

November 12, 2013

Angelo Cordvilla posts on how democracy is destroyed by lies.

Democracy has no cure for a corrupt demos. Politicians' misdeeds taint them alone, so long as their supporters do not embrace them. But when substantial constituencies continue to support their leaders despite their having broken faith, they turn democracy's process of mutual persuasion into partisan war.

Consider: In 1974 President Richard Nixon lied publicly and officially to cover up his subordinates' misdeeds. His own party forced him to resign. In 1998 President Bill Clinton lied under oath in an unsuccessful attempt to cover up his own. But his party rallied around him and accused his accusers. In 2013 President Barack Obama lied publicly and officially to secure passage of his most signature legislation. But when the lies became undeniable, his party joined him in maintaining that they had not been lies at all.

The point is that Nixon's misdeeds harmed no one but himself because no one excused them. But Clinton's and Obama's misdeeds contributed to the corruption of American democracy because a substantial part of the American people chose to be partners in them.

The difference between the mentalities of Republicans circa 1974 and of Democrats twenty-five and forty years later is the difference between a society before and after democratic corruption.

...

Nobody protects the lies of the administration better than the NY Times. Michael Goodwin calls them out.

Poor Barack Obama. Ending his fifth year as the world's most powerful man, he is running out of scapegoats and fairy tales. Blaming George W. Bush has lost its punch, and the ObamaCare debacle is shredding the myths he is competent and honest.

Still, before he rides off into that sunset of self-pity and low poll ratings, he ought to invite his remaining friends over for a heart-to-heart. That way he can tell The New York Times that its fanatical support does him no favors.

Instead, it feeds his arrogance and reinforces his belief that he can solve any problem with another speech. The unflattering truth doesn't stand a chance — until it is too late.

Not that the president would admit any of that, of course, but the Obama Protection Racket, led by the Times, cuts both ways. It is a key reason he has defied political gravity for so long, and also why he is now in deep trouble. As watchdogs became lapdogs, the presidential bubble grew impenetrable, isolating him from ordinary Americans and the trickle-down pain of his policies.

From the broadcast networks to MSNBC and most large papers, Obama got the benefit of every doubt. The double standards were a daily disgrace so routine, they mostly provoked a shrug instead of outrage.

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Craig Pirrong says the only the French and the Russians will save us from more obama foolishness in the Middle East.

There are few things more dangerous than a president in search of a legacy. Especially those who are in political straits.

A besieged Obama is in search of a legacy in foreign policy by achieving a rapprochement with Iran. No doubt he is being egged on in this by his Rasputin, Valerie Jarrett, who, you know, is an expert about Iran because she lived there until she was four.

Never mind that even the French think this is insane. (This being the second time in the past 3 months that the French have made Obama look like the surrender monkey. Quite an accomplishment.) ...

... The Russians, in other words, want turmoil in the Middle East. An American rapprochement with Iran that would reduce tensions in the Gulf-at least in the short run-and bring Iranian oil back onto market is the last thing that Russia needs right now. Which could well lead the Russians to throw a spanner in any deal.

So this is what we've been reduced to. To relying on French realism and stalwartness and Russian cynicism and cupidity to prevent Obama from making a blunder of historical proportions in his narcissistic search for a legacy.

If it works out this way I will never doubt Bismarck again.

In fact, the **LA Times** said it was France that killed the preliminary deal. The Iranians were hot and delivered a world class insult to the One by saying "For us there are red lines that cannot be crossed."

A marathon round of international talks in Geneva fell short of a widely anticipated deal early Sunday after French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius objected, saying the terms of a preliminary accord were too easy on Tehran. Many nations fear Iran has been secretly seeking a nuclear weapons capability, despite its claims to want nuclear power only for energy and medical purposes.

Fabius broke an informal rule of the six-nation diplomatic group that has been negotiating with the Iranians by going public with his criticism of the preliminary deal, which was aimed at opening the way for comprehensive negotiations over the nuclear program.

