So Much For Stopping the Leaks

By Arnold Ahlert

So, how’s that effort to keep administration officials from releasing classified information going? Try this from the Washington Post: “The United States and Israel jointly developed a sophisticated computer virus nicknamed Flame that collected critical intelligence in preparation for cyber-sabotage attacks aimed at slowing Iran’s ability to develop a nuclear weapon, according to Western officials with knowledge of the effort.”

Further on in the article we get even more: “This is about preparing the battlefield for another type of covert action,” said one former high-ranking U.S. intelligence official, who added that Flame and Stuxnet were elements of a broader assault that continues today. “Cyber collection against the Iranian program is way further down the road than this.”

Covert action? This effort is now about as “covert” as the Super Bowl. And the only thing hard to figure further down the road than this.”

This latest leak, coming after the outrage expressed by members of both parties concerned with the sieve-like nature of our national security apparatus, begs the obvious question: Is there a functioning definition of “treason” anymore?

It’s time to crack down on those who can’t keep their mouths shut. Giving the mad mullahs and their atomic ambitions a heads-up on how we’re undermining them, not only makes them better prepared for the next time, but fires up their determination to procure the ultimate Middle East game-changer ASAP.

We need to appoint a special prosecutor with access to the lists of people who attended the various meetings where the leaks took place, one who can put every one of the attendees under oath and see where the inconsistencies lead.

The atrocity of 9/11 can be attributed to many things, but first and foremost among them was a colossal failure of intelligence. Thoughtful Americans should ask themselves who in their right mind would risk anything to help this nation avoid another catastrophe, given what’s occurred in recent weeks. A Pakistani doctor is serving 33 years in prison, a Saudi/British double-agent is walking around with a permanent target on his back, as “thanks” for giving us bin Laden and the most technologically advanced underwear bomb to date, respectively. Henry Kissinger once remarked the only thing worse than being America’s enemy is being America’s friend.

Isn’t it about time we changed that despicable reality?

-JewishWorldReview.com

Three Tax Measures Qualify for Vote

Rival tax increase initiatives backed by Gov. Jerry Brown and attorney Molly Munger have qualified for the November ballot, along with an initiative that would change the way multistate businesses calculate how much income taxes they owe, Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced.

Brown’s measure would increase the sales tax by a quarter-cent to help fund a $9 billion bond to raise the income tax on annual earnings over $250,000 for seven years. Eighty-nine percent of the revenues from the measure would be devoted to schools from kindergarten through 12th grade and the other 11 percent to community colleges.

The measure would generate from $6.8 billion to $9 billion for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, an average of $5.4 billion to $7.6 billion in the following five fiscal years and lesser amounts in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to an estimate from the Legislative Analyst’s Office and Director of Finance Ana J. Matosantos.

Munger’s measure would increase personal income tax rates for annual earnings over $7,316 using a sliding scale from 0.4 percent for the lowest individual earners to 2.2 percent for individual earning more than $2.5 million.

During the first four years, 60 percent of revenues would go to schools from kindergarten through 12th grade, 30 percent to repaying state debt and 10 percent to early childhood programs. Thereafter, 85 percent of revenues would go to schools from kindergarten through 12th grade and 15 percent to early childhood programs.

The measure would generate from $10 billion to $11 billion per fiscal year, beginning in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, tending to increase over time, according to an estimate from the Legislative Analyst’s Office and Matosantos.

The third measure would require multistate businesses to calculate their California income tax liability based on the percentage of their sales in California.
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The event will also be simulcast live throughout southern California on KKLA 99.5FM Radio. Notice.

SOOTH parking lot will be closed to vehicle traffic. Press vehicles can be accommodated with ample free parking for all visitors.

This celebration is free – a gift from Shepherd of the Hills, Shapell Homes and many more supporting sponsors. Optional food purchases can be made from over a dozen local food vendors and food trucks!

This will be our 14th annual Fourth of July Spectacular celebration. It keeps getting bigger and exciting every year,” said SOTH Director of Development, Paula Craciun. “800 volunteers work together to create a fun, exciting, and safe event for the whole family. It is truly a spectacular event!”

This celebration is free – a gift from Shepherd of the Hills, Shapell Homes and many more supporting sponsors. Optional food purchases can be made from over a dozen local food vendors which will include BBQ, pizza, burgers, kettle corn, ice cream, sandwiches and more. There is ample free parking for all visitors.

The festivities will begin at 4:30 p.m. The twenty-one minute aerial fireworks display presented by The Pyro Spectaculars by Souza will take place after sundown (at approximately 9:05 p.m.).

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Please note that Rinaldi Street will close to vehicle traffic between Corbin Avenue and Porter Ranch Drive at the Los Angeles Police Department’s discretion at approximately a 5:30 p.m. The SOTH parking lot will be closed to vehicle traffic. Press vehicles can be accommodated with notice.

The event will also be simulcast live throughout southern California on KKLA 99.5FM Radio.

EXEMPT AUTO DEALERS FROM BUSINESS TAX

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa used a tour of a recently expanded Mercedes-Benz dealership to renew his call for the City Council to exempt auto dealerships from the city’s business tax.

The mayor toured the $35 million, 225,000-square-foot expansion of Keyes European’s dealership in Van Nuys, the city’s largest Mercedes dealership.

Last fall, Villaraigosa and Councilmen Eric Garcetti and Mitch Englander proposed exempting auto dealers from the city’s business tax. The council is awaiting a report on the potential economic impact to the city.

The tax exemption is aimed at helping reverse the exodus of auto dealers from the city.

Ninety-five dealerships have moved out of the city since 1986, according to the mayor’s office.

In 2010, auto dealers accounted for $3.6 million in business tax revenue, a fraction of the $29 million in sales tax revenue from car dealers.

Villaraigosa also used the visit to Keyes to tout his efforts to cut red tape for businesses seeking to move to the city or expand existing operations. The mayor last year opened the Office of Case Management to give businesses one place to interface with the several city departments through one case manager in one location.

UTLA OK’s Pact

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) announced that its members voted 58% to 42% in favor of a tentative agreement with LAUSD that would stabilize schools by maintaining class sizes, restoring critical program and saving over 4,700 jobs for the 2012-13 school year. With 24,401 members voting, 14,195 members voted against the agreement.

