

Obama keeps cash flowing

Michael Costello/Lewiston Tribune

Not so many years ago, we were told that if we surrendered liberty for security, then the terrorists would have won. But times have changed. Now we have to ponder, if President Obama were to arrest his political fundraising and attend to his responsibilities, would that mean that the terrorists have won?

I cannot recall a single president in my life who dedicated his office so completely to raising money. Bill Clinton built a strong resume as a passionate fundraiser, even going so far as to rent out White House bedrooms and pimp himself as a host for "coffee klatches," but he took time out now and then to be president.

But Barack Hussein Obama lets nothing stand between himself and his fundraising. On the day that Russian surrogates shot down Malaysian Airlines flight MH17, killing nearly 300 innocents, Obama could only find 38 seconds in his schedule to bloodlessly mention "terrible tragedy," before boarding Air Force One and flying off to two fundraisers.

There is precedent for this. His current behavior recalls Sept. 11, 2012. Even as U.S. operatives in Benghazi, Libya, were fighting for their lives, Obama left the situation room and went to bed early. After all, he had to catch an early flight to Las Vegas, where he had a fundraiser scheduled. The man who has earned notoriety for keeping people waiting makes exceptions for those willing to pay more than \$30,000 per plate to have dinner in the same room with him.

It seems that every day some part of the world is burning. It's as though the newspaper headlines were nothing more than big Etch-a-Sketches where each day's tragedy is swept away by even worse news the next. And what shakes the Etch-a-Sketch screen clean each day is another round of fundraising.

In response to Obama's promises to use executive orders to eviscerate immigration laws and grant amnesty to illegal aliens, tens of thousands of unaccompanied minor children have flowed across the southern border. An unknown number die before they get here. Obama holds a fundraiser.

The Syrian civil war spills across the border into Iraq and much of that nation is abruptly under the control of extremists who consider al Qaida too moderate. Obama attends another fundraiser.

Russian agents shoot down a passenger plane, killing nearly 300 civilians. Obama is the star attraction at two fundraisers.

Russia supplies Ukrainian rebels with T-62 battle tanks. Obama shows those Russian bullies that they can't intimidate him and flies off to another fundraiser.

Hamas fires thousands of rockets at Israeli schools and cities. Israel responds with bombs, missiles and a ground invasion. Nothing can bring peace to the Middle East like another few fundraisers.

When Russia destabilized, then invaded and ultimately seized the Crimean Peninsula, Obama really got tough. He didn't just ask rich billionaires to write checks, he unleashed his State Department social media battalions. And the State Department unleashed the first Twitter hashtag offensive.

As the Russians crunched and munched on their Crimean conquest, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki tweeted out a picture of herself holding a hand-lettered cardboard poster that read, "#UnitedForCrimea." As Russia digested its Crimean feast, Psaki complained that Russia was failing to "live by the promise of hashtag."

Vladimir Putin is no doubt thanking his lucky stars that the State Department didn't sponsor an awareness-raising 5K Fun Run with "United for Crimea" souvenir T-shirts at the finish line.

And if that did frighten Putin back across the border, Obama could encourage his Hollywood pals to wear colored ribbons at the next Academy Awards. Could even the mighty, bare-chested Putin withstand such an escalation?

The Obama administration responded to the Muslim terrorist group Boko Haram's kidnapping of young girls by promoting the hashtag, "#BringBackOurGirls."

How has that worked out?

Obama promised in 2008 that his election alone would calm the world. After his election he embarked on an around the world apology tour, begging forgiveness for all of the leadership that we had exerted over the last century.

After all, aside from liberating much of the world from despotism, fascism, Nazism and communism, what was there to show for it? And who's to say that freedom of speech, religion, property rights, democracy and economic liberty are ideals that we want to spread around the world?

Obama won't defend what he doesn't believe in. He will fight for what he does believe in - bulging campaign coffers.

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