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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Clinton Questions Need Full Review

THE NEWS & OBSERVER (Raleigh, N.C.), (April 28): It didn't take long for Hillary Clinton to run into trouble in her fledgling presidential campaign. Just two weeks after Clinton formally entered the race, the acting chief executive of the Clinton Foundation had to issue a blog post under the headline, "A Commitment to Honesty, Transparency and Accountability." In the post, Maura Pally acknowledged "mistakes" regarding the foundation's reporting on some of its tax forms and reiterated the foundation's commitment to being open about its work and its donors.

Bill and Hillary Clinton have been subject to plenty of right-wing scandal-mongering where none existed, from Whitewater real estate deals to Vince Foster's suicide to Benghazi. But this speculation about the propriety of the foundation's foreign fundraising while Hillary Clinton was serving as secretary of state may prove merited. The scrutiny has been stirred by a forthcoming book, "Clinton Cash," by conservative author Peter Schweizer. In the book, Schweizer charges that the State Department under Clinton gave preferential treatment to foundation donors.

Whether those charges will hold up awaits vetting by the media, especially the *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*, which made agreements for advance access to the book and are poring over the foundation's donors and State Department actions.

There is clearly an opportunity for conflict when a high official is also linked to a foundation. Those seeking official favors may well see a large gift to the foundation as a way to curry it. The Clintons agreed to begin posting lists of foundation contributors before Hillary Clinton became secretary of state. And the foundation accepted some restrictions on support from foreign governments while she was in office, but it did not eliminate such gifts. Indeed, one-third of donations over \$1 million to the \$2 billion foundation have come from either foreign governments or foreign-based groups, according to *The Washington Post*. Whether this controversy deepens will depend on whether it can be shown that donors received special treatment. But even without a smoking gun, the arrangement always has had an odd aspect.

The Clintons were not the typical foundation founders in the mode of Bill Gates. They did not decide what to do with a fortune. Hillary Clinton famously said she and her husband were "dead broke" when Bill Clinton left office in January of 2001. The Clintons set about making a fortune with Bill as a former president and Hillary as a possible future president. Bill Clinton has received more than \$100 million for giving speeches and one fourth of those who paid him also gave to his foundation. *The Post* reports. Hillary, too, has worked the speech circuit for hefty six-figure fees. That unorthodox approach to funding philanthropy had led to the uncomfortable questions now.

Republicans relish the prospect of the Hillary Clinton express to the White House being derailed by the Clintons very popularity and their ability to use it to build a large foundation and their personal wealth. But what may spare Hillary Clinton from significant damage are forces that the Republicans themselves let loose. By championing the corporation-as-person and helping to knock down limits on corporate and individual contributions to super PACs, Republicans and the conservative majority of the Supreme Court have made influence buying legal.

Republican candidates are loading up on super PAC cash. Candidates who benefit from huge contributions from billionaires and corporations won't have much standing to criticize the Clintons.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, April 30, the 120th day of 2015. There are 245 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 30, 1945, as Soviet troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler committed suicide along with his wife of one day, Eva Braun.

On this date: In 1789, George Washington took the oath of office in New York as the first president of the United States.

In 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about \$15 million.

In 1812, Louisiana became the 18th state of the Union.

In 1900, engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones of the Illinois Central Railroad died in a train wreck near Vaughan, Mississippi, after staying at the controls in a successful effort to save the passengers.

In 1939, the New York World's Fair officially opened with a ceremony that included an address by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1945, the radio show "Queen for Today" (later "Queen for a Day") premiered on the Mutual Network.

In 1958, the American Association of Retired Persons (later simply AARP) was founded in Washington, D.C., by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus.

In 1968, New York City police forcibly removed student demonstrators occupying five buildings at Columbia University.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean, who was actually fired.

In 1975, the Vietnam War ended as the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon fell to Communist forces.

In 1988, Gen. Manuel Noriega, waving a machete, vowed at a rally to keep fighting U.S. efforts to oust him as Panama's military ruler.

In 1990, hostage Frank Reed was released by his captives in Lebanon; he was the second American to be released in eight days.

Ten years ago: Missing Georgia woman Jennifer Wilbanks admitted to police in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that she was a "runaway bride" after initially claiming to have been abducted; on what was supposed to have been her wedding day,

she was escorted to the airport by officers for a flight home. Vietnam marked the 30th anniversary of the war's end. James Toney outpointed John Ruiz to win the WBA heavyweight title in New York.