The release of the base API marks the beginning of the 2011-12 test-score reporting cycle, according to the state, representing each school’s baseline score.

Everyone is Talking About It!

The first day of school is always exciting but this year, the whole town is buzzing as we await the opening of our newest school.

Porter Ranch Development Company proudly welcomes the students and faculty of the Porter Ranch Community School.

K-8 classes begin August 14, 2012
When it comes to working out at the gym, cleaning the house, or being productive at work, we may not always give our best. It's easy for us to start out with a goal and then allow distractions, temptations, or laziness to get in the way of what we want to accomplish. But whenever we decide to commit our life to following Jesus Christ, and we ponder what kind of effort we're going to give to the Kingdom of God, we have to remember one critical thing: We're not talking about tasks or earthly ambitions; we're talking about God.

He is the One who created the stars, the sun, the moon, the earth and all its glory and diversity. He is the One who gave each of us a beating heart. He is the One who gave us His best when He gave His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins so that we could have eternal life. Therefore, God deserves our best.

When we look at the Ten Commandments, we are introduced to God's greatness and we are instructed on how we can give Him our best. God declares in Exodus 20:1-8, “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath… You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God… Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”

Having no other gods before Him means that we put God first in all that we do. As mentioned in last month’s article, whatever we have prioritized as our primary concern is what we idolize or worship. It doesn’t just have to be wealth—it could be anything ranging from a sports team, movie star or music icon, to a hobby or even our own family and friends. Anything that takes precedence over God becomes an idol. However, God is our loving Creator; He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present and He deserves to be number one in our life.

Another way that we give Him our best is by revering His holy name. Sadly, it is all too common for people to use God’s name in vain, as a curse word, or as a joke. Throughout the Bible, God states unequivocally that His name is holy and must be treated as such. Take a look at Isaiah 57:15: “The One who is highly honored lives forever. His name is holy. He says, ‘I live in a high and holy place. But I also live with anyone who turns away from his sins. I live with anyone who is not proud. I give new life to him. I give it to anyone who turns away from his sins.’” If you have been using the Lord’s name in vain, you can make a commitment today to refrain from doing that any more. Confess your sins to God, and He will forgive and give you a new start.

Finally, we give God our best by resting on the Sabbath. God created the entire universe in six days. He rested on the seventh day and instructs us to do the same. This means that everything at the office can wait—yard work and cleaning the kitchen can wait, too. You will be surprised how much more productive you will be six days of the week if you rest on the Sabbath.

We also keep God’s day holy by worshiping Him at church on the Sabbath day. At church, you are able to receive the Word of God and to praise God through the worship music. You are able to gather together with other believers who can help you follow Christ with all your heart. Don’t forsake this important time of the week. In fact, please join us at Shepherd of the Hills as we begin the Name Changer series, which is about God’s power to change your name and your character! Services are Saturdays at 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm and Sundays at 8:30 am, 10 am, and 11:30 am.

We can have a powerful impact for Jesus in this world if we dedicate ourselves to doing our very best in everything we do, and with our whole hearts. Allow Colossians 3:23-24 to be your motivation: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Edited by Sonia Eskandarian

Dudley Rutherford is the author of God Has an App for That and the senior pastor of the 10,000-member Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch (Los Angeles), California. You can find Dudley online at www.Godhasanapp.com or on Twitter @pastordudley.
More Than a Game

T
ere are so many opportunities to get involved in sports in the San Fernando Valley and greater Los Angeles area, but there is one place that is different than all others. Shepherd Sports, led by Pastor Josh Merrill, is a ministry that is part of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch. For almost 7 years now, this ministry has provided opportunities for men, women, and children of all ages to participate in community sports programs and health and fitness classes.

Shepherd Sports got its start in the summer of 2005 when the new Family Life Center opened its doors to the Porter Ranch community. This facility has a state of the art gymnasium that houses a NCAA regulation size basketball court and side courts for volleyball. Pastor Josh was hired shortly after to lead this sports ministry and develop ways to offer a better alternative to the team sports and fitness programs we know today.

A former professional basketball player himself, Pastor Josh knows how to nurture the competitive drive in athletes, but he also has a burning desire to grow each participant in more meaningful ways than just athletic skill and ability.

Through the common bond of sports, Shepherd Sports offers a place for people to come together, build relationships, and share the love of God with each other. The diverse community this ministry mirrors that of Shepherd of the Hills Church, where people of every race, ethnicity, and religion have walked through the doors and found a connection to this community. Whether they are in the gym or on the field, everyone that part of Shepherd Sports will experience a fellowship and bond with others like they’ve never had before. The staff and volunteers at Shepherd Sports have a big heart for this community and desire to make it a place for all to enjoy.

Shepherd Sports offers Adult and Youth programs, clinics, and camps in Soccer, Softball, Basketball, Volleyball, and Football, along with a Health & Fitness ministry that offers group exercise classes like Bootcamp, Kickboxing, and Hiking. Programs are offered all year-round, so you can get involved at any time and in any season! Visit the Shepherd Sports website at ShepherdSports.org or contact the Sports Office for more information to get involved! Shepherd Sports is located at 19700 Rinaldi Street, Porter Ranch, CA 91326, and the staff can be reached at (818) 831-9333 Ext. 234 or via email at Sports@theshepherd.org.

Summer at the Library

Feeling a bit bored this summer? Bring your kids and yourself to the nearest public library and sign up for nearly 23 diverse programs throughout the summer all the way through August.

In particular, the Summer Reading Club is designated to encourage reading in kids from babies to teens aged 17. Hosted by every single public library in the U.S., this program is designed with milestones for reading a certain number of hours and earning prizes along the way. Participants even have the opportunity to win free brand new books.

Programs are also hosting a variety of activities for adults, teens, and children. From magic shows and dream classes to smoothie workshops and Peace Corps presentations, everyone in the family can find something they will enjoy. Children will particularly enjoy making crafts, reading aloud to dogs, and watching a movie every Friday at 3 pm.

“I have always loved going to the library,” said 9-year-old Kenny Frankline. “But now there’s more things to do over the summer so that’s good.”

