

July 17, 2014

Ricochet has Tales From a Bomb Shelter.

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John Fund thinks the courts may make the president learn to play well with others.

The legal positions of President Obama’s Justice Department have been slapped down unanimously a remarkable 13 times in the Supreme Court in the last two years. Over and over, even Obama’s own two appointees to the court — Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — have held that the president has exceeded his authority and violated the separation of powers. This coming week, we could see the second-highest court in the land rule that the administration broke the law in enforcing a key provision of Obamacare, calling into question once again Obama’s fidelity to the Constitution — and further endangering his signature program.

The case of Halbig v. Sebelius (since renamed Halbig v. Burwell, for the current HHS secretary) was argued before a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Court in March. It attacks the central nervous system of Obamacare — the government exchanges that were set up to subsidize health insurance for low-income consumers. If the Supreme Court ultimately finds that the Obama administration violated the law in doling out those subsidies, it could force a wholesale revision of Obamacare. In January, The Hill quoted a key Obamacare supporter as saying that Halbig was “probably the most significant existential threat to the Affordable Care Act.” Jonathan Turley, a noted liberal constitutional-law expert at George Washington Law School, recently agreed, writing in the Los Angeles Times that Halbig “could leave Obamacare on life support.”

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Mark Steyn writes on the challenges of diversity.

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Obama made a conscious decision to, in effect, dissolve the southern border, and, quite reasonably enough, the "unaccompanied minors" of Latin America opted to take him at his word. One of his party's most senior figures, and the woman who if things go well for them in November will be Speaker of the House and second in line of succession to the presidency, explicitly refuses to recognize the international boundary. Down there for a photo-op the other day, Nancy Pelosi declared: "This is a community with a border going through it." It's bogus, so why get hung up on tedious legalistic nonsense like "frontiers"?

Mr Obama and Ms Pelosi apparently see themselves as leaders of some post-Westphalian entity wherein the political elite use the Third World to reconfigure the citizenry to something more to their taste. But, having voluntarily liquidated US sovereignty at the southern border, in what sense then is Obama President of the United States? Why should the head of a sovereign state that's renounced its sovereignty still expect to be entitled to all the perks thereof - like fawning governors greeting him at the airport? ...

The justice department says we can't mock the president. The most mockable president in centuries and we can't have some fun? Charles Cooke at National Review has the story.

Nineteen terrifying words from the Omaha World-Herald:

The U.S. Department of Justice has joined the discussions over a controversial float in the Norfolk Independence Day parade.

Thus did the federal government dispatch an emissary to investigate a minor instance of Midwestern dissent.

A quick recap for the happily uninitiated: The "controversial float" in question was one of many included in this year's Independence Day parade in Norfolk, Neb. The entry, which featured a zombie standing on an outhouse marked "Obama Presidential Library," was created by a veteran named Dale Remmich, and was designed, Remmich claims, to express the "political disgust" that he feels at the Obama administration's mismanagement of the Department of Veteran Affairs. As is the habit now, pictures of the float were quickly pushed around the Internet, attracting the attention and disapprobation of such august institutions as the Washington Post, CBS, ABC, and the Huffington Post — and, it seems, the interest of the United States Department of Justice. This week, the World-Herald reports, the DOJ "sent a member of its Community Relations Service team, which gets involved in discrimination disputes, to a Thursday meeting about the issue." Present at the summit were the NAACP, the mayor of the Nebraska town in which the float was displayed, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which sponsored the event.

Now for the obvious question: Why? What, exactly, was the problem here? Nobody was killed. Nobody was injured. Nobody had their material or spiritual interests injured, nor were they stripped of their livelihoods. ...

If the DOJ wishes to control discord in the republic, perhaps they should turn their attention to Chicago where USA Today reports 82 shootings and 14 deaths in the Fourth of July weekend.

At least 14 people were killed and dozens more wounded in Chicago over the holiday weekend, breaking a relative lull in a city that has been fighting a high-profile battle against the scourge of gun violence.

Chicago has been under scrutiny since 2012, when it was the only city in the nation to record more than 500 homicides. This year, Chicago had 172 homicides through June 30 — nine fewer than the same period last year and 82 fewer than during the first six months of 2012.

While homicides are slightly down, shooting incidents have increased in Chicago during the first half of this year. Police reported 833 shooting incidents at the end of June 2013 compared with 880 shootings as of June 29. The 14 killed over the holiday weekend are among 82 shot in Chicago from late Thursday to early Monday morning.

"Going into a holiday weekend like this, we obviously had a plan— [the] plan included putting hundreds of more officers on the streets at the times that we needed them and in the places we needed them," said Chicago Police superintendent Garry McCarthy. "What were the results? The results were a lot of shootings and a lot of murders, unfortunately." ...

