July 6, 2015

Hillary's emails have received a lot of attention. Pickerhead is reminded of Hannah Arendt's memorable phrase -"the banality of evil." Evil is an over-reach, but the banality of the country's leadership explains a lot of our current predicaments. **Kimberley Strassel** is first today with a look at Clinton's emails.

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• Nothing Mrs. Clinton has said so far on the subject is correct. The Democratic presidential aspirant on March 10 held a press conference pitched as her first and last word on the revelation that she'd used a private email server while secretary of state. She told reporters that she'd turned over to the State Department "all my emails that could possibly be work-related." And she insisted that she "did not email any classified material to anyone on my email. There is no classified material."

Not true and not true. The State Department has now admitted that it is aware of at least 15 work-related emails that Mrs. Clinton fully or partially withheld. We know this only because congressional Republicans, as part of their Benghazi probe, required longtime Clinton confidant Sidney Blumenthal to turn over his correspondence with her. It revealed work-related emails that had not been disclosed.

These don't appear to be random oversights, but rather emails that Mrs. Clinton would likely have had an interest in keeping from the public. Most appear to be instances of her telling Mr. Blumenthal about State Department business, even though he was a private citizen and was advising a business seeking contracts from the Libyan government. Others appear to contain discussions that might undermine Mrs. Clinton's or the administration's public position on the Libyan conflict. ...

Then **Jennifer Rubin**.

The latest batch of Hillary Clinton e-mails disclosed by the State Department is perhaps the most interesting. This is not because there is a bombshell; we know she destroyed "personal" e-mails, so we are not likely to find any real nuggets in those she turned over. (In one humorous e-mail previously released, she asked whether the e-mail can be printed out "without identifiers.") No, this tranche of e-mails is revealing because it shows Clinton to be lacking real authority, surrounded and protected by political hacks, filthy rich and obsessed with political power. In short, this is the real Hillary Clinton.

Observers of the Obama White House know that this president, to a greater extent than any in recent memory, creates and controls foreign policy himself and through close aides in the executive office. Clinton was on the periphery, lacking much influence (as she admits, she couldn't move the president on Syria) and devoid of creative policy-making abilities. The e-mails reflect that. Comically, Clinton hears on the radio that there is a Cabinet meeting and e-mails to find out why she is not invited. ("I heard on the radio that there is a Cabinet mtg this am. Is there? Can I go? If not, who are we sending?") She shows up at the White House to find another meeting canceled. She is the third wheel, the least important person in foreign policy making.

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... And then — this is the supposedly nonpolitical secretary of state whose portfolio is strictly foreign affairs — there is her fixation on news reports, interest in domestic politics and outreach to labor unions. The Wall Street Journal observes: "While serving as secretary of state, Hillary Clinton was keenly attentive to domestic political issues—following the gay-rights debate, staying in touch with Democratic allies and keeping tabs on her public image—a batch of emails released by the State Department Tuesday shows. . . [She] received numerous updates from her department advisers about the changing politics of gay rights and activists' frustration with the Obama administration. . . . The emails show Mrs. Clinton engaged with domestic political figures." Why is this so significant? Aside from using the taxpayers' provided office and staff to attend to her political aspirations, it is evident that while in office Clinton was planning ahead, greasing the wheels for her campaign. That puts her receipt after leaving the State Department of outlandish speaking fees and foundation receipts in a clear light: Both she and the donors correctly figured this was cash flowing to a future presidential candidate.

And the e-mails are interesting for what they don't include. Where is Hillary Clinton the wonk? Hillary Clinton the master of policy? Maybe there will be more of that to come. But she comes across as many critics have long surmised — vain, small-minded and, above all, politically calculating in everything she does.

And in a few short paragraphs, **Matthew Continetti** sums it up.

... Judged by miles flown and plenary sessions convened, interviews given and appearances made, Hillary Clinton was one of the most "impactful," indeed successful, secretaries of state ever. Judged by what actions she took or did not take, however, what policies she pursued or was told not to pursue, she was easily one of the worst—a disastrous "reset" with Russia, a campaign against Iran sanctions her administration later pretended to have supported, misguided and dangerous "outreach" to the Muslim Brotherhood, no serious action to end the Syrian Civil War, the rushed and half-handed and disastrous Libya intervention, the failure to renegotiate the Status of Forces Agreement with Iraq that led to our full withdrawal at the end of 2011 and, in combination with the breakup of Syria, the rise of ISIS.

