

March 18, 2015

Streetwise Professor posts on the strange juxtaposition of the president, who blew up the Iraqi Status of Forces Agreement because the Iraqi Parliament had not approved it. Now the same idiot is saying our legislature is not entitled to comment on his cave to the Iranians.

@libertylynx points out a very interesting contrast. The awful developments in Iraq over the last several years, most notably the rampage of Isis and the dramatic expansion of Iranian influence in the country, are directly attributable to Obama's decision to withdraw all US military forces. He did so after failing to negotiate a Status of Forces agreement with the Maliki government. This occurred primarily because of a particular demand that Obama made of Maliki: namely, that the Iraqi premier get his parliament's approval of any agreement. Obama stated that such approval was necessary to make the deal credible and viable. He said legislative buy in was essential. Of course, this did not happen, and almost certainly Obama knew it would not happen. This gave him the pretext to bug out.

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Now we learn from The One that the rise of ISIS is George Bush's fault! Is there a more contemptible person in DC? Pajamas Media has the story.

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I never saw such a classless American president. He knows perfectly well that President George W. Bush won't defend himself, because he — unlike Obama — does have a sense of decorum. So Obama quickly tries to put the blame for his own failures on Bush.

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Ron Christie writes on Ferguson and how, as always, President Agitator made things worse.

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Sadly, this incident provided the perfect opportunity for those who think that America is inherently racist and permanently ensconced in a 1965 Selma, Alabama, mindset with an opportunity: an opportunity to declare that a racist cop had gunned down an innocent black youth as the teen shouted "Hands up, Don't Shoot"—a fictional account that never happened.

On matters of race involving local police investigations, President Obama has not been shy about injecting himself into the narrative while shaping the desired outcomes. In 2009 when Harvard Professor Henry Louis "Skip" Gates had a disagreement with a Cambridge police officer outside of his home leading to his arrest, the president opined that the officer "acted stupidly." Never mind that Mr. Gates didn't have his keys and was thought to be breaking into a home by the police officer in question. What I found revealing at the time is that the president offered the Gates incident as showing how "race remains a factor in this society today" when the facts revealed race had nothing to do with the interaction between a professor and a police officer.

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Turning to another disgusting DC denizen, John Fund writes on Hillary's cover team. *Hillary Clinton explains her use of a private e-mail account and a secret server to conduct State Department business as a matter of "convenience." But congressional investigators are almost as interested in the fact that two of her closest advisers, personal aide Huma Abedin and chief of staff Cheryl Mills, also had e-mail addresses on the secret server. Were they also interested in "convenience" or intent on shielding their work from public-record requests?*

For many years, the two women have served as Hillary's inner-palace guard. In turn, she has gone the extra mile to keep them close. In 2012, Abedin was granted status as a "special government employee," allowing her to collect a State Department paycheck while skirting disclosure rules about her holding down lucrative private-sector jobs — among them work with the controversial Clinton-family foundation.

Cheryl Mills's link with Mrs. Clinton goes back even further than Abedin's. The 49-year-old Stanford Law graduate joined Team Clinton before Bill Clinton was even sworn in as president in 1993, serving as deputy general counsel for his transition team. ...

... The Post noted that Mills had "endeared herself to the Clintons with her never-back-down, share-nothing, don't-give-an-inch approach," the same style prevalent today in Hillary's e-mail controversy.

And that style is also prevalent in the way that various officials seem to have exerted efforts to ensure that the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi won't embarrass Hillary. Ray Maxwell, a former assistant secretary of state for North Africa, has told reporters that Mills was one of several Clinton aides who on a Sunday afternoon "separated" out Benghazi-related documents that might put Clinton or her team in a "bad light." ...

George Shultz was lately learning us about what Reagan would have done on the climate. Steve Hayward begs to differ and reminds Shultz of a few things.

I love George Shultz, Ronald Reagan's secretary of state and one of the heroes of the endgame of the Cold War. He began every meeting with a Soviet official with a specific human rights complaint about a dissident the Soviets had locked up, just to get under their skin and keep the pressure on. He was magnificent in his meetings with the Soviets after the shootdown of KAL 007, and in his one-on-one's with Gorbachev in the Kremlin. He was the ideal complement to and instrument for Reagan's Cold War grand strategy. His memoir of those years, Turmoil and Triumph, is well worth reading.