While some may say that the reading level in teens of America is declining rapidly, Mrs. Sells has observed the opposite. “We have tons of teens that are signed up for the reading program than ever before,” said Sells.

“I’m not much of a reader but this summer I wanted to read more books,” said 15-year-old Mariya Jokwen. “It’s more fun than I thought!”

The library provides more valuable assistance. Volunteers at the library will help to children, helping with pronunciation. There is live homework help on the LAPL website for children and teens from 3-10 PM, seven days a week.

Tape into a valuable, free resource in the community. Come and visit your local library and get involved this summer!

UCLA ALS Study

The body’s own immune system may contribute to damaging nerve cells in the spinal column of people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, UCLA researchers reported. ALS is a progressively worsening condition that affects the neurons of the brain and spinal column controlling voluntary muscle movement.

UCLA researchers found that inflammation triggered by the immune system due to ALS activates macrophages, cells responsible for consuming pathogens and waste products.

“During the inflammation process, motor neurons, whether healthy or not, are marked for cleanup by the macrophages,” according to a UCLA statement.

The researchers also found that a fatty “mediator” called resolvin D1 blocked the inflammatory proteins being produced by the macrophages, curbing the inflammation process that marked the neurons for cleanup.

D1 is made in the body from the omega-3 fatty acid DHA, which previously had been shown to protect neurons in cases of Alzheimer’s disease, stroke and other conditions.

According to researchers, D1 may offer a way of lessening the inflammation associated with ALS, though currently there is no effective way of administering resolvin D1 to patients.

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July, 2012
A survey by the Korn/Ferry Institute showed that 95 percent of female professionals think raising children has provided them with unique skills portable to the workplace or locked in a drawer or closet:

- Their top transferable skills, according to respondents who were queried in mid-May, are motivating and inspiring others, applying past experience in new ways and confidence.

The study also highlighted the impact that industry is making on work-life balance in a context of parenting. Nearly 80 percent of working women believe that technology has made it much easier to balance work and family by connecting them to the workplace whenever and wherever they are.

“The findings show that parenthood offers a world of training in psychology, time management and diplomacy that can easily be applied to business,” said Kathy Woods, senior partner at Korn/Ferry Leadership and Talent Consulting, and herself a mother. “And, technology is making it easier than ever for women to hold the dual roles of executive and parent.”

The respondents were evenly split on whether a “glass ceiling” still exists that limits their career progression - 27 percent said “yes”; 23 percent said “no”; and 30 percent said “maybe,” depending on the company or industry.

Women still hold fewer than 15 percent of corporate executive positions at organizations globally and earn 25 percent less than their male counterparts, according to a report to Korn/Ferry data, which shows that a pay gap still exists across all levels of leadership, even among senior management positions.

According to past Korn/Ferry research, women executives tend to excel more than their male counterparts at being:

- integrative - the ability to process complex social information and inspire others;
- socially attuned - an ability to perceive subtle signals; and
- comfortable with ambiguity - the skill to “wing it” and make “good-enough-for-now” decisions until more data becomes available.

But the future may be brighter, according to the survey, which found that 86 percent of the respondents believe females graduating from college in 2025 will have more career advancement opportunities than today’s working mothers.

City Failing Minority and Woman Businesses

A city program aimed at giving women- and minority-owned firms special access to city contracts is ineffective because of slow processing time, poor outreach and an excess of waivers that have allowed department heads to avoid reaching out to the businesses, according to an audit.

The audit by City Controller Wendy Greuel found the city’s Minority and Women Enterprise Contracting Program also suffers from a lack of central oversight and has a two-year backlog of businesses seeking to be certified.

Greuel, who is running for mayor in March 2013, said the backlog is causing small businesses opportunities to bid on contracts worth up to $100 million over a two-year period and is costing jobs at a time when the unemployment rate in Los Angeles County is above 11 percent.

“Unfortunately, the city is not doing more to help businesses create jobs,” Greuel said.

The audit found that between 2009-10, city departments were allowed 453 waivers, relieving staff from having to conduct outreach to alert women and minority-owned businesses that contracts were available.

Greuel said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa’s office set appropriate goals for awarding contracts to certified minority and small businesses, but had no way of measuring results.

Villaraigosa’s office took issue with the audit, describing it as backward looking. Mayor’s press secretary Peter Sanders said the failures described by Greuel’s audit describe a previous program that led Villaraigosa in January 2011 to create a successor initiative, dubbed the Business Inclusion Program, aimed at fixing the problems.

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WOMEN’S RIGHTS

THIRTY-SEVEN WORDS

BY SUSAN ESTRICH

It was 40 years ago that Congress passed the Education Amendments of 1972. Tucked into the bill was an amendment sponsored by then-Sen. Birch Bayh, which provided:

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

It sounds innocuous. But as Bayh recounts the story, it met with substantial opposition from the all-male Senate Judiciary Committee at the time. “They would say things like giving women equal rights to things like jobs and pay would be disruptive to the home if women were out working instead of being mothers,” he told reporters in a recent interview. “But it didn’t make sense because there were women already that were working jobs to support their families just fine.”

What turned the tide was the testimony of Rep. Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to serve in Congress. “Gentlemen, you know that I’m discriminated against all the time because I’m black. But that’s nothing compared to what a woman discriminates against all the time because I’m a woman.”

One year later, tennis great Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in the tennis match billed “The Battle of the Sexes.”

Fifty years after the passage of what became Title IX of the law, King went to Capitol Hill along with Dr. Mae Carol Jemison, the first African-American woman to go into space, and Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Rear Admiral Sandra L. Stosz to talk about how Title IX changed lives, theirs included.

Before the passage of Title IX, one in 27 girls participated in high school sports. Today, two out of five do. The number of women playing varsity sports in college has increased some 500 times. Title IX, by ending discrimination in athletic scholarships, opened the door to college for countless American girls. It has helped them to develop the strength, confidence and leadership skills that accomplished men with backgrounds in high school and college sports have long pointed to as factors in their success.

Because of the courage of the men in the United States Senate back in 1972, including Birch Bayh and Walter Mondale, because of the courage of Shirley Chisholm, because of those 37 words, the lives of girls and women changed. Yes, there are proponents of cutting back on athletics, but the studies don’t bear it out. If you insist on things like giving women equal rights to things like jobs and pay would be disruptive to the home if women were out working instead of being mothers,” he told reporters in a recent interview. “But it didn’t make sense because there were women already that were working jobs to support their families just fine.”

