

Republican Perspective

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by Ed Manning

The Teflon Presidency

There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth; not going all the way, and not starting.” Buddha

Former White House adviser, David Axlerod recently spoke at the University of Chicago’s Institute of Politics and said: “I’m proud of the fact that basically you’ve had an administration that’s been in place for six years in which there hasn’t been a major scandal, I think that says a lot about the ethical strictures of this administration.” Perhaps it says more about a compliant main stream media that loses its appetite for investigative journalism when a Democrat is in the White House.

Sharyl Attkisson, the former CBS news reporter, uses what she calls the Substitution Game to test whether biases are leading news reporting. She takes a given news scenario and posits how it might be treated if key players were substituted. Let’s play the Substitution Game with these Obama Administration follies:

Fast & Furious: This is the Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms agency’s controversial gun-walking program that secretly let thousands of weapons fall into the hands of Mexican drug cartels. A Border Patrol agent is murdered with one of these weapons. Attorney General Eric Holder, is held in contempt of Congress for failure to turn over documents about the gun-walking. Obama cites executive privilege and refuses to turn over correspondence. Media lets the story die. Substitute John Ashcroft as Attorney General and George Bush. The media might keep the story alive until the Department of Justice releases documents requested by Congress and the public learns the truth about federal mismanagement and perhaps criminal activity.

Veterans Administration: This came to light when a retired doctor from the Phoenix VA said that patients were being placed on a secret waiting list and several had died pending treatment. The Phoenix VA had a practice of shredding requests for appointments to make the appearance of waiting times shorter. Substitute George Bush - Would the media follow up with questioning how the Affordable Care Act will prevent a VA scenario for the entire population? If this type of treatment occurs under government health care for a small portion of the population what is it going to be like for the entire nation? Is this the thanks Bush gives to those brave soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Benghazi: The US Ambassador to Libya is murdered along with three other Americans in a planned terrorist attack on our Embassy. Our United Nations Ambassador, Susan

Rice goes on the Sunday TV network talk shows and says the attack was sparked by an unfavorable internet video about Islam's Mohammed. President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also tell the public and the victim's families that the protest was rooted in the video. Over a year later, only one terrorist is captured and jailed. A former State Department official says that Hillary Clinton confidants were part of an operation to separate damaging documents before they were turned over to the Accountability Review Board. Substitute George Bush, Condoleezza Rice and John Bolton. It's not difficult to imagine the quip: Bush lied, our Ambassador died. Calls for the resignation of the Secretary of State would be loud and often.

IRS: Senior IRS official Lois Lerner apologizes for what she calls "inappropriate" scrutiny of conservative groups applying for tax-exempt status that included "tea party" or "patriots". The result was to delay and reduce conservative groups ability to be politically active in the 2012 elections. Initially, the IRS says the targeting was due to rogue employees at its Cincinnati office. Obama tells Fox News, Bill O'Reilly that "not even a smidgen of corruption" exists at the IRS. The media moves the story from one of corruption to one of confusion over the new rules resulting from the Supreme Court's *Citizen v United* ruling. Substitute Ronald Reagan, Bush I or Bush II, and this would have led to another Watergate type investigation with ties to the White House.

Obamacare: The epic failure of the rollout can be viewed as Obama Administration incompetency, the only law with serious impact to the American public to be passed without bi-partisan support. The Administration issues a plethora of exemptions while the President delays implementation of certain aspects of the law. Substitute George Bush, and the media might be railing how Republicans improved the profitability of their big business cronies in drug companies and health insurers.

Mr. Axlerod surely believes his comments. After all, he is a card-carrying member of the Chicago Democratic machine where a scandal is just viewed as common place. As for the main stream media, don't expect any semblance of investigative reporting.