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From the desk of Craig B Hulet?

**Obama: Worst President in History of the USA?**

**Then why is he not being impeached?**



As [Eugene Robinson](#), wrote, President Obama's message about the government's massive electronic surveillance programs came through loud and clear: Get over it. The [president used more soothing](#) words in his [pre-vacation news conference](#) Friday 8/9/2013, but that was the gist. With perhaps the [application](#) of a fig leaf here and a sheen of legalistic mumbo jumbo there, the snooping will continue.

**The Surveillance Speech 8/9/13: A Low Point in Barack Obama's Presidency**

## Obama: Worst President in History of the USA?

*"The American people don't read." -Allen Dulles*

Over at Zerohedge a gentleman posted an interesting article that I could not resist adding my own two cents and it just kept growing. It started out simple enough noting "There's an *Obama Page* on **Facebook** that has over **131,000** likes from people, Americans or not. There are more than **double** that number of people that are 'talking about' the page by posting it on their own walls. A fan page (of sorts) dedicated to the **President of the United States**. But, not your normal fan page. It's the '*Obama is the Worst President Ever*' page."

My comments are extensive but I left all of the original comments intact and where they rest. My hope is to post a long, very long indeed, argument against this worst of all men in the White House. Not because he is black or a liberal or even Libertarian on specific issues like using cocaine, but that he has lied and lied more than any other sitting President in our brief history. But more than that, he is codifying in law the worst policies of all his predecessors inclusive of that worst president to date then, Bush Junior, before Obama surpassed him in misdeeds.

The original author placed this correct caveat in his piece: "By the time President Obama steps down from office, the USA will more than likely not be anything more than a shadow of its former self. That won't be all due to the doing of President Obama alone, we've had five decades of corruption and criminal activity in government, but no one tops Obama in so many areas; but the **Chinese** rise to glory as the **first country in the world economically-speaking** by the year **2016**, amongst other things of course (it's not all the fault of the Chinese either, is it?)." (end quote)

So is President Obama the worst President in history? Does he really live up to his fan (?) page on **Facebook**? How do you measure whether or not he is the worst, at any rate?

Obama: Worst US President?

- While he cannot presently do this I include it as a warning only. Obama would confiscate every single firearm from every law abiding US citizen if he could. The fact that he cannot garner enough votes and too many Republicans and County Sheriffs declared the law would not be enforced in almost every County in America brought closure to the debate; he vowed to return to the subject this year and try again to ban guns under executive orders. He will likely fail but Jeb Bush will not when he is elected 2016. So we really cannot include this in this article until it actually happens.
- Obama's NSA "reform" panel to be led by Clapper, who denied spying to Congress. Asked if "any kind of data at all" was collected on millions, Clapper said "no." As Techdirt **points out**, the group is actually set up to report to *Clapper* and not directly to the president or Congress. Clapper is even one of four officials **named** in a new ACLU lawsuit claiming the spying **program** is unconstitutional. But in a hasty move after the press covered the above the WH recanted: "WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (UPI) -- U.S.

National Intelligence Director [James Clapper](#) will not lead a National [Security Agency](#) review President [Obama](#) vowed would be autonomous. But only after the outcry from all and sundry news outlets! So this complaint stands as Clapper is still involved in vetting and remains a liar and perjurer of the first rank.

Read more: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2013/08/14/Clapper-wont-lead-NSA-review-White-House-says/UPI-16011376461800/#ixzz2byWYtzsL](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2013/08/14/Clapper-wont-lead-NSA-review-White-House-says/UPI-16011376461800/#ixzz2byWYtzsL)



- Obama has taken NSA surveillance of the domestic population to a degree no Republican could have ever gotten away with; democrats would have served Bush his head;
- Drone wars have been codified into law and all the murderousness that attends to civilian women and children's deaths with anyone dead over the age of 16 considered an unknown militant.
- Language turned on its head, Orwellian in ways Bush could not do (but that may have been genuine lack of language skills), but Eric Holder and Obama himself have altered the very meaning of words so that we cannot debate the issues any longer without indicting our own selves as terrorists: criticize, complain, wear a t-shirt with the wrong words, take a picture of a cop in action or a swat team, email or cell your friends these opinions and guess where you may end your days?
- Department of Homeland Security is planning to wage war on the domestic terrorists yet to be defined, determined and prosecuted under laws we have not seen utilized yet, but most certainly are awaiting our future designation as terrorists and militants on our own soil; 7500 M16s for DHS officials for their PDW personal defense weapons, 2700 MRAP mine resistant armored personnel carriers with 6 gun ports and a turret for mounting a .50 Cal; and finally 1.6 billion hollow point antipersonnel ammunition for use against the domestic population yet to be determined as to who constitutes the future terrorists.

- He has lied about bringing the troops home from Iraq as he has replaced every single one of them with private Blackwater type for profit security troops, mercenaries by any other name, at 5 times the cost to taxpayers and zero congressional oversight. This area is his sworn duty as Commander & Chief of all armed forces during any national emergency declaration which he has dutifully signed each year as has every other president since JFK.
- Repeat the above regarding the falsehood of ending Afghanistan's occupation.
- US Department of Justice (DOJ) released a memorandum setting forth new "guidelines" concerning government surveillance of members of the press. "These revised guidelines will help ensure the proper balance is struck when pursuing investigations into unauthorized disclosures," announced Attorney General Eric Holder. The memorandum itself, far from "tightening" restrictions on intelligence activities with respect to the press, actually further codifies a regime for spying on, bullying, and prosecuting members of the press who come into possession of information the executive branch has deemed "classified."
- This February, BillMoyers.com published a list of eight contrasting the Obama and Bush Administrations on civil liberties. On six of the eight areas, Obama expanded or codified his predecessor's policies:
  - 1. Patriot Act is renewed on May 27, 2011: "Obama signs a renewal of several of the Patriot Act's most controversial segments, including the use of 'roving wiretaps,' the government's expanded access to business records, and the 'lone wolf' provision, which allows surveillance of individuals not affiliated with any known terrorist organization.
  - 2. Wiretaps and Data Collections: "On December 30, 2012, Obama signs a five-year extension of the FISA Amendments Act. Provisions for more oversight and public disclosure failed to pass Congress." (This is the law that the Electronic Frontier Foundation challenged and won a U.S. District Court injunction against last week. The administration has 90 days to appeal.)
  - 3. Obama Abandons Plans To Close Gitmo: "On March 7, 2011, Obama signs an executive order creating a system of indefinite detention at the Guantanamo Bay prison. Congress had recently passed a bill effectively preventing the president from moving Guantanamo detainees to the U.S., and has since passed additional restrictive legislation. In January 2013, Obama administration reportedly is closing the State Department office responsible for shutting Guantanamo and resettling detainees."
  - 4. CIA Black Sites—Closed: "On Jan. 21, 2009, in his first day in office, Obama orders the closure of CIA prisons. Reports of rendition, proxy detention by other countries, and

black site prisons run by the military in Afghanistan emerge during Obama's first term." (If these sites have been closed, this would be a civil liberties victory.)

- 5. Targeted Killings: The Administration has developed a "targeted killing "playbook," In October 2012, "*The Washington Post* reports the Obama administration is tightening the process for approving kills or captures and concentrating it in the White House. At least initially, the CIA will not be bound by the new rules." (Bush never publicly asserted a presidential right to execute citizens abroad, but Obama claimed that authority and has exercised it in the September 2011 strike on New Mexico-born Anwar al-Awlaki.)
- 6. Drone strikes, civilian deaths: On "April 30, 2012: Obama counterterrorism adviser John Brennan admits that some number of civilians have died from strikes. On May 29, 2012: The New York Times reports that the Obama administration counts all military-age males in a drone strike zone as enemy combatants unless they are proven innocent after the fact. The numbers of civilian deaths claimed by officials are inconsistent with one another, and considerably lower than independent counts."
- 7. Enhanced interrogation—torture: The Obama White House banned these techniques upon taking office. "January 22, 2009: Obamabans all abusive interrogation techniques and obliges the CIA and all U.S. agencies to comply with the Geneva Conventions and Army guidelines for interrogation."
- 8. Military commissions: Congress codified military commissions, which is a justice system that does not fall under the U.S. Constitution. "December 31, 2011: Obama signs a bill codifying the administration's stance on military commissions and detention of terror suspects as justified by the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force. February 2012: The seventh conviction of a detainee in front of the military commission at Guantanamo."
- In what should be front page news blasted out nationwide as a breaking news alert, the DHS under Obama's sole control has openly established extensive 'Constitution free zones' in which your Fourth Amendment does not exist. It's not 'conspiracy' and it's not fraud, the DHS has literally created an imaginary 'border' within the United States that engulfs 100 miles from every [single](#) end of the nation. Within this fabricated 'border', the DHS can search your electronic belongings for no reason.
- Habeas Corpus has been trodden underfoot by Obama personally; he intervened with a memo stating if the removal of the Habeas Corpus section of the National Defense Authorization Act happened he would veto the entire bill, thus stripping Americans of basic right this country was in fact founded upon going back the *Magna Carta!*
- Add our illegal removal from power Muammar Gadhafi, and our ongoing attempts to back al Qaida terrorists, arm them, back them and train them to remove Assad of Syria.

All these illegal wars under Bush Junior are still just as illegal under Obama, in that nothing has changed.

