

November 26, 2013

Ed Morrissey brings a chart comparing incomes in the country to those in DC. It is a graphic illustration of how DC's rent seekers have become even more accomplished parasites.

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That doesn't mean that everyone is sharing the pain equally, however. The Washington Post reported this week that the nation's fastest-growing center of wealth and privilege can be found right in the nation's capital – Washington D.C. Who are the nouveau riche? “The former bureaucrats, accountants and staff officers ... the lawyers, lobbyists and executives who work for companies that barely had a presence in Washington before the boom.”

What boom? It's not an economic boom, but a deluge of federal spending that “transformed the culture of a once staid capital and created a new wave of well-heeled insiders.” In other words, the “boom” is in part a transfer of wealth through taxation from everywhere else in the nation to the capital, and in part a borrowing spree that fuels federal spending and the lobbying and consulting industries that both benefit from it and bend it to their own interests – at the expense of economic growth everywhere else.

This trend has proceeded for some time. A chart from the Federal Reserve of St. Louis shows the dramatic gap that has opened up between Washington D.C. and the rest of the country in median household income.

Daniel Henninger says there is something in DC worse than the healthcare mess. *The ObamaCare train wreck is plowing through the White House in super slow-mo on screens everywhere, splintering reputations and presidential approval ratings. Audiences watch popeyed as Democrats in distress like Senators Kay Hagan, Mary Landrieu and Mark Pryor decide whether to cling to the driverless train or jump toward the tall weeds. The heartless compilers of the Washington Post/ABC poll asked people to pick a head-to-head matchup now between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. Mitt won. This is the most amazing spectacle of mayhem and meltdown anyone has seen in politics since Watergate.*

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Washington these days kvetches a lot about what Healthcare.gov is doing to the Obama "legacy." Far worse than ObamaCare, though, is that the 44th president in his second term presides over a great nation that is punching so far below its weight that large swaths of its people have lost heart. ...

John Crudele follows up on last week's NY Post story about the possible manipulation of employment data before the last election.

Let me be the first to ask: Did the White House know that employment reports were being falsified?

Last week I reported exclusively that someone at the Census Bureau's Philadelphia region had been screwing around with employment data. And that person, after he was caught in 2010, claimed he was told to do so by a supervisor two levels up the chain of command.

On top of that, a reliable source whom I haven't identified said the falsification of employment data by Census was widespread and ongoing, especially around the time of the 2012 election.

There's now a congressional investigation of how Census handles employment data. And we can hope that we'll find out this was just an isolated incident.

But let me tell you why it might not be.

Back in 2009 — right before the 2010 census of the nation was taken — there was an announcement that the Obama administration had decided that the Census Bureau would report to senior White House aides.

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Paul Mirengoff of Power Line sees some good news in the Dems judicial power grab.

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Not every federal appellate judge is an ideologue in a robe. Chief Justice Roberts wasn't when he broke with his non-liberal brethren and upheld the constitutionality of Obamacare's individual

mandate, although he may have had politics on his mind. A few conservative judges on lower courts had upheld the mandate too.

Obama's nakedly ideological use of the federal judiciary won't turn every judge into a naked ideologue. But it may, and should, color their approach to particular cases. For example, it may cause the five non-liberal judges on the Supreme Court more actively to scrutinize the work of the D.C. Circuit, especially the work of Judges Millett, Pollard, and Wilkins.

A heavy dose of reality won't just help the public; it may also benefit some judges.

To be clear, I don't celebrate the fact that law has become a subdivision of partisan politics. I just think it's a good thing that this reality is being exposed.

John Podhoretz says this time the president will not get away with failure.

People are puzzled: Why would Barack Obama have lied about how wonderfully everything was going to go with ObamaCare when officials in his administration knew perfectly well that disaster was going to strike?

In one sense, the answer is simple: At the time, just before Oct. 1, Republicans were insisting ObamaCare be delayed or defunded. The president and his team weren't going to give the enemy the satisfaction of agreeing — or the potent ammunition that would have come from a rueful admission the system wasn't ready.

Today, a bipartisan agreement to delay ObamaCare seems like it would have been a pretty good deal. It didn't look that way at all in the last two weeks of September.

But there's a deeper reason he and his people lied: They did it because they could. They did it because nearly five years in the White House had given Obama and his team confidence they would not face the music and they could finesse the problems until they got fixed. ...

... As a result, Barack Obama and his administration have said what they felt they needed to say and done what they felt they needed to do for immediate political gain. They did so this time. But this time was different, because this time he was mishandling and discrediting the great liberal desideratum of our time — a national health-care system.