Her failures are hard to comprehend, actually—so great is their magnitude, so dismal the state of world order and American deterrence and prestige—it's hard to face the fact that she is more likely than anyone to be the next president of the United States.

How does she do it, how is she able to flit above the incompetence and dissimulation and money-grubbing, from one benefit and tribute and resume-enhancing post to the next? Valuing political expediency above all surely helps. But there is also her ability to exploit the liberal dissociation of intention and result, her manner of so overwhelming liberals with statements of compassion and resolve and determination to combat inequity that they never end up paying attention to what she actually did with all that power and cash.

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Nothing left to do but laugh. Andy Malcolm has late night humor.
Fallon: *Hillary Clinton signed a note for a nine-year-old boy the other day, explaining to his teacher that he was missing school to meet her. And this is nice. In exchange, the kid wrote Hillary a note saying his dog ate her emails.*

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Conan: *Donald Trump reaffirmed his stance against gay marriage. Trump said, "Marriage is between a rich guy and his much younger third wife."*

WSJ
Hillary's Email Story Unravels
Now that we know she edited the emails before turning them over, the entire record is suspect.
by Kimberley A. Strassel

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Blumenthal about State Department business, even though he was a private citizen and was advising a business seeking contracts from the Libyan government. Others appear to contain discussions that might undermine Mrs. Clinton's or the administration's public position on the Libyan conflict.

We also know that the State Department has now upgraded at least 25 of Mrs. Clinton's emails to "classified" status. State is suggesting this is no big deal, noting that it is "routine" to upgrade material during the public-disclosure process. But that's beside the point. This isn't about after-the-fact disclosure. It's about security at the time—whether Mrs. Clinton was sending and storing sensitive government information on a hackable private email system. Turns out, she was. For the record, it is a federal crime to "knowingly" house classified information at an "unauthorized location."

A quick correction: At least one thing Mrs. Clinton said in March was true. She deleted email. A lot of it.

• Nothing Mrs. Clinton has supplied to the State Department can now be trusted as legitimate. The real bombshell news was the State Department's admission that, in at least six instances, the Clinton team altered the emails before handing them over. Sentences or entire paragraphs—which, by the way, were work-related—were removed. State was able to confirm this because it could double-check against Mr. Blumenthal's documents.

But how many more of the 30,000 emails Mrs. Clinton provided have also been edited? The State Department has archives for its other employees, whom Mrs. Clinton often emailed, so in those cases it has the ability to check Mrs. Clinton's version. It should now be obliged to do so, and then to produce a final tally of emails that can't be verified as authentic because they were sent to people outside government, for whom there is no corresponding record.

• Mrs. Clinton is still playing games. Team Clinton says it doesn't recognize much of the material Mr. Blumenthal supplied, and insists that all the emails from him were turned over. So: Either Mr. Blumenthal fabricated emails; Mrs. Clinton was deleting emails as she went along (and so didn't have them at the final sorting process); or she's not being truthful now. Every one of these scenarios is of concern, and deserves inquiry.

• The State Department is itself now part of this scandal. In addition to the 15 emails that Republicans discovered Mrs. Clinton did not turn over, they found another 45 that were withheld from Congress by State. All of those Blumenthal emails have now been released, and it is clear that all were Libya-related, and all fell under Congress's subpoena. How many more have investigators not been given? The State Department meanwhile continues to play down Mrs. Clinton's failure to produce, and her mishandling of classified information. This should be seen exactly for what it is: the Obama administration covering for the likely Democratic presidential nominee.

• The White House also needs to answer questions. This week State released the first batch of the Clinton emails to the public, nearly 2,000 in all. In them, we find that in 2009, David Axelrod, then an Obama adviser, requested and received Mrs. Clinton's private email address. And he emailed her on it. Yet in mid-June Mr. Axelrod said on national TV that he "didn't know" about her private server. How many other people in the administration knew about, sanctioned, and made use of the Clinton arrangement to shelter information?

As it is unlikely the press corps will begin this investigation anew, or with any fervor, the best chance of getting answers from Mrs. Clinton probably rests in her Democratic rivals for the

nomination. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley have so far avoided touching the Clinton scandals, unwilling to risk blowback accusing them of undermining the likely nominee. But if those men truly believe themselves better fit for the presidency, they could do the country no bigger favor than to start pressing Mrs. Clinton to explain her actions. Somebody has to.