- The newest revelations of gun running by the CIA, Libya, Syria, Qatar and Egypt, likely other countries as well, all were authorized by Obama, no differently than Ronald Reagan (but Reagan may not have known as his illness was upon him by then); the Benghazi Ambassador's assassination under Hillary Clinton's watch was known to Obama and yet these American heroes were left to die like dogs while no less than 35 CIA gunrunners were within 400 yards of the assault on that Embassy peddling some 400 light artillery rockets used to shoot down (American) planes!
- He has not ended the drug war but rather has overseen its extension and the private for profit prison system to become one the very real growth industries in America; his personal addiction to cocaine and crack cocaine has not been revisited by the media though it was a well-known topic in Chicago in the press and many suspicious deaths have occurred surrounding this president directly related to drug and sex scandals close to Obama; many far worse in allegation than anything Clinton ever did.
- And we are fighting a drug war for the asset forfeiture as well since the drug war brings in millions to Uncle Sam's and state and local coffers. There are something like 50 homicide detectives in NYC and they have approximately 450 narcotics officers. My numbers may be off, but you get the point. What does NYC care more about drug asset forfeiture or homicide? This is not an indictment on NYC, it the same everywhere.
- Closing the prison nicknamed "The Second Guantanamo." The United States holds 67 non-Afghan prisoners there, including some described as hardened al-Qaeda operatives seized from around the world in the months after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. More than a decade later, they're still kept in the shadowy facility at Bagram air base outside Kabul.
- Closing the facility presents many of the same problems the [Obama administration](#) has encountered in its phony attempt to close down the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba.
- The Obama administration for the first time responded to a Spycgate lawsuit, telling a federal judge the wholesale vacuuming up of all phone-call metadata in the United States is in the "public interest," does not breach the constitutional rights of Americans and cannot be challenged in a court of law.

## **Obama Presidency A Lengthening Legacy Of Lawlessness**

Mon, Aug 19 2013

**Leadership:** President Obama's approval numbers are now hitting record lows, yet his critics are often written off as simple-minded "Obama haters." It doesn't wash. The problem is a pattern of presidential lawlessness.

Last time we checked, the Constitution requires the president to "faithfully execute the law." That's no editorial opinion, but Article 2, Section 3, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution, which states that "(The President) shall take care that the Laws be faithfully executed."

Our founders conceived and established in that document three co-equal branches of government to preserve our individual liberty and restrain the unlimited [power](#) of government. But this president and his administration have routinely ignored the divisions of power between the presidency, the Congress and its legislation, and the Supreme Court and its rulings.

Constitutionally, the president has the authority to check the legislative branch by recommending legislation to be passed by Congress or through the presidential veto. But he cannot legislate through executive fiat and he can't pick and choose which parts of the law he will comply with or decline. Nor can he defy judicial rulings from the highest court in the land.

But that's what he's done. In just the latest example, President Obama's Attorney General Eric Holder has directed federal prosecutors to conceal the amount of drugs seized during an arrest to circumvent mandatory minimum sentences set by Congress in 1986.

Whether one agrees with that law or not, its legal authority lies within the constitutional powers of Congress, not the executive branch. And that's the issue. It's part of a growing litany of presidential lawlessness:

- **Aug. 14, 2013:** The [Obama administration](#) delayed the provision in ObamaCare to cap out-of-pocket [health care costs](#), picking and choosing parts of the law to enforce, which is to exceed its authority.
- **July 17, 2013:** The 4th [Circuit Court](#) of Appeals joined the federal appeals courts in D.C. and Philadelphia in ruling President Obama's National Labor Relations Board recess appointments — who by law must be approved by Congress — were unconstitutional. Thus far, the president has ignored the ruling.
- **July 1, 2013:** The Obama administration unilaterally decided to delay the employer mandate provision of ObamaCare for a year, which is to provide information to the feds about the extent of an applicant's [insurance](#). Never mind that the law states the mandate must go into effect on Jan. 1, 2014 — they are now relying on the "honor system" from applicants to determine if they are qualified for subsidies.
- **June 25, 2013:** The Supreme Court ruled in *Shelby County v. Eric Holder* that Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act is "unconstitutional" and that "the formula can no longer be used as a basis for subjecting jurisdiction to preclearance." Instead of complying with the ruling, Holder filed suit to order Texas to submit to preclearance, in defiance of Congress' authority to legislate and the Supreme Court's authority to rule on the constitutionality of the law.
- **June 15, 2012:** The Obama administration announced it will stop deporting illegal immigrants under the age of 30 in a "deferred action" policy to circumvent [immigration laws](#). This comes after Congress rejected a similar measure about a year ago. Since then, more than 500,000

illegals have received the deferment and only 20,000 have been rejected. As for the law-abiding applicants who have been waiting in line, well, that's Obama's idea of "lawfulness."

- **May 20, 2013:** A Washington Post article revealed that Fox News reporter James Rosen was investigated by the DOJ, which subpoenaed his [phone records](#) and emails in direct contravention of the First Amendment under the pretense of a leak investigation.
- **May 13, 2013:** AP reported the DOJ secretly collected [phone records](#) of AP reporters and editors, a move completely outside the realm of law. Even the AP — which up until then had been pretty submissive to the Obama agenda — was appalled by the breach.
- **May 10, 2013:** The IRS revealed it targeted conservative groups applying for tax-exempt status beginning in March 2010, a direct targeting of political opponents through the tax laws. It's one of the crimes that led Congress to impeach President Nixon.
- **May 3, 2011:** When asked when he first heard of Operation Fast and Furious, Attorney General Eric Holder falsely testified, "I'm not sure of the exact date, but I probably heard about Fast and Furious for the first time over the last few weeks." Head of the National Drug Intelligence Center Michael Walther told Holder about Fast and Furious in a July 2010 memo. Subsequent revelations showed he knew all along.
- **March 27, 2012:** EPA issued final rules regulating greenhouse gas emissions on electric utilities that require power plants to use nonexistent carbon capture-and-control technology to meet new emission standards, in defiance of the Congress' rejection of cap-and-trade legislation.
- **April 23, 2012:** The administration postponed Medicare Advantage cuts by calling them a "demonstration project" and used funds not approved by Congress to delay effects of those cuts before the election.
- **March 1, 2011:** Attorney General Holder lied to Congress, saying "decisions made in the New Black Panther Party case were made by career attorneys in the department." Associate A.G. Thomas Perrelli, an Obama political appointee, overruled a unanimous recommendation for prosecution by DOJ attorneys.
  - **Feb. 3, 2010:** Judge Martin Feldman held the Obama administration in contempt for re-imposing an offshore drilling moratorium that was struck down by the courts.

This is just a small sampling of the lawlessness of this administration. From the Zimmerman trial, the EPA phony-address emails, the handing of farmers' personal information to green activists, down to the illegal campaigning by Cabinet members, the list continues.

This lawlessness is the leading cause of distrust in government. As polls show, it's also the leading cause of President Obama's lost luster as America's leader.

*“If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State.” [Joseph Goebbels](#)*

- Obama said in **2009** ‘*the recession is over*’, but few believed him. Anyhow, when he said that the US was doing ‘*better*’ at the time than ‘*the worst of the recession*’, that couldn’t have been hard, could it? By definition, recoveries are always better than the worst of the recessions that we have gone through in history. Isn’t that the way they always work? But, it’s not the recovery in comparison with the recession that should be compared, it’s the recovery and the boom-times after those historical recessions that need comparison to see just where we stand today and if the US has got back on track with President Obama’s policies.

#### *Unemployment*

- According to the records of the **Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis**, it took an average of just over two years (**25** months, to be exact) to regain the level of [employment](#) prior to every **one** of the last **ten** recessions that the country has gone through.
- When the [Great Recession](#) officially began in **December 2007**, there was an unemployment rate of **4.9%**.
- Some analysts say that the US won’t reach that sort of level until at least **2023**.
- Obama will be long gone by then, somewhere probably with [Ben Bernanke](#) in a hide-out.
- The latest figures for unemployment stand at **7.4%**, although admittedly if we look at real unemployment figures, then we are talking at least **14%** since many of those that are classed as **U6** (who are seeking full-time employment) are not counted in the figures if they are marginally employed (working for as little as just **one** hour a week perhaps).
- **U3** people (but doesn’t include anyone who has not been looking for work for the previous **four** weeks) are the most used for figures to express US unemployment rates.
- It’s not about the numbers; it’s all about what you actually do with them that counts. It’s a bit like a game of poker. Get the cards and it’s what you do with them that’s going to make you come up a [winner](#) when the chips get thrown on the table. Obama has thrown his cards in already.
- It’s been **5** and a **half** years down the line now since the Great Recession began. It’s been over for over **3** years now that the **Great Recession** has officially been declared behind the US and part of history only to be remembered.
- We are still waiting to see a return to the job level of pre-**2007**. Time’s up, Mr. Obama.

- The **six** levels of unemployment are all published by the **Bureau of Labor Statistics**, but only one gets any coverage, and that's *not* the real one.
- The US is still trying to make up for a shortfall of at least **2%** on the pre-Great Recession unemployment figures. The US has **2.5 million** fewer jobs today (but that's not the **real** unemployment).
- The US has experienced the second longest period of unemployment above **8%** ever between **1948** and **2013**(the worst period being in **1981-1982**).
- Unemployment may well fall to around **6%** in **2015** as estimated, but that might well be only due to the fact that people who are discouraged fall out of the figures.

*“The American people have suffered a coup d’etat, but they are hesitant to acknowledge it. The regime ruling in Washington today lacks constitutional and legal legitimacy. Americans are ruled by usurpers who claim that the executive branch is above the law and that the US Constitution is a mere ‘scrap of paper.’”(July 13, 2013)*

#### *Growth*

- In the past **ten** recessions before the Great Recession took place, Gross Domestic Product returned to levels seen prior to the recession within a period on average of **4-5 quarters**.
- The Obama recovery took **16 quarters**.
- GDP reached **1.1%** in the **first** quarter of **2013** and then rose to **1.7%** in the **second** quarter.
- It managed to reach just **2.8%** in **2012**.
- According to statisticians, if you were to take the real GDP growth under Obama and then **double** it (just for fun), Obama would still come out of it all as the worst president for the last **60** years.

#### *Household Income*

- **Real median household income** in the USA fell by **\$4,500** under Obama's first mandate, which is the average monthly salary.
- US middle-class households have lost a month's salary, therefore; or about **8%**.
- In comparison with **2009**, real median household income has declined under Obama by **6%** today.
- The decline in real median household income during the official dates of the recession (**2007** until **2009**) only fell by **2.6%**.
- Under Obama it has **doubled**.

## Poverty

- Since **2009**, the USA has seen the number of poor in the country increase by **31%**.
- There are now nearly **50 million** that are classed as '*poor*' in the country.
- The Federal poverty threshold is an annual income of **\$23, 550** for **four** people in a family (subtracting or adding **\$4, 020** per person for additional or fewer people in the family).
- A single poor person has an annual income of **\$11, 490**.
- The Census Bureau calculates in a different way, but the poverty threshold stands at **\$23, 283** (family of **four**).
- The levels of poverty and the number of people living in poor conditions have never been higher for the past **50 years**.

