

Treasury IG Probes \$528M Loan For Solyndra

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department's inspector general has opened an investigation of a \$528 million government loan to Solyndra Inc., the now-bankrupt solar panel manufacturer once cited as a model of the Obama administration's clean energy program.

A spokesman said Thursday that the inspector general is reviewing the role and actions of the Federal Financing Bank, a government corporation supervised by the Treasury Department. The bank provided the low-interest loan to the Fremont, Calif.-based company.

The Treasury investigation is the latest government inquiry into the collapse of Solyndra, which filed for bankruptcy last month.

The FBI has executed search warrants at Solyndra's headquarters and talked to top executives. The Energy Department's inspector general and the House Energy and Commerce Committee also are investigating Solyndra and the DOE's Energy Loan Program, which has provided billions in loan guarantees to renewable energy companies.

The loan guarantees essentially make it easier for the companies to get financing, because the government guarantees repayment in the event of default. In Solyndra's case, the loan came from the government itself, but private banks often provide the financing.

Palestinians Press Forward With Bid To Join UN

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — In a direct challenge to the United States, the Palestinians said Thursday they will ask the Security Council next week to accept them as a full member of the United Nations, even though Washington has promised to veto the measure.

The Palestinian assertion came as a senior U.S. diplomatic team was in the region trying to avert an embarrassing showdown and relaunch peace talks.

By pushing forward, the Palestinians risk putting President Barack Obama in the uneasy position of having to veto a measure supported by the vast majority of the international community.

Foreign Minister Riad Malki told foreign journalists the Palestinians were not looking for a fight.

But he said the American stance puts the U.S. in a "confrontational position" with the rest of the world, and suggested American credibility could be at stake.

"I don't know what it means to the standing of the U.S. in the United Nations and among the countries of the world," he said.

Even so, the Palestinians left the door open for compromise.

Execution Day Looms Again For Troy Davis

ATLANTA (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of people are rallying behind Georgia death row inmate Troy Davis — not just because they oppose capital punishment but because they believe the state could put an innocent man to death. The case is fraught with drama: The murder of an off-duty police officer. Conflicting eyewitness testimony. Last-minute court decisions sparing a condemned man's life and global dignitaries who say they fear an innocent man could die.

Davis has captured considerable attention because of the doubt raised over whether he killed Mark MacPhail in Savannah in 1989. The U.S. Supreme Court even granted Davis a hearing to prove his innocence, the first time it had done so for a death row inmate in at least 50 years, but he couldn't convince a judge to grant him a new trial.

The officer's family believes there's no doubt that Davis killed MacPhail and prosecutors say the right man was convicted.

Davis is scheduled to die Wednesday, the fourth time his execution has been set in four years. He once came within two hours of being put to death. His attorneys say his legal appeals are exhausted and the chances of him winning another reprieve have dwindled.

Still, supporters hope to convince Georgia's pardons board next week to spare his life.

BOEHNER:

Debt Panel Can Start On Tax Changes

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — House Speaker John Boehner urged Congress' deficit "supercommittee" on Thursday to lay the groundwork for a broad overhaul of the U.S. tax code, rejecting Democrats' talk of tax increases but leaving open the possibility the government's take could rise as a result.

Tax increases "are not a viable option" for the committee, Boehner declared in a speech to the Washington Economic Club, ruling out many of the proposals that President Barack Obama is expected to forward to the 12-member panel next week, including some that are part of his major jobs proposal.

Boehner made his remarks as White House officials disclosed that Obama intends to travel to Cincinnati next week as he campaigns for public support of his \$447 billion proposal to cut into the nation's 9.1 percent unemployment rate. The political symbolism of the site was unmistakable — an overcrowded bridge that links Boehner's Ohio with Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell's Kentucky, a span the president has cited as an example of the repair work his jobs program would make possible.



Boehner

Separately, White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama will not recommend any budget savings from Social Security when he releases his recommendations to the deficit-cutting committee next week, despite the president signaling support for that idea in summertime debt-reduction talks with Boehner.

Carney declined to say what, if any, recommendations the president might make to find savings from Medicare.

The day's events underscored the extent to which the committee of 12 lawmakers is likely to be guided by the views of the most senior leaders in both political parties as it tries to develop legislation to reduce deficits by \$1.2 trillion or more over a decade.

