

May 21, 2013

Mark Steyn knows how our government works.

*Speaking at Ohio State University this month, Barack Obama urged students to pay no attention to those paranoid types who "incessantly warn of government as nothing more than some separate, sinister entity." Oddly enough, in recent days the most compelling testimony for this view of government has come from the president himself, who insists, with a straight face, that he had no idea that the Internal Revenue Service had spent two years targeting his political enemies until he "learned about it from the same news reports that I think most people learned about this." Like you, all he knows is what he reads in the papers. Which is odd, because his Justice Department is bugging those same papers, so you'd think he'd at least get a bit of a heads-up. But no doubt the fact that he's wiretapping the Associated Press was also entirely unknown to him until he read about it in the Associated Press. There is a "President of the United States" and a "Government of the United States," but, despite a certain superficial similarity in their names, they are entirely unrelated, like Beyoncé Knowles and Admiral Sir Charles Knowles. One golfs, reads the prompter, parties with Jay-Z, and guests on the "Pimp With A Limp" show, and the other audits you, bugs your telephone line and leaks your confidential tax records. But they're two completely separate sinister entities. So it's preposterous to describe Obama as Nixonian: Beyoncé wouldn't have given Nixon the time of day.*

*If you believe this, there's a shovel-ready infrastructure project in Brooklyn I'd like to sell you. In April last year, the Obama campaign identified by name eight Romney donors as "a group of wealthy individuals with less than reputable records. Quite a few have been on the wrong side of the law, others have made profits at the expense of so many Americans, and still others are donating to help ensure Romney puts beneficial policies in place for them." That week, Kimberley Strassel began her Wall Street Journal column thus:*

*"Try this thought experiment: You decide to donate money to Mitt Romney. You want change in the Oval Office, so you engage in your democratic right to send a check.*

*"Several days later, President Barack Obama, the most powerful man on the planet, singles you out by name. ... The message from the man who controls the Justice Department (which can indict you) the SEC (which can fine you), and the IRS (which can audit you), is clear: You made a mistake donating that money." ...*

John Kass says you can find out how DC works by looking at Chicago.

*The Internal Revenue Service scandal now devouring the Obama administration — the outrageous use of the federal taxing authority to target tea party and other conservatives — certainly makes for meaty partisan politics.*

*But this scandal is about more than partisanship. It's bigger than whether the Republicans win or the Democrats lose.*

*It's even bigger than President Barack Obama. Yes, bigger than Obama.*

*It is opening American eyes to the fundamental relationship between free people and those who govern them. This one is about the Republic and whether we can keep it.*

*And it started me thinking of years ago, of my father and my uncle in Chicago and how government muscle really works.*

*Because if you want to understand The Chicago Way of things in Washington these days, with the guys from Chicago in charge of the White House and the federal leviathan, there's one place you start:*

*You start in Chicago. ...*

And Charles Krauthammer knows the administration interest in the Benghazi cover story.

*... the overriding political interest was the need to protect the president's campaign claim, his main foreign policy plank, that al-Qaeda was vanquished and the tide of war receding.*

*But then things got worse — the coverup needed its own coverup. On Nov. 28, press secretary Jay Carney told the media that State and the White House edited nothing but a single trivial word. When the e-mail trail later revealed this to be false, Carney doubled down. Last Friday, he repeated that the CIA itself made the edits after the normal input from various agencies.*

*That was a bridge too far for even the heretofore supine mainstream media. The CIA may have typed the final edits. But the orders came from on high. You cannot tell a room full of journalists that when your editor tells you to strike four paragraphs from your text — and you do — there were no edits because you are the one who turned in the final copy.*

*The Clintonian wordplay doesn't stop with Benghazi. Four days after the IRS announced that it discriminated against conservative organizations, Carney said repeatedly in his daily briefing that, if true, the president would be outraged.*

*If? By then, the IRS had not only admitted the grievous misconduct but apologized for it — and the president was speaking in the conditional.*

*This could be the first case in presidential history of subjunctive outrage. (It turned into ostensibly real outrage upon later release of the Inspector General report.) Add that to the conditional truths — ever changing, ever fading — of Benghazi, and you have a major credibility crisis.*

*Note to the White House: Try the truth. It's easier to memorize.*

NewsBusters says Bob Scheiffer at Face the Nation was not happy Sunday when he laid into Dan Pfeiffer, the latest administration flack.