### Is Obama the Worst President Really?

Yes, granted the Great Recession has been the worst possible recession experienced in history by its speed and by its knock-on effects, so the past might not be a useful tool to equate the new-style of slumps that we will possibly experience from now on. But, the Great Recession officially only lasted a short while. Maybe they were too quick at getting out the flags and the bunting to announce that it was over. At any rate, the Great Recession has had no Great Recovery. Not, yet, anyhow.

But why have all of these points been the failures of a man elected on a promise to rush in a new era in the US? Obama increased spending when he got into office and brought it to record levels.

- The deficit was already nearly at **\$1 trillion** when he arrived, to which he added the **\$830 billion** stimulus program, plus the **\$1.7-trillion Obamacare**, which is a general revenue raising effort no different than the Ponzi scheme of Social Security whereby the fund will go to general revenue spending (more drone wars, more surveillance, more law and order mandates and more in prisons) with an i.o.u. left behind for those that need health care; the real beneficiaries of **Obamacare** are, in any case, not Americans needing health care but private for profit insurance companies about to reap the greatest windfall since the windfall profits taxes on oil were put in place under Jimmy Carter where you and I pay the taxes on the profits at the wellhead, not the oil companies paying the taxes after they have dispersed the windfall profits.
- Then with the 35 trillion dollars in bank and corporate bailouts and the phony financial reforms to boot which amounts to three times the GDP the country has been bled of all its residual capital; capital never to be returned to the domestic economy as the banks receiving the funds are not required under any law to loan any of the windfall back to American businesses or home owners or anyone at all. It is pure profit for the richest of the rich; thank you Obama and appoint Larry Summers to the Fed, that makes perfect sense to me.

- “You have to make [the firm](#) (Too Big To Fail Banks) believe correctly that it cannot [profit](#) from crime,” said Jennifer H. Arlen, [a professor at NYU’s School of Law who has studied corporate criminal liability](#). “And we are nowhere near that point.” No major banker has even been indicted let alone jailed. Holder has been ordered “hands Off” by the WH.
- The second reason why Obama has not managed to reduce unemployment is because the economy has not been re-launched. The tax proposal issued in April this year would increase taxation for **98%** of those on incomes over **\$200, 000** a year in the USA. Increasing taxation will not bring about a revamping of the economy.
- Regulations have also increased under Obama and made doing business more difficult. The **Code of Federal Regulations** increased under Obama by more than **11 thousand** pages. That means that businesses have to spend more money on complying with the regulations, at a time when they just don’t have it. Annual compliance has been estimated at roughly **\$1.7 trillion** per year (all federal regulations).
- July 31, 2013 President Obama outlined a plan to increase U.S. tax revenue and spur job creation yesterday. His idea: Cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 28 percent, but also get rid of common corporate tax loopholes. In all, he said his tax plan would generate extra revenue that could be used to create jobs for middle-class Americans, improve education at community colleges and repair U.S. roads and bridges.
- At first glance, the president’s proposal may seem rather irrelevant to small businesses. But dig a little deeper, and there are both potential benefits and drawbacks for small firms to consider: Questions of fairness. Cutting the corporate tax rate means incorporated businesses—C corporations—will get preferential treatment under U.S. tax code. The problem: The vast majority of small businesses are sole proprietors or “pass-through” entities such as LLCs or S corps and thus, the owners pay individual tax rates on their business income, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Considering the top tax individual tax rate is now 39.6 percent—or nearly 45 percent, if you consider the new Medicare taxes paid by high earners—small-business owners could effectively pay almost 20 percent more of their income on taxes than a corporation under Obama’s plan.
- Not one Banker has been indicted even though dozens have been found guilty of lying, defrauding the public, illegally foreclosing on people’s homes and outright theft and cases are being won, but settled out of court often, and Obama has not mentioned any of this even one time. He has not directed the Justice Department to go after even one bank for criminal activity leaving it up to lawyers and class action suits to try to save homeowners even when the evidence of outright theft and fraud is in hand.
- Not one official has been indicted in all the NSA, CIA, DEA illegal surveillance and wiretapping evidence has been discovered. Just journalists and whistleblowers are being murdered, jailed and indicted. More whistleblowers indicted by the Holder Obama machine than all other presidents and administrations combined!
- Eric Holder has not been asked to step down, and he should be impeached, for “Fast and Furious, his personally attended to gun running scheme that went bust because of yet another undercover ATF&E whistleblower exposed the activity that cost several people

including federal agents their lives! Obama has made Eric Holder accountable to no one, not even Himself, the president of the United States.

Lying to the public and Myth –making:

- Obama as candidate said in a letter: “I support robust Congressional investigations into his [Bush] administration and the highly questionable actions it has taken in areas such as domestic spying and the U.S. attorney firings. He has horribly mismanaged the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. The Democratic Congress has achieved important progress this year, but we are still stymied by a President who is out of sync with the American people, vetoing legislation to responsibly get us out of Iraq...”
- The US government under Obama’s direction has been forcing American telecommunications companies to turn over the call records of every one of their customers "on an ongoing daily basis", to allow the NSA to later search those records when it has a reason to do so. The government has since defended the program, in part on the theory that Americans' right to privacy is not implicated by the initial acquisition of their phone records, only by their later searching.
- That legal theory is extraordinarily dangerous because it would allow the NSA to acquire *virtually all digital information today* simply because it might possibly become relevant tomorrow. The surveillance program revealed by the New York Times report goes one step further still. No longer is the government simply collecting information now so that the data is available to search, should a reasonable suspicion arise at some point in the future; the NSA is searching *everything now* – in real time and without suspicion – merely on the chance that it finds something of interest.
- Drones: They Target High Level Terrorists: Untrue! Only two percent of drone strikes have killed “high value targets,” former counter-terror advisor to David Patreus, David Kilcullen, notoriously remarked in a New York Times column [3] early in the Obama presidency, where he said that 50 civilians were killed for every “high-value target” assassinated. That means that 98 percent of drone-caused deaths have been a mix of low-level militants, civilians, or another dubious Pentagon classification called “unknown militants.”
- This spring McClatchy [4] and later NBC [5] reported that 25 percent of those killed in drone strikes in Pakistan have been classified as “unknown militants.” So by its own admission, the CIA has no idea whom they are killing about a quarter of the time. [6] Keep in mind that if a military-aged male is killed in a strike they are automatically presumed to be militants. The implication being, there is a huge room for error, and many of these “unknown militants” are likely civilians. In one case, the CIA classified 20-22 “unknown militants” killed. This strike actually killed around 40 civilians [7].
- Drones Are Accurate: Untrue: The Pentagon rhetoric touting “pin point” and “laser” accuracy of drones is baseless. Dr. Larry Lewis, a principal research scientist at the Center for Naval Analyses, a research group with close ties to the US military, studied the record in Afghanistan and found that drone strikes were no more accurate [8] than traditional air power. So, after all this talk about the ability to discern enemies through surveillance, they are no more accurate traditional fly-bys. This rhetoric has allowed us to kill innocent children. [9] Notably, this study was done in Afghanistan, where there is ample ground and human intelligence for selecting and assessing targets, as well as

people who investigate the aftermath of the strikes. But that is not the case in Pakistan and Yemen, which means that the strikes have been more deadly for civilians. The implications from this reality are cynical and cavalier: Either the information on the ground is faulty, or drone operators are okay with certain levels of civilian casualties. Regardless, drones fall far short of the hyped rhetoric coming from the Obama administration.

- Drone Targets Imminently Threaten America: Untrue! The mainstream media have played into the CIA/Administration's selective leaks about drones, especially the concept of a "kill list." This military branding conjures up a process of carefully selected enemies who pose imminent threats to the U.S. However, the reality of "signature strikes" undercuts this P.R. construction. Never officially acknowledged by the administration, signature strikes [10] target unknown suspected militants who display "pattern of live" behavior associated with Al Qaeda and the Taliban [11]. What the "patterns" consist of is officially a secret. What we do know is that as soon as signature strikes were implemented there was a spike in number of drone strikes and the number people killed in strikes.
- Furthermore, reporting has recently revealed that the original authorization for drone strikes in Pakistan came from now deposed President Musharraf. The only way he would approve of the strikes was if the CIA killed his enemies. These "side-payments" [12] became a characteristic of the CIA program. Instead of focusing on enemies of the U.S., the CIA played along with Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, and its military to hit targets who posed no threat to the U.S.
- Drones Are Cheap: Unbelievably untrue: Setting aside the moral, legal, and efficacy arguments about drones, the mantra from the administration, lobbyists and their lackeys in Congress has been drone's low per-unit cost of \$4 million to \$5 million. According to Winslow Wheeler [13] of the Project On Government Oversight, "This is quite incorrect." He states, "The actual cost for a Reaper unit is \$120.8 million in 2012 dollars." This is far above the \$27.2 million dollar F-16C or the \$18.8 million A-10. Seemingly, this "aura of inevitability" about investing in this new revolutionizing weapon is the military-industrial-complex at its self-serving worst.
- Drones Are Making Americans Safer: Untrue. They are not, in fact. Not only are drones effectible destabilizing a nuclear power, Pakistan, in one of the most conflict-ridden regions of the world, they are inciting waves of suicide bombers to attack Pakistan. They are also directly threatening the U.S. In a global age connectivity there is a new phenomenon of self-radicalization. People who identify with the Muslim Diaspora are seeing their kinsmen being murdered by America in a most brutal way. The Boston Marathon bombers are only the latest example of this phenomenon. The most notorious self-radicalized terrorist was Faisal Shahzad, who, in 2010, tried to blow up New York's Times-Square. When asked about his motive, he directly cited drones [14].
- These rebels with a cause will sadly become the norm as we push and provoke more of the world's 1.3-1.4 billion Muslims into the political fringes where American violence begets more violence

Is Obama the worst President of the United States of all time? Who would you put forward as your *worst* candidate?

