

February 13, 2014

If you're wondering where Mark Steyn has been lately, [Robert Tracinski](#) has an update on the lawsuit filed against Steyn, National Review, and the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

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**Victor Davis Hanson** posts on Icarus In Chief. .

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**David Harsanyi** says "obamacare is just another word for laws we ignore together."  
*... Normally, when policy is as burdensome and ungainly as the Affordable Care Act has been, an honest person might admit that perhaps something isn't exactly right with the law itself. Not today. A never-ending fount of partisan defensiveness makes it impossible to rethink — much less repeal — any part of Obamacare.*

*So, question: when was the last time policy was executed as chaotically and with such little regard for the law? I don't want to sound like a troglodyte, but the president, as head of the executive branch of the federal government is constitutionally obligated to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," not implement laws in an expedient manner, or a more prudent manner, or even in a way that he believes is more moral or a helpful for people struggling to find affordable health care. This is why we write bills down and debate them prior to passage. Or, at least, it used to be.*

**Jonathan Tobin** says delays in the healthcare act won't save Dems in November.  
*From its inception, the strategy behind the Obama administration's implementation of ObamaCare has been simple: to frontload the benefits and postpone the pain and costs of this massive government intrusion into the private sector for as long as possible. This deceitful approach enabled President Obama run for reelection in 2012 on the spurious promise of extending insurance coverage to the poor and those with pre-existing conditions without being held accountable for the problems with the law that would only become apparent in his second term. Over the course of the last year, as the president's signature accomplishment debuted with a disastrous rollout, the administration has retreated bit by bit from its insistence on implementing the entire unwieldy and gargantuan edifice on the American people immediately after Obama was safely ensconced in his second term. A dysfunctional website and the president's broken promises about patients being able to keep their coverage and their doctors has led to the law being dismantled piece by piece as various elements were delayed. Today, yet another element of the law was similarly postponed, by executive order. As the New York Times reports:*

*The Obama administration announced Monday that it would again delay enforcement of a federal requirement for certain employers to provide health insurance to employees, giving medium-size companies extra time to comply. The "employer mandate," which had already been delayed to Jan. 1, 2015, will now be phased-in beyond that date for some businesses with more than 50 employees.*

*The motivation for this latest delay is transparently political. By delaying yet one more element of the law until after the midterm elections, the administration hopes to save some faltering Democratic red-state incumbents who, unlike the president, are faced with the difficult task of running for reelection in the wake of the ObamaCare rollout.*

**WaPo blogger** says lots of Dems running for re-election have no interest in being near the president.

*... Several of the Democrats facing reelection in 2014 hail from dark red districts in states such as Alaska, Arkansas and Louisiana -- the regions of the country where Obama is the most unpopular. Conventional wisdom would dictate that those candidates would attempt to keep their heads down -- distancing themselves from the Affordable Care Act and avoiding joint appearances with Obama during his official visits to their states. [Several](#) of the most vulnerable Democratic Senators are already publicly distanced themselves from Obama following last month's State of the Union.*

*"Overall, I'm disappointed with the President's State of the Union address because he was heavy on rhetoric, but light on specifics about how we can move our country forward," said Arkansas Sen. Mark Pryor. "I'll work with the President when I think he's right, but oppose him when I think he's wrong... I'll continue to oppose his agenda when it's bad for Arkansas and our country."*

*Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu used her first campaign ad of the cycle to criticize the implementation of the federal health-care law, while North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan was a no-show when Obama appeared in her state to speak at N.C. State last month. And here's Sen. Mark Begich on Obama: "If he wants to come up [to Alaska], I'm not really interested in campaigning [with President Obama]." ...*

**Debra Saunders** posts on the Clintons who are AWOL in the war on women.

*Do Americans want another Clinton in the White House? As former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton flirts with running in 2016, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., also a potential White House candidate, has put an interesting spin on Bill Clinton's White House years. Democrats shouldn't accuse the GOP of waging a "war on women," he recently told "Meet the Press," because President Clinton was a "sexual predator" with former intern Monica Lewinsky.*

