



Obama Biden Watch



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SPECIAL OBW REPORT: OBAMA-BIDEN "STIMULUS" BILL OUTRAGE

Summary

When President Obama signed his \$787 billion economic "stimulus" package into law in February, the unemployment rate stood at 7.6 percent. The White House stated that if the so-called American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was enacted, unemployment would not rise over 8 percent. However, the official unemployment rate is currently at 10.2 percent, the first time it's reached double digits in 26 years. Worse yet, an eye-popping 17.5 percent of Americans are not working or underemployed. Since the legislation took effect, 2.8 million jobs have been lost in the United States. The bottom line is that the Obama-Pelosi-Reid "stimulus" bill, the bill that was supposed to rescue the economy and create jobs, is not working. In fact, it's a miserable failure.

One of the most famous lines in Washington, D.C. is that the cover-up is always worse than the crime. In this case, signing the partisan, pork laden "stimulus" bill into law and labeling it a jobs bill is the "crime." The "cover-up" is the Obama Administration's apparent attempt to exaggerate the number of jobs the bill has created or saved, as



well as its failure to account for precisely how the hundreds of billions in taxpayer dollars are being spent.

Perhaps the most devastating aspect of this dire situation is the fact that President Obama is not focusing on jobs and the economy. Instead, he's focusing on a trillion dollar health care bill that will drive up our national debt and federal deficit to unsustainable levels. When the White House announced recently it would convene a "jobs summit" in December, it was simply acknowledging its neglect with regard to the economy. In short, this will be just another Obama photo-op that will attempt to convince the American people that he's worried about the economy and striving to fix it. Sadly, this should have been Mr. Obama's focus all along.



Over the past month, it's safe to say that the situation has spiraled out of control. The following is a chronology of press accounts from November alone highlighting the myriad of problems associated with the Obama-Biden "stimulus" bill.

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Chronology

November 4

The Wall Street Journal reports: “The number of jobs the Obama administration credits to federal stimulus money could be overstated by at least 20,000 of the 640,000 claimed.”

November 5

The New York Times reports: “In June, the federal government spent \$1,047 in stimulus money to buy a rider mower from the Toro Company to cut the grass at the Fayetteville National Cemetery in Arkansas. Now, a report on the government’s stimulus website improbably claims that that single lawn mower sale helped save or create 50 jobs. Earlier that same month, when Chrysler got a \$52.9 million stimulus order for new cars for the government, the struggling auto-maker claimed that the money did not save a single job.”

November 6

The Sacramento Bee reports: “Up to one-fourth of the 110,000 jobs reported as saved by federal stimulus money in California probably never were in danger...”

November 10

The Denver Post reports: “Click on the computerized map of the state of Colorado on the federal government’s stimulus-spending web page, and it displays 8,094 full-time jobs created or saved in the state. It’s a number that is inflated by at least 1,000 jobs, the result of confusing reporting requirements, inaccurate reporting and, perhaps, overreaching at some reporting agencies.”

November 11

The Boston Globe reports: “While Massachusetts recipients of federal stimulus money collectively report 12,374 jobs saved or created, a Globe review shows that number is wildly exaggerated...The federal stimulus report for Massachusetts has so many errors, missing data, or estimates instead of actual job counts that it may be impossible to accurately tally how many people have been employed by the massive infusion of federal money.”

November 12

Politico runs a story entitled, “Obama Plans Jobs Summit.”

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November 13

The *Las Vegas Sun* reports: “The federal government says that in Nevada the stimulus has directly created or saved 5,658 jobs. The state itself puts that number at 5,080. Sen. Harry Reid’s office says it’s 6,134... ‘I wouldn’t say they’re making up numbers, but there are no standards or consistency,’ said Nevada Controller Kim Wallin, a Democrat.”

