

October 29, 2014

Looks like the GOP will have some good results next week. With an example of Colorado, John Fund reminds us we have to have a win large enough to cover the margin of Dem voting fraud.

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James O'Keefe, the guerilla filmmaker who brought down the ACORN voter-registration fraudsters in 2010 and forced the resignation of NPR executives, politely disagrees. Today, he is releasing some new undercover footage that raises disturbing questions about ballot integrity in Colorado, the site of fiercely contested races for the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House, and the governorship. When he raised the issue of filling out some of the unused ballots that are mailed to every household in the state this month, he was told by Meredith Hicks, the director of Work for Progress, a liberal group funded by Democratic Super PACS.: "That is not even like lying or something, if someone throws out a ballot, like if you want to fill it out you should do it." She then brazenly offered O'Keefe, disguised as a middle-aged college instructor, a job with her group.

The video of O'Keefe's encounters with other operatives is equally disturbing. He has a conversation with Greenpeace employee Christina Topping, and suggests he might have access to unused ballots from people who have recently moved out of college fraternity houses. "I mean it is putting the votes to good use," she responds. "So really, truly, like yeah, that is awesome."

Colorado secretary of state Scott Gessler, along with several county election clerks, have raised warning flags that a new state law that automatically mails a ballot to everyone is an engraved invitation to commit fraud. "Sending ballots to people who did not even ask for them or have moved out of state is asking for trouble" he told me. ...

Andrew McCarthy covers Ron Klain's first job for the administration - the Solyndra bust. The denouement (bankruptcy) was coming just days before the elections and the fixers managed to put it off until the day after the election. Here's the end of McCarthy's piece.

... This is where the Energy Protection Act's only sensible aspect is supposed to kick in. The law stipulates that, in the event a company in which the government has invested the public's money goes bust, taxpayers must be prioritized over company stakeholders when any remaining assets of the bankrupt business are sold. That should have happened with Solyndra. But remember, this is the lobbyist-laden, crony-socialist Obama administration we're talking about.

OMB officials fully understood that there was no economic sense in the Solyndra restructuring proposal. The government loan put the public first in line for proceeds on the sale of Solyndra assets. With the company hurtling toward inevitable bankruptcy, an immediate liquidation under the original loan terms would net taxpayers a much better deal — about \$170 million better. As congressional investigators later learned, so compelling was the argument against restructuring (i.e., the argument for faithfully executing the law) that OMB feared "questions will be asked" if the Department of Energy proceeded with it.

Yet the Obama DOE permitted the Solyndra backers to renegotiate the terms anyway. Preposterously, DOE rationalized that the restructuring was necessary “to create a situation whereby investors felt there was a value in their investment.” Of course, when commerce is not rigged by the government, the value in an investment is the value created by the business in which the investment is made. Here, Solyndra’s business operations produced only losses. New investment in the failing company could be enticed only by an invalid restructuring that prioritized investors over taxpayers — the kind of scheme from which faithful enforcement of the Energy Policy Act is supposed to protect the public.

In February 2011, in exchange for lending some of their own money, Solyndra stakeholders were given priority over taxpayers with respect to the first \$75 million in the event the company filed for bankruptcy. A few months later, Solyndra did precisely that.

Negotiations over the restructuring deal had begun in 2010. The time they bought helped delay Solyndra’s implosion beyond the midterm elections. Yet with collapse looming, the company still decided that autumn to lay off nearly 20 percent of its work force. On October 25, 2010, just a week before the midterms, Solyndra CEO Brian Harris alerted the Obama DOE that in three days, the company would shut down its original factory and begin shedding employees and contractors.

The day before that scheduled October 28 announcement, panicked White House energy adviser Heather Zichal e-mailed the redoubtable Ron Klain — as well as Valerie Jarrett and Communications Director Dan Pfeiffer — explaining: “Here’s the deal: Solyndra is going to announce they are laying off 200 of their 1,200 workers. No es bueno.”

Republicans on a House committee investigating Solyndra subsequently learned that DOE pressured the company to delay the announcement. It was finally made on November 3 . . . the day after the midterm elections.

Well, well, well. Here we are just two weeks before the 2014 midterms and Ron Klain is back to manage another crisis — an infectious-disease outbreak. Sure he’s a political fixer, not an epidemiologist, but rest assured that Klain will keep us promptly apprised of all Ebola developments without ever glancing at a calendar or a poll.

Dan Henninger thinks Klain may be the last fixer.

In “Pulp Fiction,” a movie about crime, there is a character named The Wolf. The Wolf is known as a “cleaner.” His line of work is cleaning up the mess made by incompetent criminals. As played by Harvey Keitel, the cleaner is a man of focus, competence and authority. I thought of the cleaner when President Obama called in Ron Klain.

