

December 5, 2010

Pickerhead needed a [Mark Steyn](#) fix. Here's one from 2004.

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*IN REALITY, as we now know, the most sensitive, most classified documents in America's National Archives are not kept in a sealed room that's ultra-motion-sensitive. They've only just introduced a security camera, and they only did that because of a pattern of national security breaches by the, er, national security adviser. Or, to be more precise, the former national security adviser for Bill Clinton, Sandy Berger.*

*Last fall, while preparing to testify to the 9/11 Commission, Sandy Berger went to the National Archives and "inadvertently" removed dozens of pages of the most classified documents by "inadvertently" stuffing them in his pants and "inadvertently" secreting them in his socks and "inadvertently" taking them home, where he "inadvertently" lost some of them, and then he "inadvertently" returned to the Archives and "inadvertently" removed other drafts of the same document. Lather, rinse and repeat, inadvertently. He "inadvertently" made improper cell phone calls from within the secure room and he "inadvertently" made a suspicious number of trips to the men's room for who knows what "inadvertent" purpose. ...*

[Charles Krauthammer](#) is appalled by the government's lack of response to the WikiLeaks.

*...At a [Monday news conference](#), Attorney General Eric Holder assured the nation that his people are diligently looking into possible legal action against WikiLeaks. Where has Holder been? The [WikiLeaks exposure of Afghan war documents](#) occurred five months ago. Holder is looking now at possible indictments? This is a country where a good prosecutor can indict a ham sandwich. Months after the first leak, Justice's thousands of lawyers have yet to prepare charges against [Julian Assange](#) and his confederates?*

*Throw the Espionage Act of 1917 at them. And if that is not adequate, if that law has been too constrained and watered down by subsequent Supreme Court rulings, then why hasn't the administration prepared new legislation adapted to these kinds of Internet-age violations of U.S. security? It's not as if we didn't know more leaks were coming. And that more leaks are coming still.*

*Think creatively. The WikiLeaks document dump is sabotage, however quaint that term may seem. We are at war - a hot war in Afghanistan where [six Americans were killed](#) just this past Monday, and a shadowy world war where enemies from Yemen to Portland, Ore., are planning holy terror. Franklin Roosevelt had [German saboteurs tried by military tribunal](#) and shot. Assange has done more damage to the United States than all six of those Germans combined. Putting U.S. secrets on the Internet, a medium of universal dissemination new in human history, requires a reconceptualization of sabotage and espionage - and the laws to punish and prevent them. Where is the Justice Department?*

*And where are the intelligence agencies on which we [lavish \\$80 billion a year](#)? Assange has gone missing. Well, he's no cave-dwelling jihadi ascetic. Find him. Start with every five-star hotel in England and work your way down. ...*

[David Warren](#) notes the irony that the NYTimes' unethical and biased actions have exposed its incompetence in reporting the news as well.

*... "It is the soul's duty to be loyal to its own desires; it must abandon itself to its master passion." Thus spoke Rebecca West, perhaps the greatest of the leftists and feminists of the last century, who did honestly wrestle with questions of treachery and betrayal. See her book, The Meaning of Treason.*

*What, I've been wondering, would Dame Rebecca have said, about the casual treachery of The New York Times, and other media who have cooperated with Wikileaks in return for advance access to their stolen documents -- as if this were a straightforward business arrangement?*

*The total hypocrisy of the Times has been exposed by several of my right-wing colleagues, who have juxtaposed the paper's various self-justifications. The Times smugly refused, for instance, to print or link any "Climategate" revelations of a global warming scam, because "the documents appear to have been acquired illegally," and "were never intended for the public eye." But when an opportunity arises to publish potentially devastating state secrets, they do so without hesitation "in the public interest." And the smugness is the same.*

*Paradoxically, these documents confirm everything the Times and like-minded media have not been reporting for the last few years. ...*

[Caroline Glick](#) covers a lot of important ground in discussing WikiLeaks.

*... The leaked documents themselves expose a profound irony. To wit: The US is unwilling to lift a finger to defend itself against an act of information warfare which exposed to the world that the US is unwilling to lift a finger to protect itself and its allies from the most profound military threats endangering international security today.*

*... THE MOST important question that arises from the entire WikiLeaks disaster is why the US refuses to defend itself and its interests. What is wrong with Washington? Why is it allowing WikiLeaks to destroy its international reputation, credibility and ability to conduct international relations and military operations? And why has it refused to contend with the dangers it faces from the likes of Iran and North Korea, Turkey, Venezuela and the rest of the members of the axis of evil that even State Department officers recognize are colluding to undermine and destroy US superpower status?*

*... THE FINAL irony of the WikiLeaks scandal is the cowardice of WikiLeaks that stands at the foundation of the story. Founded in 2006, Wikileaks was supposed to serve the cause of freedom. It claimed that it would defend dissidents in China, the former Soviet Union and other places where human rights remains an empty term. But then China made life difficult for WikiLeaks and so four years later, Assange and his colleagues declared war on the US, rightly assuming that unlike China, the US would take their attacks lying down. Why take risks to defend dissidents in a police state when it's so much easier and so much more rewarding to attempt to destroy free societies?*

*... And that brings us to the real question raised by the WikiLeaks assault on America. Can democracies today protect themselves? In the era of leftist political correctness with its founding principle that Western power is evil and that the freedom to harm democracies is inviolate, can democracies defend their security and national interests?*

**John Fund** points out where the Obami will continue to attack American businesses.

*...On Sept. 22, Labor's Office of the Solicitor—which employs 400 attorneys to enforce the nation's labor laws—issued a draft "operating plan" to dramatically increase pressure on employers. ...*

*...But while the Department of Labor prepares for a hyper-aggressive enforcement strategy against business, it has rolled back Bush-era reforms mandating greater union transparency. Just this week the department rescinded its Form T-1, which required unions to report on strike funds and other accounts under union control.*