*The next skirmish in the war on the war on women came from the Washington Free Beacon, which reported on papers archived at the University of Arkansas Libraries by Diane Blair, a deceased political science professor and close friend of Hillary's. According to Blair's notes, in 1998, the then first lady told her friend that her husband's relations with Lewinsky -- a "narcissistic loony toon" -- represented "gross inappropriate behavior," but it was "consensual," as in "not a power relationship."*

One of the uglier archived documents is a 1992 campaign memo written by attorneys Nancy McFadden, now chief of staff to California Gov. Jerry Brown, and Loretta Lynch, president of the California Public Utilities Commission from 2000 to 2002. Under the heading "Defensive Research: Tying up ends and seeing ahead," the memo's first item no doubt referred to Gennifer Flowers, who said she had an affair with Bill Clinton:

*"Exposing GF: completely as a fraud, liar and possible criminal to stop this story and related stories, prevent future non-related stories and expose press inaction and manipulation."*

Six years later, President Clinton admitted under oath to having had sex with Flowers, so it turns out Flowers wasn't the "liar" in this little tale. Didn't matter. With both Flowers and Lewinsky, Clinton operatives' first impulse was to smear the women as liars. ...

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## Real Clear Politics

### [Mann vs. Steyn: The Trial of the Century](#)

by Robert Tracinski

The global warming hysteria is disastrous enough in its intended goal, which is to ban the use of our cheapest and most abundant fuels and force us to limp along on "alternative energy" sources that are insufficient to support an industrial civilization. But along the way, the global warming campaign is already wrecking our science and politics by seeking to establish a dogma that cannot legally be questioned.

The critical point in this campaign is a defamation lawsuit by global warming promoter Michael Mann against Mark Steyn, National Review, and the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

When the "Climategate" e-mails were leaked five years ago, a lot of us speculated that it could all end up in the courts, given the evidence that climate scientists were pocketing large sums of government money on the basis of a scientific consensus they were [manipulating behind the scenes](#). But it's typical of our upside-down political and cultural environment that when this issue does reach the courts, it will be in the form of a lawsuit against the climate skeptics.

Steyn and the others are being sued for criticizing Mann's scientific arguments. In the case of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, for example, they're being sued for Rand Simberg's complaint that Mann "has molested and tortured data." (See a summary of the case [here](#).) Frankly, I'm not sure how I escaped this lawsuit myself. I shall have to review what I have written and see if my language was not sufficiently inflammatory. Perhaps I don't have pockets deep enough to be worth looting. Or perhaps I'm not a big enough target to be worth intimidating and bankrupting. Note the glee with which the left slavers at the prospect of taking out a prominent voice on the right, with one leftist [gloating](#) that "it's doubtful that National Review could survive" losing the case.

(Steyn [points out](#) that National Review is insured against such lawsuits and will survive. But it's interesting that no one asks who is going to go bankrupt funding Mann's lawsuit. A deterrent to the

abuse of libel laws is the prospect of spending a lot of money on lawyers' fees for a lawsuit that fails. Who is insuring Mann against this loss?)

Here is the point at which we need a little primer on libel laws, which hinge on the differentiation between facts and opinion. It is libel to maliciously fabricate facts about someone. (It is not libel to erroneously report a false fact, so long as you did so with good faith reason to believe that it was true, though you are required to issue a correction.) But you are free to give whatever evaluation of the facts you like, including a negative evaluation of another person's ideas, thinking method, and character. It is legal for me, for example, to say that Michael Mann is a liar, if I don't believe that his erroneous scientific conclusions are the product of honest error. It is also legal for me to say that he is a coward and a liar, for hiding behind libel laws in an attempt to suppress criticism.

These are all reasons that the lawsuit should have been summarily thrown out. It goes beyond the legitimate scope of libel and defamation laws and constitutes an attempt to suppress opinions that are considered politically correct.

But it gets worse. Consider the specific argument Mann is making, as summed up in the report I linked to above.