Mr. Obama said Mr. Klain would be the Ebola czar. But the rest of the Beltway political community said he was something else. Some said Mr. Klain was a famous political operative. Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, called him an “implementation expert.” Those who have been around politics too long said Mr. Klain was a fixer.

Political fixer is not an entirely dishonorable profession. Presidents, governors, mayors—nearly all at some point need someone who can hose down the blood, do the laundry and get the boys back to doing business as usual.

Or used to.

Ron Klain may be the last fixer. ...

Hillary was campaigning for Martha Coakley in MA and decided to see if she could sound dumber than Fauxchahontas - Elizabeth Warren. We'll look at this from a few directions. Jonathan Tobin is first.

It didn't take long for Hillary Clinton's handlers to start walking back the putative 2016 Democratic presidential nominee's latest whopper. While campaigning alongside Senator Elizabeth Warren — the Democrat most members of her party's base really like — Clinton tried to play can you top this with the popular left-winger by telling her audience, "Don't let anybody tell you that corporations and businesses create jobs." It's hard to imagine a more mind-boggling confession of her ignorance of basic economics. But even after her staff tried to explain it as merely opposition to certain tax breaks or "trickle down economics," it's hard to explain what she was thinking. ...

... This is, of course, the same Hillary who likes to pretend to be the adult in the room on economic as well as foreign policy issues. But as she proved during her time as secretary of state, Clinton is a political chameleon with no core beliefs other than her own personal ambition. Just as she gladly went along with President Obama's decision to cut and run from Iraq and ultimately from Afghanistan and stay out of Syria even though she supposedly disagreed with much of this, when placed in Warren's orbit in front of an audience of rabid liberals, Clinton is ready to stake out a position that seems to assert that only government is responsible for job creation.

Rather than a misstatement or a gaffe or even a late life avowal of neo-socialist claptrap her nonsense about corporations not creating jobs is testimony to her inauthentic nature. ...

More from Jennifer Rubin.

... This latest gaffe confirms that when Clinton's lips move she is telling us what she thinks her base wants to hear, not sharing any original or sincerely felt position of her own. Moreover, her utter lack of spontaneity has now become a primary characteristic. As one Capitol Hill Republican put it, "She overcompensates when she's in uncomfortable territory." Like trying to be a populist. Or trying to attack the corporations whose trough she has fed on for millions of dollars in speaking fees. Or trying to appear nonchalant about a challenger from her left, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who actually believes anti-business rhetoric.

How is it that Clinton is, well, such a bad politician? Remember in 2008 she wasn't all that scintillating, appearing stiff and remote and running on experience in a "change" election. For decades Bill Clinton had been the politician and she, the operator behind the scenes. Electoral politics most obviously had not been her own life's calling. As we age, old habits of mind become more ingrained. Whatever tendencies one has magnify and whatever limitations one suffers from become more impervious. Then, consider that for nearly six years as secretary of state and former secretary of state she has perfected the art of saying not very much at all. No wonder her public performances are so painful to watch. ...

And **Ed Morrissey** with his case backed by some numbers.

... The minimum-wage bill for which Hillary Clinton voted passed in 2007 and took effect in stages, beginning that summer. The Household Survey of the BLS showed that the US economy had 146.063 million jobs in June 2007, just before the increase took place. Last month's data showed that the US economy had 146.6 million jobs — an increase of less than 500,000 in over 7 years, not “millions of jobs” as Hillary claims here. In fact, the 146.6 million is the highest it's ever gotten since the passage of that law. In the same period, the civilian workforce participation rate has gone from 66% to 62.7%. On a population basis, there are a lot fewer people working after the last minimum wage hike, not more, and wages are actually down, not up.

Compare this to the “trickle-down” era of the Reagan presidency. When Reagan took office in January 1981, the US economy had 99.995 million jobs and the participation rate was 63.9%. By the end of his presidency in January 1989, the US economy had grown more than 16 million jobs (116.708 million total) and the participation rate had leaped to 66.5%. That covers nearly the same length of time since the last minimum wage hike (96 months vs 89 months), but both include about five years of technical economic recovery.

Obviously there were other factors in play here, so let's focus on something more directly affected by minimum-wage hikes — teen unemployment, which is where minimum-wage hikes have the most impact. When Reagan took office, teen unemployment was 19.1%, but it dropped to 16.4% by the end of his presidency. In June 2007, it was at a similar level, 16.3%. Today it's 20%, and has been bouncing in 2014 between 19% and 21%. Don't forget that these figures are more than five years into a supposed recovery. ...

National Review

[James O'Keefe Strikes Again](#)

The guerilla filmmaker has exposed how voter fraud is both easy and condoned in Colorado.

by John Fund

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to unused ballots from people who have recently moved out of college fraternity houses. “I mean it is putting the votes to good use,” she responds. “So really, truly, like yeah, that is awesome.”