*The Labor Department is also planning to transfer responsibility for whistleblower investigations from OSHA (which currently has 80 investigators on this beat) to the Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS), which oversees union financial integrity. But the Obama administration has severely cut funding and staff for OLMS. There are 187 OLMS investigators, down from 223 last year. With additional responsibilities, the office's ability to investigate embezzlements and union corruption will be further hindered. ...*

*...Bill Wilson, president of Americans for Limited Government, a government watchdog group that monitors union issues, says Labor's new approach should trigger oversight hearings by the new GOP House. "But that won't be enough," he predicts. "The solicitor's budget at Labor will have to be kept in check."*

**David Harsanyi** has another classic, this time on taxes.

*Few displays of phony generosity and bogus earnestness are more irritating than watching a stinking rich tycoon advocating that others shell out more in taxes.*

*"People at the high end, people like myself, should be paying a lot more in taxes. We have it better than we've ever had it," explained Warren Buffett, who must be aware that "people like him" number somewhere in the low single digits.*

*But, please, go for it, Mojambo. Hand it over if you're feeling compelled. And if your "please-tax-me-more" companion Bill Gates feels equally bonded to the virtues of federal revenue streams, he can always divert some of that foundation funding from the private sector to the IRS — where the magic really happens.*

*"Rich" families with two student loans, mortgages, outrageous property taxes and young children they can't send to the awful local public schools are, undoubtedly, indebted to you guys for finally speaking up. ...*

*...Anyway, if tax cuts do not generate economic activity, as most liberals contend, why limit tax hikes to the rich?...Surely some in the middle class can afford to pay more. ...*

**Peter Schiff** indicts the myriad government interventions that circumvent market corrections and prevent economic recovery.

*Today's payroll report severely disappointed on the downside and left economists scratching their heads to explain the weakness. The explanation, however, is plain as day. As I have been saying for years, the US economy will not create jobs as long as the Fed keeps interest rates artificially low, and Congress keeps stimulating spending and consumer debt, punishing employers with mandates, regulations, and taxes, crowding out private investment with massive government borrowing, and preventing market forces from restructuring our out-of-balance economy.*

*...No doubt the 9.8% unemployment rate (17% when counting the under-employed or discouraged workers) will spark another extension of unemployment benefits, which will provide yet additional incentives for the unemployed not to work. In addition, we will likely get another round of stimulus – paid for with higher budget deficits – that will further hinder the capital investment and business formation necessary to produce sustainable jobs. Then, the inflation created by the Fed to finance those deficits will send consumer prices higher, making life that much harder for all Americans, regardless of their employment status.*

*...If printing money and doling it out to the unemployed could create growth and jobs, why hasn't it already worked? After all, we have already extended benefits to 99 weeks. Where are all the jobs? Also, if every dollar of unemployment benefits generates two dollars of growth, as our legislators claim, why not double or triple the benefits? In fact, why limit them to the unemployed? Just give the benefits to everyone – then we will really get this economy going.*

*Politicians cannot create economic growth at will simply by doling out money. If it could, the Soviets would have won the Cold War. ...*

**Jennifer Rubin** anticipates an interesting 2011 Senate session.

*...The numbers that matter are 23 (Democrats plus independents up for re-election in 2012), 47 (total Senate Republicans) and 60 (the cloture minimum). The name of the game for those 23 will be to balance partisan loyalty against electoral self-interest. From a self-interest standpoint, many of them will feel extreme pressure to join with the 47 Republicans on everything from taxes to health care to regulation.*

*...it's "the most serious class" he's seen entering the Senate since he arrived on the Hill 14 years ago. Since voters last month rejected a number of Tea Party-backed Republican candidates -- Sharron Angle, Ken Buck, Joe Miller and Christine O'Donnell -- most of the incoming Republicans are rather mainstream and experienced. They include two former congressmen (Pat Toomey and Mark Kirk), a state house speaker (Marco Rubio), a Bush administration veteran (Rob Portman), a popular governor (John Hoeven), a state attorney general (Kelly Ayotte), a veteran senator and former ambassador to Germany (Dan Coats) and a small businessman who, as one advisor put it, "got pissed off" at what was happening to the country (Ron Johnson). Yes, there is Rand Paul, but he's sounding more like a mainstream Republican than a wide-eyed radical these days. And a number of Capitol Hill Republican can't hide their delight that quirky figures such as Arlen Specter and George Voinovich are being replaced by more serious, reliable conservatives.*

*Moreover, adversity has bred unity on the Republican side. Each Republican, including the Maine senators, knows what it feels like to have debate cut off by Democrats and to be left with nothing for their constituents. Sen. Susan Collins was left out in the cold on small business issues. Sen. Olympia Snowe was infuriated at one point over what she deemed abuse of Senate rules by the majority. That has fostered a certain solidarity, as evidenced by this week's letter in which all 42 Republicans vowed to filibuster bills before tax and government financing measure are completed.*

*...The Senate will be the most unpredictable, and, therefore, the most interesting player on the political scene come January. Will the hapless Reid control the body, or will a fluid coalition of red state Democrats and Republicans led by McConnell run the show? Stay tuned.*

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## Steyn on Line (First appeared in Jerusalem Post August 2004)

### America's 'Mission Impossible'

by Mark Steyn

One of the many charming aspects of Hollywood movies is the way they'd have you believe that US government agencies are far more omniscient than they really are.

For example, in the 1997 version of *The Jackal*, Bruce Willis starts out in Europe, gets a contract to kill some bigwig in Washington, and then flies to Montreal to embark on his elaborate preparations for crossing the Canadian-US border. These involve wearing a peroxide wig, pretending to be gay, posing as a Canuck exporter, buying a boat and, halfway across Lake Michigan, re-flagging it, adopting a new identity and slipping unobtrusively into a regatta heading toward the US shore. Needless to say, this foolproof plan, worked out to the tiniest detail, immediately attracts the attention of the FBI.