Washington Times reports Chicago blacks call obama the worst president ever. Is this another reason for the DOJ to investigate Chicago? Turns out their problem is all the free stuff is going, not to them, but to illegal aliens.

... One man called for Mr. Obama to step down if he continued to shun the city's problems.

"For the president to set aside all of these funds for immigrants and [have] forsaken the African-American community, I think that's a disgrace," the man told the blog Rebel Pundit. "He will go down as the worst president ever elected. Bill Clinton was the African-American president."

As Glenn Reynolds of Instapundit is fond of saying, "The country is in the best of hands." **My Fox DC** has the story of a TSA agent in Orlando who didn't know where the District of Columbia is.

You probably learned the 50 United States in elementary school--- but don't forget about the nation's capital. An Orlando Transportation Safety Administration agent apparently needed a geography refresher after refusing to let a D.C. man through a security checkpoint last weekend because he didn't recognize his District of Columbia driver's license as a valid form of identification.

...

Ricochet

Tales from a Bomb Shelter

by Annika Hernroth-Rothstein

I really thought I knew.

I mean, I had written about it, raised hell, and described it to the world. During Operation Pillar of Defense, I held a rally in support of Israel and gave a passionate speech: "15 seconds," I said, '15 seconds to make sure that you and the people you love are safe". Imagine the terror, imagine the fear, and imagine not knowing the outcome. And I thought I knew — because I had seen it on

YouTube, because I had read about it, and because I had spoken to those who lived it. How much more could there be to it? Turns out quite a lot more.

A week ago, I boarded a plane to Israel with my two sons. It was their first visit, and the excitement was palpable. We had rented a small house in TLV, just between the beach and Shuk HaCarmel, and for five straight days my kids called every day the best of their lives.

I was preparing dinner on the eve of the sixth day, waiting for my friends to arrive for one last night of food, wine, and talking all night. My children were sitting at the table watching a movie. Then I heard the sound — like the entire city was wailing with pain. The loudness of it is so frightening that it takes a few seconds before I even understand what I am hearing.

My first thought is that I have no idea what to do. I throw a bottle of water and a bag of chips in my purse and tell the kids we have to leave. They ask why but I can't answer. I just keep saying "we have to leave, we have to leave, we have to leave". We run into the street and I see hordes of people running in the same direction. A group of men from the shul down the street, an old woman carrying a pink bag heavy with vegetables, a small family just coming back from a day at the beach. They disappear into the building across the street, so I grab the kids by the hand and I follow them.

The room is cool — or maybe it's just me shaking with chills. Children are sitting on the floor. A young man is on the phone with his mother. My own children are quiet and the oldest is fighting back tears, watching my face as to see how scared he is supposed to be. I am just about to try and tell them something when I hear the boom. It's so much louder than I had expected. I feel it in the floor, the impact traveling through my entire body. There's a young man nervously laughing. He's one of those guys I've seen at the beach, flirting with girls and wrestling his friends in some ancient macho display. I watch his face and see that this is still someone's child. He is scared but he can't show it. I am too — and I can't either. I know I have to keep it together for my children. I know I need to have a plan. We leave the shelter after about 15 minutes. My children are talking, but I can't hear them. I am trying so hard to figure out what has just happened and what it means for the hours to come. Fortunately, I'm not allowed to indulge that neurosis for too long. Soon my garden is full of friends. We hug and laugh and go on with our lives just as too many in Israel have to do all too often.

It's one of the strangest nights I have ever experienced. Now and then we hear blasts, stop to check our phones, and relay our position and status via various forms of social media — then we grab another drink and tell another story. My friend gets a phone call. Her son is being called into service. There's a shadow running across her face and I want to hug her but I am not sure that I should. She knows this life — and her son does too. She is the strongest woman I know. She is a fighter and a survivor and she chose the life that her son is now being sent to defend. She must hurt, but she doesn't show it. So I don't hug her, but I let her finish her story, pretending that this was somehow normal in any imaginable way. There was no sleep that night. I stayed up, watching my children sleep next to me, frantically checking the news. We're supposed to get on a plane back to Sweden the next day, but at this point I just don't know anything apart from the fact that we're safe right here, right now.

At 8 AM the next morning, I was fully packed and ready to leave. The kids and I were having breakfast, waiting for the cab when the siren went off again. We ran into the shelter across the street. The boys were weirdly ready for it that time. I was too, with the bag ready to go, standing by the door. The kids found a dog to play with and somehow they made it into playtime while I flinched at every loud boom that followed. We went straight from the bomb shelter to the airport. I was upside down and inside out and all I could think was that I shouldn't be leaving. Not now, not ever. This is my home and leaving in the midst of crisis felt like ripping my heart out piece by piece.

