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President Obama's Six Month Review:

A day by day account of Obama's tax hikes, broken promises, record debt, rising job loss, non-transparency, protectionism, and memorable quotations

WASHINGTON, D.C.— As Barack Obama will mark his first six months in office on Monday, Americans for Tax Reform today released the following comprehensive dossier:

Day 7 – January 26: Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner is sworn in by Obama despite having owed more than \$40,000 in back taxes and interest.

Day 10 – January 30: After a long career [working and voting FOR tax increases and working and voting AGAINST tax cuts](#), Obama's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) nominee Tom Daschle is first reported to have paid over \$100,000 in back taxes.

“Make no mistake: Tax cheaters cheat us all. And the IRS should enforce our laws to the letter.” (Sen. Tom Daschle speaking on the Senate floor on May 7, 1998)
[\[Video\]](#)

Day 13 – Feb. 1: The European Union [warns](#) the US of serious ramifications, including an international trade war, if the President pursued a “Buy American Policy”.

Day 15 – February 3: Tom Daschle withdraws his nomination due to tax problems.

Chief Performance Officer-designate Nancy Killefer withdraws her nomination due to tax problems.

Day 16 – February 4: On the sixteenth day of his presidency, Obama breaks one of the central promises of his campaign by signing into law a 156 percent increase in the federal excise tax on tobacco, a hike of 61 cents per pack, which took effect on April 1. Obama promised repeatedly on the campaign trail that he would never raise taxes on those making less than \$250,000 per year, for example:

"I can make a firm pledge. Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes" (September 12, 2008, Dover, NH)

[\[Transcript\]](#) [\[Video clip\]](#)

"No one making less than \$250,000 under Barack Obama's plan will see one single penny of their tax raised," Joe Biden said, "whether it's their capital gains tax, their income tax, investment tax, any tax." (Joe Biden, Oct. 3, 2008, Vice Presidential Debate, St. Louis, MO)

[\[Transcript\]](#) [\[Video Clip\]](#)

The tax increase falls squarely on the shoulders of the middle- and low-income Americans Obama said he would not raise taxes on: 55 percent of smokers are “working poor”, one in four smokers live below the poverty line, and on average, smokers, whose median income is a little more than \$36,000 make about 30 percent less than non-smokers.

Day 21 – February 9: Calling for a massive government spending program under the guise of “stimulus” Obama holds his first press conference and fails to provide a single historical example where a government increased spending which led to increased jobs, income, and wealth on any sustainable basis.

Obama also has the audacity to claim the “stimulus” plan is free of pet projects and earmarks:

"What it does not contain, however, is a single pet project, not a single earmark, and it has been stripped of the projects members of both parties found most objectionable."

[\[Transcript\]](#)[\[Video\]](#)

Responding to a reporter’s question as to what specific metric the American people should use to determine whether Obama’s programs are working, Obama replies:

"I think my initial measure of success is creating or saving 4 million jobs."

(How, exactly, does one measure a “saved” job? See March 4 for details)

Obama promises that the next day ***"Tim Geithner will be announcing some very clear and specific plans for how we are going to start loosening up credit once again."***

Day 22 – February 10: Instead of offering specifics in his testimony to the Senate Banking Committee, Geithner issues vague statements and echoes FDR’s economically paralyzing ***"bold, persistent experimentation"*** philosophy:

"We will have to adapt our program as conditions change. We will have to try things we've never tried before. We will make mistakes. We will go through periods in which things get worse and progress is uneven or interrupted."

Day 23 – February 11: Obama speaks to employees of heavy-machinery manufacturer Caterpillar, [claiming](#) that the “stimulus” bill would allow the company to hire back many of the employees it had previously laid off.

Day 24 – February 12: The day after Obama tells Caterpillar workers the “stimulus” will save their jobs, the company’s CEO James Owen [states](#) “The honest reality is we’re probably going to have more layoffs before we start hiring again.”

Sometime around 10:00 PM: The “Stimulus” conference report is completed behind closed doors. Less than sixteen hours pass before the bill is taken up by the House.

Day 25 – Friday, February 13:

2:24 PM: With not a single Member voting for the bill having claimed to have actually read it, the House [passes](#) the conference report for H.R.1, the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009”.

5:29 PM: With not a single Member voting for the bill having claimed to have actually read it, the Senate [passes](#) the conference report for H.R. 1.