This time he hasn't gotten away with it.

And **Victor Davis Hanson** says this was the tenth life.

An Obamacat administration is given nine, but not ten, lives:

- 1) The dismal economy*
- 2) Guantanamo, renditions, and tribunals that were to be relegated to the Bush-Cheney ash heap*
- 3) Fast and Furious*

- 4) The “lead from behind” fiasco in Libya
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- 8) The NSA scandal
- 9) Lois Lerner’s IRS

The tenth, and one too many, was Obamacare . . .

WaPo blog says the rank and file IRS folks are fuming at Lois Lerner.

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Lerner, who headed the exempt-organizations office in Washington, D.C., blamed rank-and-file workers for the agency’s behavior during a legal conference in which she apologized on behalf of the IRS. She said actions were misguided efforts by workers to deal with a flood of applications from tax-exemption applicants during the 2010 and 2012 election cycles.

Cynthia Thomas, a former manager with the IRS’s exempt-organizations office in Cincinnati, fired off an e-mail to Lerner after the conference, complaining that the agency had blamed rank-and-file employees for its actions.

Fiscal Times

[Why the Bloated Government Is Too Big to Succeed](#)

by Ed Morrissey



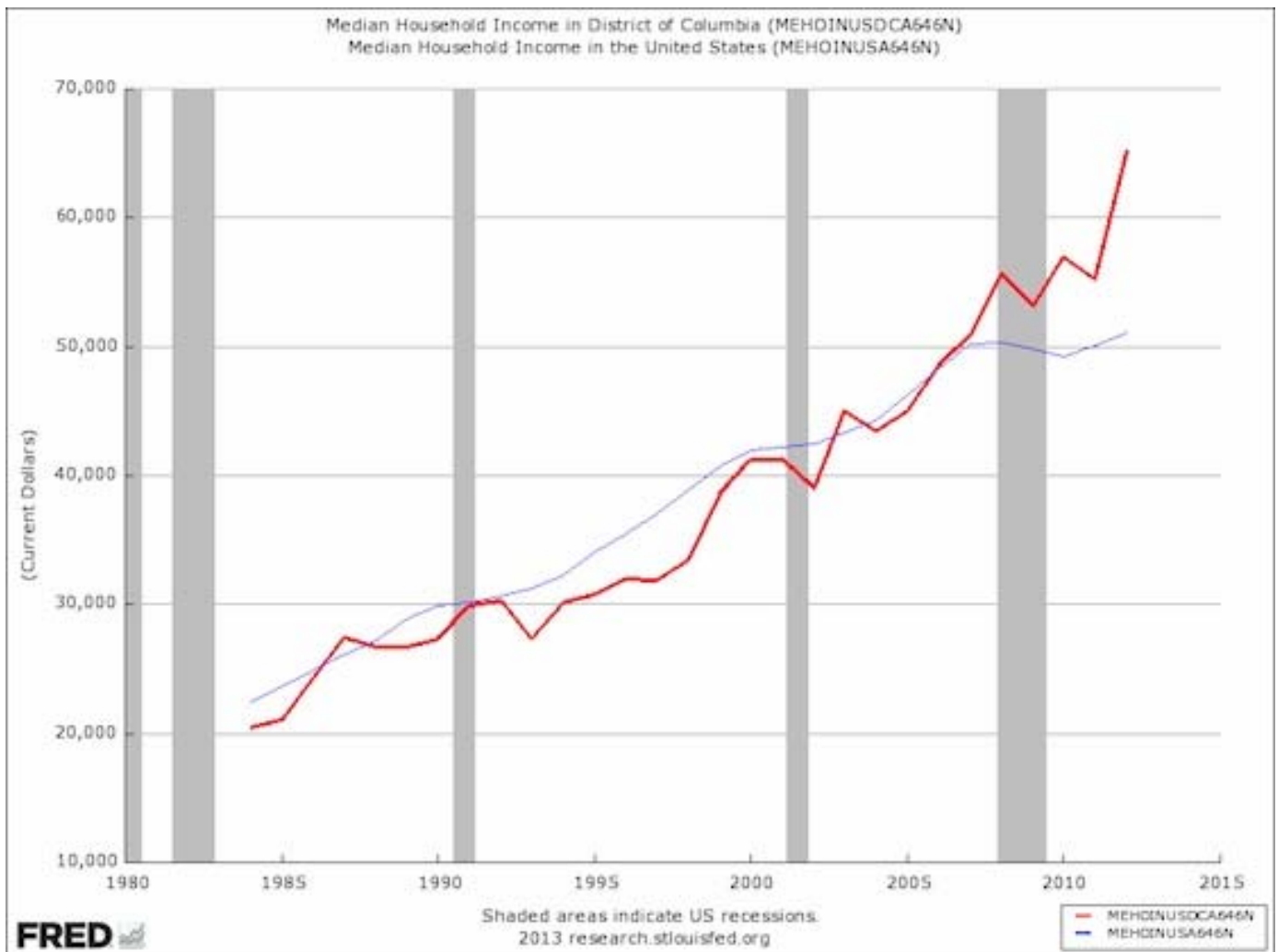
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This trend has proceeded for some time. A chart from the [Federal Reserve of St. Louis](#) shows the dramatic gap that has opened up between Washington D.C. and the rest of the country in median household income.



