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'You didn't build that' as banal truism, excluding gays in the Boy Scouts and more [AM Briefing]

By Allen McDuffee

Jonah Goldberg on Obama's "you didn't build that" comment : "At best, Obama's "gaffe" is a banal truism, and if the president's praetorians want to defend him on grounds of platitudinous banality, fine. But even they have to know in their hearts that this is a pathetic maneuver, given that the reason they're rushing to defend Obama in the first place is his commitment to the very philosophy they deny he's espousing." ([National Review](#))

Room for Debate: Why do the Boy Scouts exclude gays? ([New York Times](#))

"The electric grid is the heart of our ability to function as a society. We have 18 major infrastructures that keep our civilization operating — water, sewage, telecommunications, transportation, etc. All 17 of the others depend in one way or another on electricity. Imagine what it would be like for an electrical outage to last for months or years as a result of a cyber- or terrorist attack instead of merely for days," writes R. James Woolsey. ([Washington Times](#))

CFR's Richard Haass: Time to drop the Annan plan. ([CNN](#))

Manhattan Institute's James Copland: Unions target corporations through shareholder activism. ([Washington Examiner](#))

"Fareed Zakaria is a good journalist. But he's also human. In his Washington Post column yesterday, Zakaria concludes that President Obama has a stronger case to make for his economic prescriptions than does Governor Romney. However, that conclusion—at least as

presented in the column—is premised on a misreading of some recently published data,” writes Cato’s Daniel Ikenson. ([Cato](#))

CFR’s Amity Shlaes: Let states do the tax-collecting dirty work. ([Bloomberg](#))