Day 29 – February 17: Obama signs the “Stimulus” bill and violates his transparency pledge to the American people that he will allow legislation to be posted online for five full days before signing it.

“No more secrecy. ... when there's a bill that ends up on my desk as president, you, the American voter, will have five days to look online and find out what it is before I sign it, so that you know what your government's doing.”

(June 22, 2007. Manchester, New Hampshire)

[\[Transcript\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

The below is copied directly from the [Ethics](#) section of BarackObama.com:

Sunlight Before Signing: Too often bills are rushed through Congress and to the president before the public has the opportunity to review them. As president, Obama will not sign any non-emergency bill without giving the American public an opportunity to review and comment on the White House website for five days.

Obama also breaks his spending promise:

“So we’re going to have to make some investments but we’ve also got to make spending cuts, and what I’ve proposed -- you’ll hear Senator McCain say ‘he’s

proposing a whole bunch of new spending' -- but, actually, I'm cutting more than I'm spending. So that it will be a net spending cut." (Oct. 7, 2008. Second Presidential Debate, Nashville, TN)

[\[Transcript\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

The "stimulus" still includes "Buy American" protectionist language. U.S. cities and some states aren't obligated to follow the rules of the World Trade Organization and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

"I agree that we can't send a protectionist message," Obama said in an [interview](#) earlier in the month.

Day 36 – February 24: Obama makes his [first address](#) to a joint session of Congress and claims he doesn't believe in "bigger government":

"As soon as I took office, I asked this Congress to send me a recovery plan by President's Day that would put people back to work and put money in their pockets, not because I believe in bigger government -- I don't -- not because I'm not mindful of the massive debt we've inherited -- I am."

Obama again has the audacity to claim the "stimulus" bill contained no earmarks:

"Now, I'm proud that we passed a recovery plan free of earmarks, and I want to pass a budget next year that ensures that each dollar we spend reflects only our most important national priorities."

Day 38 – February 26: Obama releases his budget outline which [raises taxes](#) on individuals, employers both large and small, and shareholders -- while eliminating several energy tax credits.

The budget also calls for a "cap and trade" regime, making an absolute mockery of Obama's central campaign promise not to raise any form of taxes on those making less than \$250,000 per year.

Obama also shatters his campaign promise to enact net spending cuts during his administration:

"So we're going to have to make some investments but we've also got to make spending cuts, and what I've proposed -- you'll hear Senator McCain say 'he's proposing a whole bunch of new spending' -- but, actually, I'm cutting more than I'm spending. So that it will be a net spending cut." (Oct. 7, 2008. Second Presidential Debate, Nashville, TN)

[\[Transcript\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

(The Obama FY 2009 budget increases federal spending to [28.5% of GDP](#), a post World War II high.)

Day 41 – March 1: The Obama administration foreshadows another broken promise when Peter Orszag, appearing on *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*, claims the 8,000 earmarks in the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 are **“last year’s business. We just need to move on.”** The statement by Orszag is not consistent with Obama’s campaign promise made in the first presidential debate:

“And, absolutely, we need earmark reform. And when I’m president, I will go line by line to make sure that we are not spending money unwisely.” (Sept. 26, 2008. First Presidential Debate, Oxford, Miss.)

[\[Transcript\]](#)[\[Video\]](#)

Day 44 – March 4: While testifying before the Senate Finance Committee, Secretary Geithner is [challenged](#) by Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.) as to the invention by the Obama administration of a new metric – “creating or saving” jobs – the very same metric Obama claimed on Feb. 9 is the most important measure of success:

SEN: JOHN ENSIGN: *“You created a situation where you cannot be wrong. If the economy loses 2 million jobs over the next few years, you can say yes, but it would’ve lost 5.5 million jobs. If we create a million jobs, you can say, well, it would have lost 2.5 million jobs,”* Ensign said. *“You’ve given yourself complete leverage where you cannot be wrong, because you can take any scenario and make yourself look correct.”*

CNN [visits](#) the site of the first “stimulus” dollars to hit the ground: An \$8.5 million bridge near the town of Tuscumbia, Missouri – population 223.

Day 45 – March 5: [Testifying](#) before the House Budget Committee, Secretary Geithner concedes Obama’s budget raises taxes on small businesses, but focuses on a meaningless metric: The **percentage** of small businesses affected rather than the fact that [two-thirds of small business profits will be subject to higher taxation](#).