November 16

ABC News reports: “Jobs ‘Saved or Created’ in Congressional Districts That Don’t Exist... Here’s a stimulus success story: In Arizona’s 15th congressional district, 30 jobs have been saved or created with just \$761,420 in federal stimulus spending. At least that’s what the website set up by the Obama administration to track the \$787 billion stimulus says. There’s one problem, though: There is no 15th congressional district in Arizona; the state has only eight districts.”

November 17

Politico runs a story entitled, “VP Briefed On Flawed Job Stats.”

The Birmingham News reports: “The Fort Payne Housing Authority this year got a \$540,071 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and mistakenly reported in early October that the stimulus grant would create 7,280 jobs... Actually, the grant to re-roof 154 apartments owned by the authority has created 14 jobs... adding that someone at the authority meant to type on a federal survey that the grant would create 7,280 hours of work, not jobs.”

November 19

The Associated Press reports: “The government watchdog overseeing economic stimulus spending says the White House was too quick to take credit for saving or creating 640,000 jobs... Under questioning on Capitol Hill, he agreed the White House should have acknowledged the doubt surrounding the numbers.”

November 21

The *Arizona Republic* reports: “The way the federal government requires stimulus grant recipients to report spending and job creation has led to incomplete and often misleading information being posted on the government website designed to keep track of the data... [a] review of Phoenix data from Recovery.gov, eight of 27 grants the city reported online omitted key information including the project’s name, description and the federal agency that awarded the money.”

November 23

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reports: “Nine months after President Obama promised that his \$789 billion stimulus package would be the most transparent spending bill in history, much of the information available to the public for the Bay Area and the rest of the nation is incomplete or inaccurate. The White House’s Recovery Act Web site... shows that \$660 million has been awarded to Bay Area transportation projects to create 997 jobs, which amounts to a staggering \$661,986 per job.”

Conclusion

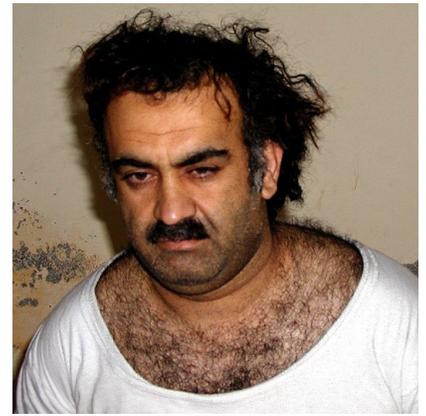
At very least, this situation calls for an immediate top-to-bottom review. However, the problem with congressional oversight is that Democrats control both Houses on Capitol Hill, and any investigation would be hopelessly partisan and counterproductive. All roads lead back to the debate on the stimulus bill when President Obama, Speaker Pelosi, and Senator Reid refused to allow the bill to be bipartisan. Instead, they opted to ram it through the process with little debate and forethought, and now the American people are paying an enormous price for their incompetence. As the waste, fraud, and abuse associated with this bill continues to rise, when will the Democrats admit fault and stop the bleeding? Hardworking American taxpayers demand to know how much of their money is being lost. Perhaps it’s time for Mr. Obama to appoint a truly independent auditor with real power.

Obama's "KSM" Mess

Attorney General Holder's announcement that the United States will try confessed 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed ("KSM"), as well as co-conspirators Waleed bin Attash, Ramzi Binalshibh, Mustafa Ahmad al-Hawsawi, and Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali in a federal civilian court for the attacks of September 11th, 2001, will easily go down as one of the most dangerous decisions of the Obama presidency.

For starters, the unfortunate fact that the commander-in-chief didn't make this announcement himself, and decided it should wait until he was overseas shows a lack of sensitivity to everyone affected by the events of September 11, 2001. It also suggests that successfully prosecuting the War on Terror (now also known as an "Overseas Contingency Operation") is not something Mr. Obama cares to focus his efforts on. The timing of this announcement was amateur hour on display, and the sorry attempt to

make this Eric Holder's decision alone is an outrage. Make no mistake; the buck will stop in the Oval Office for this flawed decision.



