



AIM in the News

page 2



Did the Media Save the Hagel Nomination?

page 4



WaPo's Ombudsman Calls Paper's Move to Cut Position "Shortsighted"

page 6.

AIM REPORT

For Fairness, Balance and Accuracy in News Reporting

February-B 2013 | XXXXII-4

Al Jazeera Hires K Street to Lobby Congress

By Cliff Kincaid

Apparently on the defensive over its unorthodox entry into the U.S. media market, Al Jazeera has hired a high-powered lobbying firm on Capitol Hill to stave off an investigation of the curious transaction with former Democratic Vice President Al Gore.

The firm, DLA Piper, represented Al Jazeera in the acquisition of Gore's Current TV, has an office in Qatar, which owns Al Jazeera, and is also active in the "Islamic financial services industry" in the Middle East.

"Al Jazeera America is assembling a K Street team to advocate for its cable news channel," reports The Hill. Current TV was purchased from Gore and other prominent Democrats, including Richard C. Blum, husband of Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein. Gore reportedly got \$100 million out of the \$500 million deal.

But DLA's top lobbyist on the Al Jazeera account is a Republican, Mark R. Paoletta, who used to work for President George H.W. Bush.

The term "K Street" refers to Washington, D.C.'s expensive lobbying industry, a sure indication that Al Jazeera realizes it has to deploy huge sums of cash from its owner, the Emir of Qatar, to make sure its takeover of Gore's Current TV does not run into snags.

The Emir of Qatar, a multi-billionaire, runs a dictatorial regime that postures as America's friend in the Middle East but which supports the Muslim Brotherhood and terrorist groups such as al Qaeda, Hamas and Hezbollah.

Lobbying registration forms reveal that four lobbyists from the firm DLA Piper are on the Al Jazeera account. DLA Piper describes itself as a global law firm with 4,200 lawyers located in more than 30 countries, including the Middle East.

One of its areas of interest is "Islamic Finance."

The firm says, "The worldwide Islamic financial services industry is thought to be worth in excess of US\$1 trillion and, despite current global economic uncertainty, continues to demonstrate strong signs of growth as investors (Islamic and conventional) look to tap into the alternative source of liquidity offered by Shari'a compliant financing structures and products."



Sharia refers to the totalitarian system of Islamic law.

"We consider ourselves to be more than just a global law firm but also a 'stakeholder' in the Islamic finance industry," DLA Piper says.

Mark Paoletta, a partner in DLA Piper's Federal Law and Policy group, is listed in the registration forms as one of the lobbyists for Al Jazeera. His specialty is "government investigations, with an emphasis on congressional investigations and hearings," as well as "crisis management."

According to his webpage, his clients have included:

- Major hedge funds in connection with investigations by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee into the hedge fund industry
- Defense contractors in investigations by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee
- A foreign bank in connection with an investigation by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations into offshore tax practices

In addition to Paoletta, DLA Piper's John Merrigan, Ignacio Sanchez and Matthew Bernstein are registered as lobbyists for the channel. "We're keeping everyone advised of the upcoming launch of the U.S.-based news channel," Merrigan told Politico.

continued on page 3

AIM

in the News

Accuracy in Media will be honoring two journalists at this year's CPAC, the **Conservative Political Action Conference**, with the annual **Reed Irvine Awards**. One is **Catherine Herridge** of the **Fox News Channel**, and the other is **Jim Hoft** of **Gateway Pundit**. The **Reed Irvine Award** is named for AIM's founder, America's first media watchdog.

"AIM could not be more pleased about the recipients of this year's **Reed Irvine Awards**," **Chairman Don Irvine** said. "We at AIM have been most impressed with the excellent reporting of **Catherine Herridge**, especially her unparalleled work in exposing and analyzing the events surrounding the terrorist attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya on September 11th."

Irvine also praised **Jim Hoft**: "His dedication to a free America and his personal devotion to democracy that has led him to cover freedom movements from inside Iran to the streets of Azerbaijan, have propelled **Gateway Pundit** into one of the country's top resources for right-of-center news and commentary."

AIM continues to need your help to keep doing these sorts of projects, honoring those journalists who are doing great work.

AIMREPORT

A twice-monthly newsletter published by Accuracy in Media, Inc.

