

# Give Obama credit; at least his latest speech was brief

Michael Costello/Lewiston Tribune

When Barack Hussein Obama addresses America, conservatives jokingly propose drinking games. In such games, one is required to down a shot every time Obama uses certain of his favorite words. In most of Obama's speeches, if your word happens to be a first-person pronoun, you'll need detox.

I, on the other hand, prefer what I call Mormon drinking games. In my games, you choose words and phrases that he'll never use. For example, if you choose a phrase like, "Islamic terrorism," you'll have a nice, dry night.

In his Oval Office speech Sunday, Obama argued that the appropriate response for the terrorism threat that must not be named was gun control. Democrats have been pushing lately for banning firearm purchases for anyone on a terrorist watch list. There are obvious problems with this, other than the fact that terrorists have no respect for laws. And I can't think of another constitutional right that we may be stripped of without due process. Terrorist watch lists are created secretly and sloppily. I was once on a watch list because my name resembled that of someone on another nation's list. The late Sen. Ted Kennedy found himself on the watch list. A Democratic representative from Massachusetts told PBS that there were 72 Department of Homeland Security employees on the watch list.

And, of course, the two Islamic terrorists who slaughtered 14 innocents in San Bernardino, Calif., were not on anyone's watch list, even though recent revelations show that they should have been.

Here are some data that Obama might want to consider.

Since 1993, gun ownership has soared, while gun violence has fallen precipitously.

In 1993, the homicide rate was 7 per 100,000 Americans.

In 2013, that rate had fallen to 3.6.

Non-fatal firearm violence has fallen from 725 to 175 per 100,000.

The exception to this trend may be found in gun-free zones. Mass shootings have soared under Obama. An analysis by Mother Jones magazine found that mass shootings occur in clusters, a statistic likely attributable to the copycat effect. But when plotted on a timeline, it's impossible to ignore the dense cluster that began at Obama's inauguration. Copycats crave the attention that the previous killer received. And Obama's gun control agenda has kept every such killing prominent on the front page.

During an interview with CBS, Obama also tried to make the case that global warming causes terrorism, although he did not explain why carbon dioxide has a greater effect on Muslims than those of other faiths.

"Whenever people are desperate, when people start lacking food, when people are not able to make a living," that is "when ideologies arise that are dangerous," he explained on CBS' "This Morning."

For months now, his administration has been trying to make the case that economic dislocation caused by global warming ignited the Syrian civil war that served as the incubator for ISIS.

Here's the problem: The treaty proposed in Paris two weeks ago would cause just the sort of economic disruption that Obama says causes extremism. By 2030, the treaty would reduce the world's gross domestic product by \$1 trillion annually.

Now you cannot depress the world's economy that much without creating desperation and hunger. And according to Obama's theory of the origins of terrorism, the treaty he seeks will cause more, not less terrorism.

And what would these trillions of dollars purchase? The answer is next to nothing. When the Paris treaty's carbon emission targets are plugged into the existing computer models favored by global warm mongers, we learn that the predicted rise in world temperatures will only slow imperceptibly. The temperature rise that is supposed to melt the glaciers by 2100 will arrive in 2105. Along the way, I doubt that anyone will be able to notice the difference. So we'll have two economic dislocations at work instead of one.

The purpose of the speech was apparently to comfort us with the knowledge that he's doing everything just right when it comes to international terrorism. The only change in policy that he seemed to consider was that he would order a review of the "visa waiver program."

He even fouled that up. Taffin Malik, the female terrorist, did not enter the country via the visa waiver program. The White House noticed the error and edited the transcript after Obama hustled off to a party at the Kennedy Center.

At least the speech was short.

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