with. There was one article from [Harvard Law School professor] Laurence Tribe, and there was another from a professor who wrote in *The Washington Post*, and it was very compelling argument. It was not a political argument. This person gave very serious reasons as to why this was a serious question." [86737, 86767]

Candidate Rick Santorum says, "Look, I have read a lot about this, and here is what I would say: The statement of Senator Cruz that this is settled law is inaccurate. It is not settled law. The Supreme Court has not ruled on it. This is an area for the Supreme Court to rule. You know me, I am not a big Supreme Court lover, but on this type of issue, this is a clear interpretation that the Supreme Court is, in fact, the body that would weigh in and make this decision." (Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) has said that Cruz is qualified... to

be “prime minister of Canada. ... We live in a really litigious world and it is a concern that people will sue him over not being born in this country.”) [86737]

CNN’s Anderson Cooper interviews leftist Harvard law professor Lawrence Tribe says “real serious scholars think there’s a serious question [about Ted Cruz’s natural born citizen status]. It’s just obvious... But most of what he said is nonsense. I mean, all of these examples about [Marco] Rubio and [Bobby] Jindal are simply distractions. He says the Constitution—you know, I think he said—hasn’t changed since September—of course, not! But the question of how you interpret that document isn’t a joke. It isn’t funny. It matters a lot—regardless of whether he is or is not kicked off some ballot because of his birth outside the United States. I mean, his whole approach on issues, where he likes the result of a very rigid view of the Constitution, is that it hasn’t changed since 1788—not only in the last six months. It’s a rigid document. It always means what it meant before. Well, in 1788, I assure you, natural born citizens did not mean simply citizens from the time of birth. All the laws he talks about since 1788 that have said you don’t have to get naturalized if it turns out that you were a citizen at—you know, if your parents—sometimes, they required, in these laws, both parents; other times, they required just the father—you don’t have to get naturalized. But they weren’t talking about this odd phrase ‘natural born citizen.’ ... That’s kind of a black hole in the Constitution. We don’t know quite what it means.” [85138]

“...[I]f some secretary of state refuses to put [Cruz’s] name on the ballot if he’s the nominee, there’s no way out of it—other than to have Cruz or the Republican National Committee sue the secretary of state. And that issue would then have to go all the way to the Supreme Court. But the fact is—you know, it’s a serious cloud. It has to be taken seriously. It’s not just a matter of coming up with great talking points or winning some debate. I think it’s—he does a disservice to the Constitution and the country when he thinks he can slide his way—slip-slide his way around this serious constitutional issue.” [85138]

On January 15 the *New York Daily News* cover features the Statue of Liberty giving Ted Cruz “the finger,” with the headline, “DROP DEAD, TED. Hey Cruz: You don’t like N.Y values? Go back to Canada!” [86699, 86707]

In that newspaper, Mike Lupica writes, “This is what Ted Cruz, who wasn’t just born out of town but out of the country, said about Donald Trump the other day: ‘Donald comes from New York and he embodies New York values.’ And made it sound as if this was some variation of insulting Trump about his hair. Later Cruz kept digging, telling Megyn Kelly of “Fox News” that New York values weren’t Iowa values or New Hampshire values, as if he is suddenly as big an expert on values as he says he is on the Constitution. Finally, on Thursday night he brought his cockeyed theories about the city to the Republican debate in South Carolina. ‘Everybody understands that the values in New York City are socially liberal and pro-abortion and pro-gay marriage,’ he said. ‘And focus on money and the media.’ This was right before Trump turned and calmly took him apart again for insulting the city the way he has. Ted Cruz, who only comes here with his

hand out, has decided that the most diverse city the world has ever known is filled with people who all think alike.” [86703]

“...Earlier on Thursday Rep. Pete King came right at Cruz like some guy he’d grown up with in Sunnyside, Queens, who needed a good slap. ‘Memo to Ted Cruz,’ King said in a statement on Thursday. ‘New York values are the heroes of 9/11; the cops who fight terror; and the people you ask for campaign donations. Go back under a rock.’ Cruz is a lightweight. He always has been, however well he is doing in caucuses in the heartland. He may do well there. He is just out of his class here. It is the other party that has a donkey as its mascot. But Cruz is the one who’s a career jackass. City to him: Get lost.” (Cruz made the mistake of listening to advisors who told him criticizing Trump for being a snooty New Yorker would help him among Iowa caucus voters. But although Trump is a New Yorker, he does not come across as Anna Wintour. Instead, he comes across as a blue-collar worker. Far too many politicians listen to focus groups more than they listen to normal Americans—and when they do it often gets them into trouble.) [86703, 86708]

At Townhall.com Cortney O’Brien writes, “Andrew Cuomo has some nerve. The New York governor, who two years ago intoned that New Yorkers with pro-life and conservative values weren’t ‘welcome’ in the state, is suddenly acting as if he’s their most ardent advocate. ...Cuomo insisted Cruz should ‘apologize’ for his comments.” Cuomo: “I’m always open to give [Cruz] an education on what New York values are all about, and if he had any class, he would apologize to the people of New York. Not that I believe they need it or they want it. But if he had any class, he would apologize.” [86715]

While Cruz may criticize “New York values,” he certainly values New York money. TheHill.com reports, “Cruz’s presidential campaign has raised at least \$470,851 from New York donors in the first three quarters of fundraising this primary season, making the state his fourth most lucrative in the U.S., according to the nonpartisan campaign finance group the Center for Responsive Politics. Not only that, but Cruz’s second-largest super-PAC contribution—a check for \$11 million—came from financier Robert Mercer, whose hedge fund Renaissance Technologies is headquartered in East Setauket, N.Y. Cruz’s New York-based presidential campaign donors include executives at Wall Street firms, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, Citigroup and, among others, the hedge fund Paulson & Co., founded by billionaire John Paulson. Cruz’s fourth-quarter contributions will not be released by the Federal Election Commission until Jan. 31.” [86734]

The media fact-checks some of the charges against Ted Cruz made by Marco Rubio during the debate. NationalReview.com concludes, “Most of Rubio’s statements about Cruz’s past positions check out, with a few wild exaggerations tossed into the mix.” [86759]

TheConservativeTreehouse.com notes “another loan for Senate Candidate Ted Cruz that was ‘Inadvertently Omitted’ in 2012 by the campaign team of Heidi and Ted Cruz. But, no-one seems to ask the key question “‘why’? ...The FEC [Federal Election Commission] requires candidates to disclose bank loans taken out to finance their bids for office simply because such loans can be used to subvert campaign finance laws. If a

candidate takes out a loan, in any amount, any entity can repay the loan on the candidate's behalf—and that's a way to subvert rules on the amount of contributions.” [85128]

At WashingtonPost.com Chris Cillizza notes a question in an NBC/WSJ poll: “Could you see yourself supporting [fill in the blank candidate] for the Republican nomination for president? When NBC/WSJ first asked GOP voters that question about Trump last March, fewer than one in four (23 percent) said they could see themselves voting for him. To say that things have changed since then is an understatement on the level of saying Tom Brady is a pretty decent quarterback.” (The number is now 65 percent.) “It's hard to overstate how remarkable it is that the number of Republicans who could see themselves backing a Trump nomination rose 42—FORTY TWO—percentage points in 10 months. It's all the more remarkable when you consider that Trump was already totally known by the GOP electorate last spring, meaning that his gains since that time are almost entirely the result of him changing peoples' minds.” (The number for Ted Cruz is 71 percent; Marco Rubio, 67; Ben Carson, 60; Christie is 48 percent; Carly Fiorina, 45; Jeb Bush, 42; Mike Huckabee, 36; Rand Paul, 32; John Kasich, 28; and Rick Santorum, 26.) [86801, 86802]

The improvement in Trump's standing among the voters perhaps reflects an abandonment of the “politically correct” nonsense. When Trump slammed rapists and murderers illegally crossing the border, even people who agreed with him were reluctant to say so; they were afraid of being perceived as racists. But the murder of Kate Steinle “gave them permission” to agree with Trump. When he said the United States should have a temporary ban on Muslim immigration, political correctness told people, “No, you can't say that!” Then a Muslim couple in San Bernardino killed 14 people. That gave people “permission” to agree with Trump. Now that the Trump train has left the station and has picked up steam, fewer people are going to be willing to jump in front of it to try to stop it. They will be eager to hop aboard.

The same phenomenon occurred in 1980. People were reluctant to say they supported Ronald Reagan because they knew they would be ridiculed for endorsing “an actor who appeared in a movie with a chimpanzee.” Eventually, however, support for Reagan grew. Even though voters were reluctant to tell pollsters they supported Reagan, they voted for him. Ted Cruz may have the opposite problem. As more people come out against him because he was born in Canada (and learn of his flip-flops on the issues), the easier it will be for people to join in the criticism. Ridicule is a *potent* weapon. (Cruz's flip-flop include his views on border security. In 2016 he talks tough and pledges to secure the border, but in July 2014 Cruz went to the border at McAllen, Texas to help distribute food, water, clothing, and toys to illegal immigrants. He joined Glenn Beck and TheBlaze.com's Dana Loesch. Passing out goodies to illegal immigrants does not enhance national security; it encourages more illegal immigration.) [87044, 87045]

Obama answers questions posed by YouTube “stars.” Someone named Ingrid Nilsen asks, “Now something that's really important to me and my audience is women's health and recently I was shocked to learn that pads, tampons, and other menstrual products are

taxes as luxury goods in over forty states and I don't know anyone who has a period that thinks it's a luxury." Obama: "Michelle would agree with you on that." Nilsen: "Yes, because it's something that's part of our everyday lives and is really crucial to our health as women and so I want to know, why do these items continue to be taxed?" Obama: "I have to tell you, I have no idea why states would tax these as luxury items. I suspect it's 'cause [sic] men were making the laws when those taxes were passed and I think it's pretty sensible for women in those states that you just mentioned to work to get those taxes removed." [86677, 86747, 86749]

The question is based on a falsehood. There is no "luxury tax" on tampons. In a majority of states they are subject to sales taxes—as are necessities like toilet paper, aspirin, groceries, and tens of thousands of other everyday items. California lawmaker Cristina Garcia whines, "Women have no choice but to buy these products, so the economic effect is only felt by women and women of color are particularly hard hit by this tax." (Garcia's argument is ridiculous. People also have "no choice" but to buy food, toothpaste, and toilet paper. If sales taxes were to be removed from every item, state and local governments would be forced to raise taxes on something else to make up the lost revenue.) [86945]

Other "hard-hitting" questions to Obama include whether dogs should wear pants on all four legs or just their hind legs (Obama choose hind legs) and which *Star Wars* movie he liked best. [86727]

DailyCaller.com reports, "NBC News journalists—including veteran reporter Andrea Mitchell—conducted interviews last week with Juanita Broaddrick, the Arkansas woman who says Bill Clinton raped her in 1978, but decided not to go forward with a story, claiming that there was not 'anything new' to report." Broaddrick tells BuzzFeed.com, "I get this call from Andrea Mitchell. She called me personally. She asked me about my meeting with Mrs. Clinton in 1978. That's the only thing she was interested in. She didn't want to go into anything else. And when I told her, she seemed she was being very defensive of Mrs. Clinton. She said, 'How do you know what she meant?' And I said, 'You had to have been there. I knew what Mrs. Clinton was trying to say. ...I really felt bad with how she was questioning me, she wanted to know what I thought and then right in the middle of it to question my sincerity. That hurt my feelings.'" (BuzzFeed notes, "Broaddrick has long claimed that at a political rally in Arkansas, Hillary Clinton approached her to shake hands and to thank her for everything that she had done for Bill Clinton. Broaddrick took this as a threat to remain silent.") [85140, 85205, 86722, 86723, 86962]

When Broaddrick was interviewed by NBC's Lisa Meyers in 1999, she stated that Hillary Clinton tried to silence her. Aaron Klein reports at Breitbart.com, "Now Broaddrick reveals to Breitbart News that an NBC staffer present for the 1999 filming rushed in front of the camera, interrupted the prerecorded session, and declared that the allegations against Hillary Clinton could not be included in the interview. She charges that NBC went so far as to re-film that portion of the interview, with Myers asking the same question anew and Broaddrick sidestepping the Hillary meeting in the new response. 'We

were sitting on my couch,’ Broaddrick recalled of the interview. ‘All the cameras were behind me. She asked some question about whether I was intimidated or threatened by anyone, and I started right in with the meeting with Hillary while we were filming the interview. And almost as soon as I started to explain, one of the staffers, I believe he was a producer, came rushing in and said, ‘No, no. We can’t go there. ...I didn’t do interviews before and I’m not a lawyer. I thought from the sound of what the NBC staffer was saying that there was some legal reason why we couldn’t talk about Hillary and that we just couldn’t go there for legal reasons.’” (Broaddrick’s statement about Hillary Clinton was not aired.) [85205, 86962]

Reuters tweets, “There are another 34 detainees at Guantanamo Bay approved for transfer, need ‘right place, right conditions’: White House.” [86680]

The movie *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi* opens in theaters across the United States. The film is not a documentary, but its technical advisors included former members of the U.S. and the CIA who were present when the attacks occurred. (In fact, the film boldly begins with the onscreen words, “This is a true story.”) At DailySignal.com Dakota Wood writes that director Michael Bay “does a credible job of telling the story of great personal courage, both moral and physical, demonstrated by these men in doing what needed to be done to protect fellow Americans. The film clearly makes the case that more could have been done, highlighting the Obama administration’s inaction that directly contributed to the loss of four Americans (Ambassador Chris Stevens, a U.S. Foreign Service information officer, and two security contractors, both former Navy SEALs). ...As depicted in the movie, and substantiated in the book from which the movie is drawn and the personal testimony before Congress of those involved on the ground in Benghazi, multiple calls were made by those at the CIA facility for support and reinforcement—calls that were met with silence from Hillary Clinton’s State Department, David Petraeus’ CIA, and Leon Panetta’s Department of Defense.” [86683, 86719, 86721, 86730, 86750, 86836, 85155]

At PJMedia.com Tyler O’Neil writes that *13 Hours* “is a fantastic film, no less excellent for its surprisingly subtle political commentary. Far better than any direct attack ad, this film blasts ...Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton while telling a compelling story of terror and heroism. ...The carnage and death that characterizes the city of Benghazi throughout the film itself stands as a strong rebuke to Obama’s decision—advocated by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and others—to aid the overthrow of Gaddafi’s government. Warfare, not an ‘Arab Spring,’ followed the fall of the old regime; the September 11, 2012 attack was only the slightest American taste of the country’s bloodshed. ...*13 Hours* subtly reminds Americans that they were lied to about the Benghazi attacks for political capital in the November 2012 election. ...Moment-by-moment, *13 Hours* subtly and powerfully shows the real tragedy of the 2012 Benghazi attacks—a lack of support from the powerful U.S. military. The film notes the time when the White House heard about the attack, and the time when two brave Americans were killed in mortar fire. No less than 7 hours pass.” [86719]

One devastating scene in the movie shows the CIA station chief telling his operatives not to go to the annex to rescue the Americans there. DCWhisper.com writes, “The Washington Post published an interview with the now-retired CIA base chief in question, a man who in that interview was adamant no such stand [stand-down] order was given. Mitchell Zuckoff, the book’s author on which the film is based, strongly disagrees. Zuckoff points out how he used direct corroborating testimony from multiple sources who were on the ground in Benghazi that night. Zuckoff says he attempted to interview the station chief but that the interview was denied—repeatedly. More recently, the *13 Hours* author has indicated any claim the stand down order was NOT given as being ‘not credible,’ a slightly kinder way of saying the former CIA station chief is lying. In Washington D.C., the Obama administration’s CIA spokesperson dismissed the film as well, calling it, ‘...a distortion of events.’ The conflicting views leads America to wonder who is telling the truth? Is it the Obama administration and Hillary Clinton, or the accounts of the men and women who were on the ground in Benghazi during the Benghazi Massacre attack?” [86728]

Donald Trump leases an Iowa movie theater for free showings of *13 Hours*. Breitbart.com writes, “This is a brilliant political strategy on Trump’s part; a way to get the word out about a major Hollywood movie that is also a damning indictment of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Moreover, ‘13 Hours’ is an equally damning indictment of a media that to this very day still coordinates directly with Obama and Hillary to shield them from the political fallout both deserve due to their depraved indifference towards the truth and American lives. Trump’s move also forces the media to talk about ‘13 Hours,’ give a movie they would like to see die a quiet death all kinds of free publicity. It is glorious to watch, and undoubtedly the frontrunner’s overall goal.” (Trump has spent little money on his campaign, but when he does he spends it wisely.) [86700]

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) endorses Jeb Bush for president. (Donald Trump tweets, “Sen. Lindsey Graham embarrassed himself with his failed run for President and now further embarrasses himself with endorsement of Bush.”) [86740]

Walmart announces it will close 269 stores around the world, including 154 in the United States. As many as 16,000 employees will be affected; 10,000 of them in the United States. (Walmart has also stated it would not build another two stores in Washington, D.C. because of high construction and labor costs. Walmart may even close its existing three stores in the area if the city raises its minimum wage from \$11.50 to \$15.00 per hour. A store closure in Oakland, California may be due in part to the high minimum wage in that city.) [86689, 86698, 86789, 87286]

Houston attorney Newton Schwartz, a supporter of Bernie Sanders, files a lawsuit (*Schwartz v. Cruz*) in Texas charging that Ted Cruz may be ineligible to run for and serve as president because he is not a natural born citizen. Schwartz says, “The country will be in chaos if [Cruz is] elected president or vice president and this goes to trial then. I can see both sides of this argument. ...If he gets cleared, he gets cleared. Let’s just get this thing settled before the primaries and the convention and the election.” [86697, 86702, 86704, 86705, 86710, 86712, 87001]

Meanwhile, according to a January 7-14 Reuters/Ipsos poll, 27 percent of Republican voters and 28 percent of independent voters believe Ted Cruz is not eligible to serve as president because he was born in Canada to a Cuban father. [86713]

The Obama administration releases 10 terrorist detainees from Guantanamo to Oman. (It probably will not be long before the 10 end up in Yemen.) Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) states, “Yemen is engulfed in civil war, serves as the headquarters for al Qaeda’s most dangerous affiliate, and one or more of the Charlie Hebdo attackers is believed to have travelled from Oman to Yemen to receive training from AQAP [al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula]. This ...transfer is all the more troubling in light of the fact that Ibrahim al Qosi, who was released from Gitmo by the Obama administration in 2012, is now reportedly a leader and spokesman for AQAP.” [86709]

At AntiWar.com Justin Raimondo writes, “Your bullshit-ometer should be making an awful racket in response to the shifting explanations given for the twenty-four-hour Iranian hostage scare involving two US Navy boats intercepted in the Gulf. First they told us ‘at least one of the boats’ had experienced a ‘mechanical failure.’ Then they said the boats had run out of fuel, although it wasn’t clear if they meant both boats. Then they said ‘there was no mechanical problem.’ Then they claimed that the two crews had somehow not communicated with the military command, although ‘they could not explain how the military had lost contact with not one but both of the boats.’ ...And they still haven’t explained it—or any of the other distinctly odd circumstances surrounding this incident. The best they could do was have an anonymous Navy officer aver ‘When you’re navigating in those waters, the space around it gets pretty tight.’ ...[H]ardly anyone in this country is asking the hard questions, first and foremost: what in heck were those two boats doing in Iranian waters? And if you believe they somehow ‘drifted’ within a few miles of Farsi Island, where a highly sensitive Iranian military base is located, then you probably think there’s a lot of money just waiting for you in a Nigerian bank account.” [86738]

At AmericanThinker.com reader Matt Bracken comments, “I was a Navy SEAL officer in the 1980s, and this kind of operation (transiting small boats in foreign waters) was our bread and butter. Today, these boats both not only had radar, but multiple GPS devices, including chart plotters that place your boat's icon right on the chart. The claim by Iran that the USN boats ‘strayed into Iranian waters’ is complete bull\$#it. For an open-water transit between nations, the course is studied and planned in advance by the leaders of the Riverine Squadron, with specific attention given to staying wide and clear of any hostile nation’s claimed territorial waters. The boats are given a complete mechanical check before departure, and they have sufficient fuel to accomplish their mission plus extra. If, for some unexplainable and rare circumstance one boat broke down, the other would tow it, that’s why two boats go on these trips and not one! It’s called ‘self-rescue’ and it’s SOP.” [86797, 86798]

“This entire situation is in my area of expertise. I can state with complete confidence that both Iran and our own State Department are lying. The boats did not enter Iranian waters.

They were overtaken in international waters by Iranian patrol boats that were so superior in both speed and firepower that it became a 'hands up!' situation, with automatic cannons in the 40mm to 76mm range pointed at them point-blank. Surrender, hands up, or be blown out of the water. I assume that the Iranians had an English speaker on a loudspeaker to make the demand. This takedown was no accident or coincidence, it was a planned slap across America's face. Just watch. The released sailors will be ordered not to say a word about the incident, and the Iranians will have taken every GPS device, chart-plotter etc. off the boats, so that we will not be able to prove where our boats were taken. The 'strayed into Iranian waters' story being put out by Iran and our groveling and appeasing State Dept. is utter and complete BS from one end to the other." [86797, 86798]

At GatesofVienna.net Baron Bodissey adds, "I think that the take-down happened in international waters. The Iranians would have known to the minute when the boats were leaving Kuwait, and their probable course to Bahrain, so an intercept would be simple. They know our ROE [rules of engagement] would be 'Do not shoot EVER unless you are fired upon first. PERIOD!!!' So, if the Iranians jam our boats so they cannot communicate, and then swoop in close, it's almost a guaranteed outcome. They KNOW we won't shoot first! So by coming in closer and closer with weapons aimed at our sailors, overwhelming them with numbers at point-blank, then on loudspeaker they say, 'Step away from your weapons or we will slaughter you!' At that point, it's a fait accompli. Once our sailors step back from their guns, it's over. Next, 'Take off your jackets and weapons' etc., until they are in t-shirts only. Then 'Kneel down!' Step by step they get their way, based on a deep understanding of our ROE and our responses at every stage. Once they have control of our boats, they can drive them to Farsi Island, and remove every single GPS device, radar, cell phone etc. Then, there can be no proof of where the attack happened. And worst of all, Obama and [John] Kerry are happy to go along with the lie, in order not to upset the nuclear deal applecart." [86797, 86798]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at 15,988, down 391 points for the day.

In Burkina Faso, members of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb attack a luxury hotel; 28 people are killed and 54 are wounded. One of the dead is an American: Michael James Riddering. [86779, 86780]

The *Daily Mail* reports, "A Swiss Muslim-convert has been arrested at the Turkish border on suspicion of intending to take her four-year-old son to Syria after being radicalised online by ISIS. Franziska Mirella, 29, has been sent back to Switzerland where she could face trial for supporting a banned terror organisation. ...Franziska converted to Islam when she married her husband Mahmoud and moved to his homeland, Egypt. While living in Egypt, she had started to follow increasingly radical Islamic services on the Internet, and according to her husband had come into contact with jihadists via social media." (Obama continues to insist that no one should fear Muslim women or children.) [86821, 86822]

On January 16 *Fox & Friends* co-host Tucker Carlson says Obama's "obsession with Fox [News] is really striking. There's one news channel that covers him as journalists should—skeptically. We do and he can't handle it, he can't tolerate it. It's just an offense to him. He refuses to sit down with people who ask him real questions... and I hate that. Be a man, sit down, take a real question from a real reporter once in a while." [86835]

Iran releases four Iranian-Americans in exchange for seven Iranians being held in U.S. prisons. (The seven freed Iranians are: Nader Modanlou, Bahram Mechanic, Khosrow Afqahi, Arash Ghahreman, Touraj Faridi, Nima Golestaneh, and Ali Sabounchi.) The released Americans are *Washington Post* reporter Jason Rezaian, pastor Saeed Abedini, Amir Hekmati, and Nosratollah Khosravi. (The trade comes just as the United States prepares to release to Iran \$100-\$150 billion in assets that had been frozen under the sanctions policies. Some pundits will eagerly declare that U.S.-Iran relations have now thawed—but that is a naive interpretation. Once Iran gets its cash back the situation may change. By "playing nice" with a prisoner exchange, Iran and the Obama administration tamp down critics who would like to delay the release of the assets. To believe none of that cash will be used to continue financing worldwide terrorist operations is ridiculous.) [85171, 85173, 86716, 86741, 86748, 86751, 86807, 86808, 86874]

The Obama administration is also dropping charges against 14 Iranians accused of sanctions violations: Saeed Jamili, Jalal Salami, Matin Sadeqi, Alireza Moazzemi Goudarzi, Mohammad Abbas Mohammadi, Kourosh Taherkhani, Sajjad Farhadi, Seyed Ahmad Abtahi, Gholamreza Mahmoudi, Hamid Arabnejad, Ali Moattar, Mohammad Ali She'rbaf, Amin Ravan, and Behrouz Dolatzadeh. [86761]

In addition, according to TheGatewayPundit.com, "The Obama administration pressured Interpol to cease pursuing the terrorists behind the AMIA Center bombing in Argentina as part of the deal. The AMIA bombing was an attack on the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, killing 85 people and injuring hundreds. It was Argentina's deadliest bombing ever. Argentines prosecutors formally charged the Iranian authorities of directing Hezbollah to carry out the attack. It looks like, once again, the Iranian regime got everything they wanted from Obama. And the Jews are the losers." [86761, 86762, 86763]

Obama's hatred of Israel can explain his willingness to sweep under the rug the AMIA bombing investigations. In addition, his anti-American socialist pal in Argentina, the tyrannical President Cristina Kirchner, also wants the investigations ended. On July 20, 2015, NewYorker.com noted, "In the last days of his life, Alberto Nisman could hardly wait to confront his enemies. On January 14th of this year, Nisman, a career prosecutor in Argentina, had made an electrifying accusation against the country's President, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. He charged that she had orchestrated a secret plan to scuttle the investigation of the bloodiest terrorist attack in Argentina's history: the 1994 suicide bombing of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina, the country's largest Jewish organization, in which eighty-five people were killed and more than three hundred wounded. ... In 2006, he indicted seven officials from the government of Iran, including its former President and Foreign Minister, whom he accused of planning and directing the

attack, along with a senior leader of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Months later, Nisman secured international arrest warrants for five officials, effectively preventing them from leaving Iran.” [86764]

“...On January 14, 2015, Nisman released the results [of his investigation], accusing the President [Kirchner] of engaging in a criminal conspiracy to bury the amia [AMIA] case. ‘The order to execute the crime came directly and personally from the President of the Nation,’ he wrote. Amid a public outcry, Nisman was summoned to testify before the Argentine Congress. He told friends that he’d begun to fear for his life, but he was determined to see the case through. A few days before his scheduled appearance, he sent a text message to a friend: ‘On Monday I am going in strong with evidence!’ The night before Nisman was due in Congress, his body was found in his apartment, slumped against the bathroom door in a pool of blood. ...In a trash can, police found a draft of a legal document, written by Nisman and never executed, clearing the way for Kirchner’s arrest.” [86764]

The Obama administration had previously pressed Argentina to end its investigation of the AMIA bombing, even though the South American nation had evidence against at least one Iranian. According to WorldTribune.com, “A key Iranian suspect was identified as Ali Akhbar Velayati, foreign minister from 1981 until 1987, and deemed close to supreme leader [Ayatollah] Ali Khamenei. Velayati has been on the official wanted list of Interpol since 2007 and a subject of an international arrest warrant by Argentina.” Kirchner’s involvement in the cover-up of the bombing was in exchange for favorable grain-for-oil trade deals with Iran. It is believed that Iran’s current president, Hassan Rouhani, was involved in the decision to bomb the Jewish center. On January 26, 2015, AFP reported, “President Kirchner dissolves Argentine intelligence service after prosecutor death.” Many naturally assume that Kirchner ordered the killing of Nisman. Others might assume that she ordered people to “look the other way” while Iranian operatives killed him. (Obama also wanted everyone “looking the other way.”) According to Newsmax.com, “Iran helped to finance” Kirchner’s 2007 campaign “in an effort to secure Argentina’s help in its nuclear weapons development program, according to a new report in a South American media outlet. The Brazilian magazine *Veja* [‘Look’] asserts that the deal was brokered by Venezuela’s then-President Hugo Chavez...” [70740, 70741, 70842, 73337, 73356]

In the fall of 2015 Kirchner addresses the United Nations General Assembly and claimed that in 2010 former White House Coordinator for Arms Control and Weapons of Mass Destruction Gary Samore tried to persuade her to provide Iran with nuclear fuel. Kirchner stated that Samore “came to see us in Argentina with a mission, with an objective: under the control of IAEA, the international organization in the field of weapons control and nuclear regulation, Argentina had supplied in the year 1987, during the first democratic government, the nuclear fuel for the reactor known as ‘Teheran.’ Gary Samore had explained to our Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hector Timerman, that negotiations were underway for the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease with its uranium enrichment activities or to do it to a lesser extent but Iran claimed that it needed to enrich this Teheran nuclear reactor and this was hindering negotiations. They came to ask us, Argentines, to provide

the Islamic Republic of Iran with nuclear fuel. Rouhani was not in office yet. It was [Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad's administration and negotiations had already started." [81816, 81817, 81818, 81819]

Mediaite.com wrote at the time, "According to Kirchner, when Samore was asked to provide the request in writing, all communication from the United States ceased. Kirchner stated, 'This message was conveyed and I believe that was the last time, after that communication, that our Minister of Foreign Affairs saw Gary Samore.' As soon as the essential protocol from the Argentinian government was pushed further—asking for the Iranian fuel transfer request in writing—Samore, she says, disappeared." (That is, the Obama administration did not want a paper trail so that, in the event the scheme was made public, it could be denied.) [81816, 81817, 81818, 81819]

American Siamak Namazi and former FBI agent Robert Levinson also remain behind bars in Iran. Levinson went missing in Iran in 2007; his family reportedly received information in 2010 that indicated he was still alive and in captivity. Levinson's family complains that they learned of the release of the other four prisoners from television news; the Obama administration did not even bother to contact them to let them know their family would not be reunited with their loved one. [86753, 86874]

An arguably naive Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) comments, "It was done, I think, because even though Iran is a country with very limited freedom, we were willing to negotiate. It goes to temperament. All the other Republicans are telling you—rip up that [nuclear] agreement. I say, 'Really? Don't we want to see if it works first?' ...I'm hopeful that this means Iran is going to begin behaving in a more civilized fashion. Some will remark that this happens on the eve of money being released to them from the exchange account, but it may mean it's a new opening and thawing of relations. I've always said that negotiations are better than war, and then if Iran adheres to this, it will be a good agreement." (The Obama administration did not negotiate with Iran; it caved in to Iran. There is already evidence that the agreement did not work, as Iran has continued work on intercontinental ballistic missiles—whose only purpose is to carry nuclear warheads.) [86760]

In Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Donald Trump comments, "This [release] of Americans] should have been done three or four years ago." To Trump, the deal "doesn't sound too good. They get \$150 billion, plus seven [people] and we get four [in exchange]." [86796]

Campaigning in Iowa, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) states, "Governments are taking Americans hostage, because they believe they can gain concessions from this government under Barack Obama. It's created an incentive for more people to do this in the future." [86796]

In Amherst, New Hampshire, Jeb Bush says, "Let's take a step back here. The bigger issue is that we've legitimized a regime who [sic; that] shows no interest in actually moving toward the so-called community of nations." [86796]

In Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Ted Cruz says, “I want to start by giving thanks... but at the same time we’ve got to shake our heads at how it happened. ...You’ll notice the Obama administration announces the good news and then hides the bad news. While we celebrate their return, this deal serves as piece of propaganda for both Iran and the Obama administration.” [86796]

Journalist Shane Bauer tweets, “When I was in prison in Iran [2009-2011], whenever I heard Hillary’s [Hillary Clinton’s] voice, my heart would sink. All she ever does with Iran is inflame tensions.” [85139]

Haaretz.com reports, “The day before the Obama administration was due to slap new sanctions on Iran late last month, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif warned U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry the move could derail a prisoner deal the two sides had been negotiating in secret for months. Kerry and other top aides to ...Obama, who was vacationing in Hawaii, convened a series of conference calls and concluded they could not risk losing the chance to free Americans held by Tehran. At the last minute, the Obama administration officials decided to delay a package of limited and targeted sanctions intended to penalize Iran for recent test-firings of a ballistic missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead.” [86732, 86752, 86758]

TheHill.com reports, “Iran has taken sufficient steps to prevent it from building a nuclear weapon, the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog certified Saturday, opening the door for the United States and countries around the world to lift sanctions that have crippled Iran’s economy. After decades of tensions, years of negotiations and months of work to implement the international nuclear deal reached six months ago, Iran has fulfilled its promises, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said. AFP reported moments later that the nuclear deal is now implemented, citing a U.S. official.” [86736, 86756]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “A senior Iranian military commander in charge of the country’s Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed that the 10 U.S. sailors who were recently captured and subsequently released by the Islamic Republic ‘started crying after [their] arrest,’ according to Persian language comments made during military celebrations this weekend. Hossein Salami, deputy commander of the IRGC, which is responsible for boarding the U.S. ships and arresting the sailors, claimed in recent remarks, the ‘American sailors started crying after arrest, but the kindness of our Guard made them feel calm.’ Hossein went on to brag that the incident provides definitive evidence of the Iranian military’s supremacy in the region.” [85157, 86777, 86778, 86787, 86794]

Ahmad Dolabi, an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander, says, “I saw the weakness, cowardice, and fear of American soldiers myself. Despite having all of the weapons and equipment, they surrendered themselves with the first action of the guardians of Islam. American forces receive the best training and have the most advanced weapons in the world, but they did not have the power to confront the Guard due to weakness of faith and belief. We gave all of the weapons and equipment to American forces according to an Islamic manner. They formally apologized to the Islamic Republic.