Wouldn't it have been easier just to drive across? Back then, the border post between La Patrie, Quebec and Pittsburgh, New Hampshire was unmanned for 15 hours a day. And, even in the manned hours, you hardly ever got asked to show any ID, and the one time I did I only had on me a non-computerized cardboard town library card with my name squiggled on it in the quavery hand of the elderly librarian.

As for the FBI picking up Willis's scent, compare that with the alert the Bureau issued in the run-up to New Year's Eve 2002. Various government spokespersons from the president down urged Americans to be on the look-out for five highly suspicious men. Here's what they knew about them: They may have entered the United States. Or maybe they hadn't. They may have been using false British passports. Or they may have had some other form of documentation. They may have crossed over from Canada. Or they may have come via some other route entirely. Or they may not be in North America at all. But they're somewhere on the planet, and they look like the five guys in these photographs. Except for the one that turned out to be a jeweler in Lahore who's never been to the United States.

But if that jeweler in Lahore did ever want to come to America, I don't think he'd need to buy an expensive boat and blend into a flotilla crossing Lake Michigan.

Here's another example. In *Mission Impossible*, to get hold of top-secret classified information Tom Cruise has to break into CIA headquarters, crawl through the ventilation shaft, suspend himself from the ceiling, and hack into the computer. The whole room is hermetically sealed and ultra-motion-sensitive and ultra-heat-sensitive. So if Tom's dainty little foot brushes the floor or he starts to perspire heavily, the alarms will go off and all hell will break loose.

IN REALITY, as we now know, the most sensitive, most classified documents in America's National Archives are not kept in a sealed room that's ultra-motion-sensitive. They've only just introduced a security camera, and they only did that because of a pattern of national security breaches by the, er, national security adviser. Or, to be more precise, the former national security adviser for Bill Clinton, Sandy Berger.

Last fall, while preparing to testify to the 9/11 Commission, Sandy Berger went to the National Archives and "inadvertently" removed dozens of pages of the most classified documents by "inadvertently" stuffing them in his pants and "inadvertently" secreting them in his socks and "inadvertently" taking them home, where he "inadvertently" lost some of them, and then he "inadvertently" returned to the Archives and "inadvertently" removed other drafts of the same

document. Lather, rinse and repeat, inadvertently. He "inadvertently" made improper cell phone calls from within the secure room and he "inadvertently" made a suspicious number of trips to the men's room for who knows what "inadvertent" purpose.

It remains to be seen whether Pantsgate has legs. Aside from Berger's, I mean. The dopey old US media is unconcerned by all those bathroom breaks and seems to think the only suspicious leak is the story itself. But that doesn't alter the fact – that Berger has admitted the illegal removal and loss of highly classified documents relating to the war on terror.

What kind of documents? Well, here's a clue, from the official 9/11 report released last week: "In the margin next to Clarke's suggestion to attack al-Qaida facilities in the week before January 1, 2000, Berger wrote, 'No.'" Berger was scribbling "No" in the margin of rather a lot of memos in those days. On three other occasions – May 1998, June 1999, August 2000 – he nixed plans to capture or kill Bin Laden. One assumes he feels that this reflects poorly on him – hence, his frequent visits to the National Archives last autumn to cover his ass, literally. He didn't need to crawl through the ventilation shaft and hang suspended from the ceiling. He just shoveled the stuff in his gusset and walked out.

If those real-life Federal agencies were like their silver screen versions, trusting the government to save us might make sense. But almost all bureaucracies by their nature are careless and arthritic lower down the ranks and full of self-serving posterior-coverers at the top.

Three years after 9/11, the official report confirms what most of us knew within a week – that on a day when every big-name Federal agency flopped spectacularly, a random sample of US citizens aboard that fourth plane, Flight 93, responded more swiftly and effectively to the threat than the entire US government. They did behave like action stars and, if Hollywood weren't a bunch of counter-tribalist Michael Moorons, they'd have made a blockbuster movie about them by now.

Whether or not any of the 9/11 Commission's proposals make a difference, I know for certain what won't: Sandy Berger looked on terrorism as an exercise in law enforcement as does John Kerry, to whom he was an adviser. Berger approached the question of seizing Bin Laden legalistically, and so it never happened.

Bin Laden, by contrast, wasn't the least bit legalistic, and so he did pretty much what he wanted. That's usually how it goes. At the National Archives, when Sandy Berger discovered something sufficiently important to him to cease playing by the legal niceties, he too did what he wanted and may yet get away with it.

In the fall of yet another Kerry adviser, there's a lesson here for the candidate: conventional wisdom from the Nineties isn't going to cut it. How does the candidate propose to win the war on terror? He's not saying. But if he's planning to go back to the Berger way, that truly is Mission Impossible.

## Washington Post

### [WikiLeaks founder Assange ought to be hiding from America](#)

by Charles Krauthammer

It is understandable for the administration to underplay the significance of the [WikiLeaks State Department cables](#). But while it is wise not to go into a public panic, it is delusional to think that this is merely embarrassing gossip and indiscretion. The leaks have done major damage.

First, quite specific damage to our war-fighting capacity. Take [just one revelation](#) among hundreds: The Yemeni president and deputy prime minister are quoted as saying that they're letting the United

States bomb al-Qaeda in their country, while claiming that the bombing is the government's doing. Well, that cover is pretty well blown. And given the unpopularity of the Sanaa government's tenuous cooperation with us in the war against al-Qaeda, this will undoubtedly limit our freedom of action against its Yemeni branch, [identified by the CIA as the most urgent terrorist threat](#) to U.S. security.

Second, we've suffered a major blow to our ability to collect information. Talking candidly to a U.S. diplomat can now earn you headlines around the world, reprisals at home, or worse. Success in the war on terror depends on being trusted with other countries' secrets. Who's going to trust us now?

Third, this makes us look bad, very bad. But not in the way Secretary of State Hillary Clinton implied in her [cringe-inducing apology speech](#) in which she scolded these awful leakers for having done a disservice to "the international community," and plaintively deplored how this hampers U.S. attempts to bring about a better world.