So it is a regrettable duty to disagree with his Washington Post article Friday entitled "A Reagan Approach to Climate Change," in which Shultz argues that Reagan would have embraced a revenue-neutral carbon tax "as an insurance policy" against climate change because Reagan embraced the Montreal Protocol that eliminated chloro-fluorocarbons (CFCs) in order to reduce damage to the stratospheric ozone layer.

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Filed under "you just can't make it up." We learn from Power Line that one day last week the president and the first lady went to LA on separate f**king flights!!!!!!

It's been nearly a month since Glenn Reynolds voiced his recurring refrain: "I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER GODDAMN THING ABOUT MY CARBON FOOTPRINT." Glenn reserves the refrain for links to stories reporting egregious overconsumption of carbon-based fuels by liberal hypocrites concerned about your contributions to climate change.

Glenn's refrain comes to mind in connection with the recent story reporting "Obama, first lady fly to Los Angeles on same day but take separate flights." The linked story also touches on the costs incurred and would probably elicit a bonus reference to Louis XIV or Marie Antoinette by Glenn as well. Let's go with the graphic below.

Streetwise Professor

Obama's Telling Shift on the Legislative Role in Diplomacy

by Craig Pirrong

@libertylynx points out a very interesting contrast. The awful developments in Iraq over the last several years, most notably the rampage of Isis and the dramatic expansion of Iranian influence in the country, are directly attributable to Obama's decision to withdraw all US military forces. He did so after failing to negotiate a Status of Forces agreement with the Maliki government. This occurred primarily because of a particular demand that Obama made of Maliki: namely, that the Iraqi premier get his parliament's approval of any agreement. Obama stated that such approval was necessary to make the deal credible and viable. He said legislative buy in was essential. Of course, this did not happen, and almost certainly Obama knew it would not happen. This gave him the pretext to bug out.

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Obama obviously has no principled view of the role of the legislature in foreign policy. He didn't want a Status of Forces agreement, so he insisted on Iraqi legislative approval because he knew it would not be forthcoming. He desperately wants a deal with Iran, so he adamantly opposes American legislative approval because he knows it is not likely to happen. His views on legislative involvement in diplomacy are not principled, but merely instrumental and change with the circumstances.

Indeed, not only is Obama not shutting out Congress, he is actively demonizing it in the most demagogic fashion for having the temerity to insist on having a voice. When he said that Senate Republicans were making common cause with "hardliners" in Iran, he was basically dog whistling, and his attack dogs responded with alacrity, accusing the Republicans-including the leader of the effort, Tom Cotton, a Marine combat veteran-of treason. The new cry, advanced by another of the administration's transparent social media manipulation campaigns is #GOPWantsWar.

A typical Obama false choice. His claim is that the only alternative to the specific deal he is "negotiating" is war. Think about that for a moment. It presumes that (a) absent any deal, Iran will proceed hell bent for a nuclear weapon, and (b) a nuclear Iran is such a dangerous regime that it must be prevented from acquiring the bomb, by war if necessary.

But apparently such a regime is a suitable negotiating partner, will adhere to any deal, and will eschew its nuclear ambitions even though a deal will effectively take both economic and military coercive measures off the table. Moreover, Iran clearly has hegemonic ambitions in the region, and a deal will give them greater resources to achieve them.

It is therefore by no means clear that a deal will reduce the likelihood of war. In my view, it is likely that the reverse is true. Moreover, those opposing a deal-who include many Democrats, as well as

most Republicans are advocating measures other than war, notably an increase in economic pressure, to force the Iranian government to forego its nuclear ambitions, and to limit its ability to achieve that capability. #GOPWantsWar is therefore a slur of the most scurrilous sort.

It gets worse, actually. [Obama, claiming to be embarrassed for the Republicans, lies shamelessly about what the letter the 47 Republicans wrote](#). The Republicans never suggested that Obama was untrustworthy.

Further, catch this: “For them to address a letter to the Ayatollah who, they claim, is our mortal enemy” That is, Obama asserts that it is merely a Republican claim that Iran is an enemy of the US. The implication is clearly that Obama believes that it is not. That explains a lot.

I don’t believe Obama wants war, though I do believe that a soft deal with Iran like the one that is apparently imminent makes it more likely. I don’t believe in the slightest that he wanted Isis to run amok in Iraq, but his misjudgments and Machiavellian maneuvers made this outcome possible.