Editor: Roger Aronoff

4455 Connecticut Ave, NW #330
Washington, DC 20008
202-364-4401 | www.aim.org

Editor's Message



Dear Fellow Media Watchdogs:

As this edition goes to press, the Senate has confirmed Chuck Hagel as Secretary of Defense and Jack Lew as Secretary of the Treasury. At the same time, Secretary of State John Kerry has been on his first overseas trip in which he made his fair share of misstatements. None of this bodes well for the U.S., either in terms of relations with Congress or relationships abroad. But don't expect the media to report it this way.

In the case of Chuck Hagel, his very appointment was needlessly provocative. He has a long record of hostility toward America's ally Israel, and has made references to the "Jewish lobby." He said the State Department, of all places, was an adjunct of the Israeli foreign minister's office. He has a dismal record on issues related to sanctions on Iran, identifying Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, and the surge in Iraq. His confirmation day conversions and his embarrassing performance at his confirmation hearing should have ended his nomination. He also failed to disclose speeches to various controversial groups, and some of the income he has received since he left the Senate. As "The Weekly Standard" pointed out, "Hagel's defenders dismiss these concerns because, they argue, the important decisions are made at the White House, by the president and his team." But that is not the case when it comes to so many aspects of running the Department of Defense.

When John Kerry ventured out on his first overseas trip as Secretary of State, he spoke of U.S. diplomats working to secure "democratic institutions" in the Central Asian country of Kyrzakhstan. The country he meant to say was Kyrgyzstan. There is also a Kazakhstan. That was a slip of tongue of little significance, other than the fact that if George Bush or Mitt Romney had done it, the media would have had a field day. But Kerry also said, "Iran has a government that was elected and that sits in the United Nations." He is certainly correct about the UN part, but to give the government legitimacy by saying it was elected is a stretch. As The Wall Street Journal pointed out, "Mr. Kerry surely knows that ultimate authority in Iran rests with Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. The Grand Ayatollah has held office for nearly 24 years and was elected in roughly the way Leonid Brezhnev became the Soviet General Secretary." Besides, the re-election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was clearly fraudulent, followed by the brutal crushing of dissenters, and the jailing of the defeated candidates. Iran is no democracy.

The third leg of this new administration team, Jack Lew, underlines the vast hypocrisy of Barack Obama, and the still-revolving door between Wall Street and Washington. Lew received a severance package from New York University when he voluntarily left to take a job with Citigroup, and he received a nearly \$1 million bonus which was guaranteed to him if he left for a "high level position" with the U.S. government. •

For Accuracy in Media

Roger Aronoff

Your Letters

To the Editor:

The media is completely in the pocket of this administration, but Bill Plante's comments strike me as whining that the White House is making it difficult for journalists to DO THEIR DAMN JOBS!!!

Just because the White House is smart enough to heavily rely on social media to take their message directly to the people doesn't mean journalists don't still have a job to do!

Jane in Bethesda, MD

Please send Letters to the Editor to:

Accuracy in Media

Attn: Letters to the Editor

4455 Connecticut Ave, NW #330

Washington, DC 20008

or email to info@aim.org

Please keep your submissions to 50 words or less. Letters may be edited for length.

While this may strike some as non-controversial, Al Jazeera critic Jerry Kenney points out that these discussions are being held “behind closed doors” and that Congress is getting only one side of the story.

“This is proof of why we need public hearings into Al Jazeera,” he said. “They have no choice now. America is supposed to be a government that is open and public and not based on back alley deals with a dictator. It seems as though this dictator has better standing with Congress than even the American people who want open hearings.”

Variety reports that Al Jazeera “does not reveal its finances” but that Qatar’s ruling Al Thani royal family has a sovereign wealth fund that reportedly has up to \$100 billion in assets. This family “shelled out hundreds of millions in startup costs for the network,” and spending at Al Jazeera in 2010 “reached almost \$650 million,” the publication said.

Paoletta, the DLA Piper lobbyist, has strong Republican credentials and advertises himself as having “worked closely with numerous Republican Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee chairmen and senior members, including Representatives Fred Upton, Ed Whitfield and Greg Walden.” He also worked in the White House as Assistant Counsel to the President during the George H.W. Bush Administration.

Politico says the firm DLA Piper is supposed to “make headway on Capitol Hill” for the new channel and “has been making the rounds in Washington, educating lawmakers about the company’s plans to be based in New York City and open bureaus across the country.”