I thought I knew but I didn't. I thought I had felt fear but I hadn't. I had 15 seconds to grab my children and get to safety. I felt the fear, I knew the terror — and I didn't know the outcome. When I got back to Sweden and put my kids to bed I went out to the balcony, sipping on a glass of wine. Suddenly there's a boom, and I flinch, spilling the wine all over myself. A child across the courtyard had thrown a box of toys from her balcony and now she was looking at me, startled by my reaction.

And for the first time since all of this happened, I cried.

I cried for my children having to go through that. I cried for having left my true home in its time of need. I cried for my brothers and sisters, still there, still grabbing their kids by the hand to find safety in less than 15 seconds.

When we got off the flight to Sweden the first words out of my youngest son's mouth was, "Mom, I miss Israel, when can we go back?" And I knew we would be ok. Their memory of the first trip to our homeland would not be the shelter or the siren. It would be how they walked around feeling normal and accepted as Jewish kids; it would be the smoothies at the shuk; playing in the waves in Tel Aviv and petting a cute dog in what happened to be a bomb shelter on Daniel Street. We will all be ok. Because the strength of Israel is not only its army, it's the people, making a life and building a world where others would surely crumble. It's the love and the strength and the will to survive, embedded in our very core.

I thought I knew, but I didn't — and now I know so much more. Yes, I know the fear and the panic, but I also know that, while I was scared for a while in Israel, I am frightened in Sweden all the time. Israel is home, and it is the only place I want to be now, in good times and bad times and in all the times in between. In its darkest time, it showed me and my sons more love, humor, and compassion than they have ever seen in their "peaceful" place of birth.

So yeah, I know now. Not just the terror and panic part, but also that there is no way my people are not going to be OK.



My children in the bomb shelter, Wednesday morning.

National Review

Obamacare's Biggest Legal Threat

In Halbig, the courts may finally force Obama to work with Congress if he wants to rewrite the law.

by John Fund

The legal positions of President Obama's Justice Department have been slapped down unanimously a remarkable 13 times in the Supreme Court in the last two years. Over and over, even Obama's own two appointees to the court — Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — have held that the president has exceeded his authority and violated the separation of powers. This coming week, we could see the second-highest court in the land rule that the administration broke the law in enforcing a key provision of Obamacare, calling into question once again Obama's fidelity to the Constitution — and further endangering his signature program.

The case of *Halbig v. Sebelius* (since renamed *Halbig v. Burwell*, for the current HHS secretary) was argued before a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Court in March. It attacks the central nervous system of Obamacare — the government exchanges that were set up to subsidize health insurance for low-income consumers. If the Supreme Court ultimately finds that the Obama administration violated the law in doling out those subsidies, it could force a wholesale revision of Obamacare. In January, *The Hill* quoted a key Obamacare supporter as saying that *Halbig* was "probably the most significant existential threat to the Affordable Care Act." Jonathan Turley, a noted liberal constitutional-law expert at George Washington Law School, recently agreed, writing in the *Los Angeles Times* that *Halbig* "could leave Obamacare on life support."

President Obama has increasingly exasperated both judges and constitutional scholars with his boasts about going around Congress when it doesn't give him what he wants. "I've got a pen, and I've got a phone," he told reporters before his first Cabinet meeting of 2014, in January. That attitude has prompted his decision to rewrite Obamacare at least 23 times without any involvement of Congress. If Obama's actions in *Halbig* are found unconstitutional, in which he imposed taxes no Congress ever authorized, then other parts of Obamacare will become more vulnerable to legal challenge, and Congress will probably have a much bigger say in rewriting or reversing aspects of the law.

After all, even Obama has conceded that Obamacare is, to put it politely, rough-hewn. "Obviously we didn't do a good enough job in terms of how we crafted the law," he told NBC's Chuck Todd in November 2013. A prime example? Obamacare established an insurance exchange for each state and authorized the federal government to operate the exchanges in states that chose not to set up their own. But Obamacare's authors wanted to create strong incentives for states to set up their own health-insurance exchanges — they mandated penalties for states that opted out. In addition, because Obamacare needed the support of every single Democratic senator (plus the two independents in the 2009 Senate), the law's supporters were forced to accommodate the demands of key fence-sitters. One such was Ben Nelson, then a Democratic senator from Nebraska, who was concerned about excessive federal control of the exchanges. To gain Nelson's support, the law specified that subsidies for Obamacare could only go through "an Exchange established by the State." To the surprise of most, over two-thirds of the states declined to establish their own exchanges.

The *Halbig* plaintiffs — individuals and small businesses in six states that didn't establish state exchanges — argue that the Obama administration is breaking the law by offering those tax subsidies in all 50 states. The plaintiffs argue that if the subsidies hadn't been offered in their states, they would have been exempted from the individual-mandate penalties of Obamacare because they couldn't have afforded to pay for health coverage.