"One wants a deal ... but not a sucker's deal," Fabius said.

When the negotiations ground to a temporary halt, Iran was quick to point a finger.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani told the National Assembly that Tehran would not be intimidated by any country's "sanctions, threats, contempt and discrimination," according to Iran's student news service. "For us there are red lines that cannot be crossed."

Selena Zito writes on the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. Someone will be absent from the ceremonies.

... Lincoln brought the country to a revival at an unlikely time with his address. He gave new meaning to the definition of sacrifice in service to the country, for the purpose of preserving the country.

Lincoln was asked to speak here only as an afterthought. The request for Obama to speak has been sought for more than a year.

It would be an occasion for him to honor a crucial time in our past, to create a historical bridge to today.

His dismissal of the request shows a man so detached from the duty of history, from the men who served in the White House before him, that it is unspeakable in its audacity.

Ask almost any person in this historic town; even his most ardent supporters here are stunned.

Obama long ago veered away from any affinity he may have believed he had with Lincoln, which gives credibility to the criticism that his connection to Lincoln was always a political calculation rather than a true bond.

Late night from **Andrew Malcolm**.

Leno: The Obama White House website still says if you like your health plan, you can keep it. That's false, of course. The president says they're trying to correct it, but his website people can't seem to log-on.

Conan: President Obama met the Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks. Obama was excited to tell the hockey players that ObamaCare includes dental.

Conan: The ObamaCare website won't be accessible at night due to maintenance. And it won't be accessible during the day due to "it sucking."

Leno: As you may know, Thanksgiving began in 1621 when Pilgrims feasted with Indians and told them, "If you like your land, you can keep your land."

Conan: Marvel Comics is introducing its first superhero who's a female Muslim. She can even fly, which comes in handy because she's not allowed to drive.

Liberty and Law

Lies Corrupt Democracy

by Angelo Codevilla

Democracy has no cure for a corrupt *demos*. Politicians' misdeeds taint them alone, so long as their supporters do not embrace them. But when substantial constituencies continue to support their leaders despite their having broken faith, they turn democracy's process of mutual persuasion into partisan war.

Consider: In 1974 President Richard Nixon lied publicly and officially to cover up his subordinates' misdeeds. His own party forced him to resign. In 1998 President Bill Clinton lied under oath in an unsuccessful attempt to cover up his own. But his party rallied around him and accused his accusers. In 2013 President Barack Obama lied publicly and officially to secure passage of his most signature legislation. But when the lies became undeniable, his party joined him in maintaining that they had not been lies at all.

The point is that Nixon's misdeeds harmed no one but himself because no one excused them. But Clinton's and Obama's misdeeds contributed to the corruption of American democracy because a substantial part of the American people chose to be partners in them.

The difference between the mentalities of Republicans circa 1974 and of Democrats twenty-five and forty years later is the difference between a society before and after democratic corruption. Forty years ago, just as in our time, the President of the United States headed a coalition of groups with material and ideological interest in his Administration. But, back then, the beneficiaries of power were willing enough to subordinate their interests to the greater good of maintaining the bounds of democratic partisanship. In our time, however, the constituents of Democratic Administrations so identify their own status and benefits with "the greater good" that the very notion of bounds to their own partisanship makes no sense.

Today's Democrats argue that, some deceptive language aside, President Obama had every right to implement his view of medical care for America, as well as other things, because he was elected twice having promised something of the sort. But, in 1974, Republicans could have argued that Nixon had been elected twice, the second time by the largest margin in US history, specifically to undo the 1960s. In fact, Nixon's lies about what he knew of his subordinates' misdeeds were entirely irrelevant to the purpose for which he had been elected. Why should the Republican constituencies who had worked so hard have given up on the Nixon Administration? Why did Barry Goldwater, Mr. conservative himself, go to the White House to tell Nixon he had to resign?