She sounded like a cross between an exasperated school principal and a Miss America contestant professing world peace to be her fondest wish. The problem is not that the purloined cables exposed U.S. hypocrisy or double-dealing. Good God, that's the essence of diplomacy. That's what we do; that's what everyone does. Hence the famous aphorism that a diplomat is an honest man sent abroad to lie for his country.

Nothing new here. What *is* notable, indeed shocking, is the administration's torpid and passive response to the leaks. What's appalling is the helplessness of a superpower that not only cannot protect its own secrets but shows the world that if you violate its secrets - massively, wantonly and maliciously - there are no consequences.

The cat is out of the bag. The cables are public. Deploing them or trying to explain them away, a la Clinton, is merely pathetic. It's time to show a little steel. To show that such miscreants don't get to walk away.

At a [Monday news conference](#), Attorney General Eric Holder assured the nation that his people are diligently looking into possible legal action against WikiLeaks. Where has Holder been? The [WikiLeaks exposure of Afghan war documents](#) occurred five months ago. Holder is looking *now* at possible indictments? This is a country where a good prosecutor can indict a ham sandwich. Months after the first leak, Justice's thousands of lawyers have yet to prepare charges against [Julian Assange](#) and his confederates?

Throw the Espionage Act of 1917 at them. And if that is not adequate, if that law has been too constrained and watered down by subsequent Supreme Court rulings, then why hasn't the administration prepared new legislation adapted to these kinds of Internet-age violations of U.S. security? It's not as if we didn't know more leaks were coming. And that more leaks are coming still.

Think creatively. The WikiLeaks document dump is sabotage, however quaint that term may seem. We are at war - a hot war in Afghanistan where [six Americans were killed](#) just this past Monday, and a shadowy world war where enemies from Yemen to Portland, Ore., are planning holy terror. Franklin Roosevelt had [German saboteurs tried by military tribunal](#) and shot. Assange has done more damage to the United States than all six of those Germans combined. Putting U.S. secrets on the Internet, a medium of universal dissemination new in human history, requires a reconceptualization of sabotage and espionage - and the laws to punish and prevent them. Where is the Justice Department?

And where are the intelligence agencies on which we [lavish \\$80 billion a year](#)? Assange has gone missing. Well, he's no cave-dwelling jihadi ascetic. Find him. Start with every five-star hotel in England and work your way down.

Want to prevent this from happening again? Let the world see a man who can't sleep in the same bed on consecutive nights, who fears the long arm of American justice. I'm not advocating that we bring out of retirement the KGB proxy who, on a London street, killed a Bulgarian dissident with a poisoned umbrella tip. But it would be nice if people like Assange were made to worry every time they go out in the rain.

## Ottawa Citizen Treason and Wikileaks

by David Warren

Can there be such a thing as treason?

This is a question no one thought to ask, or at least no one sane, until recently. But part of the general insanity that has come from loss of faith -- in God, then progressively in everything else -- is the questioning of such things in isolation.

Does the state, under whose protection we live, have any claim on our loyalty, whatever? Do the men and women who have died, and generations that have made sacrifices for our very existence, have any moral claim upon us? Or are they simply disposable extensions of our own ego?

The questions in that last paragraph are not entirely rhetorical; not today. I am asking them by way of explaining what I mean by "questioning in isolation."

We live, today, under opinion-forming elites that will very glibly ask and answer a question, as if it stands by itself; as if everything that follows from the question can be ignored. They are the intellectual descendants of people who, on this issue, advanced the notion that one's loyalty to a friend, or to one's current squeeze, must trump the most solemn obligations of honour, and therefore exempt one from making unpleasant sacrifices. This is a view unintentionally presented in its full fatuity in the novel, *The English Patient*, by the second-rate Canadian writer, Michael Ondaatje.

"It is the soul's duty to be loyal to its own desires; it must abandon itself to its master passion." Thus spoke Rebecca West, perhaps the greatest of the leftists and feminists of the last century, who did honestly wrestle with questions of treachery and betrayal. See her book, *The Meaning of Treason*.

What, I've been wondering, would Dame Rebecca have said, about the casual treachery of *The New York Times*, and other media who have cooperated with Wikileaks in return for advance access to their stolen documents -- as if this were a straightforward business arrangement?

The total hypocrisy of the Times has been exposed by several of my right-wing colleagues, who have juxtaposed the paper's various self-justifications. The Times smugly refused, for instance, to print or link any "Climategate" revelations of a global warming scam, because "the documents appear to have been acquired illegally," and "were never intended for the public eye." But when an opportunity arises to publish potentially devastating state secrets, they do so without hesitation "in the public interest." And the smugness is the same.

Paradoxically, these documents confirm everything the Times and like-minded media have not been reporting for the last few years.



That Arab leaders have been begging the U.S. to take military action against Iran, or at least stop appeasing a regime they compare to Hitler's; that Egypt fears Hamas more than Israel; that Iran rearms Hezbollah in Lebanon under cover of the Red Cross; that Iran and Syria are hand in glove; that North Korea has been trading lethal weaponry to Iran, with Chinese encouragement; that the Turkish government is alarmingly Islamist, and has become a cuckoo in the nest of NATO; that the Emir of Qatar is double-dealing -- all these things which "paranoid right wing" types such as yours truly have long known (and been reporting in this column) -- are confirmed in the documents.

One might express frustration, that U.S. diplomatic, military, and intelligence agencies did not make much of this public, long ago. For it has struck me, repeatedly, that the U.S. government has been fighting world opinion with two hands tied behind its back.

All this can be fairly stated, and yet it does not change the nature of the crime. A conscious act of treason has been performed -- very smugly -- and there is yet no prospect that anything will be done about it. Wikileaks continues to publish privileged U.S. diplomatic traffic day by day, with the full cooperation of the world's "progressive" media, and with the impunity that is granted by an elite "liberal" culture, which lives in something like Michael Ondaatje's moral universe.