My true answer is based upon my knowledge of what's yet to come: we ain't seen nuttin yet! When Jeb Bush takes over the White House this next joke-a-round theatre of clowns he may rule for 3 or more terms (12-16 years!). And I say this with my tongue not placed firmly in cheek but rather my teeth clenched and the wisdom to know what I cannot do anything about, I'll be out of the fight for my country by then and my grandchildren will be on their own!

*(I wish to thank someone named [Pivotfarm](#) on 08/13/2013 who originally began this kind of piece and I then ran with it. What are his comments are intermixed with my mine throughout and I suspect others could add their own thoughts and extend this piece ad infinitum, CBH?.)*

*As an ongoing counterpoint the same writer added this below the next day which while I still agree with what he points out that causes all to rest with the American people at fault (George Carlin's wonderful argument: "the public elected the fucks, [so] fuck the public") but then that still does not address his role as Commander & Chief and all the government answers, therefore, to him!*

## **Obama NOT Worst President**

Submitted by [Pivotfarm](#) on 08/14/2013

Yesterday I thought that [Barack Obama was probably the worst President in the entire history of the USA](#) given his record on unemployment and Gross Domestic Product since he has been in office. But, then again, on second thoughts, he may be the only President that he could have been. The President in the USA is no longer the President since the office is just an empty shell, the fall-out fell long ago and the strings just get pulled for arms to wave and smiles to form. Long ago, back when [Ronald Reagan](#) took office he was the laughable derision of many a mirth-maker around the planet for being the actor, the far-west guy, that had a pea-sized brain and that made *crass* jokes about how he was going to push the button and blast the **USSR** off the planet. He was the guy who had a wife that did nothing but fall off [podiums](#) and stages; the stooges. But, all that time the cinema acting was just play and Barack was a youngster waiting in the wings, preparing his own entry onto the stage, to *strut and fret* his hour in front of the world. But, his [acting school](#) was much more insidiously secret than Reagan's. Obama's not the worst President of the USA.

He's nothing today but that actor, simply because the US has lost all notion of democracy.

Obama just acts for the shop-front window-dressing game that is played out on television and in the mainstream media. It's the others that are running the country. They are the ones that are mightily more powerful than any president will ever manage to be in the future, unless a dictator pops out of the wings and runs on stage to pull the final curtain. The **spy-agencies**, the **National Security Agency**, the **private interest groups** and the **lobbies** run the United States of America today, not Obama, not anyone else. Throw in a little bit of [Wall Street](#) and

the **BanksterGangsters** and *hey presto* we have a Republic. But, it's a republic in which bananas have been replaced by other such commodities as gold, or steel or gas and petrol, but the government employees are no less influenced to illegitimately exploit their positions to further their own personal gains, while the workers of the country actually pay back the sums that are siphoned off, embezzled and fraudulently obtained.

#### *Media*

The media no longer reports on what is going wrong in the puppet-show as they have already suffered the consequences of an embittered NSA that has wrapped them over the knuckles in a stance that would liken them to patriots turned bad. [Edward Snowden](#) has just made a statement that accuses the **National Security Agency** of drawing up a list of journalists that were critical of the US state in the wake of 9/11.

In an interview to the **New York Times Magazine** he declared: “*After 9/11, many of the most important news outlets in American abdicated their role as a check to power – the journalistic responsibility to challenge the excesses of government – for fear of being seen as unpatriotic and punished in [the market](#) during a period of heightened nationalism*”.

Heightened nationalism and extended patriotism in the USA is the order of the day. Fall into line, or the guys that pull the strings on the puppet will target you.

**Paul Craig Roberts**, economist and former Assistant secretary of the Treasury under the **Reagan** Administration, believes that the US is a ‘*lawless*’ state in which ‘*humanity is drowning in Washington’s criminality*’. As I’ve noted many times Roberts believes we have suffered a full blown Coup d’état, but “we cannot seem to admit it.”

**James Risen**, the **New York Times** national security reporter risks being jailed for refusing to provide the name of a source. A court of appeal in Virginia has just ordered that a journalist must provide a source upon request from the state and that puts journalism on a bad footing for the future. Risen says he’ll stand by his convictions and go to prison if it comes down to that. The US administration has turned into a ministry of propaganda and a mouthpiece for the organs that stand behind the President.

#### *Security*

The US administration has closed down embassies around the world and shipped the diplomats out, packing up and fleeing. The attack on the United States is so imminent that for the first time in history the US has fled? Really?

But, hang on, **Al-Qaeda** was done and dusted ages ago we were told when the government of the United States and **President Obama** announced that **Bin Laden** was dead, back in **2011**. But, now the National Security Agency is justified in listening in on us. Without them, millions of Americans might have suffered around the world. I’m with you, now! The imminently ‘*strategically-significant*’ attacks caused **21** embassies to be closed. Then **9** reopened the following day.

NIA NSA



James Clapper NIA - USA

**James R. Clapper**, the **Director of the National Intelligence Agency** itself, apologized not so long ago for lying to Congress about the activities of the NSA. When asked if the [NSA](#) collected data on millions of Americans he replied that “*no, Sir*” it did not. Clapper is still in his position at the head of the National Intelligence Agency, but it’s hardly likely to change. Who would boot him out? It’s one of the agencies running the show.

Finance



Ben Bernanke : USA - Federal Reserve Governor

We should have realized long ago when **Ben Bernanke** said to Senator (when asked to whom **\$2.2 trillion** had been lent in the bail-out program) just one short, sharp word: “*No*”. Back then in **2009**, it was **Congress** that had lost the battle and the Federal Reserve that had thrown down the gauntlet at the feet of the American people. **Larry Summers**, from the days of Robert Rubin and the first bailouts will be his replacement come January 2013 and Obamacare kicks all our collective arses.

The **Federal Reserve** was no longer accountable to anybody, let alone those that had been elected by the people, for the people. But the **Gettysburg Address** is only history, isn’t it? Impotency comes with old age, so we are told and Congress was getting on a bit, wasn’t it?

### Conclusion?

The Americans are immensely proud of their country. Their nation was constructed on an idea of unity in diversity. Being diverse meant that they had to hold on to one thing. That one thing was incarnated in the body of the imaginary Presidential ideal. But, that's long gone. Although the pride exists and lingers on still today, but the only unity is that of repaying the national debt of close to **\$17 trillion**. Although, **Professor Lawrence Kotlikoff** of the **University of Boston** has estimated that this figure too is pure wool-over-our-eyes fantasy. The real national debt, when we have included the full cost of unfunded liabilities such as Medicare and the Social Security programs, then we reach about **\$222 trillion** in national debt.



USA: President Obama

Obama the worst President? Probably not in the light of the fact that he isn't President and nobody will be unless the system is modified. But, we love a scapegoat. We defend the underdog. How many of us have stood our ground and defended the *banksters* that were sent down for billions, the guys that have brought down the banks? How many of us have said that it was unfairly contemptible to condemn one single man as the lone wolf, the agitator of the banks' crimes? How many of us have seen the *Kerviel-ing* of bankers brought to justice for what they were told to do by the guys at the top lapping up the cream? Yet, we criticize one sole man that stands as a window-dressed statue in the shop front of the Oval Office in some big White House that stood for something once and bring him down like a crashing monument after the revolution has long moved on?

It's not Obama that is the worst President of the USA, it's the USA that is itself the worst for letting the Wall Street guys, the *banksters*, the lobbies, the private enterprises, the security agencies, the others, the unknown run the country for them in the name of the President.

Obama is an empty suit, that's what I called him live in Washington DC drive time on the Carl Nelson show WOL radio. I told the beltway gangsters what I thought of their theft and always make light of them and against us and the 535 whores the rest of you work for inside the beltway. I explain who their masters are, the banks the largest monopoly corporations and defense contractors; I argue, I know because I was one of you once upon a time. I know who owned the congressman I was a staffer for. I know who showed up at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District in the state of Washington. I know who owns each and every Congressman, I'm not

going to play the gender equity game, George Carlin taught us to stop it. Or we'll be calling them Person-hole-covers in the streets.

Is Obama the worst President of the United States of all time? Who would you put forward as your *worst* candidate?

Originally posted [Obama NOT Worst President](#) in reply to Obama: [Worst President in US History?](#)

From a jail interview with Hermann Göring during the Nuremberg Trials:

Göring: Why, of course, the people don't want war. Why would some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best that he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece? Naturally, the common people don't want war; neither in Russia nor in England nor in America, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood. But, after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy or a fascist dictatorship or a Parliament or a Communist dictatorship.

Gilbert: There is one difference. In a democracy, the people have some say in the matter through their elected representatives, and in the United States only Congress can declare wars.

Göring: Oh, that is all well and good, but, voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country.

## The Surveillance Speech: A Low Point in Barack Obama's Presidency

By Conor Friedersdorf



Reuters

Jon Stewart once reacted to a [Barack Obama speech](#) by marveling that "at 11 o'clock on a Tuesday, a prominent politician spoke to Americans about race as though they were adults."

On Friday, President Obama spoke to us about surveillance as though we were precocious children. He proceeded as if widespread objections to his policies can be dispatched like a parent answers an eight-year-old who has formally protested her bedtime. He is so *proud* that we've matured enough to take an interest in our civil liberties! Why, he used to think *just like us* when he was younger, and promises to consider our arguments. But some decisions just have to be made by the grownups. Do we know how much he loves us? Can we even imagine how awful he would feel if anything bad ever happened while it was still his [job](#) to ensure our safety? \*

By observing Obama's condescension, I don't mean to suggest tone was the most objectionable part of the speech. The disinformation should bother the American people most. The weasel words. The impossible-to-believe protestations. The factually inaccurate assertions.

They're all there.

\* \* \*

### **The passage:**

... I called for a review of our surveillance [programs](#). Unfortunately, rather than an orderly and lawful process to debate these issues and come up with appropriate reforms, repeated leaks of classified information have initiated the debate in a very passionate but not always fully informed way.

But Obama has always had it within his [power](#) to initiate a fully informed debate. The state secrets that he guards, rightly or wrongly, are the biggest obstacle to a fully informed debate. Love the leaks or hate them, they've indisputably made Americans, including some members of Congress, much *better* informed than they were before about NSA surveillance, not less informed. And as any student of the civil-rights era ought to know, debate need not be "orderly" to be salutary.