Right Turn

E-mails expose Hillary Clinton as a small-minded pol

by Jennifer Rubin

The latest batch of Hillary Clinton e-mails disclosed by the State Department is perhaps the most interesting. This is not because there is a bombshell; we know she destroyed "personal" e-mails, so we are not likely to find any real nuggets in those she turned over. (In one humorous e-mail previously released, she asked whether the e-mail can be printed out "without identifiers.") No, this tranche of e-mails is revealing because it shows Clinton to be lacking real authority, surrounded and protected by political hacks, filthy rich and obsessed with political power. In short, this is the real Hillary Clinton.

Observers of the Obama White House know that this president, to a greater extent than any in recent memory, creates and controls foreign policy himself and through close aides in the executive office. Clinton was on the periphery, lacking much influence (as she admits, she couldn't move the president on Syria) and devoid of creative policy-making abilities. The e-mails reflect that. Comically, Clinton hears on the radio that there is a Cabinet meeting and e-mails to find out why she is not invited. ("I heard on the radio that there is a Cabinet mtg this am. Is there? Can I go? If not, who are we sending?") She shows up at the White House to find another meeting canceled. She is the third wheel, the least important person in foreign policy making.

She is, however, immersed in a web of cronies and hacks. She solicits Sid Blumenthal for advice, and not just on Libya. ("[T]he newly disclosed emails show he also acted as an intermediary with officials involved in the Northern Ireland peace process and shared advice with Clinton on issues from Iran to British politics to how to blame China for the breakdown of global climate talks.") That she should be getting advice from a political hatchet man — one whom the White House banned from the administration — tells us something about her judgment and her insularity. David Axelrod, who claimed ignorance of her private e-mail, is in frequent communication, too.

Clinton's enormous wealth and the people who helped make her wealthy make an appearance. Clinton and Huma Abedin discuss what sort of private jet she will take and her trip to the Hamptons. Just like "everyday" people! And most troubling, her e-mails are filled with discussions of corporate cronies whom she was more than willing to assist:

Clinton says that Blackstone CEO Stephen Schwarzman "wanted help on a visa" and asked for a status report. The name of the potential recipient was redacted by the State Department. She then says that Honeywell CEO David Cote "complained about export control regs that interfere w sales."

And when Terrence Duffy, executive chairman of derivatives trader CME Group, asked her to stop by a Washington dinner he was hosting for "150 or so folks from the exchange," Clinton asked an aide to try to find time for the group to visit the State Department. Duffy is a major political donor who generally backs Republicans (in one e-mail he conveyed greetings from Senator Lindsey Graham, one of this year's Republican presidential candidates) but he did give the maximum contribution of $4,600 to Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. In another e-mail, Duffy asked Clinton to deliver a keynote address in 2010 when he was to be honored by the American Friends of Hebrew University. . . .Clinton exchanged e-mails with Stanley Roach of Morgan Stanley, a donor to her Senate and presidential campaigns, about China economic policy. "Delighted to hear from you," Clinton wrote after Roach apologized for a "rambling" e-mail. In a later message she asked an aide to make time for her to see Roach when he was in Washington.

The secretary of state also wrote an encouraging note to Bill Owens, chairman of AEA Holdings Asia, about an effort he was pushing to open a dialogue with retired Chinese military official.

Favors for donors? Former Virginia governor Bob McDonnell is facing jail time for much less.

And then — this is the supposedly nonpolitical secretary of state whose portfolio is strictly foreign affairs — there is her fixation on news reports, interest in domestic politics and outreach to labor unions. The Wall Street Journal observes: "While serving as secretary of state, Hillary Clinton was keenly attentive to domestic political issues—following the gay-rights debate, staying in touch with Democratic allies and keeping tabs on her public image—a batch of emails released by the State Department Tuesday shows. . . [She] received numerous updates from her department advisers about the changing politics of gay rights and activists' frustration with the Obama administration. . . . The emails show Mrs. Clinton engaged with domestic political figures." Why is this so significant? Aside from using the taxpayers' provided office and staff to attend to her political aspirations, it is evident that while in office Clinton was planning ahead, greasing the wheels for her campaign. That puts her receipt after leaving the State Department of outlandish speaking fees and foundation receipts in a clear light: Both she and the donors correctly figured this was cash flowing to a future presidential candidate.

