

January 23, 2014

Pickerhead didn't think anything sleazier than Terry McAuliffe could happen to Virginia. The indictments of Bob and Maureen McDonnell suggest it already had.

Byron York writes on the case against McDonnell.

*If the prosecutors' case in United States v. Robert F. McDonnell and Maureen G. McDonnell is correct, the corrupt acts of the 71st governor of Virginia and his wife had their beginning even before Bob McDonnell took the oath of office. Virginia's new First Couple allegedly hoped to start cashing in before they officially became the First Couple.*

*News reports give readers the basic outline of the prosecution, but one has to read the indictment itself -- it's just 43 pages -- to grasp the full extent of the McDonnells' alleged corruption. The gist of the case is that the governor and his wife, in debt and constantly worried about money, cultivated a "friendship" with Virginia pharmaceutical entrepreneur Jonnie Williams and almost immediately began asking him for money and gifts, at the same time holding out hope that the governor would help Williams' company, Star Scientific, win clinical trials for its main product, an anti-inflammatory diet supplement that Williams believed had the potential to treat all sorts of ailments.*

*McDonnell, who had been the attorney general of Virginia, was elected governor on Nov. 3, 2009. His victory was a huge bright spot for a Republican Party that had taken a beating in the 2008 elections and had no power in the face of President Obama and the Democratic majority in Congress. He was inaugurated on Jan. 16, 2010.*

*During the campaign, in March 2009, according to the indictment, Attorney General McDonnell's staff approached Williams — who is referred to throughout the indictment as "JW" — about McDonnell using Williams' private jet in the campaign. "Prior to this time," the indictment says, "McDonnell and JW had never met, and they had no personal or professional relationship."*

*According to the indictment, the two met briefly during the campaign but were basically strangers when McDonnell was elected governor. Then, in December 2009, when McDonnell was governor-elect, Williams asked to meet with McDonnell at an event at the Four Seasons Hotel in New York. At the meeting, Maureen McDonnell allegedly asked Williams for help buying a dress for the upcoming inauguration. Williams said yes. According to the indictment, Maureen McDonnell later told one of her husband's senior staffers, identified only as "JE," that Williams "had agreed to purchase a designer dress by Oscar de la Renta ... for the inauguration."*

*Remember — Bob McDonnell was not even governor yet, and his wife allegedly was already asking for favors. ...*

Turning to other corruption in our governments, Glenn Reynolds of Instapundit used his weekly USA column to discuss the seriousness of the IRS scandal and the subsequent loss of faith in the government from both the IRS and NSA scandals.

*At a tax symposium at Pepperdine Law School last week, former IRS chief counsel Donald Korb was asked, "On a scale of 1-10 ... how damaging is the current IRS scandal?"*

His answer: 9.5. Other tax experts on the panel called it "awful," and said that it has done "tremendous damage."

*I think that's right. And I think that the damage extends well beyond the Internal Revenue Service. In fact, I think that the government agency suffering the most damage isn't the IRS, but the National Security Agency. Because the NSA, even more than the IRS, depends on public trust. And now that the IRS has been revealed to be a political weapon, it's much harder for people to have faith in the NSA.*

As I warned President Obama back in 2009 after he "joked" about having his enemies audited, the IRS depends on trust:

*"Should the IRS come to be seen as just a bunch of enforcers for whoever is in political power, the result would be an enormous loss of legitimacy for the tax system. Our income-tax system is based on voluntary compliance and honest reporting by citizens. It couldn't possibly function if most people decided to cheat. Sure, the system is backed up by the dreaded IRS audit. But the threat is, while not exactly hollow, limited: The IRS can't audit more than a tiny fraction of taxpayers. If Americans started acting like Italians, who famously see tax evasion as a national pastime, the system would collapse."*

*Since then, of course, the new "weaponized IRS" has, in fact, come to be seen as illegitimate by many more Americans. ...*

Sherman Frederick is tired of the whining.

*... Frankly, I'm weary of hearing Obama tell us how hard his job is.*

*It's not that I fault the president for his deliberate nature. I appreciate thoughtful decision-making over, say, the appearance of bluster for bluster's sake.*

*But, Mr. President, hard is no excuse. Get it done or get out of the way.*

*What is especially irritating about the Obama shtick, as we enter the sixth year of his tedious presidency, is the conceit that he's somehow uniquely gifted to solve the world's problems, if only circumstances would give him half a chance.*

*Consider the summer of 2010. That was supposed to be the "summer of recovery." It never happened. And Obama's staff became disillusioned about the unexpected stuff with which the president was forced to cope.*

*The BP oil spill just wouldn't stop. Rolling Stone magazine carried a story about Gen. Stanley McChrystal that eventually required the president to fire him and replace him with Gen. David Petraeus, who led the Iraq surge that Obama did not support. It was a humbling moment for "The One."*

*Politico carried a story about how "privately, Obama advisers talk of being prisoners to uncontrollable events and deeply uncertain about how all of this will play out."*

*To which one can only reply: "Good lord, these guys do drink their own bathwater."*

*The Obama crew really believes that if it were not for these darned unexpected events, President Obama could get on track and use his superpowers to heal the planet and otherwise make himself available for the world to touch the hem of his garment. ...*

The crybaby shtick is not enough, now President Bystander is playing the race card. **Jason Riley** with the story.

*In September 2009, less than a year after he won the keys to the White House, Barack Obama appeared on the "The Late Show," where David Letterman asked the president if criticism of his policies was driven by racism, as former President Jimmy Carter and some members of Congress were suggesting.*

*"I think it's important to realize that I was actually black before the election," Mr. Obama quipped. His response was both funny and pointed. Given that a majority-white country had just elected a black man president, it was a little ridiculous to suggest that racial animosity was driving his critics, and Mr. Obama was right not to take the bait. Instead, he told Mr. Letterman that the criticism mostly reflected policy differences and came with the job. "One of the things that you sign up for in politics is that folks yell at you," he said.*

*But it seems that Mr. Obama is in a less gracious mood these days. In an interview with the New Yorker magazine that appeared over the weekend, the president said his skin color may help explain his declining job-approval rating. ...*

**Michael Barone** says even the young are getting tired of President Excuse-Monger; especially so since war has been declared on their generation.