*... But with all of these things, when these things happen, you seem to send out officials many times who don't even seem to know what has happened. And I use as an example of that Susan*

*Rice who had no connection whatsoever to the events that took place in Benghazi, and yet she was sent out, appeared on this broadcast, and other Sunday broadcasts, five days after it happens, and I'm not here to get in an argument with you about who changed which word in the talking points and all that. The bottom line is what she told the American people that day bore no resemblance to what had happened on the ground in an incident where four Americans were killed. ...*

*... But what I'm saying to you is that was just PR. That was just a PR plan to send out somebody who didn't know anything about what had happened. Why did you do that? Why didn't the Secretary of State come and tell us what they knew and if he knew nothing say, "We don't know yet?" Why didn't the White House Chief of Staff come out? I mean I would, and I mean this as no disrespect to you, why are you here today? Why isn't the White House Chief of Staff here to tell us what happened? ...*

And **Jennifer Rubin** is happy someone in the media is interested in Benghazi.

*... Bob Woodward says, "I would not dismiss Benghazi," as the president has tried to do. Blanket announcements by the media or the White House that it is a made up scandal with no attempt to wrestle with the nitty-gritty facts, the executive inattention and the strategic negligence aren't compelling. For one thing, it is cause for concern when the administration can admit in private such gross errors yet no one will admit that publicly. If nothing else, it is a scandal that we still don't know what the president was doing, how we left our people as sitting ducks and why so many people who should have known better could have come up with a cock and bull story, for which, by the way, they never came forward to tell us that what they had said had been wrong.*

*Come to think of it, there is one big difference between Benghazi and Watergate. In the latter, the press was interested and determined to get to the truth, not content to say, "Nixon has enemies." In the former, the lack of curiosity if not skepticism is a sign how far we've come from a truly aggressive, independent media to act as a check on government.*

Even left winger **Andy Borowitz** is making fun.

*President Obama used his weekly radio address on Saturday to reassure the American people that he has "played no role whatsoever" in the U.S. government over the past four years.*

*"Right now, many of you are angry at the government, and no one is angrier than I am," he said. "Quite frankly, I am glad that I have had no involvement in such an organization."*

*The President's outrage only increased, he said, when he "recently became aware of a part of that government called the Department of Justice."*

*"The more I learn about the activities of these individuals, the more certain I am that I would not want to be associated with them," he said. "They sound like bad news."*

*Mr. Obama closed his address by indicating that beginning next week he would enforce what he called a "zero tolerance policy on governing."*

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## **Jewish World Review**

### **Big Government is erecting a panopticon state –**

***One that sees everything, and regulates everything. It's great 'customer service,' except that you can never get out of the store***

by Mark Steyn

Speaking at Ohio State University this month, Barack Obama urged students to pay no attention to those paranoid types who "incessantly warn of government as nothing more than some separate, sinister entity." Oddly enough, in recent days the most compelling testimony for this view of government has come from the president himself, who insists, with a straight face, that he had no idea that the Internal Revenue Service had spent two years targeting his political enemies until he "learned about it from the same news reports that I think most people learned about this." Like you, all he knows is what he reads in the papers. Which is odd, because his Justice Department is bugging those same papers, so you'd think he'd at least get a bit of a heads-up. But no doubt the fact that he's wiretapping the Associated Press was also entirely unknown to him until he read about it in the Associated Press. There is a "President of the United States" and a "Government of the United States," but, despite a certain superficial similarity in their names, they are entirely unrelated, like Beyoncé Knowles and Admiral Sir Charles Knowles. One golfs, reads the prompter, parties with Jay-Z, and guests on the "Pimp With A Limp" show, and the other audits you, bugs your telephone line and leaks your confidential tax records. But they're two completely separate sinister entities. So it's preposterous to describe Obama as Nixonian: Beyoncé wouldn't have given Nixon the time of day.