Day 46 – March 6: The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reports the unemployment rate rose from 7.6% to 8.1%, and the economy shed 651,000 jobs in the month of February.

Day 51 – March 11: Obama signs HR 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, a \$410 billion piece of legislation containing over 8,000 earmarks. By signing the bill, Obama breaks at least three of his most important campaign promises:

1. **Transparency** – Obama promised to post passed legislation online for [five full days](#) before signing it. Obama signed the Omnibus spending bill [less than a day](#) after he received it from Congress.

“When there is a bill that ends up on my desk as President, you, the American voter, will have five days to look online and find out what it is before I sign it.

(June 22, 2007. Manchester, New Hampshire)

[\[Transcript\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

2. **Overall spending** – Obama promised to enact net spending cuts as President. The Omnibus bill is more than 8 percent higher than 2008 spending levels.

“So we’re going to have to make some investments but we’ve also got to make spending cuts, and what I’ve proposed -- you’ll hear Senator McCain say ‘he’s proposing a whole bunch of new spending’ --but, actually, I’m cutting more than I’m spending. So that it will be a net spending cut.”

(Oct. 7, 2008. Second Presidential Debate, Nashville, TN)

[\[Transcript\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

3. **Wasteful spending** – Obama promised to “go line by line” to make sure taxpayer money was not wasted. Among the questionable spending in the Omnibus bill is an earmark which sticks taxpayers with a \$200,000 tab for a tattoo removal program in California.

“And, absolutely, we need earmark reform. And when I’m president, I will go line by line to make sure that we are not spending money unwisely.” (Sept. 26, 2008. First Presidential Debate, Oxford, Miss.)

[\[Transcript\]](#)[\[Video\]](#)

Day 52 – March 12: While testifying before the Senate Budget Committee, Treasury Secretary Geithner acknowledges tax increases “hurt growth” – then proceeded to duck questions as to whether President Obama’s planned tax hikes would go into effect in 2011 regardless of the condition of the economy:

SEN. MIKE CRAPO, R-Idaho: ***“You say that the tax increases will only happen when the economy has recovered. I understand that a lot of economists are saying we are going to be recovered by 2011. Frankly I think there are economists who are saying maybe our recovery will not be so strong by then. My question to you is, are these tax increases contingent on a recovery or are they going to happen regardless of what happens in 2011?”***

SEC. GEITHNER: ***“Senator, I think it is a very important question. I think, again, we need to lay out an ambitious path for bringing those deficits down, commit to achieving that with a mix of measures on the resource side and the spending side to do the best possible job of leaving our economy stronger, and that’s what the President’s budget tries to do. Now of course we are going to have to watch how the economy evolves and I want to underscore that one of the mistakes governments have made over time in dealing with economic crises is putting the brakes on too quickly or in ways that hurt growth just as it’s starting to take hold. We just want to be careful not to do that.”***

SEN. CRAPO: ***“So are you saying if we don’t see the more rosy picture in 2011 that we may not see the Administration suggest that we move to enact tax increases?”***

SEC. GEITHNER: *“I’m just saying that recovery requires that we keep stimulus sustained until growth is in place but we have to do it in a fiscally responsible way.”*

Earl Devaney, chairman of the Recovery Act Accountability and Transparency Board (RAT Board) [cautions](#) that it would be at least a year before **recovery.gov**, the website that is supposed to be tracking “stimulus” spending, will be running properly. He also points out that there will be waste and fraud:

“I’m afraid that there may be a naive impression that given the amount of transparency and accountability called for by this act, no or little fraud will occur. My 38 years of federal enforcement experience tells me that some level of waste and fraud is unfortunately inevitable.”

Day 57 – March 17: The Providence Journal [reports](#) that the city of Pawtucket in Rhode Island will be using \$550,000 in federal “stimulus” money to build a skateboarding park and renovate tennis and basketball courts at a local high school.

Caterpillar [announces](#) it is laying off 2,454 employees.

Day 60 – March 20: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) releases a [report](#) on the cost of Obama’s budget. According to the report:

- **President Obama’s budget would increase total spending over [\\$2.7 trillion over ten years over the current baseline](#)** (that is including interest). This would amount to \$9,000 for every man, woman and child in the U.S.
- According to CBO data, [spending under the President’s budget would increase from 23.6 percent of GDP in 2011 to 24.5 percent in 2019](#) – significantly above the past 40 year average of 20.7 percent.