### **The passage:**

I'm also mindful of how these issues are viewed overseas because American leadership around the world depends upon the example of American democracy and American openness, because what makes us different from other countries is not simply our ability to secure our nation.

It's the way we do it, with open debate and democratic process.

But his surveillance politics and policy, whatever one thinks of it, has *never* been characterized by open debate. There are secret sessions conducted by Congressional committees -- and secret hearings conducted by FISA court judges -- where hugely consequential policy decisions are made. If the real world depends on the example of American openness, we are failing the world. The example we're setting is that it's okay for governments to secretly intercept the private communications data of all citizens. How would that work out in most countries? The official secrecy surrounding the NSA [has already corroded U.S. democracy](#) in real ways.

### **The passage:**

I will work with Congress to pursue appropriate reforms to Section 215 of the [Patriot Act](#), the program that collects telephone records. As I've said, this program is an important tool in our effort to disrupt terrorist plots, and it does not allow the government to listen to any phone calls without a warrant. But given the scale of this program, I understand the concerns of those who would worry that it could be subject to abuse.

What a sly formulation. It's true that Section 215 of the Patriot Act doesn't allow government "to listen to any phone calls without a warrant" -- and also true (for [complicated reasons](#) involving a variety of provisions, including [Section 702](#), and much dubious wordplay) that the government *does* listen to [the phone](#) calls of innocent Americans who are *not* suspected of terrorism, often in a way that [students of American history](#) liken to "general warrant" Fourth Amendment violations. [Sometimes](#), according to *The Guardian* and Senator Ron Wyden, no warrant is needed.

Obama is exploiting the fact that most people don't know Section 215 from any other provision of surveillance law. It would be as if I said to an employee at a company I owned, "nothing in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration code allows me to monitor the contents of your work email." That's true, but misleading. It's other parts of the law that confer the authority to spy.

**The passage:**

I'll work with Congress to improve the public's confidence in the oversight conducted by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court .... The FISC was created by Congress to provide judicial review of certain intelligence activities so that a federal judge must find that our actions are consistent with the Constitution. However, to build greater confidence, I think we should consider some additional changes to the FISC. One of the concerns that people raise is that a judge reviewing a request from the government to conduct programmatic surveillance only hears one side of the story, may tilt it too far in favor of security, may not pay enough attention to liberty.

And while I've got confidence in the court and I think they've done a fine job, I think we can provide greater assurances that the court is looking at these issues from both perspectives -- security and privacy. So specifically, we can take steps to make sure civil liberties concerns have an independent voice, in appropriate cases, by ensuring that the government's position is challenged by an adversary.

But a judge's job is not balancing liberty and security, as if there is an objectively correct degree of "tilt" that they can settle upon. Judges are there, first and foremost, to ensure that the Constitution is not violated, and then to ensure that the law is being followed. The rule of law is the most important safeguard that secures the life and liberty of Americans, and any legal regime that permits the Constitution to be violated in secret is "tilting" *away* from long-term security.

In fact, the whole concept of a secret court is misguided, and it is astonishing that Obama, or anyone aside from partisan Republicans, would trust a court composed [entirely of one man's appointees](#). What if I told you, Democrats, that henceforth, abortion jurisprudence, voting-rights jurisprudence, labor law, or really any area of U.S. Constitutional law would be decided in secret and *always* by judges who John Roberts chose? How much confidence would you have in the outcome of decisions made in that court? [Yet that is how the FISA court works](#). And we're supposed to trust that the secret court's decisions are getting everything correct!

**The passage:**

... We can and must be more transparent.

So I've directed the intelligence community to make public as much information about these programs as possible. We've already declassified unprecedented information about the NSA, but we can go further. So at my direction, the Department of Justice will make public the legal rationale for the government's collection activities under Section 215 of the Patriot Act.

One of the least defensible practices of the Obama Administration is hiding the legal rationale for its actions, as if secret law is as legitimate as hiding the names of CIA operatives or nuclear codes. There shouldn't be any section of the Patriot Act, or any other law, that cannot be comprehended without seeing a classified legal memo generated in the Office of Legal Counsel.

Simply telling us what the law is isn't some step beyond already unprecedented transparency. In fact, post-9/11 America has been setting new state-secrets precedents.

Also, it is possible -- perhaps unwise, perhaps even unsafe, but indisputably "possible" -- to make *all* information about surveillance public. Obama invoking what's "possible" to release as his standard is tantamount to obscuring his actual standard, whatever it is. Dissent about what ought to be released is present within the federal government and even the executive branch itself.

Invoking what is "possible" to release begs the question at best.

**The passage:**

And to others around the world, I want to make clear once again that America is not interested in spying on ordinary people. Our intelligence is focused above all on finding the information that's necessary to protect our people and, in many cases, protect our allies.

Another misleading locution. America may not be "interested" in spying on ordinary people, but *it is doing so daily*. It is spying on millions of ordinary people. What those people worry about is *that* they're being spied on, not whether the spying party is interested in them particularly or only incidentally.

**The passage:**

The men and women of our intelligence community work every single day to keep us safe because they love this country and believe in our values. They're patriots.

Patriots are perfectly capable of violating the rights of their fellow citizens. And while the vast majority of NSA staffers and contractors may be patriots, some of them may not be patriots; some of them may even be dishonest, or well-intentioned but unable to resist abusing the authority they've been given, or determined from the beginning to act in the most nefarious way possible. All large organizations employ some bad apples.

**The passage:**

If the concern was that somehow this was the only way to get this information out to the public, I signed an executive order well before Mr. Snowden leaked this information that provided whistle-blower protection to the intelligence community for the first time.

Obama's order would not have gotten the information out to the public.

And the Obama Administration has [zealously persecuted](#) a number of national security whistleblowers. I've yet to hear any whistleblower assert that Snowden could have dealt with this internally. Even the senators who thought Americans' rights were being violated could do little to stop it.

**The passage:**

... A general impression has, I think, taken hold, not only among the American public but also around the world, that somehow we're out there willy-nilly just sucking in information on everybody and doing what we please with it. Now, that's not the case. Our laws specifically prohibit us from surveilling U.S. persons without a warrant. And there are whole range of safeguards that have been put in place to make sure that that basic principle is abided by.

Team Obama *is* collecting information on everybody! It isn't being done willy-nilly, but deliberately and comprehensively. And why would limits on surveilling Americans reassure foreigners?

**The passage:**

QUESTION: I wanted to ask you about your evolution on the surveillance issues. I mean, part of what you're talking about today is restoring the public trust. And the public has seen you evolve from when you were in the U.S. Senate to now. And even as recently as June, you said that these -- the process was such that people should be comfortable with it. And now you're saying -- you're making these reforms and people should be comfortable with those. So why should the public trust you on this issue and why did you change your position multiple times?

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Well, I think it's important to say, Carol, first of all, I haven't evolved in my assessment of the actual programs. I consistently have said that when I came into office I evaluated them. Some of these programs I had been critical of when I was in the Senate.

This is jaw-dropping.

Let's look more closely at what Carol calls Obama's "evolution." As a U.S. senator, Obama "[co-sponsored](#) a 2007 bill, introduced by Senator Russ Feingold (D-Wisconsin) that would have required the government to demonstrate, with '[specific and articulable facts](#),' that it wanted records related to '[a suspected agent of a foreign power](#)' or the records of people with one degree of separation from a suspect," Karen Brandeisky [notes](#) at *Pacific Standard*.

In addition:

In February 2008, Obama [co-sponsored](#) an amendment... which would have further limited the ability of the government to collect any [communications to or from people residing in the U.S.](#) The measure would have also required government analysts to [segregate all incidentally collected American communications](#). If analysts wanted to access those communications, they would have needed to [apply for individualized surveillance court approval](#). The amendment

[failed 35-63](#). Obama later [reversed his position](#) and supported what became the law now known to authorize the Prism program.

There's more:

Feingold's 2008 amendment, which Obama supported, would have also required the Defense Department and Justice Department to complete a joint audit of [all incidentally collected American communications](#) and provide the report to congressional intelligence committees. The amendment [failed 35-63](#). The Inspector General of the Intelligence Community told Senators Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and Mark Udall (D-Colorado) last year that it would be [unfeasible to estimate](#) how many American communications have been incidentally collected, and doing so would violate Americans' privacy rights.

And also:

Obama [co-sponsored](#) a 2007 measure that would have required the government to [tell defendants before it used any evidence](#) collected under the controversial section of the Patriot Act.

And then there's the fact that:

As a senator, Obama wanted the attorney general to submit a public report giving aggregate data about how many people had been targeted for searches ... Despite requests from Microsoft and Google, the Justice Department has not yet given companies approval to disclose aggregate data about surveillance directives.

There's even more in the excellent *Pacific Standard* [article](#). But Obama stands before us and spins, as if his position on this stuff hasn't changed at all. It's one of the most insulting lines he delivered.

### **The passage:**

... If you look at the reports, even the disclosures that Mr. Snowden's put forward, all the stories that have been written, what you're not reading about is the government actually abusing these programs and, you know, listening in on people's phone calls or inappropriately reading people's emails. What you're hearing about is the prospect that these could be abused. Now part of the reason they're not abused is because they're -- these checks are in place, and those abuses would be against the law and would be against the orders of the FISC.

The act of collecting and storing the private information of tens of millions of innocent Americans, as well as whatever you want from everyone else on earth, is itself an abuse of power.

Also, there is no reason that the public would be aware of abuses in these very recently revealed programs even if they had happened on multiple occasions. The whole programs were kept from us for years! Why would we expect to know if an analyst was checking up on his ex-girlfriend,

or if an overzealous Obama supporter was targeting Mitt Romney backers in 2012? How many years did it take before the abuses documented by the Church Committee came to light?

There is, finally, clear evidence that at least some unlawful abuse [has](#) happened already (emphasis added):

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, or FISC, ruled Wednesday that it has no objection to the release of **a 2011 opinion of the court, which found that some of the National Security Agency's surveillance programs under the FISA Amendments Act, were unconstitutional.** A 2011 FISC court ruling had concluded that some of the NSA's surveillance programs had **violated sections of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA,** a law aimed at protecting American citizens from surveillance programs targeted at foreigners.