Colorado secretary of state Scott Gessler, along with several county election clerks, have raised warning flags that a new state law that automatically mails a ballot to everyone is an engraved invitation to commit fraud. “Sending ballots to people who did not even ask for them or have moved out of state is asking for trouble” he told me. For example, little can stop someone who collects discarded ballots from trash cans, fills out the ballots, and mails them in. Election workers are supposed to compare signatures on registration records with signed ballots. But if a person has a “witness” who signs the ballot on the witness line, then the signatures do not have to match and the vote is counted.

Secretary of State Gessler had futile arguments with Democratic state legislators last year who insisted on ramming a bill through that mandated Colorado become the only state in the nation with both all-mail balloting and same-day registration. Under same-day registration someone can register to vote online, have a mail ballot sent to them, and never physically show up to register or vote. Other places that use same-day registration treat the vote as a provisional ballot pending verification. Colorado immediately counts the vote and there is no way to separate it out if the person who votes is later found ineligible. “We know people in other states with better integrity safeguards have cheated using the cover of these methods,” Gessler told me. A decade ago, Melody Rose, then a liberal professor at Oregon State University, concluded that state’s vote-by-mail system “brings a perpetual risk of systemic fraud” in elections with razor-thin margins.

“Voter fraud is incredibly difficult to detect and prosecute, absent a direct confession,” Gessler says as he notes that in other areas of law-breaking, we do not judge how much of it there is merely by the number of related prosecutions. But he also notes there is evidence of just how easy voter fraud is to commit. Last December, New York City’s Department of Investigation detailed how its undercover agents claimed at 63 polling places to be individuals who were in fact dead, had moved out of town, or who were in jail. In 61 instances, or 97 percent of the time, they were allowed to vote. (To avoid skewing results, they voted only for nonexistent write-in candidates.) How did the city’s Board of Elections respond? Did it immediately probe and reform their sloppy procedures? Not at all. It instead demanded that the investigators be prosecuted. Most officials are loath to admit how vulnerable election systems are, but privately many express worry that close elections could be flipped by fraud.

Nor are such sad examples limited to New York. In 2008, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of voter-ID laws in a 6–3 opinion written by John Paul Stevens, then the most liberal member of the court. He noted that the record “demonstrates that not only is the risk of voter fraud real but that it could affect the outcome of a close election.” Stevens had witnessed the Daley machine up close manipulate local elections through fraud and chicanery during a distinguished legal career in Chicago that included serving both as a special counsel to a commission rooting out corruption and as a judge.

I understand that Donna Brazile devoutly wants to wish away the notion of voter fraud. But by overwhelming margins, the American people believe it is a real problem and support steps to combat it. Indeed, a Rasmussen survey in 2013 found that a greater percentage of African Americans viewed voter fraud as a serious problem than did whites. That is because, as former Democratic congressman Artur Davis of Alabama told me: “Minority voters are often the biggest victims of voter fraud as reform movements in cities and depressed rural areas are crushed by fraudulent machine voting. I have seen it with my own eyes in Alabama.”

As with his expose of ACORN, James O’Keefe deserves credit for once again uncovering the potential for corruption at the ballot box while too many journalists keep their noses buried in campaign-finance reports. Both kinds of reporting are valuable, but O’Keefe appears to be a rare bird interested in ballot integrity.

National Review

Ron Klain and Solyndra

The administration’s point man on a solar fraud is now in charge of Ebola.

By Andrew C. McCarthy

Ron Klain is a sharp-elbowed Democratic political operative with no medical expertise. Tapping him as “Ebola czar” may not be the president’s best move when, as it is, no one can believe a word the Obama administration says. And that’s not just because Mr. Klain is yet another lobbyist recruited despite Mr. Obama’s vow that his administration would shun lobbyists.

Klain was also a central player in the president’s Solyndra fraud, which soaked taxpayers for over half a billion dollars for the benefit of Obama cronies.

In Faithless Execution, I recount the Solyndra fraud. It never got the attention it deserved — involving, as it did, potential felony fraud violations of federal law. Even for people who did give it attention at the time, Solyndra is so many Obama scandals ago that its unseemly details are tough to recall. The story is thus worth retelling. As our nerves fray over the Ebola crisis, it is a valuable window into the administration’s priorities and an indicator of the level of trust we can put in the new czar’s assurances.

Solyndra was a solar-energy company backed by the family foundation of George Kaiser, an Oklahoma oil magnate and major Obama fundraiser. Prior to Obama’s coming to power, Solyndra had sought government funding under the economically absurd 2005 Energy Policy Act. That law lets the government play venture capitalist, investing taxpayer money in private “green energy” boondoggles that cannot attract adequate market financing.

Notwithstanding the Bush administration’s zeal to hop on this politically correct bandwagon, it declined Solyndra’s application. As one private analyst later put it, the company was “an absolute complete disaster,” with operating expenses, including supply costs, nearly doubling its revenue — and that’s without factoring in high capital and other costs in an industry with low profit margins. Given that solar-panel competitors backed by China were producing energy at drastically lower prices, the chance that Solyndra would ever become profitable was practically nonexistent.