"In the articles, Mann says in his lawsuit, the think tank and the publication ignored more than half a dozen investigations that found no scientific wrongdoing, focusing almost exclusively on the Penn State inquiry in order to call him a fraud. CEI also mentioned the National Academy of Science's investigation, but dismissed those findings by saying the body had obtained information from Penn State, meaning the inquiry was 'not truly independent.' The basis mentioned by CEI to call the Penn State investigation a whitewash was stating it had only interviewed Mann, and 'seemingly ignored the content of the emails.'"

Even more ominous, the DC Superior Court, which let the suit proceed, [embraced](#) this reasoning in its ruling.

"The CEI Defendants' persistence despite the EPA and other investigative bodies' conclusion that Plaintiff's work is accurate (or that there is no evidence of data manipulation) is equal to a blatant disregard for the falsity of their statements."

In other words, Steyn's evaluation of Mann's scientific claims can be legally suppressed because Steyn dares to question the conclusions of established scientific institutions connected to the government. On this basis, the DC Superior Court arrives at the preposterous conclusion that it is a violation of Mann's rights to "question his intellect and reasoning." That's an awfully nice prerogative to be granted by government: an exemption against any challenge to your reasoning.

I said before that I don't know how the rest of us skeptics escaped being sued along with Steyn. Now we know. Mann is attempting to establish a precedent for climate censorship. If he wins this suit, then we're all targets.

Mann has made a lot of noise about setting himself as some kind of modern Galileo, a persecuted scientist. This analogy was [all wrong](#) from the beginning. Galileo was not the enforcer of the prevailing scientific "consensus" but its caustic critic. And now it is Mann who is trying to dictate what others can and cannot say about scientific facts and reasoning. So no, he's not a modern Galileo. He's a modern Cardinal Bellarmine.

Or perhaps there is a better historical analogy. Mann is attempting to install himself as a kind of American Lysenko. [Trofim Lysenko](#) was the Soviet scientist who ingratiated himself to Joseph Stalin and got his crackpot theories on genetics installed as official dogma, effectively killing the study of biology in the Soviet Union. Under Lysenko, the state had an established and official scientific doctrine, and you risked persecution if you questioned it. Mann's libel suit is an attempt to establish that same principle here.

Mann has [recently declared](#) himself to be both a scientist and a political activist. But in attempting to intimidate his critics and suppress free debate on global warming, he is violating the fundamental rules of both science and politics. If it is a sin to doubt, then there is no science. If it is a crime to dissent, then there is no politics.

Mann vs. Steyn may be the trial of the century. It may determine, not merely whether the environmentalists can shut down industrial civilization, but whether they can shut down the independent thinking of skeptical dissidents.

## National Review

### [Our Icarus-in-Chief](#)

***Obama's global fantasies are falling to earth along with him.***

by Victor Davis Hanson

In the last two weeks, we learned that Bashar Assad has dismantled only 5 percent of his WMD arsenal, despite President Obama's soaring rhetoric to the contrary. Russia violated a long-observed agreement with the U.S. about testing missiles. Iran's take on the negotiations over its bomb program bears no resemblance to our interpretation. Chinese officials now happily leak fantastic stories about using their military to punish Japan. All that is trumped by veiled threats from the Sunni Gulf monarchies, terrified of Iran, to buy a bomb or two from Pakistan. We hear other rumors that even China thinks the new leadership in North Korea is unhinged and is not worried about friendly warnings from Beijing.

Whether all these incidents are minor or serious, and whether they are random or interconnected and perceived as proof of the loss of U.S. deterrence, depends on which particular bad actor is studying them to try to guess whether the Obama administration will do anything should a provocateur start a war or attempt to redraw a regional map.

In short, our Icarus-in-Chief, without much foreign-policy experience but with youthful zeal and good intentions, soared far too high for his flimsy waxen wings. Now they are melting, and as the American commander-in-chief careens back to earth, lots of those below are wondering what will come next. Still, there is a lot of irony as Obama freefalls to earth.

Everyone assumed the Europeans were conveniently pacifist and had eroded their defenses because they could — given the fact that the United States had guaranteed the safety of Europe throughout the Cold War and for another quarter-century after it ended. Americans accepted that Europeans could afford to ankle-bite the interventionist United States because the latter's pledge to the alliance was unquestionable, and such were the natural psychological gymnastics of patron and client.