The nation's most secretive court, as it has been called in the media, said that the 86-page classified opinion can be made public if a district court orders it. On Friday, the Department of Justice, or DoJ, had argued that the court's opinion must remain secret and its release of the opinion would contradict the FISC's own rules on disclosure of classified documents, according to NBC News.

Here is language that the Obama Administration itself [released](#) on Friday:

Since the telephony metadata collection program under Section 215 was initiated, there have been **a number of significant compliance and implementation issues** that were discovered as a result of DOJ and ODNI reviews and internal NSA oversight. In accordance with the Court's rules, upon discovery, these **violations** were reported to the FISC, which ordered appropriate remedial action. The incidents, and the Court's responses, were also reported to the Intelligence and Judiciary Committees in great detail. These problems generally involved **human error or highly sophisticated technology issues** related to NSA's compliance with particular aspects of the Court's orders. The FISC has on occasion been critical of the Executive Branch's compliance problems as well as the Government's court filings. However, the NSA and DOJ have corrected the problems identified to the Court, and the Court has continued to authorize the program with appropriate remedial measures.

So we've had (1) human failure and technological failure, (2) sections of FISA violated, and (3) a FISA-court opinion that some of what the NSA did violated the Constitution. We are, in fact, reading about abuses! They're just murky, because Team Obama is deliberately keeping the details secret.

### **The passage:**

I think the main thing I want to emphasize is, I don't have an interest and the people of the NSA don't have an interest in doing anything other than making sure that where we can prevent a terrorist attack, where we can get information ahead of time, that we're able to carry out that critical task. We do not have an interest in doing anything other than that.

Rights can be violated in the pursuit of noble and legitimate interests. Perhaps FDR didn't have an interest in doing anything other than winning WWII. The Americans of Japanese ancestry put into internment camps had their rights violated just as much as if his motive was personal animus.

As well, Obama's claim is incorrect. *He has all sorts of interests besides preventing terrorist attacks* -- political interests, ideological interests, legacy interests, ego interests. The folks at the NSA want to stop terrorist attacks. But they have other interests too. Many want to increase the power they enjoy in their narrow realm; they want to perpetuate and expand their agency ... and some, like Snowden, have totally unexpected interests, like transparency. It caused him to flee with all sorts of sensitive information. Am I to believe that no employee or contractor would possibly abscond for less noble reasons? Or break agency rules in secret for nefarious purposes?

That's absurd.

The surveillance debate is arguably the most important of our era.

Yet throughout the surveillance debate, the executive branch, including Obama, has lied, obfuscated, and misled the American people in a variety of ways. Before Edward Snowden's leaks, they could at least tell themselves that the disinformation was serving the purpose of keeping al-Qaeda from learning the general contours of our surveillance capabilities. But today, when that excuse has long since expired, Obama is still lying, obfuscating, and misleading the American people. In doing so, he is preventing representative democracy from functioning as well as it might. With the stakes so high, and his performance so dubious in so many places, Friday's speech has got to be one of the low points of his presidency.

(For analysis of the inadequate reforms Obama proposed, see [here](#).)

\*Alas, Obama-as-daddy-figure isn't even wise and measured with his heavy-handedness, like Cliff Huxtable. Instead, America is stuck with one of those control-freak dads. It's as if, instead of [the girl in the No Doubt song](#) not being allowed to drive late at night, she can cruise as needed, but with a location tracker. Plus her dad hacking into the email of every boy in her social circle -- not that he has time to read most of their private communications, but who knows what might one day come in handy? Did I mention she's now 31, and tried to get a restraining order, only to have a judge throw out the case because she couldn't prove dad was still listening?

This article available online at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2013/08/the-surveillance-speech-a-low-point-in-barack-obamas-presidency/278565/>

But let us not forget, ever, from what heights of nonsense Obama seized the reins of power.

George Bush believed he was on a mission from God, according to the politician Nabil Shaath.



George Bush has claimed he was on a mission from God when he launched the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, according to a senior Palestinian politician in an interview to be broadcast by the BBC later this month. Mr Bush revealed the extent of his religious fervour when he met a Palestinian delegation during the Israeli-Palestinian summit at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, four months after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

One of the delegates, Nabil Shaath, who was Palestinian foreign [minister](#) at the time, said: "President Bush said to all of us: 'I am driven with a mission from God'. God would tell me, 'George go and fight these terrorists in Afghanistan'. And I did. And then God would tell me 'George, go and end the tyranny in Iraq'. And I did."

Mr Bush went on: "And now, again, I feel God's words coming to me, 'Go get the Palestinians their state and get the Israelis their security, and get peace in the Middle East'. And, by God, I'm gonna do it."

Maybe we should thank God that Junior didn't have the time or the opportunity to fulfill the last instructions from on high.

**Regarding the Banksters criminality going unprosecuted. Obama, wake the hell up!**

*Unsealed court-settlement documents reveal banks stole \$trillions' worth of houses*

[Cory Doctorow](#) Aug 12, 2013

Back in 2012, the major US banks settled a federal mortgage-fraud lawsuit for \$95,000,000. The suit was filed by Lynn Szymoniak, a white-collar fraud specialist, whose own house had been fraudulently foreclosed-upon. When the feds settled with the banks, the evidence detailing the scope of their fraud was sealed, but as of last week, [those docs are unsealed](#), and Szymoniak is shouting them from the hills. The banks precipitated the subprime crash by "securitizing" [mortgages](#) -- turning mortgages into bonds that could be sold to people looking for investment income -- and the securitization process involved transferring title for homes several times over.

This title-transfer has a formal legal procedure, and in the absence of that procedure, no sale had taken place. See where this is going?

The banks screwed up the title transfers. A lot. They sold bonds backed by houses they didn't own. When it came time to foreclose on those homes, they realized that they didn't actually own them, and so they committed felony after felony, forging the necessary documentation. They stole houses, by the neighborhood-load, and got away with it. The \$1B [settlement](#) sounded like a big deal, back when the evidence was sealed. Now that Szymoniak's gotten it into the public eye, it's clear that \$1B was a tiny slap on the wrist: the banks stole trillions of dollars' worth of houses from you and people like you, paid less than one percent in fines, and got to keep the homes.

Now that it's unsealed, Szymoniak, as the named plaintiff, can go forward and prove the case. Along with her legal team (which includes the law firm of Grant & Eisenhoffer, which has recovered more money under the [False Claims Act](#) than any firm in the country), Szymoniak can pursue discovery and go to trial against the rest of the named defendants, including HSBC, the [Bank of New York](#) Mellon, Deutsche Bank and US Bank.

The expenses of the case, previously borne by the government, now are borne by Szymoniak and her team, but the percentages of recovery funds are also higher. "I'm really glad I was part of collecting this money for the government, and I'm looking forward to going through discovery and collecting the rest of it," Szymoniak told Salon.

It's good that the case remains active, because the \$95 million settlement was a pittance compared to the enormity of the crime. By the end of 2009, private mortgage-backed securities trusts held one-third of all [residential mortgages](#) in the U.S. That means that tens of millions of home mortgages worth trillions of dollars have no legitimate underlying owner that can establish the right to foreclose. This hasn't stopped banks from foreclosing anyway with false documents, and they are often successful, a testament to the breakdown of law in the judicial system. But to this day, the resulting chaos in disentangling ownership harms homeowners trying to sell these properties, as well as those trying to purchase them. And it renders some properties impossible to sell.

To this day, banks foreclose on borrowers using fraudulent mortgage assignments, a legacy of failing to prosecute this conduct and instead letting banks pay a fine to settle it. This disappoints Szymoniak, who told Salon the owner of these [loans](#) is now essentially "whoever lies the most convincingly and whoever gets the benefit of doubt from the judge." Szymoniak used her share of [the settlement](#) to start the Housing Justice Foundation, a non-profit that attempts to raise awareness of the continuing corruption of the nation's courts and land title system.

### **Your mortgage documents are fake!**

[David Dayen/Salon] **Prepare to be outraged. Newly obtained filings from this Florida woman's lawsuit uncover horrifying scheme**



Lynn Szymoniak (Credit: CBS News/60 Minutes)

If you know about [foreclosure](#) fraud, the mass fabrication of mortgage documents in state courts by banks attempting to foreclose on homeowners, you may have one nagging question: Why did banks have to resort to this illegal scheme? Was it just cheaper to mock up the documents than to provide the real ones? Did banks figure they simply had enough power over regulators, politicians and the courts to get away with it? (They were probably right about that one.)

A newly unsealed lawsuit, which banks settled in 2012 for \$95 million, actually offers a different reason, providing a key answer to one of the persistent riddles of the financial crisis and its aftermath. The lawsuit states that banks resorted to fake documents because they could not legally establish true ownership of the [loans](#) when trying to foreclose.

This reality, which banks did not contest but instead settled out of court, means that tens of millions of mortgages in America *still* lack a legitimate chain of ownership, with implications far into the future. And if Congress, supported by the Obama administration, goes back to the same housing finance system, with the same corrupt private entities who broke the nation's private property system back in [business packaging](#) mortgages, then shame on all of us.

The 2011 lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in both North and South Carolina, by a white-collar fraud specialist named Lynn Szymoniak, on behalf of the federal government, 17 states and three cities. Twenty-eight banks, mortgage servicers and document processing companies

are named in the lawsuit, including mega-banks like JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citi and Bank of America.

Szymoniak, who fell into foreclosure herself in 2009, researched her own mortgage documents and found massive fraud (for example, one document claimed that Deutsche Bank, listed as the owner of her mortgage, acquired ownership in October 2008, four months *after* they first filed for foreclosure). She eventually examined tens of thousands of documents, enough to piece together the entire scheme.

A mortgage has two parts: the promissory note (the IOU from the borrower to the lender) and the mortgage, which creates the lien on the home in case of default. During the housing bubble, banks bought loans from originators, and then (in a process known as securitization) enacted a series of transactions that would eventually pool thousands of mortgages into bonds, sold all over the world to public pension funds, state and municipal governments and other investors. A trustee would pool the loans and sell the securities to investors, and the investors would get an annual percentage yield on their money.