Day 64 – March 24: During the second press conference of his presidency, Obama tells the nation his budget moves *“from an era of borrow-and-spend to one where we save and invest.”*

Obama also [falsely claims](#) his budget *“will provide a tax cut to 95 percent of all working families that will appear in people’s paychecks by April 1.”*

In reality, it is impossible to cut taxes for “95 percent of working families.”

According to IRS data, one-third of all income tax filers do not have an income tax liability. About 15 percent of all working families do not even have a FICA tax liability, and these numbers are before taking into effect all the new refundable tax credits in the Obama budget. For these “working families,” all Obama’s budget will do is cut them the equivalent of a welfare check.

Day 65 – March 25: Mexico [retaliates](#) in response to the U.S. violation of NAFTA in the “Omnibus Spending Bill” by increasing tariffs on 90 U.S products. President Obama had inserted a provision in the bill that denied funding for a two-year-old pilot program which allowed some Mexican trucks to operate in the U.S.

"We consider that the United States is mistaken, protectionist and clearly violating the treaty," stated Mexico's Economy Secretary, Gerardo Ruiz Mateos.

Day 66 – March 26: An Associated Press [story](#) reports that the Obama Administration’s claims to “save and create” jobs through the “stimulus” package cannot be substantiated. ATR says “[We told you so.](#)”

Day 69 – March 29: President Obama fires the CEO of General Motors, Rick Wagoner.

Day 70 – March 30: President Obama [delivers a speech](#) on the automobile industry and General Motors claiming: “*Let me be clear: the United States government has no interest or intention of running GM.*”

Day 70 – March 30: Obama signs the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act, a bill containing numerous earmarks, including \$3.5 million to celebrate the 450th Anniversary of St Augustine, Florida in 2015.

Day 71 – March 31: The White House discloses that Kathleen Sebelius, its second nominee to head the Department of Health and Human Services, had to pay \$7,040 in back taxes.

Onvia, a Seattle-based company launches [Recovery.org](#). While the administration is looking to lower expectations regarding [recovery.gov](#), [recovery.org](#) already contains much more useful information that the administration’s site which primarily boasts [spin and propaganda](#)

The GAO releases a [report](#) on TARP underscoring the lack of transparency and accountability in the program.

Day 72 – April 1: On April Fool’s Day, Obama’s first broken promise goes into effect: His promise not to raise any form of taxes on those making less than \$250,000 per year. Signed into law back on Feb. 4, on just the sixteenth day of his presidency, the 156 percent –61 cents per pack -- cigarette tax increase falls largely on the shoulders of middle and low-income Americans.

“I can make a firm pledge. Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes.” (Barack Obama, September 12, 2008, Dover, NH)

[\[Transcript\]](#) [\[Video clip\]](#)

"No one making less than \$250,000 under Barack Obama's plan will see one single penny of their tax raised, whether it's their capital gains tax, their income tax, investment tax, any tax." (Joe Biden, Oct. 3, 2008, Vice Presidential Debate, St. Louis, MO)

[\[Transcript\]](#) [\[Video Clip\]](#)

Asked about the tax increase/broken promise, White House spokesman Reid H. Cherlin [said](#) ***"The president's position throughout the campaign was that he would not raise income or payroll taxes on families making less than \$250,000, and that's a promise he has kept."***

Day 73 – April 2: The House and Senate pass the Obama budget outline

Day 74 – April 3: **Day 74 – April 3:** A *Wall Street Journal* story [notes](#) that CBO's budget estimate from March also quietly revised the cost of TARP up from \$189 billion in January to \$356 billion.

The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reports the unemployment rate rose from 8.1% to 8.5%, and the economy shed 663,000 jobs in the month of March.

Day 75 – April 4: Responding to questioning as to why Obama has not met his [promise](#) to post legislation online for five full days before signing it into law, senior advisor David Axelrod [answered](#) ***"Have we achieved everything we want to achieve yet? No. We've actually been a little preoccupied. We're trying to deal with some major challenges here."***

Day 78 – April 7: Janet Napolitano's Department of Homeland Security releases a report titled "Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment"

Day 85 – April 14: Asked about the tax day tea parties being held the following day, Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs [said](#) ***"I don't know if the President is aware of the events."***

Day 86 – April 15: At least [578,000](#) Americans attend at least [540](#) tax day tea parties across the country.

