



Obama Administration Set to Release Spy

By **AMY ELINSKI**
STAFF WRITER

Espionage so severely endangers national security that its perpetrators should never be treated with leniency. The Obama administration has a weaker stance, having granted parole to one of America's most notorious perpetrators of espionage, Jonathan Pollard. On July 7, it was announced that Pollard would be released on parole on November 20, the 30th anniversary of his arrest. Pollard sold millions of pages of top-secret documents to Israel, jeopardizing America's national security interests and causing massive rifts in the intelligence world.

The decision to release Pollard came shortly after the announcement of the Iran deal.

After being rejected by the CIA for failing the polygraph portion of the hiring process, Jonathan Pollard applied to the Naval Intelligence Service (NIS), the predecessor for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). Unlike the CIA, in 1979 NIS did not require a polygraph for analyst positions. A highly unlikable employee, Pollard continually changed NIS commands, serving in multiple billets for short periods before his supervisors requested he be fired or moved, until he settled into a position as an analyst in 1984. Coworkers spoke of his massive ego, poor work ethic, and attitude of high superiority.

Pollard possessed deep sense of loyalty to Israel. He began to sell information to Israel in 1984, believing the US was withholding information critical to Israel's national security interests. The information, he claimed, was only supposed to support Israel and could in no way jeopardize American interests.

He lied.

The millions of pages he sold included the NSA's top-secret ten-volume manual on Signals Intelligence (SigInt). The manual

exposed the communication channels of military powers that the NSA tracked, giving anyone who obtained it the ability to predict the US's strategies and techniques, and thus the ability to avoid detection.

The documents also included a year's worth of intelligence memos tracking Soviet submarines, ships, and aircrafts, the US technique for tracking submarines, and a detailed description of how one of the US's satellites enhanced surveillance.

Senior intelligence officers reported that many of the documents Pollard sold to Israel in the 1980s made it into the hands of the Soviets, likely through a mole in Mossad. Pollard admitted to nation-shopping for other entities to sell information to.

Pollard pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to deliver national defense information to a foreign government, and

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Anchor Baby Debate Not Helping Anyone

By **TAYLOR ELICEGUI**
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Is it a good campaign strategy to focus on the most polarizing issues? Some GOP candidates seem to think so, at least in the primaries.

Both Jeb Bush and Donald Trump have recently used the term "anchor baby" while discussing immigration policy. Google defines "anchor baby" as a "noun, offensive; used to refer to a child born to a noncitizen mother in a country which has birthright citizenship, especially when viewed as providing an advantage to family members seeking to secure citizenship or legal residency."

Illegal immigrants do have children in the United States, but there is no real anchor baby crisis.

Bush's and Trump's focus on birthright citizenship and anchor babies does little to help their campaigns. It unnecessarily

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This Week's News in 140 Characters

EDITORIAL REPORT



Stephen Miller @redsteeze · Sep 3

Everyone is held accountable for Syria except the semi-retired guy who said "red line" and is currently in Alaska holding fish and puppies.

← ↻ 293 ★ 178 ...



Matthew Dowd @matthewjdowd · Sep 3

Folks I am all for civil disobedience: but keep in mind the clerk in KY isn't Rosa Parks, she is more like George Wallace.

← ↻ 40 ★ 43 ...



Joe Perticone @JoePerticone · Sep 4

Hillary and Rubio both in Puerto Rico today. On if Clinton needs a translator, Rubio spox tells me 'her ideas are outdated in any language'

← ↻ 96 ★ 75 ...



Razor @hale_razor · Sep 5

Obama sent 3 representatives to attend a funeral of a convenience store robber, but couldn't send one to honor an assassinated Texas deputy.

← ↻ 1.4K ★ 902 ...



The Associated Press @AP · Sep 3

BREAKING: Trump signs GOP loyalty pledge to back party's 2016 nominee, forego potential third-party bid.

← ↻ 368 ★ 173 ...



Brian Faughnan @BrianFaughnan · Sep 3

The circus is top notch, but I could use some more bread.

← ↻ 8 ★ 6 ...

ANCHOR BABY DEBATE cont.

offends people while distracting from more pressing policy matters.

Trump and Bush have addressed the anchor baby issue several times, but neither can agree on the meaning of the term or the extent of the problem. Trump uses "anchor baby" much more broadly than Bush. Trump's campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, said on CNN's State of the Union, "If you think of the term anchor baby, which is those individuals coming to our country and having children here so that their children can be U.S. citizens, there's 400,000 of those taking place on a yearly basis."

Bush, on the other hand, used "anchor babies" differently. He clarified his use of the term, distancing himself from Trump's broad definition. "I was talking about . . . the specific case of fraud being committed, and frankly, it's more related to Asian people, coming into our country, having children, in organized efforts, taking advantage of a noble concept, which is birthright citizenship."

Other Republicans, like Senators Lindsey Graham (who used the term "drop and leave" instead of "anchor baby"), John McCain, Jeff Sessions, Jon Kyl,

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NY Tax Hope: Property Tax Cap

By **ALEX KLOSNER**
STAFF WRITER

Decades of irresponsible tax policy and fiscal mismanagement in the State of New York have hindered economic growth. According to the Tax Foundation's 2015 State Business Tax Climate Index, New York ranks 49th, leading only Chris Christie's New Jersey. In 2012, New York collected the most income tax of any state, raking in \$2,431 per taxpayer. A top income tax rate of 8.82% gives New York the 8th highest income tax rate in the U.S. Additionally, steep regressive taxes take a toll on working class New Yorkers. The state has the highest cigarette tax in the nation levying \$4.35 per pack and the third highest gas tax with 45.1 cents on the gallon.