In order for the securitization to work, banks purchasing the mortgages had to physically convey the promissory note and the mortgage into the trust. The note had to be endorsed (the way an individual would endorse a check), and handed over to a document custodian for the trust, with a “mortgage assignment” confirming the transfer of ownership. And this had to be done before a 90-day cutoff date, with no grace period beyond that.

Georgetown Law professor Adam Levitin spelled this out in testimony before Congress in 2010: “If mortgages were not properly transferred in the securitization process, then mortgage-backed securities would in fact not be backed by any mortgages whatsoever.”

The lawsuit alleges that these notes, as well as the mortgage assignments, were “never delivered to the mortgage-backed securities trusts,” and that the trustees lied to the SEC and investors about this. As a result, the trusts could not establish ownership of the loan when they went to foreclose, forcing the production of a stream of false documents, signed by “robo-signers,” employees using a bevy of corporate titles for companies that never employed them, to sign documents about which they had little or no knowledge.

Many documents were forged (the suit provides evidence of the signature of one robo-signer, Linda Green, written eight different ways), some were signed by “officers” of companies that went bankrupt years earlier, and dozens of assignments listed as the owner of the loan “Bogus Assignee for Intervening Assignments,” clearly a template that was never changed. One defendant in the case, Lender Processing Services, created masses of false documents on behalf of the banks, often using fake corporate officer titles and forged signatures. This was all done to establish standing to foreclose in courts, which the banks otherwise could not.

Szymoniak stated in her lawsuit that, “Defendants used fraudulent mortgage assignments to conceal that over 1400 MBS trusts, each with mortgages valued at over \$1 billion, are missing

critical documents,” meaning that at least \$1.4 trillion in mortgage-backed securities are, in fact, non-mortgage-backed securities. Because of the strict laws governing of these kinds of securitizations, there’s no way to make the assignments after the fact. Activists have a name for this: “securitization FAIL.”

One smoking gun piece of evidence in the lawsuit concerns a mortgage assignment dated Feb. 9, 2009, after the foreclosure of the mortgage in question was completed. According to the suit, “A typewritten note on the right hand side of the document states: ‘This Assignment of Mortgage was inadvertently not recorded prior to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure... but is now being recorded to clear title.’”

This admission confirms that the mortgage assignment was not made before the closing date of the trust, invalidating ownership. The suit further argued that “the act of fabricating the assignments is evidence that the MBS Trust did not own the notes and/or the mortgage liens for some assets claimed to be in the pool.”

The federal government, states and cities joined the lawsuit under 25 counts of the federal False Claims Act and state-based versions of the law. All of them bought mortgage-backed securities from banks that never conveyed the mortgages or notes to the trusts. The plaintiffs argued that, considering that trustees and servicers had to spend lots of money forging and fabricating documents to establish ownership, they were materially harmed by the subsequent impaired value of the securities. Also, these investors (which includes the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve) paid for the transfer of mortgages to the trusts, yet they were never actually transferred.

Finally, the lawsuit argues that the federal government was harmed by “payments made on mortgage guarantees to Defendants lacking valid notes and assignments of mortgages who were not entitled to demand or receive said payments.”

Despite Szymoniak seeking a trial by jury, the government intervened in the case, and settled part of it at the beginning of 2012, extracting \$95 million from the five biggest banks in the suit (Wells Fargo, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Citi and GMAC/Ally Bank). Szymoniak herself was awarded \$18 million. But the underlying evidence was never revealed until the case was unsealed last Thursday.

Now that it’s unsealed, Szymoniak, as the named plaintiff, can go forward and prove the case. Along with her legal team (which includes the law firm of Grant & Eisenhoffer, which has recovered more money under the False Claims Act than any firm in the country), Szymoniak can pursue discovery and go to trial against the rest of the named defendants, including HSBC, the Bank of New York Mellon, Deutsche Bank and US Bank.

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It's good that the case remains active, because the \$95 million settlement was a pittance compared to the enormity of the crime. By the end of 2009, private mortgage-backed securities trusts held one-third of all residential mortgages in the U.S. That means that tens of millions of home mortgages worth trillions of dollars have no legitimate underlying owner that can establish the right to foreclose. This hasn't stopped banks from foreclosing anyway with false documents, and they are often successful, a testament to the breakdown of law in the judicial system. But to this day, the resulting chaos in disentangling ownership harms homeowners trying to sell these properties, as well as those trying to purchase them. And it renders some properties impossible to sell.

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Most of official Washington, including President Obama, wants to wind down mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and return to a system where private lenders create securitization trusts, packaging pools of loans and selling them to investors. Government would provide a limited guarantee to investors against catastrophic losses, but the private banks would make the securities, to generate more capital for home loans and expand homeownership.

That's despite the evidence we now have that, the last time banks tried this, they ignored the law, failed to convey the mortgages and notes to the trusts, and ripped off investors trying to cover their tracks, to say nothing of how they violated the due process rights of homeowners and stole their homes with fake documents.

The very same banks that created this criminal enterprise and legal quagmire would be in control again. Why should we view this in any way as a sound public policy, instead of a ticking time bomb that could once again throw the private property system, a bulwark of capitalism and indeed civilization itself, into utter disarray? As Lynn Szymoniak puts it, "The President's calling for private equity to return. Why would we return to this?"

**Update:** This story previously suggested that banks settled this lawsuit with the federal government for \$1 billion. That number is actually the total for a number of whistle-blower lawsuits that were folded into a larger National Mortgage Settlement. This specific lawsuit settled for \$95 million. The post above has been changed to reflect this fact.

August 12, 2013

TransCanada and Department of Homeland Security Keep Close Eye on Activists, FOIA Documents Reveal

## **Undercover DHS Agents Infiltrated Tar Sands Resistance Camp to Break Up Planned Protest**

by ADAM FEDERMAN

After a week of careful planning, environmentalists attending a tar sands resistance action camp in Oklahoma thought they had the element of surprise — but they would soon learn that their moves were being closely watched by [law enforcement](#) officials and TransCanada, the very company they were targeting.

On the morning of March 22 activists had planned to block the gates at the company's strategic oil reserves in Cushing, Oklahoma as part of the larger protest movement against TransCanada's tar sands pipeline. But when they showed up in the early morning hours and began unloading equipment from their vehicles they were confronted by police officers. Stefan Warner, an organizer with Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance, says some of the vehicles en route to the protest site were pulled over even before they had reached Cushing. He estimates that roughly 50 people would have participated— either risking arrest or providing support. The act of nonviolent civil disobedience, weeks in the planning, was called off.

“For a small sleepy Oklahoma town to be saturated with police officers on a pre-dawn weekday leaves only one reasonable conclusion,” says Ron Seifert, an organizer with an affiliated group called Tar Sands Blockade. “They were there on purpose, expecting something to happen.”

Seifert is exactly right. According to documents obtained by *Earth Island Journal*, investigators from the Bryan County Sheriff's Department had been spying on a Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance [training](#) camp that took place from March 18 to March 22 and which brought together local landowners, Indigenous communities, and environmental groups opposed to the pipeline.

At least two law enforcement officers infiltrated the training camp and drafted a detailed report about the upcoming protest, internal strategy, and the character of the protesters themselves. The undercover investigator who wrote the report put the tar sands opponents into five different groups: eco-activists (who “truly wanted to live off the grid”); Occupy members; Native American activists (“who blamed all forms of government for the poor state of being that most American Indians are living in”); Anarchists (“many wore upside down American flags”); and locals from Oklahoma (who “had concerns about the pipeline harming the community”).

The undercover agent's report was obtained by Douglas Parr, an Oklahoma attorney who represented three activists (all lifelong Oklahomans) who were arrested in mid April for blockading a tar sands pipeline construction site. “During the discovery in the Bryan county cases we received material indicating that there had been infiltration of the Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance camp by police agents,” Parr says. At least one of the undercover investigators attended an “action planning” meeting during which everyone was asked to put their cell phones or other electronic devices into a green bucket for security reasons. The investigator goes on to

explain that he was able to obtain sensitive information regarding the location of the upcoming Cushing protest, which would mark the culmination of the week of training. “This investigator was able to obtain an approximate location based off a question that he asked to the person in charge of media,” he wrote. He then wryly notes that, “It did not appear...that our phones had been tampered with.”

(The memo also states that organizers at the meeting went to great lengths not to give police any cause to disrupt the gathering. The investigator writes: “We were repeatedly told this was a substance free camp. No drug or alcohol use would be permitted on the premises and always ask permission before touching anyone. Investigators were told that we did not need to give the police any reason to enter the camp.” They were also given a pamphlet that instructed any agent of TransCanada, the FBI, or other law enforcement agency to immediately notify the event organizers.)

The infiltration of the Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance action camp and pre-emption of the Cushing protest is part of a larger pattern of government surveillance of tar sands protesters. According to other documents obtained by *Earth Island Journal* under an Open Records Act request, Department of Homeland Security staff has been keeping close tabs on pipeline opponents — and routinely sharing that information with TransCanada, and vice versa.

In March TransCanada gave a briefing on corporate security to a Criminal Intelligence Analyst with the Oklahoma Information Fusion Center, the state level branch of Homeland Security. The conversation took place just as the action camp was getting underway. The following day, Diane Hogue, the Center’s Intelligence Analyst, asked TransCanada to review and comment on the agency’s classified situational awareness bulletin. Michael Nagina, Corporate Security Advisor for TransCanada, made two small suggestions and wrote, “With the above changes I am comfortable with the content.”

Then, in an email to TransCanada on March 19 (the second day of the action camp) Hogue seems to refer to the undercover investigation taking place. “Our folks in the area say there are between 120-150 participants,” Hogue wrote in an email to Nagina. (The Oklahoma Information Fusion Center declined to comment for this story.)

It is unclear if the information gathered at the training camp was shared directly with TransCanada. However, the company was given access to the Fusion Center’s situational awareness bulletin just a few days before the Cushing action was scheduled to take place.

In an emailed statement, TransCanada spokesperson Shawn Howard did not directly address the Tar Sands Resistance training camp. Howard described law enforcement as being interested in what the company has done to prepare for activities designed to “slow approval or construction” of the pipeline project. “When we are asked to share what we have learned or are prepared for, we are there to share our experience – not direct law enforcement,” he wrote.

