



AIM in the News

page 2



NSA  
"Whistleblower"  
An Enemy Agent

page 4



Second  
Thoughts: New  
York Times Edi-  
torial Changed  
to Soften Criti-  
cism of Obama

page 6

# AIM REPORT

For Fairness, Balance  
and Accuracy in News  
Reporting

2013 | XLII-10

## Media Embrace Obama's Controversial Picks for National Security Team

By Roger Aronoff

The mainstream media have embraced President Obama's recent national security team picks either by omitting key information about the nominee or, in the case of Susan Rice, by miscasting the controversy as one of Republican outrage, rather than lies about Benghazi. Republican partisans aren't the only ones outraged about Benghazi and the lies told thereafter: lots of average Americans are too.

Following the September 11th attack on our diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya last year, United Nations Ambassador Susan Rice went on five Sunday morning talk shows to forward the Administration's narrative about the attacks, saying that they were spontaneous, fomented by a small group of extremists in response to an anti-Islamic video. Here, for example, is what she said on Meet the Press: "But putting together the best information that we have available to us today—our current assessment is that what happened in Benghazi was, in fact, initially a spontaneous reaction to what had just transpired hours before in Cairo—almost a copycat of the demonstrations against our facility in Cairo, which were prompted, of course, by the video."

These statements were later proven to be false, hurting both the Administration's and Rice's credibility.

Rice has been rewarded for her behavior by succeeding Tom Donilon as national security advisor to the President, a position that is not confirmed by Congress. The New York Times called it Obama's "defiant selection." Former Harvard professor Samantha Power has been nominated to replace Rice as United Nations Ambassador. (Power is the wife of former regulatory czar Cass Sunstein.)

Alexis Simendinger of RealClearPolitics said that "President Obama has again practically baited congressional Republicans to wail about his appointees, betting that congressional overreach might put his administration on higher ground after weeks of scandal distractions and legislative fallbacks."

Rice is being rewarded for her loyalty to the President at the expense of integrity and loyalty to the truth. "Either she knew



what really happened and deliberately lied to the American people or she was a mere actress who read the script she was given and didn't know enough to question whether the words she spoke were accurate," asserted K.T. McFarland, a former national security staffer for three Republican presidents, writing for FoxNews.com.

The New York Times tells a different story. "Ms. Rice, *using talking points drafted by the C.I.A.*, said the assault appeared to be a protest gone awry rather than a premeditated terrorist attack," writes Mark Landler for the Times (emphasis added). "That proved incorrect, and though Ms. Rice cautioned that the account could change with further intelligence, Republicans accused her of sanitizing the truth for political reasons." The Times should at least broaden their criticism criteria to include conservatives, and not just Republicans. But this furthers The New York Times'—and the mainstream media's—rhetoric that the current controversies are just Republican-manufactured and, thus, the American people should look the other way at these politically-manufactured firestorms.

CBS News has also emphasized that this is a "Republican" objection to Rice's new post and prior actions. "Members of the GOP seized on her remarks to suggest the administration was

*continued on page 3*

# AIM

in the News

AIM's **Cliff Kincaid** was quoted by frequent guest columnist for AIM, **Alan Caruba**. **Caruba**, writing for the website **Renew America**, quoted **Cliff** as having written: "Those who claimed **NSA** traitor **Edward Snowden** was a patriot or hero have egg all over their faces, as the former **NSA** contract worker has fled from China to Russia..." "I am inclined to agree," said **Caruba**.

And in another article on that site, AIM associate and columnist **Wes Vernon**, wrote a piece entitled, "Yet another cover-up fails the smell test: re-open **TWA-800** mystery (the ghosts of scandals past). In the article, **Wes** credited the work of **Reed Irvine** and **Roger Aronoff**, for all of AIM's work on discovering the truth about what happened to **TWA Flight 800** when it crashed, killing all 230 people aboard in July of 1996.