*What do young Americans want? Something different from what they've been getting from the president they voted for by such large margins.*

*Evidence comes in from various polls. Voters under 30, the Millennial generation, produced numbers for Barack Obama 13 percentage points above the national average in 2008 and 9 points above in 2012.*

*But in recent polls, Obama approval among those under 30 has been higher than the national average by only 1 percentage point (Quinnipiac), 2 points (ABC/Washington Post) and 3 points (YouGov/Economist).*

*Those differences are statistically significant. And that's politically significant, since a higher percentage of Millennials than of the general population are Hispanic or black.*

*The reasons for Millennials' decreased approval of Obama become clear from a Harvard Institute of Politics poll of 18- to 29-year-olds conducted in November.*

*That poll shows Obama's job approval dipping to 41 percent, down from 52 percent in April 2013 and the lowest rating in any HIOP survey. ...*

**National Interest** piece on the disrespect of our Constitution.

*The pen is mightier than the sword. Couple it with a phone and it becomes mightier than Congress—and perhaps even the Constitution.*

*That's one way of interpreting President Obama's promise to use some combination of the bully pulpit and executive orders to bypass Congress. "I've got a pen and I've got a phone," Obama said at the year's first Cabinet meeting. "We are not just going to be waiting for legislation in order to make sure that we're providing Americans the kind of help that they need."*

*After all, why wait? We are the ones we have been waiting for.*

*While the president also stressed he was "looking forward to working with Democrats and Republicans, House members and Senate members," his remarks were redolent of Clinton aide Paul Begala's enthusiastic—if constitutionally illiterate—celebration of executive orders: "Stroke of the pen. Law of the land. Kind of cool."*

*But in an administration that increasingly seems to wing it when it comes to limits on its own power, it may not be the law or the land or particularly cool. Even the liberal justices of the Supreme Court appeared skeptical of the White House's expansive claims of recess appointment powers during oral arguments Monday. ...*

That constitutional disregard has Nat Hentoff, liberal icon and civil libertarian extraordinaire, calling for impeachment. **WND News** has the story.

*Worse than Richard Nixon. An unprecedented abuse of powers. The most un-American president in the nation's history.*

*Nat Hentoff does not think much of President Obama.*

*And now, the famous journalist says it is time to begin looking into impeachment.*

*Hentoff sees the biggest problem as Obama's penchant to rule by executive order when he can't convince Congress to do things his way.*

*The issue jumped back into the headlines last week when, just before his first Cabinet meeting of 2014, Obama said, "I've got a pen and I've got a phone ... and I can use that pen to sign executive orders and take executive actions."*

*"Apparently he doesn't give one damn about the separation of powers," Hentoff told WND. "Never before in our history has a president done these things."*

*And just to make sure everyone knew how extremely serious he regarded the situation, the journalist added, "This is the worst state, I think, the country has ever been in."*

*Many have regarded Hentoff as the conscience of civil libertarianism and liberalism for decades.*

*Recognized as one of the foremost authorities on the Bill of Rights and the Supreme Court, Hentoff was a columnist and staff writer with The Village Voice for 51 years, from 1957 until 2008, when his columns began appearing in WND. ...*

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## Examiner

### [The ugly, sordid, damning details in the Bob McDonnell indictment](#)

by Byron York

If the prosecutors' case in *United States v. Robert F. McDonnell and Maureen G. McDonnell* is correct, the corrupt acts of the 71st governor of Virginia and his wife had their beginning even before Bob McDonnell took the oath of office. Virginia's new First Couple allegedly hoped to start cashing in before they officially became the First Couple.

News reports give readers the basic outline of the prosecution, but one has to read the indictment itself -- it's just 43 pages -- to grasp the full extent of the McDonnells' alleged [corruption](#). The gist of the case is that the governor and his wife, in debt and constantly worried about money, cultivated a "friendship" with Virginia pharmaceutical entrepreneur Jonnie Williams and almost immediately began asking him for money and gifts, at the same time holding out hope that the governor would help Williams' company, Star Scientific, win clinical trials for its main product, an anti-inflammatory diet supplement that Williams believed had the potential to treat all sorts of ailments.

McDonnell, who had been the attorney general of Virginia, was elected governor on Nov. 3, 2009. His victory was a huge bright spot for a Republican Party that had taken a beating in the 2008 elections and had no power in the face of [President Obama](#) and the Democratic majority in [Congress](#). He was inaugurated on Jan. 16, 2010.

During the campaign, in March 2009, according to the indictment, Attorney General McDonnell's staff approached Williams — who is referred to throughout the indictment as "JW" — about McDonnell using Williams' private jet in the campaign. "Prior to this time," the indictment says, "McDonnell and JW had never met, and they had no personal or professional relationship."

According to the indictment, the two met briefly during the campaign but were basically strangers when McDonnell was elected governor. Then, in December 2009, when McDonnell was governor-elect, Williams asked to meet with McDonnell at an event at the Four Seasons Hotel in New York. At the meeting, Maureen McDonnell allegedly asked Williams for help buying a dress for the upcoming inauguration. Williams said yes. According to the indictment, Maureen McDonnell later told one of her husband's senior staffers, identified only as "JE," that Williams "had agreed to purchase a designer dress by Oscar de la Renta ... for the inauguration."

Remember — Bob McDonnell was not even governor yet, and his wife allegedly was already asking for favors. When JE, the staffer, expressed reservations about the idea, finally telling Mrs. McDonnell that it was "inappropriate and should not be done," the soon-to-be first lady backed off, but was angry at her husband's staff. Not long later, she sent JE an email, which is included in the indictment:

I need to talk to you about Inaugural clothing budget. I need answers and Bob is screaming about the thousands I'm charging up in credit card debt. We are broke, have an unconscionable amount in credit card debt already, and this Inaugural is killing us!! I need answers and I need help, and I need to get this done.

In the end, Mrs. McDonnell did not accept the dress from Williams but allegedly said she would take a "rain check."

From there it was off to the races. In October 2010, Williams let McDonnell use his plane for a political trip to California. In the spring of 2011, according to the indictment, Mrs. McDonnell decided to collect on the "rain check." From the indictment:

On or about April 11, 2011, MAUREEN MCDONNELL contacted JW and requested that he take her shopping in New York City for the designer dress by Oscar de la Renta. MAUREEN MCDONNELL explained that she and ROBERT MCDONNELL were attending a political event at the Union League Club in New York City on April 13, 2011, and that she would ensure that JW was seated next to ROBERT MCDONNELL at the event. JW agreed to pay for the shopping trip.