Quite simply because he knew – everyone seemed to know, then – that respect for the truth is what enables a democratic society that resolves its differences by mutual persuasion, and that absent that respect society devolves into civil war. Nixon's lie had not imperiled the workings of American government. But it had transgressed the essential principle. Thenceforth, no one could take him at his word. All would have to regard him as acting for himself or his party, alien

to the rest. And if his party stuck with him, the rest of America would have to regard that party as alien.

Bill Clinton's 1998 lie under oath, and then on national television proved so by DNA analysis of his own sperm, placed him precisely in Nixon's position. But his party, by sticking with him, reversed the essential principle to which the Republicans of 1974 had adhered. Its constituencies had worked hard to reverse Ronald Reagan's 1980s. They had raised taxes, institutionalized abortion, and vastly expanded government. By this time, they had convinced themselves that the rest of America is composed of inferior people. Why should they have jeopardized their position just because their man had fellatio in the Oval Office and lied about it?

Thus by placing their own material and ideological interests above the truth, the Democrats took upon themselves a license to lie – not just about personal matters, which was their argument at the time – but about whatever might serve their purpose.

Obama's premeditated, repeated, nationally televised lies about the "Affordable Care Act" are integral, indeed essential, to his presidency and to the workings of the US government. The outcome of two national elections depended on it.

Even more significant is his contention that he never said what he said, and that what he said was true anyhow. In interpersonal relations, such a contention is an insult that makes civility impossible; because to continue to treat with someone who makes such affronts is self-degradation of which few are capable. In political life, such an insult is a declaration of war.

The deadly problem is that Barack Obama is not just an individual, nor even the head of the US government's executive branch. He is the head of the party to which most government officials belong, the party of the media, of the educational establishment, of big corporations – in short of the ruling class. That class, it seems, has so taken ownership of Obama's lies that it pretends that those who are suffering from the "Affordable Care Act" don't really know what is good for them, or that they are perversely refusing to suffer for the greater good.

This class, in short, has placed itself as far beyond persuasion as Obama himself. Democracy by persuasion having become impossible, we are left with democracy as war.

*Angelo M. Codevilla is professor emeritus of international relations at Boston University. He served as a U.S. Senate Staff member dealing with oversight of the intelligence services. His book *Peace Among Ourselves and With All Nations* is forthcoming from Hoover Institution Press.*

NY Post

[New York Times' Obama cheerleading harms the nation](#)

by Michael Goodwin

Poor Barack Obama. Ending his fifth year as the world's most powerful man, he is running out of scapegoats and fairy tales. Blaming George W. Bush has lost its punch, and the ObamaCare debacle is shredding the myths he is competent and honest.

Still, before he rides off into that sunset of self-pity and low poll ratings, he ought to invite his remaining friends over for a heart-to-heart. That way he can tell The New York Times that its fanatical support does him no favors.

Instead, it feeds his arrogance and reinforces his belief that he can solve any problem with another speech. The unflattering truth doesn't stand a chance — until it is too late.

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From the broadcast networks to MSNBC and most large papers, Obama got the benefit of every doubt. The double standards were a daily disgrace so routine, they mostly provoked a shrug instead of outrage.

The ObamaCare debacle is the exception that proves the rule. Wall-to-wall complaints are forcing the media to report that the law's Web site is a lemon and that its rules are causing millions of people to lose insurance plans they liked.

The mainstream media is acting only because the story is too big to ignore. Had it been mildly skeptical sooner, it could have exposed the law's destructive rules and prevented the disaster.

Yet the Times, especially its editorial page, remains his most devoted cheerleader. The latest example is embarrassing enough to make a Gray Lady blush.

After the president's repeated promise that "If you like your health-care plan, you can keep it" was proven false, the editorial page tried to clean up his mess. On Nov. 2, it charged that Republicans were stoking "consumer fears and confusion" by highlighting reports of people losing insurance.