In the movie “Zero Dark Thirty,” about the hunt for and killing of al Qaeda chief

Osama bin Laden, the location of an Al Jazeera bureau near bin Laden’s hideout in Pakistan was an indication that the CIA was on the trail of the elusive terrorist mastermind.

The working relationship between al Qaeda and Al Jazeera has been a matter of public record since before the 9/11 al Qaeda terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 Americans.

The unprecedented activity on Capitol Hill by the foreign propaganda channel suggests that the deal could yet run into significant obstacles to completion as members of Congress begin to grasp the significance of the terror channel getting a permanent base on U.S. soil with access to 40-50 million homes.

Perhaps the Al Jazeera lobbyists saw how Obama Pentagon chief nominee Chuck Hagel got into serious trouble on Capitol Hill for giving Al Jazeera an interview and bashing the United States on the air.

Perhaps the Al Jazeera lobbyists saw how Obama Pentagon chief nominee Chuck Hagel got into serious trouble on Capitol Hill for giving Al Jazeera an interview and bashing the United States on the air. In his grilling of Hagel over the interview, Senator Ted Cruz called Al Jazeera “a foreign network broadcasting propaganda to nations that are hostile to us.”

Accuracy in Media reviewed the lobbying registration form, which says that the firm DLA Piper will engage in “Informational communications regarding client’s cable television channel.” Under the heading of “Foreign Entities” the name of “Al Jazeera Media Network” is identified as the owner of the new channel, with an address

in Doha, Qatar, where the government owners of Al Jazeera are based.

The term “informational communications” is a euphemism for making sure that Congress does not stand in the way of the deal. The lobbying activity suggests that the thousands of telephone calls to Congress about stopping the deal, or at least investigating the transaction, are having some impact and that Al Jazeera is starting to get worried.

Years ago a firm in the Arab state of Dubai thought it had approval for a deal to run U.S. ports but had to abandon the effort when members of Congress and the American people questioned the national security aspects of the proposal.

Accuracy in Media has been urging people to call Reps. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee (202-226-8417), and Steve Scalise, chairman of the Republican Study Committee (202- 226-9717), asking for investigations of Al Jazeera.

Jerry Kenney, an independent television producer in Florida, commented, “Qatar won’t defend itself. They buy hired guns to do that. Where is the honor in that? Just like they bought Current TV when no one wanted their programming they buy Washington insiders to run interference for them because they cannot defend themselves or show who they really are.”

He added, “Congress is only getting Al Jazeera’s side of the argument in private. Behind closed doors, and away from the glare of public scrutiny, Al Jazeera can distort its record and the facts with no one there to correct them. It’s time for public hearings.”

Cliff Kincaid is the Director of the AIM Center for Investigative Journalism, and can be contacted at cliff.kincaid@aim.org.

More on Hagel’s Al Jazeera and Arab Connections

By Cliff Kincaid

Senator Ted Cruz grilled Obama defense chief nominee Chuck Hagel over his controversial appearance on Al Jazeera, the Arab propaganda channel, during which the former Republican Senator had agreed with a viewer that the United States was a “bully” in global affairs. It has now been revealed that the government of Qatar, which owns Al Jazeera, was a major contributor to the Atlantic

Council when Hagel was its chairman.

But Hagel also has an Al Jazeera connection through Georgetown University, where he is a professor, and which maintains a campus in Qatar.

The Washington Free Beacon reports that Hagel’s foreign policy course at Georgetown, the oldest Catholic institute of higher learning in the United States, was “based primarily on anti-Israel materials and far left manifestos that castigate America’s role in the world...” The course

was titled, “Redefining Geopolitical Relationships.”

The Georgetown connection has taken on additional importance because Fox News is reporting that, according to the Investigative Project on Terrorism, “Hagel spoke at Georgetown University’s Center for Contemporary Arab Studies on September 22, 2008,” but that a list of speeches the nominee has given since January 1, 2008, that Hagel himself submitted to the Armed Services Committee in sup-

continued on page 4



as a “preeminent, non-partisan institution devoted to promoting transatlantic cooperation and international security.” Hagel is chairman of the group.

Documents released by the Atlantic Council, in response to the controversy over Hagel’s nomination, show funding from several foreign

appeared on the far-left MSNBC cable channel to sing the praises of Hagel as “non-ideological.”