Be certain that with the blood of martyrs, the revolution advances. No one can inflict the smallest insult upon our Islamic country.” [85157]

Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer writes, “As the Iranians continue to boast and thump their chests about this incident, the Obama Administration’s attempts to wave it away ring increasingly hollow. Iran humiliated these sailors and the U.S. itself, and has demonstrated the weakness and fecklessness of the Obama Administration to the entire world.” [86787]

Meanwhile, BizPacReview.com reports, “The [U.S.] Air Force said it will conduct a review to determine whether the use of ‘airman’ is appropriate given the military’s push towards full gender equality.” (Whether “airman” will be replaced by “airperson” or “airhuman” is not clear.) [86795]

NBCWashington.com reports, “A Virginia man who was allegedly attempting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group and a man accused of helping him have been arrested, according to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice. Joseph Hassan Farrokh, 28, of Woodbridge, Virginia, was arrested Friday afternoon at the Richmond International Airport as he attempted to board a flight to Chicago. Officials said once he reached Chicago, he intended to board a flight to Amman, Jordan, with an ultimate destination of Syria. Mahmoud Amin Mohamed Elhassan, 25, also of Woodbridge, was arrested Friday evening after returning from driving Farrokh to Richmond. Farrokh, who is a U.S. citizen originally from Pennsylvania, has been charged with attempting to provide material support and resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization. Elhassan, who is a legal permanent U.S. resident originally from Sudan, has been charged with aiding and abetting Farrokh’s attempt to provide material support and resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization.” [86783, 86784, 86813]

Obama signs executive orders lifting the sanctions against Iran. In Vienna, Secretary of State John Kerry says, “Iran has honored its commitment to alter, in fact dismantle, much of its” nuclear operation. “All of Iran’s paths toward a nuclear weapon have been stopped. ...Today marks the first day of a safer world. ...This evening, we are really reminded once again of diplomacy’s power to tackle significant challenges.” [86766, 86785, 86786]

Former Republican National Committee chairman Michael Steele, asked by WPHT if anyone can stop Donald Trump, replies, “I’m gonna [sic] say, and I know people are gonna [sic] scratch their heads and go [sic; say], ‘What?’ but I don’t [think] you can. That window has closed and I think Donald Trump effectively closed it over the last couple of months. ...He’s polling anywhere from 33 to 35, 36% in every poll in the country. He’s now tightened the space between him and [Ted] Cruz in Iowa. Cruz is still in the lead, but Cruz is slipping. He’s down two points and Trump is up a couple points. So, you tell me who does it and you tell me when they do it. Folks start voting in two and a half weeks. You tell me that 33%, that 40% nationally, he didn’t just drill it down to a New Hampshire or an Iowa, where he’s leading by double digits, except against Cruz in Iowa where he’s much closer, but he’s at 27, 25. Cruz is at 24, 23, and he’s at 22, 21. [Do] You

think those percentages are just going to dissipate? ...So, I don't see how that momentum gets stopped right now, I don't know who breaks it. Come on, you had eight months. You had eight months to take him down." [86768, 86769]

At a New Hampshire campaign event, a person in the audience suggests Donald Trump pick former Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown as his running mate. Trump responds, "Vice president—hey, that sounds like it could—hey, hey, very good. Hey, you know what? And he's central casting. Look at that guy. Central casting. He's great. Great guy and a great, beautiful, great wife and family. So important." (If he does win the nomination, Trump is unlikely to select Brown as his running mate. But Trump's response is brilliant. He gets the voters to subconsciously accept that he *will* be the nominee, letting them all speculate on who he might select as his vice presidential candidate. Even those who may not be fully 100 percent behind Trump likely leave the event thinking, "Well, if he would pair up with person X, I'd surely vote for them.") [86757, 86792]

Trump also slams Glenn Beck for perpetrating a lie that he voted for Obama. (Beck has posted an obviously fake Twitter message "proving" his charge.) Beck's claim is absurd. Trump raised money for the McCain campaign in 2008 and Trump even considered running against Obama in 2012. (TheConservativeTreeHouse.com points out, "Ted Cruz's 'Keep the Promise 1' Super-Pac is run by David Barton. David Barton is the Co-Chair of Beck's Mercury One Charity. ...If evangelical Mormon Beck is willing to lie—so easily—to prop up his evangelical friend Ted Cruz, (aka Benny Hinn Jr.) what else are they both committed to lying about?") Beck, whose media company is hemorrhaging money and may not last long, later apologizes for being fooled by a fake tweet. [85144, 86770, 86771, 86772, 86773, 86793, 86834, 87582]

Donald Trump leads GOP candidates in a national 13 Reuters poll, with 38.2 percent. He is followed by Ted Cruz (14.9 percent), Ben Carson (10.7), Jeb Bush (9.6), Marco Rubio (6.3), Chris Christie (4.0), Rand Paul (3.3), Carly Fiorina (3.2), and Mike Huckabee (2.3). [86765]

At Examiner.com Lori Stacey writes, "According to the Canadian Citizenship Act of 1946, also referred to as the 'Act of 1947' because of its effective date, Canada did not allow dual citizenship. This was the first citizenship act in Canada to create a new citizenship status separate from being considered British Subjects. With the pride of a nation first enacting the right to become Canadian Citizens, it would stand to reason why they also chose at the time to not allow dual citizenship. According to the Government of Canada's website, the heading 'History of citizenship legislation' states the following: 'Up to January 1, 1947, there was no legal status of Canadian citizens, only British subjects. This Act gave legal recognition to the terms 'Canadian citizen' and 'Canadian citizenship.' The Act established who was and who could become a Canadian citizen...' ...It was not until the passage of the 'Citizenship Act' effective on February 15, 1977 that the ability to hold dual citizenship was changed." (In other words, Ted Cruz was born with Canadian citizenship. Dual citizenship was not permitted by Canadian law. Cruz could become a U.S. citizen only by relinquishing his Canadian citizenship and becoming

a naturalized U.S. citizen. But that would not have made Cruz a natural born citizen of the United States.) [86781]

Stacey continues, “In order for Ted Cruz to have ‘become’ a US citizen at birth in 1970, his mother would have had to retain exclusive citizenship to the US and filed a CRBA (Consular Report of Birth Abroad) to ‘obtain’ exclusive US citizenship at the time for her son Ted and renounced his automatic ‘naturally acquired’ Canadian citizenship. The process in itself is considered a very abbreviated form of ‘naturalization,’ thereby making such persons born outside of the OFFICIAL territories of the United States absolutely ineligible to become President of these United States in at least this one circumstance alone. Given that Canadian law did not allow dual citizenship at the time, then IF [Cruz’s] mother filed a CRBA in 1970, his Canadian citizenship would likely have needed to be renounced before a new US citizenship could be granted.” In addition, Cruz’s mother, “according to Canadian law, ...would still have automatically become a Canadian citizen in 1969 after having a Canadian spouse (Ted’s Father) and residing in Canada for 1 year. This information substantiates the reports claiming that both of his parents appeared on the Canadian voter’s rolls. There is now an unconfirmed claim that someone has supposedly verified that they indeed both voted in the October of 1972 federal Canadian election.” [86781]

“If both of Ted’s parents became exclusive citizens of Canada by 1969, then even if his mother tried to file a CRBA, she would not have been able to confer US citizenship to her son as she was no longer a US citizen herself. Even if she somehow retained US citizenship, Ted could not have been granted dual citizenship as it was against Canadian law. The only thing that is certain is that Ted Cruz automatically became a Canadian citizen the instant he was born on Canadian soil and that fact is absolutely irrefutable. Likewise, the release of his mother’s birth certificate certainly settles absolutely nothing. Ted Cruz did not renounce his Canadian citizenship until 2014. All FOIA requests have been denied requesting a copy of a CRBA and he has not released it or any other naturalization papers. There is currently no proof available to show he ever became a US citizen. It is perfectly understandable that he would not want to release any such naturalization documents as one cannot be considered both ‘naturalized’ and ‘natural-born.’” [86781]

“Senator Cruz has repeatedly claimed that he did not have to go through any type of naturalization process (including a CRBA), that he was automatically a US citizen by birth but that does not match US law for persons born in another country. If indeed that was just assumed and nothing was ever filed to correct that erroneous assumption, then he never has become a US citizen and... Ted Cruz must show naturalization papers to keep his US senate seat. Even though Marco Rubio also can’t be a natural-born citizen and is instead considered an ‘anchor baby,’ his parents did become US citizens 4 years after his birth. He is therefore legally able to serve in the US Senate regardless of your interpretation of birthright citizenship.” [86781]

“...[T]here have been at least now 5 lawsuits filed in 5 different states challenging Ted Cruz’ eligibility to become President, a majority of these also equally challenge Marco

Rubio's eligibility even though it is rarely reported. The states are/were: NH, VT, FL, IL and TX. Every Republican candidate running for President should be immediately filing lawsuits to have both Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio removed from the presidential contest as their continued participation presents an unlawful detriment to everyone else's candidacy." [86781]

It is worth noting that the nation's Founding Fathers would never even have used the term "dual citizenship," let alone accepted it. One was born with the citizenship of the soil (*jus soli*, or right of the soil) or citizenship by blood (*jus sanguinis*, or right of the blood)—with preference given to the father's citizenship if it differed from the mother's. The Founding Fathers would *never* have considered Ted Cruz a U.S. citizen, let alone a natural born citizen, because neither would apply under the principles of *jus soli* or *jus sanguinis*. If Cruz insists on pursuing the issue, he will lose at the Supreme Court. (Although the cowardly Justices refused to hear *Kerchner v. Obama*, fearing race riots if they ruled against Obama, at least they then had the cover of widespread belief that Obama was born in Hawaii. In Cruz's case, he readily admits he was born in Canada. He would be wise to ignore the issue and hope it goes away—but it will not.)

At NorthAmericanLawCenter.org J. B. Williams observes, "US Senator Ted Cruz, from Texas, has been under fire in his bid for the White House due to his Canadian citizenship records which make it quite clear that he does not meet the Constitutional 'natural born Citizen' requirement for the Oval Office, despite the opinion letter from his Harvard friends. ...In the effort to vet every 2016 presidential candidate, Cruz, who had once stated that both he and Barack Obama were ineligible for the Oval Office, found himself under tight scrutiny from the same people who tried to stop Obama from taking the Oval Office via fraud. Ted placed himself in the crosshairs of constitutionalists who do not care about partisan politics, by seeking an office he is not eligible to seek. In investigating Cruz eligibility for the Oval Office, his eligibility for the US Senate came into question..." (To serve as a United States Senator requires being "nine Years a Citizen of the United States...") Ted Cruz was born a citizen of Canada. In May 2014 he renounced his Canadian citizenship. Cruz was therefore a citizen of Canada when he ran for the Senate. [85148]

Williams writes, "[T]he Cruz campaign hired friends at Harvard to issue a letter which makes a legal case for how Ted Cruz (and Barack Obama) might be a natural born Citizen of the United States eligible to seek the Oval Office. However, a legal opinion letter is not equal to, nor does it supersede authentic evidence to the contrary. It is possible for a child to be born outside of the United States, and still acquire legal U.S. citizenship at birth through a parent, according to U.S. Naturalization codes pertaining to 'Citizenship at Birth for Children Born Outside the U.S. and its Territories.' If the related conditions are met, a child born outside of the United States to one U.S. Citizen parent, in this case, Ted's mother, the parents can file for and receive U.S. Citizenship for the child by filing a CRBA form with a U.S. Consulate at the time of birth. ...Unfortunately, there is no evidence to suggest that the parent or parents of Ted Cruz ever filed a CRBA form with the U.S. Government in or around 1970, which is why Ted Cruz released a copy of his Canadian citizenship records and not any U.S. citizenship records. At present, all

FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests filed in search of any U.S. citizenship documents to confirm the true official U.S. citizenship status of Ted Cruz have been denied access. All citizenship records for Ted Cruz are sealed unless and until Ted Cruz agrees to allow any such records to be released by either U.S. or Canadian agencies. As a result, there remains no authentic evidence to support the claims that Ted Cruz is either a ‘natural born’ or ‘naturalized’ citizen of the United States.” [85148]

“Without any form of U.S. Citizenship documentation, [but with] proof of Canadian citizenship at birth in 1970 and holding that legal status until May 2014 when he renounced his birth citizenship to Canada, there is no way for Ted Cruz to prove that he is either ‘natural born’ and eligible for the Oval Office, or ‘naturalized’ prior to 2012, when he sought and accepted a seat in the U.S. Senate as a legal citizen of Canada. On the basis of all available evidence today, Ted Cruz is in fact holding a seat in the U.S. Senate illegally, with no documented proof of legal U.S. citizenship whatsoever, and [with] proof of Canadian citizenship between the years of birth in 1970 and May 2014. It is unfortunate that a person so many have placed their political faith in has proven willing to defraud his supporters for both votes and millions in campaign donations. But it is better we know now, than after he wins the GOP nomination only to be destroyed by Democrats later, using the same facts and evidence presented here. What will the people do with this knowledge? Are they really motivated by restoration of Constitutional compliance, or mere political expediency?” [85148]

With regard to “anchor babies,” it is clear from historical records that the Fourteenth Amendment was intended only to grant citizenship to freed slaves. It was *never* meant to make U.S. citizens of children born on U.S. soil to immigrants who were not yet U.S. citizens. One of the Amendment’s authors, Senator Jacob Howard of Michigan, wrote, “I have offered is simply declaratory of what I regard as the law of the land already, that every person born within the limits of the United States, and subject to their jurisdiction, is by nature of natural law and national law citizen of the United States. This will not, of course, include persons born in the United States who are foreigners, aliens, who belong to the families of ambassadors or foreign ministers accredited to the Government of the United States, but will include every other class of persons.” “Anchor baby” defenders argue that “subject to their jurisdiction” means they are U.S. citizens because they are subject to the laws of the United States. But that is not what the phrase means. The child is subject to the citizenship of its parents. If an American couple has a baby while on vacation in Paris, that child is *not* considered a French citizen. The child remains subject to the laws of the United States and is born a U.S. citizen. (But the child is not a natural born citizen, because it was not born on U.S. soil.) [86973, 86974]

Of course, the supporters of Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio cannot have it both ways. If birth in Florida makes Rubio a U.S. citizen regardless of the citizenship of his parents (who were Cuban citizens at the time), then birth in Canada makes Ted Cruz a Canadian citizen, regardless of the citizenship of his parents. But if birth in Canada to a Cuban-Canadian father is irrelevant and he is to be considered a U.S. citizen because of the citizenship of his mother, then Marco Rubio has to be considered to have been born a Cuban citizen. That is, one cannot say that place of birth is the key factor for Cruz, while

at the same saying that citizenship of the mother is the key factor for Cruz. One cannot pick and choose key factors. One cannot say in 2008 birth in Kenya would have rendered Obama ineligible, and say in 2016 that birth in Canada does not render Cruz ineligible.

In Dortmund, Germany, three men from North Africa are arrested after they stone two transgender women. Victim Yasmine says, “That was barbaric what they did. They are barbarians. ...In 2016, in Germany, with stoning!” JPost.com writes, “According to Yasmine and Elisa, the three young men propositioned them, but after they realized that Yasmine and Elisa are transgender women, they attacked them with stones.” (Pamela Geller observes, “This best illustrates the hypocrisy of the left. They will sacrifice their own to impose their agenda—transgenders, women are on their own. The Muslim invasion is the priority of the left. Many women, gays, transgender don’t dare leave the house now for fear of attack.”) [86775, 86776, 86782]

DCExaminer.com’s Gabriella Morrongiello tweets, “Saw [the movie] 13 hours. One guy yelled, ‘You suck, Hillary. Semper fi,’ as soon as it was over and the theater erupted in applause. So there’s that.” [86825]

On January 17 Obama goes to the lectern to brag about the nuclear deal with Iran, saying it will now never get a nuclear weapon. (That is incorrect. Even if Iran follows the terms of the agreement, it is bound to do so for only a limited number of years.) Obama notes the release of the four Americans held by Iran, falsely claiming that was linked to the nuclear negotiations. (That completely contradicts previous reports that the American hostages were never discussed.)

Obama says, “This is a good day because, once again, we’re seeing what is possible with strong American diplomacy. These things are a reminder of what we can achieve when we lead with strength and with wisdom, with courage and resolve and patience. Americans [have] done big things when we work together. We can lead this world, make it safer and more secure for our children and our grandchildren for generations to come. ...I want to also point out that by working with Iran on this nuclear deal, we were better able to address other issues. We worked directly with the Iranian government and secured the release of our sailors in less than 24 hours.” (The sailors should never have been held in the first place.) [86826]

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu states, “What is clear is that Iran will now have more resources to divert to terrorism and its aggression in the region and around the world, and Israel is prepared to deal with any threat.” [86815, 86816]

Milos Zeman, President of the Czech Republic, says, “The experience of Western European countries which have ghettos and excluded localities shows that the integration of the Muslim community is practically impossible. Let them have their culture in their countries and not take it to Europe, otherwise it will end up like Cologne.” [86819]

Providing another example of media stupidity with regard to the term natural born citizen and the U.S. Constitution, Matt Barber writes at Townhall.com, “[E]ight of the first nine

U.S. presidents should have been ineligible to serve as well. Since they were all born as British citizens in the British colonies, George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, et al., should have been, one and all, constitutionally ineligible.” Barber apparently did not take the time to read the Constitution’s eligibility requirement. It requires that a president be a natural born citizen “*or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution...*” The nation’s first presidents could not have been natural born citizens, which is precisely why that grandfather clause was included. Ted Cruz, of course, was most certainly not “a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution.” Nor was Obama. [86788]

Hillary Clinton makes the rounds of the non-Fox Sunday talk shows (*Face the Nation*, *Meet the Press*, *This Week*, and *State of the Union*) and is asked only once about the FBI investigation of her emails. CNN’s Jake Tapper asks, “Have you been interviewed by the FBI yet?” A stone-faced Clinton replies, “No,” and Tapper does not press the issue. Instead, he ends the interview and wishes her good luck at the evening’s Democrat debate. [85184, 86790, 86804, 86823]

Secretary of State John Kerry announces the Obama administration is releasing \$400 million to Iran—*plus \$1.3 billion in interest*. (Virtually no Americans are aware that the United States is adding interest to the assets being released to Iran.) At HotAir.com Taylor Millard writes, “The timing of all this is extremely curious (and coincidental) to the release of the five prisoners being held in Iran. It’s completely possible the U.S. decided to settle the claim levied by Iran as just an added assurance the prisoners would come home. That means the settlement could be seen as a form of ransom but it doesn’t mean it is. The timing, though, is just bizarre. It’s doubtful the White House will be willing to discuss this, so the speculation will just keep going on and on.” (Although the Obama administration insists the \$1.7 billion payment is not a ransom for the release of the four Americans, Iranian Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi claims otherwise.) [86791, 86818, 86839, 86877]

On *Meet the Press*, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) says, “If you’re a criminal alien, no, you can’t stay. If you’re someone that [sic; who] hasn’t been here for a very long time, you can’t stay. I don’t think you’re gonna [sic] round up and deport 12 million people. If circumstances change or you learn something along the way, it’s reasonable to say, ‘Maybe a different approach will work better.’ So, for example, on immigration it is clear no comprehensive solution to immigration is going to pass.” (That does not explain why Rubio supported such legislation before he announced his candidacy.) [85129, 85130, 86803]

Donald Trump is endorsed by two evangelical Christian leaders in South Carolina, Dr. Buddy Witherspoon and Dr. Henry Jordan. [85132]

Al Arabiya reports, “Three Americans [have been] kidnapped by militias in Baghdad.” State Department spokesman John Kirby states, “We are aware of reports that American citizens are missing in Iraq. The safety and security of American citizens overseas is our highest priority. We are working with the full cooperation of the Iraqi authorities to

locate and recover the individuals. Due to privacy considerations, I have nothing further.” (Whether the kidnappers want Obama to give them \$150 billion and a pathway to nuclear weapons, as he gave Iran, is not yet clear.) [85158, 85187, 85208, 86805, 86806, 86810, 86817]

Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer has noted, “Kidnapping infidels and releasing them for ransom or enslaving them, as well as killing them if that option is deemed most advantageous for the Muslims, is fully sanctioned in Islamic law: ‘As for the captives, the amir [ruler] has the choice of taking the most beneficial action of four possibilities: the first to put them to death by cutting their necks; the second, to enslave them and apply the laws of slavery regarding their sale and manumission; the third, to ransom them in exchange for goods or prisoners; and fourth, to show favor to them and pardon them. Allah, may he be exalted, says, ‘When you encounter those [infidels] who deny [the Truth=Islam] then strike [their] necks’ (Qur’an sura 47, verse 4).” [86844]

In a South Carolina poll, Donald Trump leads GOP candidates with 32 percent, followed by Ted Cruz (18), Jeb Bush (13), Marco Rubio (11), Ben Carson (9), Chris Christie (4), Carly Fiorina (3), Mike Huckabee (2), John Kasich (2), and Rand Paul (2). [86809]

At left-leaning Politico.com, Matthew MacWilliams, founder of a “political communications firm,” claims he has “found a single statistically significant variable predicts whether a voter supports [Donald] Trump—and it’s not race, income or education levels: It’s authoritarianism.” Eager to equate Trump with Adolph Hitler, MacWilliams writes, “Authoritarianism is not a new, untested concept in the American electorate. Since the rise of Nazi Germany, it has been one of the most widely studied ideas in social science.” The “proof” of MacWilliams’ hypothesis is a poll he conducted, which “asked a set of four simple survey questions that political scientists have employed since 1992 to measure inclination toward authoritarianism. These questions pertain to child-rearing: whether it is more important for the voter to have a child who is respectful or independent; obedient or self-reliant; well-behaved or considerate; and well-mannered or curious. Respondents who pick the first option in each of these questions are strongly authoritarian.” [86854]

“Based on those questions,” states MacWilliams, “Trump was the only candidate—Republican or Democrat—whose support among authoritarians was statistically significant.” He then warns, “It is time for those who would appeal to our better angels to take his insurgency seriously and stop dismissing [Trump’s] supporters as a small band of the dispossessed.” Reasonable people should laugh at MacWilliams’ claims and concerns. Even the questions in his poll are absurd. Asking a person if it is more important to have a child who is “respectful or independent” blatantly ignores the fact that most parents would like their children to be *both*. Why must one choose between a child who is “well-behaved” or one who is “considerate”? Who in their right mind would not want a child with both those traits? From MacWilliams perspective, it is apparently impossible for a child to be both “well-mannered” and “curious,” and that it is perfectly reasonable to identify someone’s “inner-Nazi” by forcing him to make a Sophie’s choice between the two. Choosing “well-behaved” over “considerate” convinces MacWilliams

that one is an authoritarian eager to pack “non-believers” into boxcars for a trip to the concentration camps. [86854]

In a radio interview with Aaron Klein, former White House and Pentagon employee Linda Tripp discusses her past friendship with Monica Lewinsky and Bill Clinton’s “escapades.” Tripp says Hillary Clinton “made it her personal mission to disseminate information and destroy the women with whom [her husband] dallied. ...[A]ll of the women she has destroyed over the years to ensure her political viability continues is sickening to me. ...I say today and I will continue to say that I believe Monica Lewinsky is alive today because of choices I made and action I took. That may sound melodramatic to your listeners. I can only say that from my perspective I believe that she and I at the time were in danger, because nothing stands in the way of these people achieving their political ends. Had it [Bill Clinton’s relationship with Monica Lewinsky] not become public when it did... we may well have met with an accident. It’s a situation where unless you lived it as I did you would have no real framework of reference for this sort of situation.” [85143, 86820, 86836]

“...All of the scandals that had come before... were so completely obliterated in the mind’s eye of the American people because of the way all of them were essentially discounted. So I watched a lying president and a lying first lady present falsehoods to the American people. So my dismay predated the January 1998 period when the Monica Lewinsky scandal surfaced. To me it was very important that the American people see what I was seeing. My years with the Clintons were so disturbing on so many levels. ...[Monica Lewinsky] romanticized that there was an affair. And when it didn’t pan out the way she had hoped it would... she essentially lost her mind and started acting in erratic and frightening ways... She never realized the implications of threatening a president or her behavior. And I did. ...Everyone knew within the West Wing, particularly those who spent years with [Bill Clinton], of the thousands of women... This was a pattern of behavior that has gone on for years. And the abuse of women for years. So it was common knowledge, let’s put it this way, within the West Wing that he had this problem. It was further common knowledge that Hillary was aware of it.” [86820, 86836]

Socialist presidential candidate Bernie Sanders unveils a “Medicare for all” proposal. (The “free” health care for everyone would cost taxpayers an estimated cost of at least \$1.38 trillion per year—paid for with a 6.2 per cent income tax paid by employers and a 2.2 percent tax paid by employees. Of course, employers would necessarily have to cover the cost of the added tax by slashing wages of employees and raising prices. Sanders would also impose a whopping 52 percent income tax on the wealthiest Americans—which is a good incentive for them to move their businesses and families overseas.) [86833]

On *Aaron Klein Investigative Radio*, Juanita Broadrick says that weeks after she was raped by Bill Clinton in 1978 he called and asked when he would see her again: “He called the nursing home that I owned and they patched the call through to my office and I didn’t know that it was him. And he immediately said, ‘Hi, this is Bill Clinton. I was just wondering when you were coming back to Little Rock again.’ This just caught me so off

guard. I had not expected anything like this at all. And I told him I would not be coming back to Little Rock again and definitely would not ever be seeing him again. And I hung up.” (Clinton attempted to reach Broaddrick again several times over the next six months.) “I think he thought, well this is just a usual occurrence. I probably was with him and I am wondering whether I can get with this woman again. I was shocked to say the least that he would have the audacity to call me after what he did to me.” Broaddrick was also approached by Hillary Clinton, who said, “It’s so nice to meet you. ...I just want you to know how much Bill and I appreciate the things you do for him. ...Do you understand? Everything you do.” (Translation: “Keep your mouth shut or I’ll destroy you.”) [85145]

Walmart closes its store in the Chinatown neighborhood of Los Angeles, partly as a result of the city’s increased minimum wage (\$10 per hour as of January 1, 2016 and rising to \$15 per hour in 2018). Breitbart.com notes, “Immigrant Hispanic and Asian residents of central Los Angeles campaigned for years for a ‘big box’ retailer to locate in their economically depressed neighborhood to compete against liquor stores that sold a limited number of food items at very high prices. In September 2013, Walmart finally opened a 33,000-square-foot grocery and drug store in the Chinatown area. Crowds flocked to the store for lower food costs, substantially cheaper pharmaceuticals, and even ethnic offerings. But labor leaders immediately started protesting against the store for refusing to unionize, even though 100 Walmart employees refused to sign union cards.” [86928]

The Democrat candidates debate. After Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) Rails against big banks, Hillary Clinton adds, “no individual is too big to jail.” (Whether she recognizes the irony in her statement is not clear, but she goes out of her way throughout the evening to praise and defend Obama’s actions on everything from health care to foreign policy. To many observers that will sound like a message to Obama: “Please don’t let me be indicted!”) [85135, 85152, 86832, 86838, 86841, 86841, 86842]

Asked how she will pay for her proposals, Clinton replies, “I have actually documented every way that I’m going to pay for what I’m doing, because I think the American public deserves to know. And you can go to my website and actually see that.” (Her web site does no such thing. It merely makes a vague reference to “closing tax loopholes and expenditures for the most fortunate.”)

As often as he can, Sanders mentions the influence of Goldman Sachs and political action committees on candidates—and the money Clinton has collected on exorbitant speaking fees. Sanders asks, “Can you really reform Wall Street when they are spending millions and millions of dollars on campaign contributions and when they are providing speaker fees to individuals?” [86811, 86811]

One of NBC’s prime Clinton defenders, Andrea Mitchell, asks Sanders, “You called Bill Clinton’s past transgressions ‘totally, totally, totally disgraceful and unacceptable.’ Do you regret saying that?” Sanders replies, “I was asked a question [about Bill Clinton]. Andrea, that [your] question annoys me. I cannot walk down the street —Secretary Clinton knows this—without being told how I have to attack Secretary Clinton. I have

avoided doing that... trying to run an issue-oriented campaign. I was asked a question.” Mitchell: “You didn’t have to answer it that way though. Why did you?” Sanders: “Then if I don’t answer it, it’s another front page [story].” (Why Mitchell believes one should regret calling disgraceful and unacceptable behavior disgraceful and unacceptable is not clear.) [85136, 85176, 86832, 86840]

WashingtonTimes.com offers, “Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton on Sunday cast herself as ...Obama’s natural heir on guns, health care and the economy in the final debate before Iowa’s caucuses, but Sen. Bernard Sanders said it’s time for Democrats to push further, saying the country needs a ‘political revolution’ to break the power of big corporations.” [86812]

According to Google, the three most-asked Clinton questions on the Internet during the debate were, “Will Hillary Clinton get prosecuted?” “Will Hillary Clinton win the nomination?” and “What did Hillary Clinton do that is illegal?” [85142, 86830, 86831]

On January 18 political strategist Dick Morris says, “In last night’s debate, Bernie [Sanders] clobbered Hillary [Clinton]. We won’t know, obviously, for a week or so what impact on the polling is, but I think it’s going to be enormous. I think Bernie is going to gain on Hillary, I think he’s probably going to win New Hampshire and Iowa...” [85134]

About two dozen Black Lives Matter protesters commemorate Martin Luther King day by blocking the Oakland Bay Bridge that links Oakland with San Francisco. [85211]

Secretary of State John Kerry tells CNN, “I was very angry. I was very, very frustrated and angry that that [video of sailors captured by the Iranians] was released.” (Kerry is not angry that the Iranians captured the sailors, took their weapons, and made them kneel with their hand behind their heads—he is angry that Americans learned about it.) [85160]

Donald Trump addresses a massive crowd at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. [85141, 85146, 85151]

According to the National Inflation Association, “The 2015 Christmas Season was a complete and total disaster for U.S. retailers. Over the last 23 years, U.S. Christmas Season Retail Sales have averaged year-over-year growth of 4.29%. In 2015, Christmas Season Retail Sales increased by only 0.91% to \$707.56 billion, the second worst Christmas Season year-over-year growth % of the past 23 years! Net of U.S. price inflation, 2015 Christmas Season Retail Sales were most likely flat! Only 2008 during the financial crisis was worse, when Christmas Season Retail Sales declined by -6.79%. The 2015 Christmas Season was worse than the 2001 Christmas Season, at the peak of the dot-com bubble meltdown, when retail sales grew by only 1.55%! Clearly, the U.S. economy is already in a major recession that’s worse than the 2001 dot-com bubble collapse!” [86813]

Breitbart.com reports, “Austria has ‘temporarily suspended’ its involvement in the Schengen Area, and has deployed troops to deal with migrants attempting to pass through

Germany. Making the announcement, the country's chancellor, Werner Faymann, said that failure to secure the European Union's (EU's) external borders soon would bring the survival of the EU into question.... 'All refugees must be controlled, economic migrants must be sent to their countries of origin,' he told Austrian periodical *Österreich*." (The "Schengen Area" consists of the 22 European nations that loosened border controls to the point of almost non-existence, in an effort to increase economic prosperity. In doing so, they have made it easy for migrants to flow through Europe.) [86828]

Breitbart.com also reports, "The Republican National Committee (RNC) officially voted on Monday afternoon to sever its business relationship with NBC News for the previously-scheduled Feb. 26, 2016, GOP presidential primary debate, Breitbart News has learned. The Debate Committee for the RNC met via conference call and after hearing updates from RNC chairman Reince Priebus officially voted to cancel the partnership with NBC, according to sources on the call. The vote was unanimous. ...The debate is still on the schedule—it would come after Iowans, New Hampshire citizens, South Carolinians, and Nevadans vote, heading into the all-important SEC Primary of which Texas is a part on March 1—but it's unclear as of yet who will moderate it or where [on which network] it will air." (It is later reported that the debate will air on CNN with involvement from *The Washington Times*.) [85147, 85172, 85198, 85202]

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, some members of the Republican "establishment" are contacting Trump to ask how they can help his campaign. They see Jeb Bush's campaign going nowhere, but they hate Ted Cruz more than they dislike Trump and believe Marco Rubio's immigration stance is driving voters away from him. (Even conservative Senator Mike Lee (R-UT), perhaps Cruz's only friend in the Senate, has refused to endorse him.) Unless the Rubio or Chris Christie campaign suddenly catch fire, the contest appears to many to be between Trump and Cruz. Cruz is so despised by the establishment Republicans that some are holding their noses and sucking up to Trump. Of course, GOP leaders are doing their best behind the scenes to insure that neither Trump nor Cruz is nominated. If their candidacies cannot be derailed during the primaries, the establishment will do whatever it can to prevent Trump or Cruz from being nominated on the first ballot at the convention—even if it means threatening and bribing delegates. If no candidate wins on the first ballot, Republican leaders will see to it that a squishy, controllable moderate is nominated. In the process, they will anger millions of voters and give the White House to the Democrat nominee. [85153, 85161, 87028]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Bombshell emails from the State Department show that a top official at the agency suggested to Hillary Clinton's aide, Huma Abedin, in August 2011 that the then-secretary of state begin using a government email account to protect against unexpected outages of her private email server. But as the emails show, Abedin pushed back on the suggestion, telling the official, Stephen D. Mull, then the executive secretary of the State Department, that a State-issued Blackberry equipped with a state.gov email address 'doesn't make a lot of sense.' Besides showing that Clinton's top aides were against the idea of her using a state.gov email account, the emails show for the first time that top State Department officials were aware of Clinton's private email server arrangement. The Daily Caller obtained the emails through a Freedom of Information Act

lawsuit filed on its behalf by the government watchdog group, Cause of Action. ...[C]uriously, Mull noted that the official version ‘would mask her identity’ but ‘would also be subject to FOIA requests.’” (Abedin and Clinton wanted to avoid Freedom of Information Act requests; that was the point of the private server.) [85149]

DailyCaller.com also reports, “Cheryl D. Mills, long-time friend and confidant of Bill and Hillary Clinton, is promoting a 23 cents-an-hour wage in the West African nation of Ghana to lure textile and apparel industry companies to invest there even as the former secretary of state advocates a \$15-an-hour ‘livable wage’ here. Mills’ newly formed firm, the BlackIvy Group, LLC., makes the pitch with a powerpoint [sic; PowerPoint] presentation that was obtained by The Daily Caller News Foundation. Critics interviewed by TheDCNF charged that the presentation promotes ‘slave labor’ and ‘slave wages.’” [85150]

TheDailyBeast.com reports, “The Pentagon is considering retroactively demoting retired Gen. David Petraeus after he admitted to giving classified information to his biographer and mistress while he was still in uniform, three people with knowledge of the matter told The Daily Beast. The decision now rests with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, who is said to be willing to consider overruling an earlier recommendation by the Army that Petraeus not have his rank reduced. Such a demotion could cost the storied general hundreds of thousands of dollars—and deal an additional blow to his once-pristine reputation.” (The possible action against Petraeus is a shot across his bow. It is a warning to not incriminate the White House in any Congressional testimony on Benghazi: “You can destroy us, but you also will be destroyed in the process.”) [85154]

On January 19 former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates appears on *Morning Joe* and is asked if Obama always thinks he is “the smartest guy in the room?” Gates replies, “You know, [Obama] is quoted as having said at one point to his staff, ‘I can do every one of your jobs better than you can,’” and observes that Obama as few people around him who will challenge his views. Gates also says, “one of the greatest weaknesses of the White House is implementation of strategy, is difficulty in developing strategy and then implementing that strategy.” [86865, 86866]

According to NYTimes.com, Obama “is seriously considering an executive order that would require companies doing business with the federal government to disclose their political contributions, White House officials said on Tuesday, a step long awaited by activists to reduce the influence of secretive corporate donations in elections. The directive, known as the ‘dark money’ executive order, would mandate that government contractors publicly report their contributions to groups that spend money to influence campaigns. Advocates inside and outside the White House believe the executive order would prompt some companies to spend less, by exposing their donations to public scrutiny. ...Business groups that have fiercely opposed campaign finance restrictions argue that the executive order would encroach on free speech rights. And some advocates have privately questioned whether the directive would be enforceable.” [86959, 86961, 86962]

“‘The real goal of the disclosure proponents is to harass, intimidate and silence those with whom they disagree,’ said Blair Latoff Holmes, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. ‘We continue to believe that one’s political activities should play no role in whether or not you get or keep a federal contract, and we encourage the administration to leave this bad idea right where it is.’” (Such an action by Obama would be a despicable attempt by Obama to harm political opponents. Why, for example, must a company that sells office furniture to the government be forced to submit a list of campaign donations made by its executives and employee? Obama’s scheme would represent an obvious threat: “Stop contributing to Republicans or lose business—and know that we are watching your every move!”) [86959, 86961, 86962]

Donald Trump visits the John Wayne Birthplace and Museum in Winterset, Iowa, where he is endorsed by the late actor’s daughter, Aissa Wayne. [85153]

Author Robert Ringer writes that Donald Trump “is a symbol of sanity, so much so that even people who don’t like him are going to vote for him. In fact, when you dissect it more closely, the Trump revolution really isn’t even about Trump. It’s about things like truth ...and courage ...and straight talk. It’s about people getting confirmation that they really *aren’t* insane. Anyone with a lot of money and a high profile could have elicited the same response that DT has been getting from millions of angry Americans, but no other billionaire chose to do what he’s doing. So Trump is the one who gets—and deserves—the credit for starting a revolution. The revolution may or may not succeed against the statist government structure that has been entrenched for decades, but, make no mistake about it, it *is* a revolution. ...It’s not that these establishment types [like columnist Charles Krauthammer] are stupid. They most definitely are not. It’s just that their belief systems are so ingrained with inside-the Beltway talking points and arrogance that they are incapable of understanding what a majority of Americans are thinking—no matter how clearly and loudly those Americans speak their minds.” [85159]

Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) comments, “I heard Donald Trump say, have Ted Cruz go to the court and get a declaratory judgement, maybe that’s the best way to take care of this [natural born citizen issue] and get it out of the way.” [86904, 86905]

U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson (an Obama appointee) rules against the Obama administration’s argument that it can claim “executive privilege” to avoid releasing documents related to the ill-conceived and illegal Operation Fast and Furious. Jackson writes, “There is no need to balance the need against the impact that the revelation of any record could have on candor in future executive decision making, since any harm that might flow from the public revelation of the deliberations at issue here has already been self-inflicted. The Department itself has already publicly revealed the sum and substance of the very material it is now seeking to withhold. Since any harm that would flow from the disclosures sought here would be merely incremental, the records must be produced.” (Obama has argued that he knew absolutely nothing about the gun-walking scheme, yet also absurdly claimed executive privilege over related documents. That is tantamount to telling the police, “I know nothing about that stolen car... but you can’t look in my garage!”) [85162, 85163, 85182, 86916]

Asked if she will turn over the Operation Fast and Furious documents, Attorney General Loretta Lynch later tells a Senate subcommittee, “We are still reviewing that ruling. I am aware of that provision in it. We, of course, want to study it carefully and determine what appropriate steps to take and the timeliness of them. But I can certainly assure you that we will be either responding to the committee or to the court at the appropriate time. ... We have not made that decision... if we will pursue any additional legal action. We have not made that decision.” (The Department of Justice will likely appeal the decision in an effort to drag out the issue until after the November elections.) [86878]