Ironically, this trend has become noticeable at the same time that Hollywood has launched the second of a planned trilogy of films based on the young-adult book series *The Hunger Games*. The dystopian tale takes place in a future where America has been superseded by a country called Panem, whose capital soaks up all of the wealth and forces its impoverished districts to contribute children for gladiatorial combat to amuse the wealthy elite and intimidate everyone else into submission.

Even more ironically, the city itself exemplifies both ends of that dynamic. While the local economy has soared, its poverty has not abated. National Journal notes in its own report on the link between its increasing wealth and [federal spending](#) that the District of Columbia would rank second-worst in food insecurity among children when compared to the rest of the states. "It's surprising to come to my hometown and to see the level of hunger here that is extremely real," Capital Area Food Bank CEO Nancy Roman told Nancy Cook.

The Beltway is still a long way from being the Capitol of *The Hunger Games*, but that doesn't make the economic drift from the mainstream of the nation and Washington's aggregation of resources and power any less disturbing. If it resulted in wise and beneficent policy, it might at least be understandable or tolerable. However, as the unfolding disaster of the Affordable Care

Act demonstrates, the trend instead feeds a poisonous combination of elitism and incompetence while protecting politicians from the consequences of failure.

The nadir of that incompetence emerged in surprising testimony on Tuesday from a key figure in the Health and Human Services project for the ACA's web portal. CMS Deputy Chief Information Officer Henry Chao, under questioning from Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO) in a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing, stated that 30 percent to 40 percent of the ACA's computer infrastructure [had yet to be built](#).

Specifically, the systems that had yet even to be started were those that will eventually process the payments of taxpayer subsidies to insurance companies that result from enrollments at Healthcare.gov.

That leaves a big question as to whether *anyone* has effectively enrolled in insurance plans through the ACA's web portal. After all, insurance doesn't take effect until full payment has been made for the first month's coverage, which has to be received by the middle of the previous month. Enrollees will pay insurers for their portion of the premiums, but whether the plans will take effect without the subsidies is anyone's guess.

The back-end functions for subsidy payment haven't been completed, while those payments would have to go out no later than seven weeks from now. Even if the systems were completed today, that leaves almost no time for testing – and if the back end is anything like Healthcare.gov's front end, it will need a tremendous amount of testing to keep the payment systems from complete failure on launch.

At the same time that Chao surprised Congress with his testimony, other analysts told Congress that the web portal was so dangerous to consumer data safety that [it should be abandoned](#). Four data-security experts unanimously agreed that the site was not secure in its present state during questioning by the House Science, Space and Technology Committee. Three of them agreed with Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY) that the site should be shut down until the security gaps were fixed.

The fourth, Avi Rubin of Johns Hopkins University, told Reuters, "Bringing down the site is a very drastic response." On the other hand, Rubin also said he wouldn't use it in its present state, either. Douglas Kennedy, a former Marine Corps cyber-intelligence analyst, submitted written testimony that estimated the time needed to repair all of the security gaps in the HHS system would be seven to twelve months – if the site was taken down immediately.

Bear in mind that this isn't exotic, new technology. Commercial web portals have been around for almost twenty years. CMS actually has a similar system in place for its Medicare Advantage program, although one that doesn't need to interface with IRS systems. And yet, after more than three years and hundreds of millions of dollars, HHS and the White House rolled out a system that is only 60-70 percent finished, with so many security holes that experts would need as much as another year to plug them all.

We may not be living in *The Hunger Games*, but we are seeing a demonstration of the inevitable result of elitism and central planning. We aren't sacrificing our children for the amusement of the powerful, but we are sacrificing our resources to the incompetence of the self-appointed nannies that can't even figure out the basic economics of risk pools or the mechanics of payment

systems. It's time to pull the plug on DC's cash spigot and return to local control and private-sector solutions.