When [challenged](#) as to how Obama squares his promise not to raise taxes on those making less than \$250,000 per year while simultaneously raising taxes in cigarettes, spokesman Robert Gibbs **replies** that ***"People make a decision to smoke."***

Yet minutes later, during the very same press conference, Gibbs stated that Obama's tax pledge had no caveats: ***"The statement didn't come with caveats."***

Day 88 – April 17: Despite her tax problems, Kathleen Sebelius wins Senate Committee approval.

Day 90 – April 19: Obama senior advisor David Axelrod, [appearing](#) on the CBS Sunday morning show *Face the Nation*, describes the taxpayer tea parties as “unhealthy”.

Day 91 – April 20: Obama insults taxpayers by calling for a mere \$100 million in spending cuts from the federal budget within 90 days.

- \$100 million represents .003% (three one thousandths of a percent) of Obama’s FY 2010 budget.
- \$100 million is what the federal government spends every 13 minutes.
- \$100 million is [less than one day of interest on the “stimulus” bill](#) championed by Obama.
- As Harvard Economist Greg Mankiw [points out](#), cutting \$100 million from the federal budget is the equivalent of a family spending \$100,000 per year cutting a \$3 latte from the annual budget.

Attempting to defend the paltry amount of proposed cuts, Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs [tells](#) reporters: ***“I’m not making jokes about it. I’m being completely sincere that only in Washington, D.C. is \$100 million not a lot of money. It is where I’m from. It is where I grew up. And I think it is for hundreds of millions of Americans.”***

[\[Video\]](#)

Day 93 – April 22: Happy Earth Day? Obama sends three cabinet officers to Congress to testify in favor of the energy provisions in his budget, threatening Americans with a [\\$10,000 tax hike per year](#) on every American family once fully phased in.

A GAO [report](#) warns of a lack of accountability and oversight for “stimulus” spending, and points out the slow pace of spending in spite of Vice President Joe Biden’s [assertion](#) that **“stimulative spending is ahead of schedule.”**

Day 95 – April 24: In one of the most egregious abuses of ‘stimulus’ funds, [\\$800,000 is committed to build a new runway at “Murtha airport”](#). Murtha stands by funding the airport despite the fact only [three flights depart the airport](#) on weekdays.

Day 98 – April 27: A White House approved Air Force One “picture mission” tears across the skies of New York City trailed by two F-16s, reminding understandably frightened New Yorkers of 9/11. The photo op was a [\\$328,835 “mistake”](#) according to the President.

Day 105 – May 4: President Obama announces his plans to double-tax the international profits of American firms, a proposal which will cause U.S. companies to [ship jobs overseas and relocate their headquarters abroad](#). Americans for Tax Reform [countered](#) the Obama administration’s claims.

Day 108 – May 7: President Obama releases a misleading budget document that claims to consist solely of spending cuts, but in fact contains [\\$26.4 billion worth of energy taxes](#).

Day 113 – May 12: President Obama’s Treasury releases the “Green Book” -- the [details of his plans for tax increases](#). ATR exposes details of his [‘tax increase playbook’](#):

- **Some families making less than \$250,000 per year will see an income tax hike, yet another violation of Obama’s tax pledge**
- **American families will bear the brunt of the Obama tax blueprint’s energy tax hike**
- **Small businesses will shed jobs to pay for the higher small business tax rates**

[WBAL TV in Baltimore](#) reports that thousands of dead people are receiving “stimulus” checks in the mail.

Day 116 – May 15: Americans for Tax Reform releases an [overall review](#) of Obama’s energy tax hikes, a total of **\$968 billion in new taxes**.

- \$646 billion – [new taxes by forcing a “cap-and-trade” tax on production emissions](#)
 - \$175 billion – [new taxes by forcing states into a renewable portfolio system](#)
 - \$62 billion – [new taxes on energy companies’ LIFO reserves](#)
 - \$49 billion – [new taxes by repealing the passive loss exception for oil and gas properties](#)
 - \$17 billion – [new taxes by reinstating the Superfund tax](#)
 - \$13 billion – [new taxes by repealing a domestic manufacturers’ tax deduction for energy companies](#)
 - \$5 billion – [new tax on 25 percent of total U.S. production of oil and 15 percent of gas](#)
 - \$1 billion – [new taxes by increasing the amortization period for certain energy costs to seven years](#)
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Day 121 – May 20: Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee [hire a speed reader to read the Waxman-Markey ‘cap-and-tax’ bill](#); anything to avoid actually reading the legislation themselves.