Catherine Herridge and Pamela Browne report at FoxNews.com, “Hillary Clinton’s emails on her unsecured, homebrew server contained intelligence from the U.S. government’s most secretive and highly classified programs, according to an unclassified letter from a top inspector general to senior lawmakers. Fox News exclusively obtained the text of the unclassified letter, sent Jan. 14 from Intelligence Community Inspector General I. Charles McCullough III. [McCullough is an Obama appointee who was unanimously confirmed by the Senate.] It laid out the findings of a recent comprehensive review by intelligence agencies that identified ‘several dozen’ additional classified emails—including specific intelligence known as ‘special access programs’ (SAP). That indicates a level of classification beyond even ‘top secret,’ the label previously given to two emails found on her server, and brings even more scrutiny to the presidential candidate’s handling of the government’s closely held secrets.” [85166, 85167, 85168, 85181, 85183, 85209, 86846, 86856]

“...Access to a SAP is restricted to those with a ‘need-to-know’ because exposure of the intelligence would likely reveal the source, putting a method of intelligence collection—or a human asset—at risk. Currently, some 1,340 emails designated ‘classified’ have been found on Clinton’s server, though the Democratic presidential candidate insists the information was not classified at the time. ‘There is absolutely no way that one could not recognize SAP material,’ a former senior law enforcement with decades of experience investigating violations of SAP procedures told Fox News. It is the most sensitive of the sensitive.” [85166, 85167, 85168, 85181, 85183]

NBCNews.com adds, “An intelligence official familiar with the matter told NBC News that the special access program in question was so sensitive that McCullough and some of his aides had to receive clearance to be read in on it before viewing the sworn declaration about the Clinton emails.” Townhall.com’s Guy Benson: “The ‘SAP’ intelligence on her server was so secret that the man whose *job it is* to oversee America’s intelligence community had to be granted special permission to review a sworn declaration summary about its contents.” [85193, 85194, 86900]

At Townhall.com Guy Benson writes, “No wonder officials inside the FBI are reportedly champing at the bit for an indictment. Her conduct makes [General David] Petraeus’ criminal but limited indiscretions look like child’s play. In case you’d forgotten, Mrs. Clinton insisted last year that no classified material *whatsoever* had passed through her private server. That lie, one of several, has now been disproven more than 1,300 times,

and today's news marks another devastating disclosure. America's top diplomat trafficked in the most sensitive US intelligence secrets that exist via her private server, which she'd been explicitly and urgently warned was uniquely vulnerable to foreign penetration. This isn't about breaking some arcane rules or fudging some statements to deflect a political headache. This is about high-level state secrets being willfully and recklessly compromised by a powerful cabinet secretary in a hair-brained scheme to protect her political ambitions. And yes, it was willful. Her inner circle knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that her email arrangement was a serious problem. As Americans wonder whether the politicized Obama Justice Department will move forward with charges against Mrs. Clinton, one wonders whether she may come to regret uttering these words: 'There should be no bank too big to fail and no individual too big to jail.'" [85168]

Even Edward Snowden, the former CIA employee who accessed and released NSA information, did not have access to SAP material—and millions of Americans have called for Snowden to be tried for treason. If SAP material on Clinton's private, unsecured server is not the "smoking gun" that proves she broke the law, it is difficult to imagine what that smoking gun would be. Instead of campaigning, Clinton should be meeting with defense attorneys. The FBI will eventually produce a list of charges against Clinton and present it to Attorney General Loretta Lynch. If Lynch indicts Clinton, her political career—and perhaps her personal freedom—may be over. If Lynch does not indict Clinton, FBI agents and investigators will be outraged and will leak details of the charges, and all Hell will break loose in Washington, D.C. Obama cannot protect Clinton without destroying his own legacy. If the Democrat establishment is not now scrambling to orchestrate the entry of Vice President Joe Biden or Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) into the presidential race, it should be. [85178]

In their evening news broadcasts, ABC, CBS, and NBC do not bother reporting that Clinton had unsecured SAP material on her private email server. (They either believe something that could destroy Clinton's presidential campaign is not newsworthy, or do not want their viewers knowing anything about it.) [85200]

Politico.com reports, "The Supreme Court announced Tuesday that it will take up a case challenging the legality of ...Obama's executive actions aimed at granting quasi-legal status and work permits to up to 5 million people who entered the U.S. illegally as children or who have children who are American citizens. The high court's widely expected move gives Obama a chance to revive a key legacy item that has been in limbo for nearly a year, since a federal judge in Texas issued an order halting immigration moves [Obama] announced just after the 2014 midterm elections. The justices are expected to hear arguments on the issue in April and to hand down a ruling by the end of June. ...In their order Tuesday, the justices added one question to the case: whether Obama's actions violated the constitutional provision requiring him to 'take care that the Laws be faithfully executed'—in essence, whether existing law bars the president from making the kinds of enforcement changes he sought to make. ...[That] added question could be seen as signaling that some justices don't agree with the Justice Department's

claim that the states' interests haven't been impacted sufficiently to give them legal standing to sue over the immigration initiatives." [85174, 85175]

The Supreme Court also announces it will not take up an ObamaCare-challenge lawsuit filed on behalf of Timothy Sandefur, the owner of a small business by the Pacific Legal Foundation. The lawsuit (correctly) charges that ObamaCare violates the Constitution because it includes tax increases yet originated in the Senate. (The Constitution requires that all tax legislation originate in the House of Representatives.) Rather than rule against ObamaCare, the Supreme Court simply decided not to hear the case. (WND.com notes that then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "got around" the law by simply taking "the number from an unrelated House bill and slapp[ing] it on Obamacare's 2,700 pages, thereby declaring it a House-originated bill.) [86970]

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the federal deficit will increase 24 percent to \$544 billion in fiscal year 2016 (October 2015-September 2016). WashingtonTimes.com notes, "The difference is the year-end deal House Speaker Paul D. Ryan [R-WI] and Mr. Obama reached to boost spending and approve a series of special tax breaks." [85177, 85188]

At the Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit, Governor Terry Branstad says Iowans should oppose Ted Cruz because he is the "biggest opponent of renewable fuels" of the GOP candidates. Cruz is "heavily financed by big oil," claims Branstad, "So we think that once Iowans realize that fact, they might find other things attractive but he could be very damaging to our state." (Cruz supports a gradual phase-out of the Renewable Fuel Standard, which forces refiners to mix corn-based ethanol with gasoline. Donald Trump supports the standard. Both Cruz and Trump are wrong. The requirement should be eliminated immediately. While it increases revenue for Iowa corn producers, it also raises the price of corn—which increases animal feed and food prices. The government should not be in the business of telling consumers what they should or should not buy—especially when high levels of ethanol in gasoline harms automobile engines. Branstad's concern, of course, is not who gets the Republican nomination as much as it is making sure that the mandate continues.) [85179]

In Ames, Iowa, Sarah Palin, former Alaska governor and John McCain's 2008 running mate, endorses Donald Trump for president. (Ted Cruz, who has stated that Palin "can pick winners," will not be amused. Cruz has also stated, "I think he [Obama] is deeply committed to his principles and demonstrated real courage in fighting for them.") [85164, 85165, 85180, 86902, 87310]

In her remarks, with Trump at her side, Palin says, "He is from the private sector, not a politician, can I get a 'Hallelujah?' Where, in the private sector, you actually have to balance budgets in order to prioritize, to keep the main thing the main thing, and he knows the main thing: A president is to keep us safe economically and militarily." (Palin's "main thing" remark is widely criticized by media leftists—few of whom have apparently read business or self-help books. At WashingtonExaminer.com Eddie Scarry notes, "Palin's 'keep the main thing the main thing' was a reference to a popular quote by

the late bestselling self-help author and businessman Stephen Covey. In Covey's most famous book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, he wrote that for people aspiring to success, 'The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.' Generally, the quote is understood as a call to maintain focus on a core objective.") [88893]

Among Palin's other statements: "The permanent political class has been doing the bidding of their campaign donor class and that's why you see that the borders are kept open. For them, for their cheap labor that they want to come in. That's why they've been bloating budgets. It's for crony capitalists to be able to suck off of them. It's why we see these lousy trade deals that gut our industry for special interests elsewhere. We need someone new, who has the power, and is in the position to bust up that establishment." "And now, some of them [in the establishment are] even whispering, they're ready to throw in for Hillary over Trump because they can't afford to see the status quo go. Otherwise, they won't be able to be slurping off the gravy train that's been feeding them all these years. They don't want that to end." [86902]

At DailyWire.com Ben Shapiro lists five reasons why Palin's endorsement could help Trump win the nomination: "1. Palin's Endorsement Means Conservative Support for Trump." Although Trump's immigration stance and tax proposals place him in the conservative camp, in other areas he is more moderate. Palin's endorsement makes Trump more acceptable to conservatives.) "2. Palin Endorsed Cruz In 2012." (That makes it difficult for Cruz to criticize Palin. Cruz would have lost the Texas primary to David Dewhurst without Palin's support.) "3. Palin's Endorsement Blunts Cruz's 'New York Values' Attack." "4. The Palin-Trump Axis Unites Establishment With Tea Party." "5. Palin's Endorsement Helps Trump Directly In Iowa." (Palin's endorsement helped Joni Ernst win her Iowa U.S. Senate seat.) [85170]

On MSNBC's *All In*, the despicable Republican establishment consultant Rick Wilson says, "Look, there's a thing I've described as the troll party which Trump is [sic; has] sort of energized and activated over the last six months. And what's happened with the troll party element of this, is they are very driven by the celebrity of Trump and Sarah Palin is a reality TV star, celebrity, as well. She transformed from a political figure to a reality TV show figure. ...I think there is definitely still a very significant portion of the party that is a limited government conservatism-based faction of the overall coalition. Now, the screamers and the crazy people on the alt right as they call it, you know, who love Donald Trump, who have plenty of Hitler iconography in their Twitter icons... who think Donald Trump is the greatest thing, oh, it's something. But the fact of the matter is, most of them are childless single men who masturbate to anime [Japanese cartoons]. They're not real and political players. These are not people who matter in the overall course of humanity." [86848]

Wilson's comments ooze with contempt for the average American—yet he is paid by the Republican party for advice. His remarks should not be surprising. In October 2015 Wilson told MSNBC's Chris Hayes the Republican establishment "can't just sit back on the sidelines and say, 'oh well, don't worry, this will all work itself out.' They're still going to have to go out and put a bullet in Donald Trump. And that's a fact." [86848]

Ben Carson temporarily suspends campaigning when a van accident takes the life of one of his campaign workers.

Bernie Sanders holds a 60-33 percent lead over Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire, according to a CNN/WMUR poll. (With Clinton's email scandal problems and Sanders doing well in the polls, the Democrat establishment will now start attacking the Vermont socialist. His purpose in the race was only to make it appear as though Clinton "had some competition" so that she could "win fair and square" and emerge a "hardened" victor at the convention. Sanders was never supposed to attract huge crowds or get more than a few percent of the vote. Now that Clinton does not look so "inevitable," Sanders will be attacked by his fellow Democrats—while Vice President Joe Biden warms up in the wings.) [85191, 85192, 86867]

Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights organization, endorses Hillary Clinton (who was against same-sex marriage before she was for it) for president. [85212, 85213]

Columnist George Will tells radio host Hugh Hewitt that if Donald Trump is the Republican presidential nominee, "I think you'd probably would have [sic] more Democrats coming to the Republicans than Republicans going to the Democrats but you'd have to also figure that there would be a movement to have a third-party candidate, because if the election is Hillary Clinton against Donald Trump, this will be the first election since God knows when, there was no real conservative candidate. And I don't think those of us who started our political careers, and I cast my vote for Barry Goldwater, who valued that classic, creative defeat of his because he took the Republican Party and said henceforth it will be a conservative party [sic]. For those of us... who feel that way are not about to sit idly and see the Republican Party, which was saved by William Howard Taft in 1912 for conservatism, that was reclaimed by Barry Goldwater in 1964 for conservatism, we're not going to let it disappear in 2016." (Will is mistaken. There have been more than a few elections since 1964 in which the Republican candidate was not particularly conservative. In fact, some might argue that the only true conservative to run since Goldwater was Ronald Reagan in 1980 and 1984. Donald Trump is most certainly not a "true Republican," but it is difficult to imagine Will pushing an independent candidacy by Rand Paul or Ben Carson.) [85206]

According to a report from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), the nation's college graduates are astoundingly ignorant about civics: Only 28.4 percent of respondents could identify James Madison as the Father of the Constitution. Almost 60 percent of college graduates do not know the process for amending the U.S. Constitution. Almost 40 percent do not know that Congress has the power to declare war. Only about half know that Senators serve six-year terms of office and Congressmen are elected every two years. Fewer than half of college graduates knew that presidential impeachments are tried before the U.S. Senate. Amazingly, 9.6 percent of college graduates believe that Judith Sheindlin (television's *Judge Judy*) is on the Supreme Court. ACTA notes, "Many of the figures may actually understate how poorly our colleges are doing because older

respondents performed significantly better than younger ones. For example, 98.2% of college graduates over the age of 65 knew that the president cannot establish taxes—but only 73.8% of college graduates aged 25–34 answered correctly.” [85189, 85190]

On January 20 former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani tells the *Fox & Friends* hosts, there are “13 violations of federal law that [Hillary Clinton] arguably committed. This is about as clear as it gets. It is a crime to negligently handle top secret material. ...She misrepresented about it. She’s lied about it. She said she had no top secret material. It’s absurd.” [85216]

On *America’s Newsroom*, former CIA officer Charles Faddis is asked what would happen if he still worked for the CIA and was found guilty of doing what Hillary Clinton did. He replies, “My career’s over; I lose my clearance; I lose my job; and then I go to prison—probably for a very long time.” Judge Andrew Napolitano adds, “It’s hard to believe that the FBI will not recommend indictment of Mrs. Clinton. The crime is the negligent treatment, the failure to protect national security secrets. The government does not have to show that she intended to treat them negligently; the government does not have to show harm; it only has to show negligent treatment. Evidence of that is overwhelming. What’s new... is that she failed to protect information of the highest possible category [SAP, or special access programs].” [86855, 86856]

CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin says, “Well, the FBI is going to decide if [Clinton is] prosecuted. I mean, ultimately, that’s the decision I think everybody cares about. I mean, one of the, you know, minor but real scandals in the U.S. government has been for decades is that people overclassify things, is that a lot of information that is not all that sensitive is treated as classified. She is now suffering from that because people are saying there’s all this classified information she’s dealing with, but there is not a bright line between classified and unclassified, and you can see, at least to a certain extent, why she was not clear on what was what.” (Toobin’s defense of Clinton is meaningless. That some government documents may be overclassified did not relieve Clinton of the responsibility of following the law with regard to those classifications. If, out of hundreds of classified documents on Clinton’s email server, only one was properly categorized—she still broke the law by not protecting that one.) [86869, 86935]

William La Jeunesse reports at FoxNews.com, “A .50-caliber rifle found at Joaquin ‘El Chapo’ Guzman’s hideout in Mexico was funneled through the gun-smuggling investigation known as [Operation] Fast and Furious, sources confirmed Tuesday to Fox News. A .50-caliber is a massive rifle that can stop a car or, as it was intended, take down a helicopter. ...Out of the roughly 2,000 weapons sold through Fast and Furious, 34 were .50-caliber rifles that can take down a helicopter, according to officials.” (An Operation Fast and Furious gun had also been acquired by one of the Muslim terrorists who was stopped from killing attendees of the “Draw Muhammad” contest in Garland, Texas.) ABC, CBS, NBC, and Telemundo all neglect to report that the Fast and Furious weapon was found in El Chapo’s arsenal. [85195, 85196, 85200, 85201, 86871, 87329]

BizPacReview.com reports, “A professor at Kent State University (KSU) in Ohio famous for his anti-Israel outbursts is now being investigated by the FBI for possibly being an Islamic State recruiter. An unnamed FBI special agent told KentWired, KSU’s student newspaper, that associate history professor Julio Pino has been under investigation for about a year and a half. According to KentWired, several faculty members and over 20 students have been interviewed about Pino’s behavior. The FBI is looking into possible connections between Pino and ISIS, as well as allegations that Pino attempted to recruit Kent State students to join the extremist group. The investigation was confirmed by a Kent State official.” [86852, 86853]

Senate Democrats block legislation that would have tightened the screening process for Syrian refugees admitted into the United States. (The House has already approved the legislation, by a vote of 289-137.) In their evening news broadcasts, ABC, CBS, and NBC fail to report the story—despite the fact that it is an issue of interest to millions of Americans. [86851, 86868]

Under questioning from a Senate immigration subcommittee, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials admit that 99 percent of illegal immigrants who overstay their visas are not investigated. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) observes, “This is the way the system gets eroded. This is where public confidence is being destroyed. This is how we’re sending a message to the world that you can get away with it.” (There were an estimated 500,000 visa overstays in the United States in 2015.) [86862, 86863, 86887, 87259, 87260, 87423]

Sessions asks one DHS official, “If they [legal immigrants] came here from a country, and did not return, and you have no information that they are a terrorist, based on the information you have, you don’t go look for them do you?” The response: “No, sir.” (That is, if a foreigner visiting the United States overstays his visa, the federal government does nothing.) [87018]

The Associated Press reports, “A Seattle man charged with killing four people in Washington and New Jersey in 2014 to protest U.S. foreign policy was on a federal terrorism watch list and wrote in his journal that he planned to follow the Islamic State group and ‘learn the ways of jihadis,’ a New Jersey state prosecutor said Wednesday. The details came out before Ali Muhammad Brown was sentenced to 36½ years in prison on an unrelated armed-robbery case.” [86953]

In a Florida Atlantic University poll, Donald Trump leads in the sunshine state with 48 percent. Ted Cruz follows with 16 percent; Marco Rubio has 11, and Jeb Bush has 10. [85203, 85204, 85207, 85214]

Trump also leads Hillary Clinton in Florida in the poll (47-44), and Bernie Sanders (47-42). Ted Cruz trails Clinton by five points (47-42) and ties Sanders (43-43). Marco Rubio ties Clinton (46-46) and beats Sanders (47-42) [86876]

In a Public Policy Polling survey in North Carolina, Trump leads with 38 percent, followed by Cruz (16), Rubio (11), Ben Carson (8), Mike Huckabee (6), Bush (6), Chris Christie (4), Carly Fiorina (3), Rand Paul (3), John Kasich (2), and Rick Santorum (1). [86845]

In Salem, New Hampshire, Bill Clinton is met by a crowd of only about 100 as he campaigns for his wife. [86837]

At a fundraising stop in Beaumont, Texas, Hillary Clinton is greeted by a “crowd” of six people at the airport. [86875]

Introduced by Sarah Palin (who calls Obama the “weak-kneed capitulator-in-chief”), Donald Trump addresses an audience of about 15,000 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. [85210, 86850, 86879]

Rush Limbaugh explains Trump’s appeal to his radio audience. He starts with a 1996 *Chronicle* magazine article by Samuel Francis. Francis write, “[S]ooner or later, as the globalist elites seek to drag the country into conflicts and global commitments, preside over the economic pastoralization of the United States, manage the delegitimization of our own culture, and the dispossession of our people, and disregard or diminish our national interests and national sovereignty, a nationalist reaction is almost inevitable and will probably assume populist form when it arrives.” Limbaugh observes, “[R]ight now the glue [holding the Trump coalition together] is an absolute opposition to the Democrat Party, to the American left, to the worldwide left, and everything they have done and want to continue doing. ...[I]f somebody comes along and convinces them that they’re serious about stopping this and reversing it, they don’t care if it’s somebody from Mars! It doesn’t have to be a classical conservative promising this. It can be anybody who makes them trust him, anybody with credibility.” [85215]

This *Timeline* believes Trump is attracting huge crowds because he is running as an *American*, while everyone else is running as a conservative, moderate, Republican, Democrat, or Democrat-socialist. Millions of voters no longer trust politicians who wear any of those labels. They do not trust the Democrats because of what Obama and his comrades have done to the nation, and they do not trust the Republicans because they were given the House and the Senate and failed to stop Obama. Trump is essentially campaigning as a third-party candidate; he is merely “borrowing” the Republican banner. (Trump could have entered the race as a Democrat and still attracted most of the same supporters.)

When media pundits ask, “How can Sarah Palin or the Tea Party people support Trump when he is not that conservative?” they fail to understand who is *in* the Tea Party. It is not a conservative party; it is not a Republican party; it is not a Libertarian party. It is an *American* party. That is why it is not inconsistent for a Tea Party activist to be opposed to big government while carrying a sign that reads, “Protect my Social Security benefits!” When pundits ask, “How can Republicans support Trump?” or “How can Democrats support Trump?” they miss the point that voters identify as *Americans* before they

identify as members of a political party—and the disastrous governing of George W. Bush and Obama have further alienated people from party affiliations.

Political consultants continue to look at the nation as if it consists only of die-hard Democrats and die-hard Republicans who will vote for whoever has the “D” or “R” after his name, and a few million people in between whose votes can be bought with the right bribe (amnesty, welfare, education loans, corporate subsidies, etc.). The consulting class has forgotten that most voters are Americans first. More importantly, the “consulting class” does not understand that average Americans—who believe they have been betrayed by the Democrats and the Republicans—are now trying to protect their nation’s *culture*.

More than anything else, average Americans—who believe they have been betrayed by the Democrats and the Republicans—are trying to protect the nation’s *culture*. That culture includes limited government yet has room for Social Security benefits. It includes welcoming legal immigrants but not protecting criminals with “sanctuary cities” and not welcoming several hundred thousand Syrian and Muslim refugees who have no interest in assimilating. It includes avoiding ill-advised wars but decisively winning the wars that must be entered. It includes help for the temporarily unemployed but not cradle-to-grave welfare benefits. It includes the bold, brash skylines of Chicago and New York City but not the abandoned homes of Detroit. It includes big, fast cars and NASCAR but not taxpayer-subsidized Chevrolet Volts.

It includes football but not 15-yard penalties for good tackles. It includes glamorous movie stars but not Lena Dunham. It includes John Wayne but not Zac Efron. It includes deer hunting but not cop killing. It includes taxes to fund the basic functions of government but not federal funding of studies of the sex lives of insects. It includes helping Israel defend itself but not secretly arming Islamist terrorists in Libya, Iran, Iraq, or anywhere else. It includes freedom of religion but not shutting down entire assembly lines so that a few workers can pray facing Mecca. It includes factories where workers can earn enough to support a family but not superstores where the majority of items on the shelves come from overseas.

It includes Medicare for the elderly but not the forced purchase of an insurance policy with a \$7,500 annual deductible. It includes trying to right the past wrongs of racism but not looting pharmacies or blocking traffic on bridges just to make a point. It includes safety for students but not “safe spaces” so that their feelings are never hurt. It includes tolerance of homosexuals but not men sharing bathrooms with little girls.

Trump is by no means the ideal candidate. He is sometimes as dismissive of the U.S. Constitution as the political establishment. He is inconsistent in his positions. (Like the career politicians, he has “evolved” on a variety of issues.) But Trump and his supporters—Republican, Democrat, and independent Americans—understand that the nation is not in the middle of a political war; it is in the middle of a cultural war.

Obama visits the 2016 North American International Automobile Show in Detroit, where he reportedly expresses interest in a Chrysler Pacifica. (Obama should be reminded that, thanks to his actions in 2009, Chrysler is now owned by the Italian automaker, Fiat. He may want to consider buying a vehicle from an American auto company when he leaves the White House.) Obama does not stop in nearby Flint, Michigan, which is in the middle of a contaminated water tragedy that neither the state nor the EPA properly addressed—and which was initially caused by the Democrat-run city’s officials. [86859, 86860, 86861, 86864, 86870, 86872, 86873]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average falls 249 points, closing at 15,766. (At 12:50 p.m., it was at 15,465.)

On January 21 the Defense Department announces the transfer of Guantanamo prisoner Tariq Mahmoud Ahmed Al Sawah, an al-Qaeda bomb developer, to Bosnia. (It is possible that the Obama administration is paying other governments to take the terrorists.) Also released is Abdul Aziz Abdullah Ali al Suadi, from Yemen. [86857, 86858, 86897, 86903, 86907]

According to FoxNews.com, “a third man slated to leave is insisting on staying behind. ...Mohammed Ali Abdullah Bwazir of Yemen, who is 35 or 36, and has been at the prison since 2002, was frightened to transfer to a country where he does not know anyone, his lawyer told reporters. Officials did not clarify to which country the prisoner—tied in the past to both Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan—would have been going.” [86897]

On CNN, Obama’s former political advisor David Axelrod remarks, “I think it’s fair to say, and it’s been said by her [Hillary Clinton] and others, that the whole notion of having all your communications on a private email and your own server was not good judgment.” [86880, 86881]

Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates tells radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt, “Given the fact that the Pentagon acknowledges that they get attacked about 100,000 times a day, I think the odds are pretty high” that Hillary Clinton’s private email server was also hacked. [86915]

Hillary Clinton tells an audience, “It was called HillaryCare before it was called ObamaCare!” (How many black votes she will lose with that statement is not clear. Obama accomplished what she failed to accomplish.) [86883]

Donald Trump addresses a rally in Las Vegas, where he is endorsed by *Duck Dynasty*’s Willie Robertson. [86936]

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) tells CNN, “I think we’ll lose if [Ted Cruz is] our nominee. There’s [sic] a lot of people who don’t feel he can appeal to people across the board. For us to win, we have to appeal to the moderates and independents. We can’t just act like... only one point of view is the only way to go. That’s where Ted is going to have some

trouble. ...I've come around a little bit on [Donald] Trump. I'm not so sure we'd lose if he's our nominee because he's appealing to people who a lot of the Republican candidates have not appealed to in the past." (Any early establishment "support" for Trump must be taken with a grain of salt; it is essentially intense hatred of Cruz.) [86884, 86890, 86924]

Former Kansas Senator and 1996 presidential candidate Bob Dole also expresses his distaste for Cruz. Dole states that he supports Jeb Bush, but he would readily support Trump over Cruz. Dole comments, "I question [Cruz's] allegiance to the party. I don't know how often you've heard him say the word 'Republican'—not very often. ...I don't know how he's going to deal with Congress. Nobody likes him. ...[Trump could] probably work with Congress, because he's, you know, he's got the right personality and he's kind of a deal-maker. ...If [Cruz is] the nominee, we're going to have wholesale losses in Congress and state offices and governors and legislatures. ...There'll be wholesale losses if he's the nominee. Our party is not that far right." [86885, 86890, 86934]

Senator Dan Coats (R-IN) states that supporting Cruz "would be a major challenge because of the wounds that are deep. An awful lot of us really didn't like to be targeted as corrupt, establishment bought by the lobby establishment. It sure looks like someone was using it as a way to gain notoriety as the only true conservative in Washington." [86890, 86924]

Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) tells CNN, "I think people are concerned, because obviously the top of the ticket will have a big bearing on whether we'll hold a majority of the Senate. We don't need any headwinds [like Ted Cruz] from the top of the ticket. We need some tailwinds." [86924]

Senator John McCain (R-AZ): "There's no doubt [Ted Cruz] has harmed relationships among people. I would assume that all members would work with the elected president for the good of the country. But there is no doubt there would be strains in the working relationship [if Cruz were elected]." [86924]

Former Senator Trent Lott (R-MS) tells friends he would choose Trump over Cruz. [86924]

According to the Associated Press, Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) told supporters he would support Democrat-Socialist Bernie Sanders over Ted Cruz. (The Burr campaign denies the report.) [86924, 86925, 86926]

Congressman Peter King (R-NY)—who has not yet endorsed anyone—tells the Associated Press Cruz is a "fraud" and does not "know of anyone else in Washington, certainly, who gets this opposition from his own people... I'm talking about people as conservative as he is who just can't stand him. ...Between Trump and Cruz, it's not even close. Cruz isn't a good guy, and he'd be impossible as president. People don't trust him.

And regardless of what your concern is with Trump, he's pragmatic enough to get something done. I also don't see malice in Trump like I see with Cruz." [86926, 86930]

In a CNN/ORC poll in Iowa, Donald Trump leads with 37 percent, followed by Ted Cruz (26), Marco Rubio (14), Ben Carson (6), Jeb Bush (3), Mike Huckabee (3), and Ron Paul (2). [86886, 86914]

FitsNews.com reports, "Michelle Wiles—one of the Palmetto State's most influential conservative activists—is leaving the South Carolina leadership team of Ted Cruz and joining the campaign of Donald Trump, sources close to both campaigns told us this week. The Upstate social conservative—widely known and respected in evangelical circles—had been one of Cruz's most articulate, well-connected South Carolina supporters. Now her support will go to 'The Donald.'" [86888, 86889]

Campaigning in Iowa, Hillary Clinton says, "I met a gentleman the other day in Cedar Rapids who told me that his prescription drug costs had tripled in the past year. Then I met a mom at the same event who said her son has diabetes—even insulin is getting more expensive." (One can assume Clinton is aware that Obama has been in the Oval Office for seven years and that he and his ObamaCare program might have something to do with those increased costs.) [86919]

Asked by CNN's Wolf Blitzer if she is part of the establishment, Clinton responds, "I just don't understand what that means." [86920]

In Davos, Switzerland, Secretary of State John Kerry says, "I think that some of it [the billions of dollars released to Iran in the nuclear deal] will end up in the hands of, uh, the IRGC [Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps] or of other entities, some of which are labeled terrorists, uh, in a, you know, to some degree, I'm, I'm not gonna [sic] sit here and tell you that every, uh, component of that can be prevented. But I can tell you this, right now, we are not seeing the early delivery of funds going to that kind of endeavor at this point in time. Uh, I'm sure at some point some of it will." (Translation: "Yes, Hizbullah will kill some Jews, but I'll get my Nobel Peace Prize and Obama will establish his legacy.") [86882, 86908]

Of course, the Obama administration had previously promised that none of the funds would go toward the financing of terror, and Kerry himself had insisted that would be impossible because of United Nations resolutions. Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton tells On the Record's Greta Van Susteren, "I really want to give props to Secretary Kerry. This man can embarrass himself endlessly and not even smile about it."

FoxNews.com reports, "The Obama administration on Thursday eased visa rules for certain European travelers who have visited terror hotspots in the Middle East and Africa, triggering a backlash from congressional lawmakers who sought the restrictions for security reasons. Moments after the announcement, two key Republicans declared the administration is 'blatantly breaking the law'—a law that ...Obama signed—by

implementing the changes. ...Under the newly passed Visa Waiver Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015, nationals of Iraq, Iran, Syria and Sudan as well as other travelers who have visited those countries since Mar. 1, 2011 now must apply for a visa in order to travel to the U.S.” But the Obama administration may still allow U.S. entry and travel for some such travelers without a visa. [86906]

While Obama tries to make it easier for Muslim refugees to enter the United States, Germany is suffering the consequences of welcoming in hundreds of thousands of people who have no intention of assimilating (and who, in fact, intend to force their culture on the Germans). According to Breitbart.com, a public swimming pool in Zwickau, Saxony “has banned migrants from entering the premises after a group of men went on an obscene rampage, laughing in the faces of pool staff when challenged about their grotesque behaviour. A group of migrant men and women were caught on security camera at the Johannisbad baths... engaging in unacceptable behaviour, including masturbating into the jacuzzi. In separate incidents other groups of migrants were caught ‘contaminating’ the children’s training pool by ‘emptying their bowels in the water,’ and sexually assaulting other bathers, reports Bild.” [86947, 86948, 86980]

“The allegations against the migrant bathers has come to light thanks to a leaked internal letter from the Zwickau Town Hall, between the chief clerk to his department head, reproduced in part by German tabloid Bild.” (Such reports have to be leaked because German officials are desperately trying to hide from the public the disastrous results of their immigration policies. Meanwhile, some German communities are considering “ladies only” public transportation and taxi services in order to protect women from male Muslim refugees—who, according to one recent arrival, believes “German women are there for sex.”) [86947, 86948, 86949, 86950, 86951, 86954, 86980]

A 16-year-old German girl, Bibi Wilhailm, posts a 20-minute video on Facebook expressing the fears she and her friends have of Muslim refugees who seem to be harassing, molesting, and raping at will. “I cannot understand why they do this. But more importantly, I cannot understand why Germany is doing nothing! Why is Germany standing by, watching, and then doing nothing? Please explain, why. Men of Germany, these people are killing your children, they are killing your women. We need your protection. ...The politicians live alone in their villas, drink their cocktails, and do nothing. They do nothing! I do not know what world they live in, but please, people, please help us! Please, do something! ...One day, my friend and I were walking down the street, and a group of Arabs were protesting and demonstrating. They shouted, ‘Allah! Allah! Allah is the one God! Kill those infidels! Allah, Allah!’ What should I do? Should I wear a burka? Why should I have to convert to Islam?” [86952, 86954]

Wilhailm concludes, “Thank you, Angela Merkel, for killing Germany! I have no more respect for you, Merkel. I do not think you know what you have done. You do not see how our lives have changed. Open your eyes! Is this normal? Should I, a 16-year old who is almost 17, be so scared to walk outside my house? No, it is not normal. You have killed Germany! This is the truth. We are no longer allowed to walk outside. We are no longer allowed to wear our clothes. We are no longer allowed to live the German life.