The Justice Department has responded that the argument is all about a drafting error and insists that Congress actually intended the subsidies to be available to all. The Internal Revenue Service issued a single-paragraph explanation of its decision to ignore the "established by a State" language of Obamacare, though this restrictive language appears nine times in the law's text. Nonetheless, Judge Paul Friedman of the district court in Washington, D.C., upheld the administration's interpretation in January, allowing the subsidies to continue in all states. But Turley predicts that "the D.C. Circuit Court may see things quite differently," given the now-established Obama record of executive overreach that the Supreme Court has documented and repeatedly rebuked.

Jonathan Adler, a professor of law at Case Western University who has argued on behalf of the *Halbig* plaintiffs, has also compiled several recent examples of the Supreme Court's impatience with poorly drafted legislation. In *Michigan v. Bay Mills Indian Community*, for example, Justice Elena Kagan noted: "This court does not revise legislation . . . just because the text as written creates an apparent anomaly as to some subject it does not address." In *Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA*, Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the majority, stressed that "an agency has no power to tailor legislation to bureaucratic policy goals by rewriting unambiguous statutory terms."

What would happen if, in 34 states, the subsidies that are flowing through the insurance exchanges set up by the federal government were suddenly declared unconstitutional by the courts? Mass chaos, as predicted by Obamacare defenders? Not likely. Instead, some states would move to set up their own exchanges, perhaps benefiting from the lessons of Obamacare's shaky rollout. But more important, the Obama administration would have no choice but to work with Congress as it revisited the exchange issue and rewrote the law. With that kind of leverage, we could see a Republican House — possibly joined by a Republican Senate after January 2015 — that is at last able to force substantial changes in Obamacare despite the president's obstinacy. A favorable ruling in *Halbig* by the Supreme Court might be just the two-by-four needed to get President Obama's attention and make him realize that his pen has run out of enforcement ink.

Jewish World Review

The Challenges of Diversity

by Mark Steyn

Texas Governor Rick Perry was criticized for declining to greet President Obama at Austin-Bergstrom Airport when Air Force One touches down and the bazillion-car motorcade takes off for some vital Democrat fundraisers.

Obama made a conscious decision to, in effect, dissolve the southern border, and, quite reasonably enough, the "unaccompanied minors" of Latin America opted to take him at his word. One of his party's most senior figures, and the woman who if things go well for them in November will be Speaker of the House and second in line of succession to the presidency, explicitly refuses to recognize the international boundary. Down there for a photo-op the other day, Nancy Pelosi

declared: "This is a community with a border going through it." It's bogus, so why get hung up on tedious legalistic nonsense like "frontiers"?

Mr Obama and Ms Pelosi apparently see themselves as leaders of some post-Westphalian entity wherein the political elite use the Third World to reconfigure the citizenry to something more to their taste. But, having voluntarily liquidated US sovereignty at the southern border, in what sense then is Obama President of the United States? Why should the head of a sovereign state that's renounced its sovereignty still expect to be entitled to all the perks thereof - like fawning governors greeting him at the airport?

~The great thing about all this diversity is that it presents us with "challenges". And who doesn't like a challenge? From The Washington Post:

*The kindergartners of the Class of 2026, who finished their first year in Fairfax County schools Wednesday, constitute the largest and one of the most ethnically, culturally and socioeconomically diverse groups of students the county has seen, a fact that school system administrators say could pose significant **challenges** in the decade to come.*

"Challenge" in this context is a euphemism for wholesale cultural transformation.

*The demographic changes in Fairfax are likely to have long-term implications for the school system: Most of this year's kindergarten class will spend the next 12 years in county schools. Schools officials believe that the **challenges** that come with a less-affluent and less-prepared population will exacerbate the system's struggles with a widening achievement gap for minorities and ballooning class sizes.*

"Challenge" in this context is a euphemism for crappy dysfunctional schools.

*"There are additional costs associated with these changes that will continue to **challenge** our budgeting in the years ahead," [School Superintendent] Garza said. "We view these demographic shifts and our growing diversity as a strength that we will continue to celebrate."*

"Challenge" in this context is a euphemism for higher taxes. But the last sentence warn that if you're dumb enough to query why worse schools and higher taxes serve the interests of Americans you're a racist.

~If the media weren't so content to be court eunuchs, there might actually be a story here. But fortunately for Obama, Pelosi et al, the eunuchs are content to be cooperative:

Health and Human Services officials will allow reporters to visit a military facility housing some of the immigrant children who have arrived at the southern border in recent weeks, but only if the media promises not to record anything, not to ask any questions during the tour, and not to talk to any of the staff members or children.