Five years ago: Heavy winds and high tides complicated efforts to hold back oil from a blown-out BP-operated rig that threatened to coat bird and marine life in the Gulf of Mexico; President Barack Obama halted any new offshore projects pending safeguards to prevent more explosions like the one that unleashed the spill.

One year ago: Iraq voted in its first nationwide election since U.S. troops withdrew in 2011. Police in Northern Ireland arrested Sinn Fein party leader Gerry Adams over his alleged involvement in the Irish Republican Army's 1972 abduction, killing and secret burial of a 38-year-old Belfast widow, Jean McConville (Adams was released without charge). A lawyer for Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said Ford would take a leave of absence to seek help for substance abuse.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Cloris Leachman is 89. Singer Willie Nelson is 82. Actor Burt Young is 75. Singer Bobby Vee is 72. Movie director Allan Arkush is 67. Actor Perry King is 67. Singer-musician Wayne Kramer is 67. Singer Merrill Osmond is 62. Movie director Jane Campion is 61. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper is 56. Actor Paul Gross is 56. Basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas is 53. Country musician Robert Reynolds is 53. Actor Adrian Pasdar is 50. Rock singer J.R. Richards (Dishwalla) is 48. Rapper Turbo B (Snap) is 48. Rock musician Clark Vogeler is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chris "Choc" Dalrymple (Soul For Real) is 44. Rock musician Chris Henderson (3 Doors Down) is 44. Country singer Carolyn Dawn Johnson is 44. Actress Lisa Dean Ryan is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Akon is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jeff Timmons (98 Degrees) is 42. Actor Johnny Galecki is 40. Singer-musician Cole Deggs (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 39. Actor Kunal Nayyar is 34. Rapper Lloyd Banks is 33. Actress Kirsten Dunst is 33. Country singer Tyler Wilkinson (The Wilkinson) is 31. Actress Dianna Agron is 29.

Thought for Today: "The trouble with our age is all signposts and no destination." — Louis Kronenberger, American author (1904-1980).

FROM THE BIBLE

Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be great. Genesis 15:1. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Help At All

Fran Johnson, Yankton
This letter is for the guy who lives on Seventh and Linn in Yankton. You had five bikes out by the curb for citywide cleanup. I stopped to pick them up and you said "Keep going." I don't know what you were

thinking, if I was going to take them and sell them or what. The Legion Post 12 has been collecting bikes for the kids on the Indian reservation, all for free. I hope you're proud of yourself for filling up the landfill rather than helping a kid get a bike of his own.



Leonard Pitts Jr.
Tribune Content Agency

'What Can I Do?'

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
Tribune Content Agency

"There comes a time when people get tired." — Martin Luther King Jr., Dec. 5, 1955
Tracy is tired. She was tired even before Baltimore burned this week.

I received an email from her on April 12. She wanted me to know she is a 55-year-old white lady from Austin, Texas, who is tired unto tears by incident after incident of police violence against unarmed African-American men — including a 2013 shooting in her own hometown. "What can be done?" she asked. "What can I do? I'm sincere in this question. I want to DO something. What can that be? I'm embarrassed to have to ask; I feel like I should KNOW what to do, but I don't."

There comes a time when people get tired. And then what?

In Baltimore, the answer some people gave was to break windows, smash cars, set fires and loot stores. In so doing, they gave aid and comfort to every enemy of justice who would just as soon not look too closely at what happened in that city. Meaning, of course, the death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old African-American man who mysteriously suffered fatal injuries — on April 12, no less — while in police custody.

As Martin Luther King noted after young people in Memphis broke windows and looted stores during the last march he ever led, violence has a way of changing the subject. He lamented that he was now forced to talk about the vandalism rather than the exploitation of dirt-poor working men that had brought him to Memphis in the first place.

Similarly, we are now required to take time out from demanding justice for Freddie Gray to discuss the sacking and looting of Baltimore and to say the obvious: The road to better policing does not go through a burned-out CVS pharmacy. So the rioting — whether motivated by genuine anger or craven opportunism — was not just thuggish, short-sighted and self-defeating. It was also tactically stupid, ceding the moral high ground and giving media, politicians and pundits permission to ignore the very real issues here.

Not that they ever need much of an excuse, particularly over at Fox "News" and other citadels of conservative denialism. Indeed, on Monday night even as Baltimore burned, Fox's Lou Dobbs was, predictably enough, blaming the violence on President Obama.