Then came the waxen Obama soaring on hope and change, the president who would remake the world along the lines envisioned in a college faculty lounge or a Chicago organizing session. Obama was not a Buchananite isolationist who would be easy for Europeans to caricature. Rather, he is a postmodern, postracial progressive, who deeply felt either that traditional U.S. alliances were not worth the commitment, or that the U.S. was properly moving away from its European heritage and thus without any need for special trans-Atlantic relationships, or that an internationally engaged America came at the expense of dollars better spent on redistributive entitlements at home — or all three and more still.

The result is that the Europeans are increasingly bewildered if not a little anxious. They cannot reduce Obama, a man of the Left, to a caricatured Texan who often misunderstands the world, because Obama is an Ivy Leaguer who has never yet understood it.

They cannot whine about American ubiquity, because Obama agrees with their rhetoric that the U.S. should recede from the world stage. They cannot out-left America, because Obama is to the left of almost all the European leaders. And they cannot offer any more sermons about being patient with the world's aggressors, because Obama is not so much patient as uninterested. Without an engaged U.S., Bashar Assad, Vladimir Putin, the Chinese Communists, Ukraine's Viktor Yanukovich, the unhinged North Koreans, and radical Islamists could not care less about what the E.U. thinks or about the consequences of its much-hyped soft power. In sum, Europe cannot play Athens when there is no longer a Rome to back it up. The result is a sort of sad update of Stalin's thuggish but instructive rhetorical question to French Foreign Minister Pierre Laval when the latter in 1935 suggested that the Soviets reach out to the Catholic hierarchy in order to thwart Hitler: "The Pope? How many divisions has he got?"

Then there are the fantasies about the Chinese, who are always supposedly just on the cusp of translating their economic miracle into political reform and positive global citizenship. That myth likewise is being exploded by semi-official quotes from Chinese intellectuals and advisers. China is not merely flexing its new global muscles. It is not just carefully testing the air and naval space of its terrified neighbors. Instead, it is blunt about its visceral hatred of Japan, and sometime even candid in outlining military operations that it would like to wage against it. No nuances, no trial balloons, no diplomats: just plain unadulterated enmity toward Japan and unapologetic admissions that when Japan and the U.S. uncouple, then China will do what it pleases to Japan — for no other reason than, to paraphrase Dirty Harry, it likes to. In the next decade, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and perhaps even Australia and the Philippines will attempt to judge whether the present U.S. abdication is an aberration, or whether it will be institutionalized. If the latter, they will either go nuclear, or make concessions to the Chinese.

Another fantasy that recent events have exposed for what it always was is the so-called Arab Spring. Do we remember why the Arabs did not enjoy consensual government, transparency, and civil society? First, it was because of European colonialism. When the Europeans left, the baleful legacy of colonization supposedly persisted. Then the obstacle to reform was the cynical realpolitik of the Cold War, in which the superpowers used the Arab people as pawns on their regional chessboards. Then the impediment to consensual government was oil realpolitik, as the West supposedly ignored the Jeffersonian sentiments of the Arab Street and cynically empowered the sheiks. Then it was the American interventions in the Middle East to foster democracy that upset the "delicate equilibrium" of the region.

The Arab Spring, however, was at last the indigenous cry of the heart from the Arab people, as America — except for the clumsy Libyan nudge and the disastrous applause for Mohamed Morsi



— sat by, watched, and waited. Three years later, Libya, Syria, Egypt, and the general regional turmoil suggest instead that tribalism, religious intolerance, misogyny, anti-Semitism, and authoritarianism were mostly indigenous and did not need British colonists, Russian generals, American oil men, or the Bush family to activate them. To paraphrase Ward Churchill, with the American recession from the region, the long-awaited Middle East chickens are coming home to roost.

The nosedive of the melting Obama will leave the world a more dangerous place, but also serve as another mythological reminder of why the pretentious without real wings should not try to fly.