But anti-communist blogger Trevor Loudon points out that Chuck Hagel serves on the board of the Ploughshares Fund, another of the George Soros-funded organizations, and that it is a “partner organization” of the pro-Marxist Institute for Policy Studies.

In addition to his role as chairman of the Atlantic Council and a board member of the Ploughshares Fund, Hagel serves as a Distinguished Professor in the Practice of National Governance at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, which maintains campuses in Washington, D.C. and Qatar. Funding for the campus in Qatar comes from the Qatar Foundation, established by the ruling family.

Not surprisingly, Al Jazeera has featured interviews with faculty members from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, about the acquisition of Current TV and the violence in Syria.

After the launching of the Qatar campus, “Fear and Loathing in Georgetown,” a blog maintained by an anonymous School of Foreign Service graduate, stated that “the school is a glorified finishing school for the royalty of Qatar and the surrounding Gulf States” and that the “non-royal students” were mere “window dressing.”

John J. Degioia, President of Georgetown University, is quoted on the Qatar Foundation website as saying, “There is something truly distinctive about a Georgetown education.”•

Cliff Kincaid is the Director of the AIM Center for Investigative Journalism, and can be contacted at cliff.kincaid@aim.org.

port of his nomination did not include the Georgetown event.

In the exchange over Al Jazeera, Cruz told Hagel, “You explicitly agreed with the characterization of the United States as the world’s bully. And I would suggest that is not a characterization—I think the United States has spilled more blood, more treasure, standing for freedom, liberating people across the world. And to go on Al Jazeera, a foreign network broadcasting propaganda to nations that are hostile to us, and to explicitly agree with the characterization of the United States as the world’s bully. I would suggest is not the conduct one would expect of a secretary of defense.”

Cruz’s description of Al Jazeera as “a foreign network broadcasting propaganda to nations that are hostile to us” is completely accurate and once again raises questions about the failure of Congress to investigate the channel before it finalizes a deal for the acquisition of Al Gore’s Current TV in the U.S.

The Atlantic Council describes itself

governments, including Qatar and Saudi Arabia. A search also reveals that Atlantic Council officials have been appearing regularly on Al Jazeera, giving the mouthpiece of the Muslim Brotherhood credibility as a “news organization.”

According to the council’s own website, these appearances include:

- Barbara Slavin, senior fellow at the Atlantic Council’s South Asia Center, was interviewed on Al Jazeera about the U.S. cyber-attacks against Iran.

- Michele Dunne, director of the Council’s Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, appeared on Al Jazeera’s Inside Story Americas to discuss Syria.

- J. Peter Pham, director of the Michael S. Ansari Africa Center, discussed the situation in Mali on Al Jazeera English.

- Barry Pavel, director of the Council’s Program on International Security, appeared on Al Jazeera English’s show Inside Story Americas to discuss the deployment of 200 U.S. Marines to Australia.

In addition to Al Jazeera, Atlantic Council senior fellow Barbara Slavin

Did the Media Save the Hagel Nomination?

Roger Aronoff

In an interview on “Meet the Press” on February 17th, host David Gregory apparently did not like the answers he was getting from his guest, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). Gregory was doing what virtually all of the “journalists” in the NBC family do—shilling for President Obama.

The point of contention was the Republican speed bump that had been employed to slow down the nomination of former Senator Chuck Hagel to become Secretary of Defense until GOP senators got more answers. Answers on Benghazi, answers on Hagel’s confirmation-day con-

versions on questions related to Israel, Iran and Hezbollah. Answers on who has been feathering Hagel’s nest since he left the

The point of contention was the GOP speed bump that had been employed to slow down the nomination of former Senator Chuck Hagel to become Secretary of Defense until GOP senators got more answers.

Senate.

But this particular question and answer segment was on the Benghazi scandal. Gregory wanted to know if there was any

there, there. If the worst thing is true, he wanted to know, “what is that truth about how the president handled the crisis?” And when McCain pointed out numerous questions that remain unanswered, such as who changed the talking points that Susan Rice delivered on five Sunday talk shows just days after the terrorist attack, and conflicting comments about who knew what and when, it was as if Gregory wasn’t listening. “But a massive cover-up of what?” he asked again.