If you believe this, there's a shovel-ready infrastructure project in Brooklyn I'd like to sell you. In April last year, the Obama campaign identified by name eight Romney donors as "a group of wealthy individuals with less than reputable records. Quite a few have been on the wrong side of the law, others have made profits at the expense of so many Americans, and still others are donating to help ensure Romney puts beneficial policies in place for them." That week, Kimberley Strassel began her Wall Street Journal column thus:

"Try this thought experiment: You decide to donate money to Mitt Romney. You want change in the Oval Office, so you engage in your democratic right to send a check.

"Several days later, President Barack Obama, the most powerful man on the planet, singles you out by name. ... The message from the man who controls the Justice Department (which can indict you) the SEC (which can fine you), and the IRS (which can audit you), is clear: You made a mistake donating that money."

Miss Strassel wrote that on April 26, 2012. Five weeks later, one of the named individuals, Frank VanderSloot, was informed by the IRS that he and his wife were being audited. In July, he was told by the Department of Labor of an additional audit over the guest workers on his cattle ranch in Idaho. In September, he was notified that one of his other businesses was to be audited. Mr. VanderSloot, who had never previously been audited, attracted three in the four months after being publicly named by *El Presidente*. More to the point, he attracted that triple audit even though Miss Strassel explicitly predicted in America's biggest-selling newspaper that this was exactly what the Obama enforcers were going to do. The "separate, sinister entity" of the Government of the United States went ahead, anyway. What do they care? If some lippy broad in the papers won't quit her yapping about it, they can always audit her, too – as they did to Miss Strassel's sometime colleague Anne Hendershott, a sociology professor who got rather too interested in Obamacare and wrote about it in the *Journal* and various small Catholic publications. The IRS summoned professor Hendershott to account for herself, and forbade her husband from accompanying her, even though they filed jointly. She ceased her political writing.

A year after he was named to the Obama Dishonor Roll, the feds have found nothing on Mr. VanderSloot, but they have caused him to rack up eighty grand in legal bills. This is what IRS defenders (of whom there are more than there ought to be) mean when they assure us that the system worked: Yes, some rich guy had to blow through the best part of six figures fending off the bureaucrats, but it's not like his body was found in a trunk at the airport or anything, if you know what I mean, Kimmy baby.

Mr. VanderSloot is big enough, just about, to see off the most powerful government on the planet. Most of those who've caught the eye of the IRS share nothing in common with him other than his political preferences. They're nobodies – ordinary American citizens guilty of no crime except that of disagreeing with the ruling party. Yet they were asked, under "penalty of perjury," to disclose the names of books they were reading and provide the names and addresses of relatives who might be planning to run for public office – a kind of pre-enemies list. Is that banana-republic enough for you yet? Not apparently for Juan Williams, fired from NPR for thought crime a couple of years ago, but who was nevertheless energetically defending the IRS exertions on Fox News on Thursday evening.

Left-wing groups had their 501(c)(4) applications approved in weeks; right-wing groups were delayed for months and years and ordered to cough up everything from donor lists to Facebook posts, and those right-wing groups that were approved had their IRS files leaked to left-wing groups like ProPublica. The agency's commissioner, Steven Miller, conceded before Congress that this was "horrible customer service" – which it was, in the sense that your call is important to him and may be monitored by George Soros for quality control.