This is the sad truth. ...Men, please help your women. Help your children. I am so scared. My friends have the same fears. We are shocked that this has happened. I hope this video can convince you, and that these terrible events can stop.” [86952]

Fans of Hillary Clinton wait for hours to see her at an event in Iowa City, Iowa, and are then disappointed (and angered) when she arrives and speaks for only about five minutes. Student Jennifer Marks says, “It was very short. 2. “There were a lot of statements. Like: ‘We are we going to make things happen.’ No actual how.” [86929, 86987]

TheHill.com reports, “Conservative authors are banding together to publish a manifesto Friday [January 21] denouncing the ideas of Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump. Leading conservatives including Erick Erickson, William Kristol and Yuval Levin have written essays for a special issue of *National Review* to be published Friday, *The New York Times* reports. ‘Donald Trump is a menace to American conservatism who would take the work of generations and trample it underfoot on behalf of a populism as heedless and crude as The Donald himself,’ reads an editorial accompanying the essays in the issue, according to the newspaper. The issue will include essays from 22 prominent conservative voices, according to CNN. Rich Lowry, the editor of the conservative magazine who reached out to authors for the issue, has publicly sparred with Trump, including back in September when he suggested Republican presidential rival Carly Fiorina rhetorically castrated the outspoken businessman in a debate. Trump called Lowry a ‘loser.’” [86894, 86895, 86896, 86921, 86922, 86927, 86931]

The “conservative” authors—some of whom are not particularly conservative and most of whom are certainly not “first tier”—whose arguments appear in the barely-read (circulation: about 150,000) *National Review*’s “get Trump” issue include neo-con warmongers like *The Weekly Standard*’s William Kristol. They generally support Marco Rubio or Ted Cruz—despite the fact that they are constitutionally ineligible to serve as president. They charge that Trump has no regard for the U.S. Constitution, while at the same time Cruz flagrantly misrepresents the natural born citizen requirement and pretends he did not even know he was born a citizen of Canada. They correctly argue that Trump is a flip-flopper, while ignoring the fact that Cruz has not exactly been a shining example of consistency—especially on immigration and ethanol issues. (It should be noted that *National Review* has not been particularly “rebellious” over the last few years; it has been quite supportive of “the establishment.”) [86917, 86918]

They write that Trump “is a philosophically unmoored political opportunist who would trash the broad conservative ideological consensus within the GOP”—an argument that mistakenly assumes there *is* a broad consensus. They express fears that Trump will be *too* willing to make deals with Congress, while insisting that Cruz will stand his ground—forgetting that Obama’s unwillingness to compromise for the good of the nation is one of the reasons the voters are angry. Voters want things to get done and are *not* averse to compromise. In fact, the voters *expect* Trump to compromise *and make deals*. But they also expect him to negotiate deals that are good for them and the nation—as opposed to the pathetic deals made by John Boehner, Paul Ryan, and Mitch McConnell. If Cruz were to act in the White House like he has acted in the Senate, he will compromise even less

than has Obama, and nothing will get done while he sits on an ideologically pure throne as if he is the third coming (Obama being the second). [86917, 86918, 86955]

In addition, the Democrats have a good chance of recapturing the Senate in the November 2016 elections. Cruz cannot even get along with his fellow Republican senators; he will certainly not be less confrontational with a Democrat-controlled Senate. A broad Trump victory with coattails, on the other hand, might help the GOP retain control of the Senate. Essentially, the *National Review* crowd is all fired up: “How dare the voters place the survival of America’s culture ahead of our beloved military-industrial complex!” [86917, 86918]

In the *National Review* anti-Trump issue, Glenn Beck writes, “If Donald Trump wins the Republican nomination, there will once again be no opposition to an ever-expanding government. This is a crisis for conservatism.” (Beck writes “once again” as if there has been and still is such opposition to big government. He is either blissfully ignorant or lying, because there is no such opposition. That is why the national debt is more than \$18 trillion. In addition, Trump has suggested that he would be more than happy to eliminate entire federal departments and agencies, such as the Department of Education. Does Beck think such an action is an expansion of government?) [86918, 87008]

David Boaz writes, “Not since George Wallace has there been a presidential candidate who made racial and religious scapegoating so central to his campaign. Trump launched his campaign talking about Mexican rapists and has gone on to rant about mass deportation, bans on Muslim immigration, shutting down mosques, and building a wall around America. America is an exceptional nation in large part because we’ve aspired to rise above such prejudices and guarantee life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to everyone.” (Boaz apparently supports a continuation of the open borders policies. Perhaps he lives in a gated community.) [86918]

L. Brent Bozell calls Trump “the greatest charlatan of them all.” (Bozell is connected to *National Review* via his late wife Patricia Lee Buckley, the sister of the magazine’s founder, William F. Buckley.) Mona Charen: “Trump has made a career out of egotism, while conservatism implies a certain modesty about government. The two cannot mix.” (Charen apparently believes the rest of the candidates in the race lack huge egos. She has not followed Ted Cruz too closely.) Ben Domenech makes the strange statement, “Conservatives should reject Trump’s hollow, Euro-style identity politics.” (Europe has been destroying its identity with Muslim immigration and multiculturalism, and Domenech thinks it is awash in identity politics? Europe could use some identity politics. Trump appeals to people who want to “make America great again.” Domenech seems to think that is a bad thing.) [86918]

Erick Erickson writes, “I would vote for Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton. ...Nonetheless, I will not be voting for Donald Trump in the primary. I take my conservatism seriously, and I also take Saint Paul seriously.” Erickson argues that Trump is too recent a convert to be taken seriously. He ridicules Trump for having once said he was an Obama “cheerleader.” (If anyone is confused, they should be. Rush Limbaugh

was excoriated for saying he hoped Obama failed; Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) was thumped for saying his job was to stop Obama; and Trump is slammed for hoping Obama would do a good job. Apparently one can find fault in whatever is said.) [86918]

Steven F. Hayward warns that Trump's "inclination to understand our problems as being managerial rather than political suggests he might well set back the conservative cause if he is elected, if not make the problems of runaway executive power even worse. Restraint is clearly not in his vocabulary or his character." (Perhaps if Republican voters had not seen little but "restraint" from the Republicans to whom they gave control of the House and the Senate, they would not be looking outside the political establishment for someone to solve the nation's problems.) [86918]

Novelist Mark Helprin (not *Time* magazine's Mark Halperin) compares Trump to Benito Mussolini and calls him "an explosive, know-nothing demagogue." "Like Obama," writes Helprin, "[Trump] is astoundingly ignorant of everything that to govern a powerful, complex, influential, and exceptional nation such as ours he would have to know [sic]." He also remarks, "Compared with the weight of the office he seeks, his deals are microscopic in scale"—as if anyone who has never been president would have experience fully preparing him for the job. No, the budget for a Trump skyscraper is smaller than the Defense Department's budget. So is Ted Cruz's office supplies budget.) [86918]

The Weekly Standard's William Kristol writes, "Isn't Trumpism a two-bit Caesarism of a kind that American conservatives have always disdained? Isn't the task of conservatives today to stand athwart Trumpism, yelling Stop?" (Stop Trump from doing what? From changing the status quo in Washington, D.C.?) Edwin Meese III complains that Trump is violating Ronald Reagan's Eleventh Commandment ("Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Republican") as if every other candidate in the race is not committing the same sin. "Playing nice" and not being able to go on the attack is a sure-fire way to give Hillary Clinton the Oval Office. [86918]

Former Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey warns that Trump's temporary ban on Muslim immigration "would assure the enmity of all Muslims, including those whose support we need if we are to prevail." (The nation already has the enmity of hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world, and allowing several hundred thousand un-vetted Syrians into the United States will not put a stop to that hatred—but it could put Americans at risk.) Mukasey fears such a ban "does not address potential terrorists who have U.S. passports or residence permits, or are already here, or may threaten us abroad." But that argument is tantamount to saying, "There's no point in hosing down the house because the barn is already on fire." Cal Thomas complains that Trump "never says how he will force Mexico to pay" for his planned border wall. [86918]

On *The Kelly File*, Megyn Kelly promotes the anti-Trump magazine by having as guests four of the edition's authors: editor Rich Lowry, Dana Loesch (who has a show on Glenn Beck's Blaze TV), Brent Bozell, and Katie Pavlich. Disgustingly, Lowry says Trump "seems to believe what this country needs is a really effective strong man to make the

trains run on time, when what we really need is [for] the government to be cut down to size, restored to its rightful role, and then focus on the really important things, like the borders, like creating the conditions of [sic; for] growth.” (Lowry’s “make the trains run on time” comment is a direct, despicable reference to Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini. Famous cartoonist Herbert Block’s 1941 cartoon, “He Made the Trains Run on Time,” shows Mussolini watching a train full of Nazis pass by. Lowry’s clear but contemptible message: “Trump is Hitler.”) [86898, 86899, 86901]

When Lowry calls for “the government to be cut down to size, restored to its rightful role, and *then* focus on the really important things,” he is essentially saying, “Let’s not be rash by immediately building a border wall, tightening visa restrictions, and keeping Syrian refugees out of the country.” He does not explain why reducing the size of government and protecting the nation’s citizens cannot be done at the same time. That is because he does not want them to be done. Lowry wants the flow of illegal immigrants to continue, so that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce can be kept supplied with cheap illegal immigrant labor and so that he will not have to mow his own lawn. He is saying, “Trust us at National Review and in the halls of Congress to do what’s best for you.” But neither National Review nor Congress have done anything over the last 30 years to suggest that anyone should trust them.

Loesch, Bozell, and Pavlich are less offensive than Lowry, but they are nevertheless offensive as they declare that Trump is not a “true” conservative—as if they are the official arbiters of all things political. If they believe they persuaded any Trump supporters to abandon him they are mistaken. In fact, they probably ensured that if Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, or Ted Cruz is the nominee, the Trump supporters will stay home. [86898, 86901]

Pavlich says, “We have to ask ourselves here whether we are willing to set the precedent with Donald Trump and just throwing [sic; throw] away years and years and decades and centuries of conservative principles and values simply because a candidate comes in and says all the right things.” (To the average Republican voter, those “conservative principles and values” have been noticeably absent in the U.S. Congress, where Republicans have caved in to Obama and his fellow Democrats time after time. Pavlich is suggesting that the voters would be throwing something away if they elect Trump. In fact, there seems to be little to protect with the current crop of Congressional Republicans.) Further, it is unclear why voters should reject a candidate who “says all the right things.” Perhaps Pavlich should focus her efforts on getting her favorite candidate to support border security and the other “right things.” [86901]

In New York City, a Muslim Uber driver, Muhammad Qayyum, throws a small service dog to the ground, dislocating its hip and injuring its knee. According to DNAinfo.com, when the driver “saw the pup, he told [the passenger], ‘I will not take your dog in my car,’ police said. After Qayyum, from Queens, refused to drive the woman and her pooch, he got out of the car, went to the right back passenger seat and grabbed the dog’s leash from the woman’s hand, the NYPD said. Qayyum used the leash to yank the dog out of her lap and threw the animal to the ground...” [87150, 87151]

On January 22 ABC reports, “National Review will no longer be hosting a GOP debate in February after the RNC ‘disinvited’ the conservative publication, the magazine’s publisher said. The news comes on the heels of a harsh cover story from National Review, penned by 21 conservative columnists, calling Donald Trump a ‘menace to American Conservatism,’ to which Trump and the RNC fired back. ...National Review publisher Jack Fowler wrote Thursday that his publication was being stripped of its hosting duties for a GOP debate with CNN in late February. ‘Tonight, a top official with the RNC called me to say that National Review was being disinvited. The reason: Our ‘Against Trump’ editorial and symposium. We expected this was coming. Small price to pay for speaking the truth about The Donald,’ Fowler wrote.” [86909, 86913]

On *Morning Joe*, former George W. Bush aide and John McCain campaign adviser Nicolle Wallace comments on the *National Review* hit piece: “I think the establishment, and particularly the conservative media, is in a real dangerous spot right now. There was a moment to make the anti-Trump case. It was about six-and-a-half months ago. It has passed, and now it looks like disdain and arrogance when the voters have now spoken. They’re about to vote. We’re 10 days out from voting [in the Iowa caucuses]. This move looks to me so desperate it really risks cleaving the conservative media apart in an almost irreparable manner from not just the base of our party, but the opportunity the party has to expand its numbers. I think it’s a stupid move and a stupid piece.” [86932]

Walter L. Wagner files a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Utah, charging that Ted Cruz is ineligible to run for president because he is not a natural born citizen. (Not only was Cruz born in Canada to a Cuban father, his American-born mother was seeking permanent residency—and perhaps citizenship—in Canada. Ted Cruz apparently lived in Canada for four or five years before the family moved to the United States.) [87419, 87420, 87475]

On *Outnumbered*, *National Review*’s “dump Trump” issue gets slammed. Harris Faulkner quotes the magazine: “He [Trump] is not deserving of conservative support in the caucuses and primaries,” and asks, “Whose job... is to decide who gets to be where? It’s the voters who decide. It’s not any particular party. That’s offensive on its face. And we love Rich Lowry [*National Review*’s smug editor and frequent Fox News guest], we do, but it’s up to the voters. It’s not up to *him*, it’s not up to anybody else. They can write about what they want to write about, but if I were part of the establishment I would walk as far away from this article, from this magazine, as possible if I want *ever* to gain the respect of those people who call themselves the voters. They hold the power.” [86911]

Andrea Tantaros adds, “Some of the bed-wetters in the establishment, ...they believe that they can build a coalition with millennial women, Latinos, but what you’re seeing is Trump is garnering support from blue-collar voters. The crossover appeal could be huge, [with Trump] building a coalition, potentially even African-Americans with his stance on immigration—he is more conservative than so many other candidates on issues like immigration.” Stacy Dash responds, “He’s more conservative and he’s anti-establishment, which is what we want. ...You’re not allowed to change your mind?”

...You are allowed to change your mind, and then understand that he wants to make America great again. ...Whatever it takes to do that, he wants to do that. ...He's the man with the Rolodex to do that, ...and he's the man who knows how to make deals, so he's the man to get people to cross the aisle... and close the deals." [86911]

Tantaros quotes Michael Brendan Dougherty at TheWeek.com: "What so frightens the conservative movement about Trump's success is that he reveals just how thin the support for their ideas really is. His campaign is a rebuke to their institutions. It says the Republican Party doesn't need all these think tanks, all this supposed policy expertise. It says look at these people calling themselves libertarians and conservatives, the ones in tassel-loafers and bow toes. Have they made you more free? Have their endless policy papers and studies and books conserved anything for you? These people are worthless. They are defunct. You don't need them, and you're better off without them." Tantaros observes, "That is the message [Pat] Buchanan didn't take; Trump is taking it, and that is the counter-punch to *National Review*." [86911, 86912]

Outnumbered's Melissa Francis comments, "A lot more people will hear about the coverage of the article than will actually read it... I think that the rebuke actually helps him in my opinion because it ups his 'rebel cred.' ...He says he's not part of what's been here before, he's different. The fact that folks from the right are attacking him I think helps him with people he's trying to win over. ...[Lowry] said, 'The choice is clear, anybody but Trump.' No, not anybody but Trump, people on the right are saying, 'I don't want Hillary; I want someone who can win.'" [86911]

D. W. Ulsterman writes, "Free speech can be a messy thing and often makes for a contradictory, self-mutilating stew. Today conservative voters are being served up just such a dish in the form of the *National Review's* anti-Donald Trump manifesto. While I admit a magazine and its contributors have every right to share their views, the fact such a right exists doesn't always mean it is the right thing to do. ...Trump is at his core, a product of Queens, New York—tough, loud, boisterous and brash. [Ronald] Reagan was and remained even after his long career in Hollywood, a humble Midwestern boy who knew what it was to be dirt poor and carried a subtle chip on his shoulder as the result of his alleged betters always trying to remind him of his place. This chip remained firmly in place even as he rose through the ranks of the Republican Party. What both men *do* share is a remarkable self-assurance combined with a love of America. This country has not had a president who loves America for over seven years now, and the disastrous results are the byproduct of that willful neglect." [86923]

"And while the Democrats attempt to recycle the tired remnants of the once-powerful Clinton Machine combined with the perplexing popularity of a 74-year old, devoted socialist in Bernie Sanders, the Republican presidential squad is a diverse and accomplished group who all appear to sincerely want to help undo the significant damage to America that has been years in the making. By way of sometimes shockingly straightforward talk, boundless energy, and a clear willingness to defend himself against all detractors be they politicians or the media, Donald Trump broke out from the pack and has been the national GOP frontrunner for nearly six months. It is that most unexpected

success that has made him enemy #1 to the political establishment of both parties as well as the Mainstream Media—much as Ronald Reagan was in 1980. Donald Trump appears unwilling to allow himself to be controlled by the stale, unspoken rules of political-speak. Perhaps it is the New York fighter within him, or perhaps he truly believes the current stakes for America to be too great, the potential downside too dangerous, to simply be another politician who pretends to play along to get along.” [86923]

“Most disappointing in what the National Review has done in devoting an entire issue to ‘Trump bashing’ is the inherent note of superiority in such an endeavor. The list of conservative pundits who helped to author this latest edition of the magazine are in essence, declaring the millions of Donald Trump supporters of being too stupid to know better and thus in dire need of having someone else do their thinking for them. It is a great betrayal to those voters but also yet another example of why Donald Trump remains so popular to so many. We are tired of being talked down to. We are tired of squishy, spineless, leaderless, politicians. What the National Review has done is made no better having done it to Donald Trump. I would be just as disappointed should their target have been Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Carly Fiorina, Marco Rubio, or Ben Carson—all of whom would be vastly superior to Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders. Let the candidates for president have their opportunity to make their case, and then LET THE VOTERS DECIDE. Is that too much to ask?” [86923]

National Review may very well have placed its non-profit tax status in jeopardy with its anti-Trump tirade. At ChroniclesMagazine.org Justin Raimondo writes, “In March of last year, *Politico* reported that *National Review* was becoming a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, which would enable it to solicit tax-deductible donations: ‘Since its launch, the magazine has operated as a not-for-profit business, even as it came to rely on more and more donations in recent years. Starting next month, it will become a nonprofit organization, which will make it exempt from federal taxes. *National Review* also plans to merge with the nonprofit *National Review Institute*, its sister organization, according to a source with knowledge of the plans.’” [86971, 86972]

Raimondo notes, “This anti-Trump issue of *National Review* is, in effect, a campaign pamphlet directed against a political candidate—indeed, the cover proclaims ‘Against Trump’—and, as such, is in clear violation of IRS statutes regulating nonprofit organizations. The regulations are quite explicit that nonprofit organizations must ‘not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.’ The IRS web site informs us that ‘The regulations further provide that activities that constitute participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate include, but are not limited to, the publication or distribution of written statements or the making of oral statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate.’ ...And it isn’t just the content that constitutes a violation of the rules, but also the timing. As the IRS puts it: ‘A communication is particularly at risk of political campaign intervention when it makes reference to candidates or voting in a specific upcoming election.’ In their editorial, the editors make specific reference to the Iowa

caucuses, which are scheduled to begin in a week. There is no ambiguity here: *National Review's* editors are brazenly violating the law.” [86971, 86972]

Conservative legend Phyllis Schlafly tells talk radio's Laura Ingraham, “*National Review* is not the authentic conservative. You know, [magazine founder] Bill Buckley was for giving away the Panama Canal, which was an enormous issue with conservatives. And in ten years they never wrote a single article about the Equal Rights Amendment, so they were no help against that. So I don't recognize *National Review* as the authority on conservatism. ...[T]hey don't want to fight the Establishment. And the Establishment—the people I call the Kingmakers—have been picking our candidates for so many years and they've given us a whole bunch of losers. And I think people want a fighter, and they also want to deal with the immigration problem. We don't want to turn out like Germany. I thought the Germans were tough, but they've caved in to let people come in.” [86992, 87025]

Conservative Pat Buchanan tells Ingraham, “Back in 2003 we were called ‘Unpatriotic Conservatives’ on the cover of the magazine [*National Review*] for opposing a war in Iraq which we said was unnecessary and unwise, and it turned out to be unnecessary and unwise. There had never been any apology I've seen for that. There's never been a withdraw of that accusation against a dozen friends of mine... who had stood up against the mood of the moment.” [86992]

In an interview with Politico.com's Glenn Thrush, Obama says, “I am very proud of what we've gotten done over these last seven years, and I am excited about what we can do this last year. A singular regret for me is the fact that our body politic has become more polarized, the language, the spirit has become meaner than when I came in. And, you know, some of it just has to do with some long-term trends that have accelerated in terms of how the media has balkanized, gerrymandering, you know, super PACS. But my bet—and I may end up being wrong about this—my bet is that the candidate who can project hope still is the candidate who the American people, over the long term, will gravitate towards. ...[T]here's no doubt that Bernie [Sanders] has tapped into a running thread in Democratic politics that says: Why are we still constrained by the terms of the debate that were set by Ronald Reagan 30 years ago? You know, why is it that we should be scared to challenge conventional wisdom and talk bluntly about inequality and, you know, be full-throated in our progressivism? And, you know, that has an appeal and I understand that.” [87036, 87037]

“I think that what Hillary [Clinton] presents is a recognition that translating values into governance and delivering the goods is ultimately the job of politics, making a real-life difference to people in their day-to-day lives. I don't want to exaggerate those differences, though, because Hillary is really idealistic and progressive. You'd have to be to be in, you know, the position she's in now, having fought all the battles she's fought and, you know, taken so many, you know, slings and arrows from the other side. And Bernie, you know, is somebody who was a senator and served on the Veterans' Committee and got bills done. ...[I]f you look at both of them, I think they're both passionate about giving everybody a shot. I think they're both passionate about kids having a great education. I

think they want to make sure everybody has health care. I think that they both believe in a tax system that is fair and not tilted towards, you know, the folks at the very top. But, you know, they—I think Bernie came in with the luxury of being a complete longshot and just letting loose. I think Hillary came in with the—both [the] privilege and burden of being perceived as the frontrunner. And, as a consequence, you know, where they stood at the beginning probably helps to explain why the language sometimes is different.” [87036, 87037]

“...I’ve gotten to know Hillary really well, and she is a good, smart, tough person who cares deeply about this country, and she has been in the public eye for a long time and in a culture in which new is always better. And, you know, you’re always looking at the bright, shiny object that people don’t, haven’t seen before. That’s a disadvantage to her. Bernie is somebody who—although I don’t know as well because he wasn’t, obviously, in my administration, has the virtue of saying exactly what he believes, and great authenticity, great passion, and is fearless. His attitude is, ‘I got [sic] nothing to lose.’” [87036, 87037]

In *The Wall Street Journal*, former Attorney General Michael Mukasey writes, “From [Hillary Clinton’s] direction that classification rules be disregarded, to the presence on her personal email server of information at the highest level of classification, to her repeated falsehoods of a sort that juries are told every day may be treated as evidence of guilty knowledge—it is nearly impossible to draw any conclusion other than that she knew enough to support a conviction at the least for mishandling classified information. ...The simple proposition that everyone is equal before the law suggests that Mrs. Clinton’s state of mind—whether mere knowledge of what she was doing as to mishandling classified information; or gross negligence in the case of the mishandling of information relating to national defense; or bad intent as to actual or attempted destruction of email messages; or corrupt intent as to State Department business—justifies a criminal charge of one sort or another.” [87049]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Leading members of Congress are ripping IRS officials for erasing a computer hard drive after a federal judge ordered it to be preserved. ‘The destruction of evidence subject to preservation orders and subpoenas has been an ongoing problem under your leadership at the IRS,’ Committee on House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz [R-UT] and Rep. Jim Jordan [R-OH] wrote in a letter to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen late Thursday. ‘It is stunning to see that the IRS does not take reasonable care to preserve documents that it is legally required to protect,’ Chaffetz, a Utah Republican, and Jordan, an Ohio Republican, said in the letter to Koskinen.” [86910]

TalkingPointsMemo.com reports, “Two Democratic Tennessee state legislators on Thursday introduced legislation that would prohibit the secretary of state from placing any presidential candidate who is not a ‘natural born citizen’ on the Tennessee ballot, the Associated Press reported. The bill would also prohibit Tennessee electors to the Electoral College from voting for a candidate who is not a ‘natural born citizen.’ Sen. Jeff Yarbro (D), one of the bill’s sponsors, told TPM on Friday that the bill ‘isn’t about any

one candidate,’ but said that the questions surrounding Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) ‘highlighted’ the issue for him. ...Yarbro said that now that it has become an issue in the Republican primary, this bill ‘ensures that the issue is settled’ before the general election in November.” [86933]

In a national Zogby Analytics poll, Donald Trump lead all GOP candidates with 45 percent. Ted Cruz trails with 13, Marco Rubio (8), Jeb Bush (6), Ben Carson (4), Carly Fiorina (3), John Kasich (3), Rand Paul (2), Chris Christie (2), Mike Huckabee (2), Rick Santorum (2). In head-to-head match-ups, Trump holds big leads over Cruz (59-29), Rubio (64-27), Bush (68-22), Kasich (73-15), and Christie (69-19). [86937]

In a national Reuters-Ipsos poll, Trump leads with 40.6 percent, followed by Cruz (10.5), Ben Carson (9.7), Bush (9.2), and Rubio (7.2). [86942]

In a national Fox News poll, Trump has 34 percent; Cruz, 20; Rubio, 11; Carson, 8. [86943]

Defying a looming blizzard, thousands of people gather in Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life event. Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina addresses the crowd: “In less than a year, there will be a new president in the White House. The next president will pick up to four Supreme Court justices who will decide issues of life and religious liberty: whether we as a nation believe—as the Democrat platform says—that a life isn’t a life until it leaves the hospital, whether a baby only a month from being born is only as good as the organs you can sell from it. ...The establishment media and political class don’t want us to talk about what the abortion industry is doing. You saw what happened when I talked about the horrific truth of the Planned Parenthood videos during a Republican debate. Unlike the media, you’ve watched the videos. You’ve seen an aborted baby, its legs kicking, its heart beating while the technician describes how they would keep these babies alive to harvest their organs. The left called me a liar. They said there were no such videos, there are no aborted babies born alive, nobody is selling baby parts.” [86957]

“Hillary Clinton is giving a pro-abortion speech today in New Hampshire. She is saying that we as conservative women don’t count. But here’s the truth: They have perverted feminism into a left-leaning political ideology where women are pitted against men and used as a political weapon to win elections. Being empowered means having a voice. But ideological feminism shuts down conversation... You know, Planned Parenthood actually shows up at my events. So let me say this to the Planned Parenthood supporters: You can scream and throw condoms at me all day long. You won’t silence me. You don’t scare me. I have battled breast cancer. I have buried a child. I have read the Bible. I know the value of life.” [86957]

Politico.com reports, “The State Department is asking a federal judge for a one-month extension to finish releasing the final batch of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s emails, a State official confirmed Friday. The Department asked for more time to comply with a court order mandating the monthly release of Clinton’s 30,000 work emails that

followed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. Under the court's timeline for release, State was supposed to make public the final batch of documents—which will be the largest in terms of page volume—on Jan. 31. Instead they're seeking an extension through Feb. 29.” [86938]

The National Black Republican Association endorses Donald Trump for president. [86939, 86964]

Jerome Corsi reports at WND.com, “A Republican attorney in Illinois, a supporter of Ben Carson, on Friday filed a motion with the Illinois State Board of Elections to have Sen. Ted Cruz’s name removed from the official Republican primary ballot for the Illinois GOP presidential primary set for March 15. The legal challenge confirms fellow candidate Donald Trump’s argument that the issue of eligibility to be president under Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution will dog Cruz as the Texas senator pursues the GOP nomination for president, and possibly a subsequent White House bid. The motion from Lawrence J. Joyce, who makes his living as a pharmacist licensed in his state, notes that Cruz was born on Dec. 22, 1970, in the city of Calgary, in the Canadian province of Alberta, and that Cruz has been a citizen of the United States continuously since birth under § 301(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1401. But Joyce’s motion challenges that Cruz is not a ‘natural born citizen’ under the meaning of Article 2, Section 1, and as a result not eligible to be president.” [86958]

“‘I have principally two reasons for doing this,’ Joyce explained to WND in an email. ‘First, I think Dr. Carson would make both a better president of the United States and a better nominee of the Republican Party. Second, I am terrified that if we don’t get this cleared up right now, if Ted Cruz does become the nominee, the Democrats will cherry-pick which court or election board they will petition to have him declared to be ineligible in September or October,’ Joyce continued. ‘The result could be that the Democrats may chalk up a string of three or four or five victories [in their election board petitions] in a row, potentially forcing Cruz to resign the nomination (if for no other reason than that fund raising would quickly dry up),’ Joyce explained. ‘Then Mr. [Karl] Rove and company would hand-pick his replacement as the nominee,’ he concluded.” [86958]

Corsi notes, “Cruz was born in Calgary, Alberta, in 1970, while his parents were working there in the oil fields. Cruz’s mother, Eleanor Elizabeth Darragh Wilson, was reportedly born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware. Cruz’s father, Rafael Cruz, was a Cuban citizen who entered the United States in 1957 on a foreign student visa he obtained from the U.S. Consulate in Havana. Both Cruz’s parents applied for and received Canadian citizenship under Canadian immigration and naturalization laws. In 1974, when Cruz was four years old, the family moved to Texas. Cruz’s father renounced his Canadian citizenship in 2005 when he applied for and became a U.S. naturalized citizen. On May 14, 2014, Cruz received official confirmation from the Canadian government that he had successfully renounced his Canadian citizenship.” [86958]

Although Corsi states that Cruz’s mother became a Canadian citizen, whether that has been proven is unclear. But the fact that she worked in Canada for years and her name

appears on a Canadian voter list suggests that to be the case. If she remained a U.S. citizen, Cruz is still ineligible to serve as president. He could perhaps be considered a generic U.S. citizen, but he is most certainly not a natural born citizen—which requires birth on U.S. soil to citizen parents. If Cruz’s mother was a Canadian citizen at the time of his birth, he cannot even be considered a U.S. citizen and legally cannot even serve in the U.S. Senate. [86958]

Joyce’s point is valid. The Democrats would be more than willing to see Cruz on the Republican ticket as the presidential or vice presidential candidate, after which they can file lawsuits challenging his eligibility. (Some Democrats would rather Cruz’s status not be challenged, as they believe he would lose to Hillary Clinton—and cause the GOP to lose the Senate as well.) A reasonable interpretation of constitutional history, Supreme Court cases, and federal statutes suggests that Cruz would lose and have to be removed from the ticket. The GOP would then be forced to find a last-minute substitute, and the disarray would definitely work in the Democrats’ favor. For whatever reason, the Republican Party chose not to challenge Obama’s status in 2008. Of course, they would have been up against the Democrats and a leftist media—and Obama’s insistence that he was not born in Kenya. In Cruz’s case, he will not have the Democrat Party or the media in his corner. In fact, he will find that he also does not have in his corner the Republican establishment—which has no desire to see him win the nomination and hopes the voters do not give it to him. Some might argue that the Democrats should tread lightly because a ruling that Cruz is not a natural born citizen could work against Obama. But Cruz was born in Canada, and as long as people believe Obama was born in Hawaii (true or not), it is Cruz who will suffer, not lame-duck Obama.

At FoxNews.com Catherine Herridge and Pamela K. Brown report, “At least one of the emails on Hillary Clinton’s private server contained extremely sensitive information identified by an intelligence agency as ‘HCS-O,’ which is the code used for reporting on human intelligence sources in ongoing operations, according to two sources not authorized to speak on the record. ... Dan Maguire, former Special Operations strategic planner for Africom, told Fox News the disclosure of sensitive material impacts national security and exposes U.S. sources. ‘There are people’s lives at stake. Certainly in an intel SAP, if you’re talking about sources and methods, there may be one person in the world that would have access to the type of information contained in that SAP,’ he said.” [86940, 86941]

Meanwhile, the State Department asks a federal court to give it an additional month to prepare the next batch of Hillary Clinton emails for release—partly blaming a winter storm that prompted the federal government to let most employees leave early on January 21. (Conveniently for Clinton, the delay would block the document release until after the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary.) [86963, 87047]

In response to *National Review*’s “Against Trump” issue, Mark Steyn writes, “I don’t think Trump supporters care that he’s not a fully paid-up member in good standing of ‘the conservative movement’—in part because, as they see it, the conservative movement barely moves anything.” To the *National Review* writers, “Trump is Dan Quayle, and

everyone and his auntie are Lloyd Bentsen: ‘I knew Ronald Reagan, I worked for Ronald Reagan, I filled in Ronald Reagan’s subscription-renewal form for *National Review*. And you, sir, are no Ronald Reagan.’ You have to be over 50 to have voted for Reagan, and a supposed ‘movement’ can’t dine out on one guy forever, can it? What else [have] you got?” [86946]

“...The movement conservatives at *National Review* make a pretty nice living out of ‘ideas, ideology, philosophy, policy, and so forth.’ The voters can’t afford that luxury: They live in a world where, in large part due to the incompetence of the national Republican Party post-Reagan, Democrat ideas are in the ascendant. And they feel that this is maybe the last chance to change that. ...The past is another country, and the Chamber of Commerce Republicans gave it away. Reagan’s California no longer exists. And, if America as a whole takes on the demographics of California, then ‘the conservative movement’ will no longer exist. That’s why, for many voters, re-asserting America’s borders is the first, necessary condition for anything else—and it took Trump to put that on the table.” [86946]

As noted in volume 1 of this *Timeline*, on January 13, 2009 Obama dined with various political writers at the home of columnist George Will. The meeting gave Obama an opportunity to charm potential critics, getting them to like him in order to water down future criticism. Guests included Charles Krauthammer, William Kristol, Lawrence Kudlow, David Brooks, Rich Lowry, Peggy Noonan, Michael Barone, and Paul Gigot. Sundance writes at TheConservativeTreehouse.com, “The post-meeting/dinner report in The New Yorker Magazine holds the following quotes told by the glowing participants of their time with ...Obama: Richard Lowry: ‘the only presidential candidate from either party about whom there is a palpable excitement.’ Charles Krauthammer: ‘Obama would be a president with the political intelligence of a Bill Clinton harnessed to the steely self-discipline of a Vladimir Putin,’ who would ‘bestride the political stage as largely as did Reagan.’ Bill Kristol: ‘I look forward to Obama’s inauguration with a surprising degree of hope and good cheer.’ Larry Kudlow: ‘[Obama] loves to deal with both sides of the issue. He revels in the back and forth. And he wants to keep the dialogue going with conservatives.’” [802, 1694, 86966]

Columnists who now whine in *National Review* that Donald Trump is not conservative enough to meet their pure ideological test were clearly taken in by Obama’s “charm offensive.” Perhaps had they fought against Obama with the ferocity they now wield against Trump, instead of being blinded by the sharp crease in his pants, the nation might have been spared a second term. (Had they fought for a conservative in 2012 instead of Democrat-lite Mitt Romney and RINO Paul Ryan that might also have stopped a second Obama term.)

