

The President Is Ever More Impeachable

by William Wertz and Nancy Spannaus

April 30—Seldom has a U.S. President, or other official, been impeached for their actual crime, and President Barack Obama looks to be no exception. Obama's actual crimes against the U.S. Constitution lie in his dedication to imposing Nazi and dictatorial policies, on behalf of his British imperial masters. At present, there are still few prepared to take those on.

But, in his Nero-like effort to maintain power, against increasing unpopularity of his policies, Obama is making one stupid mistake after another, making himself increasingly vulnerable to prosecution. As in the case of President Richard Nixon, he is compounding his problems by his efforts at coverup.

The clearest violation of law which the President is being accused of, is in the case of Rep. Joe Sestak (D-Pa.). Months ago, Sestak reported that the Administration had offered him a position, if he would refrain from running in the Democratic primary against incumbent Republican-turned-Democrat Sen. Arlen Specter. Sestak declined the offer, and continues to run for the seat.

It is explicitly against the law for the Administration to attempt to *bribe* a politician in this manner.

On April 21, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) asked Attorney General Eric Holder to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate whether a crime was committed by the White House in offering a job to Sestak. Issa made the request after the White House Counsel's office, through its failure to respond to two letters on the matter, convinced him that the administration had effectively confirmed the accuracy of Sestak's account. Issa has previously pointed out that only the President himself could have offered a high-level post to Sestak (reportedly, Secretary of the Navy), and the coverup being carried out by the White House can only be compared to Nixon's coverup of Watergate.

Sestak has not taken back his public statement, nor, as far as is known, has he gone to the Justice De-

partment himself. As of this writing, the case is still pending.

Enter Blagojevich...

On the same day that Issa acted, former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich submitted a motion to subpoena President Obama to give testimony in Blagojevich's trial, which is to begin in Chicago on June 3. Although the motion was denied by the trial judge on April 30 as seeking testimony immaterial to the charges in the indictment (while allowing the issue to be revisited during the trial if evidence comes up which the President should address), the motion papers include several sections which reveal that Obama may have made false statements in his public comments after Blagojevich was arrested on Dec. 9, 2008, on charges of having attempted to sell his appointment of a replacement for Obama's Senate seat (vacated by Obama's election as President). At the time, Obama told reporters flatly, "I had no contact with the governor or his office, and so we were not—I was not aware of what was happening."

The Blagojevich motion reveals that U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald and the FBI are in possession of testimony by other witnesses who contradict the President's public claims.

It remains to be seen, whether the President-elect made similar false statements when he was interviewed by the FBI in December 2008. According to an article in the London *Daily Telegraph* by Toby Harnden on Dec. 26, 2008, Obama was interviewed at his Chicago transition office by two U.S. Attorneys and two FBI agents for two hours on the prior Thursday.

The Blagojevich motion notes also that on Dec. 19, 2009, the defense filed a discovery motion requesting all notes, transcripts, and reports generated from the government's interview of Obama. As of last week, the defense has not received any documents from Obama's interview with the government.

Also interviewed by the government were White House insiders Rahm Emanuel and Valerie Jarrett, whom Emanuel had said was Obama's preferred candidate. At the time, Harnden reported that Emanuel was known to have spoken to Blagojevich once or twice, and to his chief of staff John Harris at least four times, about the vacant Senate seat. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, at the time the scandal broke, Emanuel relayed to Blagojevich's team a list of candidates who would be acceptable to the Obama White House,



White House/Pete Souza

In Obama's Nero-like drive to assert his power, he is making one dumb mistake after another, thus making himself increasingly vulnerable to impeachment. He has reason to worry.

and that these conversations were captured on tape by Fitzgerald.

While Obama portrays his relationship to Blagojevich as distant, Ryan Lizza wrote in the *New Yorker* that, "Rahm Emanuel . . . told me that he, Obama, David Wilhelm, who was Blagojevich's campaign co-chair, and another Blagojevich aide were the top strategists of Blagojevich's victory. He and Obama participated in a small group that met weekly when Rod was running for governor, Emanuel said. 'We basically laid out the general election, Barack and I and these two.'" Moreover, Emanuel ran for the seat in Congress vacated by Blagojevich.