How many "challenges" are you prepared to take on in the service of diversity? In Europe, which has southern-border issues all of its own, a French teacher, 34-year-old Fabienne Calmes, was murdered in front of her kindergarten class by the mother of one of her pupils. Murders of schoolteachers are very rare in France, and the grim fate of Mme Calmes galvanized the nation. Indeed, the French state has charged "the mother" with murder but has still not released her full name.

Why?

In a healthy journalistic culture, crime reporters would be climbing over each other to get the scoop on the psycho dame who killed the beloved kindergarten teacher devoted to her charges. But not this time... You have to go seven paragraphs down into this story from *La Dépêche* to find out anything about the murderer, and then glossed over very lightly:

Arrivée dans le Tarn, il y a 2 ans, Rachida H., marocaine de nationalité espagnole, s'est fait connaître auprès des services sociaux du conseil général du Tarn en tant que mère isolée.

(Arrived in Tarn, 2 years ago, Rachida H., Moroccan of Spanish nationality, was known to social services of the general Council of the Tarn as a single mother.)

Ah. So Mme Calmes was killed by a Moroccan with a Spanish passport who's on welfare.

Best to downplay it all then, in the interests of cultural sensitivity. What happened was a "tragedy", as M Hollande says, but one of those vague, blurry tragedies, nothing too specific or detailed...

The developed world has chosen civilizational suicide as a moral virtue. As Fabienne Calmes' fellow educator across the Atlantic would say, our growing diversity is a strength that we will continue to celebrate - even unto death.

National Review

Free Countries Mock Their Presidents

Sharp and violent denunciations of the executive branch have long been a feature of American life.

by Charles C. W. Cooke

Nineteen terrifying [words](#) from the Omaha *World-Herald*:

The U.S. Department of Justice has joined the discussions over a controversial float in the Norfolk Independence Day parade.

Thus did the federal government dispatch an emissary to investigate a minor instance of Midwestern dissent.

A quick recap for the happily uninitiated: The “controversial float” in question was one of many included in this year’s Independence Day parade in Norfolk, Neb. The entry, which featured a zombie standing on an outhouse marked “Obama Presidential Library,” was created by a veteran named Dale Remmich, and was designed, Remmich claims, to express the “political disgust” that he feels at the Obama administration’s mismanagement of the Department of Veteran Affairs. As is the habit now, pictures of the float were quickly pushed around the Internet, attracting the attention and [disapprobation](#) of such august institutions as the *Washington Post*, CBS, ABC, and the *Huffington Post* — and, it seems, the interest of the United States Department of Justice. This week, the *World-Herald* reports, the DOJ “sent a member of its Community Relations Service team, which gets involved in discrimination disputes, to a Thursday meeting about the issue.” Present at the summit were the NAACP, the mayor of the Nebraska town in which the float was displayed, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which sponsored the event.

Now for the obvious question: *Why?* What, exactly, was the problem here? Nobody was killed. Nobody was injured. Nobody had their material or spiritual interests injured, nor were they stripped of their livelihoods. No federal or state laws were broken. Indeed, not even *private rules* were broken. More to the point, there was no “*discrimination dispute*” of the sort with which the DOJ likes to concern itself. Instead, a few free people were vexed because a politician that they like was depicted in an unflattering light. One might well ask, “So what?” Once, Americans tackled the Oregon Trail. Are they now in need of their political “*discussions*” being arbitrated by glorified social workers sent by Uncle Sam?

In a typically risible statement, Nebraska’s state Democratic party described the incident as one of the “worst shows of racism and disrespect for the office of the presidency that Nebraska has ever seen.” That this is almost certainly true demonstrates just how much progress the United States has made in the last 50 years — and, in consequence, how extraordinarily difficult the professionally aggrieved are finding it to fill their quotas. If a fairly standard old saw is among the worst things to have happened to the Cornhusker State in recent memory, the country is in rather good shape, *n'est-ce pas?*

Exactly what it was about the float that rendered it “racist” was, of course, never explained. Instead, the assertion was merely thrown into the ether, ready to be accepted uncritically by the legions of righteously indignant keyboard warriors that lurk around social media as piranhas around a fresh carcass. But, for future reference at least, it would be nice to have the details of the offense unpacked. Are outhouses racist now? Are zombies? Or was it perhaps the overalls in which the zombie was dressed? Moreover, if any of these are now redolent of something sinister, at what point was this association held to be operative? A popular cartoon from 2006 depicted a latrine standing in the middle of the desert, on its outer wall the words “Bush Presidential Library.” Was this “racist,” or is this one of those timeless truths that were only discovered in 2009?

