



Today in Liberty: Rand Paul absolutely owns Rick Perry on foreign policy, Jon Voight says Obama is tearing the U.S. apart

By Jason Pye and Matthew DesOrmeaux
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“The fact that the market is not doing what we wish it would do is no reason to automatically assume that the government would do it better.” — Thomas Sowell

— **Rand Paul fires back at Rick Perry:** In an op-ed this morning at *Politico Magazine*, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) responds to Gov. Rick Perry’s (R-TX) dishonest attack on his foreign policy views. There are many things I like about Texas Gov. Rick Perry, including his stance on the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution. But apparently his new glasses haven’t altered his perception of the world, or allowed him to see it any more clearly,” Paul writes. “There are obviously many important events going on in the world right now, but with 60,000 foreign children streaming across the Texas border, I am surprised Governor Perry has apparently still found time to mischaracterize and attack my foreign policy.” Paul went through some of the distinctions between their views on Iraq, noting that Perry would send troops back to the Middle Eastern country, a position he’s held since his unsuccessful bid for the Republican presidential nomination in the 2012 cycle. “On foreign policy, Perry couldn’t be more stuck in the past, doubling down on formulas that haven’t worked, parroting rhetoric that doesn’t make sense and reinforcing petulant attitudes that have cost our nation a great deal,” Paul explains. “If repeating the same mistakes over and over again is what Perry advocates in U.S. foreign policy, or any other policy, he really should run for president. In Washington, he’d fit right in, because leading Republicans and Democrats not only supported the Iraq war in the first place, but leaders of both parties campaigned on it in 2008.”

— **Organizing for Action’s fundraising falls:** The organization formed out of the remnants of President Barack Obama’s campaign raised \$3.87 million in the second quarter. “[T]he haul was the worst quarter in terms of both overall cash raised and the total number of donors since the organization was founded following the 2012 election. By contrast, over the first three months of this year, OFA raised \$5.88 million through 124,000 donations,” *The Hill* reports. “In May, The Associated Press reported that the group would no longer solicit high-dollar contributions because it did not want to divert dollars from Democratic midterm campaigns. OFA also halved its paid staff.” Earlier this year, OFA was caught giving \$100,000 donors access to Obama administration officials. The organization revamped its fundraising policies shortly thereafter.

— **Executive power lawsuit, contraception on the schedule for Congress:** Oh, it's going to be a fun week on Capitol Hill. "The House this week will debate a measure authorizing a precedent-setting lawsuit against President Obama, while the Senate takes up historic legislation aimed at overriding a Supreme Court ruling on insurance coverage of contraceptives," Susan Ferrechio reports at the *Washington Examiner*. "While both bills will spotlight the partisan divide in Congress, the House will take up a bipartisan spending bill that will prevent the nation's federal highway projects from halting due to lack of funding." The contraception bill may pass the Senate, but it's not going anywhere in the House. The lawsuit against President Obama doesn't need approval from the Senate and will probably pass. It'll be interesting to see if any Democrats join Republicans to pass the resolution authorizing the lawsuit. We'll have more on that as it progresses this week.

— **Judges to IRS: Explain this shit:** Two federal judges have ordered the IRS to explain how it lost two years of disgraced official Lois Lerner's emails. "A second federal judge Friday ordered the Internal Revenue Service to explain under oath how the agency lost two years of emails from former IRS official Lois Lerner," the Free Beacon explains. "At a hearing for a lawsuit brought against the IRS by the conservative group True the Vote, U.S. District Court Judge Reggie Walton told government lawyers on Friday he wants an affidavit explaining how the emails were lost." This follows another federal order on Thursday, a result of a FOIA lawsuit brought by Judicial Watch." The time period of the emails covers 2009 to 2011 and are of interest to congressional investigators because it could show deeper involvement in the IRS's targeting of conservative groups. Last week, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee released an email showing that Lerner cautioned IRS employees not to say anything sensitive in internal communications.

— **Export-Import Bank could be the "sleeper issue" of 2014:** *Politico's* Eric Bradner seems to think the coming Export-Import Bank reauthorization is the sleeper issue of the 2014 election cycle. Bradner highlights the North Carolina Senate race, where embattled Democrat Kay Hagan touts support for the bank, while Republican challenger Thom Tillis opposes reauthorization. Rep. Steve Israel, head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) says Democrats will absolutely make conservative opposition to the Ex-Im Bank an issue. This is causing some consternation between "pro-business" (read: crony capitalist) Republicans and the Chamber of Commerce. Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer said conservative opposition to Ex-Im has given Democrats an opportunity to court the Chamber. The issue has spread to races in Virginia, Minnesota, Iowa, and Michigan. Conservatives have an opportunity to push the Republican Party — and Washington — in a more free-market direction.