WSJ

Worse Than ObamaCare

Obama's biggest failure is that he hobbled the U.S. economy.

by Daniel Henninger

The ObamaCare train wreck is plowing through the White House in super slow-mo on screens everywhere, splintering reputations and presidential approval ratings. Audiences watch popeyed as Democrats in distress like Senators Kay Hagan, Mary Landrieu and Mark Pryor decide whether to cling to the driverless train or jump toward the tall weeds. The heartless compilers of the Washington Post/ABC poll asked people to pick a head-to-head matchup now between [Barack Obama](#) and Mitt Romney. Mitt won. This is the most amazing spectacle of mayhem and meltdown anyone has seen in politics since Watergate.

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In fall 2008, the U.S. suffered its worst financial crisis since the Depression. That wasn't Barack Obama's fault. But five years on, in the fall of 2013, the country's economy is still sick.

Unemployed middle-aged men look in the mirror and see someone who may never work again. Young married couples who should be on the way up are living in their parents' basement. Many young black men (official unemployment rate 28%; unofficial rate off the charts) have no prospect of work.

Washington these days kvetches a lot about what Healthcare.gov is doing to the Obama "legacy." Far worse than ObamaCare, though, is that the 44th president in his second term presides over a great nation that is punching so far below its weight that large swaths of its people have lost heart.

For five years, news stories have chronicled the social and economic deterioration in America of people with no jobs or weak jobs.

Here's a headline over a Gallup report: "In U.S. Fewer Believe 'Plenty of Opportunity' to Get Ahead."

Two from The Wall Street Journal recently: "Parents Serving as Emergency Support for Adult Kids," and "Workers Stay Put, Curbing Jobs Engine."

On Tuesday, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development put out a report saying the U.S. has become a threat to global recovery. The OECD ratcheted down growth estimates almost everywhere for the rest of this year. For the euro-zone nations: -0.4%; for "emerging" India it's down to 3%; South Korea: 2.7%.

As to the U.S., the OECD says growth for the rest of the year will fall back to 1.7%. That is about the average rate of U.S. economic growth for the entire Obama presidency.

Barack Obama is not the original cause of so much economic misfortune. He didn't create an advanced U.S. economy in which the highest income returns flow to math geeks who snag jobs at Facebook while average people wonder what hit them. The shift away from traditional manufacturing began before he was organizing anyone back in Chicago. And yes, Mr. Obama has talked of the plight of "middle-class folks" from the first days of his presidency. But what has his presidency done for them? What is there to show for all the talk?

In February 2009, he got \$831 billion of stimulus spending. Not even seismographs can detect the results. Every speech he outputs about "middle-class folks" offers them the same solutions: more public spending on education, on public infrastructure projects and, even now, on alternative energy. As he tirelessly repeats what remain promises, the Labor Department's monthly unemployment-rate announcement on Friday mornings has become a day of dread.

A normal post-recession growth rate of at least 4% would have made it possible for Mr. Obama and his progressive allies to chase virtually any pie-in-the-sky policy they wanted. Instead, the U.S. has fallen far off its normal 3.3% growth rate.

A U.S. president, faced with such devastating labor-market problems and persistently weak growth, should do anything—*anything*—that will give the American workplace more lift. Instead, he's willing to entertain just one idea: more federal spending.

You know the theory here: Spend a public dollar and you get \$1.50 of economic output. It hasn't happened, but Barack Obama is gonna crank his old Keynesian Multiplier, created during the 1930s in the era of the Hupmobile, until it sputters to life.

Ponder, though, a partial list of the public-policy decisions that have flowed steadily out of the Obama administration and directly into a job-starved U.S. economy:

The no-decision on the Keystone XL pipeline and its union jobs; the 2,000-page regulatory law draped in 2010 across the entire financial sector; the shutdown in 2010 and then the slow-walking of offshore oil drilling; siccing the EPA on the utilities industry and the National Labor Relations Board on all industry; a 2010 FCC decision to regulate Internet growth; a significant tax increase this year; support this month for jacking up the federal minimum wage to over \$10, certain to smother new jobs; the Justice Department's \$13 billion looting of J.P. Morganbank; and of course Hurricane ObamaCare.

Barack Obama has the U.S. economy on lockdown. It's the worst thing this president has done. American resilience, and elections, mean it won't stay this way forever. But for a lot of poor and middle-class folks, living with mom in the basement is getting old.

NY Post

False job numbers: Did the White House know?