On or about April 13, 2011, JW accompanied MAUREEN MCDONNELL to several luxury stores in New York City, including Oscar de la Renta, Louis Vuitton, and Bergdorf Goodman. MAUREEN MCDONNELL informed JW that she needed dresses and accessories for her daughter's upcoming wedding and for her and ROBERT MCDONNELL'S upcoming anniversary party. JW paid for the entire luxury shopping trip for MAUREEN MCDONNELL and spent approximately \$10,999 at Oscar de la Renta, approximately \$5,685 at Louis Vuitton, and approximately \$2,604 at Bergdorf Goodman. As promised by MAUREEN MCDONNELL, JW was seated next to ROBERT MCDONNELL at the Union League Club event later that evening.

According to the indictment, Williams used his time near the governor to tout his company's products -- something called CigRx, to help people stop [smoking](#), and an anti-inflammatory called Anatabloc. Williams wanted a scientific seal of approval attesting to his products' effectiveness, and the idea was for McDonnell to push one of the universities in the Virginia system to do a clinical study.

The next month, according to the indictment, Maureen McDonnell had a heart-to-heart with Williams, confessing to him that that family was in deep financial trouble. They had rental properties in Virginia Beach that weren't doing well in the economic downturn and were draining their bank account, plus plenty of other expenses they couldn't cover. She asked for a \$50,000 loan. According to the indictment, she "told JW that she could help Star Scientific but that she needed JW's financial assistance." At the same meeting, Mrs. McDonnell allegedly asked Williams for another \$15,000 to cover expenses for her daughter's upcoming wedding.

Williams later talked directly to the governor about the couple's financial problems, and agreed to loan the money — no paperwork involved. At the same time, according to the indictment, McDonnell starting bugging Virginia state health officials to take a look at Star Scientific's products.

According to prosecutors, the McDonnells started withdrawing from the Williams piggy bank in ways large and small. In May 2011, the governor took his sons to play at an exclusive golf course called Kinloch. Williams wasn't there, but the McDonnells charged it all to him: "approximately \$1,200 in greens fees, \$500 in caddie fees, \$410 in merchandise at the pro shop, and \$270 in food and beverages," according to the indictment — a total of \$2,380.

In July 2011, the McDonnell family spent a few days at Williams' lavish home at Virginia's Smith Mountain Lake. This is a brief look at what happened, again from the indictment:

MAUREEN MCDONNELL had previously called JW to ask whether JW's Ferrari would be at the house for ROBERT MCDONNELL'S use. JW arranged to have a Star Scientific employee transport the Ferrari from Richmond to his Smith Mountain Lake house so that the defendants could use the Ferrari during their vacation. In addition, JW rented a boat specifically for the defendants' use during the vacation. On or about July 31, 2011, at approximately 7:47 p.m., MAUREEN MCDONNELL sent an email to JW that contained no text but had an attached picture of ROBERT MCDONNELL driving JW's Ferrari.

A day or two later, Maureen McDonnell allegedly met with Williams and noticed Williams was wearing a Rolex watch. She said she wanted to get one for her husband — would Williams mind buying it? She also wanted it engraved, with "71st Governor of Virginia" on the back. Williams bought the watch. In the next month, August 2011, the McDonnell men had three more pricey golf outings at Kinloch, all charged to Williams.

In February 2012, according to the indictment, McDonnell needed — and received — another infusion of \$50,000 from Williams to keep the rental properties afloat. In May 2012, Williams sent another \$20,000.

Williams also paid for a trip to a Cape Cod resort for the McDonnells. And there was also lots of small stuff at home, according to the indictment:

From in or about November 2012 through in or about March 2013, the defendants obtained yard work and other miscellaneous home repairs at their personal residence from one of JW's brothers. Those services included the installation of a hot tub cover that JW purchased for the defendants and work to re-stain the defendants' deck at their personal residence.

In January 2013, according to the indictment, Maureen McDonnell called Williams' assistant and asked that Williams buy airline tickets for two of the McDonnells' daughters to go to a bachelorette party in Savannah, Ga. Williams bought the tickets.

What did Williams get in return for all his money? According to the indictment, McDonnell allegedly used his influence to hold events related to Williams' products, to try to jump-start clinical trials, to connect Williams with state health officials. Things went so far that at times, it seemed as if the governor of Virginia was a pitchman in a diet supplement infomercial. From the indictment:

On or about March 21, 2012, ROBERT MCDONNELL met with the Virginia Secretary of Administration to discuss the Virginia state employee health plan and ways to reduce healthcare costs in Virginia. During the meeting, ROBERT MCDONNELL pulled some Anatabloc out of his pocket and told the Secretary of Administration and one of her staff members that Anatabloc had beneficial health effects, that he personally took Anatabloc, and that it was working well for him. ROBERT MCDONNELL asked the Secretary of Administration and her staff member to reach out to the "Anatabloc people" and meet with them to discuss Anatabloc.

There are plenty of other allegations in the indictment, most importantly Star Scientific stock transactions that prosecutors say the McDonnells tried to hide from state disclosure

requirements. But the heart of the case is the McDonnells' unending requests for more money, more merchandise, more everything from Williams.

A former governor can make a lot of money. He can cash in on the influence he still has after leaving the statehouse. But if the indictment is correct, the McDonnells, in debt and wanting to drive Ferraris and wear Rolexes and play golf at swanky courses, couldn't wait, even four years, for the payoff. And that is the story of *United States v. Robert F. McDonnell and Maureen G. McDonnell*.

## USA Today

### Government conspiracy theories aren't crazy

***From the IRS to the NSA, Americans have reasons not to trust the Obama Administration.***

by Glenn Harlan Reynolds

At a [tax symposium](#) at Pepperdine Law School last week, former IRS chief counsel [Donald Korb](#) was asked, "On a scale of 1-10 ... how damaging is the current IRS scandal?"

[His answer: 9.5.](#) Other tax experts on the panel called it "awful," and said that it has done "tremendous damage."

I think that's right. And I think that the damage extends well beyond the Internal Revenue Service. In fact, I think that the government agency suffering the most damage isn't the IRS, but the National Security Agency. Because the NSA, even more than the IRS, depends on public trust. And now that the IRS has been revealed to be a political weapon, it's much harder for people to have faith in the NSA.

[As I warned President Obama](#) back in 2009 after he "joked" about having his enemies audited, the IRS depends on trust:

Should the IRS come to be seen as just a bunch of enforcers for whoever is in political power, the result would be an enormous loss of legitimacy for the tax system. Our income-tax system is based on voluntary compliance and honest reporting by citizens. It couldn't possibly function if most people decided to cheat. Sure, the system is backed up by the dreaded IRS audit. But the threat is, while not exactly hollow, limited: The IRS can't audit more than a tiny fraction of taxpayers. If Americans started acting like Italians, who famously see tax evasion as a national pastime, the system would collapse.