Sundance comments on the get-together at Will’s house: “Indeed, it sounds like a joyful political love-fest amid the smitten beltway punditry in 2009. So is it really a surprise to read or hear their current, and collective, opinion of the horribly unwashed pro-America vulgarian Trump? Let’s review. Starting with the pundit who coined the term ‘vulgarian,’ George Will 2015: ‘Donald Trump Supporters Need To Come Into The Republican Party

On Our Terms, Not Theirs.’ ...Bill Kristol 2015: ‘I doubt I’d support Donald. I doubt I’d support the Democrat. I think I’d support getting someone good on the ballot as a third party candidate.’” [86966]

Will, Lowry, Kristol, et al “are now taking the position that deporting illegal immigrants is wrong. Oh, how the establishment *loves* to talk tough on immigration when it suits its purposes of ginning up conservatives on election day. But when a candidate comes along who actually wants to *do* something about the issue—and isn’t afraid to defy political correctness to do so—the GOP establishment suddenly cries foul, and brands him a fool, dictator, or police state zealot. The necessary implication is that the GOP establishment is all hat, no cattle on immigration. No wonder increasing numbers of those who self-identify as Republican now openly abhor the party, and it totters on the brink of implosion.” [86966]

On *Hardball*, Chris Matthews (correctly) comments on *National Review*’s anti-Trump issue: “Rich Lowry supported the Iraq War. [William] Kristol, he did too. These guys are all war hawks. That’s why they don’t like Trump, because he’s the only guy on the right wing who said it was a stupid war, we never should have fought it, and those peoples’ hearts and souls was [sic; were] with that kind of war. They want to go from Iraq, they want to go to Libya, which they’ve already done, and what’s next? Syria they want to go next. Regime change is in their bloodstream, and Trump is saying it is stupid for us to play that role. Isn’t that what unites these people? [John] Podhoretz, Kristol, [Erick] Erickson? All these guys are hawks. And Donald Trump says no. ...I have watched this petition organization stuff from Bill Kristol for twenty years. It’s always a petition. It’s always a group of people ganging up. A committee of this, he’s always on the list. So is Podhoretz. They’re always on the list, they love lists, then they announce a list, and we’re always supposed to go along with it. Sometimes it is a full page ad of lists, this whole method of politics, which is putting a list of people together and then saying we have to do this position.” [87007]

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Vice President Joe Biden criticizes Donald Trump, telling the New World Order, globalist crowd the decline of the middle class provides “fertile terrain for reactionary politicians, demagogues peddling xenophobia, anti-immigration, nationalist, isolationist views.” (At HumanEvents.com Pat Buchanan asks, “Who caused this crisis of political legitimacy now gripping the nations of the West? Was it Donald Trump, who gives voice to the anger of those who believe themselves to have been betrayed? Or the elites who betrayed them? Can that crowd at Davos not understand that it is despised because it is seen as having subordinated the interests of the nations and people in whose name it presumes to speak, to advance an agenda that serves, first and foremost, its own naked self-interest?”) [87032]

On January 23, several hundred refugees break into the port at Calais, France and attempt to board a ferry bound for England. About 50 manage to get on the boat but, according to Reuters, “would be removed by police, if necessary by force.” [86975, 86976]

Meanwhile, in Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel says, “Anti-Semitism is more widespread than we imagined. And that is why we must act intensively against it.” (Merkel should have considered that problem before deciding to allow more than one million Jew-hating Muslim refugees into the country.) [86978]

The Bishop of London, the Right Reverend Richard Chartres, suggests clergymen grow beards in order to “reach out to the culture” of Muslim immigrants. (Some might suggest his title be changed to “Wrong Reverend.”) [86981]

At Townhall.com, Thomas Sowell goes one step further than *National Review*’s Rich Lowry by comparing Donald Trump not only to Adolph Hitler, but to Vladimir Lenin and the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Sowell writes, “[B]lind faith is not unique in history. Other dire or desperate times have produced other charismatic leaders to whom desperate people have turned, with hopes of deliverance. Trump is certainly different from establishment Republicans, but it [sic; is] that enough? Things were appalling in 1917 Russia, when people turned to Lenin to try to get them out of a disastrous war abroad and a bitter economic situation at home. The fact that Lenin was quite different from the czar who had led the country into catastrophe might have seemed promising to some people. He was also different from the ineffective Kerensky government that failed in its brief months in office. But the totalitarian government that Lenin established proved to be even worse than its predecessors.” (Translation: “Trump will turn the United States into a Soviet-style Hell-hole.” While there may be many reasons not to vote for Trump, comparing him to murdering maniacs might not be the best way to win one’s argument in favor of another candidate.) [86956]

At Breitbart.com Julia Hahn writes, “National Review’s effort to take down GOP frontrunner Donald Trump has been billed as a symposium of ‘conservatives against Trump.’ However, that billing may be undermined by the discovery that several of the contributors National Review relied upon to pen their anti-Trump manifesto are supporters of the open borders immigration agenda, which National Review itself previously declared would bring about the end American conservatism. For instance, one the publication’s contributors is David Boaz, the executive Vice President of the CATO Institute—a libertarian think tank that is one of the nation’s most vocal proponents of the open borders immigration agenda. National Review’s special edition also relies upon a contribution from Russell Moore—who, as National Review’s own contributor Mark Krikorian points out, has radical immigration views and ties to an immigration group [Evangelical Immigration Table] funded by George Soros. ...Breitbart News has previously reported, the Evangelical Immigration Table [EIT] ran a \$250,000 advertising campaign in favor of Sen. Marco Rubio’s (R-FL) Gang of Eight immigration bill. ...The group also has ties to Rubio GOP mega-donor Paul Singer, another major open borders enthusiast.” [86993]

Virginia talk show host John Fredericks tells Breitbart.com that *National Review*’s reaction to Trump is “desperate.” They are “terrified” that “If Trump becomes President, suddenly they’ll have one vote, just like the rest of us. No more special access. Just one vote. Trump has empowered working people who have been disenfranchised and cut out

of the system. This means that the elitists at *National Review* will no longer have their special access and it's driving them nuts." [86993]

Newsmax.com reports, "Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is looking to mount a \$1 billion bid for the White House as an independent candidate, with sources saying he's alarmed by Donald Trump at the top of the GOP field and Democrat Bernie Sanders' surge past Hillary Clinton in the polls. ...Bloomberg has already taken steps toward a campaign, telling people close to him that he would spend at least \$1 billion of his personal fortune on it... Bloomberg, 73, has set his deadline for making a decision in early March, when advisers believe he could still qualify to be on the ballot in all 50 states as an independent. His team plans to conduct a poll after the Feb. 9 New Hampshire primary to assess the state of the race." [86965, 87009]

Bloomberg (who supports strict gun controls, massive government regulations, and open borders) has no chance of winning the presidency, but he would certainly take votes away from the Republican and Democrat candidates. It is remotely possible that if Bloomberg were to run and win one or two states, he might prevent anyone from receiving the necessary 270 electoral votes. In such a situation, the House of Representatives would select the next president, with each state getting one vote, and 26 needed to decide the winner. [87010]

The liberal *Des Moines Register* endorses Hillary Clinton and Marco Rubio. Politico.com writes, "The two Republican candidates likeliest to win the caucuses—Donald Trump and Ted Cruz—didn't even bother to court the paper's endorsement. And it's unclear if they'd want it anyway. Republican strategists and political observers predicted that unlike in previous years, a Register endorsement could become an instant talking point for rivals, proof that the honoree is aligned with a mainstream media outlet's moderate-to-liberal lean." [86967, 86982, 86994]

The *Register* oozes about Rubio, writing, "He proposes overhauling higher education and promoting vocational training, helping workers threatened by automation acquire skills rewarded by a new economy. Rubio would prime that new economy by embracing innovation. He would auction off portions of the wireless spectrum controlled by government, allowing freer flow of online traffic. He'd remove barriers to enable the next Uber to take off. He'd require a cost-benefit analysis of federal regulations." (Education is a local issue. The federal government should have nothing to do with it. Clearly, Rubio has no intention of dismantling the Department of Education—without which the nation survived quite well for its first 200 years. The government also has no business running job-training programs. Further, what does "embracing innovation" even mean? Does the *Register* think every other candidate opposes innovation? Would a president other than Rubio say no to a new patent because it is innovative? There are 90 million Americans of working age out of the work force, and Rubio and the *Register* think "the next Uber" will make a dent?) [86982]

Laughably, the *Register* writes of Clinton, "She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced [by] the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement

of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that ‘when she makes a mistake, she should just say so.’ That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.” (Clinton will not “just say so” because it will land her in jail. The *Register* apparently has no problem with a candidate who violates federal laws and is unable to learn from her mistakes.) [86982]

In a Facebook post, Sally Miller Perdue, a former Bill Clinton mistress, writes, “Please share. Consider this a warning. Trust me, no one is safe. ...In this election year, if you read I died... by committing suicide... don’t believe it. ...She [Hillary Clinton] doesn’t care if I discuss my affair with Bill—that’s old news. She wants to make certain I don’t write about her actions—how she paid professionals to stalk me, frighten and threaten me, and, ultimately, ‘finish me off.” [87463, 87464, 87465]

Conservative author and radio talk show host Laura Ingraham writes, “National Review, in its issue dedicated to taking down GOP front-runner Donald Trump, has made a big mistake. With so much on the line for America, how is it smart to close the door to Trump’s voters and to populism in general? ...Whatever you think of Trump personally, his supporters are pushing for three big things: A return to traditional GOP law and order practices when it comes to illegal immigration. A return to a more traditional GOP foreign policy that would put the national interest ahead of globalism. A return to a more traditional GOP trade policy that would analyze trade deals from the perspective of the country as a whole and not blindly support any deal—even one negotiated by ...Obama. On each of these issues, Trump’s voters are calling for a return to policies that were GOP orthodoxy as recently as the late 1990s.” [86968]

“...By refusing to make room for these ideas within conservatism, NR risks creating the impression that the revolution brought about by George W. Bush—in particular, his belief in open borders, his effort to create a permanent U.S. military mission in the Middle East, and his notion that trade can never be regulated, no matter how unfair—is now a permanent part of conservatism that can never be questioned. They are also inviting those who disagree with Bush on those points to leave conservatism and start seeking their allies elsewhere. This is an absolute disaster for conservatism. It is obvious by now that Bushism—however well-intentioned it may appear on paper—does not work for the average American. It is also clear that Bushism has almost no support within the rank and file of the GOP, much less within the country as a whole. Making the tenets of Bushism into an orthodoxy that conservatives cannot question will cripple conservatism for years to come.” [86968]

“...If blue-collar Americans are told that their concerns on immigration, trade, and foreign policy cannot be addressed within the conservative movement, they will look elsewhere—just as they looked elsewhere in the late 1960s after they learned that their problems couldn’t be addressed within liberalism. National Review Editor Rich Lowry and his people will be left preaching their narrow doctrine to a smaller and smaller audience. ...If the conservative movement devotes itself to defending the legacy of George W. Bush at all costs, it will become irrelevant to the debate over how to make things better for most Americans. In the end, NR’s attempted hit-job on Trump won’t

matter much. Folks who like Trump will continue to like him. Those who don't will feel reconfirmed in their views." [86968]

In an interview with DailyCaller.com, author Oxford professor Theodore Roosevelt Malloch—descendant of President Theodore Roosevelt—comments on *National Review's* Trump issue: "The motivation simply is: life or death. They want their cushy jobs, going on talk shows, getting free lunches and cocktails, being important and the prestige it brings. They are in fact part of the 'ruling political class' and that will end" if Trump is elected. Trump is "a doer, not an idle thinker or theorist. He represents a kind of national conservatism that has a popular rather than an elitist stance. ...The myth of this [*National Review*] crowd is that they accomplished things. Largely, they have not, unless you count earning fat pay checks and wider waist lines as accomplishments. I suppose they could all write books no one will read or just be bitter." [87021]

"NR has, unfortunately, as has The Weekly Standard, become the GOE [grand old establishment], the establishment rag and no longer represents either real conservatism or the evolving GOP. It is that insignificant. National Review is not what it used to be. Its readership has dwindled and its editor [Rich Lowry] sure ain't no Bill Buckley, in any way, shape or form. In some ways they are both removed from the travail and demands of everyday life, from economic anxiety experienced by the middle class and do not live in the flyover zone. They are captives of Washington, D.C., a one factory town, and its insidious culture and have become complete insiders, complicit in the malaise of current governing. They 'go along to get along.' They are, in fact, part of the problem and they all fear Trump will excise them—and he will. ...By mounting this foolish and vitriolic effort, they have probably handed Trump the fastest route to the presidency and will increase his poll standings by more than 10 percent. The NR effect is negligible in all truth." [87021]

Donald Trump addresses a large crowd in Pella, Iowa. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) does not endorse Trump but comes close, telling the audience, "We have an opportunity again to make America great again. I'm excited to see the big crowds because of the big energy that comes with it, and that's what it is going to take for us to win back the White House in November. We need you. The energy that's shown here has to be repeated every day between now and the election. Go to the caucuses and show America that Iowa voters matter." (Grassley is a revered figure in the state. His presence is not so much an endorsement of Trump as it is an anti-Ted Cruz message.) [86969, 86989]

Trump tweets, "Based on Megyn Kelly's conflict of interest and bias she should not be allowed to be a moderator of the next debate." (Fox News tells DailyCaller.com, "Megyn Kelly has no conflict of interest. Donald Trump is just trying to build up the audience for Thursday's debate, for which we thank him.") [87022]

Singer Pat Boone and actor-singer Robert Davi endorse Trump. Boone says, "I think most of us these days don't want a professional politician." Davi calls Trump "the last hope for America" and says, "He's the only candidate who can stand up against the establishment. ...I don't want nuance. I want bold colors—red, white and blue." [86990]

In front of a small crowd in Ankeny, Iowa, born-again Mormon radio talk show host Glenn Beck endorses Ted Cruz for president. Beck says, “I have prayed for the next George Washington—I believe I have found him.” (For the record, Washington was born in Virginia, not in Canada. Further, the U.S. Constitution contains a grandfather clause that allowed Washington to serve as president even though—like everyone else at the time—he was not a natural born citizen because he did not have two U.S.-citizen parents. No such clause applies to the ineligible Cruz.) [86988, 86991, 87003, 87004]

Not only does Beck endorse Cruz, he stages a mock swearing-in of the Canadian as president of the United States. Scorched Earth News comments, “[The] swearing in ceremony for Beck’s president-elect Cruz was par for the course for a man whose screws are so loose they are only one or two screwdriver turns from completely falling out. The only thing that was missing was the book of Mormon, which I’m sure Beck had a copy of. Cruz could have put one hand on it and the other could have been saluting Beck. It makes you wonder if all this Donald Trump is a Nazi talk is designed to deflect attention away from the easy to document Cruz worship going on at these evangelistic gatherings. This comical event may have been even more than a swearing in ceremony in the mind of Beck. It was like a pledge of allegiance to all things Beck. I’m wondering if all the Cruzbots in attendance were thinking that maybe Ted is taking his bromance with Glenn Beck a little too far. *Breitbart* and *Gateway Pundit* are having a field day with the story. From a PR standpoint, this was a massive failure, compared with the Sarah Palin endorsement of Trump.” [87000, 87003, 87004]

On January 24 Britain’s Express reports, “The disgusting list of crimes reported in the German city [of Cologne] run to a staggering 821 complaints, and range from sexual assaults to gang rape. When including reported attacks from all of the major cities in the North Rhine-Westphalia state—including Cologne, Dusseldorf, Dortmund and Bielefeld—the complaint figure is said to almost top 1,000. A shocking 359 complaints relate to sexual offences, while 659 women were recorded as alleged victims, according to the list finally published by NRW state government. It also revealed 126 claims of ‘rape by a group’ and 47 allegations of ‘sexual assault by a group.’ ...But despite there reportedly being a total of 1,049 alleged victims, German police have so far identified only 30 suspects, North Rhine-Westphalia state interior minister Ralf Jäger revealed on Thursday [January 21]. All of the suspects are of North African origin, with 15 being asylum seekers.” (Pamela Geller observes, “This is what ‘diversity,’ ‘multiculturalism’ and ‘refugees welcome’ has done to Germany. And it is only just beginning.”) [86978, 86979]

On *Meet the Press*, Hillary Clinton nonsensically argues that her huge speaking fees were the result of people wanting to know about her role in the operation to kill Osama bin Laden. She says she is not worried about the FBI investigation of her emails, saying, “I never sent or received any material marked ‘classified,’ I cannot control what the Republicans leak and what they are contending.” (As noted previously, this is a lawyerly, weasel-word response. Documents and messages are classified “confidential,” “secret,” and “top secret.” To claim none were marked with the word “classified” is irrelevant. Her

defense is like an auto thief telling the police, “I never stole a motorcycle.” That may be the case, but it does not mean he did not steal an automobile.) Clinton goes into her “vast right-wing conspiracy” defense mode: “I can’t control what the Republicans are doing. But I know what the facts are and I will just keep putting them out there. This is something that I think is very clear about what happened and I know it will be over and resolved at some point but I can’t control what the Republicans and their allies do, but I think it’s important for voters to know what are they doing.” [86984, 86985, 86986, 87011]

Clinton also says she wasn’t to “cap those prescription drug companies. We’ve got to get costs down.” (She does not explain how that could be accomplished. The government cannot, for example, simply declare that drug X should cost no more than \$1 per pill if it costs \$5 per pill to produce. New medications cost a fortune to develop—sometimes upwards of \$1 billion—because of federal regulations, the need for extensive testing, etc. The drug manufacturers cannot stay in business if those costs cannot be recovered. The high costs of drug development necessitate high prices when the market for a particular drug is minimal. If only 10,000 people suffer from a particular disease and it costs \$1 billion to develop a medication to treat that disease, that means each patient cost the drug manufacturer \$100,000. The only alternative to charging those patients enough to cover the cost of that particular drug is to spread that cost onto other drugs. In reality, what it means is that few drugs are developed for rare diseases because it is impossible to recover the costs. Unlike the federal government and the Federal Reserve, drug companies cannot create money out of thin air. If the economically ignorant Clinton has in mind a scheme such as simply capping drug costs, the result will be U.S. drug companies moving overseas.) [87023]

Meet the Press’ Chuck Todd absurdly asks Bernie Sanders why he does not support slavery reparations. Sanders predictably dances around the question. (The correct answer to the ludicrous question is: “Anyone who ever owned slaves in the United States is now dead, as are all the former slaves. There is no action to be taken, unless one believes in the preposterous notion that people living today are responsible for the actions taken by others more than 150 years ago.”) [87043]

On *Face the Nation*, Donald Trump says, “Yeah, if he got the nomination, if everything was fine I would vote for Ted Cruz.” (By “if everything is fine” Trump means, “If Cruz survives legal challenges regarding his eligibility.”) [87002]

On *Media Buzz*, Trump tells host Howie Kurtz, “Look, the African Americans love me because they know I am going to bring back jobs. They are going to like me better than they like Obama. The truth is Obama has done nothing for them. ...I think that relatively speaking—I mean he does have a slight advantage in all fairness—but I think relatively speaking when I am finished I think they will absolutely love Donald Trump.” [86995, 87031]

At NYPost.com Paul Sperry reports, “The FBI is investigating whether members of Hillary Clinton’s inner circle ‘cut and pasted’ material from the government’s classified

network so that it could be sent to her private email address, former State Department security officials say. Clinton and her top aides had access to a Pentagon-run classified network that goes up to the Secret level, as well as a separate system used for Top Secret communications. The two systems—the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNet) and the Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System (JWICS)—are not connected to the unclassified system, known as the Non-Classified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNet). You cannot email from one system to the other, though you can use NIPRNet to send emails outside the government. Somehow, highly classified information from SIPRNet, as well as even the super-secure JWICS, jumped from those closed systems to the open system and turned up in at least 1,340 of Clinton’s home emails—including several the CIA earlier this month flagged as containing ultra-secret Sensitive Compartmented Information and Special Access Programs, a subset of SCI. SAP includes ‘dark projects,’ such as drone operations, while SCI protects intelligence sources and methods. Fox News reported Friday [January 22] that at least one of Clinton’s emails included sensitive information on spies.” [87012, 87013, 87019, 87035]

“‘It takes a very conscious effort to move a classified email or cable from the classified systems over to the unsecured open system and then send it to Hillary Clinton’s personal email account,’ said Raymond Fournier, a veteran Diplomatic Security Service special agent. ‘That’s no less than a two-conscious-step process.’ He says it’s clear from some of the classified emails made public that someone on Clinton’s staff essentially ‘cut and pasted’ content from classified cables into the messages sent to her. The classified markings are gone, but the content is classified at the highest levels—and so sensitive in nature that ‘it would have been obvious to Clinton.’ Most likely the information was, in turn, emailed to her via NIPRNet. To work around the closed, classified systems, which are accessible only by secure desktop workstations whose hard drives must be removed and stored overnight in a safe, Clinton’s staff would have simply retyped classified information from the systems into the non-classified system or taken a screen shot of the classified document, Fournier said. ‘Either way, it’s totally illegal.’ FBI agents are zeroing in on three of Clinton’s top department aides. Most of the Clinton emails deemed classified by intelligence agency reviewers were sent to her by her chief of staff Cheryl Mills or deputy chiefs Huma Abedin and Jake Sullivan.” [87012, 87013, 87019, 87035]

HotAir.com points out, “Under 18 USC 793 (g), Hillary [Clinton] would be part of a conspiracy to violate the law and just as liable even if she never cut-and-pasted or even sent classified information herself, emphasis mine: ‘(g) If two or more persons conspire to violate any of the foregoing provisions of this section, and one or more of such persons **do any act to effect the object of the conspiracy**, each of the parties to such conspiracy shall be subject to the punishment provided for the offense which is the object of such conspiracy.’ Setting up the server and requiring her aides to use only that system for e-mail communications would be an act to effect the object of the conspiracy to transmit classified information illegally, as well as hiding communications from Congress. If the Post’s report is accurate, the FBI is using a classic investigative technique of getting to the boss through the flunkies.” [87019]

In a Fox News poll, Trump leads Ted Cruz in Iowa, 34-23 percent, followed by Marco Rubio (12 percent), Ben Carson (7), Rand Paul (6), Chris Christie (4), Jeb Bush (4), John Kasich (2), Mike Huckabee (2), and Carly Fiorina (1). In Fox News' New Hampshire poll, Trump leads with 31, Cruz has 14, Rubio (9), Bush (7), Christie (7), Carson (5), Paul (5), Fiorina (3), Huckabee (1). [86996, 86997]

DCWhispers.com writes, "On Thursday [January 28], Fox News will be hosting the final GOP presidential debate just days removed from the Iowa Caucus. A growing din of whispers surrounding the impending debate has at least one member of the moderating panel specifically targeting Donald Trump's demise. It appears the Trump campaign has already initiated counter measures as Mr. Trump himself called for Fox personality and upcoming debate moderator, Megyn Kelly to be removed from the moderator panel. Trump and Kelly have engaged in an ongoing war of words since Kelly's first stint at moderating during a GOP debate last fall that had her issuing what many Trump supporters felt to be an unusually aggressive, anti-Trump series of questions at the Republican front-runner. This past week, Megyn Kelly focused considerable time on her Fox News program to the National Review's most recent and highly controversial issue that was devoted entirely to trying to convince voters not to support Donald Trump." [86998]

"The timing of the Trump vs Kelly dynamic is made even more interesting given the threats issued against Donald Trump from some of the most powerful geopolitical players on the planet during the uber-exclusive World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. It was at that conference that a figure with significant ties to Fox News' own bottom line let it be known his intention to make certain Donald Trump will never win the White House. His name is Martin Sorrell, a British citizen and head of WPP, quite possibly the single most influential and prominent marketing firm in the world with decades-old ties to the most elite of the elite. Here is what Mr. Sorrell had to say regarding Donald Trump just days ago: 'It doesn't matter who the Republicans put up... Hillary will win.' Now here is where the link between Mr. Sorrell's comment, which seems to make quite clear his absolute confidence in how the 2016 election will play out well before even the first primary vote has been cast, and Fox News becomes far more clear: MONEY. Lots and lots of money. Fox News, like most other similar media ventures, lives or dies on advertising revenue. WPP and its myriad of affiliates, represents up to HALF of all Fox News ad revenue. WPP's clients include such corporate giants as Ford, Glaxo Smith, IBM, Microsoft, Nestle, Walmart, Unilever, etc.—clients who in turn represent *tens of millions of dollars in monthly ad revenue* that keep the lights of Fox News on and pays the salaries of on-air personalities like Megyn Kelly." [86998]

"Rumor has it that Mr. Sorrell has already played a pivotal role in manipulating the on-air lineups at Fox and other media entities through the sheer, brute force of the significant advertising dollars his clients represent. So when someone like Martin Sorrell signals it doesn't matter who the Republicans nominate because Hillary Clinton is going to be the next President of the United States regardless, it is a prediction/threat that should be taken very seriously." [86998]

“Now let us add another anti-Trump threat that came out of Davos as well this past week. This one was issued by Niall Ferguson, a highly influential Harvard professor and political policy architect declared by TIME magazine to be among the most 100 influential people in the world. Professor Ferguson stated he is ‘...very much looking forward to’ the imminent humiliation of Donald Trump, a rather ominous declaration that hints of an impending ‘political kill-shot’ intended to end the Trump campaign once and for all. Sorrell and Ferguson are said to have a relationship that dates back several years. ...Both men are unabashed globalists seeking to break down the concept of nations in favor of a New World Order. For those looking to learn who was among the architects of the McCain the Campaign movement of 2008 that saw John McCain’s seemingly broken White House aspirations suddenly emerge with new life, look no further than British-born, Niall Ferguson who was an adviser to McCain in 2008. McCain went on to lose in a landslide to Barack Obama, a result some have suggested was the intended outcome of the McCain the Campaign operation all along.” [86998]

TakiMag.com writes, “*National Review* magazine is a leading light of the American conservative movement widely known for firing writers the moment they say something remotely interesting or vital. Last Thursday night the hoary, mendacious, pus-leaking publication unleashed an online symposium called ‘Conservatives Against Trump,’ featuring 22 diatribes about why the real-estate magnate and connoisseur of Eastern European vaginas is a bad, bad, bad, bad, bad man who would be bad, bad, bad, bad for conservatism and the Republican Party and—although they didn’t say it—the careers of people who write for cucked-out rags such as *National Review*. The symposium includes essays from weeping gerbil Glenn Beck, chirping hamster Erick Erickson, constipated wax figure Cal Thomas, and a gaggle of neocon warmongers many of whom may have worn yarmulkes at one point or another in their lives.” [86999]

“According to ‘The Editors’ at NR: ‘Trump is a philosophically unmoored political opportunist who would trash the broad conservative ideological consensus within the GOP in favor of a free-floating populism with strong-man overtones.’ Obviously, no one with a lick of political sense wants or needs a strong man these days. True conservatism involves always being resolutely weak.’ David Boaz, who describes himself as the ‘lone libertarian’ among all the conservatives at NR, warns solemnly: ‘Not since George Wallace has there been a presidential candidate who made racial and religious scapegoating so central to his campaign. Trump launched his campaign talking about Mexican rapists and has gone on to rant about mass deportation, bans on Muslim immigration, shutting down mosques, and building a wall around America.’ George Wallace—another great American with more charisma in a single toenail than all of *National Review*’s staff combined. In his inimitably dismissive manner, Trump waved away the *National Review* dogpiling hit piece against him by calling NR a ‘dying paper’ that ‘people don’t even think about.’” [86999]

ThePostEmail.com reports that during the TNALC (The North American Law Center) Radio Show broadcast, host J. B. Williams told the audience “that NALC possesses a sworn affidavit from an individual who reportedly interviewed Ted Cruz in 2012 when he was seeking his U.S. Senate seat and was told by Cruz that a ‘natural born citizen’ is a

person ‘born in the U.S. to citizen parents.’ ...Williams reported that in 2012, Cruz neglected to inform the citizens of Texas that, as he sought the U.S. Senate seat, he held Canadian citizenship, which he [Williams] said could constitute fraud concerning tens of millions of dollars raised during the campaign.” In 2013 Cruz’s spokeswoman, Catherine Frazier, “claimed that Cruz had never held Canadian citizenship, but the following year Cruz filed papers to renounce it.” [87005, 87033]

On January 25 Donald Trump tweets, “It’s time for Ted Cruz to either settle his problem with the FACT that he was born in Canada and was a citizen of Canada, or get out of the race.” [87020]

DailySignal.com reports, “A grand jury in Houston indicted two undercover filmmakers who exposed Planned Parenthood’s alleged sale of aborted baby body parts in a series of videos last summer. ...The founder of the Center for Medical Progress, David Daleiden, was indicted for tampering with government records and a misdemeanor relating to the purchase of human organs, reports The New York Times. Sandra Merritt, another Center for Medical Progress employee, was indicted with on a charge of tampering with government records. A copy of the indictment was not immediately available from the Harris County district clerk’s office.” Unbelievably, the filmmakers are indicted for trying to buy baby parts simply because they went undercover to *pretend* they wanted to make such purposes. (There is no explanation as to why someone engaged in fake illegal buying can be indicted while the parties engaged in the actual illegal selling are not, or why, if Planned Parenthood’s practices are so above board, one can be indicted for pretending to engage in them.) [87050, 87072, 87073, 87074, 87078, 87105, 87110]

Daleiden responds, “The Center for Medical Progress [CMP] uses the same undercover techniques that investigative journalists have used for decades in exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and of the press, and follows all applicable laws. We respect the processes of the Harris County district attorney, and note that buying fetal tissue requires a seller as well. Planned Parenthood still cannot deny the admissions from their leadership about fetal organ sales captured on video for all the world to see.” (Lauren Reeder, a prosecutor in the Harris County district attorney’s office, serves on Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast’s board of directors. On January 28, CMP releases financial documents it says proves Planned Parenthood profited from the sale of aborted fetal body parts.) [87050, 87072, 87073, 87074, 87078, 87105, 87287]

Daily Show pro-abortion leftist Noah Trevor cheers the indictment, saying, “I love this country. ...This is the best thing ever. ...So, a group of anti-abortion activists set out to make it look like Planned Parenthood was doing something illegal and not only was Planned Parenthood vindicated, but the people who made the videos got indicted. That’s like a bank robber going into a bank to rob it and then five minutes later, he comes running out just in his underwear and he’s like [sic], ‘I don’t know what happened! They took everything, they took everything.’” [87174]

ISIS releases a propaganda video showing the Paris terrorists beheading people in the Middle East, before their attacks in the French capital. The *Daily Mail* reports, “The

video features threats from Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the mastermind of the Paris attacks, and also shows each of the other militants carrying out a horrific execution. It ends with the jihadi group issuing a threat to carry out their next terror attack in the UK, following Britain's decision to carry out airstrikes in Syria. Former bus driver Samy Amimour is featured in one of the most distressing scenes in the footage, when he smiles into the camera after picking up the head of a decapitated prisoner. He then delivers a chilling message, 'Soon in Champs-Elysses.' A threat is then made against the UK with video using footage of the House of Commons vote in favour of strikes in Syria. The message reads: 'Whoever stands in the ranks of Kufr will be a target for our swords and will fall in humiliation' and appears while David Cameron addresses the house." [87006]

Dansk International Online Avis reports, "There are currently around 8-10 child brides present at Danish [Muslim refugee] asylum centers. Some of them being imported by people who have a residence permit. The men are allowed to sleep with them [on] the weekends." (Pamela Geller writes, "With the mass Muslim migration into Eurabia comes the Islamic law and its attendant misogyny, pedophilia and misogyny. That's to be expected. What was not expected when I began to engage in this fight 15 years ago was the sanction of this brutal and extreme ideology by Western leaders in academia, media and politics.") [87148, 87149]

Former Texas governor Rick Perry endorses Ted Cruz for president—perhaps unaware that Cruz was born in Canada to a Cuban-Canadian father. [87014, 87015]

Former Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) writes, "While the Washington snowstorm dominated news coverage this week, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell [R-KY] was operating behind the scenes to rush through the Senate what may be the most massive transfer of power from the Legislative to the Executive branch in our history. The senior Senator from Kentucky is scheming, along with Sen. Lindsey Graham [R-SC], to bypass normal Senate procedure to fast-track legislation to grant [Obama] the authority to wage unlimited war for as long as he or his successors may wish. The legislation makes the unconstitutional Iraq War authorization of 2002 look like a walk in the park. It will allow [Obama] and future presidents to wage war against ISIS without restrictions on time, geographic scope, or the use of ground troops. It is a completely open-ended authorization for the president to use the military as he wishes for as long as he (or she) wishes. Even ...Obama has expressed concern over how willing Congress is to hand him unlimited power to wage war." [87016]

"...Obama has already far surpassed even his predecessor, George W. Bush, in taking the country to war without even the fig leaf of an authorization. In 2011 [Obama] invaded Libya, overthrew its government, and oversaw the assassination of its leader, without even bothering to ask for Congressional approval. Instead of impeachment, which he deserved for the disastrous Libya invasion, Congress said nothing. House Republicans only managed to bring the subject up when they thought they might gain political points exploiting the killing of U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens in Benghazi. It is becoming more clear that Washington plans to expand its war in the Middle East. Last week the media reported that the U.S. military had taken over an air base in eastern Syria, and

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said that the U.S. would send in the 101st Airborne Division to retake Mosul in Iraq and to attack ISIS headquarters in Raqqa, Syria. Then on Saturday, Vice President Joe Biden said that if the upcoming peace talks in Geneva are not successful, the U.S. is prepared for a massive military intervention in Syria.” [87016]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The federal government will be flirting with \$30 trillion in debt within a decade, the Congressional Budget Office reported Monday, blaming an aging population, new spending and tax cuts approved on Capitol Hill, and the growing burden from Obamacare for erasing the progress Washington had made over the past few years. Analysts said Obamacare will chase more workers out of the labor force over the next five years, adding pressure to an economy still struggling to spring to life more than seven years into the Obama recovery. The Affordable Care Act itself is still struggling to attract a customer base, the CBO said, lowering its estimate for the number of people who will sign up for the exchanges from 21 million to 13 million—a drop of nearly 40 percent in projections. Customers collecting taxpayer subsidies this year will be 11 million, down from the 15 million the CBO projected a year ago.” [87046]

Donald Trump tells CNN’s Wolf Blitzer he might consider skipping the next debate if Fox News’ Megyn Kelly is not removed from the event. “If I think I’m going to be treated unfairly, I’ll do something else. ...But that doesn’t mean I don’t do the debate. I like doing the debates. I’ve won every single debate according to every single poll... so I want to do the debates, they’re good for me. But I don’t think she can treat me fairly and I’m not a big fan of hers. Maybe I know too much about her.” (Trump’s threat may be for the purpose of boosting the number of debate viewers. Nevertheless, this *Timeline* suspects Kelly is working overtime to find something from Trump’s past to challenge him with during the January 28 debate. She desperately wants to embarrass him and force him to respond in a negative manner that will cause him to lose support.) [87017, 87022, 87040, 87054, 87062]

In an interview with Breitbart.com, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) excoriates the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) and the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA). Sessions suggests, “If a Republican candidate wins [the presidential election and] opposes it, it’s unlikely it would get through Congress. Hillary Clinton has been for it and against it, so if she gets elected they might yet try to get it through. So their best hope is to elect a pro-trade, pro-TPP president and try to move it through in the lame duck session in my opinion. That’s my best political judgment. So there is an awareness that the people do not support it, and there is an attempt to keep the discussion out of the election debate. ...I can’t tell you how important the vote on the Trans Pacific Partnership is. It is representing monumental erosion of American sovereignty and further commits us to international institutions over which we have virtually no control.” [87024]

“...We need to negotiate better. So, what I’d say to the people in Iowa: This is a matter of supreme importance that neither party should nominate a candidate who does not oppose this agreement. You can be for trade, you can be for negotiating agreements with countries around the world but not this way and not creating these kinds of transnational

commissions that only hamper the United States as we go forward in the decades.” [87024]

Attorney Mario Apuzzo (*Kerchner v. Obama*) points out that the late British Prime Minister Winston Churchill “was born in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England, on November 30, 1874, to Lady Randolph Churchill (née Jennie Jerome), who was born in the United States, and to Lord Randolph Churchill, a British citizen. Hence, Churchill was like [Ted] Cruz born out of the United States to what Cruz would consider a U.S. citizen mother and a non-U.S. citizen father. ...No one contended that Winston Churchill was a citizen of the United States, let alone a natural born citizen of the United States. Can we just imagine the Prime Minister of Great Britain being a natural born citizen of the United States and eligible to be President and Commander in Chief of the Military? But yet, Ted Cruz wants us to accept that he, born under the same birth circumstances as Winston Churchill, but under a different naturalization Act, the 1952 Immigration and Naturalization Act which allowed a child born out of the United States to a U.S. citizen mother and non-U.S. citizen father to be a ‘citizen’ of the United States at birth, is a natural born citizen and constitutionally eligible to be President. ...Cruz wants us to believe that under that naturalization Act he is an Article II natural born citizen and that such a proposition has been settled law since the framing of the Constitution. Sure, Ted, just like you did not know until 2013 that you were a Canadian citizen.” [87026, 87027]

“...Some in the press wondered if Churchill, who was born to a U.S. citizen mother, would ever consider running for U.S. president. When asked by a reporter in 1932 on running for President of the United States, he correctly and honestly responded: ‘There are various little difficulties in the way. However, I have been treated so splendidly in the United States that I should be disposed, if you can amend the Constitution, seriously to consider the matter.’ (Churchill understood that he was ineligible to serve as president without an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Cruz knows full well that he is ineligible to serve as president, but believes he can pull a fast one on the people of the United States because Obama did so in 2008. The difference is that Obama forged a birth certificate and had the media and his party in his corner. Cruz has no such advantages.) [87026, 87027]

TheBlaze.com posts a video of Ted Cruz at Second Baptist School in Houston, Texas, taken when he was age 18. Asked about his aspiration, Cruz replies, “Aspiration? Is that like sweat on my butt? No, no, I see—what you want me to do, what I want to do in life. Well, my aspiration is to, uh, oh, I don’t know, be in a teen tit film like that guy who played Horatio. You know, he was in *Malibu Bikini Beach Shop*? Well, other than that, uh, take over the world. World domination, you know, rule everything. Rich, powerful. That sort of stuff.” Cruz’s father is asked, “Mr. Cruz, [do] you think Ted’s going to rule the world one day?” Rafael Cruz replies, “I hope not!” [87029, 87030, 87060]

At a campaign event in Des Moines, Iowa, Hillary Clinton has a lengthy coughing attack—that will undoubtedly prompt rumors of serious health issues, even if she merely has a sore throat. [87034, 87164]

Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC), chairman of the Select Benghazi Committee, tells talk radio's Hugh Hewitt, "When we issue our report, and hopefully, it is coming sooner rather than later, I think that part of our investigation is going to be the most eye-opening, the most surprising, and frankly, will dwarf the other two tranches of Benghazi in terms of what we have been able to find. ...Number one, how were the [military] assets positioned? If they were not positioned in such a way as to respond to Libya, Tripoli or Benghazi within the time frame, why not, particularly on the anniversary of 9/11 with, frankly, with [protests in] Cairo having just happened? Why would your assets not be moving after Cairo? But there's a third part to this, which is [whether Obama] did say do everything you can, and Secretary [of Defense Leon] Panetta communicated that order to his command staff, do everything you can... Why did the first [aircraft] wheel not take off for hours and hours and hours? That is the part that we are getting at, that I would submit to you the other committees did not. And I think you're going to be surprised at that part of our report." [87067]

Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay states, "I have friends that [sic; who] are in the FBI and they tell me they're ready to indict" Hillary Clinton. "They're ready to recommend an indictment and they also say that if the attorney general [Loretta Lynch] does not indict, they're going public [with the information of Clinton's law-breaking]. ...One way or another either she's going to be indicted and that process begins, or we try her in the public eye with her campaign. One way or another she's going to have to face these charges." [87051, 87055, 87063]

After having rebounded slightly on Friday, January 22, the Dow Jones Industrial average falls again, 208 points to 15,885.