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From the Right

TERMINATE THE RACKET OF COLLEGE LOANS

BY PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

One of the ways to cut the big-spending binge engaged in by the federal government is to terminate the racket of college loans. It’s counterproductive, discriminatory and a bad investment for both taxpayers and students.

College-loan debt has soared to nearly a trillion dollars, more than credit-card debt or auto-loan debt. Financial commentators are beginning to compare college-loan debt to the housing bubble that nearly brought down the banking system in 2008.

However, it’s not the banks that will be the big losers if the bubble bursts. It’s the taxpayers, because the government is now on the hook for the majority of student loans. Even worse is the burden on students. The debt requires students to keep paying for a product that lacks its advertised value either in education or employment opportunities.

College education has been dumbed down to enroll more and more taxpayer-subsidized students, even if they take only remedial (aka high school) courses.

College-loan debt is a powerful deterrent to marriage and to getting on with life. Students cannot discharge the debt in bankruptcy, can’t get a job that justifies the loan and may have had a lousy education.

For years we’ve heard the propaganda line that everyone should go to college and that a college degree will improve your status in life and standard of living. Not any more.

In Obamaland, 53.6 percent of young college graduates are jobless or working jobs that do not require a college degree and don’t pay enough to retire the debt.

Making college loans more generous and easier to get does not make college more affordable. The easy availability of loans encourages colleges to raise tuition rates faster than inflation in order to rake in more taxpayer money, while discriminating against those thirsty enough to pay their own way.

The entire structure of college loans is discriminatory. It forces people who don’t want or are not able to go to college or who work to pay their own way, to contribute taxes to support those who go to college at other people’s expense, often at pricey elite colleges.

College loans seem to be based on the same pie-in-the-sky fiction that going into debt to buy a house you can’t afford is a good investment and will make you a worthier citizen. That’s another expensive lie told to gullible people by bankers and bureaucrats who should have known what they were doing.

Then there’s the problem, as reported by the Washington Post, that nearly 30 percent of students with student loans drop out of college with debt but no degree. Of those who remain in college, the majority take five or six years, thus significantly increasing their debt.

This wastes some of what should be the most productive years of an American’s life. When I went to college, carrying a full load of classes, I worked a 48-hour week to pay my own way, and I can’t figure out what today’s college students do with their non-study time.

Why do spokesmen of both political parties keep urging us to import more and more foreign college students and falsely tell us they are “the best and the brightest”? And why do we let jobs subsidized by U.S. taxpayers go to foreigners?

(Phyllis Schlafly is a lawyer, conservative political analyst and author of 20 books.)
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Tutu’s Willful Blindness

By Abraham Cooper and Yitzchok Adlerstein

When Nobel laureates speak, peace-seekers generally listen. Thankfully, Methodists recently voted for a balanced approach to the Middle East, rejecting Rev. Desmond Tutu’s support of a harsh anti-Israel resolution. Presbyterians will soon be voting on similar measures, and they too will have to weigh the appeal of Tutu’s strong “moral” censure of the Jewish state.

Tutu had worked hard to influence the vote to divest Methodist pension funds from three American companies doing business with Israel. He penned a letter to delegates at the quadrennial General Conference of the United Methodist Church, and published an op-ed in The Tampa Bay Times as the conference met. But Tutu deployed language — both recently and in the past — that crossed from political agitation to incitement.

“In our struggle against apartheid, the great supporters were Jewish people,” Tutu wrote in the past. “They almost instinctively had to be on the side of the disenfranchised, of the voiceless ones.”

Yet he also descended into rank anti-Semitism. “Whether Jews like it or not, they are a peculiar people. They can’t ever hope to be judged by the same standards which are used for other people.”

In a scathing indictment of Israel, he claimed that it has “oppressed more than the apartheid ideologues could ever dream about in South Africa.”

Could it be that Rev. Tutu has forgotten how brutal were the racial policies of apartheid? Or is he engaged in conscious retrospection when he finds that Israel — where 18 percent of citizens are Arabs who vote, criticize the government, have representatives in Knesset, attend all universities and contribute a justice to the Supreme Court — treats Arabs worse than the Afrikaaner treated blacks?

Tutu declines with prophetic rage: “God formed a very particular relationship with a particular group of people; Hebrews who were oppressed as slaves in another land. As time moved on, this people disobeyed God and time and time again the prophets had to call them back to their deepest values.”

He makes it perfectly clear that he is not speaking of the Biblical Israelites alone, but the Jews of today.

“Prophetic voices have been calling this empowered people who were once oppressed and killed, to their deepest values of justice and compassion, but they have refused to listen.”

Why does he not invoke the Bible to condemn the sins of Palestinians: terror, suicide bombing, racial incitement? Where’s the biblical fire and brimstone against those in Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq who persecute and murder Christians?

While churches are bombed and countries are cleansing themselves of Christian and other religious minorities, Rev. Tutu — and the churches pondering divestment resolutions against Israel — are silent. Where does the Nobel laureate’s animus come from?

American Jews have enjoyed decades of goodwill bridge-building with Christians. The Vatican’s 1965 Nostra Aetate, inspired by a saintly Pope who truly respected Jews, was a sea-change for the Catholic Church. Many evangelicals have been effusive in their philo-Semitism and support for Israel. But such is not the case among some Protestant denominations where classic rejection of Jews, conscious or otherwise, often persists without challenge.

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, many Christians reconsidered their relationship with Jews. Two Popes — John XXIII and John Paul II — confronted the Holocaust with honesty, and made decisive changes in Church conduct. Tutu’s encounter with the Holocaust apparently took an opposite turn.

Tutu’s mentor was Mohandas Gandhi, who had a blind spot for the lives of Jews. Faced with the rising specter of Hitler’s threats against the Jewish people, Gandhi was asked what Jews ought to do. In 1938, he essentially counseled them to commit suicide.

But instead of disappearing, three years after the liberation of Auschwitz, the Jewish people rose from the dead to declare the modern State of Israel. Six decades later, against all odds, the Jewish state thrives.