Since then, of course, the new "weaponized IRS" has, in fact, come to be seen as illegitimate by many more Americans. I suspect that, over time, this loss of moral legitimacy will cause many to base their tax strategies on what they think they can get away with, not on what they're entitled to. And when they hear of someone being audited, many Americans will ask not "what did he do wrong?" but "who in government did he offend?"

This is particularly true since the Obama administration is currently changing IRS rules to [muzzle Tea Partiers](#).



As [Kimberley Strassel reports](#) in the *Wall Street Journal*, Obama's negotiating strategy on the omnibus spending bill that just passed revolved around using the IRS to keep Tea Party groups silenced:

One of the biggest fights was over GOP efforts to include language to stop the IRS from instituting a new round of 501(c)(4) targeting. The White House is so counting on the tax agency to muzzle its political opponents that it willingly sacrificed any manner of its own priorities to keep the muzzle in place. ... It's IRS targeting all over again, only this time by administration design and with the raw political goal — as House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp (R-Mich.) notes — of putting 'Tea Party groups out of business.'

Meanwhile, the person chosen to "investigate" the IRS's targeting of Tea Party groups in 2010-2012 is Barbara Bosserman, a ["long-time Obama campaign donor."](#) So the IRS's credibility is in no danger of being rebuilt any time soon.

Now comes the poor NSA. With the ongoing revelations that it has been vacuuming up telephone conversations from, basically, every American, the thing it needs most is for people to trust that it wouldn't abuse these huge powers. The problem is, if the IRS can be weaponized — and it clearly has been — how confident can we be that the NSA won't be? How confident, for that matter, can we be that it hasn't been politically weaponized already?

Spend a little while on Twitter or in Internet comment sections and you'll see a significant number of people who think that the NSA may have been relaying intelligence about the Mitt Romney campaign to Obama operatives, or that Chief Justice John Roberts' sudden about-face in the Obamacare case might have been driven by some sort of NSA-facilitated blackmail.

A year ago, these kinds of comments would have been dismissable as paranoid conspiracy theory. But now, while I still don't think they're true, they're no longer obviously crazy. And that's Obama's legacy: a government that makes paranoid conspiracy theories seem possibly sane.

The problem with government is that to be trusted, you have to be trustworthy. And the problem with the Obama administration is that, to a greater extent than any since Nixon's, it is not. Do not be surprised if the result is that people mistrust those in authority, and order their lives accordingly. Such an outcome is bad for America, but bad governance has its consequences.

*Glenn Harlan Reynolds is professor of law at the University of Tennessee and the author of [The New School](#): How the Information Age Will Save American Education from Itself. He blogs at [InstaPundit.com](#).*

## **Las Vegas Review-Journal** **[Stop whining, Mr. President](#)** by Sherman Frederick

It's a tough job being president. I know this because Barack Obama says so — all the time.

When President Obama failed to spark the economy in the time promised, he complained that the economy was in worse shape than he imagined as a candidate. It's a deep hole and pulling us out will be hard, he said.

When he flubbed the launch of a website for the Affordable Care Act — both the English version and the Spanish version — he excused himself, saying health care is complicated and hard.

When whistle-blower Edward Snowden exposed the disconnect between the president's words and his actions via the National Security Agency, the president told us sophisticated technology makes safety and privacy hard to balance.

Foreign policy speeches do not a safer world make. Our terrorist enemies are on the rise under this president's limp grip. He tells us stopping Iran from developing nuclear weapons will be hard.

Now come the stunning revelations in a book from ex-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates that President Obama didn't believe in his own Afghanistan policy. Men died for a policy Gates says the president was skeptical of, "if not outright convinced it would fail."

In response to Gates' memoir, Obama said — wait for it — war is hard.

War is hard? That's the takeaway?

Frankly, I'm weary of hearing Obama tell us how hard his job is.

It's not that I fault the president for his deliberate nature. I appreciate thoughtful decision-making over, say, the appearance of bluster for bluster's sake.

But, Mr. President, hard is no excuse. Get it done or get out of the way.

What is especially irritating about the Obama shtick, as we enter the sixth year of his tedious presidency, is the conceit that he's somehow uniquely gifted to solve the world's problems, if only circumstances would give him half a chance.

Consider the summer of 2010. That was supposed to be the "summer of recovery." It never happened. And Obama's staff became disillusioned about the unexpected stuff with which the president was forced to cope.

The BP oil spill just wouldn't stop. Rolling Stone magazine carried a story about Gen. Stanley McChrystal that eventually required the president to fire him and replace him with Gen. David Petraeus, who led the Iraq surge that Obama did not support. It was a humbling moment for "The One."

Politico carried a story about how "privately, Obama advisers talk of being prisoners to uncontrollable events and deeply uncertain about how all of this will play out."

To which one can only reply: "Good lord, these guys do drink their own bathwater."

The Obama crew really believes that if it were not for these darned unexpected events, President Obama could get on track and use his superpowers to heal the planet and otherwise make himself available for the world to touch the hem of his garment.

Well, it's 2014, and the economy is still on life support. Syria, Egypt, Libya, Benghazi, Snowden, IRS-gate, Associated Press-gate, Fast and Furious and healthcare.gov keep the administration hopping. Some events were self-inflicted. Some stuff just happened, like the bumper sticker warns.

Be it ineptness or fate, this has become the great miscalculation of Obama. His presidency is not a college class in which the curriculum is set. He may want to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony, but snow-white turtledoves are pretty few and far between these days.

In the real world, an American president's character is always tested. Some measure up. Some don't.

The lesson Obama supporters need to learn is that this president is nothing special. He's not a superhero, nor is he a villain.

He's just a man who, after five years on the job, still can't find his footing. He's largely ignorant of his own administration's actions, or so he says. Every external crisis catches him flat-footed.

Enough already. We get it, Mr. President. This job is hard for you.

Then work harder and, please, stop whining.

## **WSJ - Political Diary** **[Obama Plays the Race Card](#)** by Jason L. Riley

In September 2009, less than a year after he won the keys to the White House, [Barack Obama](#) appeared on the "The Late Show," where [David Letterman](#) asked the president if criticism of his policies was driven by racism, as former President [Jimmy Carter](#) and some members of Congress were suggesting.