Then came the coverup: "Mr. Obama clearly misspoke" when he made those promises, the editorial said, before dismissing the problems as an "overblown controversy."

The "misspoke" defense set off a firestorm, and even the paper's gentle public editor suggested it was too kind. Naturally, the editors defended their decision not to accuse the president of an outright lie.

Yet even Obama concluded he had to apologize. His recognition of the uproar will result in changes, if only because Senate Democrats are running for their lives.

The episode graphically illustrates how the Times has harmed the nation by reflexively protecting Obama, facts be damned.

Instead of just expressing its own liberal views, the editorial page serves as the propaganda arm of the administration, the Jay Carney of print media. Its daily drumbeat of shrill partisanship leaves it indistinguishable from Dem party hacks who spend their waking hours demonizing Republicans.

The ritual is distressingly clear. Any White House claim that a critic is “political” sends the Times to war. The news pages play along by treating Obama’s every utterance as sacred, thus crowding out the facts that don’t fit his agenda.

This power to shape the narrative is not limited to its own pages. The newspaper’s brand still commands sufficient cachet that stories it downplays — such as the Benghazi terror attack or IRS targeting of conservative groups — quickly disappear from other media as well. And that lets the president off the hook and keeps much of the public in the dark.

At least that was the pattern until now. ObamaCare is such a direct hit on so many people that it could change everything.

If predictions are accurate that tens of millions of families will lose their current insurance policies, Obama and the Democratic lemmings will be seriously damaged.

The lapdogs and cheerleaders won’t get off easy, either. Not when their crime was covering up his.

Streetwise Professor

Beware Presidents in Search of a Legacy

by Craig Pirrong

There are few things more dangerous than a president in search of a legacy. Especially those who are in political straits.

A besieged Obama is in search of a legacy in foreign policy by achieving a rapprochement with Iran. No doubt he is being egged on in this by his Rasputin, Valerie Jarrett, who, you know, is an expert about Iran because she lived there until she was four.

Never mind that even the French think this is insane. (This being the second time in the past 3 months that the French have made *Obama* look like the surrender monkey. Quite an accomplishment.)

Never mind that this is disconcerting-no, infuriating-every traditional American ally in the Middle East, notably Israel and Saudi Arabia. Quite an accomplishment to get those two singing from the same, um, hymnal.

Never mind that this could actually provoke the increased nuclearization of the Gulf, with the Saudis ordering nukes *Prêt-à-Porter* from Pakistan.

Never mind that the Iranians have taken president after president to the cleaners. (And lest you think I am being partisan, the president who was dry cleaned most thoroughly was Reagan. In attempting to bargain with the Iranians for the release of hostages, Reagan gave the Iranians incentives to take even more hostages, which they did.)

I just read the memoir of former CIA operative Bob Baer (“[See No Evil](#).”) Baer compellingly ties Iran to numerous major terror operations launched against the US for the last 30 years,

including the bombing of the US embassy in Lebanon, the bombing of the Marine barracks in that city, and the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia. He also plausibly argues that Osama and the Iranians worked together.

Note: the same people-notably the mullahs (especially Khamenei) and the *pesdaren* (i.e., the Revolutionary Guards)-who approved and/or carried out all of these operations are still the true powers in Iran today. (Anyone gulled by the new, and supposedly moderate, Iranian president are truly fools.)

The only hope is that the true realists-like the French! (yes-SWP just wrote that)-will derail this insane train before it gets to the station.

And maybe the Russians will derail it (yes-SWP just wrote that too!) The Russians are utterly cynical, and utterly self-interested. The Russian economic situation-by the admission of the Economics Ministry and the Russian Central Bank, not to mention the IMF and World Bank-is increasingly fraught. A substantial decline in oil prices would put substantial stress on the Russian economy, the Russian budget-and the lifestyle of the rent seekers that rule the country. A deal with Iran that relaxed sanctions would add approximately 1mm bbl of oil to world markets-around 1.1 percent of world liquids output. Using a short run elasticity of 10, that translates into an 11 percent decline in world prices. That would put Brent in the mid-90s. Russia needs a Brent price of approximately \$117/bbl to balance its budget. It is already on the edge with a current price of \$105: \$95 would be a major problem. Major problem.