A civil "civil service" requires small government. Once government is ensnared in every aspect of life, a bureaucracy grows increasingly capricious. The U.S. tax code ought to be an abomination to any free society, but the American people have become reconciled to it because of a complex web of so-called exemptions that massively empower the vast shadow state of the permanent bureaucracy. Under a simple tax system, your income is a legitimate tax issue. Under the IRS, *everything* is a legitimate tax issue: The books you read, the friends you recommend them to. There are no correct answers, only approved answers. Drew Ryun applied for permanent nonprofit status for a group called "Media Trackers" in July 2011. Fifteen months later, he'd heard nothing. So he applied again under the eco-friendly name of "Greenhouse Solutions," and was approved in three weeks.

The president and the IRS commissioner are unable to name any individual who took the decision to target only conservative groups. It just kinda sorta happened, and, once it had, it grewed like Topsy. But the lady who headed that office, Sarah Hall Ingram, is now in charge of the IRS office for Obamacare. Many countries around the world have introduced government health systems since 1945, but, as I wrote here last year, "only in America does 'health' 'care' 'reform' begin with the hiring of 16,500 new IRS agents tasked with determining whether your insurance policy merits a fine." So now not only are your books and Facebook posts legitimate tax issues but so is your hernia, and your prostate and your erectile dysfunction. Next time round, the IRS will be able to leak your incontinence pads to George Soros.

Big Government is erecting a panopticon state – one that sees everything, and regulates everything. It's great "customer service," except that you can never get out of the store.

## **Chicago Tribune**

### **[IRS scandal a reminder of how I learned about The Chicago Way](#)**

by John Kass

The Internal Revenue Service scandal now devouring the Obama administration — the outrageous use of the federal taxing authority to target tea party and other conservatives — certainly makes for meaty partisan politics.

But this scandal is about more than partisanship. It's bigger than whether the Republicans win or the Democrats lose.

It's even bigger than President Barack Obama. Yes, bigger than Obama.

It is opening American eyes to the fundamental relationship between free people and those who govern them. This one is about the Republic and whether we can keep it.

And it started me thinking of years ago, of my father and my uncle in Chicago and how government muscle really works.

Because if you want to understand The Chicago Way of things in Washington these days, with the guys from Chicago in charge of the White House and the federal leviathan, there's one place you start:

You start in Chicago.

My father and uncle ran a small business, a supermarket on the South Side. Uncle George worked in the front, my father in the butcher shop in the back. My uncle had been a teacher. My father had plowed his fields with a mule.

They were immigrants who came here from Greece with nothing in their pockets but a determination to work, and the belief that here, in America, no other power could roll in with tanks and put their boots on the necks of their children.

My father and uncle, like the rest of the family, valued education and books and free political debate. And so at large extended family Sundays, we'd all sit around the dinner table, many uncles and aunts and cousins, young and old.

There were conservatives and socialists, Roosevelt Democrats and Reagan Republicans and a few bewildered, equivocal moderates in between, everyone squabbling, laughing, telling stories.

No matter whose house we were visiting, the TV was never turned on after dinner. Instead, we'd have coffee and fruit and dessert and argument. We had different views, we loved each other, and even strangers who showed up were expected to join in, to debate education, the presidency, social issues, the war, drugs, bluejeans, long hair, baseball, everything.

Uncle Alex was the uncle who told us young people how best to make our points. He ran a snack shop in the Bridgeport neighborhood — the legendary home of Chicago mayors and Democratic machine bosses.

"Don't wait for a ticket," he'd say, and puff on his cigar, always in a white shirt and tie, on those family Sundays. So we'd just jump in when we could, like the rest.

One Sunday, I must have been 12 or 13, I decided to ask what I thought was an intelligent question that was something like this:

We talk politics every Sunday, we fight about this and that, so why aren't you politically active outside?

Why don't you get involved in politics?

There was an immediate silence. The older cousins looked away. The aunts and uncles stared at me in horror, as if I'd just announced I was selling heroin after school.

You could hear them breathing. No one spoke. I could feel myself blushing.