"I think it's important to realize that I was actually black before the election," Mr. Obama quipped. His response was both funny and pointed. Given that a majority-white country had just elected a black man president, it was a little ridiculous to suggest that racial animosity was driving his critics, and Mr. Obama was right not to take the bait. Instead, he told Mr. Letterman that the criticism mostly reflected policy differences and came with the job. "One of the things that you sign up for in politics is that folks yell at you," he said.

But it seems that Mr. Obama is in a less gracious mood these days. In an interview with the New Yorker magazine that appeared over the weekend, the president said his skin color may help explain his declining job-approval rating. "There's no doubt that there's some folks who just really dislike me because they don't like the idea of a black president," Mr. Obama said. "Now, the flip side of it is there are some black folks and maybe some white folks who really like me and give me the benefit of the doubt precisely because I'm a black president."

Mr. Obama's statement is no doubt true, but it's an unconvincing explanation of his declining approval numbers, which are near an all-time low for his presidency. For most of his time in

office, Mr. Obama's personal popularity has outpaced his job-approval numbers, demonstrating that voters make a distinction between the president and his policies. The notion that, five years into his presidency, the country is suddenly souring on Mr. Obama *due to his race* doesn't stand up to scrutiny.

The president is playing the race card to divert attention away from his failed policies and assorted scandals. Economic growth is slow. Job creation is slower. [ObamaCare](#) has been a disaster. The administration lied about Benghazi. No one is being held accountable for IRS snooping. And that's the short list.

Mr. Obama's policies aren't working and he's losing the trust of voters. His job-approval numbers reflect this reality. His race is not the issue. To paraphrase the president, he was black before he was re-elected, too.

## Examiner

### [Millennials unhappy with Obama's war on the young](#)

by Michael Barone

What do young Americans want? Something different from what they've been getting from the president they voted for by such large margins.

Evidence comes in from various [polls](#). Voters under 30, the Millennial generation, produced numbers for [Barack Obama](#) 13 percentage points above the national average in 2008 and 9 points above in 2012.

But in recent polls, Obama approval among those under 30 has been higher than the national average by only 1 percentage point ([Quinnipiac](#)), 2 points ([ABC/Washington Post](#)) and 3 points ([YouGov/Economist](#)).

Those differences are statistically significant. And that's politically significant, since a higher percentage of Millennials than of the general population are Hispanic or black.

The reasons for Millennials' decreased approval of Obama become clear from a [Harvard Institute of Politics poll](#) of 18- to 29-year-olds conducted in November.

That poll shows Obama's job approval dipping to 41 percent, down from 52 percent in April 2013 and the lowest rating in any HIOP survey.

One reason for the decline is [Obamacare](#). Only 38 percent approved of Obamacare (39 percent approved of "the Affordable Care Act"). Only 29 percent of those who were uninsured said they would definitely or probably enroll in the [health insurance exchanges](#).

Those results were registered five to nine weeks after the Oct. 1 [healthcare.gov](#) rollout. Tech-savvy Millennials must have been astonished that government produced a website that didn't work.

They also perceived, accurately, that Obamacare health insurance would cost them a lot. The law passed by Democrats elected in large part with Millennial votes was designed to have people under 30 [subsidize](#) the insurance premiums of those older, less healthy people over 50.

The old tend to have significant net worth, and the young -- with [credit card](#) and [student loan debt](#) -- tend to owe more than they own. Evidently the Obama Democrats think it's progressive for the young to subsidize the working-age old.

That after all is the essence of [Social Security](#), whose benefits some left-wing Democrats want to increase.

But Millennials, whose penchant for volunteering is admirably high, are not being simply selfish. The Harvard survey also finds that they tend to believe, by a 44-to-17-percent margin, that the quality of their health care will get worse under Obamacare.

That's speculation, of course. But it suggests a healthy skepticism about the ability of a government, a government that lied about whether you could keep your insurance and your doctor and couldn't construct a workable website, to produce a system that will improve service delivery.

That skepticism may owe something to young Americans' experience with student loans. Some 57 percent of the Harvard study Millennials say that student loan debt is a major problem for young people. The responses don't vary much by political party identification.

Once again, the Millennials have a point. The Obama administration did not initiate government student loans, but it continues to speak of them approvingly.

Yet it's obvious that the vast sums government-subsidized student loans have pumped into higher education over the last three decades have been largely captured by [colleges and universities](#) and transformed into administrative bloat.

Economics blogger [Timothy Taylor notes](#) that if you count prices in 1982-84 as 100, the average cost of all items in the consumer price index increased to 231 in September 2012. [Energy](#), [housing](#) and [transportation](#) all increased about that much.

But college and tuition fees increased to 706 — seven times the level when the government started pumping money into higher ed. Medical care increased to more than 400.

Some things that young people buy increased much less — apparel (127), toys (53) and televisions (5, thanks to quality improvement).

But suddenly, in their early adult years, Millennials find themselves socked with the inflated costs of higher education and, thanks to Obamacare, those of older people's health care.

In the meantime, in the Obama new normal economy, they aren't finding jobs — and may be giving up on looking for them.

[Labor force](#) participation among those 55 and over has held steady since 2009. But labor force participation among those younger has been declining, as have earnings of college graduates.

The combination of higher education and health care costs and the new normal economy amount to what analyst Walter Russell Mead calls “the war on the young.”

No wonder they're unhappy with the president who promised hope and change. Maybe they're in the market for an alternative.

## National Interest

### Obama Is Disrespecting the Constitution

by W. James Antle III

The pen is mightier than the sword. Couple it with a phone and it becomes mightier than Congress—and perhaps even the Constitution.

That's one way of interpreting President Obama's promise to use some combination of the bully pulpit and executive orders to bypass Congress. “I've got a pen and I've got a phone,” Obama said at the year's first Cabinet meeting. “We are not just going to be waiting for legislation in order to make sure that we're providing Americans the kind of help that they need.”

After all, why wait? We are the ones we have been waiting for.

While the president also stressed he was “looking forward to working with Democrats and Republicans, House members and Senate members,” his remarks were redolent of Clinton aide Paul Begala's enthusiastic—if constitutionally illiterate—[celebration](#) of executive orders: “Stroke of the pen. Law of the land. Kind of cool.”

But in an administration that increasingly seems to wing it when it comes to limits on its own power, it may not be the law or the land or particularly cool. Even the liberal justices of the Supreme Court appeared skeptical of the White House's expansive claims of recess appointment powers during oral arguments Monday.

That's no guarantee the court will overturn the suspect recess appointments. After all, the justices—even the liberal ones—once seemed equally dubious of the administration's constitutional arguments for Obamacare. But the health care law is still with us, littering the country with insurance cancellation notices and error messages.