It is necessary to turn away from questioning motives, and to focus on substance. And I will close by noting that those who are most aggressive in questioning the motives of their opponents are the ones who believe they cannot prevail on the merits.

Pajamas Media

‘Aim Before You Shoot’: Obama Blames ISIS’ Reign of Terror on George W. Bush ***The Middle East would've been Utopian if it wasn't for Bush 43.***

by Michael van der Galien

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Daily Beast

Hucksters

How the Media and Obama Made Ferguson Even Worse

by Ron Christie

One cheer to the Justice Department for debunking “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot.” But the president has behaved horribly through this whole thing.

Three shots rang out early Thursday in Ferguson, Missouri, that severely wounded two police officers. Our thoughts and prayers are with these brave officers who, like thousands of their brethren across the United States, form a thin blue line that protects citizens in communities large and small regardless of their wealth, skin color, or religious beliefs.

Yet, something perverse has permeated our culture in America today, a culture where taking personal responsibility for one’s actions has been replaced by a grievance industry that promotes white privilege as the root cause for all that ails them. Sadly, America’s first African-American President and Attorney General have encouraged this myth—with the media promoting an agenda rather than dispassionately reporting facts.

The fact is, most Americans never should have even heard about a shooting involving Michael Brown and police officer Darren Wilson. Every day in communities large and small, criminals commit crimes that elicit interaction from the police. In the instant case, it is a fact that Michael Brown committed a crime in a small town on August 9, 2014, failed to heed Officer Wilson’s instructions, and was shot to death when the officer thought his life was in danger. The shooting never should have happened—a young man never should have committed a crime and never should have rushed at a police officer.

Sadly, this incident provided the perfect opportunity for those who think that America is inherently racist and permanently ensconced in a 1965 Selma, Alabama, mindset with an opportunity: an opportunity to declare that a racist cop had gunned down an innocent black youth as the teen shouted “Hands up, Don’t Shoot”—a fictional account that never happened.

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Turning to the ginned-up cauldron of race that is now Ferguson, the president was once again quick to offer his opinion on local matter on which he knew nothing of the facts at hand. Days following the shooting the president assured the press that he had sent both the FBI and the Department of Justice to investigate the shooting of Michael Brown. Of particular relevance, Mr. Obama [offered](#):

“Of course, it’s important to remember how this started. We lost a young man, Michael Brown, in heartbreaking and tragic circumstances. He was 18 years old. His family will never hold Michael in their arms again. And when something like this happens, the local authorities—including the

police—have a responsibility to be open and transparent about how they are investigating that death, and how they are protecting the people in their communities.”

The circumstances under which Brown lost his life are both heartbreaking and tragic—but not in the manner implied by the president. Rather than waiting for local authorities to complete their investigation, the president took sides—particularly with the “his family will never hold Michael in their arms again” line. The implication here is that a white police gunned down a young black man in a manner that was irresponsible and opaque.

The narrative thus set, Al Sharpton and the media descended upon Ferguson alongside outside agitators who marched with such slogans as “No Justice, No Peace” or “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot.” More unrest would follow when the grand jury elected not to indict the officer for the tragic shooting. Riots and looting would ensue—with breathless coverage in the media and little from the President of the United States and the Attorney General to quell the violence.

The promised civil rights investigation by the Department of Justice [was delivered on March 4, 2015](#). While the DOJ cited specific incidents of racism in the Ferguson police department leading to the resignation of the Mayor and the Chief of Police, the federal government substantiated the fact that Wilson’s shooting of Brown wasn’t motivated by race. The same Department of Justice that went into Ferguson to determine whether Michael Brown’s civil rights were violated left having concluded that Wilson’s shooting was deemed justified in light of the facts. I must give Holder’s Justice Department credit for this impartial finding. But I’m saddened that it was a finding that neither the president nor the media were interested in learning in the first place. The “America is racist” narrative was broadcast endlessly, and our president did nothing to stop it.

So today in Ferguson, our thoughts and prayers are with two shot police officers who are tasked to protect and serve their community. If only they were protected and served by an irresponsible president who sees racism around every corner and reported by a corrupt media all too happy to help write the storyline.