At a Democrat candidate forum in Iowa, a student in the audience addresses Hillary Clinton: "I can see why they gave you this question. I just wanted to know which of our previous presidents has inspired you most and why." (In other words, CNN and/or the Clinton campaign may have "planted" a few questions.) [87041, 87042, 87053, 87064, 87077, 87100]

Of the private server and email issue, Clinton says, "...I, I had, I had no intention of doing other—anything other than having a convenient way of communicating, and it turned out not to be so convenient, so, again, we've answered every question, and we will continue to do so, uh, but, you know, maybe being faster, trying to scramble around to find out what all of this means, I probably should have done that quicker [sic]. ...No, I'm not willing to say it was an error in judgment, because, what—nothing that I did was wrong, it was not, it was not in any way prohibited, and so... When you're facing something like that, you gotta [sic] get the facts, and it takes time to get the facts, and so when I said, 'Hey, take all my emails, make 'em [sic] public,' that had never been done before, ever, by anybody. And so, we've been sorting our way through this because it is kind of a unique situation. I'm happy people are looking at the emails... Look, I think it's great, let people sort them through [sic], as we have seen there is, uh, a lot of, you know, a lot of interest, but it's something that took time to get done." (It did not yet "get done." Thousands of Clinton's emails have yet to be released.) [87070]

Among the weak (if not stupid) questions asked: “How surprised are you by ‘Feel the Bern’ and all that has followed?” “What does it mean to you about what your parents would think if they saw you now?” “When you are elected the next president of the United States, what will you say to Republican voters?” [87065]

Former Maryland governor Martin O’Malley tells the candidate forum audience, “Climate change is the greatest business opportunity to come to the United States in 100 years, and I am the first candidate in either party to put forward a plan to move us to a 100 percent clean electric energy grid by 2050 and create 5 million jobs along the way.” [87068]

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT says, “Well, what Democratic Socialism means to me is that economic rights, the right to economic security is—should exist in the United States of America. It means to me that there’s something wrong when we have millions of senior citizens today trying to get by on \$11, \$12,000 a year Social Security. It means there’s something wrong when the rich get richer, and almost everybody else gets poorer. It means there is something wrong, and government should play a role in making sure that all of our kids, regardless of their income, are able to get a higher education. Which is why I’m calling for free tuition at public colleges and universities, and why we have to deal with this horrendous level of student debt that people are having.” (What Sanders fails to comprehend is that if he taxed the wealthiest Americans at 100 percent he would still lack the revenue to pay for everything he expects the government to give away—and by raising taxes he would destroy millions of jobs and devastate the economy.) [87069]

At PJMedia.com Roger L. Simon writes, “You wouldn’t know from listening to the pundits on Fox News, who yammer on constantly that the Republican nomination is down to Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, but, according to mostly British bookmakers, it’s Marco Rubio, not Cruz, who is in second place on the Republican side, sometimes substantially. Actually, Rubio is coming in third overall for the presidency behind Hillary [Clinton] and Trump and just ahead of [Bernie] Sanders, with the Texas senator in fifth place on most gambling sites. ...And if you think they’re not paying attention to what’s going on this side of The Pond, the recently semi-announced Michael Bloomberg is already in 7th position with most outfits, rapidly edging ahead of floundering Jeb Bush. ...Is the Florida senator rushing toward a last-minute Iowa caucus surprise as Santorum did in 2012 when the Pennsylvania senator jumped from 7% to 24% in a week? Who knows? Pollsters have a record of being way off in Iowa. ...I won’t make any predictions, but I will say this—if I have to choose between the pundits, the pollsters and the bookies, I’m no idiot. I’ll go with the bookies.” [87082]

At AntiWar.com Justin Raimondo writes, “I have many disagreements with Trump, but unlike his many enemies on the left and especially on the right I understand that his nationalism contains elements that are useful, instructive, and even admirable. Unlike [Pat] Buchanan, he is certainly no intellectual, but then again the last intellectual to inhabit the White House—Woodrow Wilson—was an unambiguous disaster for the cause of peace and liberty, and so I don’t hold that against The Donald. There is surely a

demagogic element to his astonishing rise, which his opponents—particularly those on the right—make much of. The recent jeremiad against him launched by the neocons over at *National Review* was filled with comparisons to Mussolini, Juan Peron, Hitler (of course!), and even Andrew Dice Clay, this latter barb a direct appeal to the smug snobbery that characterizes our urban elites. ‘He’s ‘vulgar,’’ ‘he’s ‘rude,’’ etc. etc., and those were some of the gentler ways they characterized him personally.” [87095]

“Yet demagoguery didn’t bother them when it was deployed by George W. Bush as he marched us off to a disastrous war—a war Trump opposed, and continues to denounce today—and implied that his critics were in league with America’s enemies. ‘You’re either with us or you’re with the terrorists’—remember that one? Do you recall how Bush’s partisans over at *National Review* tried to tar conservative and libertarian opponents of the Iraq war—including this writer—as having ‘turned their backs on their country’? Demagoguery in the service of mass murder is fine with them: it’s only when their own methods are turned against them that the War Party starts to get religion. ...[T]he real motive behind the neoconservative holy war against Trump is rooted in his foreign policy positions, which the neocons rightly view as a direct threat to their internationalist project.” [87095]

On January 26 CNSNews.com reports, “The debt of the federal government increased by \$8,314,529,850,339.07 [about \$8.3 trillion] in ...Obama’s first seven years in office, according to official data published by the U.S. Treasury. That equals \$70,612.91 in net federal borrowing for each of the 117,480,000 households that the Census Bureau estimates were in the United States as of September. During President George W. Bush’s eight years in office, the federal debt increased by \$4,899,100,310,608.44 [about \$4.9 trillion], according to the Treasury. That equaled \$44,104.65 in net federal borrowing for each of the 111,079,000 households that, according to the Census Bureau, were in the country as of Jan. 20, 2009, the day that Bush left office and Obama assumed it.” [87118]

The Obama administration proposes an “ObamaSave” forced retirement plan. According to MRCTV.org, “Obama’s plan to revamp retirement savings mimics his controversial healthcare law: Individual participation is required, not optional; there’s an employer mandate; state-run marketplaces are created.” Businesses with 10 or more employees would be forced to “‘automatically enroll their workers in an IRA’—with, or without, their consent—making employee participation compulsory...” (The scheme is absurd. It will further burden existing businesses and prevent many new businesses from starting. It also has no chance of being approved by Congress—which means that all the time and taxpayer money spent on developing the proposal was a total waste.) [87210]

Donald Trump surges to 33.6 percent in the Real Clear Politics polling average in Iowa, trailed by Ted Cruz (27.2), Marco Rubio (11.8), Ben Carson (7.2), Rand Paul (3.6), Jeb Bush (3.6), Chris Christie (3.0), Mike Huckabee (2.2), John Kasich (2.0), Carly Fiorina (1.4), and Rick Santorum (1.2) [87038, 87039, 87061]

In a Quinnipiac poll in Iowa, Trump leads with 31 percent, followed by Cruz (29), and Rubio (13). [87056]

An American Research Group poll in New Hampshire shows Trump taking 31 percent support, followed by Kasich at 17 percent, Cruz (12), Rubio (9), Bush (8), and Chris (8). [87076]

In a national CNN/ORC poll, Trump has 41 percent, followed by Cruz (19), and Rubio (8). [87052]

In a national Zogby poll, Trump and Hillary Clinton are tied 45-45, with 10 percent undecided. Trump leads among men, 50-42, while Clinton leads among women 48-40. Trump leads among those 50 and older. Clinton leads 49-42 among those aged 30-49, and (because of her free college offers), Clinton leads 57-25 among those 18-29. [87071]

PCWorld.com writes, “In March, Microsoft said it would use its Bing technology to predict the outcome of the 2016 presidential election. On Tuesday, Microsoft jumped in with both feet, calling the first four Republican primaries for Donald Trump. Microsoft’s Bing predicts that Trump will win the Republican primaries in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada relatively easily, topping Ted Cruz in all four states. Hillary Clinton is expected to win three out of the first four Democratic primaries—Iowa, South Carolina, and Nevada—losing New Hampshire to Bernie Sanders. Microsoft said it used data from polls, prediction markets, and anonymized and aggregated search-engine queries to predict its results—some of the methods that it’s used to predict the outcomes of everything from ‘American Idol’ to the World Cup. ...It correctly called the 2015 Academy Awards, for instance. Elections, where poll follows poll follows poll, are another wealth of data that Microsoft can tap. Microsoft correctly called the ‘No’ vote on the referendum for Scotland to secede from Great Britain, and also accurately predicted the outcome of more than 95 percent of the 2014 U.S. midterm elections.” (Another indicator of success is the sale of candidate-related merchandise—an area in which Trump holds a significant lead in Iowa.) [87322, 87323]

Congressman Steve King (R-IA), desperate to boost Cruz’s chances in Iowa, suggests Trump is buying the election. King tells Politico.com, “Let’s just say this: when Donald Trump decides he wants somebody on his team, he has an unlimited reservoir of resources that he can bring to bear. One of them is money, but it may not be. It might be fame, it might be the mystique of the Trump machine, it might be people are afraid of retribution and it might be people that [sic; who] are looking for opportunities down the line. And it might be any combination of those things and others that I haven’t said. That explains most of what you’ve seen come behind Donald Trump in one way or another.” [87171]

At Salon.com Camille Paglia writes, “During her two presidential campaigns, Hillary Clinton has consistently drawn greater support from women than men. Is this gender lag due to retrograde misogyny, or does Hillary project an uneasiness or ambivalence about men that complicates her appeal to a broader electorate? ...Hillary has unfortunately adopted the [Gloria] Steinem brand of blame-men-first feminism, which defines women as perpetual victims requiring government protections. Hillary’s sometimes impatient or

patronizing tone about men, which can perhaps be traced to key aspects of her personal history, may prove costly to her current campaign.” [87107]

“...As the class speaker at her Wellesley commencement ceremony in 1969, Hillary went off script to rebut and rebuke the honored guest speaker, Massachusetts senator Edward Brooke, an elegant centrist Republican who was the first African-American elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote. This incident, which won Hillary a photo spread in *Life* magazine, can be alternately viewed as a brave generational gesture or an act of crass discourtesy with anti-male overtones. Hillary’s decision to move to Arkansas to be with Bill, whom she had met in law school, followed her shocking failure of the District of Columbia bar exam. As his most trusted counselor and strategist, she helped guide her husband’s rise to attorney general and governor of Arkansas, but at every point, her professional life, culminating in a partnership at the Rose Law Firm, was at least partly derived from her association with him—not an ideal feminist paradigm.” [87107]

In Decorah, Iowa, Hillary Clinton is asked if she would nominate Obama for the Supreme Court if elected president. Clinton calls it a “great idea.” She states he is “brilliant, and he can set forth an argument, and he was a law professor, so he’s got all the credentials. ...Now we do have to get a Democratic Senate to get him confirmed so you’re going to have to help me on that, Okay?” (Obama was a law lecturer; he was never a law professor. He also relinquished his law license after it was challenged for his having lied on his Illinois bar application. Legally, however, one need not, however, be a lawyer or a judge to serve on the Supreme Court.) [87140]

Jerry Falwell, Jr. endorses Donald Trump. (*The New Republic*, which apparently supports voting by dead people, tweets the news with a photo of Falwell’s late father.) Falwell says, “Like Mr. Trump, dad would speak his mind. ...Dad explained that when he walked into the voting booth, he wasn’t electing a Sunday school teacher, or a pastor, or even a president who shared his theological beliefs. He was electing a president of the United States to lead a nation.” [87040, 87079, 87080]

Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe “Cold Case Posse” Arpaio endorses Trump. Arpaio states, “Donald Trump is a leader. He produces results and is ready to get tough in order to protect American jobs and families. I have fought on the front lines to prevent illegal immigration. I know Donald Trump will stand with me and countless Americans to secure our border. I am proud to support him as the best candidate for president of the United States of America.” [87080, 87083]

Mediaite.com provides more proof that leftists are close to clinically insane, reporting, “Student leaders at the University of Oregon debated removing a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. from its student center, arguing that the quote was not inclusive enough for modern understandings of diversity. Oregon’s Erb Memorial Union, which is currently under renovation, had the following famous King quote on the wall: ‘I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. I have a dream...’” One sophomore architecture major whines, “Diversity is so much more than race.

Obviously race still plays a big role. But there are people who identify differently in gender and all sorts of things like that.” (Apparently some people wish King had said, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin or their genitals or their sexual preferences, but by the content of their character. I have a dream...” Mediaite notes, “Until 1985, the wall declared the University of Oregon ‘leader in the quest for the good life for all men.’ That was replaced with the King quote after feminists objected to the implication that Oregon only cared about ‘men.’” [87048, 87075]

At FoxNews.com Ed Henry reports, “A 2013 video, obtained exclusively by Fox News, raises fresh questions about how Hillary Clinton handled sensitive information at the State Department. In the video, veteran diplomat Wendy Sherman reveals that in the interest of speed, Clinton and her aides would share information that ‘would never be on an unclassified system’ normally. The questions surround a 2013 speech in which Sherman compared the technology differences between serving at the State Department in the administrations of President Bill Clinton and ...Obama.” Sherman told her audience, “Now we have BlackBerrys, and it has changed the way diplomacy is done. Uh, things appear on your BlackBerrys that would never be on an unclassified system. But you’re out traveling, you’re trying to negotiate something. You want to communicate with people, it’s the fastest way to do it.” Sherman, referring to a September 2011 meeting of Clinton and Lady Catherine Margaret Ashton, then-vice president of the European Commission, says, “And so they sat there, as they were having the meeting, with their BlackBerrys, uh, transferring language back and forth between them and between their aides to multitask in a quite a new fashion [sic], uh, to have the meeting and at the same time be working on the quartet statement.” [87057, 87058, 87059, 87081]

DailyCaller.com reports, “While working as Hillary Clinton’s chief of staff at the State Department, Cheryl Mills lost her personal Blackberry, on which she sent emails that the State Department has determined contain classified information. Records obtained by The Daily Caller through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit show Mills revealed that she lost her Blackberry in a March 20, 2010 email she sent to Bryan Pagliano, the State Department IT staffer who managed Clinton’s private email server. ‘Somewhere b/w my house and the plane to nyc yesterday my personal bb got misplaced; no on [sic] is answering it thought [sic] I have called,’ Mills wrote from her personal email account to the address Pagliano used when he worked on Hillary Clinton’s 2008 presidential campaign. Other State Department records indicate that Mills’ personal Blackberry appears to have been synced with her Gmail account. Many of the emails she sent from the personal account include footers which show they were sent from a Blackberry powered by AT&T. Some of the emails Mills sent and received on the account contain information that the State Department has retroactively determined to have classified information. ...It is unclear if Mills recovered her Blackberry after first losing it. Her attorney did not return a request for comment. It is also unclear what other sensitive, government-related information Mills sent on her Blackberry and personal email account to other federal officials.” [87109, 87172]

HotAir.com comments, “Had the State Department known of the Hillary Clinton home-brew server, this should have touched off an investigation to see whether the loss may have exposed sensitive information. It’s telling that Mills went to the one man at State who knew full well of the system—in fact, the man who had worked for Hillary’s political action committee for a few years before moving into the State Department’s IT support group. Pagliano apparently was the only contact at State for support on the Hillary e-mail server during her tenure as Secretary. Did Pagliano report the loss of the Blackberry as a potential spillage of sensitive material? If not, this might be another good reason for Pagliano’s decision to take the Fifth and potentially hold out for a deal. Failing to report potential spillage would likely cost Pagliano his clearance, and perhaps result in harsher punishment as well. That holds even more true for Mills than it does for Pagliano. Unlike the IT tech who worked on the system, Mills had actually transmitted sensitive data on and through her Blackberry. Once she realized it was missing, she needed to report the loss as a potential security risk, and not just to IT as a headache to be resolved. If Mills never reported it, that may put her at risk of being charged with a felony...” [87172]

DailyCaller.com also reports that reporters were routinely prohibited from attending speeches delivered by Hillary Clinton to Wall Street firms, including Goldman Sachs Group; UBS Wealth Management; Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts and Company; the Carlyle Group; Apollo Management Holdings; Fidelity Investments; Morgan Stanley; and Golden Tree Asset Management. “Goldman Sachs paid \$675,000 for three Clinton speeches in 2013, yet journalists were barred from these speeches.” [87066]

According to TheHill.com, in response to reports that Donald Trump was considering not participating in the January 28 debate, a Fox News spokesperson tells media outlets, “We learned from a secret back channel that the Ayatollah and Putin both intend to treat Donald Trump unfairly when they meet with him if he becomes president—a nefarious source tells us that Trump has his own secret plan to replace the Cabinet with his Twitter followers to see if he should even go to those meetings.” Trump responds via Twitter: “a pathetic attempt by Fox News to try and build up ratings for the GOPDebate. Without me they’d have no ratings!” [87084, 87085, 87086, 87087, 87088, 87093, 87096, 87111]

An angry Trump then holds a new conference, calls it a “wise-guy press release” and says, “Most likely I’m not going to do the debate. I didn’t like the fact that they sent out press releases toying, talking about Putin and playing games. I don’t know what games [Fox CEO] Roger Ailes is playing or what’s wrong over there. But when they sent out that press release talking about it—I said what are these people, playing games? So most likely I won’t be doing the debate. ...We’ll do something else where we raise money for the veterans and Wounded Warriors. We’re going to do something simultaneously with the debate. ...The point is with me, they’re dealing with somebody that’s [sic; who is] a little bit different. They can’t toy with me like they toy with everybody else so let them have their debate and let’s see how they do with their ratings. Why should the networks continue getting rich on these debates? Give some to the Wounded Warriors. You’re making a fortune. Let’s see how much money Fox is going to make on the debate without me, okay? Let’s see.” [87084, 87085, 87086, 87087, 87088, 87093]

Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski then tells the media that Donald Trump “will not be participating in the Fox News debate on Thursday. It’s not under negotiation.” [87084, 87085, 87086, 87087, 87093]

The Trump campaign issues a statement: “As someone who wrote one of the best-selling business books of all time, *The Art of the Deal*, who has built an incredible company, including some of the most valuable and iconic assets in the world, and has someone who has a personal net worth of many billions of dollars, Mr. Trump knows a bad deal when he sees one. FOX News is making tens of millions of dollars on debates, and setting ratings records (the highest in history), where as [sic; whereas] in previous years they were low-rated afterthoughts.” [87091, 87093]

“Unlike the very stupid, highly incompetent people running our country into the ground, Mr. Trump knows when to walk away. Roger Ailes and FOX News think they can toy with him, but Mr. Trump doesn’t play games. There have already been six debates, and according to all online debate polls including Drudge, Slate, Time Magazine, and many others, Mr. Trump has won all of them, in particular the last one. Whereas he has always been a job creator and not a debater, he nevertheless truly enjoys the debating process—and it has been very good for him, both in polls and popularity.” [87091, 87093]

“He will not be participating in the FOX News debate and will instead host an event in Iowa to raise money for the Veterans and Wounded Warriors, who have been treated so horribly by our all talk, no action politicians. Like running for office as an extremely successful person, this takes guts and is the kind [of] mentality our country needs in order to Make America Great Again.” [87091, 87093]

David Gergen, a former Bill Clinton adviser, comments, “I do believe had he walked away only on the Megyn Kelly question [Trump did not want her participating], he would look childish. But once this press release came out, I think it gave him the excuse not to go. He doesn’t look so childish. From his point of view, why does he want to do the debate? He’s ahead [in the polls]. He’s done a lot of them [debates]. He wants to sit on his lead. You can figure that he would like to find a way to get out of it, and I think Fox gave him an excuse to get out.” [87085, 87088]

Gergen is correct. Fox News’ taunting “press release” was a monumental blunder. It is the network that appears childish, rather than Trump. Further, Trump is smart enough to know that he would be walking into an ambush, as Fox researchers have probably been “digging dirt” on him since the moment they received marching orders to push Ted Cruz or Marco Rubio. It would not be a debate, it would be a barrage of “gotcha” question from Megyn Kelly, of the “when did you stop beating your wife?” variety. Sensing that, Trump threatened not to participate. Fox then made the mistake of ridiculing him with its statement to the media. That, as Gergen, notes, gave Trump an excuse to withdraw from the debate.

CNN or some other network will probably be more than happy to cover Trump's competing event on January 28. (CNN, especially, would like to trounce Fox in the ratings that evening.) Considering Trump's popularity with the voters, and their anger with the "establishment" and the media, the alternative event will likely get substantial ratings. If Trump can pull it off, and raise a fortune for Wounded Warriors, he will not only have won the battle with Fox, he will probably gain supporters. It will be a different story altogether if Trump fails, but over several decades he has proven to be a master media manipulator. (Gamblers would be wise to place their bets on Trump, rather than Fox and Megyn Kelly.) If Trump succeeds, he has considerable bragging rights: "I beat Fox." "I beat smart-ass Megyn Kelly." "I raised a fortune for our wounded veterans." "I can get things done quickly and efficiently." (The *Timeline* suspects that Trump has had an alternative event in the works for some time and was waiting for the right moment to put his plan into action.)

Trump's critics will certainly call him a "coward" who is "afraid to face a girl" (Megyn Kelly). In fact, Trump is merely avoiding an ambush. Any reasonable person can understand why Trump chose not to be involved in the debate. In addition to Megyn Kelly asking some variation of the question, "Mr. Trump, when did you stop beating your wife?", Fox plans to have a Muslima and a Mexican ask questions. At Breitbart.com Neil Munro reports, "Fox News and Google have invited three YouTube personalities to ask questions at the Jan. 28 GOP debate—including a Muslim advocate who describes Donald Trump as a bigot and who visually portrayed him as being in agreement with national socialist Adolf Hitler. 'We have a presidential candidate whose loudest message reeks of hatred and Islamophobia... turning on the news now is scary, and oftentimes, humiliating,' the Muslim woman, Nabela Noor, says in a December YouTube video. She admits to becoming a Muslim political activist amid the growing criticism of Islam's doctrines. 'The current social environment for Muslims today is not safe or just... as a Muslim American, I felt like I needed to use my voice,' she claimed." Another questioner invited by Fox is Dulce Candy, an illegal immigrant from Mexico. [87097, 87098, 87099, 87112, 87120, 87143, 87146, 87180, 87311]

The point of having a Muslim (who supports Bernie Sanders) and a Mexican Democrat ask questions, of course, is to shame Trump. It is nothing more than a stunt. The viewers and the voters want to know what the candidates will do if elected, not listen to "gotcha" questions designed to arouse emotions rather than promote serious thought about a significant issue. [87112, 87120, 87143, 87146]

DCWhispers.com comments, "It seems quite clear that Fox News' intent to allow such a radical, militant-styled Muslim advocate to participate in the GOP debate was to set up a moment intended to challenge and embarrass Donald Trump. While it is far from certain Ms. Nabela would have succeeded in doing so, it goes to the network's intent. Fox News was not merely playing the role of moderator, it was acting as an anti-Trump activist. ...So far, the news network has refused to respond as rumors now swirl that staff directly associated with Megyn Kelly played a role in Noor's selection to be a participant in the debate. ...Kudos to [Breitbart.com] for uncovering what appears to be decidedly underhanded and manipulative plot to damage the current GOP frontrunner. It will be

interesting to see if any of the other candidates condemn Fox News for what was so clearly attempted. This has nothing to do with voters who support or don't support Donald Trump's campaign. It has *everything* to do with a news media giant attempting to make that choice for voters via the direct manipulation of a presidential debate. That is an action worthy of widespread condemnation regardless of one's political loyalties." [87143]

Trump should not be surprised. Fox News gave him monumental amounts of air time in order to boost its ratings and generate ad revenue. Nevertheless, he was attacked at the first Fox debate in order to "keep him in his place." Trump was not taken seriously as a candidate by Fox, any of the other networks, or most in the print media. He was tolerated because he generated revenue and gave journalists something to write about, while they waited for his campaign to collapse and for him to go away. But as Trump rose in the polls and his populist message struck a chord with the voters, the establishment became desperate—desperate to protect itself, its cheap foreign labor, and its war machine. Trump, it was decided, had to be eliminated; hence, *National Review's* entire issue devoted to that task, and Megyn Kelly's welcoming of the magazine's muggers, such as Glenn Beck, to her program. The "Stop Trump!" order came down from on high, and most of the Fox employees quickly got into lock-step. (Some exceptions at Fox have been Andrea Tantaros, Eric Bolling, and Jesse Waters.)

MSNBC's Chris Matthews asks, "Who's gonna [sic] watch a debate between the two Cuban guys?" [87089, 87121]

On CNN, former Fox political analyst Bob Beckel comments on the absurd statement by the network that prompted Trump to announce he would not participate in the debate: "Just remember that Fox did buckle to Trump in another debate. ...Rupert Murdoch has been against Trump from the beginning. ...In the beginning he came out against Trump. ...Now he [Trump] says who wants to meet one one-on-one with somebody, a CEO to CEO. ...The other thing is, I may be dead wrong about this but I've known Roger Ailes for 35 years. That did not sound to me like a Roger Ailes tweet. Now, that doesn't mean that he didn't approve it. Somebody doesn't go out there and just let that go or they're going to find themselves on the street the next day. But I'll tell you that things sounded to me like it was written by somebody else." (Ailes heads Fox, but Murdoch is CEO of the parent company, News Corporation. Beckel is almost certainly correct. Murdoch, not Ailes, is probably calling the shots on the issue.) [87131, 87133]

At Breitbart.com Julia Hahn writes, "In asking the question of 'what's wrong over there [at Fox News]?' Trump has shined a spotlight on one of Washington's best kept secrets: namely, Fox's role via its founder Rupert Murdoch in pushing an open borders agenda. The Trump campaign is a direct threat to Murdoch's efforts to open America's borders. Well-concealed from virtually all reporting on Fox's treatment of Trump is the fact that Murdoch is the co-chair of what is arguably one of the most powerful immigration lobbying firms in country, the Partnership for a New American Economy (PNAE). In addition to blanketing the country, media, and politicians with literature, advertisements, and a barrage of lobbyists pushing for open border immigration policies, the Partnership

for A New American Economy (PNAE) was a prime lobbyist for one of the biggest open borders pushes in American history: Sen. Marco Rubio's (R-FL) 2013 Gang of Eight immigration bill." [87113, 87228, 87269]

"...While Megyn Kelly made headlines with her heated questioning of Donald Trump, not one of the Fox News anchors asked Rubio in the first Fox News debate about his signature piece of legislation, which Murdoch's immigration lobbying firm had endorsed. Instead, they lobbed Rubio a series of softballs, such as asking Rubio if he could put God and veterans in the same sentence. Interestingly, Bill Sammon—FOX News's vice president of News and Washington managing editor—is the father of Brooke Sammon, who is Rubio's press secretary." [87113, 87228]

Hahn notes Murdoch's 2014 op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*, in which he wrote, "When I learned that House Majority Leader Eric Cantor had lost his Republican primary, my heart sank. Not simply because I think he is an intelligent and talented member of Congress, or because I worry about the future of the Republican Party. Like others who want comprehensive immigration reform, I worried that Mr. Cantor's loss would be misconstrued and make Congress reluctant to tackle this urgent need. That would be the wrong lesson and an undesirable national consequence of this single, local election result." [87113, 87228]

Hahn continues, "Here again is another undisclosed conflict of interest from Fox News. Sen. Rubio introduced legislation last year—the Immigration Innovation Act—which would have tripled H-1B visa issuances. This legislation was endorsed by Murdoch via the Partnership for a New American Economy, on whose board also sits Disney CEO Bob Iger. Though, once again, Rubio was not questioned about the legislation by Megyn Kelly and her fellow Fox News hosts, scores of American workers in Florida Disney were terminated and forced to undergo the humiliation of training their lower-paid foreign replacements, now the subject of a lawsuit against Disney. ...As any casual viewer of Fox News would observe, one sees scant to any coverage at all on the record-setting, foreign-born population inside the United States; nor coverage of census findings that immigration is about to surpass all historical records; nor stories on the total number of immigrants allowed into the country each year and the strain this number puts on education, the economy, the welfare states and the profound changes to U.S. culture. By not covering these issues in any real depth, it helps clear the way for the enactment of the Murdoch-backed immigration agenda—bringing in the New American Century hoped for by Rupert Murdoch, Marco Rubio, and Barack Obama." [87113]

At NewsWithViews.com Kelleigh Nelson later writes, "The Partnership for a New American Economy (PNAE) brings together more than 500 Republican, Democratic, and Independent mayors and business leaders united in making the economic case for streamlining, modernizing, and rationalizing our immigration system. ...The other co-chairs of the Partnership are Bill Marriott-Marriott Hotels, Bob Iger-CEO and President of Disney, Jim McNerney-CEO and President of Boeing, Julian Castro-former Mayor of San Antonio, Michael Bloomberg-former Mayor of NYC, Michael Nutter-former Mayor of Philadelphia, and Steve Ballmer-former CEO of Microsoft. What a lineup! All these

people want amnesty and open borders... how lovely, and no wonder Fox hates Trump!” (The list is not surprising. Hotels, of course, want a steady supply of cheap immigrant labor for maid and cleaning services. Disney pays its theme park employees very little and its work force seems to rely on college students, immigrants, and retirees. Microsoft also seeks cheap foreign labor through the visa system.) [87269]

At the weeks-long Malheur National Wildlife Refuge stand-off in Burns, Oregon, Ammon Edward Bundy and four others are arrested; one person, rancher LaVoy Finicum, age 54, is shot and killed by authorities. Finicum’s daughter, Challice Finicum Finch, states, “We all thought it would end, but not like this. My dad did stress that they couldn’t pull a gun on them [officers] unless they pulled a gun. They were all committed to not firing on federal agents.” On January 6 Finicum told NBC News, “There are things more important than your life, and freedom is one of them. I’m prepared to defend freedom.” (To some viewers, video of the shooting taken from a helicopter makes it appear as though a federal agent shoots Finicum with his empty hands in the air.) [87090, 87092, 87197, 87202, 87208, 87209, 87229, 87246, 87483]

On *The Kelly File*, the Family Research Council’s Tony Perkins endorses Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) for president. [87094]

Eager to pound on Donald Trump, Megyn Kelly also invites the much-despised leftist propagandist Michael Moore to her program to add his hundreds of pounds to the attack. [87116, 87117, 87126]

Pamela Geller (a supporter of Ted Cruz) tweets, “R U watching love affair w/@megynkelly & Michael Moore?@MMFlint I am going to puke.@FoxNews hates Trump more than it loves its own integrity” [87154, 87155]

At NYMag.com Gabriel Sherman writes, “One clear sign of the gravity of tonight’s development is the sense of confusion that is swirling throughout Fox. The network is split between Kelly’s allies like Brit Hume and conservative anchors that [sic; who] are furious that Kelly—who graces the cover of *Vanity Fair* this month—has become the face of the network. An anchor fumed that Kelly hosted Michael Moore on her program tonight and the lefty filmmaker defended her against Trump. ‘That would be like Rachel Maddow laughing along with Charles Koch as he trashed Hillary Clinton!’ the anchor said. One producer speculated that Fox could go ‘National Review’ on Trump and start attacking him.” [87116, 87117, 87126]

Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani is another *Kelly File* guest. He tells Kelly, “Donald [Trump] is the more practical guy [compared to Ted Cruz]. I have to tell you, he’s a personal friend. Four of the candidates are personal friends, not including Ted Cruz. I love them all, hard to pick. I don’t know who I’m going to endorse, but between Trump and Cruz, Cruz is too rigid; he’s too right-wing; he will give away the northeast [to the Democrats in the national election], gone... Maryland up to Maine, gone. California up to Washington, Oregon, gone. ...I’ll give you one person I just had dinner with, the head of the Correction Workers Union (COBA) in New York, Norman

Seabrook, who is an African-American, enormously well-respected by everyone in the African-American community. He said to me tonight, 'I'm endorsing Donald Trump, because he can get jobs.' Donald Trump can do what Ronald Reagan did. He can reach over and he can get Reagan Democrats. He can also get African-Americans, believe it or not, Latinos... Blacks have this feeling about the Republican party that we're anti-black, anti-Hispanic. We're not. But they have that feeling. [Trump] doesn't carry that burden with him. He could reach over and he could be an enormously powerful general election candidate." [87130]

Giuliani is correct. Cruz would not stand a chance in the northeast or the northwest, and in losing the general election he would cause the GOP to lose control of the Senate. Trump, on the other hand, has the potential to win some states the GOP would ordinarily never be expected to have a chance, such as New York and New Jersey. If Trump were to win the same states Mitt Romney won in 2012 and also pick up New York, Florida, and one other state—he would win the election. [87130]

On January 27 the day begins with stories about Donald Trump's refusal to participate in the Fox News debate all over the airwaves. Other networks cover the story more completely, noting the Fox News statement that prompted Trump to withdraw. Fox conveniently neglects to mention that it even issued that statement. (Whether Trump will win the war against the establishment media remains to be seen, but he is certainly good at keeping his name in the headlines and sucking the air out of everyone else's campaigns.) [87112, 87114, 87115]

Morning Joe's Joe Scarborough notes the Fox News statement taunting Trump and comments, "A news organization that is is going to run a debate, provoking a candidate like that, ...is asking for it. ...I will tell you, I would literally go to the center of Sixth Avenue and set myself on fire... before I stood on a debate stage with any news organization that did that. I would tell them to go to Hell a lot faster than Donald Trump did." Scarborough also says Trump is not afraid of Megyn Kelly: "No he's not. He's scared of losing. The only things he's scared of is losing. He doesn't like to lose, and Fox News has just walked into the biggest Donald Trump trap of the 2016 campaign. ...I would rather set myself on fire in front of the Fox News studio than go on the debate stage with [the biased Megyn Kelly]." [87122, 87123, 87166]

Scarborough adds, "I have a ton of friends at Fox, I love Fox and I know a lot of people at Fox are really twisted up at about how this has gone down and how Megyn Kelly, has somehow, with Michael Moore, taken over the network." [87126]

On *Good Morning America*, Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski says, "I had a number of calls yesterday with some of the other campaigns who said, hey, can we come and join you in raising money for the wounded warriors, for veterans because, you know, if Fox isn't going to be fair to you, what makes you think they're going to be fair to us." [87124, 87129]

Ted Cruz challenges Trump to a one-on-one debate—knowing full well he will not take the bait. (Laughably, Cruz wants the debate hosted by Glenn Beck or Mark Levin—both of whom support Cruz and oppose Trump. Cruz demanding a one-on-one debate with Trump would be like Bill O'Reilly thinking he deserves J. K. Rowling status because of his books—which have primarily been written by Martin Duggard.) [87101, 87102, 87106, 87108]

Trump responds via Twitter, “Even though I beat him in the first six debates, especially the last one, Ted Cruz wants to debate me again. Can we do it in Canada?” (Republican National Committee rules prohibit one-on-one debates between the candidates. Any candidate who engages in such a debate is excluded from subsequent group debates. Trump could perhaps respond, “I will agree to a debate with Cruz, *provided* he brings with him, subject to examination, his CRBA (Consular Report of Birth Abroad) proving he was granted U.S. citizenship at birth.”) [87134, 87157]

At Lifezette.com Jon Conradi writes, “In probably his best [and perhaps only] possible move, Cruz has now challenged Trump to a one-on-one debate. But that sounds much like Mark Antony challenging Cesar Octavian [Imperator Caesar Divi Filius Augustus, born Gaius Octavius] to single combat from his besieged and defeated position in Cleopatra's palace. No one doubted Antony was the better warrior, but the war was already over. One critical tool Cruz could have used is likely off the table thanks to Trump's timing. Network television ads take time to produce, and even more importantly, most stations require ads be submitted several days in advance of broadcast. That means most of the campaign ads on TV in Iowa are cooked, and cannot be changed and deployed before the vote Monday.” [87115]

Joel B. Pollak writes at Bretibart.com, “Donald Trump is boycotting Thursday's final pre-Iowa GOP debate. And every Republican candidate should. Fox News is treating Trump worse than any liberal media outlet would—worse, even than John Harwood and CNBC. Last week, moderator Megan Kelly convened a special panel of anti-Trump writers from *National Review* to mark the launch of their attack on Trump. This week, Fox News prepared for the debate by inviting a Muslim activist who has criticized Trump to be one of three YouTube personalities to question the candidates. ...No candidate should agree to participate under those conditions. Indeed, the other GOP candidates—including Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), who led the charge against Harwood—should be standing with Trump against Fox, on principle, instead of attacking him. And conservatives who are mocking Trump should look in the mirror and ask themselves whether they are applying a different standard to center-right Fox News than they do to the mainstream media. ...Politico is openly wondering whether Trump walked into Fox News' 'trap.' No news network should try to 'trap' a presidential candidate, but that is what Fox News appears to have done to Trump, damning him either way. Every candidate should expect difficult questions, and no presidential candidate has the right to dictate to networks which journalists should be allowed to ask them. ...But Fox News' behavior towards Trump is the kind of bias viewers have turned to Fox to avoid. We would not tolerate it from NBC or CNN—and we should not tolerate it when Fox News sinks to—and below—their level.” [87119]

WND.com reports, “Fox News CEO Roger Ailes has allegedly turned to Ivanka and Melania Trump for help salvaging Thursday’s presidential debate. ...Joe Scarborough announced on ‘Morning Joe’ Wednesday that while Fox was publicly standing behind its talent, Ailes called Ivanka and Melania Trump behind the scenes to settle the dispute, the Daily Mail reported. Donald Trump allegedly would only discuss the matter if media mogul Rupert Murdoch [head of Fox News’ parent company, News Corporation] made the call.” [87124, 87126, 87147]

Ann Coulter tweets, “CNN says they’ll be running Trump’s counter-programming event for Wounded Warriors. Now we’ll have to watch that.” (This *Timeline* will not be surprised if one or more of the other Republican candidates skips the Fox News debate and joins Trump at his fundraising event.) [87125, 87177]