Constitutional niceties don't trouble the Obama administration. Though, to be fair, they aren't a major concern of many of its opponents either. Witness former Bush administration official John Yoo, who was [very troubled](#) by Obama's recess appointments, [defending](#) the NSA surveillance program.

No constitutional violations here. Move along, citizen.

When I wrote a [book](#) about the political prospects of limited government, a reviewer complained I never described what a less gargantuan government should look like: “He kind of vaguely implies that we should go back to doing what we did in ‘the good old days,’ as if nothing had changed since 1780 when the Constitution was written and the U. S. was an agrarian nation of 3 million.”

As if a diverse nation of 300 million people with an advanced economy is more conducive to centralized command and control! But desiring limited government—or even just lawful government—doesn't mean we are forever frozen in George Washington's first term. It does, however, require a stability in the process for delegating powers to government, because the tendency to usurp power hasn't changed since the founding of the republic.

Elites chafe at limits on government power. The limits tend to frustrate exciting policy debates with boring, stifling procedures and processes. From *New York Times* columnist [Thomas Friedman](#) to United Nations climate chief [Christiana Figueres](#), there's even a little longing for Communist China.

“One-party autocracy certainly has its drawbacks,” Friedman allows. “But when it is led by a reasonably enlightened group of people, as China is today, it can also have great advantages.” Oh, to be Beijing for a day. Or Tiananmen Square, minus the tanks.

Some people aren't embarrassed to call for virtually unlimited government. *Rolling Stone* [published](#) the thoughts of one Jesse Myerson, who believes millennials should be championing such economic reforms as the abolition of private property and Social Security for everyone. “Because as much as unemployment blows,” Myerson reasoned, “so do jobs.”

In response to critics of his article, which included people who happened to live through the twentieth century, Myerson [lamented](#), “What they don't seem to understand is: I really am very nice and don't want gulags.”

The planted axiom is that only private sector actors, like greedy Wall Street bankers and corporate CEOs, aren't nice. People who work in government are almost uniformly nice, altruistic guardians of the public interest. But such sentiments inevitably run into a traffic jam on the George Washington Bridge, where New Jersey officials—with or without Gov. Chris Christie's knowledge—appear to have closed access lanes to punish the constituents of a mayor who didn't endorse Christie for reelection.

Traffic jams fall well short of the gulag. But they are one of many little ways that politicians and bureaucrats can use government to reward their friends and punish their enemies. You can try to stop abuses of power. Given the reality of human nature, it might be better just to limit the power.

That's not to say that only politicians and bureaucrats behave badly. The private sector abuses that send people looking to Washington or their state capitols for relief are often real. But as no less a friend of energetic government and foe of big business as the *Nation* magazine recently [pointed out](#), “While certainly no angel, Facebook can't arrest you, put you on the No-Fly list with no recourse, seize your property or put you under investigation, audit your finances, imprison you without trial as a terrorist, or order you assassinated by drone.”

And that, in a nutshell, describes the need for limited government.

*W. James Antle III is editor of the Daily Caller News Foundation and author of the new book [Devouring Freedom: Can Big Government Ever Be Stopped?](#)*



## WND News

### Liberal icon urges Obama impeachment

*'The most destructive, dangerous president we've ever had'*

by Garth Kant

Worse than Richard Nixon. An unprecedented abuse of powers. The most un-American president in the nation's history.



*President Richard Nixon*

Nat Hentoff does not think much of President Obama.

And now, the famous journalist says it is time to begin looking into impeachment.

Hentoff sees the biggest problem as Obama's penchant to rule by executive order when he can't convince Congress to do things his way.

The issue jumped back into the headlines last week when, just before his first Cabinet meeting of 2014, [Obama said](#), "I've got a pen and I've got a phone ... and I can use that pen to sign executive orders and take executive actions."

"Apparently he doesn't give one damn about the separation of powers," Hentoff told WND. "Never before in our history has a president done these things."

And just to make sure everyone knew how extremely serious he regarded the situation, the journalist added, "This is the worst state, I think, the country has ever been in."



*President Barack Obama*



Many have regarded Hentoff as the conscience of civil libertarianism and liberalism for decades.

Recognized as one of the foremost authorities on the Bill of Rights and the Supreme Court, Hentoff was a columnist and staff writer with *The Village Voice* for 51 years, from 1957 until 2008, when his columns began appearing in *WND*.

Hentoff left the *Voice* after he looked into the abortion industry, was shocked by what he found and had a falling-out with colleagues.

The First Amendment expert still hews left on many issues, railing against former President George W. Bush, former Vice President Dick Cheney, the prison at Guantanamo Bay and the National Defense Authorization Act.

But he hasn't liked Obama from the start.

"Within a few months after he was elected, I wrote a column saying he was going to be the most destructive, dangerous president we've ever had," he said.

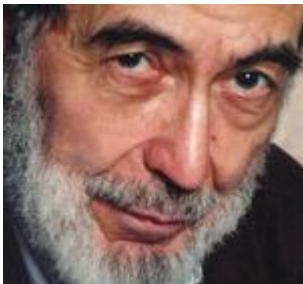
Hentoff said people he'd known for years told him to stop being so negative and to give Obama a chance.

"Well, we've given him a chance. I understated the case a little."

In other words, Hentoff thinks Obama is the most dangerous and destructive president ever.

And, that's why the veteran journalist thinks it's time to begin looking into impeachment.

"He has *no right* to do these executive orders," Hentoff insisted, his voice reaching a crescendo of indignation.



*Nat Hentoff*

He says Obama gets away with it only because there is no outrage in Congress, no coverage by the media and no knowledge by the public.

"He's in a position now where he figures he's going to do whatever he wants to do."

In fact, Hentoff said, Obama doesn't even pretend to care about the separation of powers between the executive branch and Congress anymore, because "He's the boss and hardly anybody cares enough" to stop him.

The most well-known [examples of Obama changing or issuing laws](#) with the stroke of a pen by issuing executive orders include:

- Delaying the employer mandate in Obamacare
- Changing the types of plans available under Obamacare
- Ensuring abortions would be covered under Obamacare
- Enacting key provisions of the failed Dream Act to halt deportations of illegal immigrants
- Enacting stricter gun-control measures
- Sealing presidential records
- Creating an economic council
- Creating a domestic policy council
- Changing pay grades

As [WND previously reported](#), even the the far left-leaning FactCheck wrote, “It’s true that President Obama is increasingly using his executive powers in the face of staunch Republican opposition in Congress. He’s changed federal policies on immigration and welfare and appointed officials without congressional approval.”

