

Will House Committee Finally Get to the Truth about Benghazi?

by William F. Wertz, Jr.

May 21—Now that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi has appointed five Democrats to the newly established House Select Committee to Investigate Benghazi—there are seven Republicans, including the chairman—the issue posed for both Republicans and Democrats is whether they will actually pursue the truth. Some in the GOP have been intent on using the investigation for partisan electoral reasons, focussing blame on Hillary Clinton, who was Secretary of State at the time of the Sept. 11, 2012 terrorist assault on the U.S. compound in Benghazi. At the same time, while Democrats insist that they are committed to finding the truth about the attack, which killed four Americans, they have engaged in an attempt to cover for President Obama’s complicity.

Some Democrats have argued that Benghazi has been investigated enough and that there are no unanswered questions.¹ Some have even compared the Select Committee to a “lynch mob.”

As a result, the truth has been the primary victim of the investigations conducted thus far.

Questions To Be Answered

The crucial questions have never been addressed in any of the reports issued by numerous Congressional committees:

- Did Obama violate the U.S. Constitution by waging war against Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi without Congressional approval?
- Why did Obama ally with the al-Qaeda-affiliated Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) and the Muslim

1. While several House committees, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and the State Department Accountability Review Board have issued reports on Benghazi, they have skirted or ignored key questions of policy. LaRouchePAC has issued several Fact Sheets detailing what questions should be asked, all of which have circulated widely in Congress.

Brotherhood to overthrow Qaddafi, when Qaddafi was working with the U.S. to fight al-Qaeda?

- What was the purpose of the CIA annex in Benghazi? Was it involved in running guns to the Syrian opposition?

In a hacked e-mail, dated Feb. 16, 2013, to Hillary Clinton, Sidney Blumenthal, a former aide to President Bill Clinton, asked if “wealthy Sunni Islamists from Saudi Arabia” had funded the al-Qaeda assault on the Benghazi mission and annex. According to that e-mail, French, Algerian, and Libyan intelligence agencies are aware of the reported Saudi funding. Has any committee ever contacted them?

Indeed, the matter goes beyond Benghazi, as the Saudis are believed to have funded the original 9/11/2001 attacks on the United States.

- Did Obama violate international law by approving the shipment of weapons from Qatar and the UAE to the opposition in Libya, in violation of the UN embargo, as reported by a UN panel of experts?

- Did Obama violate international law by shipping weapons to Syria from Libya in collaboration with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey? Was the U.S. company Jeppesen subcontracted by the Obama Administration for this purpose?

- Why was the Benghazi airport put under the control of Turkey before and after the overthrow of Qaddafi, as reported by the Turkish press? Was Turkish control of the Benghazi airport used to facilitate arms shipments?

- Which agencies of the U.S. government knew about the video produced by the head of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, released on Sept. 10, 2012, calling on Libyans to exact revenge against Americans for the drone killing of al Yahya al-Libi in Pakistan in June 2012. When did they know about it? Whom did they tell? Why has no committee which has investigated Benghazi mentioned this video?

- What was the role of CIA Director John Brennan in Libya? Brennan made the decision along with Obama to kill al-Yahya al-Libi; as assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, he was the person responsible for reviewing security measures in place prior to the 11th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, and as head of the National Security Staff (NSS), he was involved in approving the final version of the talking points that administration officials used, such as National Security Advisor Susan Rice on five Sunday morning talk shows following the Benghazi atrocity. As

Gen. David Petraeus pointed out, the final version was “the NSS’s call.”

Impeachable?

No Democrat or Republican can argue that these questions are illegitimate. No Democrat or Republican can argue that these questions have been answered.

The answers to these and similar questions will decide whether Obama is impeachable or not.

If the truth is pursued, and the answers show that Obama should be impeached, then the issue becomes: Is there a Howard Baker in the Democratic Party (the Republican Senate Majority Leader who offered President Nixon the option of resigning or being impeached)? For example, would Elijah Cummings (Md.), the senior Democrat assigned to the committee, be willing to play such a role? Would he have the courage to buck all of the pressure that is placed on him to defend Obama, no matter what?

Cummings has stated: “I believe we need someone in the room to simply defend the truth.” The fact is that the truth must be pursued and discovered before it can be defended—the whole truth. And until answers are

presented to the American people to the above questions, they will not know the whole truth.

The Democrats who will be joining the committee, which is scheduled to hold its first meeting, a planning session, on May 22, in addition to Cummings, are Adam Smith (Wash.), Adam Schiff (Calif.), Linda Sanchez (Calif.), and Tammy Duckworth (Ill.) Smith, Schiff, and Duckworth have responsibilities related to defense and foreign service as part of their other committee assignments.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, who is the chairman of the committee said today: “The Republican members of the committee welcome our colleagues. I respect Mr. Cummings and his work in Congress. I look forward to working with him and the members of the committee toward an investigation and a process worthy of the American people and the four brave Americans who lost their lives.”

In addition to Gowdy, the GOP members of the committee are Reps. Susan W. Brooks (Ind.); Jim Jordan (Ohio); Mike Pompeo (Kansas); Martha Roby (Ala.); Peter Roskam (Ill.); and Lynn Westmoreland (Ga.).

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