National Review

[Clinton’s Cover-Up Team](#)

by John Fund

Hillary Clinton explains her use of a private e-mail account and a secret server to conduct State Department business as a matter of “convenience.” But congressional investigators are almost as interested in the fact that two of her closest advisers, personal aide Huma Abedin and chief of staff Cheryl Mills, also had e-mail addresses on the secret server. Were they also interested in “convenience” or intent on shielding their work from public-record requests?

For many years, the two women have served as Hillary’s inner-palace guard. In turn, she has gone the extra mile to keep them close. In 2012, Abedin was granted status as a “special government employee,” allowing her to collect a State Department paycheck while skirting disclosure rules about her holding down lucrative private-sector jobs — among them work with the controversial Clinton-family foundation.

Cheryl Mills’s link with Mrs. Clinton goes back even further than Abedin’s. The 49-year-old Stanford Law graduate joined Team Clinton before Bill Clinton was even sworn in as president in 1993,

serving as deputy general counsel for his transition team. She later became one of two deputy counsels to the president before becoming one of his top lawyers during his 1999 Senate impeachment trial. At the time, a White House colleague, speaking to the *Washington Post*, [praised](#) Mills's loyalty to the Clintons: "If something's on the other side of a brick wall and the Clintons need it, she'll find a way to get to it: over, around, or through." The *Post* noted that Mills had "endeared herself to the Clintons with her never-back-down, share-nothing, don't-give-an-inch approach," the same style prevalent today in Hillary's e-mail controversy.

And that style is also prevalent in the way that various officials seem to have exerted efforts to ensure that the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi won't embarrass Hillary. Ray Maxwell, a former assistant secretary of state for North Africa, has [told](#) reporters that Mills was one of several Clinton aides who on a Sunday afternoon "separated" out Benghazi-related documents that might put Clinton or her team in a "bad light." These documents were kept out of the pile that the State Department turned over to the Accountability Review Board that was investigating Benghazi. When Maxwell stumbled upon the operation, which was taking place in a "basement operations-type center at State Department headquarters in Washington," he questioned whether it was above-board. "Isn't that unethical?" he asking the office director in charge of the weeding-out process. "Ray, those are our orders," she answered. A few minutes later, Mills entered the room and challenged Maxwell over his presence, asking him, "Who are you?"

Mills was also eager to make sure that no one talked too much about Benghazi. E-mails obtained by Judicial Watch show that it was Mills who told Victoria Nuland, then a State Department spokeswoman, to stop answering key media questions about Benghazi.

Later, Gregory Hicks, the acting deputy chief of mission in Benghazi, testified before Congress in 2013 that after he spoke with congressional investigators, he received a furious phone call from Mills, who severely reprimanded him; State Department lawyers instructed Hicks that neither he nor his staff should allow themselves to be "personally interviewed" by members of Congress. Shortly thereafter, Hicks told me, he was demoted to the job of desk officer and brought home to the States.

A 2012 inspector-general report also found that Mills interfered in an investigation involving Brett McGurk, who had been appointed ambassador to Iraq but was accused of sharing sensitive government information with a reporter.

Earlier examples of the Mills Method of Scandal Concealment date all the way back to the 1990s. She was one of three White House lawyers who urged President Clinton to release private government records on Kathleen Willey, a Democratic campaign worker who had accused Clinton of assaulting her in the White House. A federal court later found that the violation of privacy was "[an unlawful action](#)." It was a clear effort to discredit Willey, who now says the pattern of behavior against her by Mrs. Clinton and her cronies represent "a real war on women."

Mills was also involved in an earlier Clinton e-mail scandal. In 2000, the conservative law firm Judicial Watch found while pursuing public-record requests that the Clinton administration had withheld more than 1.8 million e-mails from Judicial Watch's attorneys, federal investigators, and Congress.

Betty Lambuth, a White House computer contractor, testified that White House officials told her to keep the existence of the e-mails a secret and threatened to fire her if she did not. After Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit, Mills admitted she had known that the missing e-mails existed but "assumed" someone else would take care of the issue. When the case finally was resolved by U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth in 2008, he [found](#) no obstruction of justice but singled out Mills's behavior

as “loathsome.” He found that she had made “the most critical error in this entire fiasco” and that her actions had been “totally inadequate.”