Which is unfortunately the alternative universe from which Barack Obama stepped, when he became president. He evidently does not have the intellectual equipment to understand the grave duties he has assumed. And that includes the duty to do something about open acts of treason.

## Jerusalem Post

### [The WikiLeaks challenge](#)

*In the era of leftist political correctness, can democracies defend their security and national interests?*

by Caroline Glick

Make no mistake about it, the ongoing **WikiLeaks** operation against the US is an act of war. It is not merely a criminal offense to publish hundreds of thousands of classified US government documents with malice aforethought. It is an act of sabotage.

Like acts of kinetic warfare on military battlefields, WikiLeaks' information warfare against the US aims to weaken the US. By exposing US government secrets, it seeks to embarrass and discredit America in a manner that makes it well nigh impossible for the US to carry out either routine diplomacy or build battlefield coalitions to defeat its enemies

So far WikiLeaks has published more than 800,000 classified US documents. It has exposed classified information about US operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and it has divulged 250,000 diplomatic cables.

One of the most distressing aspects of the WikiLeaks operation is the impotent US response to it. This operation has been going on since April. And the US had foreknowledge of the attack in the weeks and months before it began. And yet, the US has taken no effective steps to defend itself. Pathetically, the most it has been able to muster to date is the issuance of an international arrest warrant against WikiLeaks spokesman Julian Assange on rape charges in Sweden.

The US has not taken down the website. Aside from the US Army soldier Pfc Bradley Manning who

leaked most of the documents to the website, no one has been arrested. And the US appears impotent to prevent the website from carrying through on its latest threat to publish new documents aimed at weakening the US economy next month.

Neither US President Barack Obama nor any of his top advisers has had anything relevant or useful to say about this onslaught. Defense Secretary **Robert Gates** assured journalists that the damage caused by publishing US operations on the battlefield, classified reports of meetings with and assessments of foreign heads of state and other highly sensitive information will have no long lasting impact on US power or status.

Ignoring the fact that the operation is aimed specifically against America, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said it was “an attack on the international community.”

While the expressed aim of the attackers is to weaken the US, Obama’s spokesman Robert Gibbs called them “criminals, first and foremost.” And US Attorney-General Eric Holder said he’s checking the law books to figure out how to prosecute WikiLeaks personnel.

The leaked documents themselves expose a profound irony. To wit: The US is unwilling to lift a finger to defend itself against an act of information warfare which exposed to the world that the US is unwilling to lift a finger to protect itself and its allies from the most profound military threats endangering international security today.

In spite of the unanimity of the US’s closest Arab allies that Iran’s nuclear installations must be destroyed militarily – a unanimity confirmed by the documents revealed by WikiLeaks – the US has refused to take action. Instead it clings to a dual strategy of sanctions and engagement that everyone recognizes has failed repeatedly and has no chance of future success.

In spite of proof that North Korea is transferring advanced ballistic missiles to Iran through China, again confirmed by the illegally released documents, the US continues to push a policy of engagement based on a belief that there is value to China’s vote for sanctions against Iran in the UN Security Council. It continues to push a policy predicated on its unfounded faith that China is interested in restraining North Korea.

In spite of the fact that US leaders including Gates recognize that Turkey is not a credible ally and that its leaders are radical Islamists, as documented in the classified documents, the US has agreed to sell Turkey a hundred F-35s. The US continues to support Turkish membership in the EU and of course embraces Turkey as a major NATO ally.

The publication of the US’s true feelings about Turkey has not made a dent in its leaders’ unwillingness to contend with reality. On the heels of the WikiLeaks exposure of thousands of documents from the US Embassy in Ankara discussing Turkish animosity towards America, Clinton flew to Turkey for the first leg of what *The New York Times* referred to as an “international contrition tour.”

There she sucked up to the likes of Turkish Foreign Minister and Islamist ideologue Ahmet Davutoglu, who was kind enough to agree with Clinton’s assertion that the publication of the State Department cables was “the 9/11 of diplomacy.”

THE MOST important question that arises from the entire WikiLeaks disaster is why the US refuses to defend itself and its interests. What is wrong with Washington? Why is it allowing WikiLeaks to destroy its international reputation, credibility and ability to conduct international relations and military operations? And why has it refused to contend with the dangers it faces from the likes of Iran and

North Korea, Turkey, Venezuela and the rest of the members of the axis of evil that even State Department officers recognize are colluding to undermine and destroy US superpower status?

The answer appears to be twofold. First, there is an issue of cowardice.

American leaders are afraid to fight their enemies. They don't want a confrontation with Iran or North Korea, or Venezuela or Turkey for that matter, because they don't want to deal with difficult situations with no easy answers or silver bullets to make problems disappear.

WikiLeaks showed that there is no **Israel** lobby plotting to bring the US into a war to serve Jewish interests. There is something approaching an international consensus that Iran is the head of the snake that must be cut off, as the Saudi potentate described it.

Yet that consensus opinion has fallen on deaf American ears for the past seven years. This despite the fact that both the Bush administration and the Obama administration certainly recognized that if the US were to attack Iran's nuclear installations or help Israel do so, despite all the theater of public handwringing and finger-wagging at Israel, the Arabs and the Europeans and Asians would celebrate the operation.

THE SECOND explanation for this behavior is ideological. The Obama administration will not take concerted action against WikiLeaks because doing so will compromise its adherence to leftist politically correct nostrums.

Those views assert that there is something fundamentally wrong with the assertion of US power and therefore the US has no right to defend itself. Moreover, nothing the Arabs or any other non-Western governments do is a function of their will. Rather it is a function of their response to US or Israeli aggression.

So it is that in the wake of the WikiLeaks disclosures that put paid the fiction that Israel is behind the fuss over Iran's nuclear weapons program, Juan Cole, the anti-Israel ideologue and conspiracy theorist favored by the Obama administration, published an article in *The Guardian* proclaiming that Israel is to blame for Saudis' fear of Iran. If the Arab masses weren't so worked up over Israeli aggression in Gaza, he claimed, the Saudi leadership wouldn't have been upset about Iran.