But in 2008, Americans elected as president a devotee of renewable-energy experiments who had enjoyed major support from Kaiser. Obviously, Solyndra backers were thrilled. The Department of Energy (DOE) continued to stiff-arm the company in the days just before Obama’s inauguration, citing unresolved concerns. Yet, within just a week of the new president’s taking office, a DOE staffer noted in an e-mail, “We are approaching the beginning of the approval process for Solyndra again.”

Company officers and investors reportedly visited the White House no fewer than 20 times while the loan guarantee was being considered and, later, revised. In short order, Obama made Solyndra the very first recipient of a public loan guarantee when the Energy Act program was

beefed up with “stimulus” spending. The loans and credits eventually amounted to a staggering \$535 million.

At the time, Ron Klain was chief of staff to Vice President Joe Biden. Hot to become the face of Obama-administration green initiatives, Biden planned to announce the Solyndra loan during a much-publicized September 2009 energy speech. Officials at DOE and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had major qualms: They realized that the company was hemorrhaging money; even with the loan, Solyndra would lack the necessary working capital to turn that equation around. Yet the loan was approved in time for Biden’s speech. A rueful OMB official lamented in an e-mail that the timing of the loan approval was driven by the politics of the announcement “rather than the other way around.”

Although Solyndra was a private company, it was using its government loans as a springboard to go public. That triggered the obligation to comply with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules. For an initial public offering of stock, SEC rules require the disclosure of a company’s financial condition.

In Solyndra’s case, outside auditors from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) found that condition to be dire. “The company has suffered recurring losses from operations, negative cash flows since inception, and has a net stockholders’ deficit,” the PWC accountants concluded. Even with the gigantic loan, Solyndra was such a basket case that PWC found “substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a *going concern*.” I italicize “going concern” because it is a term of art. Auditors invoke it when there is an extraordinary need to protect themselves and the company from legal liability because that company is likely to fail.

With no alternative if they wanted to make a play for market financing, Solyndra’s backers disclosed the auditors’ bleak diagnosis in March 2010. The administration had thus been aware that the company was a basket case for two months when Obama came to Solyndra on May 26. The company was to be the backdrop to a big presidential speech on administration energy initiatives.

The administration was not only aware; it was worried. As ABC reports, just two days before Obama’s speech, his *eminence grise*, Valerie Jarrett, was warned by California businessman Steve Westly that visiting the company might “haunt [the president] in the next 18 months if Solyndra hits the wall and files for bankruptcy, etc.” Alarmed, Ms. Jarrett reached out to Mr. Klain, admonishing that “we clearly need to make sure that they are stable and solid.”

Klain, in turn, consulted with DOE before downplaying Solyndra’s problems in reporting back to Jarrett:

Sounds like there are some risk factors here — but that’s true of any innovative company that POTUS would visit. It looks OK to me, but if you feel otherwise, let me know.

Jarrett said she would rely on Klain’s assessment, notwithstanding that it conceded the very real possibility, if not likelihood, of catastrophe. As Klain elaborated in a follow-up e-mail to Jarrett:

The reality is that if POTUS visited 10 such places over the next 10 months, probably a few would be belly-up by election day 2012 — but that to me is the reality of saying that we want to help promote cutting edge, new economy industries.

I can hear him now: *Ebola? There may be some risk factors, but hey, we’ll be promoting cutting-edge treatments . . .*

Federal law severely criminalizes schemes to defraud the United States — meaning, the taxpayers. It also extensively regulates the sale of securities. “In connection with the purchase or sale of any security,” the law criminalizes fraudulent schemes, false statements of material fact, and — significantly for present purposes — statements that omit any “material fact necessary in order to make the statements made . . . not misleading.”

Presidents of the United States, moreover, are duty-bound to execute the laws faithfully. They also have a fiduciary responsibility to be forthright with the American people, an obligation that certainly applies when speaking to investors who are about to be solicited for funding by a business into which the president has poured millions of public dollars.

Nevertheless, with Klain & Co. having done the administration's signature shoddy due diligence, Obama's speech on May 26, 2010, was jaw-droppingly dishonest.

When it came to channeling public funds into private hands, the president claimed, “We can see the positive impacts right here at Solyndra.” He bragged that the \$535 million loan had enabled the company to build the state-of-the-art factory in which he was then speaking. Obama said nothing about how Solyndra was continuing to lose money — public money — at a catastrophic pace. Instead, he painted the brightest of pictures: 3,000 construction workers to build the thriving plant; manufacturers in 22 states building an endless stream of supplies; technicians in a dozen states constructing the advanced equipment that would make the factory hum; and Solyndra fully “expect[ing] to hire a thousand workers to manufacture solar panels and sell them across America and around the world.” Not content with that rosy portrait, the president further predicted a “ripple effect”: Solyndra would “generate business for companies throughout our country who will create jobs supplying this factory with parts and materials.”