## The Federalist

### Obamacare Is Just Another Word For Laws We Ignore Together

*Don't worry, it's going to be a good thing. You'll see.*

by David Harsanyi

Another Obamacare fiasco? Guess what? We'll rationalize that disaster into something awesome, *tout de suite*. You can't keep your insurance if you like it? [Consider yourself lucky](#). Obamacare disincentivizes work. [Be grateful!](#) The Affordable Healthcare Act will cost three times as much as initial estimates? Spending creates jobs. The exchanges have been a disaster? Stop rooting for the president to fail, for God's sake.

The Treasury Department just announced it will delay a coverage mandate for companies with 50 to 99 employees for a year. And liberals who grouse about the anarchic tendencies of grassroots conservatives will be prepared to rationalize why this news is not only unavoidable but great for Americans. It always is.

[According](#) to the Congressional Research Service, the Obama administration has probably missed half of the deadlines of the Affordable Care Act. Here's a list of [13 executive alterations](#) Now, if all this haphazard implementation were only a matter of improving what are onerous and poorly written facets of Obamacare, that would be one thing. A bad thing, yes. But what makes this free-for-all an especially blatant abuse of power is that the delays are enacted almost exclusively for political reasons.

If some of your deep-pocketed cronies visit the White House, delay the law's employer mandate. Why not? If the risible Medicare cuts you concoct to sell ACA to voters by keeping the price tag under a trillion dollars become distasteful to voters leading up to an election, just delay the cuts until you have a more advantageous environment. If caps on out-of-pocket insurance costs haven't panned out like you promised — delay for another year. Small Business Health Options Program? Delay. Employee Auto-enrollment? Delay. Pre-existing conditions insurance sign-up? Delay.

The Obama administration is now giving medium-sized employers an extra year — until 2016 — before they must offer health insurance to their full-time workers. [This directly contradicts the text of the law](#). Good for those employers; bad for the rule of law.

Here's the [Washington Post](#):



By offering an unexpected grace period to businesses with between 50 and 99 employees, administration officials are hoping to defuse another potential controversy involving the 2010 health-care law, which has become central to Republicans' campaign to make political gains in this year's midterm election.

Here's the [Associated Press](#):

Trying to limit election-year damage on health care, the Obama administration Monday granted business groups another delay in a much-criticized requirement that larger firms cover their workers or face fines.

Notice that even these outlets must admit that the impetus for delay is a political consideration — “limit election-year damage” and “defuse another potential controversy” — not an effort to craft a more useful law. Normally, when policy is as burdensome and ungainly as the Affordable Care Act has been, an honest person might admit that perhaps something isn't exactly right with the law itself. Not today. A never-ending fount of partisan defensiveness makes it impossible to rethink — much less repeal — any part of Obamacare.

So, question: when was the last time policy was executed as chaotically and with such little regard for the law? I don't want to sound like a troglodyte, but the president, as head of the executive branch of the federal government is constitutionally obligated to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed,” not implement laws in an expedient manner, or a more prudent manner, or even in a way that he believes is more moral or a helpful for people struggling to find affordable health care. This is why we write bills down and debate them prior to passage. Or, at least, it used to be.

## Contentions

### [More ObamaCare Delays Won't Save Dems](#)

by Jonathan S. Tobin

From its inception, the strategy behind the Obama administration's implementation of ObamaCare has been simple: to frontload the benefits and postpone the pain and costs of this massive government intrusion into the private sector for as long as possible. This deceitful approach enabled President Obama run for reelection in 2012 on the spurious promise of extending insurance coverage to the poor and those with pre-existing conditions without being held accountable for the problems with the law that would only become apparent in his second term. Over the course of the last year, as the president's signature accomplishment debuted with a disastrous rollout, the administration has retreated bit by bit from its insistence on implementing the entire unwieldy and gargantuan edifice on the American people immediately after Obama was safely ensconced in his second term. A dysfunctional website and the president's broken promises about patients being able to keep their coverage and their doctors has led to the law being dismantled piece by piece as various elements were delayed. Today, yet another element of the law was similarly postponed, by executive order. As [the New York Times reports](#):

The Obama administration announced Monday that it would again delay enforcement of a federal requirement for certain employers to provide health insurance to employees, giving medium-size

companies extra time to comply. The “employer mandate,” which had already been delayed to Jan. 1, 2015, will now be phased-in beyond that date for some businesses with more than 50 employees.