Someone quickly changed the subject to some safe old story. It could have been the one about how our grandfather named the family mule — a white, big-headed animal — after President Truman. My sin seemed forgotten.

But I couldn't forget it. I couldn't understand how we could argue about politics over baklava and watermelon and coffee, but not put it into practice.

We could support a political candidacy, we could donate or work for one or another politician that we agreed with.

This is America, I said.

"Are you in your good senses?" said my father. "We have lives here. We have businesses. If we get involved in politics, they will ruin us."

And no one, not the Roosevelt Democrats or the Reagan Republicans, disagreed. The socialists, the communists, the royalists, everyone nodded their heads.

This was Chicago. And for a business owner to get involved meant one thing: It would cost you money and somebody from government could destroy you.

The health inspectors would come, and the revenue department, the building inspectors, the fire inspectors, on and on. The city code books aren't thick because politicians like to write new laws and regulations. The codes are thick because when government swings them at a citizen, they hurt.

And who swings the codes and regulations at those who'd open their mouths? A government worker. That government worker owes his or her job to the political boss. And that boss has a boss.

The worker doesn't have to be told. The worker wants a promotion. If an irritant rises, it is erased. The hack gets a promotion. This is government.

So everybody kept their mouths shut, and Chicago was hailed by national political reporters as the city that works.

I didn't understand it all back then, but I understand it now. Once there were old bosses. Now there are new bosses. And shopkeepers still keep their mouths shut. Tavern owners still keep their mouths shut.

Even billionaires keep their mouths shut.

One hard-working billionaire whose children own the [Chicago Cubs](#) dared to open his mouth. Joe Ricketts considered funding a political group critical of Obama before last year's campaign. Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Obama's former chief of staff, made it clear that if the Cubs wanted City Hall's approval to refurbish decrepit Wrigley Field, Ricketts better back off.

It happened. He backed off. It was sickening. But it was and is Chicago.

And now — with the IRS used as political muscle and the Obama administration keeping that secret until after the president was elected — America understands it too.

## **Washington Post**

### **Redacted truth, subjunctive outrage**

by Charles Krauthammer

Note to GOP re Benghazi: Stop calling it Watergate, Iran-contra, bigger than both, etc. First, it might well be, but we don't know. History will judge. Second, overhyping will only diminish the importance of the scandal if it doesn't meet presidency-breaking standards. Third, focusing on the political effects simply plays into the hands of [Democrats desperately claiming](#) that this is nothing but partisan politics.

Let the facts speak for themselves. They are damning enough. Let [Gregory Hicks](#), the honorable, apolitical second-in-command that night in Libya, movingly and grippingly demolish



[the president's Benghazi mantra](#) that “what I have always tried to do is just get all the facts” and “every piece of information that we got, as we got it, we laid it out for the American people.”

On the contrary. Far from assiduously gathering and releasing information, the administration was assiduously trying to control and suppress it.

Just hours into the Benghazi assault, [Hicks reports, by phone to then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton herself](#), on the attack with absolutely no mention of any demonstration or video, later to become the essence of the [Susan Rice talking points that left him “stunned”](#) and “embarrassed.” “My jaw dropped,” he testified last week to Congress.

But [Hicks is then ordered not to meet](#) with an investigative congressional delegation — the first time in his 22-year career he had been so ordered. And when he speaks with them nonetheless, he gets a furious call from Clinton’s top aide for not having a State Department lawyer (and informant) present. His questions about the Rice TV statements are met with a stone-cold response, sending the message — don’t go there. [He then finds himself demoted.](#)

Get the facts and get them out? It wasn’t just Hicks. [Within 24 hours, the CIA station chief in Libya cabled](#) that it was a terrorist attack and not a spontaneous mob. On Day Two, [the acting assistant secretary of state for the Near East wrote an e-mail](#) saying the attack was carried out by an al-Qaeda affiliate, Ansar al-Sharia.