Here are the relevant parts of that interview:

DAVID GREGORY: It’s striking

continued on page 5

though, Senator, because some members are saying, “Look, we need more time to look at his speeches, to see if he really is anti-Israel.” Others are saying, “No, we’re going to use this moment of leverage to get more information about Benghazi, about what the president said, who he called the night of the attack.” Or getting some of the emails about who changed the talking point. The President said this week on the issue of Benghazi, “You guys are running out of things to ask about.” So let me ask you, at the end of the day here on Benghazi, if the worst thing is true, what is that truth about how the president handled the crisis?

McCain responded that he didn’t know how to answer that question. He said, “I do know that there are so many answers we don’t know. For example, what did the president do the night of the attack?” He then brought up then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: “We know that the Secretary of State, who said she was clear-eyed, never saw the warnings about the fact that the consulate could not withstand an attack. Why was that?”

McCain added to the list. “We’ve had five different versions of who put together the talking points. We want to know why the President alleged to Mitt Romney in the debate that he had called it a terrorist attack when he hadn’t.

And an interview that very night of September 12th, he’d said he didn’t know what it was.”

McCain said that for the next two weeks, Obama kept saying he didn’t know what kind of attack it was, while the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff both said they knew that night.

“We’ve had two movies about getting bin Laden,” said McCain, “and we don’t even know who the people were who were evacuated from the consulate the next day after the attack. So there are many, many questions. And we have had a massive cover-up on the part of...”

GREGORY: But a massive cover-up of what? Susan Rice said there was a lot of confusion.

McCain then asked Gregory, “Do you care whether four Americans died? ...the reasons for that? And shouldn’t people

be held accountable for the fact that four Americans died?

GREGORY: Well, what you said was the cover-up...A cover-up of what?

MCCAIN: Of the information concerning the deaths of four brave Americans. The information has not been forthcoming. You can obviously believe that it has. I know that it hasn’t. And I’ll be glad to send you a list of the questions that have not been answered, including what did the president do and who did he talk to the night of the attack on Benghazi? And why was it that the people who were evacuated from the consulate the next day were not interviewed the next day. And then they would’ve known that it was not a spontaneous demonstration. Why did the president for two weeks, for two weeks during the heat of the campaign continue to say he didn’t know whether it was a terrorist attack or not? Is it because



it interfered with the line of “al Qaeda has [been] decimated?” And “everything’s fine in that part of the world?” Maybe. We don’t know. But we need the answers. Then we’ll reach conclusions. But we have not received the answers. And that’s a fact.

David Gregory was just doing his job, which is, as part of the NBC team, to deflect any accusations that might be damaging to President Obama’s reputation or agenda. And to portray the Republicans as nefarious troublemakers who oppose anything and everything that Obama supports.

The Hagel nomination was in trouble for a while, though apparently not from the lack of transparency on the Benghazi scandal. Instead it was the lack of transparency by Hagel, and the drip, drip, drip of information coming out about some of his previously unreported speeches. A late

revelation came from Alana Goodman of The Washington Free Beacon. Goodman was previously with Commentary magazine, and before that, she was an intern with AIM’s American Journalism Center. As Commentary noted:

“Our former colleague Alana Goodman broke last week’s story about a contemporaneous account of a 2007 speech given by Hagel at Rutgers University in which he made the outrageous charge that the U.S. State Department was being run by the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Today Goodman is at it again as she reports that there was yet another Hagel speech at the same venue three years later in which he again offended Israel and its supporters:

“Secretary of Defense nominee Chuck Hagel said Israel is on its way to becoming an apartheid state during an April 9, 2010, appearance at Rutgers University, according to a contemporaneous account by an attendee.

“Hagel also accused Israel of violating U.N. resolutions, called for U.S.-designated terrorist organization Hamas to be included in any peace negotiations, and described Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a ‘radical,’ according to the source.”

Hagel was ultimately confirmed in the Senate with a vote of 58-41, the closest vote ever for a defense secretary. Bob Woodward was on Fox News Sunday while the outcome was still in the balance, and he hinted at the behind-the-scenes machinations:

“I think there’s another dimension here and that is, what are Democratic senators really thinking about the Hagel nomination?” said Woodward. “I understand some of them have actually called the White House and said, ‘Is Hagel going to withdraw, would he consider withdrawing?’ The answer is an emphatic ‘no,’ but remember John Erlichman—Nixon’s aide—used to talk about twisting slowly in the wind. The factor here is time, and there is this twisting in the wind aura to all of this. I wonder whether [they] are kind of looking and asking what really is the fundamental question here: Is he really the best person to be Sec. of Defense?” The answer was no, but yet he was confirmed. •

Roger Aronoff is the Editor of AIM

WaPo's Ombudsman Calls Paper's Move to Cut Position "Shortsighted"

By Don Irvine



Washington Post ombudsman Patrick Pexton called the newspaper's potential elimination of his position "shortsighted."