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Free Beacon

The Fax of Life

Hillary's emails indict the self-regarding culture of Washington

by Matthew Continetti

So she doesn't know how to use a fax machine. Big whoop. If there is a "smoking gun" in the 3,000 pages of Hillary Clinton emails released by the State Department this week, it's not in her technological ineptitude, or her calling her hairdresser "Santa," or her continuing to encourage Sid Blumenthal to offer bad advice, or her fetish for ice tea, or her bizarre demand that John Podesta wear socks to bed. The most revealing dispatch, the one dripping with unintended irony and status detail and sanctimony dressed as social conscience, is the email Lynn Forester de Rothschild, centimillionaire, addressed to Clinton on the morning of August 26, 2009. It is 122 preening and obsequious words long. I reprint it here:

H,

I spent yesterday with Les Gelb on Nantucket. He had lots to say which might be of interest, but I thought the most important thing to tell you is to make sure are aware of the Parade magazine piece he wants to do about you. He would like to do a day in your life, when you meet with members of Congress and international figures. He wants to show the impact you are having domestically and internationally. He said he would give you a veto over content and looked me in the eye and said, 'she will like it.' Maybe you know this, but did not want it to fall between the cracks. Enjoy your vacation and love to all of you.

Xoxo

L

Ah Nantucket! The island redoubt of the well heeled and au courant, where the billionaires go to escape the proles of the Vineyard, where you watch John Kerry windsurf from the starboard window of your private jet. Only a matter of time before this exclusive hideaway made an appearance in the correspondence of Hillary Clinton. And how perfect that it was during a

summer in Nantucket, with the breeze coming off the sound and a Waterford pitcher of Cape Codders sitting on the patio table, that Lady Lynn communed with Dr. Gelb, who has worked in the Senate, at the *New York Times*, at the Brookings Institution, and is now president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations. Difficult to find such established and credentialed personages. In Nantucket they're everywhere.

"He had lots to say which might be of interest," L reports. I hope she's kidding. Wherever the eminences gather, the conversation is almost certainly turgid and boring, a cliché-ridden bog of credulity and mutual self-regard: Have you seen Joe Nye's latest article on "smart power," Norm Ornstein says gridlock in Congress has never been worse, I've given two TED talks, one in Mumbai and one in London, John Oliver had this *hilarious* bit where he dressed up dogs as *Supreme Court Justices*! We got the kids fantastic seats for Taylor Swift through our black card, Cooper is taking a gap year to teach computer literacy to underprivileged youth in Ecuador, how many times do I have to tell people: I'm socially liberal but fiscally conservative, we need to find a way to disrupt the disrupters, I worry about Israel's future as a democratic state, we found the nicest apartment near the Place St. Michel on Airbnb, I haven't seen *Boyhood* but did you know it took them 12 years to make?

This small talk and politesse, the exchange of trivial personal detail and social intelligence, of names and phrases cribbed from last week's *Economist*, not only signifies one's membership in a select group, it also insulates one from the scrutiny and critique and problematization to which outsiders are routinely subjected. What really interested Lady Lynn was Gelb's upcoming profile of Clinton, and how she might put that information to use for herself. Her email served a dual purpose: It proved her value as a friend to Gelb, whose proposal she championed, and to Clinton, who was able to see that de Rothschild was acting as sentry, on the lookout for opportunities and hazards.

The false modesty—"Maybe you know this, but did not want it to fall between the cracks"—the affected intimacy—"Xoxo"—these are courtly mannerisms overlaid atop an appeal to Clinton's self-interest. And of course no one involved seems to have given second thought to the implications of Gelb's promise of a "veto over content," of his vow that "she will like it." There wasn't any need to. We're all friends here.

One can't help noticing, however, the elision of any difference between appearance and reality, a widespread confusion of *talking* with *doing.* Gelb "wants to show the impact you are having," Hillary is told, and his method will be to take dictation as she meets "with members of Congress and international figures." But meetings and videoconferences delivered in the same courteous tones as this email don't have "impact." Policies implemented in the real world do.

Judged by miles flown and plenary sessions convened, interviews given and appearances made, Hillary Clinton was one of the most "impactful," indeed successful, secretaries of state ever. Judged by what actions she took or did not take, however, what policies she pursued or was told not to pursue, she was easily one of the worst—a disastrous "reset" with Russia, a campaign against Iran sanctions her administration later pretended to have supported, misguided and dangerous "outreach" to the Muslim Brotherhood, no serious action to end the Syrian Civil War, the rushed and half-handed and disastrous Libya intervention, the failure to renegotiate the Status of Forces Agreement with Iraq that led to our full withdrawal at the end of 2011 and, in combination with the breakup of Syria, the rise of ISIS.