An earlier document scandal also revealed Mills’s style. Sonya Gilliam, who in the 1990s was responsible for Freedom of Information requests at the Commerce Department, was appalled at how Mills and the White House handled requests for information about whether seats on Commerce Department trade missions had been tied to Clinton’s 1996 reelection fundraising. In an interview with journalist Sharyl Attkisson in October 2014, she recalled that her superiors often told her the document production was delayed because it had to be “coordinated” with Cheryl Mills at the White House. “I was amazed and really just gobsommed when I saw the White House involved to the level that it was,” she told Attkisson. When she learned of Mills’s alleged involvement in concealing Benghazi documents, she recognized a pattern. “My stomach dropped,” she said. “Here we are, 14 or 15 years later, [and] Cheryl Mills is still in charge of ‘document production’ [for the Clintons] — I’ll use that term loosely.”

Mills may no longer be at the State Department, but her legacy of slippery evasion lives on. Last week, reporters asked State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf about a 2011 cable that Hillary Clinton’s office sent ordering employees not to use personal e-mail for government business, owing to security concerns.

“Her name is at the bottom of the cable, as is practiced for cables coming from Washington,” Harf said, referring to Mrs. Clinton. “Some think she wrote it, which is not accurate.” Even though the cable carried her full authority, Hillary’s actual responsibility for it seems to depend on just what the meaning of “wrote” is.

Power Line

[Taking the Wrong Lessons from the Gipper on Climate](#)

by Steve Hayward

I love George Shultz, Ronald Reagan’s secretary of state and one of the heroes of the endgame of the Cold War. He began every meeting with a Soviet official with a specific human rights complaint about a dissident the Soviets had locked up, just to get under their skin and keep the pressure on. He was magnificent in his meetings with the Soviets after the shootdown of KAL 007, and in his one-on-one’s with Gorbachev in the Kremlin. He was the ideal complement to and instrument for Reagan’s Cold War grand strategy. His memoir of those years, [*Turmoil and Triumph*](#), is well worth reading.

So it is a regrettable duty to disagree with his *Washington Post* article Friday entitled “[A Reagan Approach to Climate Change](#),” in which Shultz argues that Reagan would have embraced a revenue-neutral carbon tax “as an insurance policy” against climate change because Reagan embraced the Montreal Protocol that eliminated chloro-fluorocarbons (CFCs) in order to reduce damage to the stratospheric ozone layer.

Leave aside the carbon tax argument for a moment. One of the greatest mistakes of the climate change enterprise was adopting the Montreal Protocol as a diplomatic and policy model for greenhouse gases, and Shultz perpetuates this mistake, even as some of the smarter environmentalists (yes, there are a few) have come to understand this mistake. First, the scientific evidence and future projections about ozone degradation were much simpler and straightforward than global warming. More importantly, there were ready substitutes for CFCs that were more

affordable and—crucially—*scalable* to the whole planet quickly. *Neither of these things are true with regard to replacements for fossil fuel energy.* (The second mistake of copying the Montreal Protocol framework for the Kyoto track was dividing nations into developed and “undeveloped”—a distinction that was falling apart by the late 1990s—and treating them differently for GHG reduction purposes. But that’s a story for another time.)

In his piece, Shultz implicitly acknowledges that the circumstances with GHGs are different than CFCs by including a call for much more government investment in R & D for energy (we didn’t need to do *any* R & D to replace CFCs in the late 1980s—the substitutes already existed), and for calling for a sharply rising carbon tax to be “revenue neutral” and rebated to consumers. Why the need to rebate a tax to consumers if carbon emissions are falling? Because he knows there is no way carbon emissions will fall fast enough for the tax to be an insignificant expense. He thinks a high carbon tax will “level the playing field” with alternative sources of energy. This is very dubious. Just have a look at Europe, where very high taxes on fossil fuels (purely for revenue reasons) have been the rule for decades. Has Europe seen a proliferation of alternative energy? (And if anyone says “Germany,” you’ll get an “F” in my energy policy class.)