Alex Swoyer reports at Breitbart.com, “GOP frontrunner Donald Trump’s campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, posted on Twitter that 83 percent of Fox News viewers surveyed said they won’t watch the Fox News GOP primary debate on Thursday without Trump participating. ‘POLL: Without Trump 83% Say They WILL NOT Watch GOP Debate,’ Lewandowski posted on Twitter. Fox News’s Greta Van Susteren polled her viewers on whether or not they will watch Thursday’s debate with Trump not participating. More than 83 percent have said they will not be watching the debate.” (The “poll” is certainly not scientific, but the results are nevertheless worth noting.) [87127]

Pamela Geller writes, “FOX News has jumped the shark. I don’t know if you saw the lovefest last night between Megyn Kelly and Michael Moore, but it pulled the curtain back on the RINO news network. It was jarring. ...Megyn Kelly and FOX news have jumped the shark. Megyn has Michael Moore? Mind you, Megyn Kelly has never had me on—even in the wake of the assassination attempt in Garland, Texas and the Boston beheading plot. My take? Kelly is angling to be the next evening news anchor on one of the big three networks. She aspires to be the next Diane Sawyer (the new haircut is a dead giveaway). ...Now we hear FOX is giving an anti-Trump Muslim supremacist a platform for her hatred. Really? Why not Ibn Warraq or Robert Spencer? Why not, finally, have a true scholar on jihadic doctrine on instead of soldier for Islamic supremacism? ...Conservatives and the principled right have no media outlet—none. Is there not a conservative billionaire who can buy HLN or some failing liberal news outlet and put us out of our abject misery?” (Geller is spot-on. Kelly does not care if she turns viewers away from Fox News. She is angling for a multimillion-dollar contract with ABC, CBS, or NBC. Angering conservatives with her actions at Fox gives her “street cred” with the leftists who run the “big three.” This *Timeline* believes Kelly wants the NBC evening anchor job now held by Lester Holt—probably at quadruple his salary.) [87155]

For the record, Ronald Reagan skipped the final debate before the Iowa caucuses in 1980. (Reagan lost in Iowa to George H. W. Bush, and then went on to win the Republican nomination and a landslide election against Jimmy Carter.) [87128]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest claims Obama never backed out of a debate. (In fact, NBC had to cancel a debate before the 2008 North Carolina primary because Obama refused to participate.) [87168, 87169, 87226]

Rush Limbaugh observes, “Fox News was acting as if they had been jilted at the altar. Donald Trump knows that by not showing up, he’s owning the entire event. Some guy not even present will end up owning the entire event. And the proof of that is Fox News last night. ...Don’t devote the rest of the night to how a candidate’s not showing up because of you, I mean the network. ...I’m stunned watching this because everybody that’s [sic; who is] involved has to know this is exactly one of the things Trump is hoping to achieve. ...[Trump is] outside the game. He’s breaking all the rules. He’s exposing so much as fraud that has gone on inside the American political process for so long. ...‘Screw the rules,’ he’s saying. ‘Why should I willingly give them another shot at me? In a circumstance they control, why should I do it? What’s the sense in it for me? I’m leading. I’m running the pack here. Why in the world should I put myself in that circumstance? I’ve already seen what’s gonna happen.’ ...There isn’t any fear. What there is here, in my opinion, is a desire to control this and a purposeful decision to not put himself in a circumstance where other people want to make him look bad. ...This is what it looks like when some guy stands up to rules in the game and says, ‘Screw yours. I’m looking out for me first. ...You can say whatever you want but I am not dumb. I’m not gonna give you the gun and the bullet and stand still. You wanna hit me? Come get me. But I’m not gonna put myself in your line of fire.’” [87132, 87135, 87136]

“The media run this game. The media are never to blame for anything that goes wrong. They have total immunity where this all is concerned. The media in their minds and the way everybody plays the game, you have to go through the media to get where you want to go if you are in politics. You have to, and you have to bite your lip along the way. And if you don’t, then you have made a perpetual enemy of people as goes the saying, who buy ink by the barrel. ...‘Who says I have to go through you? Who says I have to look good according to what you say? Who says I have to get to the American people through you? Why can’t I just do my own event? Buy my own microphone, my own camera, my own time, and talk to the American people without you. It seems to me a lot more efficient and more importantly, I control it. And I don’t have to deal with people maybe misrepresenting me or putting me in a bad light.’ ...The other players in the game who have always abided by these rules are shocked and dismayed that somebody would mock the game this way.” [87132, 87135, 87136]

Reuters reports, “Nader Modanlo was facing five more years in federal prison when he got an extraordinary offer: ...Obama was ready to commute his sentence as part of this month’s historic and then still-secret prisoner swap with Iran. He said no. To sweeten the deal, the U.S. administration then dropped a claim against the Iran-born aerospace engineer for \$10 million that a Maryland jury found he had taken as an illegal payment from Iran, according to interviews with Modanlo, lawyers involved and U.S. officials with knowledge of the matter. The surrender of the U.S. claim, which has not previously been reported, could add to scrutiny of how the Obama administration clinched a prisoner deal that has drawn criticism from Republican presidential candidates and lawmakers. A

Washington-based spokesman for the Justice Department declined to comment on discussions over the \$10 million, which the jury found that Modanlo was paid to help Iran launch its first satellite in 2005.” [87103, 87104, 87204]

In Vienna, an 18-year-old Afghan refugee is sentenced to a mere 20 months in jail for raping a 72-year-old woman. He reportedly will not be deported. [87205, 87206]

Maryland residents John and Melissa Wood file a lawsuit against the Charles County Public Schools and others for promoting Islam. According to FreeBeacon.com, the parents “objected when they discovered that their daughter’s World History class at La Plata High School was circulating assignments that amounted to Islamic propaganda. Their daughter and her fellow students were instructed to write out the Islamic creed ‘Shahada,’ which says, ‘There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.’ When recited by non-Muslims, the creed amounts to conversion to Islam. Students were also required to memorize and recite the Five Pillars of Islam and were subjected to disparaging teachings about Christianity. ‘Most Muslims’ faith is stronger than the average Christian,’ one worksheet read. The class also spent one day covering Christianity, while teachers devoted two weeks to instructing about Islam. Upon learning of the lessons prioritizing Islam, Wood, who is Christian, contacted the school and demanded alternative assignments for his daughter. The school refused to allow his daughter to opt out of the assignments and threatened her with failing grades if they were not completed. She elected not to complete the worksheets. ...Following Wood’s complaints, the school principal also banned him from entering school grounds.” Richard Thompson, president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Law Center, states, “Parents must be ever vigilant to the Islamic indoctrination of their children under the guise of teaching history and multiculturalism. This is happening in public schools across the country. And they must take action to stop it.” [87261, 87262, 87263, 87283]

Obama tells reporters he is “not worried about this [Democrat] party staying united,” although “the other side may have some stuff to work out. ...And everyone scouring my word[s] to find some deeper meaning, to see if I’m trying to put my finger on the scales, so let me simplify things [sic]. Tonight, I have an announcement to make about the presidential race: Democrats will win in November and we will have a Democratic president succeeding me. Just in case there’s any confusion about that.” In a veiled criticism of Donald Trump, Obama says, “We’re not going to strengthen our leadership around the world by allowing politicians to insult Muslims or pit groups of Americans against each other.” (Obama, of course, has spent his entire political career pitting groups of Americans against each other.) [87240]

Obama brags that he “worked to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. And, again, you will recall that the other side was claiming this would never work, they [the Iranians] were going to cheat. And yet, a few months later, we now know, have certified that massive amounts of existing nuclear stockpiles and their infrastructure has been dismantled or shipped out. And even those who were skeptical are now having to admit that, without firing a shot, we achieved something that all of us had an interest in and have been working on for years. That’s how we stopped the spread of Ebola in West Africa. Our leadership... that’s

why we're ending 50 years of failed policies by restoring diplomatic relations to Cuba. That is true strength and true leadership, and that's what we believe in." [87240]

Obama says that, unlike the Republicans, the Democrats "weren't born with a silver spoon [In our mouths]. We care about healthcare because we remember what it was like for somebody in our family, if they didn't have healthcare, and couldn't pay the bills, and didn't get decent care. We care about the minimum wage because a bunch of us worked in minimum wage jobs and remember what it was like to try to scrimp and save." (From Obama's perspective, no Republicans has ever had to struggle.) [87240]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "The venue for a Bill Clinton fundraiser in California was moved after the Hillary Clinton campaign learned that the host venue was the house of a lawyer suing San Francisco over the murder of Kathryn Steinle... The Secret Service had already screened the house of lawyer Frank Pitre in preparation for the former president's \$1,000-a-head event in support of his wife, but after the campaign learned of Pitre's involvement in the Steinle case it moved the event to the home of a California congresswoman." [87138]

Express.co.uk reports, "As the migrant crisis continues to grow, Swedish officers have declared they do not have the manpower to stop the increasing unrest at units set up to deal with the influx of people. National Police Commissioner Dan Eliasson said his teams were struggling to cope and feared the situation would be out of control unless a further 4,100 officers and specialist staff were recruited. He said: 'We have to go to work against unrest in the asylum centres which places a much greater demand than might appear outwardly. In some places in Sweden this eats significant resources out of the police's capability. Moreover, from several sources there are reports that staff are poorly prepared to handle violence, threats and conflicts—while there are too few security guards.' Mr Eliasson's warning comes after Swedish police had to run for safety after being surrounded by an angry mob of migrants when they went to rescue a 10-year-old boy, who had allegedly been raped." [87152, 87153]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Citizens United, a conservative advocacy group, is seeking federal records on why the Department of Justice (DOJ) ignored a federal grand jury indictment of a major Democratic Party donor who ordered illegal medical procedures that killed five elderly patients... A federal grand jury named Hansjorg Wyss, former CEO of Synthes, Inc., as 'Person No. 7' in a 2009 indictment that stated he directed subordinates in executive management meetings to conduct illegal human drug trials using an untested but potentially lucrative medical compound for spines. Synthes and its subsidiary, Norian Corporation, inserted a new compound into unsuspecting patients even though the drug was not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). At the time of the indictment, FDA identified three patients who had died—two more died in the years thereafter. Rather than go to trial, DOJ attorneys arranged a settlement in which four top Synthes executives went to prison for terms of varying lengths, while the company agreed to pay a \$22 million fine. Wyss walked away free. Wyss, whose net worth has been estimated at \$6.1 billion, was a major donor to the Democratic Party at the time of the settlement. He contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to liberal

activist groups, including \$5 million to the liberal Center for American Progress (CAP).” [87178]

At Breitbart.com, John Nolte refers to Fox News’ outrageous statement on Donald Trump and asks, “On what planet (other than Planet Establishment), is it okay for a news organization to ridicule, not only a presidential frontrunner, but also the candidate’s supporters? ...[T]hink about just how outrageous such a thing is from a national news outlet, especially an outlet just 2 days from hosting a crucially important presidential debate that includes the target of this childishness. Now take another step back with the realization that not a single one of the Republican presidential candidates have come to Trump’s defense, or even had the moral courage to criticize Fox’s behavior. No one is their own man anymore. No one has the moxie to Rage Against The Machine. No one has the courage to face any kind of fire from our dug-in political class. No one except Trump. And this is why he is winning. ...But now the herd is siding with Fox News, and doing so during a year of revolution, a year of anti-Establishment fervor, a year when voters are so exhausted and brutalized by business-as-usual, they are siding with a billionaire businessman and a 285 year-old socialist from Vermont. And this is why we lose. Republicans are programmed—it is in their DNA to cater, to bow, to scrape to their Media Overlords. As more and more voters swarm to an imperfect iconclast named Donald Trump, his rivals reflexively join the martini sippers to circle the temple. It is not just wrong, it is terrible politics.” [87139]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes down 222, at 15,944.

On *The Five*, the five Fox pundits criticize Trump, yet shamelessly neglect to even mention the Fox statement that led to his decision to withdraw from the debate. (It is obvious that everyone at the network was ordered not to mention the taunting, unprofessional statement.)

In a Monmouth University poll, Donald Trump leads in Iowa with 30 percent. Ted Cruz follows with 23 percent, Marco Rubio with 16, and Ben Carson with 10. [87141, 87170]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has announced a ‘special event’ scheduled for Thursday night to coincide with the Fox News debate that he is boycotting. He will host the ‘special event to benefit veterans organization’ at Drake University in Des Moines, the Trump campaign announced. The campaign said that more details would be forthcoming.” (The event will reportedly be broadcast by CNN, starting at 8 p.m. Eastern time.) [87142, 87145]

Paul Rieckhoff, founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IA), tweets, “If offered, IAVA will decline donations from Trump’s event. We need strong policies from candidates, not to be used for political stunts.” [7156]

Trump addresses a rally in Lexington, South Carolina. [87144]

In Marshalltown, Iowa, Hillary Clinton—sounding a lot like Karl Marx—says, “There are things we can do that will relieve the burdens on middle-class families, and the money should come from those who have it.” (Apparently she plans on robbing Peter to pay Paul, even if Peter worked hard all his life to earn what he has. Clinton apparently assumes there are more voters named Paul than Peter.) [87183]

At WND.com Leo Hohmann writes, “Adding more fuel to the theory that Fox is operating in full ‘get Trump’ mode, was the news that one of Fox News’ top newsmen is the father of Sen. Marco Rubio’s press secretary. ‘Interestingly, Bill Sammon—FOX News’s vice president of News and Washington managing editor—is the father of Brooke Sammon, who is Rubio’s press secretary,’ reports Breitbart’s Julia Hahn. According to an Aug. 2, 2015, report in Media Matters, Sammon is hugely responsible for crafting questions for candidates. Media Matters quoted Fox sources saying Sammon is ‘the best’ at ‘crafting the questions,’ and he meets regularly with the moderators to refine the questions. ‘Asked by Fox host Howard Kurtz how he and the debate moderators would formulate questions to keep candidates off their talking points, Fox News digital politics editor Chris Stirewalt said they have a ‘secret weapon’ in Sammon, ‘who is the best at not only team cohesion and keeping everybody on point about what the point is, but in crafting the questions.’” But with Rubio now running in the top three in most of the polls, the obvious question is: Does Sammon have a conflict of interest with his daughter serving as Rubio’s press secretary? Fox could not be reached to answer that question.” [87146]

ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and MSNBC of course relish the Trump-Fox feud. On MSNBC, Mark Halperin says, “If Trump is running any risk, it’s that some voters in Iowa may say this is immature. But I think that risk is relatively small, particularly for the people already supporting Trump who will look at this not as a petulant move but as a move of strength.” NBC’s Chuck Todd says “it could be a shrewd move” to skip the event because “debates haven’t been Donald Trump’s best moments. ...Are they [the other candidates] going to continue going after Donald Trump or they going to start piling on Ted Cruz and who benefits more from that? Donald Trump. This could end up being a very shrewd move by the frontrunner.” ABC’s Tom Llamas: “Tonight, Donald Trump [is] in full renegade mode, predicting without him, no one will watch tomorrow’s debate on Fox News.” [87173]

On NBC, Mark Halperin says, “Fox News put out a very provocative, confrontational statement. They basically showed Donald Trump one finger, Donald Trump showed them one finger and then punched them in the face. And has thrown the debate into chaos and the closing days here in Iowa into chaos. He is showing strength, though, which is his brand, and he’s also got some endorsements and some other tricks up his sleeve in the closing days to do what he’s done the entire campaign, dominate. ...[A] news organization sponsoring a debate should treat all of the participants with respect. They should let their journalism speak for itself. Fox, for some reason, decided to continue to go after Donald Trump. They have a right to have Megyn Kelly be a moderator, that’s their journalistic choice, Trump can decide whether to participate. But by putting out that provocative statement, they gave him not just an excuse, but, I think, a real genuine

rationale [for Trump] to say, ‘I’m not going to show up at a debate sponsored by a news organization that’s taunting me.’ That’s just not Donald Trump’s way.” [87175]

On *The O’Reilly Factor*, Bill O’Reilly practically begs Donald Trump to reconsider his decision not to participate in the Fox News debate. Trump notes the insulting statement issued by Fox that prompted his decision. O’Reilly, who does not want Fox viewers to even know about the statement, immediately brushes off the remark and moves on. (O’Reilly is clearly uncomfortable in the segment. It is obvious that Fox knows its ratings will suffer with Trump not at the debate. But Trump is no fool; he knows that the other candidates and even the debate moderators will be on the attack against him, and it is simply foolish to be willingly ambushed. For Fox to arrange to have questions to Trump asked by a Bernie Sanders-supporting Muslim and an illegal immigrant from Mexico is tantamount to having Juanita Broadrick and Kathleen Willey ask Hillary Clinton questions at a Democrat candidate debate.) [87148, 87165, 87167, 87176, 87179]

Although O’Reilly pleads with Trump to rethink his debate decision, he offers no defense of Megyn Kelly when Trump criticizes her. For the good of the network he wants Trump to show up, but O’Reilly has been no fan of Kelly—especially since her program has risen in the ratings and she has threatened to unseat him as Fox’s “big dog.” If Kelly leaves Fox when her contract expires in 2017, O’Reilly will likely not mind one bit. (Nor will some other Fox employees.) [87386, 87387]

O’Reilly is essentially asking Trump to “play by the rules.” But for millions of Americans, the appeal of Trump is that he refuses to play by the rules. The establishment “rules” have created a national debt of \$18+ trillion and 90+ million Americans of working age who are not working. Trump is establishing his own rules. The “rules” say you must show up at the network studios for the Sunday morning talk shows; Trump phones in his interviews. The rules say a candidate should be polite when calling out an opponent for lies; Trump chooses to be brutally honest. The rules say you should not point out that illegal immigrants are destroying the nation’s economy with their reliance on the welfare system; Trump says build a wall and deport them. The rules say the United States should be generous and welcoming to refugees; Trump says the risk of terrorists infiltrating the refugees is too great a risk. The rules say you should appear at debates that are not really debates; Trump says he is not willingly going to walk into an ambush.

At a refugee center in Emmaboda, Sweden, 19 migrants with makeshift weapons attack workers and break windows after a dispute over candy. [87303, 87304]

On January 28 this *Timeline* notices that several so-called “conservative” web sites are actively removing from their comments sections items that criticize Fox News or express support for Donald Trump. (Clearly, some neoconservatives—who probably own stock in weapons manufacturing companies—do not want to lose their illegal immigrant maids and lawn services. Trump threatens all of them.)

Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee announces he will attend Donald Trump's Wounded Warrior fundraiser event. Former Senator Rick Santorum announces he will join Huckabee at the Trump event. [87158, 87159, 87163]

Secretary of State John Kerry thanks Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif for his role in the release of Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian. (Hostage-takers used to be arrested or shot; under Obama, they are now thanked for releasing their hostages.) [87160]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Police in the city of Kiel allegedly collectively stopped pursuing cases where refugees were caught shoplifting because it was too much work to get them prosecuted. Local newspaper Kieler Nachrichten Thursday reported police officers in the city were instructed to not pursue minor offenses such as shoplifting and property damage. Prosecuting the refugees is hard [sic; difficult] in cases where they don't carry proper identification documents." [87266, 87267, 87268]

IBTimes.com reports, "The FBI and local authorities have stepped up security surrounding Super Bowl 50, including F-16 fighter jets, helicopters and K-9 teams... Levi Stadium in Santa Clara, California, where the Super Bowl is to be held, can hold up to 68,500 people, and the threat of terrorism has increased in the wake of a growing terror threat worldwide." Pamela Geller reports, "A leaked memo mentions possible dispersion of a harmful substance—a 'chemical attack' from a drone." [87299, 87300]

TheHill.com reports, "Former FBI officials said the length of the [email] probe is not unusual and speculated that a decision on whether to file charges against Clinton or her top aides could come later this year, during the heat of the general election campaign. 'I don't know that there's any magical cutoff date,' said Ron Hosko, the FBI's former assistant director of the criminal investigative division and a 30-year veteran of the bureau. For Democrats, the extended investigation has become a source of some anxiety, with Republicans gleefully raising the prospect of the Democratic presidential front-runner being indicted. 'It does give pause to Democrats who are concerned that there may be another shoe to drop down the road,' said Andrew Smith, a political science professor at the University of New Hampshire." [87185, 87186]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), former chairman of the House Oversight Committee, tells WashingtonExaminer.com the FBI "'would like to indict both Huma [Abedin] and Hillary Clinton' for conducting sensitive government business on an unsecure, private email server. 'I think the FBI director would like to indict both Huma and Hillary as we speak. ...I think he's in a position where he's being forced to triple-time make a case of what would otherwise be, what they call, a slam dunk. ...You can't have 1,300 highly sensitive emails that contain highly sensitive material that's taken all, or in part from classified documents, and have it be an accident. There's no question, she knew she had a responsibility and she circumvented it. And she circumvented it a second time when she knowingly let highly-classified material get onto emails in an unclassified format.'" [87231, 87239, 87249]

TheDailyBeast.com reports, “Swedish Interior Minister Anders Ygeman says the country will deport between 60,000 and 80,000 asylum-seekers, after about 45 percent of 163,000 applications were rejected. Sweden and Germany were both top destinations for refugees in 2015. The AP reported that police are working to expel people in advance who may be at risk for hiding. Ygeman said, ‘We have a big challenge ahead of us. We will need to use more resources for this and we must have better cooperation between authorities.’” [87161, 87162]

At WashingtonPost.com Jennifer Rubin writes, “Donald Trump has a knack for making his antagonists look ridiculous. His dispute with Fox News reportedly induced its chief executive, Roger Ailes, to shoot off a nasty statement more indicative of a participant in the election than a news chief. ...Bill O’Reilly, hosting Trump on his show, was reduced to begging Trump to attend tonight’s debate. And ever since Trump decided to stand him up at the debate, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) has been making a fool of himself, obsessively trying one stunt after another. First was the plea for Trump to debate him ‘mano a mano.’ (Is this high school?) Then came the hats (‘Make Trump Debate Again’). And worst of all was this: Cruz’s super PACs offered to donate \$1.5 million to veterans if Trump would debate him one on one. Good golly. ...Cruz is giving insincerity a bad name by treating vets like pawns. It seems he lacks not just social tact, but also decency. Rather than make Trump seem childish, Cruz has empowered Trump, reduced his own stature and suggested that without Trump, Cruz would have nothing to say. ...The lesson here for the media and Trump’s opponents is the same: Trump always wins if you play his game.” [87181]

Rubin also points out that Ted Cruz was an advisor to the Hispanic Alliance for Prosperity Institute (HAPI), a Latino organization that pushes immigration reform, and “helped craft policies to allow undocumented immigrants to stay in the country and pursue legal status.” Rubin writes, “One is struck by Cruz’s arrogance in thinking he could get away with his denials of past support for legalization. (He thought people wouldn’t find out? He’d talk his way out of it?) Having made himself a big name by flogging the anti-immigration reform horse, it’s only fitting that he is getting trampled by his own words and record.” [87182, 87227]

At Reason.com Steve Chapman writes, “There is no dispute that the Texas senator was a U.S. citizen from birth, since his mother was an American. [Actually, some suspect she became a naturalized Canadian citizen before her son’s birth.] Donald Trump has raised questions, though, about whether Cruz, being born in the great state of Alberta, qualifies as ‘a natural born citizen.’ Cruz dismisses the issue. ‘It’s settled law,’ he says. ‘As a legal matter it’s quite straightforward.’ In fact, it’s never been settled, it’s not straightforward and some experts don’t agree with his reading. ...When it comes to parsing the crucial phrase, Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe has noted, ‘No Supreme Court decision in the past two centuries has ever done so. In truth, the constitutional definition of a ‘natural born citizen’ is completely unsettled.’ ...Nor is Tribe alone among experts. University of Chicago law professor Eric Posner says, ‘The ordinary meaning of the language suggests to me that one must be born on U.S. territory.’ Chapman University’s Ronald Rotunda, co-author of a widely used constitutional law textbook, told me a couple of weeks ago he

had no doubt that Cruz is eligible. But when he investigated the issue, he concluded that under the relevant Supreme Court precedents, ‘Cruz simply is not a natural born citizen.’” [87268]

“Steven Lubet, a Northwestern University law professor, spies another possible land mine. Cruz qualified for citizenship because his mother was an American citizen (unlike his father). But ‘under the law in effect in 1970, Cruz would only have acquired U.S. citizenship if his mother had been ‘physically present’ in the United States for ten years prior to his birth, including five years after she reached the age of fourteen,’ Lubet wrote in Salon. That raises two questions: Did she live in this country for the required amount of time? And can the Cruz family prove it? Whether the justices would take the case is another question. Unless some state election official bars him from the ballot on constitutional grounds or a rival candidate goes to court, it’s unlikely a lawsuit would get a hearing. But if that happens, the Court may elect to resolve the matter—and no one can be confident of the ultimate verdict. Trump, believe it or not, is onto something. Cruz’s candidacy suffers a potentially fatal defect. If Cruz is nominated or elected, he could be disqualified. When Republican voters cast their ballots, they have to ask themselves: Is he worth the risk?” [87268]

The 1970 statute further supports the argument that Cruz is not a natural born citizen. The U.S. citizen-parent’s residency requirement obviously pertains to the issue of granting generic U.S. citizenship—not natural born citizen status. Otherwise, in the event that the parent was (for example) one year short of the residency requirement, one would be in the absurd position of arguing that the child is not a U.S. citizen (“she didn’t live here long enough”) but is still a natural born citizen (“his mother is an American”). That is, there is no residency requirement for natural born citizen status, although there is for generic citizenship status in the case of birth outside the United States to one non-citizen parent.

Cruz has refused to release documents proving that he is a U.S. citizen. In March 2015 ThePostEmail.com editor Sharon Rondeau requested Cruz’s naturalization records from the U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Service (USCIS). Her request was denied. [87390]

At Politico.com Tucker Carlson writes, “American presidential elections usually amount to a series of overcorrections: [Bill] Clinton begat [George W.] Bush, who produced Obama, whose lax border policies fueled the rise of Trump. In the case of Trump, though, the GOP shares the blame, and not just because his fellow Republicans misdirected their ad buys or waited so long to criticize him. Trump is in part a reaction to the intellectual corruption of the Republican Party. That ought to be obvious to his critics, yet somehow it isn’t. ...Conservative voters are being scolded [by the GOP establishment] for supporting a candidate [Trump] they consider conservative because it would be bad for conservatism? And by the way, the people doing the scolding? They’re the ones who’ve been advocating for open borders, and nation-building in countries whose populations hate us, and trade deals that eliminated jobs while enriching their donors, all while implicitly mocking the base for its worries about abortion and gay marriage and the pace

of demographic change. Now they're telling their voters to shut up and obey, and if they don't, they're liberal. It turns out the GOP wasn't simply out of touch with its voters; the party had no idea who its voters were or what they believed." [87199]

"...When was the last time you stopped yourself from saying something you believed to be true for fear of being punished or criticized for saying it? If you live in America, it probably hasn't been long. That's not just a talking point about political correctness. It's the central problem with our national conversation, the main reason our debates are so stilted and useless. You can't fix a problem if you don't have the words to describe it. You can't even think about it clearly. This depressing fact made Trump's political career. In a country where almost everyone in public life lies reflexively, it's thrilling to hear someone say what he really thinks, even if you believe he's wrong. It's especially exciting when you suspect he's right." [87199]

"A temporary ban on Muslim immigration? That sounds a little extreme (meaning nobody else has said it recently in public). But is it? Millions of Muslims have moved to Western Europe over the past 50 years, and a sizable number of them still haven't assimilated. Instead, they remain hostile and sometimes dangerous to the cultures that welcomed them. By any measure, that experiment has failed. What's our strategy for not repeating it here, especially after San Bernardino—attacks that seemed to come out of nowhere? Invoke American exceptionalism and hope for the best? Before Trump, that was the plan. Republican primary voters should be forgiven for wondering who exactly is on the reckless side of this debate. At the very least, Trump seems like he wants to protect the country." [87199]

"...Trump is the ideal candidate to fight Washington corruption not simply because he opposes it, but because he has personally participated in it. He's not just a reformer; like most effective populists, he's a whistleblower, a traitor to his class. Before he became the most ferocious enemy American business had ever known, Teddy Roosevelt was a rich guy. His privilege wasn't incidental; it was key to his appeal. Anyone can peer through the window in envy. It takes a real man to throw furniture through it from the inside. If Trump is leading a populist movement, many of his Republican critics have joined an elitist one. Deriding Trump is an act of class solidarity, visible evidence of refinement and proof that you live nowhere near a Wal-Mart." [87199]

"...Trump likely has the best chance to beat Hillary Clinton, for two reasons: First, he's the only Republican who can meaningfully expand the pie. Polls show a surprisingly large number of Democrats open to Trump. In one January survey by the polling firm Mercury Analytics, almost 20 percent said they'd consider crossing over to him from Hillary. Even if that's double the actual number, it's still stunning. Could Ted Cruz expect to draw that many Democrats? Could Jeb [Bush]? It's an article of faith in Washington that Trump would tank the party's prospects with minority voters. Sounds logical, especially if you're a sensitive white liberal who considers the suggestion of a border wall a form of hate speech, but consider the baseline. In the last election, Romney got 6 percent of the black vote, and 27 percent of Hispanics. Trump, who's energetic, witty and successful, will do worse? I wouldn't bet on it." [87199]

“But the main reason Trump could win is because he’s the only candidate hard enough to call Hillary’s bluff. Republicans will say almost anything about Hillary, but almost none challenge her basic competence. ... Trump doesn’t think Hillary is impressive and strong. He sees her as brittle and afraid. ... [Republican primary voters] seem to know a lot about Trump, more than the people who run their party. They know that he isn’t a conventional ideological conservative. They seem relieved. They can see that he’s emotionally incontinent. They find it exciting. Washington Republicans look on at this in horror, their suspicions confirmed. Beneath the thin topsoil of rural conservatism, they see the seeds of proto-fascism beginning to sprout. But that’s not quite right. Republicans in the states aren’t dangerous. They’ve just evaluated the alternatives and decided those are worse.” [87199]

Carlson’s observations are accurate. But he misses perhaps the *most* important point. Donald Trump is winning because he is *not* running as a Republican or a Democrat; he is running *as an American*. The media and the political establishment do not understand that. The voters do.

On *The Five*, Fox commentators talk about and talk up the evening’s debate, and *not once* during the one-hour program do they even utter the name Donald Trump. (The “pay no attention to the elephant in the room” order certainly came down from the top.)

At TheHill.com Ann Coulter writes, “Donald Trump is the first alpha male to run for president since L.B.J., but his opponents think it’s clever to claim that he’s ‘scared’ of Fox News Channel’s Megyn Kelly because he’s said he’s skipping this week’s Republican debate. This is like attacking 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney for being a libertine—or President Bill Clinton for being boring. In addition to being the only candidate who will build a wall and deport illegals, apparently Trump is the only candidate who knows how to land a punch. ... Fox has made a habit of insulting Trump—provided he’s not there to respond. After the first debate—which, incidentally, all the polls say Trump won—Fox let it be known that the moderators had been prepared to forcibly remove Trump from the debate if he failed to follow the rules. Brett Baier even revealed their cute little speech before they would escort him to the elevator: ‘We don’t want to have to escort you to the elevator outside this boardroom. But we’re locked and loaded.’ ... It’s true that Trump has focused his complaints about Fox News’s coverage of him on the network’s star anchor, Kelly. I assume he’s using Kelly as a cat’s paw for an attack against the entire Rupert Murdoch enterprise, which is implacably pro-open borders, pro-amnesty and, consequently, anti-Trump.” [87184]

“No one thinks Kelly was up in her office alone, furiously scribbling her questions for Trump. Before that first debate, there were stories all over about the whole Fox News team working on the debate questions. But most people don’t know who Murdoch is. Kelly is a star. By attacking her, Trump anathematizes the entire, pro-amnesty network. One of the biggest problems facing the nation is that viewers think of Fox as the ‘conservative’ network. If NBC or ABC were this spiteful to Trump, everyone would see it for what it is: political bias. Your enemies can never hurt you; only your ‘friends’ can.

Fox News's bias is more insidious. The hosts avoid stridently attacking Trump. You simply never hear from any pro-Trump guests—unless they're completely ineffective. Immigration opponents have been aggressively shut out—just as they were when Mr. Amnesty John McCain was running for president in 2008; when the Senate was debating Sen. Marco Rubio's (R-FL) amnesty bill in 2013; and when congressional Republicans were trying to defund ...Obama's executive amnesty last year. Are you seeing the pattern? When it comes to immigration, Fox News is indistinguishable from George Soros." [87184]

"...Millions of people watch Fox News and think they're getting the conservative antidote, when in fact the open borders corporatists have found a new way to package their open borders poison. ...You won't read about Fox News's open-borders philosophy in National Review. You won't hear about it on almost any 'conservative' webpages, magazines, radio shows, Twitter feeds or blogs. Fox News is the only game in town for conservative commentators and politicians. That's why no other candidate would dare cross Fox. It took the first alpha male running for president in half a century to stand up to the Fox cartel on 'conservative' opinion. Viewers beware: The only 'conservative' opinion allowed on Fox News involves dissolving the nation's borders. Judging by Donald Trump's astonishing rise in the polls, any cable network that took America's side on immigration would end the Fox News monopoly—and make America great again." [87184]

In the preliminary Fox debate for the "low-polling" candidates, Martha MacCallum notes that Carly Fiorina recently stated, "[U]nlike the other woman candidate in this race, I actually love spending time with my husband," and asks why she broke her promise to "never resort to personal attacks." Fiorina responds, "It wasn't a personal attack. I was pointing out that Hillary Clinton will do anything to gain and hang on to power. Anything. Listen, if my husband did what Bill Clinton did I would have left him long ago. So, here's the deal. ...Hillary Clinton has been claiming the ladder, trying to get power and here now she is trying for the White House—she's probably more qualified for the 'big house.' Honestly, she's escaped prosecution more times than El Chapo—perhaps Sean Penn should interview her. The woman should be prosecuted. ...[S]he's gotten every single foreign policy challenge wrong, and she continues to lie to the American people. You see, it's called the Clinton way—both Bill and Hillary practice it—the Clinton way. Say whatever you have to say; do whatever you have to say [do]; lie as long as you can get away with it. Hillary Clinton cannot be the president of these United States." [87224]

MacCallum asks why Rick Santorum why, if he is pro-life, he did not attend the March for Life event in Washington, D.C. a few days earlier. Santorum calmly defends his decades-long, perfect record on the pro-life issue. Carly Fiorina then comes to defense: "Martha, can I just say, we've been talking tonight about a lot of issues, and we've also been talking about the fact that the game is rigged and frankly the media has a lot to do with that. It is outrageous, frankly, that Fox News, and you, would question the pro-life credentials of Rick Santorum. That is outrageous." (Fiorina is correct. MacCullum's

question was despicable. Its sole purpose was to insult Santorum, ridicule him for being pro-life, and imply he does not “walk the walk.”) [87223, 87252]

Donald Trump’s fundraising event attracts thousands (far too many to fit in the auditorium). Trump supporters line up for blocks trying to get in, but most have to settle for watching the event on a “Jumbotron” outside.