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Xoxo

M

IBD

Late NIght Humor

by Andrew Malcolm

Conan: A national poll of Republican presidential candidates shows Donald Trump at only 1%. However, keep in mind that after spending millions of dollars on ads, **Trump could double that**.

Conan: A German lab technician has made a real laser-firing replica of the Iron Man glove. The story was reported in "The Journal of Great News If It Came From Anywhere But Germany."

Meyers: Mattel's new line of Barbie dolls draws a sharp reaction from Ken. "Still not interested," he said.

Meyers: Minneapolis, Minnesota was voted the best place to celebrate the Fourth of July. The worst place to celebrate it, Iran.

Conan: Greece's banks are closed for its financial crisis. A Greek spokesperson said, "We'll bounce back. We've just had a rough 2,000 years."

Meyers: Donald Trump calls ObamaCare "a disaster." Which is also what he asks for when he goes into SuperCuts.

Conan: Just four Iowa supporters came for lunch with Rick Santorum the other day. It's always a bad sign when your entire voter base fits in a deli booth.

Conan: Donald Trump reaffirmed his stance against gay marriage. Trump said, "Marriage is between a rich guy and his much younger third wife."

Fallon: Hillary Clinton signed a note for a nine-year-old boy the other day, explaining to his teacher that he was missing school to meet her. And this is nice. In exchange, the kid wrote Hillary a note saying his dog ate her emails.

Fallon: Former NAACP leader Rachel Dolezal, who lied about being black, is receiving offers to star in a reality show about her life. They've even got a pretty catchy title — "Keeping Up with the Caucasians."

Meyers: An English couple has become the world's oldest newlyweds at the ages of 91 and 103. The couple is registered at Bed, Bath and the Great Beyond.

Conan: A Cameroon King has 100 wives. Think about that: He has to wait for 100 women to fall asleep before he can go on the computer.

Conan: Vladimir Putin's approval rating has reached an all-time high. Putin is polling very well among Russians who don't want to be killed.

The Trumps (AP)

Meyers: Donald Trump says "Latinos love Trump and I love them." And what better place for a white guy to declare his love for Latinos than a golf course?

Fallon: Amazon may launch its drone delivery program within a year. So if you hear your doorbell and see a robot hovering near your house, it could be the end of the world.....or, the 12-pack of Brita filters you ordered.

Meyers: A new study suggests marriage is more beneficial for men than women. The study results were shouted at me through a locked bedroom door.

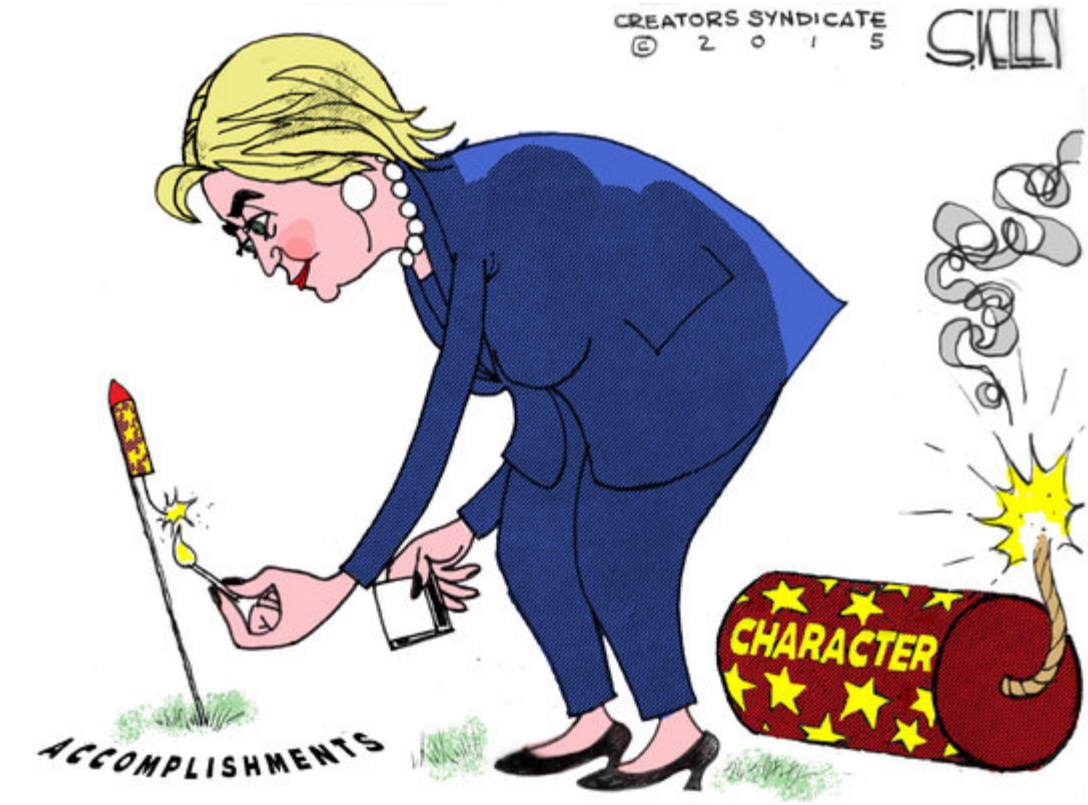
Meyers: A rare Amazon fish was caught in a New Jersey pond. Researchers believe the fish got to New Jersey the same way everyone else does: **By giving up.**