In sum, auditors had scrutinized Solyndra and found it to have, from its inception, a fatally flawed business model that was hurtling toward collapse. Well aware of that fact, the president and his administration — with Ron Klain front and center — touted it as a success story that would produce jobs, growth, and spectacular success for the foreseeable future.

Taxpayers, of course, are stuck with the president's investment decisions. Investors, by contrast, still get to choose where their money goes. Thankfully, when it came to Solyndra, they were more influenced by the PWC auditors than by the president's delirious speech. The company had to pull its initial public offering due to lack of interest. As the IPO failed and the company inevitably sank ever deeper in the Red Ink Sea, Solyndra's backers pleaded with the administration to restructure the loan terms — to insulate them from their poor business judgment, allowing them to recoup some of their investment.

This is where the Energy Protection Act's only sensible aspect is supposed to kick in. The law stipulates that, in the event a company in which the government has invested the public's money goes bust, taxpayers must be prioritized over company stakeholders when any remaining assets of the bankrupt business are sold. That should have happened with Solyndra. But remember, this is the lobbyist-laden, crony-socialist Obama administration we're talking about.

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Yet the Obama DOE permitted the Solyndra backers to renegotiate the terms anyway. Preposterously, DOE rationalized that the restructuring was necessary “to create a situation whereby investors felt there was a value in their investment.” Of course, when commerce is not rigged by the government, the *value* in an investment is the *value created by the business* in which the investment is made. Here, Solyndra’s business operations produced only losses. New investment in the failing company could be enticed only by an invalid restructuring that prioritized investors over taxpayers — the kind of scheme from which faithful enforcement of the Energy Policy Act is supposed to protect the public.

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WSJ

Ron Klain: The Last Fixer

The political spin doctors can no longer compete with a simple set of facts.

by Daniel Henninger

In “Pulp Fiction,” a movie about crime, there is a character named The Wolf. The Wolf is known as a “cleaner.” His line of work is cleaning up the mess made by incompetent criminals. As played by Harvey Keitel, the cleaner is a man of focus, competence and authority. I thought of the cleaner when President [Obama](#) called in Ron Klain.

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Or used to.

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No more revered idea exists in politics than “message control.” A political idea is brought forth, and its originators are expected to control how the public thinks about that idea. This half-fake, half-real protocol has worked well. Then came ObamaCare.

A vast chasm opened in 2010 between ObamaCare the Promise and ObamaCare the Program. More interesting was how long team Obama stuck with the playbook for message control. As the Affordable Care Act’s rollout imploded in slow motion, [Kathleen Sebelius](#), [Jay Carney](#) and [Nancy Pelosi](#) stood amid the rubble (“glitches”) and said it was all going really quite well.

President Obama in September contributed his own close harmony: “Most of the stories you’ll hear about how ObamaCare just can’t work is just not based on facts. Every time they have predicted something not working, it’s worked.”

A mere four years ago, there was no reason for the Obama operatives to believe political spin wouldn’t succeed. It had for decades.

Spin as a formal term of the political arts was born in the Reagan-Mondale presidential debates of 1984. After the debate, reporters gathered in what came to be called the spin room, where politically articulate spokesmen, or “spin doctors,” would “clarify” what the candidates had said.

Originally, the press ridiculed spin as obvious propaganda. But over the years, somehow, the press came to rely on nameless people, such as Ron Klain, to explain the meaning of political events. “What’s the spin on this?” essentially meant, how are we supposed to think about it? The media would transcribe and transmit the official “narrative,” which more or less became what most of the public believed.

Until one day the public stopped believing that Washington was the Land of Oz.

The force now dooming the ability of fixers like Mr. Klain to succeed at bending reality is the Web.

The political Web is today a nonstop exercise in skepticism and cynicism. True, on the outskirts of the political Web lie the fever swamps. But compulsive Web skepticism about official narratives seems to be reviving the get-the-story instincts of traditional reporting, or what used to be known as assembling a simple set of facts.

The original Ebola story lines from the White House, the CDC and the hospital treating Thomas Duncan in Dallas collapsed almost immediately. Local newspapers documented the daily failure of the software behind the ObamaCare insurance exchanges. Veterans Affairs hospitals were *not* admitting sick patients on time. The reported breakdowns of Secret Service discipline turned the testimony of its director into a travesty of failed spin.

Political and ideological spin still flows like the Big Muddy through the media. And campaign teams will toss up more candidate fantasies, as in 2008. But manipulated messaging is losing potency.

Incumbent Senate Democrats this fall dialed in the six-year-old GOP “war on women.” That strategy is buckling beneath the weight of heavy, unspinnable reality: ISIS, Ukraine, economic angst, the assault on Ottawa, Ebola.