Trump says Fox News CEO Roger Ailes has been calling him every 15 minutes, but “The time to change my mind would have been two days ago.” (Fox admits to having called Trump three times, but insists “there were not multiple calls...” Technically, of course, three would be considered “multiple.”) [87187, 87188, 87219, 87220]

In an interview with CNN’s Brianna Keilar—on his private jet in Iowa—Trump says Fox news apologized to him over the telephone. He does not state who made the apology. (Fox states, “In the course of those [telephone] conversations [with Trump], we acknowledged his concerns about a satirical observation we made in order to quell the attacks on Megyn Kelly, and prevent her from being smeared any further.” (Whether that acknowledgment is what Trump considers an apology is not clear.) [87219, 87220]

In the Fox debate, Megyn Kelly’s first question, addressed to Ted Cruz, is about what Trump’s absence says to the people of Iowa. (In a conversation with Ted Cruz prior to the debate, Kelly referred to Donald Trump as “Voldemort,” an evil character in the Harry Potter novels.) [87217, 87218, 87234, 87235]

In Trump’s absence, the “holier-than-thou” Cruz is pummeled by the moderators and the other candidates. Fox even plays video that demonstrates how he has changed his position on immigration. At WashingtonPost.com Jennifer Rubin writes, “Trapped by his own words displayed on video, Sen. Ted Cruz... could not explain his inconsistencies and flat-out misrepresentations. Instead he pleaded with the audience to take others’ word for it that he was a solid opponent of legalization for illegal immigrants... Cruz was telling voters not to believe their lying eyes but to take the word of some other state’s senator and a bunch of talk radio demagogues. Good grief.” [87196, 87218]

Despite Trump’s absence, Fox News nevertheless trots out Muslim activist Nabela Noor to ask, “In 2015, the number of hate crimes against Muslims in the U.S. has tripled and on social media, where I spend a lot of time, I’ve seen many attacks directed towards fellow Muslims. This culture of hatred is only driving ISIS to radicalize, recruit, and incite violence. As president, what would you do to address this toxic climate and promote increased tolerance in the United States?” (At Townhall.com Ryan Bomberger later writes, “One would think a news network would fact-check a question for a Presidential debate. ...[T]here are no hate crime statistics for 2015. The FBI is the source of this data, and the latest available are from 2014. The last three years reveal a slight increase in hate crimes targeted at Muslims, but unless she’s using some form of common core math, the increase is miniscule, not tripled. ...Ms. Noor is free to make up her accusations like she makes up herself in her YouTube cosmetic videos, but she shouldn’t be given a platform of such serious import to spread her Islamaphobia [sic];

Islamophobia] propaganda. This is a Presidential debate, not a high-school cafeteria convo [conversation].”) [87272]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) takes advantage of the confrontation, saying, “I was there and I saw the debate. I saw Ted Cruz say, ‘we’ll take citizenship off the table, and then the [‘Gang of Eight’] bill will pass, and I’m for the bill.’” [87196]

At Trump’s arguably boring Drake University event in Des Moines, Iowa, the real estate magnate announces that more than \$5 million has been raised for veterans, and thanks some of the people who contributed—specifically mentioning the names of some of the more generous donors he personally contacted, such as Carl Icahn. (Trump begins his event late, walking onto the stage at about the same time Ben Carson is asked his first question at the debate. The assumption is that Trump’s timing was planned.) [87189, 87200, 87212, 87213, 87225, 87250]

The appearance of Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum at the Trump event is significant. Huckabee and Santorum were the 2008 and 2012 Iowa cause winners, respectively, and they won with support from evangelical Christians. Neither has a chance to win the Republican nomination, and although they are present to help veterans, not endorse Trump, many evangelicals will see their action as a subtle “recommendation” to go with Trump. More importantly, Huckabee and Santorum are signaling that they most certainly would *not* support Ted Cruz.

CNN “covers” the Trump event, mostly by showing the stage in a split screen while its pundits talk over Trump and his guests. (It is seen uninterrupted on YouTube.com.)

TheHill.com writes, “Despite skipping Thursday’s Republican presidential debate, Donald Trump is the talk of Twitter. The real estate mogul has dominated 37 percent of the conversation on Twitter during Fox News’ debate, according to data obtained from Twitter. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) follows with a distant 18 percent, with Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) at 12 percent.” [87190]

Initial reports indicate that the Fox debate had 11-13 million viewers, roughly half of the 24 million who watched its August debate, and the second-lowest watched of the six debates. (The “official” ratings are somewhat misleading, however, because CNN only partially covered the Trump event; C-SPAN covered it; and many viewers watched via the Internet. Many of the viewers are therefore not counted.) [87191, 87222, 87236]

At leftist Vox.com Matthew Yglesias writes, “Thursday night’s [Fox debate] spectacle was the clearest illustration yet of [Donald] Trump’s fundamental advantage at this point in the race: Every other campaign is operating on the assumption that he will lose. That means the goal of every non-Trump candidate at this point is not to beat the guy who is currently leading the field; it’s to beat up every other non-Trump candidate in hopes of emerging as the guy who will inevitably defeat the big final boss later in the year. So rather than stab the frontrunner in the back on a night when he was unable to defend himself, the field’s various senators and governors stabbed each other in a Hobbesian war

of all against all. ...Most beneficial of all to Trump was a brutal series of exchanges between [Jeb] Bush, [Marco] Rubio, and [Ted] Cruz over immigration in which essentially each man accused the other two of being inconsistent in their opposition to illegal immigration. This made none of them look very good, and it played directly into Trump's narrative that if you are serious about the immigration issue he is your only real shot." [87214]

"...The spirit of Trump and Trumpism was the dominant force of the evening even without Trump in the room. Cruz reiterated his promise to 'carpet bomb' ISIS regardless of the civilian casualty [sic; casualties]. Rubio archly referred to his desire to bring back torture as a matter of American policy. Asked if he was worried about a rising tide of Islamophobic incidents in the United States, Ben Carson said simply that 'we need to stop allowing political correctness to dictate our policies.' Every candidate in the race—even the once-sunny Rubio—has adopted Trump's essentially dark and pessimistic worldview. There's no sense in this field that the economy is stronger than it was three or seven years ago, and there's no sense that the world beyond America's shores offers anything other than danger. Trump himself, meanwhile, escaped unscathed from the attacks. There's now only one tune anyone in the field is singing, and it's a tune that he wrote—with a message he delivered on his own terms in a setting of his own choosing. It was a bravura debate performance, one of the best I've seen from any candidate in any election. And he wasn't even there." [87214]

At the (also leftist) TheNation.com, John Nichols writes that Donald Trump, "the supposed outsider in the Republican race, was playing politics in a very predictable and potentially very smart way—as Thursday night's events in Des Moines illustrated. What this tells us is something important: Trump often seems as if he's on some bizarrely egocentric political joyride. Perhaps that was the case at the start of this race. But now, he's making sly moves—and that's something Republicans and Democrats (who ought not dismiss the billionaire casually) should note. ... It wasn't just that Trump's counter-rally in Des Moines drew an overflow crowd and wall-to-wall coverage on the other cable news networks. It wasn't just that Trump got to brag about raising millions of dollars for veterans. It wasn't just that Trump invited excluded GOP contenders Mike Huckabee (the winner of the 2008 Iowa GOP caucuses) and Rick Santorum (the winner of the 2012 Iowa GOP caucuses) onstage at his event, thus linking himself to two old favorites of evangelical voters. Trump was not just grabbing an opportunity to help himself. He was encouraging the other candidates to hurt one another. ...[T]he polls seem to suggest that Cruz is stalled, or potentially slipping. Several recent polls have Rubio, who got the Des Moines Register endorsement last weekend, catching up with Cruz. So Cruz was ready to rip Rubio, and Rubio was ready to rip Cruz. That's perfect for Trump. If Cruz and Rubio are fighting for second place in Iowa, rather than seeking to displace the front-runner, Trump's under-organized Iowa campaign might just score a narrow caucus win." [87215]

"... Trump is no fool. He recognizes all of these dynamics. That's why he skipped a debate on a network that, when all is said and done, will still be friendly to him if his strategies succeed. No one should be happy with this circumstance. A healthy politics

requires a lot of debates and a lot of participation, especially by high-profile contenders. But, of course, Trump is not practicing a healthy politics. He's playing it rough, and ugly, from the start. Now, he's also playing it smart. And if he plays it rough and ugly and smart in the primaries, it would be absurd (and dangerous) to presume—should Trump secure the Republican nod—that he will not play it rough and ugly and smart in the fall.” [87215]

Also at TheNation.com, Joan Walsh writes, “The debate illuminated the vacuum at the heart of the Republican Party that has been filled by Trump. None of the candidates have the combination of smarts, charisma, and backbone that leading the country usually requires. Their massive cave-in on immigration, a sop to their nativist base, was the clearest example of their abdication of responsibility to govern, but foreign policy, where everyone pledged to kill ISIS deadlier than the other, but nobody said how, was a close second. Trump's absence is likely to make GOP hearts grow fonder. At any rate, nobody did anything to stop his momentum on Thursday night.” [87216]

On Fox News, a focus group run by pollster Frank Luntz (a former client of the Florida Senator) declares Marco “memorized talking points” Rubio the winner of the debate. [87232, 87241]

At Medium.com former U.S. Marines Sean Sorbie objects to Trump's fundraising for veterans, writing, “My brothers and sisters in arms deserve so much more than the pandering and cheap political stunts being pulled by today's Republican presidential candidates.” (At Townhall.com Leigh Wolf notes, “Sorbie works for the Democratic National Committee, a fact he conveniently omits from the article.”) [87273, 87274]

On January 29 the *Des Moines Register* headline reads, “Rough Night for Cruz.” [87192]

On *Morning Joe*, Joe Scarborough comments on Donald Trump's skill at manipulating the media: “It's all planned out masterfully. It's all in his head. He knew in the morning we were calling, we were calling Fox and saying what's going to happen? He said, ‘I'm going to do what I'm going to do, I'm going to fly in at this time and everybody's camera is going to be on me. ...Everybody thinks that he just sort of bumbles into this stuff. The whole thing has been planned.’” On the topic of the Clinton email scandal, Scarborough says, “Most of us around this table are hearing from multiple sources ...that the Hillary Clinton investigation [by] the FBI is far more progressed. Mika [Brzezinski] and I have been hearing it from the top officials in the Obama administration for actually several months now, and we can't go to a meeting in Washington where we don't hear this. All of our sources high up are telling us ...that this investigation is far more advanced than we the public knows.” [87233, 87285]

Cokie Roberts defends amnesty for illegal immigrants on *Morning Joe*, saying, “...George W. Bush was trying to do the smart thing about immigration, which was to, first of all, deal with all of these people who are in this country, but secondly, understanding the demographics of America and understand the Republican party can't

keep winning by being a bunch of old, grumpy white men. And that's what it's coming down to." [87349]

On Twitter, "Hateful Heretic" posts several astute comments: "'If Trump wins, I'm moving to a country with a higher density of whites,' said half the liberals on Twitter." "'If Trump wins, I'm moving to Latin America,' said no liberal, ever." "'If Trump wins, I'm moving to a Muslim country,' said no liberal, ever." [87194, 87195, 87196]

GovExec.com reports, "Donald Trump leads the Republican field among federal employees, but many still say they would never work for him. One in four federal workers would consider leaving their jobs if Trump were elected president, according to a new conducted by the Government Business Council, Government Executive Media Group's research arm. About 14 percent of respondents said they would definitely consider leaving federal service under President Trump, while an additional 11 percent said they might." (Some might consider the results of the poll a great reason to vote for Trump.) [8739, 87396]

A number of (arguably unscientific) online polls suggest that Trump was not harmed by skipping the debate; in fact, he may have won big by doing so. Ted Cruz clearly lost some support with his debate performance, while Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) appears to have benefited. [87198, 87201, 87203]

In a Reuters national poll, Trump leads with 41.5 percent, followed by Ted Cruz (12.7), Ben Carson (10.9), Marco Rubio (10.0), Jeb Bush (7.4), Rand Paul (3.2), John Kasich (2.9), Chris Christie (1.9), and Carly Fiorina (1.7). [87317]

DCWhispers.com writes, "'These polls don't matter.' So says former New Hampshire Republican governor Steve Merrill, a longtime and highly influential Republican power broker in the Granite State who during an interview with Neil Cavuto on the Fox Business network this morning declared all current polling in New Hampshire to be null and void, and the likelihood of anti-establishment GOP front-runners Donald Trump or Ted Cruz winning New Hampshire as unlikely. And that's not all he said... Merrill was adamant that New Hampshire primary voters would choose an establishment candidate to represent them in the GOP nomination process. He specifically pointed to the campaigns of Jeb Bush and John Kasich as those he approved of. He also appeared dismissive of the possibility that either Donald Trump or Ted Cruz would win New Hampshire. Then he dropped a bombshell that clearly had Fox Business host Neil Cavuto a bit stunned. Merrill indicated it would be a brokered Republican convention regardless, and from there a proper candidate would be nominated." [87221]

"This would be a process by which all previous primary election decisions would effectively be dismissed during the Republican convention scheduled for July 18th-21st in Cleveland, Ohio. Delegates would then no longer be obligated to cast votes as determined by earlier primary elections. Instead, Republican power brokers are allowed to intervene and attempt to coordinate/trade/cajole/threaten, a desired outcome. In such a scenario, a majority of the convention delegates could for example, ultimately decide to

nominate Jeb Bush to be the 2016 Republican candidate for President even if Mr. Bush did not win a single primary race. The last Republican brokered convention took place in 1948. A candidate chosen by a brokered convention has not gone on to win the White House since Franklin D. Roosevelt did so in 1932. When a figure like Steve Merrill is so confident in forecasting not only the New Hampshire primary outcome but an eventual brokered convention, voters would do well to pay attention. The attempted fix is underway.” [87221]

The Bank of Japan announces negative interest rates. That is, it will *charge interest* on large deposits. The bizarre “logic” of the move is that it will encourage depositors to withdraw their cash, spend it or invest it, and therefore “boost the economy.” (As ridiculous—and cruel—as the policy sounds, some lawmakers in the United States have recommended the same policy.) [87230]

DailySignal.com points out that “Millionaires are qualifying for Obamacare subsidies meant to assist low-income Americans who are unable to afford health care, thanks to a flaw in the law. ...Because eligibility for Obamacare tax credits is determined by income, not net worth, assets aren’t taken into account.” (For example, an individual who has millions of dollars in investments but is not working for a living can qualify for taxpayer-subsidized ObamaCare insurance.) [87339]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “Three Somali men who gang-raped a white 16-year-old girl in the bathroom of a hotel where they went to celebrate Eid have been jailed for 30 years. Muhyadeen Osman, Bilal Ahmed and Mowled Yussuf, all now 20, were just teenagers when they attacked the girl at the Victoria Park Hotel in Manchester, regarding her as ‘easy prey,’ the court heard.” [87305]

The White House announces that Katie Beirne Fallon is leaving her job as director of Obama’s legislative affairs operation. She will be replaced by deputy director of legislative affairs Amy Rosenbaum. (Fallon’s husband is Brian Fallon, a Hillary Clinton campaign spokesman.) [87312, 87313]

Fox News reports that 22 emails from the next batch of Hillary Clinton emails to be released are considered “top secret” and cannot therefore be released. Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon unconvincingly whines, “This is over-classification run amok. We adamantly oppose the complete blocking of the release of these emails.” (Fallon does not explain why, as Secretary of State for four years, Clinton did nothing to address the over-classification problem.) The State Department is also withholding 18 emails exchanged between Obama and Clinton while she served as Secretary of State. (Those 18 emails pose a problem for Obama, who has claimed he did not even know Clinton’s email address and did not communicate with her via email. Coincidentally, the number 18 relates to the downfall of Richard M. Nixon, who ultimately resigned over 18 missing minutes of White House tape recordings.) It is worth noting that the woman at the State Department who is coordinating the release of the Clinton emails was transferred there from the Internal Revenue Service—where she “handled” the Lois Lerner emails. [87237, 87242, 87243, 87244, 87245, 87247, 87248, 87253, 87254, 87255, 87280, 87337, 87344]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest is asked by Fox News' Kevin Corke, "Can you say with certainty and confidence that Secretary Clinton will not be indicted because of this email scandal?" Earnest replies, "That will be a decision made by the Department of Justice and prosecutors over there. What I know that some officials over there have said is that she is not a target of the investigation. So that does not seem to be the direction that it's trending. But I'm certainly not going to weigh in on a decision or in that process in any way. That is a decision to be made solely by independent prosecutors but again, based on what we know from the Department of Justice, it does not seem to be headed in that direction." (Earnest does not have the security clearance to know what he claims to know.) [87238, 87251, 87282, 87316]

Donald Trump tweets, "The new e-mail release is a disaster for Hillary Clinton. At a minimum, how can someone with such bad judgement be our next president?" [87280, 87281]

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) tweets, "The next president can honor the simple notion that nobody is above the law, but it will happen only if voters demand it." (Translation: "I will be Joe Biden's running mate and Hillary Clinton will be in court.") [87284]

On his campaign bus in Iowa, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) tells the Associated Press, "We're not going to round up and deport 12 million people. Criminals can't stay. Felons, people who are dangerous—they are not staying. But we're going to deal with the people that [sic; who] are here." (Rubio does not want to build a more significant border wall, wants to deport only dangerous criminals, and will "deal with" the illegal immigrants in the United States. In other words, his policies are identical to Obama's.) [87256]

On NBC's *Nightly News*, anchor Lester Holt makes his political leanings painfully obvious in an interview with Hillary Clinton. Holt says, "I want to ask you about a moment at the town hall the other day. A young man, a Bernie Sanders supporter, stood up and said young people don't trust you. ... And when he said that I winced. And I was wondering, you've obviously been in tough battles, political battles, but do you get your feelings hurt sometimes?" (Apparently it does not occur to Holt to present Clinton with clear-cut examples of her dishonesty and ask her to defend them.) [87348]

On *On the Record*, Fox News reporter Catherin Herridge tells Greta Van Susteren, "That statement by [White House press secretary] Josh Earnest [about the investigation of Hillary Clinton's emails] has 'got the back up' of our contacts at the FBI and the Justice Department for two reasons. Number one—they are *super pissed off*, to use a technical term. Because number one, Josh Earnest has absolutely no clearance or visibility into the FBI investigation. Number two, they say it really seems part of a troubling pattern from the White House because [Obama] earlier said he did not see any national security implications to the Clinton emails and then we found out he had never been briefed. And the whole idea is to not... make this more political than absolutely necessary, but the

White House is weighing in, and certainly leaving the public with [an] impression that is not backed up by the evidence in the case.” [87293]

On January 30 it is reported that Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) is now receiving Secret Service protection.

“Watch the Vote” warns, “For first time, military, out-of-state students and shut-ins are allowed to ‘vote’ in abstentia [sic; absentia] over suspect Microsoft cloud. This is an open door for Iowa GOP HQ and Iowa Dem HQ to silently and invisibly alter thousands of votes. No paper trail on caucus day. All campaigns should object to this sleazy trick. All campaigns should compare these unverifiable ‘votes’ with the votes that can be observed at the real local caucuses. ... We at Watch the Vote 2016 believe the Microsoft System was created to give the Iowa State Democratic HQ the best chance to crook the votes for Hillary Clinton and against Sanders, and to give the Iowa State GOP HQ the best chance to crook the votes against Trump and Paul, and in favor of establishment candidates like Rubio, Bush, Kasich and Christie. In a rare statement by a national anchor, John Berman of CNN said on Jan 30 about 11 AM EST that it was clear the GOP establishment AND many media forces wanted [Marco] Rubio to emerge as the big story out of Iowa. (!!!!!!!) This is very true if one is watching a lot of the coverage on the 5 big TV networks. Problem: Rubio, like all the others except [Donald] Trump—attracts very small crowds. The only indication of a Rubio ‘surge’ is the Big TV Networks asserting it is happening.” (For the record, Hillary Clinton has received a tremendous amount of campaign contributions from Microsoft employees.) [87342, 87346]

There will, of course, be shenanigans by the campaigns during the Iowa caucuses. For example, if too many caucus-goers argue that they support Bernie Sanders because they believe Hillary Clinton to be dishonest, Clinton operatives will attempt to persuade some of them to vote for Martin O’Malley. (The goal would be to shift votes from Sanders to O’Malley in order to help Clinton eke out a victory. Clinton does not care if O’Malley moves up a few percentage points if that enables her to defeat Sanders by a few points.)

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate issues a statement denouncing a mailing from the Ted Cruz campaign that warns recipients of a “voting violation” if they do not participate in a caucus on February 1. The brazen “shaming” mailer states, “You are receiving this election notice because of low expected voter turnout in your area. Your individual voting history as well as your neighbors’ are public record. Their scores are published below, and many of them will see your score as well. CAUCUS MONDAY TO IMPROVE YOUR SCORE and please encourage your neighbors to caucuses as well. A follow-up notice may be issued following Monday’s caucuses.” The mailing lists the names of several neighbors along with a grade (“F”) and a score (“55%”). (The purpose of the mailing is obvious: to frighten possible Cruz supporters into thinking that they will be in legal trouble if they do not caucus for him.) [87325, 87326, 87327, 87334, 87338, 87340]

Pate’s statement reads, “Today I was shown a piece of literature from the Cruz for President campaign that misrepresents the role of my office, and worse, misrepresents

Iowa election law. Accusing citizens of Iowa of a ‘voting violation’ based on Iowa Caucus participation, or lack thereof, is false representation of an official act. There is no such thing as an election violation related to frequency of voting. Any insinuation or statement to the contrary is wrong and I believe it is not in keeping in the spirit of the Iowa Caucuses. Additionally, the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office never ‘grades’ voters. Nor does the Secretary of State maintain records related to Iowa Caucus participation. Caucuses are organized and directed by the state political parties, not the Secretary of State, nor local elections officials. Also, the Iowa Secretary of State does not ‘distribute’ voter records. They are available for purchase for political purposes only, under Iowa Code.” (The Obama campaign used similar fake, official-looking “shame on you for not voting!” mailings in the 2012 campaign.) [87325, 87326, 87327, 87334, 87337, 87340]

At NewsWithViews.com Kelleigh Nelson later writes, “It would be interesting to know if the psy-op spy group Cambridge Analytica had anything to do with this sham. Surely the people who received these letters were profiled and targeted. Remember Cambridge Analytica is owned in part by hedge fund manager, Robert Mercer. ... Mercer is a major financial supporter of the 2016 presidential campaign of Ted Cruz, contributing \$11 million to a super PAC associated with the candidate. ... Analysis of Federal Election Commission (FEC) filings shows Cruz’s campaign has paid Cambridge Analytica at least \$750,000 this year.” (Companies like Cambridge Analytica scour data from sites like Facebook to create databases of individuals based on their “likes” and other criteria. Political campaigns then use that data to target their mailings.) [87327, 87328]

In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Hillary Clinton tells an audience, “Let’s create millions of jobs. And I’ve set two big goals. Let’s deploy a half a billion more solar panels by the end of my first term and enough clean energy to power every home by the end of my second term. We can do this.” (Her plan would indeed create jobs—in China, where the majority of solar panels are manufactured. If they were manufactured in the United States, they would be prohibitively expensive. In addition, Clinton does not explain where every homeowner will get the \$20,000 or so needed to have a solar system installed. There are at least 90 million single-family homes in the United States. Even if the average home solar system could be purchased for only \$15,000, it would cost \$1.35 *trillion* to fulfill Clinton’s promise—which neither American taxpayers nor the federal government has laying around. The phony promise does not mean Clinton is an idiot, of course; it means she thinks the voters are idiots.) [87352]

One of the newly-released emails from Hillary Clinton’s private server is clearly marked “confidential” and has a “declassify” date of 06/27/2027 (15 years from the origination.) The email from pal Sidney Blumenthal to Clinton is then forwarded by Clinton to aide Jake Sullivan. The subject line reads, “H: some intel on internal german/euro maneuvering. Sid.” (The text is of course now redacted.) In March 2015 it was reported that Blumenthal’s emails had been hacked. [87257, 87258, 87335, 87336, 87337]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Emails released by the State Department... show that in 2011, then-Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry sent then-Sec. of State Hillary Clinton an email from his iPad that has been deemed to contain information classified as ‘Secret.’ While

previous releases of Clinton's emails have shown that she and her staff communicated directly with Kerry when he was a senator, the new email is the first from Kerry that the State Department has determined contains sensitive information. Kerry has largely been silent throughout the Clinton email controversy. He has sent letters asking the State Department's inspector general to review the agency's records keeping practices, but he has not publicly criticized Clinton for exclusively using a personal email account and a home-brew email server. Perhaps now we know why." [87414, 87415]

At Townhall.com John Hawkins explains why he is supporting Ted Cruz for president. This would be the same John Hawkins who, at the same web site on August 22, 2015, sang Donald Trump's praises and wrote, "If enforcing our border, sticking to the laws on the books and making sure our immigration policies are good for the American people are now considered radicalism, it's hard to see how we're going to survive long-term as a nation. ...Thanks to Donald Trump, the American people are finally getting a seat at the table." (Clearly, the writers at Townhall.com received the same orders as the writers at National Review and The Weekly Standard, and the pundits at Fox News. Trump was used to boost ratings and advertising revenue—as long as the "powers that be" believed he was not a serious candidate and would soon die by the wayside. Once they came to the realization that Trump actually had a chance at becoming the Republican nominee, they circled the wagons in order to protect the establishment and their cheap foreign labor.) [87270, 87271]

The New York Times endorses Hillary Clinton for the Democrat nomination and John Kasich for the Republican nomination. (How much support the endorsement will harm Kasich is not known.) [87275, 87290]

A gutsy Donald Trump holds an *outdoor* event at the airport in Dubuque, Iowa, with his private jet taxiing to the crowd. [87276, 87277, 87278]

Worried about her falling poll numbers, Hillary Clinton agrees to four more debates with Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley. [87288]

At TheHill.com Alexander Bolton writes, "GOP strategists expect between 150,000 and 185,000 voters will turn out, according to one senator who reviewed campaign projections. A big turnout would bode well for Trump who is expected to perform strongly among first-time voters. Only a few months ago GOP senators were predicting that Trump would fade away, but with the first contest of the presidential primary only days away, they admit he has a good shot at winning the nomination." Bolton adds, "Trump's campaign could also be set back by a brewing snowstorm moving in from Colorado expected to drop snow and sleet across Iowa starting Monday night." (He does not explain why snow would only impact Trump supporters.) "Lawmakers and strategists say the accuracy of polls depends largely on how many people vote." (Yes, and how fat one gets depends on how much one eats.) [87289]

In the final Bloomberg Politics/*Des Moines Register* poll before the caucus voting on February 1, Donald Trump leads with 28 percent, followed by Ted Cruz (23), Marco

Rubio (15), Ben Carson (10), Rand Paul (5), Chris Christie (3), Carly Fiorina (2), Mike Huckabee (2), Rick Santorum (2), John Kasich (2), and Jeb Bush (2). (Trump has led the GOP field in the last nine Real Clear Politics averages.) Hillary Clinton leads Bernie Sanders by only three percentage points, 45-42. (It is worth noting that in 2012 Rick Santorum narrowly won the Iowa caucuses, despite having trailed Mitt Romney by 9 points in one of the final polls. This *Timeline* believes Rand Paul will outperform expectation, and perhaps finish in third or fourth place.) [87291, 87292, 87295, 87296, 87297, 87315, 87341]

Working against Trump is the fact that few of those polled list him as their *second* choice. (That is, if a Jeb Bush supporter decides not to waste his vote on Bush, he is more likely to switch to Cruz or Rubio than to Trump.) On the other hand, support for Trump may be greater than his poll numbers, because voting is in private and many people are reluctant to express support for him in public or to a pollster. (Early in 1980, many Americans ridiculed supporters of Ronald Reagan, saying, “You’re not voting for *him*, are you?” That led people to keep quiet about their support—until they entered the voting booth.) Lastly, turnout is expected to be substantial, which many pundits believe will help Trump—and Sanders on the Democrat side.

Campaigning in Hamlin, Iowa, Ted Cruz—who apparently has been spending too much time with Glenn Beck—calls on his supporters to “awaken the body of Christ that we may pull back from the abyss.” [87321]

The Baltimore Sun reports that Obama will visit the Islamic Society of Baltimore (ISB) mosque on February 3. (Although Obama has visited mosques in other countries, this will be his first known visit to a mosque in the United States.) Pamela Geller writes, “After seven years of Obama, can anyone really be surprised by this? He has mandated the scrubbing of counter-terror materials of all mention of Islam and jihad. He has showered favors on Iran while insulting and endangering and alienating Israel. He has aided the Muslim Brotherhood to such an extent that Egyptians carried banners pleading with him to stop supporting terrorism. And now he is going to a mosque where the imam condoned suicide bombings and was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. The man is consistent.” [87298, 87309, 87314, 87330, 87331]

For 18 years the ISB mosque was led by Mohamad Adam el-Sheikh, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. Breitbart.com notes, “Before becoming Imam there, el-Sheikh helped found the Muslim American Society, an outfit created by Muslim Brotherhood members. ...El-Sheikh also helped found the Dar Al-Hijrah mosque, which was once led by the deceased infamous Al Qaeda terrorist Anwar Al Awlaki. When he left the Islamic Society of Baltimore, El Sheikh became the Imam of Dar Al-Hijrah, following Awlaki’s escape from the U.S. after the September 11 attacks. ...Dar Al-Hijrah, which is located right outside Washington, D.C., is connected to several high-profile Islamic terrorists who prayed there, including Major Nidal Hassan—the Ft. Hood massacre jihadi, two September 11 hijackers, and an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. El-Sheikh was also the former Baltimore regional director of the Islamic American Relief Agency (IARA), which the U.S. Treasury Department later designated a

specially designated global terrorist group for its support of Al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden.” [87331]

DailyCaller.com notes, “The mosque is a member of a network of mosques controlled by the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), a Muslim civil rights group named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the 2008 Holy Land Foundation terror case. Several executives with that organization were convicted of sending money to aid the terrorist group Hamas. An imam who served at ISB for a total of 15 years has also been a leading member of the Muslim Brotherhood network and has worked for an Islamic relief group that was designated as a terrorist organization by the Treasury Department in 2004. Mohammad Adam el-Sheikh, who served two stints as ISB’s imam, from 1983 to 1989 and from 1994 to 2003, was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood in Sudan in the 1970s. He also co-founded the Muslim American Society, a Falls Church, Va.-based group that is controlled by the Muslim Brotherhood.” (Obama is shoving Islam into the faces of the American people and daring Congress to do something about it. Congress will not.) [87298, 87306, 87307, 87308, 87314]

In Nigeria, Boko Haran terrorists massacre more than 100 innocent people in the small village of Dalori, burning some children alive. (Obama has no comment.) [87367, 87368]

On January 31 Pamela Geller writes at Breitbart.com, “In an event that may very well be the spark to the outbreak of Europe’s civil war, a young, beautiful social worker, Alexandra Mezher, 22, was brutally stabbed to death [on January 25] by Muslim migrants at the child migrant centre where she worked. Swedish towns have become terror hubs. Lawlessness is rampant, violent crimes skyrocket. There is a now-constant state of violence, terror and fear. Swedish police warn that Stockholm’s main train station is now overrun by migrant teen gangs ‘stealing and groping girls.’ Hundreds of Muslim migrant youth are living on the streets in Stockholm. They attack security guards at the main station. Police say they sexually assault girls and ‘slap them in the face when they protest.’ ‘Gangs of young, male refugees over-powered women and children at a train station in Stockholm, Sweden in recent days, and then robbed and groped them. Some of the migrants, who may be as young as 9, roam the streets day and night, according to Daily Mail. They have been offered help from Swedish Authorities, but have refused it, living in the streets instead.’ Swedish police warn that Stockholm’s main train station has become unsafe after being ‘taken over.’” [87301, 87302]

Dan Eliasson, Sweden’s national police chief (who many probably hopefully not be in his job much longer), comes to defense of the social worker’s murderer, saying, “Who knows what horrors he has been through? Under what circumstances has he grown up? What is the trauma he carries? This entire immigration crisis shows how unfair life is in many parts of the world.” [87319]

At NewsWithViews.com, Marilyn MacGruder Barnewall writes, “Those who are impressed by [Marco] Rubio need to consider that his first major speech after announcing his candidacy was to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), a New World Order group.” Barnewall also writes, “I do not believe Megyn Kelly was the reason Donald J.

Trump did not show up for the Fox News debate last Thursday. Though Kelly appears to view herself as an elephant in the Donald's campaign, I think she is more of a flea on the elephant's butt." At the same site, Paul McGuire notes that Ted Cruz's wife Heidi "was very active in the North American Union/Security and Prosperity Partnership created by the Council on Foreign Relations. In the CFR report, 'Building a North American Community,' Heidi Cruz is listed as a task force member. The North American Union is an admitted open borders plan to merge Canada, Mexico, and the United States into a North American Union modeled after the European Union, under a regional global government." (In other words, she endorses a "North American Union"—which means open borders and more jobs for Mexico at the expense of Americans.) [86667, 87311, 87328]

On *Face the Nation*, leftist former *Washington Post* columnist Ezra Klein comments, "If you watched Trump's counter-rally [opposite the Fox News debate], as I did for my sins, he had this great line in the middle of it... [He said] 'I am really greedy; I'm a really greedy person; I've been greedy all my life and now I want to be greedy on behalf of America.' And there's something perfect in its [that statement's] encapsulation of his appeal, because, if you think what's going on is the economy's become unfair, if you're struggling, if you're economically struggling, and you think what's been happening is [that] rich guys like Trump are kinda screwing you over and have been for some time now, and now here comes one of those rich guys with all those powers and all that capacity to rig the economy in their favor and he's promising to rig it in *your* favor? That, I think, one it's a kinda [sic] stunning indictment of people's belief about what's going on in the economy right now, right, that they think that what they need is someone to, uh, rig it in their favor, but two, I think it's very, very significant as part of his appeal and it's an appeal he understands about himself, which is one reason he's such a strong candidate." [87318]

Setting aside his grammar and sentence structure, Klein may have a point. Trump validates the feelings of tens of millions of Americans who believe "the system" is rigged against them. Trump is not hiding it or pretending that is not the case. He is saying, "Yes, you've been screwed over." That honesty gives people trust in Trump. Further, everyone knows that Trump knows how to "play the games" because he has been engaged on them for decades. He doesn't hide from the truth. He readily admits that he essentially paid Bill and Hillary Clinton to attend his wedding. To the voters, that frank admission is remarkable, and makes them respect him even more. Thus, when he says he will use his knowledge of the rules to get around or even break many of them for the benefit of the "average Joe," those average Joes respond with enthusiasm. They don't care if Trump is rude to Rosie O'Donnell or Megyn Kelly, calls Jeb Bush "low energy—because they agree with him. He is merely saying what many people are afraid to say. When Trump makes broad promises ("I'll build a border wall and I'll make Mexico pay for it!") they say to each other, "Finally I have found a candidate who understands my frustrations!" That Trump will have to compromise with Congress and perhaps scale down his wall is irrelevant—because they know he is fighting with them, not against them.

On *This Week*, Hillary Clinton claims, “I take classified information very seriously. You know, you can’t get classified information off the classified system in the State Department to put onto an unclassified system, no matter what that system is.” (That is correct only in the electronic sense. That is, one cannot electronically transmit a message from a classified government system to a non-classified system. But obviously there is no computer system that would have prevented someone on Clinton’s staff from simply typing into her personal email system words copied from a classified system. Clinton is playing word games—and they are probably being noted with interest by the FBI.) She also claims, “There is no classified-marked information on those emails sent or received by me.” (This is simply a lie. More than 1,000 classified emails have been found on Clinton’s email server, and at least 22 are marked “top secret.”) [87320, 87347]

Regardless of her current excuses, Clinton signed a non-disclosure agreement when she became Secretary of State, and that document made it clear that documents and information may be considered classified even if they are not marked as such. (No one should be surprised if Clinton’s eventual defense includes the argument that her signature is meaningless because she entered “22-01-2009” in the field marked “DATE (mm-dd-yyyy).”) [87347]

Paul Sperry reports at NYPost.com, “The State Department is lying when it says it didn’t know until it was too late that Hillary Clinton was improperly using personal emails and a private server to conduct official business—because it never set up an agency email address for her in the first place, the department’s former top watchdog says. ‘This was all planned in advance’ to skirt rules governing federal records management, said Howard J. Krongard, who served as the agency’s inspector general from 2005 to 2008. The Harvard-educated lawyer points out that, from Day One, Clinton was never assigned and never used a state.gov email address like previous secretaries. ‘That’s a change in the standard. It tells me that this was premeditated. And this eliminates claims by the State Department that they were unaware of her private email server until later,’ Krongard said in an exclusive interview. ‘How else was she supposed to do business without email?’ He also points to the unusual absence of a permanent inspector general during Clinton’s entire 2009-2013 term at the department. He said the 5½-year vacancy was unprecedented.” [87384, 87385]

Iran’s Ayatollah Ali Khamenei awards victory medals to the commanders involved in the capture of four U.S. sailors on January 12. [87332, 87333]

An Opinion Savvy poll conducted January 29-30 has Donald Trump in the lead in Iowa with 20.1 percent. He is followed by Ted Cruz (19.4), Marco Rubio (18.6), Ben Carson (9.0), Rand Paul (8.6), Jeb Bush (4.9), Mike Huckabee (4.4), John Kasich (4.0), Carly Fiorina (3.8), Chris Christie (3.0), and Rick Santorum (2.1). [87343]

In the final pre-caucus Quinnipiac poll in Iowa, Trump leads with 31 percent; Cruz has 24; Rubio, 17; Carson, 8. All other candidates are below 5 percent. [87345]

It is announced that Donald Trump will appear at Barton Coliseum in Little Rock, Arkansas on February 3. (Translation: Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee may be dropping out of the race and will endorse Trump.) [87350, 87351]