The Russians, in other words, want turmoil in the Middle East. An American rapprochement with Iran that would reduce tensions in the Gulf-at least in the short run-and bring Iranian oil back onto market is the last thing that Russia needs right now. Which could well lead the Russians to throw a spanner in any deal.

So this is what we've been reduced to. To relying on French realism and stalwartness and Russian cynicism and cupidity to prevent Obama from making a blunder of historical proportions in his narcissistic search for a legacy.

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LA Times

[France's role in scuttling Iran nuclear deal prompts speculation](#)

by Paul Richter

WASHINGTON — France's role in the unraveling of an international deal to curb Iran's [nuclear program](#) brought angry reactions Sunday from Tehran, glowing praise from Iran's detractors and a whirl of speculation about what the French motive might be.

A marathon round of international talks in Geneva fell short of a widely anticipated deal early Sunday after French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius objected, saying the terms of a preliminary accord were too easy on Tehran. Many nations fear Iran has been secretly seeking a nuclear weapons capability, despite its claims to want nuclear power only for energy and medical purposes.

Fabius broke an informal rule of the six-nation diplomatic group that has been negotiating with the Iranians by going public with his criticism of the preliminary deal, which was aimed at opening the way for comprehensive negotiations over the nuclear program.

"One wants a deal ... but not a sucker's deal," Fabius said.

When the negotiations ground to a temporary halt, Iran was quick to point a finger.

Iranian President [Hassan Rouhani](#) told the National Assembly that Tehran would not be intimidated by any country's "sanctions, threats, contempt and discrimination," according to Iran's student news service. "For us there are red lines that cannot be crossed."

The semiofficial Fars news agency criticized the "destructive roles of France and Israel" for the failure of negotiators to reach an interim deal and ran a caricature of France as a frog firing a gun. "By shooting he feels he is important," the commentary said.

In contrast, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) tweeted that France "had the courage to prevent a bad nuclear agreement with Iran. Vive la France!"

The halt in talks set off a debate on whether France's intervention was motivated by commercial or geopolitical interests in the Middle East.

Alireza Nader, a Middle East specialist at Rand Corp., said he believes multiple motives may be involved, including France's desire to halt nuclear proliferation but also interests in selling arms to Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations in the Persian Gulf that fear Iran's regional power and would appreciate the French stand.

France may also believe that it has an interest in strengthening its position in the region, at a time when many there believe U.S. power is on the wane, Nader said.

"This could be a way to strengthen their ties generally," he said.

Nader said one downside is that France's initiative could weaken the efforts of the six-nation group, which has been trying to work out a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The six are Britain, China, Germany and Russia, as well as the U.S. and France.

The French stance weakens the unity of the group, which has helped bring Iran to the bargaining table, and it strengthens the Iranian narrative that Tehran has been willing to deal but that Israel, hawks in the U.S. Congress and now France may really prefer a military confrontation over diplomacy.

Francois Heisbourg, a former French official in Paris who is chairman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, saw different motives.

He noted that France has long taken a hard line on Iran's program, going back to the government of former President Jacques Chirac. He said the French position may also reflect the fact that France "hates signing on the dotted line anything that appears to have been produced by Americans."

Heisbourg said that in domestic politics, "standing up to the Americans will be a winner for [Prime Minister [Francois Hollande](#)'s government," even though the Iranian nuclear issue isn't especially important to the French public.

Yet Heisbourg and other observers noted that it is unclear to what extent the French objections actually upset Washington.