Thus we return to Ron Klain, the Democratic Op.

Whatever his past political jobs as chief of staff for Janet Reno, Al Gore and [Joe Biden](#), and most recently the Obama Solyndra handler, Mr. Klain knows his party has presided over a historic collapse in the voting public’s belief in the competence of government.

This column has noted previously that Mr. Klain preceded Barack Obama by several years at Harvard Law School, where Mr. Klain won a prize for having his class’s highest grade average. In a prescient remark to the New York Times in early 2007 about Mr. Obama’s reputation at Harvard, Mr. Klain said, “The interesting caveat is, that is a style of leadership more effective running a law review than running a country.”

Ron Klain, who reported for duty Wednesday, is the first adult hire of the second Obama term. Once the results of the midterm elections wash over the White House, Mr. Klain may have enough political standing to argue, starting with Ebola, that what’s needed is not another fix, but the reality of performance.

Contentions

[Hillary’s Fake Populism and Her Fatal Flaw](#)

by Jonathan S. Tobin

It didn’t take long for Hillary Clinton’s handlers to start [walking back the putative 2016 Democratic presidential nominee’s latest whopper](#). While campaigning alongside Senator Elizabeth Warren — the Democrat most members of her party’s base really like — Clinton tried to play can you top this with the popular left-winger by telling her audience, “Don’t let anybody tell you that corporations and businesses create jobs.” It’s hard to imagine a more mind-boggling confession of her ignorance of basic economics. But even after her staff tried to explain it as merely opposition to certain tax breaks or “trickle down economics,” it’s hard to explain what she was thinking.

Granted, in a week in which Democratic National Committee Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz [actually said that she agreed](#) with the idea that Republicans are more dangerous than Ebola or ISIS, it must be acknowledged that Clinton’s wacky attack on capitalism isn’t even the most outrageous thing said by a Democrat. But it nevertheless offers us a fascinating insight into her character and inherent weakness as a candidate.

Clinton understands that although Warren has wisely decided to decline to attempt to challenge her for her party’s presidential nomination, her left-wing populism makes her the darling of Democrats. Though she can’t be too worried about a gadfly like Senator Bernie Sanders providing competition in the 2016 primaries, Clinton needs the enthusiasm as well as the support of her party’s liberal core. So when placed alongside Warren, her instincts tell her to not merely echo the Massachusetts senator’s attack on the market economy but to go even further down the ideological road to a place that must surely baffle the Clinton enterprise’s big money Wall Street donors.

This is, of course, the same Hillary who likes to pretend to be the adult in the room on economic as well as foreign policy issues. But as she proved during her time as secretary of state, Clinton is a political chameleon with no core beliefs other than her own personal ambition. Just as she gladly went along with President Obama's decision to cut and run from Iraq and ultimately from Afghanistan and stay out of Syria even though she supposedly disagreed with much of this, when placed in Warren's orbit in front of an audience of rabid liberals, Clinton is ready to stake out a position that seems to assert that only government is responsible for job creation.

Rather than a misstatement or a gaffe or even a late life avowal of neo-socialist claptrap her nonsense about corporations not creating jobs is testimony to her inauthentic nature.

In another context, we'd just put her down as an unprincipled flip-flopper but with Clinton it is more than that. After more than 20 years in our national political life, Hillary Clinton has amassed an impressive resume and can count on her party and the mainstream media to treat her quest to be the first female president as being a national crusade deserving of slavish and unquestioned support. But even after all this time in the spotlight, she's still trying to figure out who she is and what she wants us to think she believes. And she's ready to say anything, whether tilting to the right or the left to fit the circumstances.

Just as important, all that time spent at the side of our country's most gifted politician since Ronald Reagan has taught her nothing about how to speak or behave while under scrutiny. Coming after her awful book tour in which she committed gaffe after gaffe (including her memorable claim about being broke after leaving the White House that left out the fact that she had received a multi-million dollar book advance), this attack on the corporations that she hopes will donate money to her presidential bid is just the latest proof that she is a terrible candidate who isn't improving with age and experience.

Democrats are laboring under the delusion that Clinton is a political colossus who will follow in Barack Obama's footsteps and sweep aside any GOP opposition in another historic campaign. But this misstep is a reminder that she has never (as Obama knows all too well) beaten a tough opponent in an election and is capable of blowing elections that seem impossible to lose. Even if this doesn't tempt Warren to try and steal the party out from under Clinton's nose, it should encourage Republicans who may believe that changing demographics and other problems doom their party to inevitable defeat. Americans can smell a phony from a mile away and this week Hillary proved again that this is her glaring and perhaps fatal weakness.

Right Turn

[To shorthand it: Hillary Clinton is a lousy politician](#)

by Jennifer Rubin

On one level it is comical. As if to outdo President Obama's contempt for private enterprise, [Hillary Clinton on Friday declared](#), "Don't let anybody tell you that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs." *Yeah, Obama was giving those businesses way too much credit.* But of course this makes zero sense so she had to retreat, [insisting she](#) "shorthanded this point the other day."