Next, the decision shows that President Obama will stop at nothing to satisfy his left-wing base and do things differently than the Bush Administration, even if it makes us less safe. As Mayor Giuliani said, sending KSM and company to a civilian court is simply an unnecessary risk. With the safer option of using a military commission on the table, going in this direction constitutes something of a rolling of the dice with U.S. national security in order to satisfy the ACLU. KSM carried out an act of war against the

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Key Ambassadorships Go To Campaign Fundraisers

Once again proving that his campaign rhetoric was exactly that and no more, President Obama has been repaying his top political fundraisers by sending them abroad to serve as America's ambassadors to key countries. Of course, for many of these newly minted ambassadors, their only qualification for serving as emissaries of the United States is the fact that they have million-dollar rolodexes.

USA Today reports that 20 out of 47 people who raised more than \$500,000 for President Obama's campaign have been rewarded with ambassadorships, and that President Obama is giving these ambassadorships away as political favors at a greater rate than any president in the last forty years.

In January, President Obama indicated he would not nominate political cronies to key ambassa-

dorships, saying that "my general inclination is to have civil service, wherever possible, serve in these posts."

Despite the fact that President Obama is in sole control over whether or not these ambassadorships go to career foreign service officers with foreign policy experience, he has chosen to nominate fundraisers instead.

Alarming, ambassadors to some crucial allies and trading partners have zero foreign policy experience prior to being appointed to their positions. John Roos, a Silicon Valley lawyer and Obama campaign fundraiser who was appointed Ambassador to Japan, had never even set foot in the country before arriving as ambassador.

This just amounts to another broken promise by President Obama and will certainly be a talking point for his opponent during the 2012 presidential campaign. Change we can believe in, indeed.

United States and should be tried by military commission, period. Why would President Obama choose a civilian court, where something unanticipated is much more likely to occur?

President Obama is moving us back to the Clinton Administration's mindset of handling terrorism as a law enforcement matter as opposed to acts of war. This is what is commonly known as the September 10th mentality and was dismissed as a failed policy long ago. As former Attorney General Mukasey said, "The plan seems to abandon the view that we are involved in a war." The idea that the United States will be seen in a better light around the world because of this decision is ridiculous.

We have nothing to prove. This is simply another stop on President Obama's apologize for America tour.



Terrorists Should be Tried by Military Commission

KSM must think he won the lottery, because this decision gives him an advantage. He knows that being sent to a civilian court gives him a fighting chance to beat the U.S. justice system and become a hero to terrorists and extremists once again. Why give this war criminal a trial in the civilian courts? A trial in open court in New York City - in lower Manhattan no less - will become a media circus. You'll have a defense team trying anything and everything to get their client off the hook, with no tactic out of bounds. You'll have press conferences, you'll have impartial jury problems, you'll have leaks, and worst of all, KSM will have a venue to spew his warped ideology. Furthermore, let's not forget about the amount of information that will be released in the course of an open trial. This

information - some of which will become public for the first time - may assist our enemies.

Not surprisingly, this decision has drawn criticism from across the political spectrum. In this age of hyper-partisanship, whenever leaders from different parties agree on anything, chances are they have a sound argument.

Senator Kit Bond, Republican of Missouri stated: "The Obama Justice Department has prioritized political correctness over protecting the citizens of this country." Senator Joe Lieberman, Independent of Connecticut, and Al Gore's running mate in 2000, also voiced concerns: "Not only are these individuals not common criminals but war criminals, they are also not American citizens entitled to all the constitutional rights American citizens have in our federal courts." Finally, Senator Jim Webb of Virginia, a member of

President Obama's own political party, felt it was necessary to issue a critical statement: "It will be disruptive, costly, and potentially counterproductive to try them as criminals in our civilian courts." Unfortunately, President Obama does not see eye to eye with this diverse group of U.S. Senators on this issue.