Did White House know about fabricated and manipulated job numbers before 2012 election?

by John Crudele

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Last week I reported exclusively that someone at the Census Bureau's Philadelphia region [had been screwing around with employment data](#). And that person, after he was caught in 2010, claimed he was told to do so by a supervisor two levels up the chain of command.

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There's now a congressional investigation of how Census handles employment data. And we can hope that we'll find out this was just an isolated incident.

But let me tell you why it might not be.

Back in 2009 — right before the 2010 census of the nation was taken — there was an announcement that the Obama administration had decided that the Census Bureau would report to senior White House aides.

The rumor was that Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel was in charge of the nationwide head count.

The chief of the Commerce Department usually oversees the Census, which determines how many congressional representatives and how much money each state gets for the next decade. But the Obama administration had decided — the story went — that Emanuel was a better guy for the job.

The idea that a political creature like Emanuel would be calling the shots on how states would be redistricted in coming elections sent Republicans into a tizzy.

"This is nothing more than a political land grab," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah).

Other Republicans expressed similar dismay. And the tension got so high that Judd Gregg, a Republican senator from New Hampshire, even withdrew his nomination to be Commerce secretary. (Gary Locke assumed that post.)

And why wouldn't the Republicans be bothered? Even though the average American might think the census is nothing more than a nuisance, by Washington's two most important standards — votes and money — it's anything but.

So here's where my story picks up.

Back in 2010, I started getting reports that the Census Bureau had some very unusual hiring practices. Census takers and supervisors — at risk of heavy fines — were reporting to me that large numbers of people were being hired only to be fired shortly afterward. And then rehired.

I theorized at the time that Census was trying to make the job-creation totals look better nationwide in those bleak months leading up to the midterm congressional elections.

This employment policy seemed too coordinated. The regional higher-ups at Census couldn't be doing this on their own; there had to be a grander plan.

I still don't know what was going on.

But then I heard about the falsification in Philly. This time, however, it wasn't the employment numbers that were being doodled with. This time it was the unemployment data, which are gathered at the Census Bureau and handed over raw to the Labor Department.

I don't want to get ahead of myself on this, but Philadelphia is pretty close to Washington, DC. And the census taker who was caught cheating — a guy named Julius Buckmon — had been canvassing the DC area when he was filling out forms for people who didn't exist.

And the Census Bureau had been inexplicably downsized in recent years from eight regions to only six, giving more control to whoever had seized control.

The supervisor who was fingered by Buckmon did admit that he told other survey takers to hand in half-filled-out interviews. And the White House always has pretty good influence at the Census Bureau, even if it didn't get its wish for Emanuel.

Maybe it's just my deeply ingrained distrust of authority — especially when it resides in Washington — or my hope that a good story will last, but I'm betting 60/40 that the White House had grand plans for Census. And some of those may have been carried out.

Power Line

[The very useful lesson of Obama's judicial power grab](#)

by Paul Mirengoff

It's no secret that President Obama was behind the push to end the filibuster as a means of blocking nominees for U.S. appeals court judgeships. At a fundraiser earlier this month, he told liberal donors that he is ["remaking the courts."](#)

Recognizing that the filibuster stood in the way of a full radical makeover, [Obama personally lobbied](#) three Democratic Senators who were undecided about whether to eliminate it. Obama reportedly told them "how important this was to him and our ability to get anything done for the rest of the term."

The White House stressed the need to confirm three new judges for the D.C. Circuit, which rules on a wide swath of regulatory issues. Stymied by Congress, Obama plans to push his left-wing

agenda through regulatory overreach. He needs liberal judges to prevent the resulting rules from being overturned.

Now he will have three of them on the D.C. Circuit. Obama's mission for Patricia Millett, Cornelia Pollard, and Robert Wilkins could not be more clear. No one should doubt that they will carry it out. The left never screws up this sort of thing.

One consequence of ending the filibuster under these circumstances is to demonstrate just how much law has become politics by other means. And a consequence of that demonstration is to further undermine the public's trust in the judiciary and, ultimately, the law.

On balance, I consider this a good thing. Why? Because much of the important stuff that federal appeals courts do is, indeed, politics by other means, and the public needs to understand this. The more that federal judges lose their mystique, the more that realism is enhanced. The more that judicial decisions in important controversial cases are understood as ideologically driven, the better.

Not every federal appellate judge is an ideologue in a robe. Chief Justice Roberts wasn't when he broke with his non-liberal brethren and upheld the constitutionality of Obamacare's individual mandate, although he may have had politics on his mind. A few conservative judges on lower courts had upheld the mandate too.