It is this sort of non sequitur that allows the Obama administration to continue pretending that the world is not a hard place and that there are no problems that cannot be solved by pressuring Israel.

So too, Fred Kaplan at *Slate* online magazine claimed that the leaks showed that the Obama administration's foreign policy is successful because it succeeded in getting China on board with UN sanctions against Iran. But of course, what the documents show is that China is breaching those sanctions, rendering the entire exercise at the UN worthless.

And the Left's voice of "reason," the *New York Times* editorial page, lauded the Obama administration for its courage in rejecting the pleas of Arab states and Israel and fiddling while Iranian centrifuges spin. According to the *Times*, true courage consists of defying reality, strategic necessity and allies to defend the dogmas of political correctness.

Perhaps the best way to demonstrate how fecklessly the US is behaving is by comparing its actions to those of Israel, which suffered a similar, if far smaller case of data theft earlier this year.

In April, the public learned that towards the end of her IDF service, a secretary in the office of the commander of Central Command named Anat Kamm copied some 2,000 highly secret documents

onto her zip drive. After leaving the army she was hired as a reporter by the far-left Walla news portal, which was then partially owned by the far-left *Haaretz* newspaper. Kamm gave the documents she stole to *Haaretz* reporter Uri Blau, who began publishing them in November 2008.

*Haaretz* used its considerable power to discredit the investigation of Kamm and Blau by falsely telling foreign reporters that the story was an issue of press freedom and that Kamm was being persecuted as a journalist rather than investigated for treason she committed while serving in the military.

In the face of the predictable international outcry, Israel stuck to its guns. Kamm is on trial for stealing state secrets with the intent of harming state security and Blau, who fled to London, returned to Israel with the stolen documents.

While there is much to criticize in Israel's handling of the case, there is no doubt that despite its international weakness, Israeli authorities did not shirk their duty to defend state secrets.

THE FINAL irony of the WikiLeaks scandal is the cowardice of WikiLeaks that stands at the foundation of the story. Founded in 2006, Wikileaks was supposed to serve the cause of freedom. It claimed that it would defend dissidents in China, the former Soviet Union and other places where human rights remains an empty term. But then China made life difficult for WikiLeaks and so four years later, Assange and his colleagues declared war on the US, rightly assuming that unlike China, the US would take their attacks lying down. Why take risks to defend dissidents in a police state when it's so much easier and so much more rewarding to attempt to destroy free societies?

Assange and company are hardly the first to take this course. Human Rights Watch, created to fight for those crushed under the Soviet jackboot, now spends its millions of George Soros dollars to help terrorists in their war against the US and Israel. Amnesty International forgot long ago that it was founded to help prisoners of police states and instead devotes itself to attacking the imaginary evils of the Jewish state and Western democracies.

And that brings us to the real question raised by the WikiLeaks assault on America. Can democracies today protect themselves? In the era of leftist political correctness with its founding principle that Western power is evil and that the freedom to harm democracies is inviolate, can democracies defend their security and national interests?

**WSJ**

### **Government By Executive Order**

***A new Labor Department plan shows the president still has wide power to implement an anti-business agenda.***

by John Fund

Because President Obama will now have a tough time getting his liberal agenda through a more Republican Congress, many Democrats are urging him to ram it through using the executive branch's unilateral power.

John Podesta, head of the Center for American Progress, even issued a list of executive orders and rule-makings last month that Mr. Obama can use to "push the country to a better place." If the Department of Labor is representative, his advice is in sync with moves already under way.

On Sept. 22, Labor's Office of the Solicitor—which employs 400 attorneys to enforce the nation's labor laws—issued a draft "operating plan" to dramatically increase pressure on employers. A source inside the department says the plan has been adopted.

Patricia Smith, who heads the solicitor's office, told me in an interview yesterday that the plan is a "living document" that will "never be finalized." Whatever its status, it includes the following:

- "Identify a public affairs liaison in each Regional Office" to "send stronger, clearer messages to the regulated community about DOL's emphasis on litigation."

One tactic to be employed by the department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) division will be to "deter [employers] through shaming." Ms. Smith told me she didn't know what that means. But whatever it might involve, it doesn't sound appropriate for an agency charged with carrying out the law in an even-handed fashion.

- "Engage in enterprise-wide enforcement." Ms. Smith said that means targeting multiple work sites of the same company. A department source says it also is likely to involve enforcement agents from the Wage and Hour Division and from OSHA showing up at the same time. The plan also calls for "Imposing shorter deadlines for implementing remedial measures in conciliation agreements and consent decrees."

- "Engage in greater use of injunctive relief," which means using court injunctions rather than fines to enforce compliance. The department plan also wants to "identify and pursue test cases" that could stretch the meaning of the law.

All of this is in stark contrast to the approach of the previous administration. "Laws and regulations at the local, state and federal level are a dizzying array of sometimes conflicting requirements," Elaine Chao, the secretary of labor from 2001 to 2009, told me. "The best way to protect workers is to help employers understand their legal obligations and promote collaborative working relationships between employers and workers on safety and other issues."

Ms. Chao points to the fruits of what she claims was a more balanced approach: Workplace injuries and illnesses declined by 21% beginning in 2002, both reaching all-time lows by the end of the Bush administration.

But while the Department of Labor prepares for a hyper-aggressive enforcement strategy against business, it has rolled back Bush-era reforms mandating greater union transparency. Just this week the department rescinded its Form T-1, which required unions to report on strike funds and other accounts under union control.

The Labor Department is also planning to transfer responsibility for whistleblower investigations from OSHA (which currently has 80 investigators on this beat) to the Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS), which oversees union financial integrity. But the Obama administration has severely cut funding and staff for OLMS. There are 187 OLMS investigators, down from 223 last year. With additional responsibilities, the office's ability to investigate embezzlements and union corruption will be further hindered.