The float’s maker has insisted that the zombie represented himself and not the president. “I’ve got my bibs on, my walker, I’m covering my ears and I’m turning a bit green; I intended it to look like a zombie who has had enough,” he explained. Unsurprisingly, the NAACP didn’t buy it. “Looking at the float, that message absolutely did not come through,” the president of the outfit’s Iowa and Nebraska chapters griped. Fair enough. *Arguendo*, let’s presume that some of the spectators misunderstood the piece and believed that the president of the United States was being compared to a toilet-dwelling zombie. Again: Who cares? Are we now so hopelessly epicene that we expect federally funded conflict-resolution teams to swoop in on the hinterlands if the locals mutter too loudly about the government? I rather hope that we are not.

Frankly, as superficially appealing as they might sound, appeals to “the dignity of the office” are invariably prissy, serving more often than not as a means by which humorless partisans might grumble about their team’s being dinged without appearing hypersensitive. Indeed, far from damaging the national fabric, astringent mockery of the powerful is a healthy and necessary thing — a source of valuable catharsis that serves also as a canary in the proverbial coal mine. When I see the most powerful man in the country being not only mocked, but hanged and burned in effigy too, my first thought is less “gosh, how awful” than “wow, is this a free country or what?” A historical rule of thumb: If a ragtag group of political dissenters can simulate the violent execution of the head of the executive branch and not be so much as *scratched* as a result, the country is a free one. Who cares if a few of our more delicate sorts reach for the smelling salts?

It is always tempting to believe one’s own time to be particularly interesting or fractious, but there is little in politics that is genuinely new. Sharp and violent denunciations of the executive branch have been a feature of American life since the republic’s first days. Before the Revolution, the colonists routinely hanged likenesses of unpopular royal representatives, including King George III; Andrew

[Oliver](#), the Massachusetts Distributor of Stamps; and the loyalist Supreme Court justice, [Thomas Hutchinson](#). Afterward, having dispensed with the old guard, Americans took to lambasting the new, among them George Washington, who had effected the king's defeat; Thomas Jefferson, who had authored the charter of separation; and [James Madison](#), who had drafted the lion's share of the new Constitution. Chief Justice John Jay's 1795 treaty with the British was so wildly unpopular among the Jeffersonians that Jay reported being able to travel from Boston to Philadelphia by the light of his burning effigies. Later, during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln was subjected to the treatment. In one form or another, most presidents have been.

The modern era has served as no exception to the rule. During his two terms, George W. Bush was the object of considerable opprobrium, his likeness being frequently hanged, knived in the forehead, and even assassinated on prime-time television. At the height of the Left's umbrage, progressive heroes Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield went so far as to take a twelve-foot effigy of Bush on a national tour, setting fire to it at each stop to the audience's hearty cheers. Ben and Jerry make ice cream, not apple pie. But their barnstorming road trip could not have been more American. There are few things more indicative of human liberty than the ability to castigate power with impunity — up to and including the moment of offense. "To learn who rules over you," Voltaire suggested, "simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize." Is Barack Obama to be a *ruler*?

USA Today

[Gun violence mars July 4th weekend in Chicago](#)

by Aamar Madhani

CHICAGO — At least 14 people were killed and dozens more wounded in Chicago over the holiday weekend, breaking a relative lull in a city that has been fighting a high-profile battle against the scourge of gun violence.

Chicago has been under scrutiny since 2012, when it was the only city in the nation to record more than 500 homicides. This year, Chicago had 172 homicides through June 30 — nine fewer than the same period last year and 82 fewer than during the first six months of 2012.

While homicides are slightly down, shooting incidents have increased in Chicago during the first half of this year. Police reported 833 shooting incidents at the end of June 2013 compared with 880 shootings as of June 29. The 14 killed over the holiday weekend are among 82 shot in Chicago from late Thursday to early Monday morning.

"Going into a holiday weekend like this, we obviously had a plan— [the] plan included putting hundreds of more officers on the streets at the times that we needed them and in the places we needed them," said Chicago Police superintendent Garry McCarthy. "What were the results? The results were a lot of shootings and a lot of murders, unfortunately."

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has made reducing violence a top priority for his administration. Over the holiday weekend, Chicago police beefed up patrols, and McCarthy said police seized more than 100 illegal guns.

Most of this weekend's incidents were on the city's west and south sides, areas that suffer a disproportionate amount of Chicago's gun violence. But one shooting incident ended not far from the doorstep of Emanuel, who lives in a leafy neighborhood on Chicago's North Side.

In that incident, Kezon Lamb, 19, was killed when shots were fired at the vehicle he was driving in with two other people. After they were shot at, the trio sped away and tracked down a police officer about two blocks from the mayor's home, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

Lamb was taken to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead.



At least 14 people were killed and 82 others wounded in Chicago over the holiday weekend.

Emanuel called the holiday gun violence "senseless" and "unacceptable." But he also said Chicago's problem is partly due to weaker gun laws in adjacent states as well a lack of will in Washington to address the issue.