What were the American people fed? Four days and [12 drafts later](#), a fiction about a demonstration that never was, provoked by a video that no one saw (Hicks: “a non-event in Libya”), about a movie that was never made.

[The original CIA draft](#) included four paragraphs on the involvement of al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorists and on the dangerous security situation in Benghazi. [These paragraphs were stricken](#) after strenuous State Department objections mediated by the White House. All that was left was the fable of the spontaneous demonstration.

That’s not an accretion of truth. That’s a subtraction of truth.

And why? Let [the deputy national security adviser’s e-mail](#) to the parties explain: “We need to resolve this in a way that respects all of the relevant equities” — fancy bureaucratese for “interests of the government agencies involved.” (He then added — “particularly the investigation.” But [the FBI, which was conducting the investigation](#), had no significant objections. That excuse was simply bogus.)

Note that he didn’t say the talking points should reflect the truth — only the political interests, the required political cover, of all involved. And the overriding political interest was the need to protect the president’s campaign claim, his main foreign policy plank, that al-Qaeda was vanquished and the tide of war receding.

But then things got worse — the coverup needed its own coverup. On Nov. 28, [press secretary Jay Carney told the media](#) that State and the White House edited nothing but a single trivial word. When the e-mail trail later revealed this to be false, Carney doubled down. Last Friday, [he repeated that the CIA itself made the edits](#) after the normal input from various agencies.

That was a bridge too far for even the heretofore supine mainstream media. The CIA may have *typed* the final edits. But the orders came from on high. You cannot tell a room full of journalists that when your editor tells you to strike four paragraphs from your text — and you do — there were no edits because you are the one who turned in the final copy.

The Clintonian wordplay doesn't stop with Benghazi. Four days after the IRS announced that it discriminated against conservative organizations, Carney said repeatedly in his daily briefing that, if true, the president would be outraged.

If? By then, [the IRS had not only admitted](#) the grievous misconduct but apologized for it — and the president was speaking in the conditional.

This could be the first case in presidential history of subjunctive outrage. (It turned into ostensibly real outrage upon later release of the Inspector General report.) Add that to the conditional truths — ever changing, ever fading — of Benghazi, and you have a major credibility crisis.

Note to the White House: Try the truth. It's easier to memorize.

## News Busters

### [Schieffer to Obama Advisor: 'Why Are You Here? Why Isn't the White House Chief of Staff Here?'](#)

by Joel Sheppard

As NewsBusters [reported](#) two weeks ago, CBS's Bob Schieffer is fed up with the White House's talking points concerning what happened at our consulate in Benghazi, Libya, last September.

His impatience continued on Sunday's *Face the Nation* when Obama senior advisor Dan Pfeiffer gave stock answers to questions about the three crises facing the President leading Schieffer to first accuse his guest of taking "exactly the approach that the Nixon administration took" and finally scolding him by asking, "Why are you here today? Why isn't the White House Chief of Staff here to tell us what happened?" (video follows with transcript and commentary):

DAN PFEIFFER, SENIOR WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR: The point that our Chief of Staff is making is that this is the Republican playbook here which is try, when they don't have a positive agenda, try to drag Washington into a swamp of partisan fishing expeditions, trumped up hearings and false allegations. We're not going to let that distract us and the President from actually doing the people's work and fighting for the middle class.

BOB SCHIEFFER, HOST: You know, I don't want to compare this in any way to Watergate. I do not think this is Watergate by any stretch. But you weren't born then I would guess, but I have to tell you that is exactly the approach that the Nixon administration took. They said, "These are all second-rate things. We don't have time for this. We have to devote our time to the people's business." You're taking exactly the same line they did.

After Pfeiffer continued with evasive talking points, Schieffer again scolded:



SCHIEFFER: But Mr. Pfeiffer, and I don't mean to be argumentative here, but the President is in charge of the executive branch of the government. It's my, I'll just make this as an assertion: when the executive branch does things right, there doesn't seem to be any hesitancy of the White House to take credit for that. When Osama bin Laden was killed, the President didn't waste any time getting out there and telling people about it.