This work is important. Since 2001, OLMS investigations have resulted in 972 indictments for various financial misdeeds, with 905 of them resulting in convictions. As a result, \$88 million in restitution was made to rank-and-file union members.

Bill Wilson, president of Americans for Limited Government, a government watchdog group that monitors union issues, says Labor's new approach should trigger oversight hearings by the new GOP House. "But that won't be enough," he predicts. "The solicitor's budget at Labor will have to be kept in check."

## Denver Post

### [The rich can afford it; can we?](#)

by David Harsanyi

Few displays of phony generosity and bogus earnestness are more irritating than watching a stinking rich tycoon advocating that others shell out more in taxes.

"People at the high end, people like myself, should be paying a lot more in taxes. We have it better than we've ever had it," explained Warren Buffett, who must be aware that "people like him" number somewhere in the low single digits.

But, please, go for it, Mojambo. Hand it over if you're feeling compelled. And if your "please-tax-me-more" companion Bill Gates feels equally bonded to the virtues of federal revenue streams, he can always divert some of that foundation funding from the private sector to the IRS — where the magic really happens.

"Rich" families with two student loans, mortgages, outrageous property taxes and young children they can't send to the awful local public schools are, undoubtedly, indebted to you guys for finally speaking up.

Let's just call it what it is, though. We may still live in a free, capitalistic society, but taxation policy has long been instilled with progressive moral purpose. Taxation is the most accessible and politically viable way to "spread it around."

Economists and politicians can argue all day about the effects of pending tax increases. They can argue that continuing the Bush-era tax cuts for everyone, including the rich — filthy immoral scoundrels that they are — will create jobs. They can quarrel about that sweet spot for tax rates. Some of us may contend that the estate tax is nothing more than a tidy way to confiscate private property. We can argue about a lot of things.

That's today. If we continue to increase the disparity in taxation, we add a host of problems.

Right now, the top 1 percent of earners pay more in income tax than the bottom 90 percent (the top 20 percent pay almost all federal taxes). Some economists argue that as revenue streams become more reliant on the fortunes of the few, the economy becomes increasingly more volatile. We also know that Washington will always avoid fundamental changes in spending when there is always an easy revenue stream to tap.

Perhaps the most damaging aspect of it all, however, is that progressive taxation creates an irresponsible electorate. We seem a tad bit disconnected from the cost of all the utopian voting we do.

But we bought it. Why should we be denied the honor of paying for it? What will be the bulwark against the evils of caffeinated alcoholic beverages? Who will have the moral fortitude to extend unemployment benefits in perpetuity? Who, I ask, will provide free health care and education for everyone?

Let's all pony up. Together.

After all, it wasn't only the rich who voted for those Republicans who took a budget surplus and turned it into a huge deficit. And it certainly wasn't only millionaires who voted for those Democrats who took that large debt and placed it on a trajectory that will have us measuring it in the sextillions.

Anyway, if tax cuts do not generate economic activity, as most liberals contend, why limit tax hikes to the rich? Being in the middle class does not guarantee that you're a productive citizen (I can attest to that personally). Surely some in the middle class can afford to pay more.

Now, even though I happen to believe Buffett and Gates would do this nation a favor if they kept their money flowing into Microsoft or Berkshire Hathaway — or built another 66,000-square-foot home in the Pacific Northwest — I have no doubt that billionaires can afford to pay a bit more in taxes.

But it's not the rich we should be worried about.

## **Euro Pacific Capital** **More Stimulus Means Fewer Jobs** by Peter Schiff

Today's payroll report severely disappointed on the downside and left economists scratching their heads to explain the weakness. The explanation, however, is plain as day. As I have been saying for years, the US economy will not create jobs as long as the Fed keeps interest rates artificially low, and Congress keeps stimulating spending and consumer debt, punishing employers with mandates, regulations, and taxes, crowding out private investment with massive government borrowing, and preventing market forces from restructuring our out-of-balance economy.

As new data comes in that continues to bolster my hypothesis, the politicians in Washington continue to follow the wrong diagnosis, while ignoring evidence that their policy prescription has failed. Rather than reassessing the effectiveness of their remedy, they are merely prescribing more of the same.

No doubt the 9.8% unemployment rate (17% when counting the under-employed or discouraged workers) will spark another extension of unemployment benefits, which will provide yet additional incentives for the unemployed not to work. In addition, we will likely get another round of stimulus — paid for with higher budget deficits — that will further hinder the capital investment and business formation necessary to produce sustainable jobs. Then, the inflation created by the Fed to finance those deficits will send consumer prices higher, making life that much harder for all Americans, regardless of their employment status.

All the talk in Washington that demand must be stimulated to create jobs is farcical. The news reports of mobs of shoppers trampling over each other to fill their carts shows there is plenty of demand. What is truly lacking in our economy is supply. Those mobs are still filling their carts almost exclusively with imported products. If it were true that demand creates jobs, we would be at full employment right now, but the truth is that demand is meaningless without the productive means to supply the goods.

It's ironic that extending unemployment benefits, one of the reasons unemployment remains so high in the first place, is actually being touted as a jobs bill. Keynesian proponents argue that giving money

to unemployed people will create jobs wherever they spend their government cheese. This is utter nonsense.

If printing money and doling it out to the unemployed could create growth and jobs, why hasn't it already worked? After all, we have already extended benefits to 99 weeks. Where are all the jobs? Also, if every dollar of unemployment benefits generates two dollars of growth, as our legislators claim, why not double or triple the benefits? In fact, why limit them to the unemployed? Just give the benefits to everyone – then we will really get this economy going.

Politicians cannot create economic growth at will simply by doling out money. If it could, the Soviets would have won the Cold War. Handing out cash does not create additional production, it merely changes who benefits from existing production. Transferring purchasing power from producers to consumers undermines economic growth and destroys jobs.