Although the Obama administration clearly wants a deal with Iran, Secretary of State [John F. Kerry](#) went easy on France after the halt in talks and made it clear that the administration shares many of France's concerns about Iran's heavy-water reactor and medium-enriched uranium.

Some analysts speculated that it would please some in Washington if France's push leads to a tougher deal at the next round of negotiations, which are to start Nov. 20 in Geneva.

A Western official who declined to be identified, citing diplomatic sensitivities, said that France was "only playing its traditional role within the group" and that the six nations were largely in agreement by the end of the negotiations Saturday night.

In comments on "Meet the Press" on Sunday, Kerry again downplayed the idea that France had undermined the deal, saying that the United States too wanted more "clarity" about the terms of the deal and that the six powers remain united.

He also defended the U.S. position in the talks: "We are not blind, and I don't think we're stupid," he said. "I think we have a pretty strong sense of how to measure whether or not we are acting in the interests of our country and of the globe."

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Obama's stunning snub

by Salena Zito

GETTYSBURG He almost was not asked to speak.

In October 1863, President Abraham Lincoln received the same plain envelope that was sent to hundreds of people, requesting attendance at a dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery here.

Col. Clark E. Carr, a confidant of several U.S. presidents and a member of the commission that organized the event, later admitted that commissioners scrambled to send a more personal invitation after Lincoln indicated he would attend.

Asking Lincoln to deliver a "few appropriate thoughts," Carr said, was "an afterthought."

You see, the dedication's real headliner was Edward Everett. A former secretary of State, U.S. senator, Massachusetts governor and Harvard president whose nationwide tour helped to save Mt. Vernon as a national shrine, Everett was considered the great orator of his time.

When Lincoln arrived, Gettysburg remained raw from the horrific battle that raged here for three days just five months earlier. More than 70,000 Confederate troops engaged 83,000 Federal

troops around this crossroads town; the battle claimed more than 50,000 souls and 3,000 horses, and it changed the course of the war in the Union's favor.

The bones of dead horses still were strewn over surrounding farmlands; vultures hovered over the landscape, and unburied coffins stood stacked in town.

Lincoln had plenty of justifiable, honorable reasons to beg off from the ceremony: His 10-year-old son, Tad, lay sick with a fever in the White House; the war was going poorly out West; he was locked in a budget showdown with Congress; and his re-election bid looked grim against a general he fired for incompetence a year earlier.

Yet he came to a place underscored with death, tasked with making sense of it all with “a few appropriate thoughts” that gave meaning to the losses and the unbearable sacrifices.

On a brisk, cloudless November day, he stood on the temporary wooden stage after a two-hour speech by Everett, who, by all accounts, enthralled the crowd with his pontificating skills.

“Four score and seven years ago,” he began in a squeaky, hard-to-hear voice before a crowd that had gathered from Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Three minutes and 270 words later, he sat down, convinced that he missed his mark.

He was wrong.

In nine days, this town will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's speech with a ceremony at the same Soldiers' National Cemetery featuring the U.S. Marine Band, Gov. Tom Corbett and a reading of the Gettysburg Address.

One person who will not be among those honoring Lincoln is President Barack Obama. The White House gave no reason why the president would not attend.

According to the National Park Service, Obama has never visited the battlefield as president.

In 2008, Obama rolled out his presidential campaign in Springfield, Ill., where Lincoln announced his own presidential candidacy. Throughout that year's campaign, Obama's staff embraced similarities between the two men as part of his persona; he allowed them to encourage lofty comparisons — and, after he won the election, he re-created Lincoln's 1861 train trip to Washington as part of his own inaugural spectacle.

He even took the oath of office on Lincoln's Bible — twice.

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IBD

Late Night Humor

by Andrew Malcolm

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Conan: President Obama met the Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks. Obama was excited to tell the hockey players that ObamaCare includes dental.