Obama's nakedly ideological use of the federal judiciary won't turn every judge into a naked ideologue. But it may, and should, color their approach to particular cases. For example, it may cause the five non-liberal judges on the Supreme Court more actively to scrutinize the work of the D.C. Circuit, especially the work of Judges Millett, Pollard, and Wilkins.

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To be clear, I don't celebrate the fact that law has become a subdivision of partisan politics. I just think it's a good thing that this reality is being exposed.

NY Post

[Why Obama can't wave away this scandal](#)

The media shielded the president from every criticism — until he betrayed a liberal cause

by John Podhoretz

People are puzzled: Why would Barack Obama have lied about how wonderfully everything was going to go with ObamaCare when officials in his administration knew perfectly well that disaster was going to strike?

In one sense, the answer is simple: At the time, just before Oct. 1, Republicans were insisting ObamaCare be delayed or defunded. The president and his team weren't going to give the enemy the satisfaction of agreeing — or the potent ammunition that would have come from a rueful admission the system wasn't ready.

Today, a bipartisan agreement to delay ObamaCare seems like it would have been a pretty good deal. It didn't look that way at all in the last two weeks of September.

But there's a deeper reason he and his people lied: They did it because they could. They did it because nearly five years in the White House had given Obama and his team confidence they would not face the music and they could finesse the problems until they got fixed.

Consider the events that would have been unprecedented scandals in a Republican administration — with teams of reporters digging and scratching daily at every nook and cranny in every bureaucratic corridor — that have instead been covered dutifully but with relatively little passion and almost no follow-up. Why? Because it would have hurt Obama, that's why.

First, the Obama Justice Department.

Attorney General Eric Holder has survived three scandals that would have felled a Republican. His department attempted to soft-pedal its responsibility for the so-called "gunwalking" policy called Fast and Furious — which led to the murders of US border agents by Mexican drug-cartel members with guns effectively provided to the killers by the Justice Department.

He approved the secret surveillance of Fox News Channel reporter James Rosen in a leak investigation on the outrageous grounds that Rosen was a possible "co-conspirator" in an act of espionage. And he approved similar tactics against reporters at the Associated Press in another leak investigation.

Holder's still there. Obama defends him. When was the last time you heard Rosen's name mentioned, or the AP story referenced, or Fast and Furious come up?

Second, the Internal Revenue Service.

The IRS's own acknowledgement that it had targeted conservative groups with anti-liberal agendas has led to shamed retirements, hasty changes at the top of the agency and officials pleading the Fifth Amendment. These efforts were clearly undertaken to find means by which to aid Democratic efforts in the 2010 and 2012 election. One can only wonder at what would have been done to George W. Bush by the media had similar outrages been perpetrated on leftist groups in 2003 and 2004. Obama suffered . . . a little. A very little.

Third, the State Department.

The unconscionable behavior of State Department and White House officials during and after the killing of four Americans in Benghazi at the height of the 2012 race — during which the American people were deliberately and consciously misled — has had no lasting consequences whatsoever. Obama felt free to select the chief liar, Susan Rice, as his national-security adviser without experiencing a moment's fear about how her appointment might become a scandal.

Fourth, making law from the White House.

In 2011, the president said that owing to Republican recalcitrance in the House of Representatives, he would use his executive authority to get things done. And he has. As Tara Helfman writes in the December issue of *Commentary*, the magazine I edit, "Notwithstanding

President Obama's constitutional duty to enforce the law of the United States, where federal laws conflict with his policy preferences on gay marriage, illegal immigration and drug policy, the president has simply opted not to enforce or defend them."

Moreover, to strengthen his hand with Hispanic voters in 2012, he ordered the Justice Department to follow certain provisions of a law governing illegal immigrants that has yet to be approved by the Congress. That is unprecedented.

So, if you want to understand the blindness and arrogance of the Obama White House in failing to appreciate the wave of rage and disappointment and disgusted wonderment that would hit them in the wake of the ObamaCare rollout, you need only consider these factors.

He has always had the protection of his liberal base.

He has always had the protection of Senate Democrats, who have not acted in any way to trouble him regarding these scandals and who have impeded aggressive investigations into them.

And he has always had the protection of the mainstream media.

As a result, Barack Obama and his administration have said what they felt they needed to say and done what they felt they needed to do for immediate political gain. They did so this time. But this time was different, because this time he was mishandling and discrediting the great liberal desideratum of our time — a national health-care system.