For now, production is being supplied from abroad. But this dynamic merely worsens our trade imbalance, putting our nation deeper into debt. As the dollar loses purchasing power, foreign goods will become more expensive and American living standards will plummet.

What will it take for our leaders to realize that their solution is exacerbating the problem they are trying to solve? Unfortunately, I doubt they will learn until the situation becomes intolerable for the majority of voters. These jobs numbers bring us one step closer to that critical mass.

Unless politicians can be roused from their stupor, we will soon confront an imminent sovereign debt and currency crisis that will make the credit crisis of 2008 look like a happy interlude. Hopefully, when the first major shock strikes in the US, as is currently happening in Ireland and Portugal, it will finally provoke a 180-degree change of policy in Washington. Hopefully, it won't be too late to spare millions from a life of subsistence, or worse. These are my hopes, but my fear is that we are on the cusp on the largest economic downfall in modern history.

## Right Turn

### [Who's in charge of the Senate?](#)

by Jennifer Rubin

The House Democrats will have it relatively easy. What remains of the Pelosi Democrats in January, for the most part, will be liberal members from relatively safe seats who will have no responsibility for governing. They can cater to the base to their heart's delight.

But the Senate will be a different story. The dynamic there will be quite fascinating -- and treacherous for Democrats.

The numbers that matter are 23 (Democrats plus independents up for re-election in 2012), 47 (total Senate Republicans) and 60 (the cloture minimum). The name of the game for those 23 will be to balance partisan loyalty against electoral self-interest. From a self-interest standpoint, many of them will feel extreme pressure to join with the 47 Republicans on everything from taxes to health care to regulation.

It doesn't take but a few moments talking to Republican Senate advisors to realize that they lack much respect for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. In fact, at times it is hard to remember that he is



the majority leader. The lame duck session, one senior advisor tells me, "is the worse managed session I've ever seen." Reid remains obsessed with small bore items, that advisor complains. Another advisor to a senior Republican tells me that Reid seems fixated on fulfilling campaign promises: "He told voters he'd do the DREAM ACT. He promised [Sen. Tom] Harkin he'd do FDA reform." The advisor then adds, "But he's never had a broad vision. It's just going down the list, checking the boxes" to satisfy various interest groups.

The lack of forceful leadership, combined with the electoral pressure, will create opportunities for Republicans to make their Democratic colleagues squirm. One advisor observes that newly elected Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia ran saying he supported extension of all the Bush tax cuts, but now he's open to Sen. Chuck Schumer's plan to cut off extension above the \$1-million mark. A veteran Senate policy guru, meanwhile, points the finger at Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.): "She says how independent she is, but when it matters she votes with the president. The stimulus, health care, financial reform -- all three would have failed without her." It is, he predicts, "going to be a whole lot harder for these guys" to divorce their votes from their rhetoric in the next Congress.

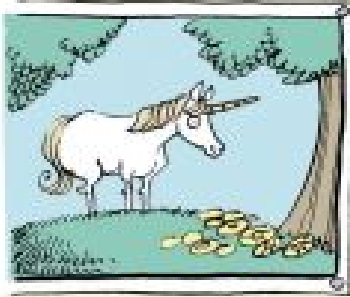
Meanwhile, on the Republican side of the aisle, a veteran advisor says it's "the most serious class" he's seen entering the Senate since he arrived on the Hill 14 years ago. Since voters last month rejected a number of Tea Party-backed Republican candidates -- Sharron Angle, Ken Buck, Joe Miller and Christine O'Donnell -- most of the incoming Republicans are rather mainstream and experienced. They include two former congressmen (Pat Toomey and Mark Kirk), a state house speaker (Marco Rubio), a Bush administration veteran (Rob Portman), a popular governor (John Hoeven), a state attorney general (Kelly Ayotte), a veteran senator and former ambassador to Germany (Dan Coats) and a small businessman who, as one advisor put it, "got pissed off" at what was happening to the country (Ron Johnson). Yes, there is Rand Paul, but he's sounding more like a mainstream Republican than a wide-eyed radical these days. And a number of Capitol Hill Republican can't hide their delight that quirky figures such as Arlen Specter and George Voinovich are being replaced by more serious, reliable conservatives.

Moreover, adversity has bred unity on the Republican side. Each Republican, including the Maine senators, knows what it feels like to have debate cut off by Democrats and to be left with nothing for their constituents. Sen. Susan Collins was left out in the cold on small business issues. Sen. [Olympia Snowe](#) was infuriated at one point over what she deemed abuse of Senate rules by the majority. That has fostered a certain solidarity, as evidenced by this week's [letter in which all 42 Republicans vowed to filibuster bills before tax and government financing measure are completed](#).

I've also found no neo-isolationist sentiment brewing. A Senate advisor offers an explanation: "We have a core group here who went through the Iraq war and never refused to give the troops what they needed. The Democrats forced about 70 votes [to cut off funding, enact conditions for withdrawal]," and yet the Republicans held firm. Even Sen. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell weathered a tough 2008 election that, had the war not been an issue, he would have otherwise sailed through. So, while there may not be much interest in wresting management of foreign policy from the president, neither is there any interest in returning to "Fortress America."

The Senate will be the most unpredictable, and, therefore, the most interesting player on the political scene come January. Will the hapless Reid control the body, or will a fluid coalition of red state Democrats and Republicans led by McConnell run the show? Stay tuned.





ECONOMICS 101

Where do jobs  
come from?



THE STORK  
BRINGS THEM...  
ON A GOVERNMENT  
FUNDED JET.

MR. PRESIDENT, CRITICS SAY YOU  
WAITED TOO LONG TO FREEZE  
FEDERAL PAY.



NONSENSE



SHERTHUS

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johnoffice@gmail.com  
sherthus.com

MITCH MCCONNELL  
SENATOR



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC

December 1, 2010

Dear Leader Reid,

GIVE US BUSH TAX  
CUTS FOR THE  
RICH OR ELSE  
AMERICA GETS IT!

Respectfully Yours,

Mitch McConnell