The unthinkable image of KSM walking out of the courthouse a free man, just blocks from ground zero has now become an unnecessary possibility. Hopefully, this doesn't happen, and he is found guilty and executed. But the question for President Obama is, why take this chance if you don't have to?

Obama's Global Warming Escapade

President Obama announced the day before Thanksgiving that he would attend a United Nations climate change summit in Copenhagen, Denmark on his way to pick up the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway in December.

Most Americans remember the President's last trip to Copenhagen in September where he not only failed to win the 2016 Olympic Games for his hometown of Chicago, but he could not even garner enough votes to get Chicago out of last place behind Madrid, Spain, Tokyo, Japan, and the eventual winner, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

This upcoming trip to Copenhagen promises to leave the President equally empty handed. *The New York Times* reports that the conference is expected to produce only an "interim political declaration" but that it will "stop short of proposing a binding international treaty." Essentially, President Obama will travel to Denmark to agree to continue negotiating.

But that might not be such a bad thing after all.

This entire trip is premised on the notion that Al Gore is right and the globe is in fact warm-

ing. You can expect the mainstream media to continue to ignore the recent revelations in emails between "leading" climate scientists that show them cooking the books when it comes to global warming.



As *The Wall Street Journal* reports, the emails reveal scientists appearing "to urge each other to present a 'unified' view on the theory of man-made climate change while discussing the importance of the 'common cause'; to advise each other on how to smooth over data so as not to compromise the favored hypothesis; to discuss ways to keep opposing views out of leading journals; and to give tips on how to 'hide the decline' of temperature in certain inconvenient data."

Of course, you won't see President Obama or the mainstream media questioning the facts - just so long as Al Gore and the liberal left are pacified.

Afghanistan War Update

President Obama has been in office for over 10 months and is finally dedicating a prime time national address to inform the country about his new strategy in the War on Terror. Mr. Obama's budget busting domestic agenda has dominated his time in office to this point. 2009 has been the costliest year for U.S. forces in Afghanistan, and after weeks and weeks of delay, Mr. Obama is expected to announce on December 1st that he will be sending about 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan.

At first glance, this appears to be positive news. However, press accounts are hinting that the President may provide some kind of timeframe for an Afghanistan exit. A policy of this kind would be dangerously counterproductive because it would inform our enemies that they can simply wait us out and hide in the shadows until we leave. Afghanistan would once again become a safe haven for terrorists.

If this is truly a war we need to win, Mr. Obama should not give into the anti-war base of the Democrat Party and provide any kind of arbitrary date of withdrawal.

Brainard Is 8th Obama Nominee With Tax Problems

Lael Brainard, President Obama's nominee for Undersecretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, has been under scrutiny by the Senate Finance Committee for being late on several property tax payments and for irregularities concerning household employees and an office-in-home deduction. According to *The Associated Press*, Brainard "did not disclose all of her late tax payments until she was repeatedly prodded by Senate investigators."

Along with Timothy Geithner, Tom Daschle, Nancy Killefer, Ron Kirk, Kathleen Sebelius, Hilda Solis' husband's taxes, and Capricia Marshall, Brainard is the eighth Obama nominee to disclose tax-related irregularities. The Obama Administration has been criticized for allowing several nominees with tax problems to move forward in the process instead of withdrawing their names from consideration. In his opening statement at a recent hearing, Sen. Charles

Grassley (R-IA) remarked that "although the process for vetting Finance Committee nominees has remained the same for the nearly nine years I've been either chairman or ranking member, the bar has definitely been lowered with this administration's nominees, in regard to tax compliance."

A Finance Committee report outlined Brainard's tax issues in detail. According to the report, "information provided to the Committee on June 1, 2009 showed that the real estate taxes on this property for years 2005, 2006, and 2007 all were paid late. Five payments were less than one month late; five other payments ranged from one month to thirteen months late."