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The Corner

The Tenth Life of an Obamacat

by Victor Davis Hanson

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Washington Post Blogs

[IRS e-mails show Cincinnati official fuming over Lois Lerner comments](#)

by Josh Hicks

A top manager from the Internal Revenue Service's Cincinnati office was "furious" last May over [allegations from Lois Lerner](#) that "front-line" employees were responsible for the agency's inappropriate actions toward conservative groups, according to e-mails from a former top official with the division.

Lerner, who headed the exempt-organizations office in Washington, D.C., blamed rank-and-file workers for the agency's behavior during a legal conference in which she apologized on behalf of the IRS. She said actions were misguided efforts by workers to deal with a flood of applications from tax-exemption applicants during the 2010 and 2012 election cycles.



IRS official Lois Lerner waits to testify at a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing.

Cynthia Thomas, a former manager with the IRS's exempt-organizations office in Cincinnati, fired off an e-mail to Lerner after the conference, complaining that the agency had blamed rank-and-file employees for its actions.

Thomas said Joseph Grant, who was Lerner's boss, had visited the Cincinnati office a year earlier to assure employees that they would not be blamed for the agency's mistakes. "Based on the [news] articles, Cincinnati wasn't publicly 'thrown under the bus' instead was hit by a convoy of mack trucks," she said.

Thomas's e-mail suggests high-ranking officials knew about the problems long before Lerner apologized for the activities and well in advance of a May 2013 [inspector general's report](#) that detailed them.

"How am I supposed to keep the low-level workers motivated when the public believes they are nothing more than low-level and now will have no respect for how they are working cases?" Thomas asked Lerner. "The attitude/morale is the lowest it has ever been."

[Lerner resigned](#) from the IRS in September in a move that Democrats described as proof that the administration has held high-ranking officials responsible for the mistakes. Grant retired from shortly after the release of the inspector general's report.

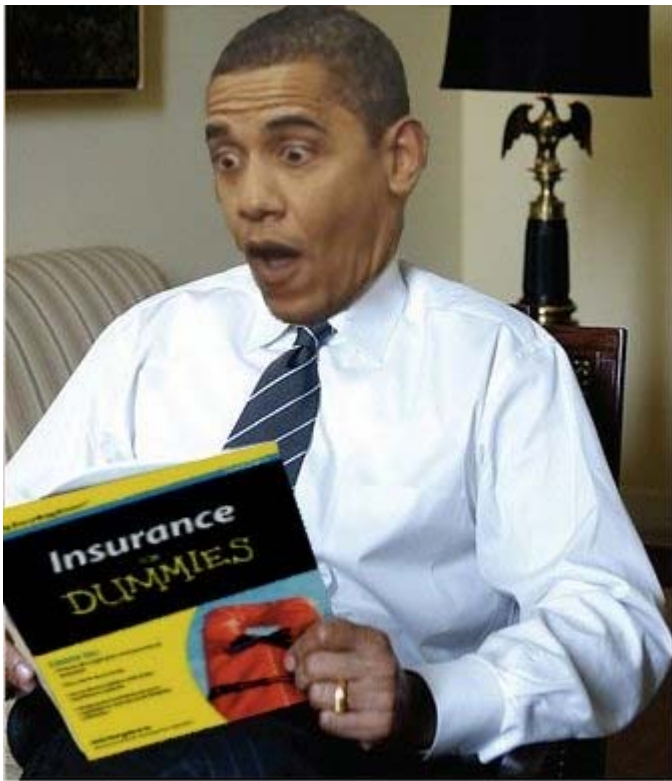
Republicans from the House Ways and Means Committee released Thomas's e-mail this week. In a statement on Tuesday, Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), the ranking member of the panel, accused GOP lawmakers of trying to reignite a controversy, saying they were "scraping the bottom of the barrel with this e-mail about internal unhappiness at the IRS."