Most rank and file churchgoers have room for two narratives. They seek ways to improve the lot of their Palestinian co-religionists without rejecting the Jewish people’s right to pursue their national and spiritual future. That tolerant vision — not Tutu’s willful blindness — may be the best last hope for peace.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper is associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Rabbi Yitzchok Adlerstein is director of Interfaith Relations for the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

LA Biz Observed

Family Wealth Falls

Net worth of a median family household was $77,500 in 2010, down from $126,400 in 2007, according to the Federal Reserve, with much of that drop attributed to housing prices. Along with the loss of wealth was the loss of incomes — earnings for a median family fell by 7.7 percent. This is fairly old data, but the trend lines have not moved all that much in the past two years — again, a reflection of the still-struggling real estate market. From the NYT:

Unsurprisingly, the report is full of grim news, and although it is news from 18 months ago, fresher sources of economic data make clear that most households have since seen only modest increases, at best, in wealth and income. Despite these setbacks, consumers have continued to spend surprising amounts of money in recent years, helping to keep the economy growing at a modest pace. The survey underscores where the money is coming from: Americans are saving less for future needs and making little progress in repaying debts. The share of families saving anything over the previous year fell to 32 percent in 2010 from 56.4 percent in 2007. Other government statistics show that total savings have increased since 2007, suggesting that a smaller group of families are saving more money, while a growing number manage to save nothing.

- Mark Lacter

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I n an effort to reduce the city’s share of the rising cost of retirement for its workers, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa called for the city to move swiftly to raise the retirement age and reduce pensions and retirement health care benefits for newly hired employees.

Villaraigosa ordered the city’s top budget analyst to expedite a report detailing how the city can enact the changes.

Villaraigosa favors raising the retirement age for new civil servants from 55 to 65 years old, citing an increasing average life expectancy.

The mayor also wants to reduce the maximum amount of money retired city workers can receive through their pensions. City employees earn a percentage of their salary for each year they work and can earn up to 100 percent of the salaries at retirement.

Villaraigosa proposes that pensions be capped at 75 percent of a worker’s salary. The average worker receives a pension worth about 70 percent of their highest salary. Villaraigosa would also reduce employees’ pensions by using an average of a worker’s five years of highest salary rather than the current 12-month average.

Villaraigosa also wants to halve the maximum amount the city will pay for workers’ retirement health care from the current $1,190 per month to $596 and eliminate coverage for union retirees.

Villaraigosa asked City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana to immediately report to the city’s Executive Employee Relations Committee, which meets only in closed session to discuss city personnel issues.

The committee is comprised of the mayor, City Council President Herb Wesson, Council President Pro Temp Em Reyes, Budget Committee Chairman Paul Krekorian and Personnel Committee Chairman Paul Koretz.

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Goodman said. “The mayor is putting the burden of managing the city’s finances on the backs of current city employees.”

City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana, who is downtown to control pension costs statewide. His plan to raise the retirement age from 55 to 67 and institute a pension/401(k)-style system for new hires hasn’t been well received by Democratic legislators. And keep in mind that city unions in L.A. remain very powerful - so much so that Mayor Villaraigosa (himself a strong union guy) was unable to lay off a modest 299 employees in the last budget.

The city’s top budget analyst, City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana, reported the pre-payment will save taxpayers about $19 million.

Despite the rating agencies’ confidence in the city’s ability to pay back the loans by the end of the 2012-13 fiscal year, each of the agencies expressed concerns about the city’s long-term fiscal health.

The reports raised alarms about the city’s rising structural budget deficit, mainly from increasing pension and employee costs. The city is projected to be $216 million in the red by July 2013 and $327 million the following year.

Fitch Ratings called further pension and benefit reforms “necessary.”

“This is the city’s four-year financial projections continue to indicate a significant structural imbalance despite cost control measures that have reduced, but not closed, the gap,” the Fitch report states. “Fitch Ratings believes the structural imbalance will be difficult to resolve without significant economic improvement, a stronger taxable base, and further personnel expenditure reductions.”

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa recently called for expediting a series of pension reforms for new city employees, including raising the retirement age to 67, reducing pension payouts and requiring new hires to pay more for health care. Details about the plan are expected to come before the City Council this month.

Fitch also raised concerns about Villaraigosa’s efforts to reduce the city’s budget deficit by allowing police officers to bank accrued overtime for payout later. The move delayed more than $100 million in personnel costs, according to a Los Angeles Times analysis.

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Please keep them brief and include your name, address and daytime phone. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

The Valley Voice is published every last Tuesday of the Month.
Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month.
CityWatch
Making the World Safer for the Next Bernie Madoff
By Joe Newman

Sometimes, members of Congress follow sharebrained logic. If the consequences weren’t so serious, it would be hilarious. Consider a House bill co-sponsored by Reps. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) and Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) that would essentially let investment advisers regulate themselves. This idea stinks. Everyone knows: You don’t let the fox guard the henhouse.

Bachus and McCarthy say their Investment Adviser Oversight Act of 2012 tightens up needed supervision of large investment advisers — the people you trust to handle your retirement nest egg. It’s true that the federal oversight of investment advisers is sorely lacking. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) only regulates investment advisers handling more than $25 million in assets, while the states oversee the smaller-scale ones.

Yet the SEC is so understaffed it has never examined 40 percent of the investment advisers under its jurisdiction. The agency reviewed only 8 percent of the more than 12,600 investment advisers it oversees last year.

And while new rules will shift about 2,000 mid-size advisers (those who oversee up to $100 million in assets) to state jurisdiction at the end of June, some industry analysts say the move will do little to ease the SEC’s workload.

Here’s where this bill’s logic gets silly. Rather than address the SEC’s shortcomings by boosting its budget, it shifts responsibility for the investment advisers under SEC jurisdiction to an organization controlled and financed by Wall Street. That would probably be the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

This group, known as FINRA, suffers from an inherent conflict of interest because it collects membership fees from the very securities firms it oversees. This arrangement undermines its ability to regulate Wall Street — and its own credibility.

Compounding this conflict of interest is the financial group’s troubling lack of transparency and accountability. Even Big Business lobbies such as the Chamber of Commerce have complained that unlike the SEC, FINRA isn’t required to comply with the Freedom of Information Act, which allows it to keep many of its records hidden from journalists and watchdog groups, including my own.