Day 128 – May 27: The [Washington Post reports](#) the Obama White House has not ruled out a [Value Added Tax \(VAT\) to finance government-run health care](#). Peter Orszag’s spokesman Kenneth Baer [confirms](#): *“While we do not want to rule any credible idea in or out as we discuss the way forward with Congress, the VAT tax, in particular, is popular with academics but highly controversial with policymakers.”*

Obama marks [100 days since the passage](#) of the “stimulus” bill. [According to the Administration](#), \$112 billion from the “stimulus” has been spent or obligated at this point. Assuming that the President’s unsubstantiated claim that the legislation has “saved” 150,000 jobs is correct, each job “saved” cost taxpayers \$746,600.

Day 135 – June 3: Vice President Biden, in defending the “stimulus” says [“we know some of this money is going to be wasted”](#). Does ‘we’ include Barack Obama? Apparently the President was not on the same page when he claimed the “stimulus” would be [“without waste, without inefficiency, without fraud”](#) back on February 20.

President Obama makes official his support of government-run health care in a [letter](#) to Senators Baucus and Kennedy.

“Buy American” language in the “stimulus” causes Canadian municipalities to pass [their own protectionist legislation](#). *“If one country starts to build protectionist barriers that hurt businesses in another country, there will be an impulse to retaliate, and I would like to see this resolved at the executive level in the United States,”* states [Canada’s Trade Minister Stockwell Day](#).

Day 137 – June 5: The Bureau of Labor Statistics [employment report](#) shows steep job losses under President Obama:

- **345,000 jobs lost** in the month of May
- **1.5 million jobs lost** in the three full months since the “stimulus” bill passed
- **9.4 percent** unemployment, the highest level since 1983.

However, in January, White House economic advisors Christina Romer and Jared Bernstein [said the unemployment rate](#) would not rise above [8% if the “stimulus” was passed](#).

Day 140 – June 8: Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer [says](#) Obama’s double-tax proposal will cause the company to move jobs out of the U.S. *“It makes U.S. jobs more expensive...we’re better off taking lots of people and moving them out of the U.S.”*

Day 141 – June 9: President Obama submits a [PAYGO](#) proposal which would give a built in excuse to raise the short- and long-term cost of government AND practically require Congress to raise taxes to "pay for" it.

Day 142 – June 10: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce announces a new campaign to [support free enterprise](#) *“in the face of rapid government growth and attacks by anti-business activists.”*

Day 143 – June 11: President Obama [reiterates his support](#) for a public health care [option](#). During the same town hall meeting in Green Bay, Wisconsin, President Obama also [claims](#) he doesn't believe in expanding the government's role:

“The reason is not because we want a government takeover of health care...I've already said, if you've got a private plan that works for you, that's great. But we want some competition. If the private insurance companies have to compete with a public option, it'll keep them honest, and it'll help keep their prices down.”

Congress considers an [amendment to repeal the “stimulus” bill](#).

Day 146 – June 14: [On Meet the Press](#), Vice President Biden admits the “stimulus” was based on incorrect assumptions about the economy and the Administration cannot measure whether it has “saved or created” any jobs:

“Everyone guessed wrong at the time the estimate was made about what the state of the economy was at the moment this was passed.”

Biden [confirms](#) the taxation of employee health care benefits is on the table:

“MR. GREGORY: Will the president sign a bill that taxes health care benefits for employees?”

VICE PRES. BIDEN: We made it clear we do not think that is the way to go. We think that is the wrong way to finance this legislation.

MR. GREGORY: So if the bill comes with that...

VICE PRES. BIDEN: But--no, no, no.

MR. GREGORY: ...the president wouldn't sign it?

VICE PRES. BIDEN: I didn't say that.”

Day 147 – June 15: Obama again asserts he does not want to expand the role of government, this time during a [speech to the American Medical Association](#): *“When you hear the naysayers claim that I'm trying to bring about government-run health care, know this – they are not telling the truth”*

Day 148 – June 16: In an [interview](#) with Bloomberg News, Obama states he is “confident” he will not have to raise taxes on “ordinary working families”:

“One of the biggest variables in this whole thing is economic growth. If we are growing at a robust rate, then we can pay for the government that we need without having to raise taxes.”

“I’m confident that we don’t have to raise taxes on ordinary working families.”

Obama also says [unemployment will rise beyond 10% this year](#).