Pexton, whose contract expired at the end of February, used his next to last column to address the possible end to a 43-year old tradition at the Post:

"It is possible that I'll be The Washington Post's last independent ombudsman and that this chair will empty at the conclusion of my two-year term Feb. 28. If so, that will end nearly 43 years of this publication having enough courage and confidence to employ a full-time reader representative and critic.

"Officially, no final decision has been made. Discussions are underway within The Post about how to respond to reader complaints and concerns without an independent ombudsman.

"But I think the tea leaves are clear. For cost-cutting reasons, for modern media-technology reasons and because The Post, like other news organizations, is financially weaker and hence even more sensitive to criticism, my bet is that this position will disappear."

Pexton based his bet on a conversation he had with the Post's new executive editor Marty Baron, who told him, "There is ample criticism of our performance from outside sources, entirely independent of the newsroom, and we don't pay their salaries."

Baron is right. There is certainly no shortage of media critics today, thanks to the Internet, but Pexton thinks Baron isn't seeing the entire picture.

Pexton says that the job doesn't consist of just his Sunday column and blog posts.

He said that he and his assistant are constantly dealing with complaints and concerns of readers who send them an average of 5,000 emails per month. He added that by virtue of having a sympathetic ear, they have prevented multiple home-subscription cancellations and have earned their salaries in saved subscriptions alone.

That probably means little to Baron since the discussion about the ombudsman position really isn't about money, but about the fact that Pexton and some of his predecessors have stung the Post on more than one occasion with their criticisms of the paper. That's something Baron wants to avoid as he tries to reshape the Post.

Pexton doesn't think that ombudsmen are infallible, but neither does he think the Post should eliminate the job:

"Can I say for certain that an ombudsman makes The Post more credible? No, I can't point to any good study saying that. But people's trust in the media is declining. Eliminating the ombudsman seems a shortsighted move."

Indeed it is. •

Anita Dunn Says Fox News' "Alternative Universe" Is Crumbling

By Don Irvine



In February, during an interview with HuffPo Live, former White House Communications Director Anita Dunn said that the departure of Dick Morris and Sarah Palin from Fox News signals that the network's "alternative universe" is crumbling.

Dunn created a controversy in 2009 when she told *Time* magazine that Fox News is "opinion journalism masquerading as news," and followed that up on CNN by saying that the network "often operates as the research arm of the Republican Party."

The HuffPo interview shows that her opinion of Fox hasn't changed and that she thinks the network is in trouble:

HuffPo: At what point do you make this decision inside the White House, that it's time to fight back? (Against Fox)

Dunn: Well, I think that it was a simple decision given the fact that Fox News has been the not-so-loyal opposition since the President had taken office. What I said that day was the culmination of months of relentless attacks from Fox News. Where they would take an opinion piece, and then give it to their news division to go get people to respond to it, and then have the opinion people talk about the response and basically create news. And I think what you're seeing now with Fox is that the alternative Fox universe that they created for four years is crumbling, and Roger Ailes who is nothing if not an excellent television person and very smart executive, is realizing that the creationism of the past has to end, and so you see the Fox evolution.

Dunn and the liberal media have jumped on the fact that Fox hit a 12-year ratings low in January as evidence that Fox is now in decline, despite the fact that it still finished as the number one cable news network with more than twice the total audience of second place MSNBC.

In addition, Fox had the top 11 cable news programs in 2012, not exactly a sign of a network on the verge of crumbling, as Dunn claimed.

As for the departures of Palin and Morris, it's just part of an ongoing process that all cable news networks engage in, and isn't a sign that the network is in trouble.

Dunn was wrong in 2009 and she will be proven wrong again this year when Fox will inevitably claim its 12th consecutive crown as the number one cable news network. •

What You Can Do

- Please send the enclosed postcards to:
- Mr. Bob Woodward, to commend him for standing up to President Obama and pointing out the administration's lies about the sequester;
 - Mr. Chris Matthews for again making charges of racism at people who oppose President Obama for his policies and appointments, not the color of his skin;
 - Please make a sizable donation to AIM to help us continue our work in 2013