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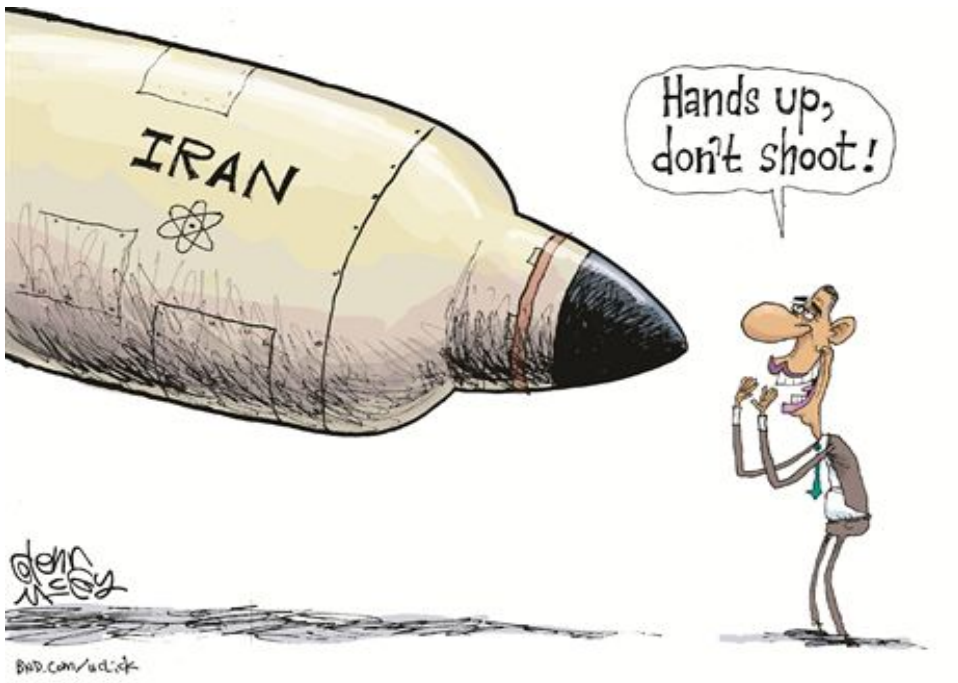
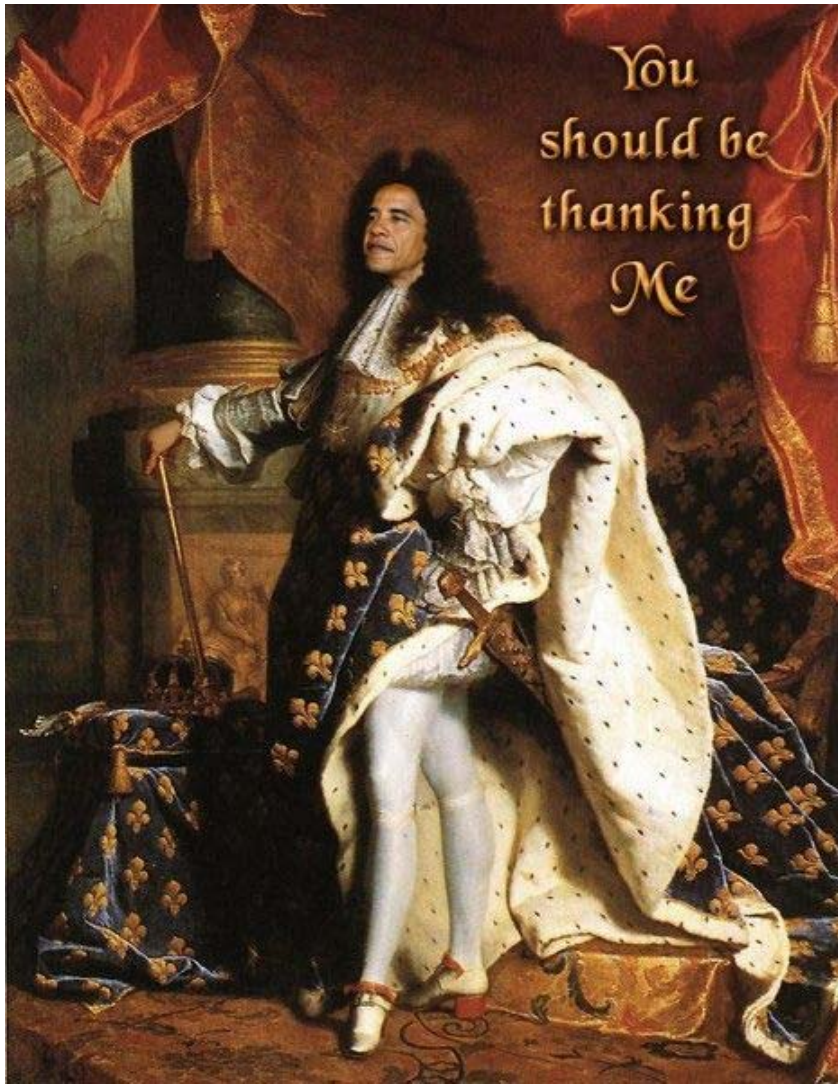
Power Line