Brainard has yet to be confirmed, but probably will be approved because Democrats control the U.S Senate.

We'll keep you posted on this on-going fiasco.

Citizens United Productions Presents

Season's Greetings from Citizens United Productions! With the holidays just around the corner, Citizens United would like to thank everyone for their support and remind you that our films make wonderful gifts! Since 2004, Citizens United has produced twelve critically acclaimed documentaries on a host of fascinating topics:

Celsius 41.11 (Response To Fahrenheit 9/11)

Broken Promises: The United Nations At 60

ACLU: At War With America

Border War: The Battle Over Illegal Immigration

Rediscovering God In America

Hillary The Movie

Hype: The Obama Effect

Blocking "The Path To 9/11"

We Have The Power (Energy Independence)

Ronald Reagan: Rendezvous With Destiny

Perfect Valor (Iraq War Heroes)

Rediscovering God In America II: Our Heritage

We also have two terrific films in the final stages of production. *Generation Zero* takes a hard look at our current economic crisis, and *Nine Days That Changed The World* chronicles Pope John Paul II's historic 1979 pilgrimage to Poland. Many argue that this trip marked the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union. Please check back regularly for updates!

For more information, and to order your DVDs, please visit www.CitizensUnited.org or call 202-547-5420.

A FINAL THOUGHT FROM
CITIZENS UNITED PRESIDENT
DAVID N. BOSSIE

Dear Friends,

It's official! Liberals needed just 10 months in power for Americans to once again reject their irresponsible agenda. Early this month, conservative candidates swept four statewide races in bellwether states that President Obama won comfortably. These election results bode poorly for Democrats as we head into the critical 2010 election year.

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, statewide Conservative candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General won by astonishing margins. Bob McDonnell won by 18 points (59 - 41); Bill Bolling by 12 points (56 - 44); and Ken Cuccinelli by 15 points (57 - 42). President Obama's popularity in Virginia in 2008 was nowhere to be found in 2009.

Down the ballot, Barbara Comstock won a consequential race in Virginia House of Delegates District 34, running on a common sense Conservative platform. According to *The Washington Post*: "Comstock's apparent victory would be a huge boost for Republicans. Since Vanderhye's election in 2007, there has been no elected GOP state official representing an area that includes inner-Beltway neighborhoods." President Obama carried Comstock's district with 53 percent of the vote just a year ago!

The Washington Post went on to report that some Democrat leaders in Virginia are acknowledging that what's occurring out there is a national problem: "It's been difficult to buck the headwind of the national mood," said Del. Kenneth R. Plum (Fairfax), chairman of the House Democratic Caucus."

In the heavily liberal Garden State, Republican Chris Christie won a monumental 49 percent to 45 percent victory, as voters rejected the oppressive tax and spend policies of incumbent Governor and former Goldman Sachs CEO Jon Corzine. President Obama campaigned hard for Corzine and it accomplished little to nothing. This victory came despite the fact that Corzine spent tens of millions of his own dollars to buy the election, as he had done successfully in his previous runs for the Governor's mansion and the United States Senate.



In the special election in New York's 23rd congressional district, Conservative third party candidate Doug Hoffman came within about 3,000 votes of winning an upstate House seat, despite the fact that the liberal Republican dropped out of the race at the last minute and endorsed the Democrat!

In the little noticed special election in California's liberal 10th congressional district, Conservative David Harmer won a surprising 43 percent of the vote going up against the Golden State's well known Lt. Governor John Garamendi, who received only 53 percent. To put it in perspective, in last year's House race in this district, incumbent Ellen Tauscher won with 65 percent of the vote and John McCain only won 33 percent there at the presidential level!

On election night, Americans sent an unmistakable message to President Obama, Speaker Pelosi, and the rest of the liberals: stop spending, stop taxing, and stop pushing your radical agenda!

Sincerely,

David N. Bossie