**Wes** wrote that **Reed Irvine** "and his AIM team frequently worked to fill the void created when justified skepticism was not a factor with some paid professional journalists, or by government officials whose job was to leave no stone unturned. The Flight 800 case was one example. He added, "**Roger Aronoff** of AIM, who worked closely with **Reed** in his thorough probe of the case, revisited the questionable **NTSB** report as recently as 2011."

## Editor's Message



### Dear Fellow Media Watchdogs:

President Obama was asked by Major Garrett during the first leg of his late-June trip to Africa if he was prepared to use military assets to in any way intercept Edward Snowden if he leaves Russia, seeking safe passage to another country. Snowden, of course, is the man who fled this country with many top secret classified documents and handed them over to the radical left-wing journalist Glenn Greenwald, who broke the story in the British Guardian newspaper. This action

has created some of the strangest bedfellows one can imagine, with conservatives like Glenn Beck and Michael Savage calling him a patriot and a hero, along with leftists like Michael Moore and Oliver Stone. Others, on both the left and right, have called him a traitor.

Secretary of State John Kerry said, "What I see is an individual who threatened this country and put Americans at risk through the acts that he took. People may die as a consequence of what this man did. It is possible the United States will be attacked because terrorists may now know how to protect themselves in some way or another, that they didn't know before."

But just three days later when Obama was asked that question by Major Garrett, he responded: "I am interested in making sure that the rules of extradition are obeyed. Now, we don't have an extradition treaty with Russia, which makes it more complicated. You don't have to have an extradition treaty to resolve some of these issues. There have been some useful conversations that have taken place between the United States government and the Russian government, and my continued expectation is that Russia or other countries that have talked about potentially providing Mr. Snowden asylum recognize that they are part of an international community and that they should be abiding by international law. And we'll continue to press them as hard as we can to make sure that they do so. But let me—one last thing because you asked the final question. No, I'm not going to be scrambling jets to get a 29-year-old hacker."

Besides the arrogance and condescending tone, the President was suggesting, by referring to his age, that he is just a kid, so, presumably, how responsible could he really be for his actions. If you look on the official Navy website, however, one must be 28-years-old or younger to become a Navy SEAL. Obama wasn't so condescending to 20-somethings when he was basking in SEAL Team Six's glory for taking out Osama bin Laden in 2011. And to call Snowden merely a hacker is to minimize the act of violating a security clearance and deciding for himself to reveal national security secrets for the world to see. He is comparing him to a computer savvy prankster, rather than to a traitor or someone engaged in espionage against his country. •

For Accuracy in Media

Roger Aronoff

## Your Letters

To the Editor:

Spreading disinformation? So has MSNBC, CNN, and all the rest of the so-call MSM...who are still having "a slobbering love affair" with Obama. NSA is just one of the many U.S. disinformation agencies.

Snowden wasn't reporting anything new. A Google search shows NSA spying goes back at least to 2007. Too bad that didn't prevent 9/11, the Ft. Hood shootings, or the Boston Marathon terrorist attack.

BBF

Please send Letters to the Editor to:

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

## AIMREPORT

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

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202-364-4401 | [www.aim.org](http://www.aim.org)

misleading the public about the nature of the attack,” wrote Stephanie Condon. “Guided by CIA-drafted talking points, Rice said the attacks stemmed from spontaneous protests, which was wrong.”

Not only were Rice’s comments wrong, but it is disingenuous for CBS and The New York Times to lay the problem at the feet of the CIA without mentioning that the CIA talking points were revised a dozen times before they were finalized, with input from the State Department. The White House’s Jay Carney still maintains that the changes made to the CIA talking points were “non-substantive,” but an ABC News report shows otherwise. Carney has also said that Rice did not downplay the role that al Qaeda played in the attack on the embassy, an assertion that Politifact has rated “Mostly False.”