Fallon: Congratulations to Jordan Spieth, who won the U.S. Open. And congratulations also to Tiger Woods, who found an old locket while retrieving his ball from the lake.

Meyers: According to a new poll, 65% of Americans don't consider Donald Trump a serious presidential candidate. 65%! That's nearly two out of his three wives.

Meyers: The San Diego Zoo's 150-year-old tortoise, named Speed, passed away last week. He died of -- you guessed it — a heroin overdose.

Meyers: NASCAR released a statement urging removal of the Confederate flag from South Carolina's capitol. Released a statement? It should have sent a pit crew. That thing would be down in under nine seconds.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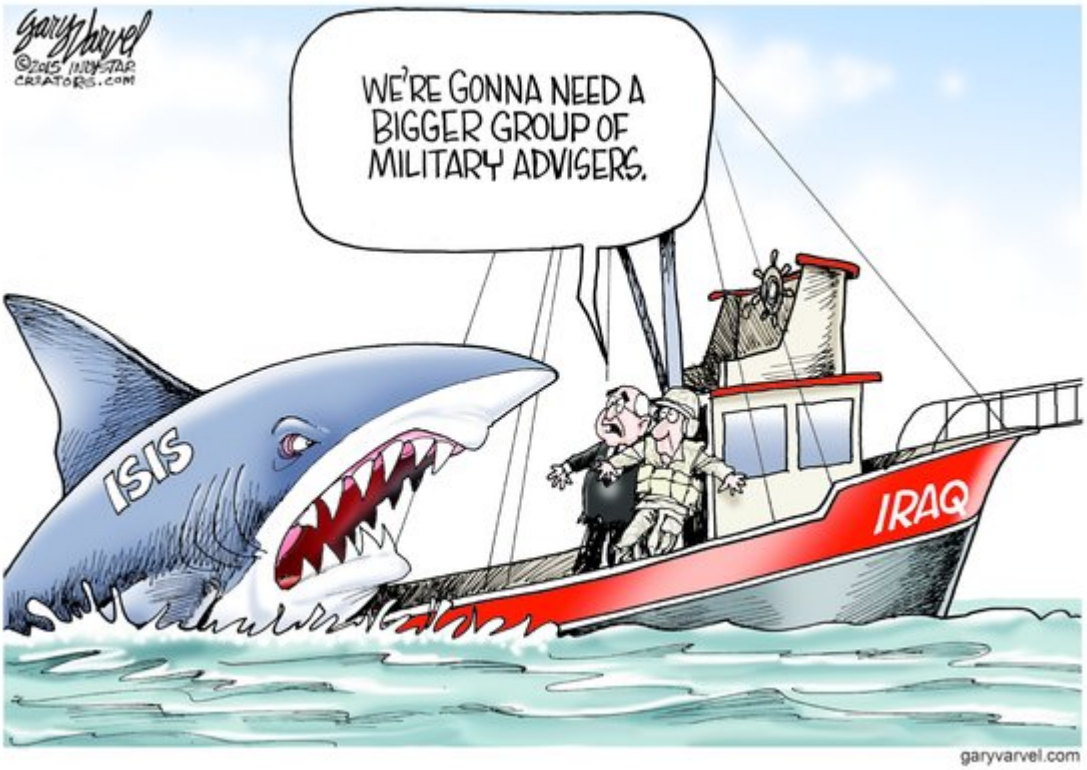
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