"Where are the gun laws, so you have comprehensive background checks?" Emanuel said Monday. "While [Chicago is] providing record summer educational job opportunities and summer jobs, where is the federal [government] with assistance to expand that?"

The burst of violence came on the same weekend in which Chicago police officers were involved in eight shootings, including two that left civilians dead. In each incident, police said the civilians pointed guns at the officers. In three of the incidents, police officers were shot at by suspects, McCarthy said.

In one case on the city's South Side on Saturday night, police said they were responding to a call of "shots fired," when they came upon a 16-year-old boy holding a gun. Police officers chased the boy into a backyard, where they said the boy turned and pointed his weapon at the pursuing police officers. The boy was later identified as Warren Robinson.

"Fearing for their lives and the lives of their partners, officers discharged their weapons," police said in a statement.

In the second police-involved fatal shooting, police approached 14-year-old Pedro Rios when they spotted him "with an object protruding from his waistband." Rios ran when the officers approached and at some point in the pursuit the teen pointed a revolver at an officer, according to police.

As a result, the officer fired at the teen, police said.

McCarthy, a former New York city deputy commissioner, noted that he's often asked about the difference between fighting crime in the Big Apple and the Windy City.

"I can tell you very simply," McCarthy said. "The proliferation of firearms."

Washington Times

Obama slammed by black Chicago residents: 'Worst president ever'

by Cheryl Chumley

Black residents of Chicago's South Side, who recently rallied to decry a spate of violence in the city, ripped President Obama for ignoring their plight while pushing for funding for illegal immigrants at their expense.

The protest against the rash of shootings was staged Friday at the Chicago Police Department headquarters building. Over the Fourth of July weekend, nine people were killed and more than 60 injured, authorities said.

Demonstrators blasted the Obama administration's inaction in Chicago while federal funds are earmarked to help the roughly 50,000 illegal immigrants who have crossed into America since October.

"Mr. President, we're asking for you," one woman said. "You're spending billions of dollars in Texas, but we've a problem here in Chicago. We will not stand by this here, and keep letting this senseless killing and shooting happen in our community."

Another resident said, "Today, if you look at the time that we were brought here as slaves 400 years ago, we got the same results today."

One man called for Mr. Obama to step down if he continued to shun the city's problems.

"For the president to set aside all of these funds for immigrants and [have] forsaken the African-American community, I think that's a disgrace," the man told the blog Rebel Pundit. "He will go down as the worst president ever elected. Bill Clinton was the African-American president."

My Fox DC

Orlando TSA agent who stopped DC man didn't know where "District of Columbia" was

WASHINGTON - You probably learned the 50 United States in elementary school--- but don't forget about the nation's capital. An Orlando Transportation Safety Administration agent

apparently needed a geography refresher after refusing to let a D.C. man through a security checkpoint last weekend because he didn't recognize his District of Columbia driver's license as a valid form of identification.

Justin Gray was flying home to D.C. from Orlando International Airport when according wftv.com, a TSA agent asked to see Gray's passport because his D.C. driver's license wasn't a valid form of identification. Gray works as a reporter in Cox Media Group's Washington bureau.

".@TSA Agent in Orlando never heard of "District of Columbia." Demanded passport because he didn't believe my drivers license was from US!?" Gray tweeted on July 12.

The station reports that Gray's license was up-to-date, but the agent didn't seem to know what the District of Columbia was. According to Gray's retweets, someone from TSA reached out to him on Twitter shortly after the situation took place, and Gray was able to make it through security and stopped to complain to a TSA supervisor about what happened.