The evidence of heightened cooperation between TransCanada and law enforcement agencies in Oklahoma and Texas comes just over a month after it was [revealed](#) that the company had given a PowerPoint presentation on corporate security to the FBI and law enforcement officials in

Nebraska. TransCanada also held an “interactive session” with law enforcement in Oklahoma City about the company’s security strategy in early 2012. In their PowerPoint presentation, TransCanada employees suggested that district attorneys should explore “state or federal anti-terrorism laws” in prosecuting activists. They also included profiles of key organizers and a list of activists previously arrested for acts of nonviolent civil disobedience in Texas and Oklahoma. In addition to TransCanada’s presentation, a representative of Nebraska’s Homeland Security Fusion Center briefed attendees on an “intelligence sharing role/plan relevant to the pipeline project.” This is likely related to the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network, which provides public and private sector partners as well as law enforcement access to sensitive information.

The earlier cache of documents, first released to the press by Bold Nebraska, an environmental organization opposed to the pipeline, shows that TransCanada has established close ties with state and federal law enforcement agencies along the proposed pipeline route. For example, in an exchange with FBI agents in South Dakota, TransCanada’s Corporate Security Advisor, Michael Nagina, jokes that, “I can be the cure for insomnia so sure hope you can still attend!” Although they were unable to make the Nebraska meeting, one of the agents responded, “Assuming approval of the pipeline, we would like to get together to discuss a timeline for installation through our territory.”

The new documents also provide an interesting glimpse into the revolving door between state law enforcement agencies and the private sector, especially in areas where fracking and pipeline construction have become big business. One of the individuals providing information to the Texas Department of Homeland Security’s Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division is currently the Security Manager at Anadarko Petroleum, one of the world’s largest independent oil and natural gas exploration and production companies. In 2011, at a natural gas industry stakeholder relations conference, a spokesperson for Anadarko compared the anti-drilling movement to an “insurgency” and suggested that attendees download the US Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Manual.

LC Wilson, the Anadarko Security Manager shown by the documents to be providing information to the Texas Fusion Center, is more than just a friend of law enforcement. From 2009 to 2011 he served as Regional Commander of the Texas Department of Public Safety, which oversees law enforcement statewide. Wilson began his career with the Department of Public Safety in 1979 and was named a Texas Ranger — an elite law enforcement unit — in 1988, eventually working his way up to Assistant Chief. Such connections would be of great value to a corporation like Anadarko, which has invested heavily in security operations.

In an email to Litto Paul Bacas, a Critical Infrastructure Planner (and former intelligence analyst) with Texas Homeland Security, Wilson, using his Anadarko address, writes, “we find no intel specific for Texas. There is active recruitment for directed action to take place in Oklahoma as per article. I will forward any intel we come across on our end, especially if it concerns Texas.” The article he was referring to was written by a member of Occupy Denver calling on all “occupiers and occupy networks” to attend the Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance training camp.

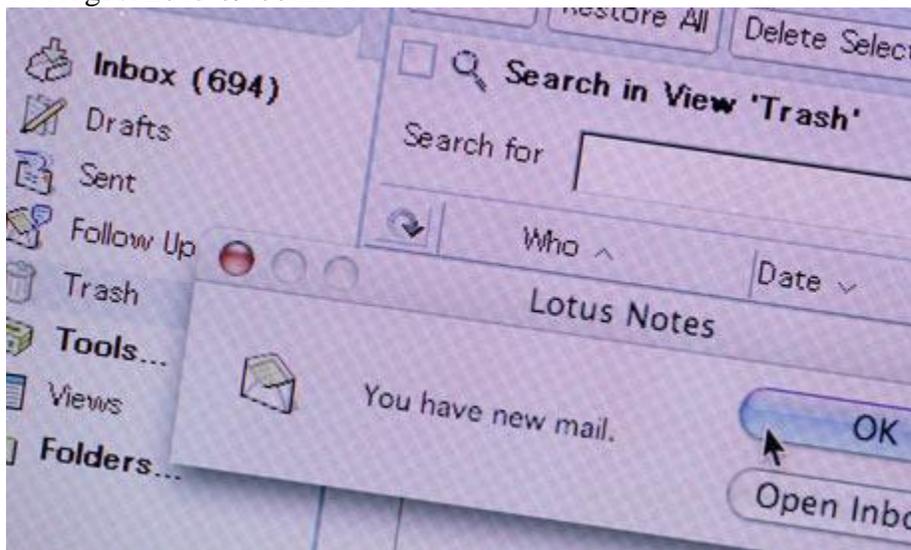
Wilson is not the only former law enforcement official on Anadarko's security team; Jeffrey Sweetin, the company's Regional Security Manager, was a special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration for more than 20 years heading up its Rocky Mountain division. At Anadarko, according to Sweetin's profile on LinkedIn, his responsibilities include "security program development" and "law enforcement liaison."

Other large oil and gas companies have recruited local law enforcement to fill high-level security positions. In 2010, long-time Bradford County Sheriff Steve Evans resigned to take a position as senior security officer for Chesapeake Energy in Pennsylvania. Evans was one of a handful of gas industry security directors to receive intelligence bulletins compiled by a private security firm and distributed by the Pennsylvania Department of Homeland Security. Bradford County happens to be ground zero for natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale, with more active wells than any other county in the state. In addition to Evans, several deputies of the Bradford County Sheriff's office have worked for Chesapeake — through a private contractor, TriCorps Security — as "off-duty" security personnel. TransCanada has also come to rely on off duty police officers to patrol construction sites and protest camps, raising questions about whose interests the sworn officers are serving.

Of course for corporations like TransCanada and Anadarko having law enforcement on their side (or in their pocket) is more than just a good business move. It gives them access to classified information and valuable intelligence — essential weapons in any counterinsurgency campaign.

### **The NSA is turning the internet into a total surveillance system**

Now we know all Americans' international email is searched and saved, we can see how far the 'collect it all' mission has gone [Alexander Abdo](#) and [Patrick Toomey theguardian.com](#), Sunday 11 August 2013 09.00 EDT



The NSA is searching the content of virtually every email that comes into or goes out of the US without a warrant. Photograph: Roger Tooth for the Guardian

Another burst of sunlight permeated the National Security Agency's black box of domestic [surveillance](#) last week.

According to the [New York Times](#), the [NSA](#) is searching the content of virtually every [email](#) that comes into or goes out of the [United States](#) without a warrant. To accomplish this astonishing invasion of Americans' [privacy](#), the NSA reportedly is making a copy of nearly every international email. It then searches that cloned data, keeping all of the emails containing certain keywords and deleting the rest – all in a matter of seconds.

If you emailed a friend, family member or colleague overseas today (or if, from abroad, you emailed someone in the US), chances are that the NSA made a copy of that email and searched it for suspicious information.

The NSA appears to believe this general monitoring of our electronic communications is justified because the entire process takes, in one official's words, "a small number of seconds". Translation: the NSA thinks it can intercept and then read Americans' emails so long as the intrusion is swift, efficient and silent.

That is not how the fourth amendment works.

Whether the NSA inspects and retains these messages for years, or only searches through them once before moving on, the invasion of Americans' privacy is real and immediate. There is no ["five-second rule"](#) for fourth amendment violations: the US constitution does not excuse these bulk searches simply because they happen in the blink of an eye.

The government claims that this program is authorized by a surveillance statute passed in 2008 that allows the government to target foreigners for surveillance. Although the government has frequently defended that law as a necessary tool in gathering foreign intelligence, the government has repeatedly [misled the public](#) about the extent to which the statute implicates Americans' communications.

There should no longer be any doubt: the US government has *for years* relied upon its authority to collect foreigners' communications as a useful cover for its sweeping surveillance of Americans' communications. The surveillance program revealed last week confirms that the interception of American communications under this law is neither "targeted" at foreigners (in any ordinary sense of that [word](#)) nor "inadvertent", as [officials have repeatedly claimed](#).

Last week's revelations are a disturbing harbinger of future surveillance. Two months ago, [this newspaper reported](#) that the US government has been forcing American telecommunications companies to turn over the call records of every one of their customers "on an ongoing daily basis", to allow the NSA to later search those records when it has a reason to do so. The government has since defended the program, in part on the theory that Americans' right to privacy is not implicated by the initial acquisition of their phone records, only by their later searching.

That legal theory is extraordinarily dangerous because it would allow the NSA to acquire *virtually all digital information today* simply because it might possibly become relevant tomorrow. The surveillance program revealed by the New York Times report goes one step further still. No longer is the government simply collecting information now so that the data is

available to search, should a reasonable suspicion arise at some point in the future; the NSA is searching *everything now* – in real time and without suspicion – merely on the chance that it finds something of interest.

That principle of pre-emptive surveillance threatens to subvert the most basic protections of the fourth amendment, which generally prohibit the government from conducting suspicion-less fishing expeditions through our private affairs. If the government is correct that it can search our every communication in case we say or type something suspicious, there is little to prevent the NSA from converting the [internet](#) into a tool of pervasive surveillance.

Because of this very real possibility, these programs should be brought out of the twilight zone of the national security state and into the daylight, so that the public can decide for itself what privacy means in a digital age.

Craig B Hulet was both speech writer and *Special Assistant* for *Special Projects* to Congressman Jack Metcalf (Retired); he has been a consultant to federal law enforcement DEA, ATF&E of Justice/Homeland Security for over 25 years; he has written four books on international relations and philosophy, his latest is *The Hydra of Carnage: Bush's Imperial War-making and the Rule of Law - An Analysis of the Objectives and Delusions of Empire*. He has appeared on over 12,000 hours of TV and Radio: *The History Channel* "De-Coded"; He is a regular on *Coast to Coast* AM w/ George Noory and Coffee Talk KBKW; CNN, C-Span ; European Television "American Dream" and The Arsenio Hall Show; he has written for *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*, *International Combat Arms*, *Financial Security Digest*, etc.; Hulet served in Vietnam 1969-70, 101st Airborne, C Troop 2/17th Air Cav and graduated 3rd in his class at *Aberdeen Proving Grounds Ordnance School* MOS 45J20 Weapons. He remains a paid analyst and consultant in various areas of geopolitical, business and security issues: terrorism and military affairs. Hulet lives in the ancient old growth *Quinault Rain Forest*.