Despite the fact that Obama says he had no contact with Blagojevich, the Blagojevich motion reports:

"President-elect Obama also spoke to Governor Blagojevich on December 1, 2008 in Philadelphia. On Harris Cell Phone Call #139, John Harris and Governor's legal counsel discuss a conversation Blagojevich had with President-elect Obama."

Another section in the Blagojevich motion deals with a Services Employee International Union (SEIU) official who functioned as an intermediary for Obama to Blagojevich.

...And Money-Man Tony Rezko

The Blagojevich motion also raises another sensitive issue for Obama, which erupted during his campaign: his relationship with fixer Tony Rezko, who, having been convicted of fraud, is now sitting in prison in an undisclosed location.

The motion reports: "In a recent *in camera* proceeding, the government tendered a three paragraph letter indicating that Rezko has stated in interviews with the government that he engaged in election law violations by personally contributing a large sum of cash to the campaign of a public official who is not Rod Blagojevich. . . . Further, the public official denies being aware of cash contributions to his campaign by Rezko or others and denies having conversations with Rezko related to cash contributions. . . . The defense has a good faith belief that this public official is Barack Obama."

Rezko was convicted of a fraudulent scheme, which has criminal implications for both Blagojevich and Obama. The difficulty for Blagojevich and Obama is that Rezko, who is scheduled to testify in the upcoming trial, is clearly in the process of making a deal with the prosecution. The *Chicago Sun-Times* reports that Rezko was moved from Chicago's downtown Metropolitan Correctional Center on Dec. 16, to an undisclosed location.

There are indications that Obama may have still more to worry about: He is at the center of the Health Facilities Planning Board scheme for which Rezko was indicted. This scheme was also in the original indictment of Blagojevich (pp. 19-23), but was removed from the superseding indictment, perhaps to be reserved for another legal action.

The Rezko indictment reads: "Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board (Planning Board) was a commis-

sion of the State of Illinois, established by statute, whose members were appointed by the Governor of the State of Illinois. State law required an entity seeking to build a hospital, medical office building, or other medical facility in Illinois to obtain a permit, known as a Certificate of Need (CON), from the Planning Board prior to beginning construction.”

In 2003, new legislation, Senate Bill 1332, was introduced into the Illinois Senate in furtherance of this scheme. Obama was the chairman of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee in January 2003. The legislation made it easier to rig the board’s decisions, so as to facilitate kickbacks and bribes. Specifically, the bill reduced the number of members on the board from 15 to 9. Secondly the previous Act allowed the Board itself to select a “Chairman and other officers as deemed necessary.” But the new law stated: “The governor shall designate one of the members to serve as Chairman and shall name a full-time Executive Secretary.”

From his position as chairman of the Human Services Committee, Obama was instrumental in ensuring rapid passage of the bill. After the bill passed, a June 2003 e-mail exchange produced in the trial shows Obama was one of eight officials who received the names of the nominees for the new board ahead of time, from the office of David Wilhelm, who headed Blagojevich’s 2002 campaign for governor.

The corrupt new appointees were all contributors to Blagojevich, and to the U.S. Senate hopeful Obama. Tony Rezko was, at the time, a member of Obama’s finance committee.

Obama’s criminal Chicago connections were highlighted once again on April 23, when the FDIC seized Chicago’s Broadway Bank. The former senior loan officer of the family-run bank, Alexi Giannoulas, was elected Illinois State Treasurer with Obama’s support, and is now the Democratic candidate for Obama’s former U.S. Senate seat. The *Chicago Tribune* reported on April 1 that the bank loaned \$20 million to felons during a 14-month period when Giannoulas was the senior loan officer. The two felons, Michael Giorango and Demitri Stavropoulos were preparing to serve Federal prison terms at the time for bookmaking and prostitution.

Broadway’s other famous customer was Obama’s patron Tony Rezko, the same Rezko who wrote \$450,000 in bad checks against his account to pay off gambling debts.