“ABC News has obtained 12 different versions of the talking points that show they were extensively edited as they evolved from the drafts first written entirely by the CIA to the final version distributed to Congress and to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice before she appeared on five talk shows the Sunday after that attack,” reported Jonathan Karl for ABC News. “White House emails reviewed by ABC News suggest the edits were made with extensive input from the State Department.”

“The edits included requests from the State Department that references to the Al Qaeda-affiliated group Ansar al-Sharia be deleted as well references to CIA warnings about terrorist threats in Benghazi in the months preceding the attack.” Contrary to Jay Carney’s characterization, these were clearly substantive changes.

Conversely, The Atlantic maintains that “...Rice was only laying out the intelligence community’s own summary in TV interviews last fall when she infamously attributed the deaths of Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and three other Americans in Benghazi on Sept. 11, 2012 to ‘spontaneous’ protests.”

“The emails revealed that both the CIA and State Department had, without dispute, kept that description in their so-called ‘talking points,’ and that Rice had nothing to do with the main debate between the two agencies over how to describe the incident,” wrote Michael Hirsh for The Atlantic. In other words, don’t shoot the messenger. Does Hirsh really believe that Rice was that naïve?

We have previously documented the various and contradictory explanations given by members of the Administration, and the fact that President Obama said at a press conference on November 14 that Rice’s presentation was “based on intelligence that she had received,” and that it was done “at the request of the White House.” What is clear is that they all knew from early on that the attack in Benghazi did not start as a spontaneous demonstration, and that the video had nothing to do with it.

Jonathan Karl recently went on Good Morning America and praised Rice as “a no-nonsense adviser.” The Associated Press

The White House’s Jay Carney still maintains that the changes made to the CIA talking points were “non-substantive,” but an ABC News report shows otherwise.

described Rice’s new position as “a bit of a redemption” after the controversy.

While Rice’s controversial remarks are well known, Samantha Power’s are less public. In fact, there was little reference to her hostile views toward Israel, and few, if any outlets, considered her nomination as controversial. (Fox News is an exception.) NBC News, in a spotlight on Power, called her “an unrelenting human rights advocate who isn’t afraid to speak her mind, sometimes to a fault.” The article quotes Laura Pitter, “a lawyer and counterterrorism adviser for Human Rights Watch,” as saying that Power “is brilliant,” and that she “can’t think of a better candidate for the position she’s been nominated for.”

At least the NBC piece pointed its readers to a strongly argued dissent. “That opinion isn’t shared by writers at conservative web magazine American Thinker, who have been writing harsh critiques of Power since 2008, arguing that Power is a ‘notorious critic of Israel,’” wrote Elizabeth Chuck.

In fact, Ed Lasky, writing for the American Thinker, pointed out that Power has said she believes there is a powerful constituency in the United States favoring Israel and she is willing to alienate this constituency. “America’s important historic relationship with Israel has often led foreign policy decision-makers to defer reflexively to Israeli security assessments, and to replicate Israeli tactics, which, as the war in Lebanon last summer demonstrated,

can turn out to be counter-productive,” said Power in an interview on the Harvard Kennedy School’s website. And, in 2008, she wrote for Time Magazine that “The speedboat episode bore an uncanny resemblance to the Administration’s allegations about the advanced state of Iran’s weapons program—allegations refuted in December by the National Intelligence Estimate.”

“Does Power actually *believe* that the NIE put to rest concerns about the Iranian nuclear program?” asked Richard Baehr and Ed Lasky back in 2008 for the American Thinker (emphasis in original). “It is not at all hard to imagine her having a senior foreign policy role in an Obama administration, perhaps as US Ambassador to the United Nations, an organization she views warmly,” they presciently wrote. “The problem for those who favor a strong US-Israel relationship is that Power seems obsessed with Israel, and in a negative way.”