The motivation for this latest delay is transparently political. By delaying yet one more element of the law until after the midterm elections, the administration hopes to save some faltering Democratic red-state incumbents who, unlike the president, are faced with the difficult task of running for reelection in the wake of the ObamaCare rollout. Though the pain of the health-care law is already being felt by millions of Americans who have lost their coverage and are facing higher costs for insurance that fails to meet their needs, Democrats are trying to do anything they can to put off the devastating impact the law will have on employers and, by extension, the economy.

But the problem here is not only the flagrantly political nature of this decision. Rather, it is the spectacle of a law being stretched to the breaking point by an administration that thinks it can selectively cherry-pick what parts of the law it will enforce. With ObamaCare enrollment numbers already falling millions short of what they would have to be for the law to be cost-effective, no amount of playing fast and loose with enforcement can disguise the fact that the scheme appears to be headed for collapse.

The list of ObamaCare delays was already impressive [when I noted](#) the announcement in December that those whose coverage was cancelled would not face penalties for not buying ObamaCare for a year:

On July 2, the White House abruptly announced a one-year delay, until 2015, in a provision that requires larger employers to offer coverage to their workers or pay penalties.

On Nov. 27, it deferred a major element of the law that would allow small businesses to buy insurance online for their employees through the federal exchange.

Earlier, in April, the administration said that the federal exchange would not offer employees of a small business the opportunity to choose from multiple health plans in 2014.

And in October 2011, the administration scrapped a long-term care insurance program created by the new law, saying it was too costly and would not work.

Seen in totality, it appears that ObamaCare is unraveling like a cheap sweater. But though the administration is trying to limit the number of those who are inconvenienced or hurt by the law, this latest decision is one more shred of evidence that proves the assumptions about the law’s popularity were completely unfounded. Democrats assumed that once the law began to be implemented the benefits it distributed would quickly make it as beloved as Social Security or Medicare. But it is now abundantly clear that the numbers of ObamaCare losers may well equal or exceed the total of those who will benefit from it. No amount of lawlessness on the part of a president who lacks the constitutional power to enforce only the laws or the parts of laws that he likes can conceal the enormity of the ObamaCare fiasco.

Unfortunately for the president and Democratic incumbents, the sheer number of ObamaCare exemptions and delays has grown to the point where it is no longer possible to pretend that the only problem with the law was a glitch-ridden website or Republican obstructionism. No matter how

many of its ill-conceived moving parts the presidential orders say need not be implemented before November, the accumulated weight of its failure may prove too heavy a burden for Democrats who must answer to the electorate for their votes to shove this monstrosity down the collective throat of the American people.

## Washington Post Blogs

### [Who wants to campaign with Barack Obama?](#)

by Wesley Lowery

In a closed-door meeting earlier this week, President Obama [told vulnerable senators that](#) he "would not be offended" if he is not invited to join them on the campaign trail. Some have already stated publicly that they plan to take him up on that offer – but Rep. Gary Peters, the likely Democratic Senate nominee in Michigan, plans to appear alongside the president on Friday.

"Gary supports the bipartisan farm bill... so he'll be with the president and [Senate Agriculture Committee] Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow in Lansing when it's signed into law," Peters spokeswoman Haley Morris [told The Hill](#) on Thursday.

The Democratic legislative leadership -- in the House and Senate -- has been consistent in insisting that Obama will be an asset for Democratic candidates when voters begin hitting the polls later this year. (Of course, the alternative -- saying Obama is an anchor on their candidates -- is hard to imagine.)

Asked on Thursday afternoon if Obama will be a drag on the ticket, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) insisted that wasn't the case. "Absolutely not," Pelosi said, adding that the president's presence will be used deliberately on the 2014 campaign trail. "There are only so many days in the week and only a few of those that the president might be available. So we want to use them... we want to maximize what happens."

Those comments echo the sentiment from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) who said [during a sit-down last week](#) with CNN's Dana Bash that he expects many vulnerable Senate Democrats to invite Obama to appear on the trail with them. "Barack Obama is personally a very popular guy. And people love this man. They love his family," he said.