Conan: The ObamaCare website won't be accessible at night due to maintenance. And it won't be accessible during the day due to "it sucking."

Leno: As you may know, Thanksgiving began in 1621 when Pilgrims feasted with Indians and told them, "If you like your land, you can keep your land."

Conan: Marvel Comics is introducing its first superhero who's a female Muslim. She can even fly, which comes in handy because she's not allowed to drive.

Conan: Both the men's and women's division of the New York City Marathon were won by Kenyans. However, coming in a close second, some other Kenyans.

Fallon: Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles tied an NFL record with seven TD passes last week. He said he couldn't have done it without team help. And the Raiders said, "You're welcome."

Leno: We have a memoir coming in 2015 from Willie Nelson, explaining how marijuana has affected his life. For example, Willie began the book in 1946.

Leno: Names were just released of all six of the first day's enrollees in ObamaCare--Sneezy, Sleepy, Happy, Bashful, Grumpy and Doc.

Conan: The Obama administration asks Hollywood to work positive mentions of ObamaCare into its TV shows and movies. So AMC's new zombie drama is titled: "The Walking Dead But Not Due to Preexisting Conditions."

Conan: The Duck Dynasty crowd is releasing its own wine label. Wine experts are reminding consumers, it's RED wine with varmint, WHITE with critters.

Leno: A new study says women with larger butts are smarter. Study also finds that men who tell women they have larger butts tend to die younger.

Fallon: Obama just announced that Joe Biden will travel to Asia to make up for President Obama's canceled trip during the shutdown. Seriously? That's like Justin Timberlake canceling a show and as replacements sending the banjo players from those Geico ads.

Fallon: You can tell CNN's low ratings are causing money concerns there. They're renaming Wolf Blitzer's show "The Situation Roommate."

Letterman: Finally Mayor Bloomberg is done with being New York City mayor. 12 years, Three terms. He just wants to settle down and spend more time with his money.

Leno: Obama is now backtracking on his you-can-keep-your-health-plan promise. The Democrat told one crowd what he really said for three years was you can keep your plan IF IT HASNT CHANGED. Then his pants caught fire.

Conan: We just had the first YouTube Music Awards and Eminem won Artist of the Year. Second place was a cat playing the piano.

Fallon: New York City has a new mayor. Bill de Blasio was elected with 73% of the vote. Very successful. Or as New Yorkers put it today, "You suck de Blasio!"

Letterman: Astronomers report there are 40 Billion planets out there like Earth. 40 Billion! And the most remarkable thing is each one has cable shows about storage units.

Twitter: @ConservCityGirl New York City mayor-elect Bill de Blasio says he'll pursue a liberal agenda, beginning with an inaccessible website.

Letterman: Did you see half of Colorado voted to secede? 'We want to go!' See, this is what happens when you legalize marijuana.

Letterman: So New York Mayor Bloomberg is out after 12 years. Done. Gone. Anyone want giant sodas?

Letterman: Toronto's mayor says he was unaware he was smoking crack because he was in a drunken stupor. In legal circles, that's known as 'The Lindsay Lohan Defense.'

Letterman: Wish I'd thought of it. Today show hosts Matt Lauer and Al Roker had on-air prostate exams. 'Let's see what's going on in your neck of the woods?'

Conan: Matt Lauer and Al Roker had prostate exams on live TV. So, the 'Today' show finally cracked the code on what people want to see first thing in the morning.

Conan: True. To increase ratings, the 'Today Show' hosts had prostate exams on the air. Also to increase ratings, the hosts of 'Good Morning America' did not.

Conan: Lamborghini just turned 50 years old. You can tell Lamborghini is 50 because it just bought itself a Porsche.

Conan: Colorado voters OK'd a marijuana tax to fund schools. In other words, kids, don't do drugs, but stay in the schools funded by them.

Fallon: An expert reports sharing a bed with someone is healthier than sleeping alone. Study was done by one researcher, the last guy left in the bar.