But with all of these things, when these things happen, you seem to send out officials many times who don't even seem to know what has happened. And I use as an example of that Susan Rice who had no connection whatsoever to the events that took place in Benghazi, and yet she was sent out, appeared on this broadcast, and other Sunday broadcasts, five days after it happens, and I'm not here to get in an argument with you about who changed which word in the talking points and all that. The bottom line is what she told the American people that day bore no resemblance to what had happened on the ground in an incident where four Americans were killed.

Pfeiffer once again stuck with the Administration line leading Schieffer to further push back:

But what I'm saying to you is that was just PR. That was just a PR plan to send out somebody who didn't know anything about what had happened. Why did you do that? Why didn't the Secretary of State come and tell us what they knew and if he knew nothing say, "We don't know yet?" Why didn't the White House Chief of Staff come out? I mean I would, and I mean this as no disrespect to you, why are you here today? Why isn't the White House Chief of Staff here to tell us what happened?

Fabulous question.

It's pretty obvious that one of the senior members of the press corps is getting tired of the way this Administration evades serious issues. Let's hope more jump on this bandwagon.

## Right Turn

### At least someone in the MSM covers Benghazi

by Jennifer Rubin

Jay Carney insists Benghazi, Libya, is not a scandal, but then he doesn't admit to having misled the media about the origin of the attacks. The administration now tells [CBS News](#), "We're portrayed by Republicans as either being lying or idiots. It's actually closer to us being idiots." It would be nice if the source specified what part(s) of the administration were idiotic and why it's "closer" but not all attributable to incompetence.

The problem with claiming incompetence is two-fold. First, it raises the question as to where the president was on Sept. 11, 2012, and whether former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, because of sins of commission or omission, is among the "idiots." Second, if they did screw up badly, then the prevarication after the fact makes more sense.

The report from CBS News tells us that at least on background some in the administration acknowledge:

The list of mea culpas by Obama administration officials involved in the Benghazi response and aftermath include: standing down the counterterrorism Foreign Emergency Support Team, failing to convene the Counterterrorism Security Group, failing to release the disputed Benghazi "talking points" when Congress asked for them, and using the word "spontaneous" while avoiding the word "terrorism."

And, of course, at the time there were no U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) forces in the area. Moreover, neither the CIA (which had the lion's share of the forces in Benghazi) nor the State Department had adequate security in place.

Many of these reflect on the failure to take seriously the growing menace of al-Qaeda in North Africa and President Obama and Clinton's failures to organize their underlings and set strategy. And, both in the aftermath played up the anti-Muslim video which we now know as a "non-event" in Libya.

Would the people who spoke to CBS News testify under oath, and why haven't those who did testify admitted any of this? They should, and that includes White House national security advisers who were in the thick of this.

Bob Woodward says, "I would not dismiss Benghazi," as the president has tried to do. Blanket announcements by the media or the White House that it is a made up scandal with no attempt to wrestle with the nitty-gritty facts, the executive inattention and the strategic negligence aren't compelling. For one thing, it is cause for concern when the administration can admit in private such gross errors yet no one will admit that publicly. If nothing else, it is a scandal that we still don't know what the president was doing, how we left our people as sitting ducks and why so many people who should have known better could have come up with a cock and bull story, for which, by the way, they never came forward to tell us that what they had said had been wrong.

Come to think of it, there is one big difference between Benghazi and Watergate. In the latter, the press was interested and determined to get to the truth, not content to say, "Nixon has

enemies.” In the former, the lack of curiosity if not skepticism is a sign how far we’ve come from a truly aggressive, independent media to act as a check on government.

## **The New Yorker**

### **Obama Denies Role in Government**

by Andy Borowitz

WASHINGTON ([The Borowitz Report](#))—President Obama used his weekly radio address on Saturday to reassure the American people that he has “played no role whatsoever” in the U.S. government over the past four years.