Earl Devaney, head of the Recovery Act Accountability and Transparency (RAT) Board, estimates that at least \$55 billion of “stimulus” funds may be lost to waste, fraud and abuse.

Senator Tom Coburn issues a [report detailing wasteful “stimulus” projects](#).

Obama once again claims he has a limited government philosophy during an interview with the [Wall Street Journal](#):

“I think the irony ... is that I actually would like to see a relatively light touch when it comes to the government.”

Day 151 – June 19: The White House suggests the American people should not take President Obama’s word literally when he [says](#):

“If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period. If you like your health care plan, you’ll be able to keep your health care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what.”

But, according to the [Associated Press](#):

“White House officials suggest the president’s rhetoric shouldn’t be taken literally: What Obama really means is that government isn’t about to barge in and force people to change insurance.”

Day 154 – June 22: Obama officially [gives up](#) on his unfulfilled campaign promise to post all passed legislation online for at least 5 days before signing it into law. According to the New York Times, [“Mr. Obama has signed two dozen bills, but he has almost never waited five days”](#).

Obama [during the campaign](#):

“When there’s a bill that ends up on my desk as president, you the public will have five days to look online and find out what’s in it before I sign it, so that you know what your government’s doing”

Day 155 – June 23: Obama supporter Warren Buffet announces his opposition to the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill [saying](#):

“It’s a huge tax, and there’s no sense calling it anything else. I mean it is a tax, and it is a fairly regressive tax... There are very poor people who are going to pay a lot more for electricity.”

Day 158 – June 26: The Waxman-Markey “cap-and-trade” bill, the [biggest tax in American history](#), is brought to the House floor.

3:09 AM – A [300 page amendment](#) is added to Waxman-Markey.

6:10 PM – Leader Boehner (R-Ohio) [filibusters](#) Waxman-Markey by [reading the 300 page amendment](#) that was added in the middle of the night, and was still not in the copy present on the House floor.

7:45 PM – Waxman-Markey passes the House of Representatives. There was [no final bill at the time of the vote](#), and no representative who voted for the bill ever [read it](#).

President Obama praises passage of the bill: [“Today the House of Representatives took historic action with the passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act”](#).

Day 160 – June 28: Obama Senior Advisor David Axelrod appears on ABC’s “This Week with George Stephanopoulos” where Axelrod [leaves the door open for Obama to tax health benefits](#), which would again break his central campaign promise not to raise taxes on people making under \$250,000 a year.

STEPHANOPOULOS: *“But [if you're open to tax increases for people under \\$250,000, that means that the pledge he made last September in Dover is no longer operative.](#)”*

AXELROD: *“George, I think the president has made clear the way he feels this should be funded. And certainly is consistent with what he said during...”*

STEPHANOPOULOS: *“But he's not drawing a line in the sand.”*

AXELROD: *“... the campaign.”*

STEPHANOPOULOS: *“He said that.”*

AXELROD: *“Well, you know what? The -- [one of the problems we've had in this town is that people draw lines in the sand and they stop talking to each other. And you don't get anything done. That's not the way the president approaches \(this\).](#)”*

The Competitive Enterprise Institute [releases](#) EPA [documents](#) indicating that an EPA study *“**which concludes that carbon dioxide is not a significant cause of climate change, (yet) was suppressed by the EPA for political reasons.**”*

Chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, Christina Romer, [tells the Financial Times](#): *“We always knew we were not going to get all that much fiscal impact during the first five to six months. The big impact starts to hit from about now onwards”.*

This view is curiously [out of step](#) with Administration officials during the time they were pushing the stimulus:

Peter Orszag: **“take weeks to months”** for the stimulus to be felt

Larry Summers: **“You'll see the effects begin almost immediately”**

Day 161 – June 29: Obama’s Energy Czar Carol Browner [admits](#) she has not read the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade legislation.

Day 163 – July 1: Helen Thomas, the longest serving White House press corps member, [chastises](#) the Obama administration for controlling the questions for Obama’s healthcare town hall event:

“I’m amazed -- I’m amazed at you people who call for openness and transparency and –“

MR. GIBBS: *“Helen, you haven't even heard the questions.”*

“It doesn't matter. It's the process...Even if there's a tough question, it's a question coming from somebody who was invited or was screened, or the question was screened. It's shocking. It's really shocking.”