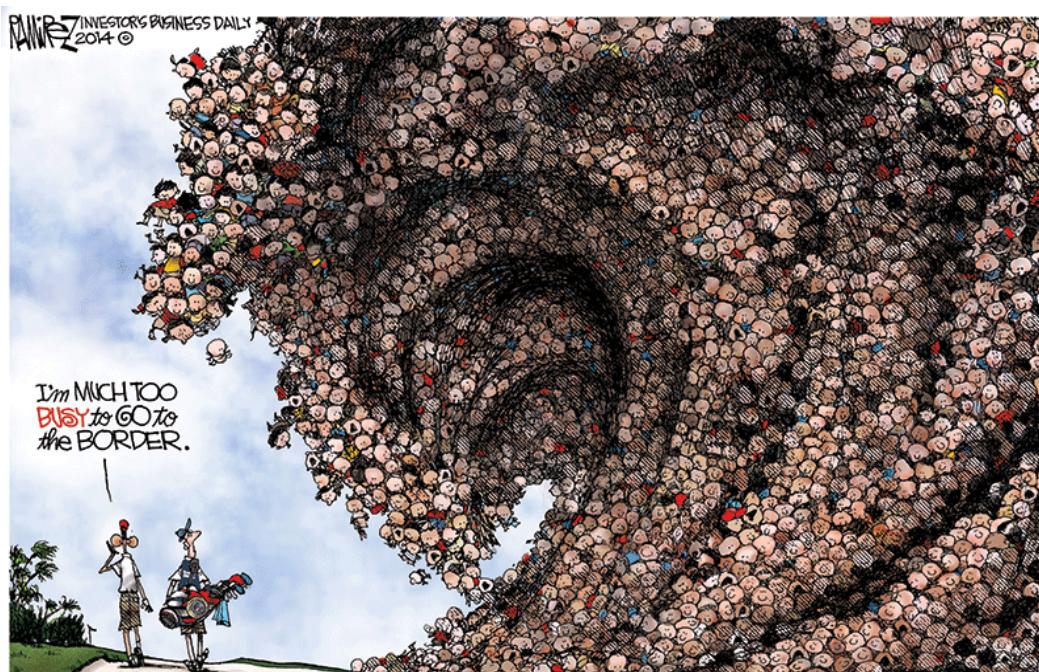
Late Tuesday, Gray tweeted that TSA was showing every Orlando agent a photo of a D.C. license after the incident.





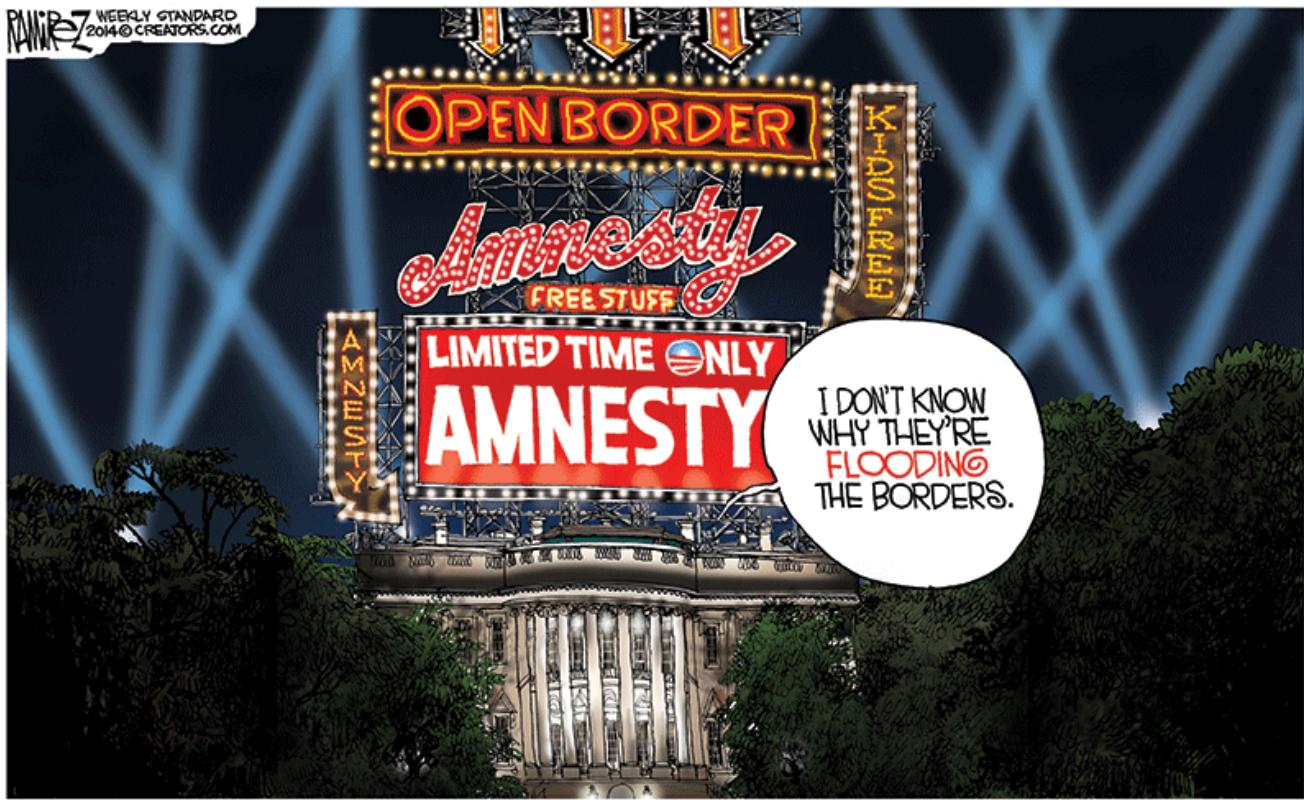
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