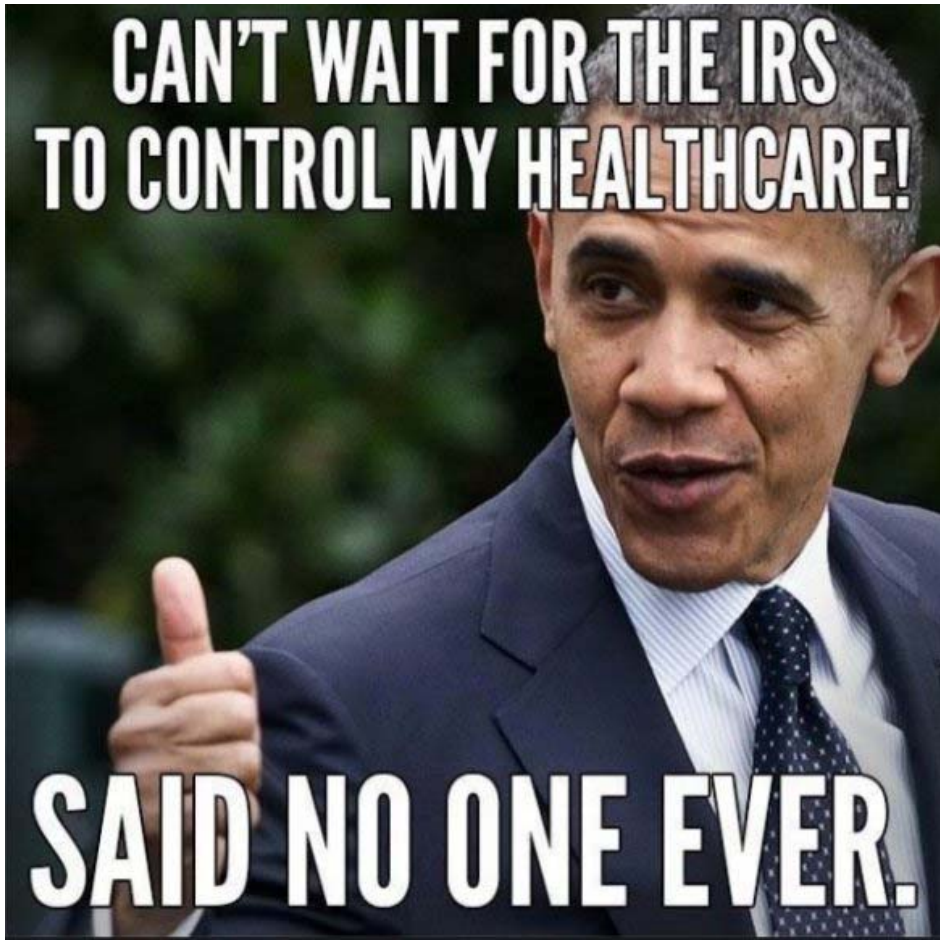
“Right now, many of you are angry at the government, and no one is angrier than I am,” he said. “Quite frankly, I am glad that I have had no involvement in such an organization.”

The President’s outrage only increased, he said, when he “recently became aware of a part of that government called the Department of Justice.”

“The more I learn about the activities of these individuals, the more certain I am that I would not want to be associated with them,” he said. “They sound like bad news.”

Mr. Obama closed his address by indicating that beginning next week he would enforce what he called a “zero tolerance policy on governing.”

“If I find that any members of my Administration have had any intimate knowledge of, or involvement in, the workings of the United States government, they will be dealt with accordingly,” he said.





Obama summons Marine  
to Shield him from the rain



Marines may only use an umbrella  
while escorting a lady.

**SEEMS APPROPRIATE.**

[www.facebook.com/ArmedMummy](http://www.facebook.com/ArmedMummy)





**Did you REALLY make that Marine hold your umbrella?**