Several of the Democrats facing reelection in 2014 hail from dark red districts in states such as Alaska, Arkansas and Louisiana -- the regions of the country where Obama is the most unpopular. Conventional wisdom would dictate that those candidates would attempt to keep their heads down -- distancing themselves from the Affordable Care Act and avoiding joint appearances with Obama during his official visits to their states. [Several](#) of the most vulnerable Democratic Senators are already publicly distancing themselves from Obama following last month's State of the Union.

"Overall, I'm disappointed with the President's State of the Union address because he was heavy on rhetoric, but light on specifics about how we can move our country forward," said Arkansas Sen. Mark Pryor. "I'll work with the President when I think he's right, but oppose him when I think he's wrong... I'll continue to oppose his agenda when it's bad for Arkansas and our country."

Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu used her first campaign ad of the cycle to criticize the implementation of the federal health-care law, while North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan was a no-show when Obama appeared in her state to speak at N.C. State last month. And here's Sen. Mark Begich on Obama: "If he wants to come up [to Alaska], I'm not really interested in campaigning [with President Obama]."

But while being seen with Obama means a Republican tracker will be filming it for use in campaign ads later this year, there are also benefits to it for targeted Democrats. First, Obama remains the most powerful fundraiser in politics and a single visit can net a senator (or House member) with a financial windfall it might otherwise take them weeks or months to accumulate. Second, Obama remains popular within the Democratic base. So, if you are Hagan, for example, rallying the Democratic base is of critical importance to getting close to a majority of the vote this November.

As we've broken down in the past, if the 2014 midterms turn into a referendum on Obama the way the 2010 midterms did, the Democrats [could be in major trouble](#). But, some Democrats will undoubtedly take the risk of bringing Obama into their states to reap the rewards and hope the downsides won't be too severe. But, it will be a risk.

## **San Francisco Chronicle** **[The Clintons in the War on Women](#)**

by Debra Saunders

Do Americans want another Clinton in the White House? As former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton flirts with running in 2016, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., also a potential White House candidate, has put an interesting spin on Bill Clinton's White House years. Democrats shouldn't accuse the GOP of waging a "war on women," he recently told "Meet the Press," because President Clinton was a "sexual predator" with former intern Monica Lewinsky.

The next skirmish in the war on the war on women came from the Washington Free Beacon, which reported on papers archived at the University of Arkansas Libraries by Diane Blair, a deceased political science professor and close friend of Hillary's. According to Blair's notes, in 1998, the then first lady told her friend that her husband's relations with Lewinsky -- a "narcissistic loony toon" -- represented "gross inappropriate behavior," but it was "consensual," as in "not a power relationship."

One of the uglier archived documents is a 1992 campaign memo written by attorneys Nancy McFadden, now chief of staff to California Gov. Jerry Brown, and Loretta Lynch, president of the California Public Utilities Commission from 2000 to 2002. Under the heading "Defensive Research: Tying up ends and seeing ahead," the memo's first item no doubt referred to Jennifer Flowers, who said she had an affair with Bill Clinton:

"Exposing GF: completely as a fraud, liar and possible criminal to stop this story and related stories, prevent future non-related stories and expose press inaction and manipulation."

Six years later, President Clinton admitted under oath to having had sex with Flowers, so it turns out Flowers wasn't the "liar" in this little tale. Didn't matter. With both Flowers and Lewinsky, Clinton operatives' first impulse was to smear the women as liars.

Longtime Clintonista Lanny Davis bashed Paul for "attacking Hillary Clinton for Bill Clinton's conduct."

So much for the 1992 campaign slogan of a Clinton candidacy's offering "two for the price of one." Ditto Hillary Clinton's role as Bill Clinton's chief enabler; remember how she dismissed the Lewinsky scandal as the product of a "vast right-wing conspiracy."

It's "old news," Davis told me. Veteran GOP strategist Ken Khachigian, however, pointed out that accusations of "inappropriate behavior" in the 1990s torpedoed Herman Cain's presidential aspirations in 2012. There ought to be the "same standard" for both parties.

And don't get me started with Mitt Romney's famed 1983 ride with the family dog on the roof.