The panel has almost unlimited authority to recommend changes in federal spending and taxes and is working against a deadline of Nov. 23. It held a closed-door meeting during the day, but officials declined to provide details of what was discussed.

In his speech, Boehner was alternately critical of Obama's economic policies and somewhat conciliatory.

"Businesses are not going to hire someone for a \$4,000 tax credit if government mandates impose long-term costs on them that significantly exceed the temporary credit," he said, describing a portion of what the president asked Congress to approve in his jobs program.

"Let's be honest with ourselves," he said. "The president's proposals are a poor substitute for the pro-growth policies that are needed to remove barriers to job creation in America."

The centerpiece of Obama's jobs program is a one-year extension of Social Security payroll tax cuts for workers, expanded to include businesses. He is also seeking other tax breaks, as well as an extension of unemployment benefits, aid to states to permit them to hire teachers and first responders, and construction funding for highways and bridges like the one he intends to visit in Ohio next week.

Asked whether the congressional debt panel might include some of Obama's jobs recommendations in its own work, Boehner said, "I think it's too early to determine whether some of it ends up being the work of the ... committee or whether we do it separately."

Defying Orders, Hero Marine Saved Other Troops

BY JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defying orders and tempting fate, Marine corporal Dakota Meyer charged five times in a Humvee into heavy gunfire in the darkness of an Afghanistan valley to rescue comrades under attack from Taliban insurgents.

On Thursday, Meyer was presented with the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award, by President Barack Obama.

Meyer's courage during the six-hour ambush and firefight saved the lives of 36 people, both Americans and Afghans. He killed at least eight Taliban insurgents. Firing from a gun turret on top of the Humvee driven by a fellow Marine, he provided cover for his team, allowing many to escape likely death.

He was defying orders from his commanders, who told him to stay back. The kill zone, they said, was too dangerous. But the young corporal, just 21 years old at the time, knew his friends were trapped that early morning in September 2009.

"In Sgt. Dakota Meyer, we see the best of a generation that has served with distinction through a



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT

U.S. President Barack Obama awards Dakota Meyer, a former active duty Marine Corps Corporal, the Medal of Honor "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" in the East Room of the White House in Washington, D.C., September 15, 2011.

decade of war," Obama said during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

Meyer, later promoted to sergeant and now out of the Marines, is the third living recipient and the first Marine to be awarded the

Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The modest, soft-spoken 23-year-old now lives in his home state of Kentucky, working construction in the tiny town of Greensburg.

Obama praised Meyer for his humility and work ethic. When the White House tried to reach him in the middle of a workday to tell him his medal had been approved, he worried about whether he could take a call while on the job. So the White House arranged for the president to call during Meyer's lunch break. With a smile, Obama thanked him for taking the call.

On the eve of the Medal of Honor ceremony, Obama and Meyer met in person, chatting on a patio near the White House Rose Garden, over a beer.

Despite Meyer's heroism, four Americans died in the ambush: 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, a 25-year-old from Virginia Beach; Staff Sgt. Aaron Kenefick, 30, of Roswell, Ga.; Corpsman James Layton, 22, of Riverbank, Calif.; and Edwin Wayne Johnson Jr., a 31-year-old gunnery sergeant from Columbus, Ga. A fifth man, Army Sgt. Kenneth W. Westbrook, 41, of Shiprock, N.M., later died from his wounds.

Meyer says he has struggled with the national attention, with being recognized for the worst day of his life. He requested that memorial services for those who died that day be held in their hometowns at the same time he received the Medal of Honor.

OBITUARIES

LaVerne Johnson

LaVerne M. Johnson, age 97 of Yankton passed away Wednesday morning, September 14, 2011 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton, SD.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 17, 2011 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton with Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be at approximately 1:15 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Wakonda, SD.

Visitations will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday, September 16, 2011 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton with the family present at 5:30 p.m. A rosary will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by a video tribute and a 7:30 p.m. Scripture service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers are: David Johnson, Daniel Johnson, Matthew Johnson, Thomas Larsen, Allen Merrill and Erik Johnson.