“I would say that never before in our history had a president done these things,” Hentoff mused.

He noted that while Nixon merely claimed that winning an election gave him the right to do what he wanted, Obama is actually doing whatever he pleases.

The journalist said he doesn’t think any other president has acted so lawlessly as a matter of habit.

“So, if this isn’t a reason for at least the start of an independent investigation that would lead to impeachment, what is?”

Hentoff is baffled that Obama should escape such scrutiny when former President Bill Clinton faced impeachment just for being “a lousy liar.”



*President Bill Clinton*

A big part of the problem, the journalist believes, is what he calls the utter ignorance of a huge portion of the population, which is not outraged at losing its basic right to be self-governing.

And Obama “doesn’t give a damn, because he can get away with whatever he wants.”

That’s why Hentoff called this the worst state the country has ever been in, “Even worse than Woodrow Wilson’s regime, when people could be arrested for speaking German.”

Compounding the problem he says, is the digital age, which has allowed the president to engage in unprecedented domestic spying with the apparatus of the National Security Agency.

WND asked if Obama really posed such a threat, considering he was a professor of constitutional law.

“People forget, he taught a course that he was not fully qualified to teach. But nobody seemed to care,” Hentoff observed.

He also pointed out that Obama was the only editor of the Harvard Law Review to never publish an article, something that went virtually unnoticed when voters considered his qualifications.

“See, that was a case of affirmative-action and people feeling, ‘Hey we ought to do something important, symbolically, and here’s a black guy, and he’s articulate, so we’re gonna do this.’”

Hentoff mentioned that former U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, the man Time Magazine once called “the most doctrinaire and committed civil libertarian ever to sit on the court,” once personally lectured him that “Affirmative-action on a racial basis is a total violation of the 14th Amendment, no doubt about it.”

And, referring to Obama’s presidency, the journalist said, “That’s what that kind of affirmative-action did for us.”

He told WND that he firmly believed the president does not care about due process, the separation of powers, the concept of a self-governing republic or many other basic American ideals.

And that’s why, he said, “What Obama is doing now is about as un-American as you can get.”

Hentoff wanted to make sure no one thought he was engaging in hyperbole.

He said it was literally true that Obama is “the most un-American president we’ve ever had.”

And just to make sure *everybody* heard him, he added, “I hope the FBI got all of that.”

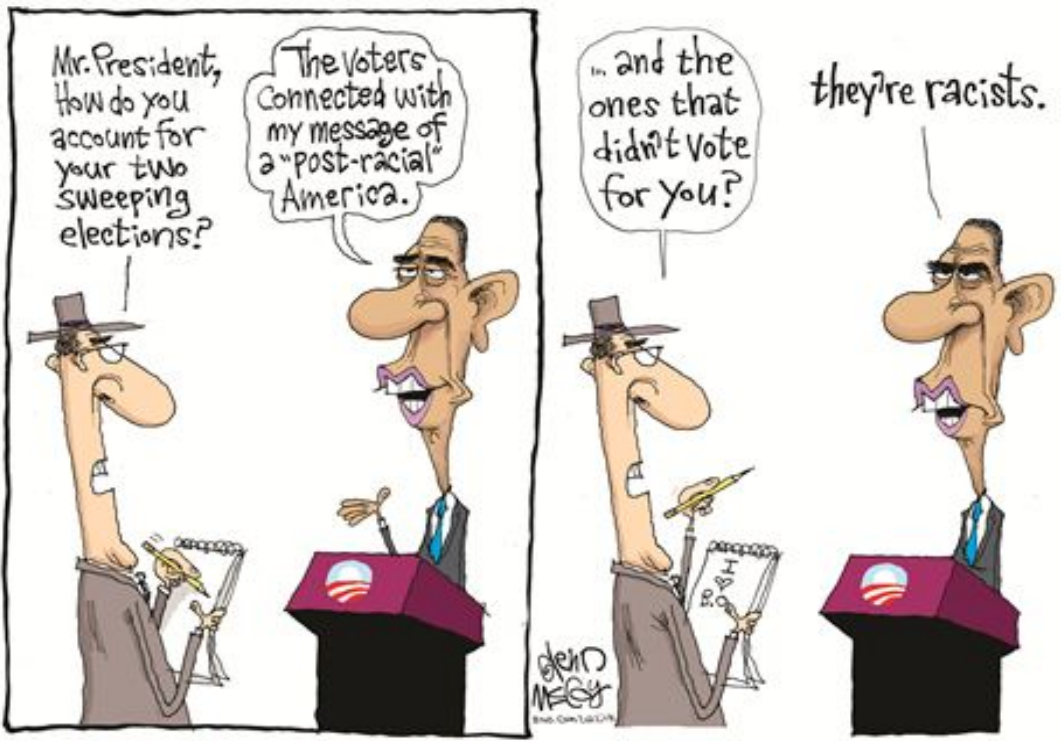
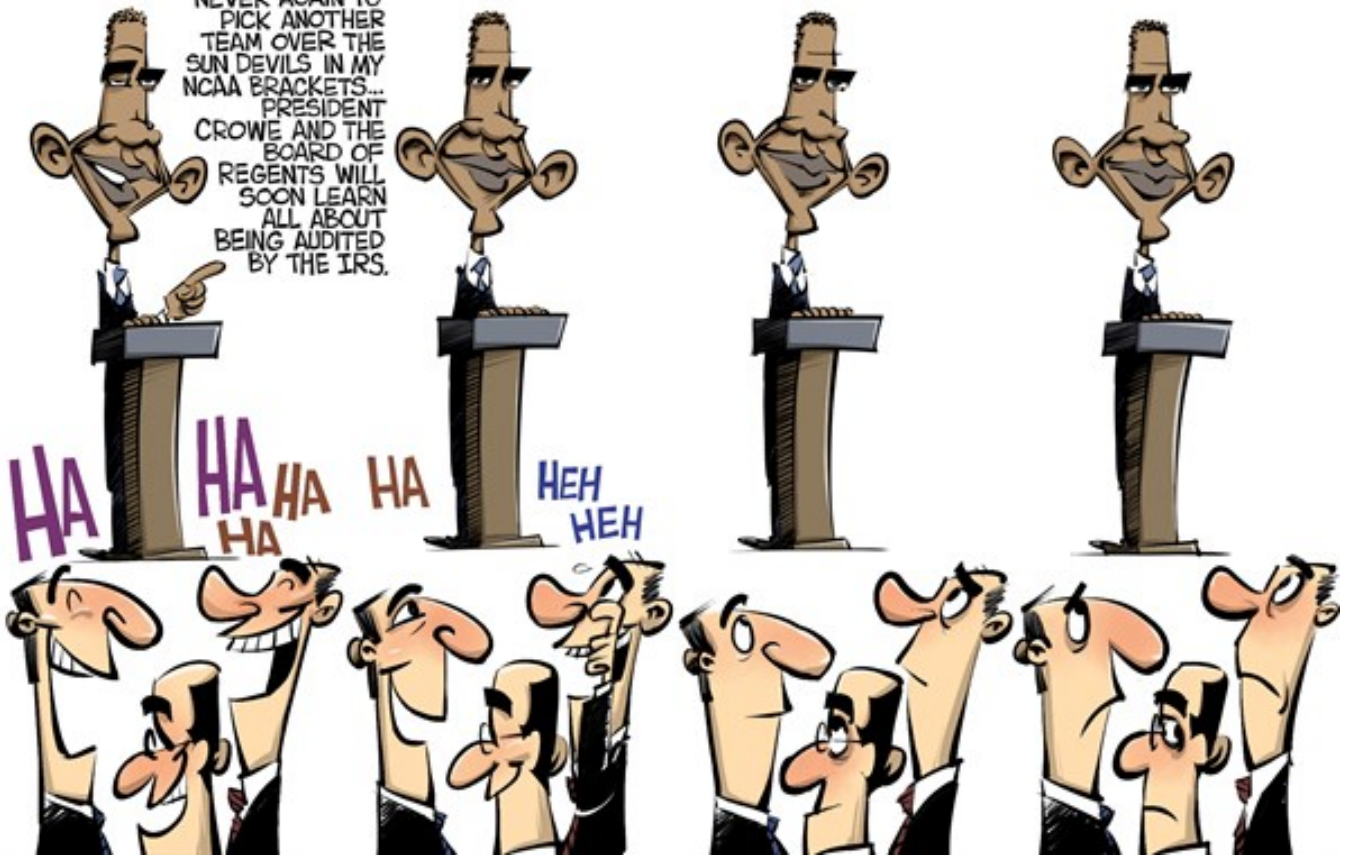