“Susan E. Rice, named by Obama Wednesday to succeed Tom Donilon as national security adviser, and Samantha Power, nominated to follow Rice as U.N. ambassador, will have the opportunity to provide an answer as the administration reviews its policy in Syria, winds down the war in Afghanistan and seeks to stop Iran’s uranium-enrichment program,” notes The Washington Post.

Investor’s Business Daily reminds us that Power, “the longtime influential Obama foreign policy adviser who had to quit officially advising his 2008 campaign when she infamously called Clinton a ‘monster,’ is the most well-known proponent of Responsibility to Protect, or R2P—the idea that those who wear the U.S. uniform should pretend to be serving a ‘United World’ rather than the Stars and Stripes.”

Power’s record, and her past statements and writings about Israel and the Palestinians, are brilliantly laid out by Melanie Phillips, the British journalist and author of *World Turned Upside Down*, the subject of an AIM interview in 2010. Phillips says that Power’s appointment validates a prediction she had made: that if re-elected, “in a second term, [Obama] would promote to the front rank those who were so extreme and so dangerous to the well-being of America and the civilised world that in his first term, so as not to frighten the horses, he would keep them in the lower ranks out of sight.”

She added that Power “is the living embodiment of the way in which ‘human rights’ have morphed into their absolute opposite, and instead of providing a protection against tyranny have been turned into the anvil upon which freedom and

justice are being smashed.”

With Susan Rice’s appointment, she may be able to avoid further direct scrutiny from Congress, and her loyalty has been rewarded. Let’s hope that Congress takes its time examining Samantha Power’s

record and see how well she can stand the scrutiny. •

*Roger Aronoff is the Editor of Accuracy in Media, and can be contacted at roger.aronoff@aim.org.*

## NSA “Whistleblower” An Enemy Agent?

By Cliff Kincaid

**T**he fingerprints of America’s enemies and adversaries are all over the disclosures about the NSA’s terrorist surveillance program. It is significant that NSA contract employee Edward Snowden would flee to Hong Kong—controlled by China—and that he would select Glenn Greenwald, a far-left columnist, as his mouthpiece.

Greenwald, an open homosexual now living with his “husband” in Brazil, came to our attention in 2009 when he proudly received an award named after I.F. Stone, a leftist journalist exposed as a Soviet agent.

After first giving Greenwald and his then-secret source tons of favorable publicity and softball coverage, the media seem to be having second thoughts, with CNN asking about Snowden, “Is this guy a hero or a traitor?” Rep. Peter King, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee’s Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, told the channel that Snowden is “a defector” from the U.S.

Former CIA officer Robert Baer told CNN that Edward Snowden may be a Chinese agent under the control of the Chinese regime. Referring to the fact that Snowden has fled to Hong Kong, Baer said the region is “controlled by Chinese intelligence” and that “I’ve talked to a bunch of people in Washington today in official positions and they are looking at this as a potential Chinese espionage case.”

Glenn Greenwald, the Guardian columnist who used Snowden as his source, is no fan of the United States. He specializes in articles protesting tough treatment of terrorists bent on destroying the U.S. and Israel. In an exchange with Bill Maher, a fellow left-winger, Greenwald even disputed the view that Islam is uniquely violent and threatening.

An American by birth, he currently works for a foreign publication, the Guardian, and has a “lover” in Brazil he calls his “husband.” He apparently doesn’t live in the U.S. because of its alleged op-



pressive treatment of homosexuals.

He praises Bradley Manning, the Army analyst now on trial for espionage and aiding the enemy, and wrote a column questioning why Manning wasn’t selected as a Grand Marshall in a “gay pride” parade. He said Manning “boldly and courageously opposes the U.S. war machine” and should not have been “demonized and scorned” by the homosexuals running the event.

In an article, “Glenn Greenwald: Same as Bradley Manning?,” the homosexual publication Out reported, “As we know, the U.S. government will not recognize same-sex relationships, a law that led Greenwald abroad and, by a stroke of perverse luck, outside the government’s reach.”