LaVerne M. Peppel Johnson was born near Butte, NE in Boyd county April 29, 1914 to Harry and Caroline (Determan) Peppel. She attended the Butte parochial school the first eight grades and graduated from Butte High School.

She married Milton David Johnson of Bristow, NE February 12, 1935 at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church at Butte, NE.

They lived a short time at Spencer, NE and then moved to Bristow, NE where they lived until they moved to Sioux Falls, SD. In 1953 they moved to Wakonda, SD where they lived for nine years and moved to Yankton, SD. Milton died



Johnson

in 1982.

LaVerne was employed by Avera Sacred Heart Hospital as coordinator of volunteers. She worked full time and then part time for many years.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Madonna Circle where she held many offices, Senior Citizen Center life time member, Sacred Heart Hospital Auxiliary, VFW Auxiliary, and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

While she was growing up at home her family had a dance band known as the "Five Bits Of Harmony." They played in the surrounding areas.

She is survived by three children, Marlene Larsen of Yankton, SD, Burdette (Barbara) Johnson of Sioux Falls, SD, Marvin (Susan) Johnson of Overland Park, KS, eight grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren, one sister, Evelyn (Don) Klasna of Spencer, NE.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, infant daughter, Carol Lynn, two sisters, Bernice Hamers and Ione Riesselman, son-in-law, Dean Larsen.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 16, 2011

PSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Ruby Barikowsky

TYNDALL — Funeral services for Ruby V. Bartikowsky, 91, of Tyndall will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, September 19 at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall. Burial will follow in the Tyndall Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Monday from noon until the time of service at the funeral home.

Ruby passed away on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Society of Tyndall.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin Funeral Home
Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp
 www.goglinfh.com

Howard Livingston

SIoux FALLS — Howard Livingston, 84, passed away Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.

Howard was born in Missouri and raised in Britton, SD. It was there he met and married his precious wife Betty on October 16, 1954. Howard was a proud veteran and served in both the Merchant Marines and the Army during WWII. He was thrilled to be part of the first Honor Flight from



Livingston

Sioux Falls.

Howard held many jobs during his lifetime, most of them in the area of facilities maintenance. He was a busy man and loved many things in life, most notably his wife, children, grandchildren, fishing, his John Deere tractor, his pickup and motorcycles. For over 48 years, Howard's life mission was to stay sober and help others through the work of AA.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife Betty, Sioux Falls; children, Barbara (Jim) Mettler of Britton, Dean Livingston of Yankton, Kent (Rose) Livingston of Tyndall, Bob (Becky) Livingston of Sioux Falls, Cindy (Tim) Matson of Hartford; siblings, Barbara Tshida of Webster, Judy (Duane) of Pier-

Gary Megstadt

OMAHA, Neb. — Funeral services for Gary Lee Magstadt, 61, of Omaha, Nebraska will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, September 19 at the Goglin Funeral Home in Scotland. Burial will follow in the Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland.

Visitation will be held on Monday from 8:30 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home.

Gary passed away on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at his residence in Omaha.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin Funeral Home
Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp
 www.goglinfh.com

Robert Holmes

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Robert George Holmes, 85, of St. George, Utah, and formerly of Vermillion, died Friday, Sept. 9, 2011, in St. George.

Funeral services are at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion, with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial will be in Bluff View Cemetery, Vermillion.

www.yankton.net

No Cross, No Crown
The Life and Times of Bishop Martin Marty, OSB

First-Person Portrayal Performed by **Lenny Koupal**
Monday, September 19, 2011 at 7:00 PM
Marian Auditorium, MMC Campus
Free Admission

MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE
1105 W. 8th St., Yankton, SD | 1-855-MtMarty | www.mtmc.edu

When someone gets injured on the job, it can be a very stressful time.

Our Worker's Compensation Prescription program makes it easy for injured employees to get their medication and get on the road to recovery fast! We accept all employers' plans and approved workman's comp claims, there's no co-pay, verification is immediate.

ROGER'S FAMILY PHARMACY
"A tradition of trust"

218 West 4th Street • Yankton, SD 57078 • (605) 665-8042

IN REMEMBRANCE

George H. Eells
11:00 AM, Monday
Wintz Funeral Home
Hartington

WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. 605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

WINTZ FUNERAL HOME INC. Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton 402-25-46947