Hentoff is just the latest public figure to be added to the growing list of those mentioning the possible impeachment of President Obama.

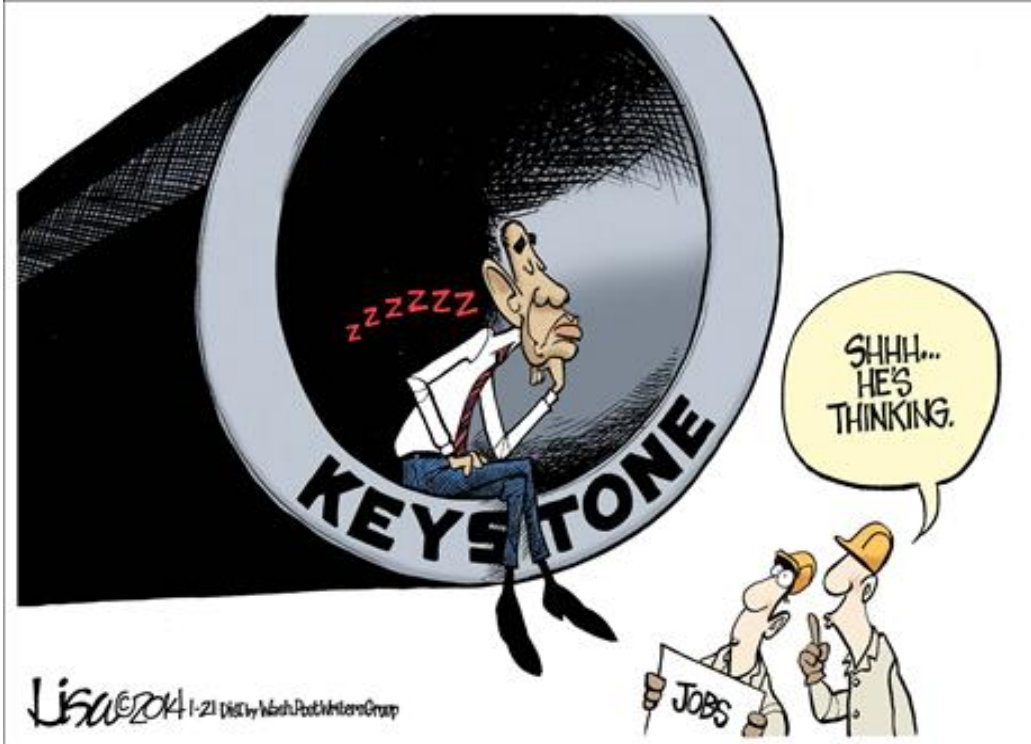
[WND has been keeping track](#), and that list now includes:

Reps. Steve King, R-Iowa; Blake Farenthold, R-Texas; Rep. Steve Stockman, R-Texas; Rep. Bill Flores, R-Texas; Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif.; Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla.; Rep. Kerry Bentivolio, R-Mich.; Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas; Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla.; Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah; Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C.; Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn.; Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas; Rep. Trey Radel, R-Fla., and Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla.

ASU REFUSED TO GIVE ME AN HONORARY DEGREE... I LEARNED NEVER AGAIN TO PICK ANOTHER TEAM OVER THE SUN DEVILS IN MY NCAA BRACKETS... PRESIDENT CROWE AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS WILL SOON LEARN ALL ABOUT BEING AUDITED BY THE IRS.







WHO SAYS I DON'T HAVE  
A LINE-ITEM VETO?



**OBAMACARE**  
✓ CRONY WAIVERS  
- ~~SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGES~~  
- ~~EMPLOYER MANDATE~~



I'M  
AFRAID IT'S  
PERMANENT.

BENGHAZI

STAIN  
REMOVER



**Chicago is famous  
for three things:**

- 1 - Pizza**
- 2 - Gangsters**
- 3 - Corrupt Politicians**

**One thing can be  
said with certainty:**

**Obama is NOT a Pizza.**

# SICKAGO POLITICS

TAKES OVER AMERICA

Politifake.org

ONE WAY CHRIS CHRISTIE MIGHT STOP THE MEDIA FROM  
QUESTIONING HIM OVER THE RECENT BRIDGE SCANDAL...

This was all the  
result of an anti-  
Islam video.

Glenn  
McGoy  
BND.com