— **Another judicial blow for Obamacare may be coming this week:** The Supreme Court's decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* may not be the only defeat for Obamacare this summer. The D.C. Court of Appeals is set to release a decision in *Halbig v. Burwell*, a case whose plaintiffs "argue that the healthcare law does not authorize the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to offer premium subsidies on the federal exchanges." The Hill's account suggests this case may break its losing trend in D.C.'s Appeals Court.

Cato Institute's Michael Cannon, who filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs, wrote, "The IRS has arrogated for itself the power to rewrite a federal statute, triggering federal appropriations and financial penalties beyond those authorized by the legislature." Cato had a pretty good record before the Supreme Court during its most recent term, so maybe some of that success will trickle down to D.C.'s lower court. Jonathan Turley, writing for the *LA Times*, noted, "[I]f Hobby Lobby will create complications for Obamacare, *Halbig vs. Burwell* could trigger a full cardiac arrest."

— **How to talk to nonlibertarians, if you must — and you should:** Sheldon Richman, vice president of the Future of Freedom Foundation, writing for *Reason*: "If libertarians want to change how nonlibertarians think about government, they will need to *understand* how nonlibertarians think about government." Richman argues that the politically disconnected and unengaged see government as a benevolent "mutual-aid society," where dues (or, taxes) are paid and benefits claimed at various stages. Those who don't see government as coercive force will not understand arguments made from that perspective. As Saul Alinsky said, "Never go outside the experience of your people." This can be applied when discussing libertarian issues to people who don't understand libertarian concepts. One of Richman's suggestions is for libertarians to discuss issues like occupational licensure, permitting, zoning, and other government barriers that more individuals encounter rather than "esoteric" libertarian debates that most people don't understand.

— **Channeling Americans' frustrations, actor Jon Voight unleashes on Fox News:** "The Democrat Party has become a very negative force," actor Jon Voight said on Mike Huckabee's Fox News program over the weekend, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Voight is no stranger to conservative political commentary. He has been a sharp critic of President Obama since 2009 and has not shied away from his political beliefs, despite their unpopularity in Hollywood. In a message to the American people, Voight said, "Five years ago, I stated that Obama would take the country apart piece-by-piece, that he would cause a civil war in this country. In hindsight, we can see how many things have come to pass."

— **Regulators have proposed or finalized more than \$100 billion in new rules in 2014:** And the Obama administration wonders why the economy is struggling to grow six years removed from the end of the recession. "After a record-setting week, regulators added \$142 million in regulatory burdens, or 45 cents per person," Sam Batkins writes in his weekly look at federal rulemaking. "Annualized costs were \$87 million and there were no rulemakings with monetized benefits. A Medicare payment proposal added 2.4 million hours of paperwork, leading the week." Batkins noted last week that proposed and final regulations have eclipsed \$100 billion for the year and are on pace to blow past the \$200 billion mark, exceeding American Action Forum's \$143 billion projection.

— **Watch out for Audit the Fed-lite:** Campaign for Liberty warns that legislation introduced last week by Reps. Scott Garrett (R-NJ) and Bill Huizenga (R-MI) that purports to promote transparency at the Federal Reserve doesn't actually do so. "Aside from failing to bring either accountability or full transparency to the Federal Reserve,"

said Campaign for Liberty President John Tate, “this legislation undermines the efforts of organizations like Campaign for Liberty who are actually trying to pass meaningful legislation supported by nearly 75 percent of Americans.” The Ron Paul-founded group reaffirmed its support of H.R. 24, introduced by Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA), the true Audit the Fed bill that has the support of a majority of the House of Representatives.

— **Birthdays:** Happy birthday to Andrew Kirell of Mediate and Michael Cannon of the Cato Institute. Kirell celebrated his birthday on Friday and Cannon is celebrating his today. Give them follows on Twitter at @AndrewKirell and @mfcannon.

Other items we’re reading this morning:

- Target: Justin Amash (The American Conservative)
- New charges of VA data manipulation (*Washington Insider*)
- Why Mark Begich still hasn’t gotten a vote on any of his amendments (*Washington Examiner*)
- Tech mogul Sean Parker ramps up GOP giving (*Politico*)
- Bergdahl Is Set to Resume Life on Active Duty (*The New York Times*)
- Poll: Most GOP approve of SCOTUS (*Politico*)
- Governors talk border crisis with new HHS secretary (*Politico*)