It reported, “Greenwald is a fan of Julian Assange, the embattled founder of WikiLeaks, and Bradley Manning, the 23-year-old army intelligence analyst who last year sent thousands of classified Iraq war documents to WikiLeaks.”

Assange is in hiding in London, after taking a job working for the Russian government at Russia Today television. Like Manning, he could be prosecuted by the U.S. for espionage if he were ever turned over to the U.S.

Significantly, Out said that “Greenwald believes Manning might have been less likely to reveal government secrets if he were straight: Gay people, because they’re already ‘outside the sphere of comfort,’ have a ‘huge advantage in being willing to challenge authority,’ he says, speaking from experience.”

Greenwald tends to blame the U.S. for Muslim violence against the U.S. Referencing the Boston massacre carried out by

two Islamists, Greenwald said: “It’s certainly true that Islam plays an important role in making these individuals willing to fight and die for this perceived just cause (just as Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and nationalism lead some people to be willing to fight and die for their cause). But the proximate cause of these attacks are plainly political grievances: namely, the belief that engaging in violence against aggressive western nations is the only way to deter and/or avenge western violence that kills Muslim civilians.”

Regarding Iran, he has said there is “nothing that even remotely justifies attacking” Iran militarily, and that sanctions against the regime are spreading “mass human suffering” and cannot be justified.

Considering these statements, it is shocking that some conservatives would welcome Greenwald as a truth-teller who has somehow embarrassed the Obama Administration. The program began under President Bush and has been approved by congressional intelligence committees.

At the time of his acceptance of the “Izzy” award, named after I.F. Stone, I had asked Glenn Greenwald, then with Salon.com, what he would say of an article in Commentary magazine about evidence linking Stone to Soviet intelligence.

I noted, “Rather than disavow the award, after he was informed about Stone’s service to the Soviet Union, Greenwald attacked AIM and Commentary magazine, which had also published evidence of Stone’s work on behalf of the communist dictatorship.”

In fact, Greenwald called this writer “the truly deranged, sex-obsessed, conspiracy-monger Cliff Kincaid,” and said my criticism would prompt him to place his “Izzy” award “on an even more prominent shelf” in his office.

The term “sex-obsessed,” when used against this columnist, was apparently a reference to opposition to giving special rights to practitioners of the homosexual lifestyle, such as Glenn Greenwald and Bradley Manning. •

# People Power Against the Department of Justice

By Cliff Kincaid



**T**he Department of Justice (DOJ) and its allies, the Council on American Islamic Relations and the Southern Poverty Law Center, are on the defensive after thousands of people turned out in Tennessee on the evening of June 4 to protest a scheme to censor criticism of Islam.

The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), a key component of a network of Muslim Brotherhood organizations in the U.S., called the turnout a “mob” and praised the Obama/Holder Justice Department for standing up to local residents.

CAIR said “a large group of protesters heckled and interrupted speeches by Bill Killian, U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District of Tennessee, and by Kenneth Moore, FBI special agent in charge of the Eastern Tennessee District.”

In fact, the DOJ had provoked the reaction by announcing beforehand that people using the Internet to criticize Muslims might be prosecuted for civil rights violations and that the meeting on “public discourse in a free society” in Tennessee would examine this alleged problem.

Killian had announced in advance that he would address “how civil rights can be violated by those who post inflammatory documents targeted at Muslims on social media.”

In order to explain how the censorship campaign would work, Killian and the local FBI agent, Kenneth Moore, had worked with the American Muslim Advisory Council (AMAC) to schedule the event at the Manchester-Coffee County Conference Center in Manchester, Tennessee.

The center was completely filled, how-

ever, and hundreds more had to rally outside, where Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer, who co-founded Stop Islamization of Nations (SION), spoke to the crowd. Videos show Geller and Spencer rallying the people on behalf of freedom of expression.