Being entirely unclear she declared, "[S]o let me be absolutely clear about what I've been saying for a couple of decades" (a cringe-worthy reminder that she's been stuck mouthing the same

platitudes for years and years and years with nary a word change). She continued, “Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in an America where workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out – not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas.” How was her prior statement remotely a shorthand version of the later, scripted one? It obviously wasn’t.

This latest gaffe confirms that when Clinton’s lips move she is telling us what she thinks her base wants to hear, not sharing any original or sincerely felt position of her own. Moreover, her utter lack of spontaneity has now become a primary characteristic. As one Capitol Hill Republican put it, “She overcompensates when she’s in uncomfortable territory.” Like trying to be a populist. Or trying to attack the corporations whose trough she has fed on for millions of dollars in speaking fees. Or trying to appear nonchalant about a challenger from her left, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who actually believes anti-business rhetoric.

How is it that Clinton is, well, such a bad politician? Remember in 2008 she wasn’t all that scintillating, appearing stiff and remote and running on experience in a “change” election. For decades Bill Clinton had been the politician and she, the operator behind the scenes. Electoral politics most obviously had not been her own life’s calling. As we age, old habits of mind become more ingrained. Whatever tendencies one has magnify and whatever limitations one suffers from become more impervious. Then, consider that for nearly six years as secretary of state and former secretary of state she has perfected the art of saying not very much at all. No wonder her public performances are so painful to watch.

Some would say she’s out of practice, but it is more accurate to say that her minimal political skills have atrophied. Now when pressed to innovate or loosen up, Clinton falls flat, makes errors and then calls attention to them by going back to correct her gaffe. During the book tour her defenders said she would warm up and find her groove again. Has she gotten any better in the last few months? Not that we can see.

Indeed, we are right back to 2008 when Clinton’s sense of entitlement and delight in playing the role of feminist icon were poor substitutes for political dexterity and personal charm. The Democrats might feel compelled to pick her for their nominee in 2016, and in all likelihood they will. But her political deficits and failure to improve even under the glare of pre-presidential race coverage should tempt many ambitious liberals. If they do jump in, Iowa becomes do or die for her. *Again.*

Hot Air

[Hillarynomics: Businesses don’t create jobs](#)

by Ed Morrissey

If you have a job right now, don’t thank the company that hired you or the investors that created the company. According to Hillary Clinton, [they didn’t build that](#). At first arguing that hiking the minimum wage would not cost jobs, the presumed Democratic presidential frontrunner then extended those thoughts in a very peculiar way:

At a Democratic rally in Massachusetts, Hillary Clinton’s attempt to attack “trickle-down economics,” resulted in a spectacularly odd statement. ...

She went on to state that businesses and corporations are not the job creators of America. “Don’t let anybody tell you that it’s corporations and businesses that create jobs,” the former Secretary of State said.

It’s actually a total non-sequitur. “Trickle-down economics” has to do with expanding investment, which actually worked spectacularly in the 1980s, but it’s not a theory on which the entire concept of job creation relies. One can criticize “trickle-down economics” without offering the entirely vapid argument that corporations and businesses don’t create jobs. They don’t get created by *book tours*, after all. The tens of millions that Hillary Clinton collects from publishers and speeches pay for a handful of staff jobs at the Clinton Foundation, perhaps, but that same cash turned into investment would create jobs that actually produce goods and services in a market, which then create secondary jobs, and so on.

Besides, Hillary’s argument here is entirely divorced from reality and actual data. The minimum-wage bill for which Hillary Clinton voted passed in 2007 and took effect in stages, beginning that summer. [The Household Survey of the BLS](#) showed that the US economy had 146.063 million jobs in June 2007, just before the increase took place. Last month’s data showed that the US economy had 146.6 million jobs — an increase of less than 500,000 in over 7 years, not “millions of jobs” as Hillary claims here. In fact, the 146.6 million is the highest it’s ever gotten since the passage of that law. In the same period, the civilian workforce participation rate has gone from 66% to 62.7%. On a population basis, there are a lot *fewer* people working after the last minimum wage hike, not more, and wages are actually *down*, not up.

Compare this to the “trickle-down” era of the Reagan presidency. When Reagan took office in January 1981, the US economy had 99.995 million jobs and the participation rate was 63.9%. By the end of his presidency in January 1989, the US economy had grown more than 16 *million* jobs (116.708 million total) and the participation rate had leaped to 66.5%. That covers nearly the same length of time since the last minimum wage hike (96 months vs 89 months), but both include about five years of technical economic recovery.