Leno: Remember the GOP governor candidate in Virginia who opposed oral sex? He lost. Exit polls show he won married women by 9% and lost men by 100%.

Leno: CNN reports the NSA is developing a supersonic spy plane with missiles for an amazing improvement in spying. In fact, it's so good President Obama has already denied knowing anything about it.

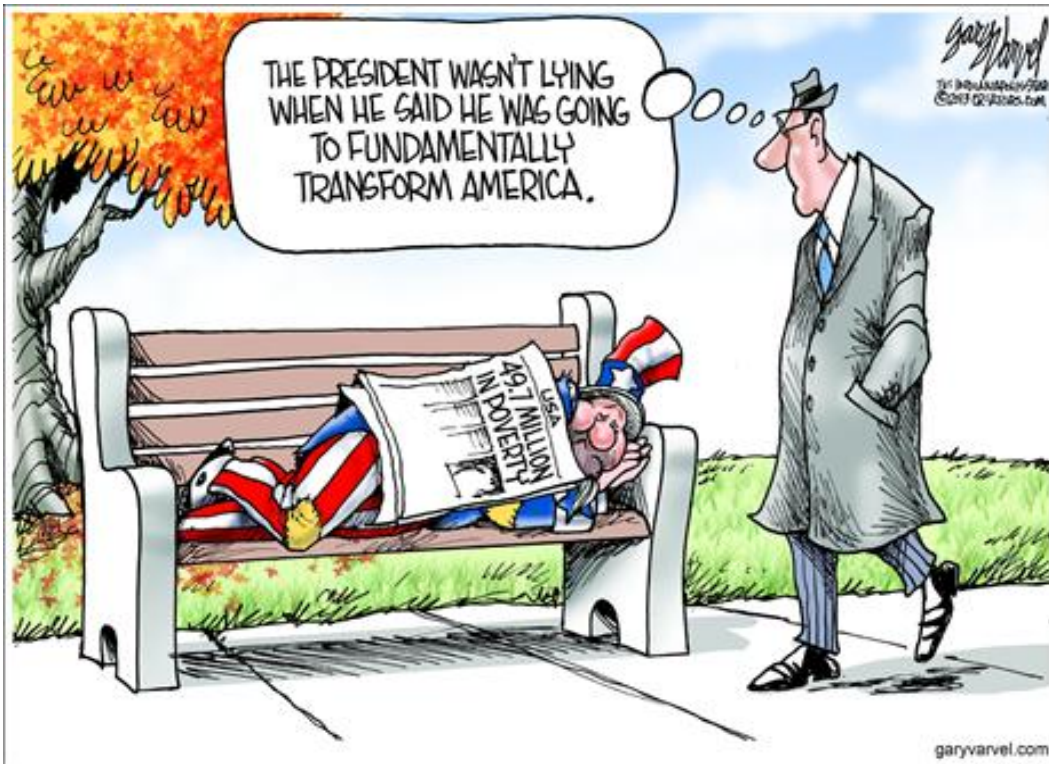
Fallon: For the first time Butterball is now hiring men for its 24-hour turkey-cooking troubleshooting hotline. One problem: The men's most common advice: "Call Domino's."

Fallon: The official responsible for the ObamaCare website has resigned. The worst part is, since he's unemployed now, HE'S gotta figure out how to sign up for ObamaCare.

Fallon: A new iPhone app helps fans find vegan foods at sports stadiums. Another, more popular app helps sports fans find places that are free of vegans. *(Scroll down for a bonus video treat.)*

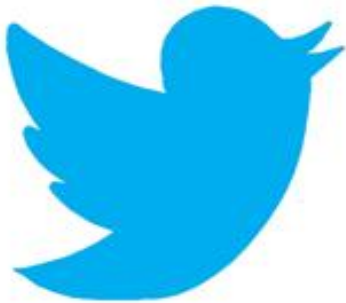






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