With the exception of New York City residents, property taxes have crippled New York homeowners. State and local governments collected \$2,435 per person in 2012, ranking 4th in the nation. Homeowners in Nassau and Westchester Counties (which have some of the most expensive real estate in the state) paid the highest property taxes with a

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accepted a plea bargain, agreeing to cooperate and not divulge any more information. Pollard repeatedly discussed top-secret information during interviews with reporters during the investigation, violating non-disclosure agreements he had signed.

The prosecutor stated that “in combination with the breadth of this man’s knowledge, the depth of his memory, and the complete lack of honor that he has demonstrated in these proceedings, I suggest to you, your honor, he is a very dangerous man.” Pollard was sentenced to life.

The Israeli government and other groups have been pushing for Pollard’s release. His supporters claim that his punishment was excessive for selling documents to an ally, as he received the maximum sentence.

Opponents worry that upon his release Pollard may flee to Israel, who granted him citizenship in 1995. Donald Rumsfeld, Defense Secretary under Gerald Ford and George W. Bush, stated that Pollard’s release would weaken America’s reputation and encourage others to engage in espionage by eliminating a fear of harsh punishment.

Other high-ranking US officials, such as former Vice President Dick Cheney and former CIA Director George Tenet, have adamantly voiced disapproval over the possibility of Pollard receiving parole in the past. In 1998 when Bill Clinton considered releasing Pollard on parole, then-CIA Director George Tenet threatened to resign from his position if Pollard were released.

The decision to release Pollard came shortly after the announcement of the Iran deal. Critics claim that Pollard’s release is merely to appease Israel after their disapproval of the deal. Though the Obama administration claims Pollard’s release has nothing to do with the deal, it follows the trend of appeasement in the Obama administration.

From President Obama’s refusal to acknowledge terrorist attacks when they occur to

allowing Iran to still have nuclear capabilities, he continues to demonstrate his weak foreign policy skills. The release of Jonathan Pollard on parole perfectly follows this trend. He is too afraid to have our ally upset with us because he gave up ground to a mutual enemy, so he releases one of the most notorious traitors of the past century, who gravely injured the United States’ national security interests, to make them happy again.

T. ELICEGUI cont.

and Mitch McConnell, have also called for Congressional hearings investigating children born to illegal immigrants.

What these Republicans don’t address is the size and scope of the so-called “anchor baby” problem. Illegal immigrants do have children in the United States, but there is no real anchor baby crisis. According to Pew Research, in 2008 there were approximately 340,000 babies born to illegal immigrant parents, representing 8% of all births.

Ending birthright citizenship would require a constitutional amendment. Amending the Constitution would require the ratification of ¾ states, something that has succeeded only 27 out of nearly 12,000 attempts.

Through their discussion of “anchor babies,” both Bush and Trump have offended people and hurt their likeability on an issue that most likely wouldn’t even change if either were elected. If Republicans want to win the White House, they need to focus more on offering reasonable solutions, not making enemies through discussion of dead-end issues.

A. KLOSNER cont.

median property tax bill of \$8,000 per person. However, adjusted as a percentage of median home value, counties paying the highest tax bills are located upstate. It’s no surprise that the upstate population shrank by nearly 15,000, or 0.2% in the past 5 years alone.

To his credit, Governor Andrew Cuomo has addressed the culture of rampant taxation by implementing a property tax cap in 2012. The cap prohibits school

districts from levying a total local property tax increase by more than 2%, or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. However, budget voters can override this tax cap with a 60% supermajority vote.

The tax cap has had tremendous benefits for middle class families. According to a report released by the Cuomo Administration, the cap has saved the average homeowner \$800 in the past three years. The Empire Center for Public Policy, a nonpartisan think tank based in Albany, has published compelling statistics regarding the effectiveness of the cap. According to the Empire Center, tax levies increased about 6% per year on average in the 30 years preceding the tax cap. Since implementation in 2012, school taxes on average have risen only 2.2% per year. As a result, New York homeowners have saved an astounding \$7.6 billion since 2012 with \$3.3 billion in savings in 2015 alone.

The cap has saved the average homeowner \$800 in the past three years.

E.J. McMahon, president of the Empire Center and senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, noted in a recent *New York Post* op-ed that not everyone is enthused with the tax cap: “wildly popular with the public, the tax cap is resented by public employee NY Unions-and loathed, especially, by the powerful New York State United Teachers.” The group has launched a fierce legal crusade

against the tax cap but has been unsuccessful.

The Cuomo Administration released a statement in the *Times Union* responding to criticism from progressive groups: “New York taxpayers simply cannot afford to return to the bad old days of skyrocketing tax bills, little accountability and schools with the highest costs in the nation without the results to match.”

Despite its immense popularity and obvious success, the cap is only temporary thanks to the disgraced former assembly speaker Sheldon Silver. When the Manhattan Democrat wasn’t too busy dealing with indictments of mail fraud, wire fraud, and extortion he lobbied against the permanent adoption of one of the most successful pieces of legislation in recent New York State history. If the GOP controlled state Senate becomes dominated by New York City Democrats in the coming years, the tax cap could die, along with any vestige of sound tax reform.

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