“I talked with many of the people who had driven hours to get to the rally—a farmer and his son, an orthodox Jewish family, World War II veterans and many more,” said James Lafferty, chairman of the Virginia Anti-Shariah Task Force (VAST), who was on the scene. “They all said the same thing—the Justice Department is trying to curtail free speech by promising increased scrutiny of any Internet posts which mention Islam.”

He said the angry reactions inside the conference center followed “a heavy dose of jihadist propaganda by the AMAC folks.”

He explained, “A long video about Islam in Shelbyville, Tennessee, followed the usual B movie story line—Muslims come to town, ignorant locals react badly. Muslims demonstrate that they are honorable and just, ignorant locals and Muslims are now the best of friends and there is a lesson here for anyone else who doubts Islam’s noble intentions.”

He said the film footage of a few angry people at the June 4 event “gave the stereotypical ‘angry mob’ scenario for the hostile media,” but that Killian’s presentation was itself “very condescending and provocative” because of the implication that local residents had no right to complain about the spread of radical Islam in their state.

An Islamic Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee features “Strong Islamic studies,” a term that implies Sharia, or Islamic law.

Lafferty said it was entirely predictable that when Killian mentioned the name of the Attorney General, Eric Holder, who is neck-deep in several scandals, people in the audience booed. “Every mention of Holder had the same effect,” he noted.

Killian’s speech, Lafferty said, was that “Muslims are misunderstood and they are no different than you or me” and any criticism of Islam is “hate-mongering and

bigotry.”

“The biggest story of the event was the crowd,” Lafferty said. While some people were angry and animated in their reactions to Killian’s lecture on “hate crimes,” he said there was intimate knowledge of Islamic practices and that when Muslim speakers at the podium with Killian talked about Islam as a peaceful religion which valued good citizenship, people interrupted with the word “takiya,” a reference to the Islamic concept of deception.

However, CAIR and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) insisted that local residents, as well as Geller and Spencer, were at fault for reacting to the DOJ campaign against the First Amendment. This became the story line of much of the coverage of the event.

The SPLC works hand-in-glove with the Obama/Holder Justice Department, smearing opponents of radical Islam as “Islamophobes.”

But Lafferty of VAST said the focus was “that a special meeting was being conducted to talk about the Department of Justice’s commitment to protect the rights of one religious group—Islam.”

Lafferty and others question why the Justice Department has singled out Muslims for special protection and that such a practice reflects adherence to Sharia, or Islamic law, over and above American law and the Constitution.

He noted that the DOJ based this meeting on the fact that a local Tennessee politician had posted a stupid gag on Facebook about targeting Muslims, and that the incident was “being used as the pushing off point for Justice to scrutinize every statement about Islam on the Internet.”

“Both Pamela Geller and the incomparable Robert Spencer spoke brilliantly about free speech and the threat posed to it by government suppression,” Lafferty said. •

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## Second Thoughts: New York Times Editorial Changed to Soften Criticism of Obama

By Don Irvine



**T**he *New York Times* sent shockwaves throughout the political media landscape with a scathing editorial about President Obama. They said that his Administration had “lost all credibility” after it was revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Security Agency had used the Patriot Act to obtain a secret warrant “to compel Verizon’s business services division to turn over data on every single call that went through its system.”

This was quite a reversal for the Times, which “enthusiastically” endorsed Obama for re-election last year and has until recently been generally reluctant to criticize the President, even in the face of mounting scandals.

The reaction to the editorial was swift, and apparently unexpected. The website *Gawker* reports that by later that same evening, the editorial was changed to soften the criticism:

“This evening, after a full day of news outlets sharing the *Times* editorial, and after the *Guardian* dropped yet another bombshell about governmental spying, the website NewsDiffs (and others) are reporting that the *Times* editorial board appears to have quietly crept into its now famous rebuke and, for reasons undeclared, updated the claim that the administration is no longer credible. The sentence now reads, ‘The administration has now lost all credibility on this issue,’ referring to ‘transparency and accountability,’ which is quite a different statement altogether. The paper also seems to have added sentences referencing the new *Guardian* article.