Even when it does produce documents, there can be problems. An SEC administrative order issued last year found that the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority had altered minutes of its staff meetings before turning the documents over to the SEC. The agency found that it was the third time in eight years that it had tried to mislead the SEC this way.

In a letter my organization sent to the House Financial Services Committee in May, we pointed out recent examples of ties between current and former FINRA officials and firms that were later investigated or charged with fraud involving major investor losses.

Who tops that list? Bernie Madoff, the man who bilked investors of at least $64 billion in the largest Ponzi scheme ever. Not only had Madoff served as chairman of the NASDAQ stock exchange in the early 1990s, his brother, son, and niece all had ties to either FINRA or its predecessor, the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD).

While there was no indication that family members helped Madoff avoid scrutiny, it’s clear that FINRA and the SEC ignored tips that would have exposed Madoff’s scheme years earlier.

Harry Markopolos, the private financial fraud investigator credited with discovering Madoff’s scheme and reporting it to the SEC, was asked by a congressional committee if he ever considered taking his findings to NASD or FINRA. Not a chance, Markopolos said.

“What I found them to be was a very corrupt, self-regulatory organization, that if you took a fraud to them, they would ignore it as soon as they received it,” Markopolos testified. “They were there to assist [the] industry by avoiding stricter regulation from the SEC.”

And while Madoff’s scam didn’t’ trigger the financial crisis, what did bring us to the brink was risky, questionable behavior by Wall Street traders.

Incredibly, as we continue to claw our way out of the hole that Wall Street’s greed put us in, some lawmakers want to rig the system in the financial industry’s favor. Congress should reject the Bachus-McCarthy Investment Adviser Oversight bill. This is no time to loosen Wall Street oversight.

(Joe Newman is the director of communications for the Project On Government Oversight, www.pogo.org This article was provided CityWatch by OtherWords, a project of the Institute for Policy Studies ... otherwise.org)

Photo credit: David Paul Ohmer / Flickr

LOCAL LOAN FRAUD

A San Fernando Valley man faces multiple years in prison when sentenced in September for his role in a scheme to con banks out of more than $5 million by pledging properties he did not own and fabricating paperwork.

Hamlet Sardariani, 42, of Sylmar pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy and tax evasion charges before a federal judge in Riverside, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Three other members of the conspiracy previously pleaded guilty.

Hamlet Sardariani’s brother - Henrik Sardariani, 44, of Glendale — is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 6; Christopher J. Woods, 53, of Beverly Hills will be sentenced July 16; and former escrow officer Wanda Tenney, 66, of South Los Angeles is set to be sentenced Oct. 15.

According to a federal indictment, the Sardarianis created fraudulent deeds of trust, corporate records and other documents to make it appear they held title to properties in Sherman Oaks, Glendale and Burbank.

The brothers fabricated documents to create the impression that other loans on the properties had been paid off and that there was sufficient equity to secure the new loans, according to the government.

The bogus paperwork bore forged signatures and fraudulent stamps of notaries public, according to the indictment, which states that Tenney’s Access Escrow company helped process the documents.

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Mason’s Major Boys

Mason Park’s Major Boys went undefeated to win the 2012 Valley Championship in the annual March All Star Basketball Tournament. The two week tournament, hosted by L.A. City Parks and Recreation, began with 24 All Star teams in the Major’s Division—all comprised of the best players from the San Fernando and West Valleys.

Mason’s A Team (including Justin Auh, Carrington Bennett, Grant Bierling, David Fleetwood Jr., Nick Ghazarian, Devon Rojo, Russell Stong IV, and Eric Yenney) prevailed against the steep competition with 4 undefeated wins earning their way into the Valley Region Championship Game on March 31st, 2012. At the championship game, hosted by Notre Dame High School, they were victorious against Van Nuys Sherman Oaks earning individual trophies and a team banner which will hang proudly at Mason Recreation Center.

Head Coach, David Fleetwood stated: “I am very proud of these 8 boys. They have all played at Mason since they were pee weeers and to accomplish something like this together, as a community family, is a great thing.” Assistant Coach, Mark Auh, added: “It was my honor to coach these wonderful kids. They are winners in sports and life.”

Mason’s Minor Girls

Mason Park Minor Girls win valley championship defeating Balboa Park for second year in a row. (including Haylee Aiden, Irina Bermudez, Choyce Brown, Desiree Gomez, Courtney Holl, Parker Montgomery, Amanda Olinger, Zoie Stewart) Early in the tournament, Mason lost to Balboa by just two points on a shot at the buzzer.

Following that loss the girls worked extra hard to beat each and every team by at least ten points including defeating Balboa in the final game 36-23. Montgomery and Olinger were the teams leading scorers and Brown was the team’s leading re-bounder. Head Coach Russ Olinger stated “This was a great group of girls, they worked hard and followed directions and it was a pleasure and an honor to coach each and every one of them.”

For Montgomery and Olinger this will be the second minor girls banner that hangs in Mason park with their names on it. For Head Coach Olinger it was a sentimental win coaching his daughter to a championship two years in a row. For assistant coach Kevin Meyer, it was especially great to coach both his Granddaughter (Desiree) and his Niece (Amanda) to a valley championship.

Mason’s Major Boys Win 2012 Valley Championship

Left to right: Coach David Fleetwood, David Fleetwood Jr., Nick Ghazarian, Russell Stong IV, Carrington Bennett, Justin Auh, Grant Bierling, Eric Yenney, Devon Rojo, & Assistant Coach Mark Auh.

Mason’s Minor Girls Win 2012 Valley Championship

Photo left to right: Amanda Olinger, Zoie Stewart, Parker Montgomery, Courtney Holl, Choyce Brown, Haylee Aiden, Desi Gomez and Irina Bermuddez

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New Immigration Details

Southern California immigrant rights activists hailed the announcement of a federal policy change that will prevent deportation and provide work permits for some undocumented immigrants who came to the country at a young age.

“Americans will look back on this day with pride and joy when they allowed these young people to fully contribute to the growth, prosperity and strength of our great nation,” said Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles. “If what we heard is exactly what happens, it was about time.”