Don’t tell Glenn Reynolds

by Scott Johnson

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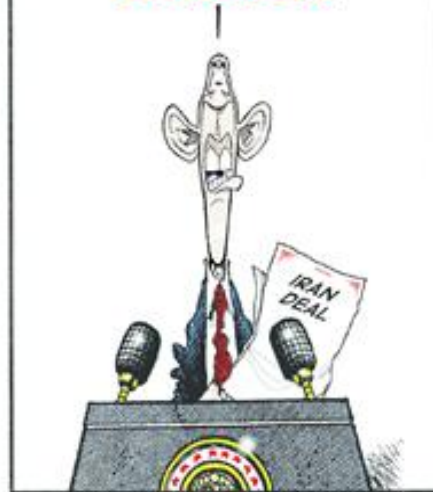
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IN THE SEARCH FOR
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EXCEPT FOR THE
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TRADEMARKS OWNED

I LEARNED
ABOUT IT
FROM NEWS
REPORTS

Fast and
Furious



I LEARNED
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VA



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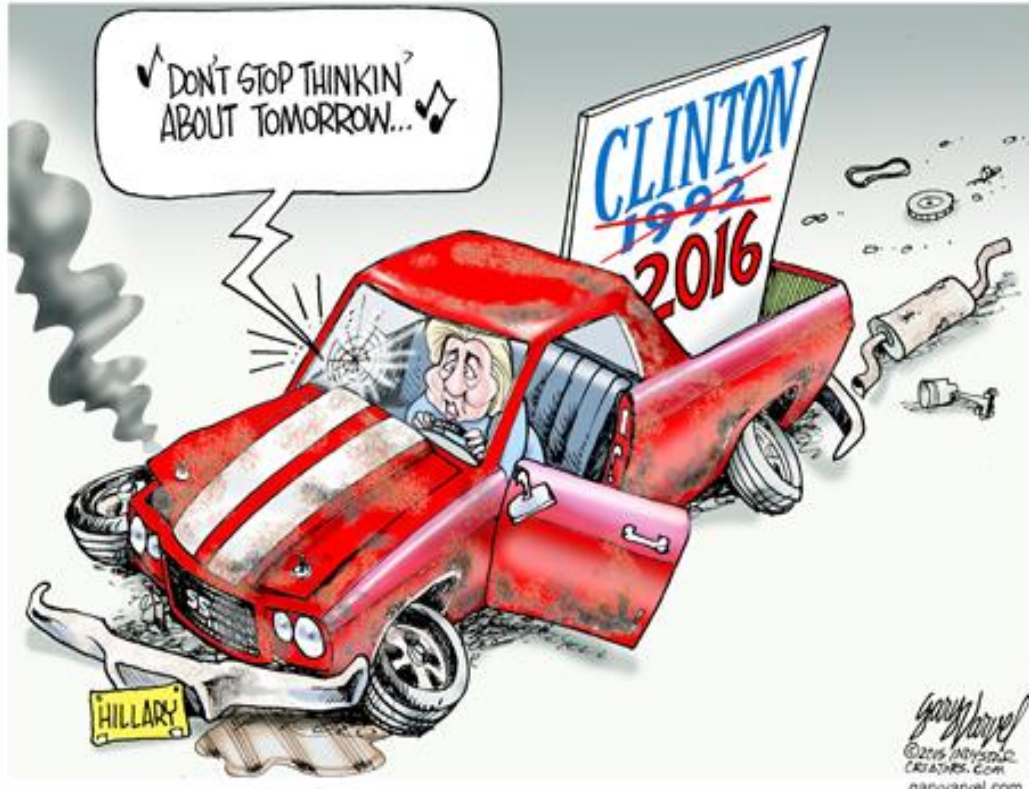


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