Obviously there were other factors in play here, so let’s focus on something more directly affected by minimum-wage hikes — teen unemployment, which is where minimum-wage hikes have the most impact. When Reagan took office, teen unemployment was 19.1%, but it dropped to 16.4% by the end of his presidency. In June 2007, it was at a similar level, 16.3%. Today it’s 20%, and has been bouncing in 2014 between 19% and 21%. Don’t forget that these figures are more than *five years* into a supposed recovery.

It’s not easy to get economics this wrong in such a short space of time. At some point, Democrats are going to have to come to grips with the fact that their front-runner is not just a lousy campaigner, but perhaps just as incompetent as the President from which they’re all attempting to run away at the moment.

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Bam's Ebola man mum amid madness

WHERE THE HELL CZAR YOU?

BI-CZAR

SINCE RON KLAIN was named President Obama's Ebola czar on Oct. 17, the city has had its first case of the killer virus, a nurse who tested negative was held in quarantine against her will in New Jersey, and New York and other states have struggled to set fair and safe protocols.

Klain's response: utter — and stunning — silence.

SEE PAGES 4-5

'Prisoner Zero' nurse freed by Christie PAGES 6-7

Tuesday's Daily News front-page headline asked, 'Where the Hell Czar You?'



**RON KLAIN WHEN HE
ATTENDED FABER
COLLEGE WITH OBAMA**



RON KLAIN TODAY

Garry Varvel
STANDUP COMEDIAN
GARYVARVEL.COM



garyvarvel.com



RON KLAIN AS A KID.

HEY, RON. WANNA PLAY DOCTOR?

YEAH!



RON KLAIN AS AN ADULT.

HEY, RON. WANNA PLAY DOCTOR?

YEAH!



DERING
ARKANSAS
DEMOCRAT-
GAZETTE
© 2014-CREATORS.COM

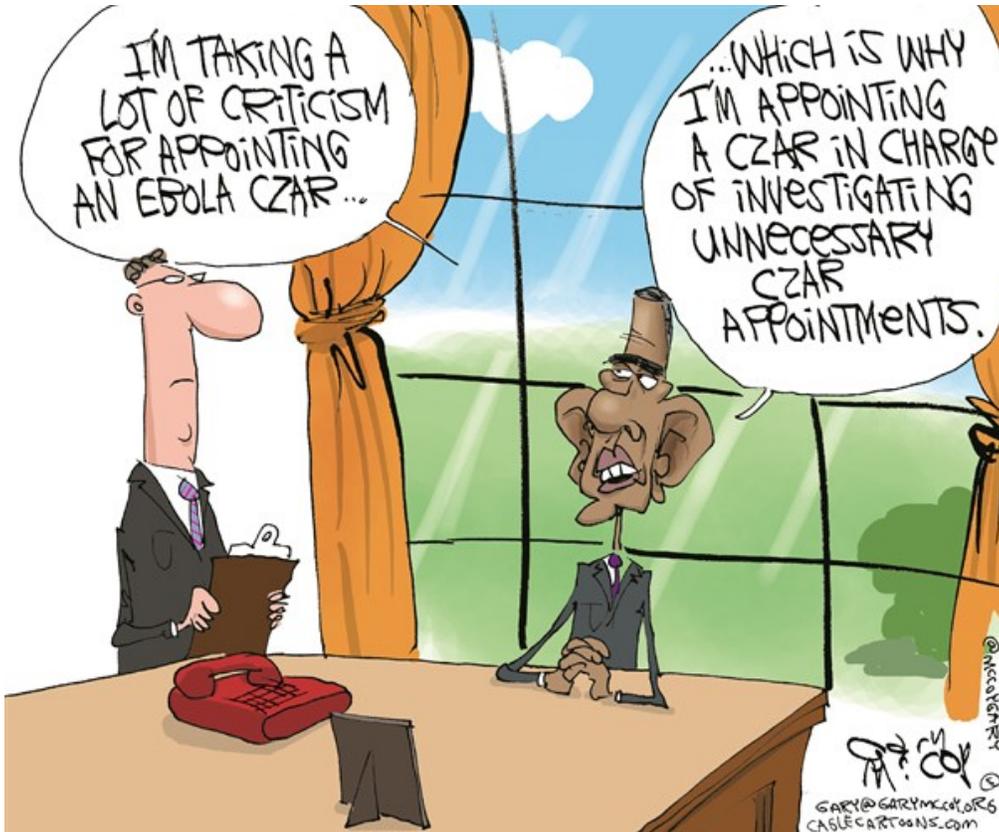
SOMEBODY GET ME
A LATTE AND SOME
POLL NUMBERS, STAT!



CARTOONIST GROUP

HELLO
my name is

Hack



While we're at it...

EBOLA
CZAR.



STRUCK-
BY-
LIGHTNING
CZAR.



SPONTANEOUS-
COMBUSTION
CZAR.



ALIEN-
ABDUCTION
CZAR.



CARRIED-
OFF-IN-THE-
DARK-OF-NIGHT
BY-DINGOS
CZAR.



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