Apparently the death of Gray, whose spine was partially severed in some still unexplained way, had nothing to do with it. Repeated incidents of police violence against men and boys who somehow al-

Michelle Malkin

Obama's Baltimore Babble

BY MICHELLE MALKIN
Creators.com

It's never enough. American taxpayers have surrendered billions and billions and billions of dollars to the social-justice-spender-in-chief. But it's never, ever enough.

The latest paroxysm of urban violence, looting and re-crimerations in Baltimore prompted President Obama on Tuesday to trot out his frayed Blame The Callous, Tight-Fisted Republicans card. After dispensing with an obligatory wrist-slap of toilet paper-and Oreo-filching "protesters" who are burning Charm City to the ground (he hurriedly changed it to "criminals and thugs" mid-word), the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize winner got down to his usual business: hectoring his political opponents and grousing that America hasn't forked over enough money for him to make the "massive investments" needed to "make a difference right now."

If we are "serious" about preventing more riots, the president declared, then "the rest of us" (translation: all of us stingy conservatives) have to make sure "we are providing early education" and "making investments" so that inner-city youths are "getting the training they need to find jobs."

Narcissus on the Potomac wheeled that "there's a bunch of my agenda that would make a difference right now." Me, me, me! His laundry list of the supposedly underfunded cures that he can't get through Congress includes "school reform," "job training" and "some investments in infrastructure" to "attract new businesses."

I'll give POTUS credit: He can lay it on thicker than a John Deere manure spreader.

Let's talk "massive investments," shall we? In 2009, Obama and the Democrats rammed the \$840 billion federal stimulus package through Capitol Hill under the guise of immediate job creation and economic recovery. An estimated \$64 billion went to public school districts; another nearly \$50 billion went for other education spending. This included \$13 billion for low-income public school kids; \$4.1 billion for Head Start and child-care services; \$650 million for educational technology; \$200 million for working college students; and \$70 million for homeless children.

How's that all working out? Last week, economists from the St. Louis Federal Reserve surveyed more than 6,700 education stimulus recipients and concluded that for every \$1 million of stimulus grants to a district, a measly 1.5 jobs were created. "Moreover, all of this increase came in the form of nonteaching staff," the report found, and the "jobs effect was also not statistically different from zero."

More than three-quarters of the jobs "created or saved" in the first year of the stimulus were government jobs, while roughly 1 million private sector jobs were forestalled or destroyed, according to Ohio State University. President Obama later admitted "there was no such thing" as "shovel-ready projects." But there were plenty of pork-ready recipients, from green energy billionaires

ways happen to be black and unarmed, had nothing to do with it. No, it was Obama's fault.

Amazing. It has reached a point where you can't keep the atrocities straight without a scorecard. Besides Gray, we've got Eric Harris, an unarmed black man shot in Tulsa who cried that he was losing his breath, to which a cop responded "F— your breath." We've got Levar Jones, a black man shot by a state trooper in South Carolina while complying with the trooper's commands. We've got Oscar Grant, Sean Bell, Eric Garner. We've got video of a black man named Walter Scott, wanted for a traffic violation and back child support, running from a police officer and being shot to death. We've got video of a white man named Michael Wilcox, wanted for murder, running toward a police officer, threatening him, daring him to shoot, refusing to remove his hands from his pockets, yet somehow not being shot.

We've got all this plus statistical proof. Yet the same people who cry "War on Christmas!" every time some city hall in Podunk erects a menorah on the lawn can discern no racial disparity in police violence against unarmed men.

So if there comes a time when people get tired, who can blame them?

Reading Tracy's email, I was reminded of how a white college student once confronted Malcolm X at a Harlem restaurant and asked him the same question Tracy did: What can I do? To which Malcolm replied: "Nothing." I've always thought the student deserved better than he gave her. After all, the fight for human rights is not a black thing. Human rights are a human thing.

Here, then, begins a series of columns — "What Can I Do?" — aimed at finding answers to Tracy's question. It will be open-ended and run irregularly. I will be interviewing people who can provide Tracy — and by extension, the rest of us — concrete strategies for making change. Some of those I talk to, you will likely know; some may be new to you.

If you have a serious answer for Tracy — or think there's someone I should talk to — send me an email: lpitts(at)miamiherald.com. Maybe I'll write about it. Put "What Can I Do?" in the subject line. Keep it short — 1,000 word treatises will go unread.

Tracy asked something we all should be asking. Assuming the news does not intervene, our search for answers begins with my next column.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for *The Miami Herald*, *1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132*. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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