Day 164 – July 2: The Bureau of Labor Statistics releases a [report](#) stating 467,000 jobs were lost in June, pushing the unemployment rate to 9.5%.

Day 165 – July 3: World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick warns that protectionism could threaten recovery from a global recession. “It seems appealing in countries to buy their own national products...Buy America. Buy Canada. Buy Chile. Buy China. But that's the road to the problem that exacerbated the downturn in the 1930s and led to the Great Depression.”

Day 166 – July 4: Citizens around the country rally for an estimated 600 [Tea Party protests](#). Americans voice their discontent with reckless spending, [taxation](#), and a rapidly expanding federal government.

Day 167 – July 5: In an interview on “This Week with George Stephanopoulos” Vice President Biden says:

“And so the truth is, there was a misreading of just how bad an economy we inherited.”

Biden then claims there has been [no waste in stimulus spending](#):

“There were other predictions. This was going to be wasteful and all these terrible projects were going to be out there, and we're wasting money. Well, that dog hasn't barked yet.

Yet, on June 2 he said the exact [opposite](#):

“We know some of this money is going to be wasted”

Day 168 – July 6: Rasmussen [reports](#) that only 27% of the country supports a second stimulus, with 60% disapproving.

Day 169 – July 7: Obama advisor Laura Tyson [advocates a second stimulus](#), “The economy is worse than we forecast on which the stimulus program was based”.

On the very same day President Obama [tells ABC's Jake Tapper](#), **“There's nothing that we would have done differently,”** referring to the original stimulus.

Day 170 – July 8: Perhaps taking a cue from Obama's broken transparency promises, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) [laughs](#) at the prospect of actually reading the legislation he is forcing upon the American people:

“If every member pledged to not vote for it if they hadn't read it in its entirety, I think we would have very few votes”

Day 172 – July 10: The General Services Administration awards a contract to defense technology firm Smartronix to [create the new Recovery.gov website](#). The request for proposal was never posted online, and the new contract was not posted until July 10.

Day 173 – July 11: In an [address to the African continent](#), President Obama says, “No business wants to invest in a place where the government skims 20 percent off the top.”

Day 175 – July 13: Obama's fabricated and oft-repeated concept of a “saved or created” job is debunked by Christina Romer, Chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisors.

The stunning admission came during an [interview](#) with CNBC when Romer was challenged by host Maria Bartiromo:

MARIA BARTIROMO: *“When the stimulus was first announced, the President said that he expected in the coming years, the Administration, based on the policies on*

economic revival could 'save or create three and a half million jobs.' At this point, does the Administration know how many jobs have been created or saved?"

CHRISTINA ROMER: *"It's very hard to say exactly because you don't know what the baseline is, right, because you don't know what the economy would have done without it."*

Day 176 – July 14: President Obama says unemployment will [continue to rise](#):

"My expectation is, is that we will probably continue to see unemployment tick up for several months"

A CBS news [poll](#) shows 60% of Americans think the stimulus has had no impact and 15% say it has made the economy worse.

While introducing the new Surgeon General, Obama claims he is keeping [his central campaign pledge](#):

"During the campaign, I promised health care reform that would control costs, expand coverage, and ensure choice. And I promised that Americans making \$250,000 a year or less would not pay more in taxes. These are promises that we're keeping as reform moves forward."

Day 178 – July 16: CBO Chairman Douglas Elmendorf tells the Senate Budget Committee that Obama's healthcare plan will [raise federal health care costs](#):

"In the legislation that has been reported, we do not see the sort of fundamental changes that would be necessary to reduce the trajectory of federal health spending by a significant amount and, on the contrary, the legislation significantly expands the federal responsibility for health care costs."

Press Secretary Robert Gibbs once again dodges a question about [Obama breaking his central campaign pledge](#):

Q: *"Can you say flatly, then, does the President support the surtax that's in the House bill?"*

MR. GIBBS: *"I'm going to cleave to my voluminous answers on any other of the many proposals that we've discussed over the past 10 weeks: It's a process that we're watching."*

Vice President Biden [states](#) the federal government is going bankrupt, and in order to prevent this from happening, the government should spend more money:

“We’re going to go bankrupt as a nation,” Biden said. “Now, people when I say that look at me and say, ‘What are you talking about, Joe? You’re telling me we have to go spend money to keep from going bankrupt?’” Biden said. “The answer is yes, that’s what I’m telling you.”

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or jkartch@atr.org.

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