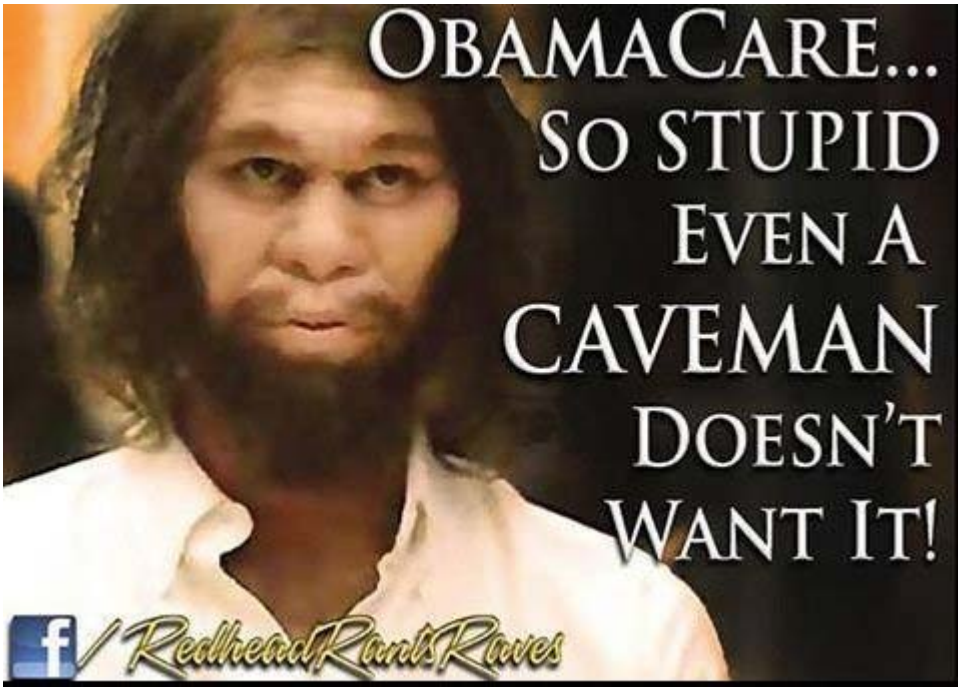
"The fact is that Lois Lerner was rightfully held responsible for gross mismanagement of the IRS tax-exempt division," Levin said. "There has been no evidence whatsoever to suggest any political motivation or outside involvement."

Lerner's attorney, William Taylor, declined to comment Wednesday on the email release.

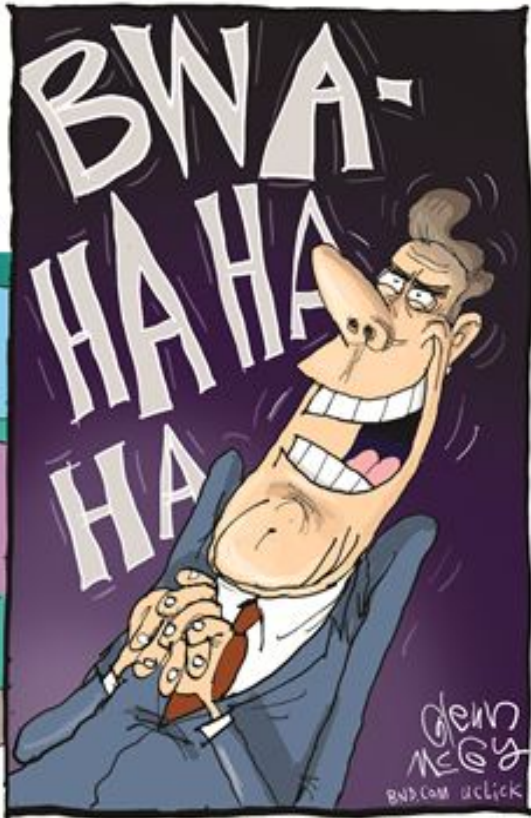
Among the other IRS officials involved in personnel moves after the controversy erupted were former acting IRS commissioner Steven Miller, who [resigned in May](#), and Holly Paz, another former official from the D.C. exempt-organizations office who was [replaced in June](#).

Thomas was promoted to a position in Washington, according to an aide from the Ways and Means Committee.





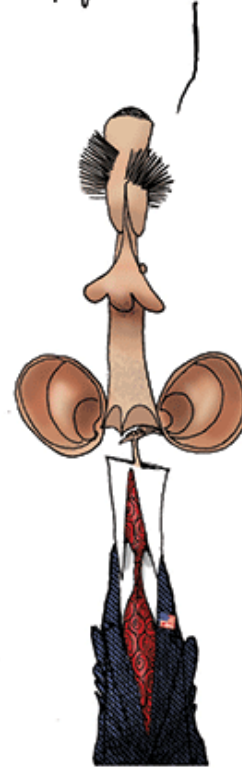
...IT TURNS OUT THAT THE DRAMATIC
DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT WE REPORTED
RIGHT BEFORE THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION WAS A BIG FABRICATED LIE.
WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS FRAUD THE
WHITEHOUSE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT...



FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO
OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS
CONTINENT, A NEW NATION CONCEIVED
IN LIBERTY, AND DEDICATED TO THE
PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED
EQUAL...



FOUR SCORE *and* SEVEN
PEOPLE *have* SUCCESSFULLY
signed up for OBAMACARE...



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