The policy is expected to affect about 800,000 people across the country.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the policy will apply on a case-by-case basis to undocumented immigrants who:

- came to the United States under age 16;
- are younger than 30;
- are continuously lived in the United States for at least five years;
- are enrolled in school, have graduated from high school, have obtained a general education development certificate or are honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or Armed Forces; and
- have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, multiple misdemeanors or pose a threat to national security.

Speaking at the White House, President Barack Obama said the change is aimed at people who were likely brought into the country by their parents, and in many cases did not know they were undocumented until they tried to apply for a job.

“The right thing to do,” he said. “It’s the right thing to do, honest and true, a path to citizenship or a permanent fix to the immigration system. He called it a “stop-gap measure” that gives “a degree of relief and hope to driven, patriotic young people.”

“When news of the policy change broke, some immigrant-rights advocates marched in downtown Los Angeles, hailing the announcement and calling it a good first step, but saying more needs to be done.

The announcement was met with anger by some. Obama was interrupted during his announcement by someone questioning why undocumented immigrants should be granted work permits when the nation’s unemployment rate is already high.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform issued a statement online saying the president’s announcement “is a clear indication that the Obama administration intends to grant blanket relief to illegal aliens on its own initiative, completely circumventing Congress, which has repeatedly rejected the DREAM Act over the past 10 years.”

PARCEL TAX PULLED

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education agreed to pull a proposed S298 parcel tax off the November ballot, with Superintendent John Deasy saying he didn’t want the issue to compete with Gov. Jerry Brown’s budget-balancing tax proposals.

The board in March approved plans to put the proposal before voters in November. But Deasy told the board he did not want the measure on the same ballot as Brown’s plans to raise taxes, which he said are critical to bolstering state funding for education.

“We run a risk of having too many measures before the public,” Deasy said of the November election, asserting that adding an LAUSD parcel tax would likely detract from Brown’s proposals.

Brown plans to ask voters in November to approve a bump in the state’s 7.25 percent sales tax rate to 7.5 percent, and to increase the income tax rate on people earning more than $250,000 a year.

The governor said in May that if the proposals fail, the state will have to make another $10 billion in cuts over future years.

Deasy said the district can consider the parcel tax issue again after the November vote.

The parcel tax, which would be assessed on every taxable property within the district’s boundaries, was expected to generate about $255 million a year, according to the LAUSD.

The district has been working to eliminate a $390 million budget deficit for the coming school year.
CENTER STAGE OPERA

Join Center Stage Opera on Sunday, July 1, at 6 p.m, for “Amici della Musica” at Angelo’s Ristorante Italiano in Chatsworth - an unforgettable evening of fine dining and fabulous music from the worlds of opera, musical theater and jazz. Your full-course meal includes your choice of entreé - filet of sole, four-cheese ravioli, or chicken positano with artichokes, and the entire evening is just $49, including tax and tip. Advance reservations are required, so go to www.centerstageopera.org and reserve your seats today.

UNITY CHURCH OF CHATS WORTH

The next quarterly Interfaith Prayer gathering is coming soon. Unity Church of Chatsworth invites you to join us for the Quarterly Interfaith Brunch and Concert on Sunday, July 1st from 12:15 to 3:00 p.m. The Unity Church of Chatsworth Sunday Service will be held at: Porter Valley Country Club, 19216 Singing Hills Drive in Northridge, Unity Church telephone: 818-614-1955.

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

Don’t miss the 14th Annual Shepherd of the Hills 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular on Wednesday, July 4 at Shepherd of the Hills Church, 1970 Rinaldi Street in Porter Ranch. Gates open at 4:30 pm. This free family-friendly Valley tradition is one of the largest public fireworks displays anywhere in Southern California. In addition to amazing aerial fireworks, there will be bouncers, face-painting for kids, delicious food for sale, and live music from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. There will also be a patriotic Color Guard presentation by the Civil Air Patrol Cadets to honor military service men and women on Independence Day. Seating is on the grass area. Be sure to bring lawn chairs and blankets, but no BBQs, alcohol or personal fireworks. Free parking is available at the northwest corner of Rinaldi St. and Porter Ranch Dr., in the Town Center parking lot and on the East side of Corbin Ave. For more information, visit http://www.theshepherd.org or call (818) 891-9333.

PALS GOLF

Save the date for the 33rd Annual LAPD Devonshire PALS (Police Activity League Supporters) Golf Invitational on Monday, July 9 at Porter Valley Country Club, 19216 Singing Hills Drive in Northridge. Registration starts at 7:30 am. The $200 registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and dinner, hole-in-one prize opportunities, golf cart, entry for raffle prizes, awards and goodie bags. For more information, call (818) 349-1706.

BINGO PARTY

The public is invited on Wednesday, July 11th, from 6:30pm - 9:00pm for a fun evening of Bingo. The price is $10 per person for 15 rounds of Bingo (diners get $5 off Bingo). Prizes are awarded to winners at the end of each round. This month we will meet at JAVA Centrale (a deli/cafe next to Pacific Theaters), located at the corner of Winnetka & Prairie, 9201 Winnetka Ave., Chatsworth. Plenty of free parking. Call to reserve your seats: 818-882-6437. Pay at the door.

BEGINNERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Dates: Sundays, July 5 and July 12 and Wednesday July 25th. Times: July 5: 9:30 am – Noon – Learn about your Camera; July 25, 3-7 pm – Skibar Museum for picture taking; July 25, 7-10 pm – Critique and question and answer period. Cost: $44.00 for Center members; Couples – $67.00 for Center members; $77.00 for Non-members. FREE to residents of The Village at Northridge. Partial scholarships available for Center members. Paid Reservations Required Limited Space. Call “The J”, your New Valley Jewish community Center at 818-360-2211 for more information.

BUNCO PARTY

The public is invited on Wednesday, July 18th, from 6:30pm - 9:00pm for a fun evening of Bunco. You don’t need to know how to play. We’ll teach you. The price is $5 per person to play. Prizes awarded to winners at the end of the evening. This month we will meet at SanSai Japanese Grill (next to Applebee’s), located at the corner of Winnetka & Prairie, 9243 Winnetka Ave, Chatsworth. Plenty of free parking. Call to reserve your seats: 818-882-6437. Pay at the door.

BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Granada Hills Library will host a two-day used book sale on Friday, July 20, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM; and Saturday, July 21, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The sale will take place indoors in the library’s community room. A variety of books for all ages will be available at excellent prices! Bags of books may be filled for $5.00 each. The Granada Hills Library is located at 10640 Petit Ave. in Granada Hills. The library phone number is 818-368-5687.

THE WOMEN OF LOCKERBIE

The rugged hillside of Theatricum Botanicum’s outdoor stage is a fitting setting for director Tom Story as he explores the week in which Deborah Brevoort’s powerful, poetic and uplifting drama is set. Inspired by a true story, The Women of Lockerbie is a stunning tribute to the triumph of love over hate. Now through September 29; The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, CA, 90290; $20-$33; 310-455-3723; www.theatricum.com.

MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

Case Worker Melody Jaramillo of Councilman Mitch Englander’s office reports on a great event for Valley families - National Night Out and Movies Under the Stars, on Tuesday, August 7, 6:00 pm at Northridge Park, 10058 Reseda Blvd in Northridge. For more information call Melody Jaramillo at (818) 882-1212 or email melody.jaramillo@lacity.org.

SAN MANUEL CASINO

Sunday, August 12; Time: 10:00-6:00 pm (meet at Temple Ahavat Shalom at 9:30 am) Cost: $20.00 (Includes bus, snacks and a $10.00 San Manuel Casino Card good for gaming or restaurants) “The J,” your New Valley Jewish community Center at 818-360-2211 for reservations.

PUBLIC POOLS IN LOS ANGELES OPEN

The summer swimming season is here and L.A.’s 48 public pools are now open through August 12! Admission is free for kids under 17, seniors and people with disabilities. The pools are open 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on weekdays, and are open 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends.

Our public pools are a wonderful resource, offering kids and adults in the community a great, economical way to cool off, get exercise and have fun! The City’s Aquatics facilities include regular public swimming pools with a wide variety of programs, sports and classes for children, adults and people with disabilities. The pools are open 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on weekends, and are open 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays.

The City also offers a Junior Lifeguard Training Program designed to prepare young people who are interested in pursuing a career as a Lifeguard. L.A. Public Pools for the West San Fernando Valley: GRANADA HILLS POOL, 16730 Chatsworth St., Reseda - NORTHERN POOLS, 10088 Reseda Blvd., (818) 709-9745; CANDOGA PARK - LANARK PARK, 21817 Strathern St., (818) 756-9364; VAN NUYS/SHERMAN OAKS WAR MEMORIAL PARK, 14201 Huston St., (818) 783-6721.

FARMERS MARKET

Chatsworth / Porter Ranch Farmers Market Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Farmer's Market is open every Saturday, offering delicious fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses, local honey, fresh baked goods, flowers, and a variety of arts and crafts booths. 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 10347 Mason Ave., Chatsworth There is also free live music and delectable food like Kalua pulled pork, Greek Mediterranean, tamales, family members for $5.00 each. The Granada Hills Library is located at 10640 Petit Ave. in Granada Hills. The library phone number is 818-368-5687.

OREGON DARE ART EXHIBITION

The Council District 12 office is putting out a call for submissions of artwork by Northwest region artists to be part of a community art exhibition in our Community Service Center in Chatsworth. They will display the artworks for up to six months. There is no cost involved, and the artists will receive 100% of any sales from their artwork. The works will be by artists living or working in Council District 12 in the San Fernando Valley, and they will be related to the unique culture, landscape, people, places and life of our community or the City of Los Angeles as a whole. If any artist wishes to donate proceeds from the sale of their work to support the arts in our community, CD 12 office will match the donation. For more information, call Semee Park at (818) 882-1212.

From the Right

The Dream Act Is a Nightmare
By Phyllis Schlafly

“Mr. President, why do you favor foreign workers over Americans?” That was the obvious question Barack Obama refused to answer when a reporter, doing his job, sought an answer, rather than a canned teleprompter presentation.

That is, indeed, the question that begs for an answer. And Obama simply wouldn’t answer that question, not in the middle of his remarks or at the end of his statement or at any other time.

Obama announced last month that he would grant amnesty to 800,000 young illegal aliens, instead of deporting them, as the law requires. No, he didn’t call it amnesty; he denied it was amnesty, but Americans recognize it as amnesty.

The 800,000 are aliens who were brought into the country in violation of U.S. law and have already been accorded a free elementary and secondary education paid for by the American taxpayers. Now Obama wants to reward them further by allowing them to stay in America, giving them work permits, driver’s licenses and other documents they lack.

The Pew Hispanic Center estimates that as many as 1.4 million aliens might be eligible for Obama’s new announcement. The big majority are Latinos, with about 78 percent born in Mexico.

The illegality of these young aliens living in our country is exceeded by the illegality of Obama’s action. Obviously, Obama thinks he, too, is above the law and can do by executive order what Congress has repeatedly refused to do.

As The New York Times delicately reported, “He did not consult with Congress.” Obama’s action is much more outrageous and devious than “not consulting.”

Congress has refused, year after year, to pass the legislation, colloquially known as the Dream Act, that would allow these young aliens to remain in America, to attend U.S. jobs and attend U.S. universities at preferential rates and/or even get financial aid. This is one more example of Obama thinking he can take action without the consent — indeed defying the opposition — of Congress and do what he wants anyway.

To take the measure of the Obama administration, we should refer to the unprecedented memo signed by the Attorneys General of nine states. It sets forth 21 instances when Obama or his administration has committed an unlawful or unconstitutional act.

Obama is not fooling anyone about his motives in unilaterally announcing his administration will not deport these young illegals but will give them a path to legal status and/ or even financial aid. This is one more example of Obama thinking he can take action without the consent — indeed defying the opposition — of Congress and do what he wants anyway.

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As The New York Times delicately reported, “He did not consult with Congress.” Obama’s action is much more outrageous and devious than “not consulting.”

Congress has refused, year after year, to pass the legislation, colloquially known as the Dream Act, that would allow these young aliens to remain in America, to attend U.S. jobs and attend U.S. universities at preferential rates and/ or even get financial aid. This is one more example of Obama thinking he can take action without the consent — indeed defying the opposition — of Congress and do what he wants anyway.

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