Paul's remarks may well backfire. If anything, the Lewinsky saga seemed to prop up President Clinton's favorable poll ratings.

But you have to give Paul this much: He rightly pointed out the chasm between how Clinton Democrats treat women as an interest group and how they treat them as people. When Bubba strayed, only the women paid.

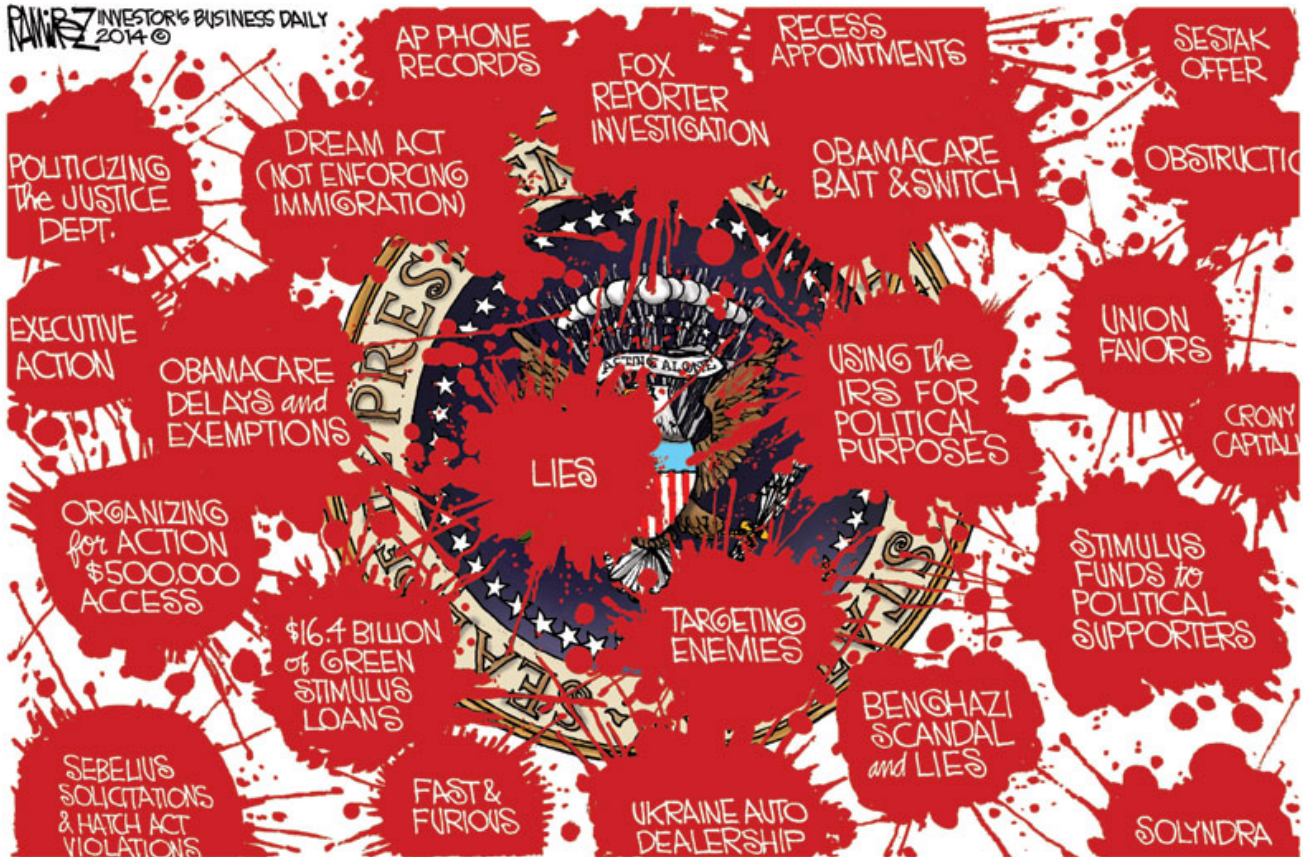
The McFadden-Lynch memo serves as a reminder of what the Clinton machine does to women who speak out.

They become loose ends who need to be tied up.









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