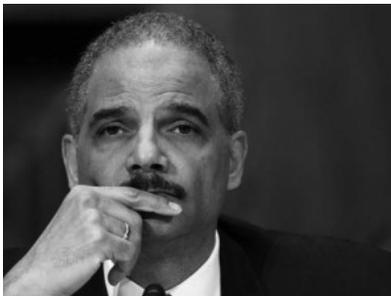
“While it isn’t uncommon for newspapers to adjust online articles to reflect new information, or to tweak them before

appearing in print, this doesn’t appear to be the case in this instance.”

The Times was right the first time and should have stuck by their words, rather than kowtowing to an administration whose growing list of scandals is giving transparency a bad name. •

## WaPo’s Ignatius: Holder a “Mediocre” Attorney General

By Don Irvine



**W**ashington Post opinion writer David Ignatius says that the real scandal at the Justice Department isn’t the botched leak investigations, but the fact that Attorney General Eric Holder is “mediocre” at best:

“People are looking for the wrong ‘scandal’ about Attorney General Eric Holder. The problem with Holder is the plain fact that, in the judgment of a wide range of legal colleagues, he has been a mediocre attorney general.

“Holder’s mistakes in management and judgment are clear in the current controversy about leak investigations. He was silent as zealous prosecutors overrode the Justice Department’s guidelines for subpoenaing reporters; he recused himself from the case but bizarrely doesn’t seem to have kept a written record of the recusal and he failed utterly to anticipate the political flap that erupted when Justice informed the Associated Press that it had collected the call records for more than 20 phone lines.

“The leak cases illustrate Holder’s tendency to blow with the prevailing winds. His prosecution of leakers was certainly in the hawkish spirit of a bipartisan anti-leak bill introduced last year by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the Democrat who chairs the Senate intelligence committee, which proposed more draconian anti-media measures than anything Holder has done. Justice went with the conservative flow

until the leak prosecutions become controversial a few weeks ago — and Holder rediscovered his interest in a shield law.

“‘Holder substitutes his political judgment for his legal judgment, and his political judgment isn’t very good’ is the way one White House official put it to a prominent Washington lawyer recently. That criticism was seconded by a half-dozen other leading Washington lawyers I consulted.”

Ignatius writes that Holder’s problem isn’t that he and Obama are close friends—Robert Kennedy served as Attorney General while his brother was president—but that unlike Kennedy, Holder hasn’t recruited the top legal minds to work for him. He also faults Holder for failing to shape legal policy, as well as mishandling many cases, including the decision to prosecute Khalid Sheik Mohammed in a civilian court, which he had to reverse after igniting a political firestorm:

“Part of the attorney general’s job is clearing political obstacles to allow effective law enforcement. Here, too, many attorneys fault Holder. A classic example was the plan to prosecute 9/11 plotter Khalid Sheik Mohammed in a civilian court in New York. Holder made what many regard as the right decision to try the case there. But he hadn’t done the necessary political groundwork among New York and national politicians, and when a political firestorm ignited, he reversed his decision.

“‘Feckless’ is the word one disappointed Washington legal insider uses to describe this and other Holder decisions.”

Despite these missteps, Obama has stood firmly behind Holder, tolerating what Ignatius calls his “mediocre performance.” The reason, he says, is that Obama has let their friendship cloud his judgment as to what is the right thing to do in this case, showing once again that his commitment to transparency was just another false promise. •

### What You Can Do

- Please send the enclosed postcards to:
- Mr. Dana Milbank of The Washington Post, about his contention that the IRS scandal is really not a scandal;
  - Mr. Eugene Robinson, also of the Post, for urging House Republicans to pass the Senate’s immigration bill in their own political interest, and for the country;”
  - Please make a sizable donation to AIM to help us continue our work in 2013.