



Notable Quotables

A bi-weekly compilation of the latest outrageous, sometimes humorous, quotes in the liberal media.

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Obama's Libya Incompetence an "Utterly Contrived" Issue

"It's obviously been totally politicized at this point. I lived in a civil war in Beirut for four years. These are incredibly messy situations. People don't show up with uniforms.... You can have a flash mob turned into a planned thing. You can have planned people inside of a flash mob. To me, this is an utterly contrived story in the sense that, 'this is the end of,' you know, 'Obama's foreign policy.'"

— *New York Times* columnist Tom Friedman on NBC's *Meet the Press*, October 21.



"This business about the, you know, the Libya consulate has been like the October Mirage — it really isn't an issue. And so, once again, tomorrow, Obama is going to have a very strong position because his foreign policy has been largely successful in terms of substance."

— *Time's* Joe Klein on CBS's *Face the Nation*, October 21.

Poor Obama Just a Victim of Sloppy Intelligence

"Mr. President, since we've been airborne, a person or persons of interest picked up in Tunisia in connection with Benghazi. The question becomes, have you been happy with the intelligence, especially in our post 9-11 world? The assessment of your intelligence community, as we stand here, is that it still was a spontaneous terrorist attack, and were you happy with what you were able to learn as this unfolded? It went on for several hours."

— The only question about the September 11 attack in Benghazi posed by Brian Williams to President Obama in a lengthy interview shown on NBC's *Rock Center*, October 25.



George Sees "Transparent" Obama on Benghazi Cover-Up

FNC's Greta van Susteren: "The thing that I don't understand, though, is why won't the President just be straight? Tell us exactly what's going on, instead of this bizarre thing over two weeks where he wouldn't tell us--"

George Stephanopoulos: "But on that point, I want to bring this to Van Jones. Hasn't the White House been relatively transparent? I mean... we learned over the weekend that even the talking points that Ambassador Rice received on that Sunday morning from the CIA suggested there was no pre-planning."

— ABC's *This Week*, October 21.

Chris Still Won't Drop Discredited "Video" Story

Chris Matthews, talking to a crowd waiting for debate: "Okay, Romney. One more Romney. Romney."

Romney voter, explaining his support: "Romney. He doesn't cover up scandals in the Middle East."

Matthews: "What was the scandal that was covered up?"

Romney voter: "Benghazi."

Matthews: "What was the scandal?"

Romney voter: "Well, I mean--"

Matthews, raising his voice: "Get to it, nail it, what was the scandal?!"

Romney voter: "He said it was the video. It was not about the video."

Matthews: "Yeah, it was about the video. Read the newspaper. Thank you. Everybody knows it's about the video. It's all about the video. Thank you very much."

— MSNBC's *Hardball*, October 22, talking about the Obama administration's initial claims that the Benghazi attack was the result of a "spontaneous" demonstration against an anti-Muslim video shown on YouTube. Twelve days earlier, on October 10, the State Department acknowledged there was no protest the night of the attack.



Crowley Criticism Shows Conservatives Are Losers

“You know the Republicans believe they lost the debate last night when they start whining about the referee, and let the record show that Candy Crowley brought honor to the whole business of moderating. She honored her profession of journalism. She did her job. You don’t have to be a Republican, Democrat or Mugwump to acknowledge she did a good job. And the fact that the Republicans are, as I say, whining about it tells you they pretty much know they lost.”

— Ex-CBS anchor Dan Rather on MSNBC’s *Rachel Maddow Show*, October 17.



GOP’s Pro-Life Platform Is “Almost Like Sharia”

“There’s a Grand Canyon of difference between Obama, who’s very pro-choice, and, for example, the Republican ticket this year, which would give 14th Amendment rights, whatever that means, life, liberty, and property rights, to a fetus that had just been — or rather, an egg that has just been fertilized, right after sex, if you will. And to have that notion that that would be a person under this personhood thing that Ryan’s pushing, and under the 14th Amendment rights, the platform that Romney’s running on. This is extremism!...It’s almost like Sharia. You’re saying to the country, we’re going to operate under a religious theory....”

— Chris Matthews during MSNBC’s pre-debate coverage, October 16.

“I don’t like to comparing anything to Sharia, but there’s something about this theocratic notion that we’re going to apply all our philosophical beliefs, our metaphysics, our religious training and turn it into law and turn it into criminalization. And it’s not quite like stoning, but it has that same sort of impulse which is we’re going to punish women.”

— Matthews on *Hardball*, October 25.

Distorting Mourdock to Bash Romney

“Ms. Buchanan, does the Romney campaign believe that God intends rape?”

— Fill-in host Luke Russert to Romney advisor Bay Buchanan on MSNBC’s *The Daily Rundown*, October 24.

Hyping Lame Complaint About “Binders Full of Women”

“Look, Anderson, it was very unfortunate for Governor Romney, because it sort of raises this question, can he relate to working women? You know, it made it sound almost like working women are some mail-order product you can order out of colored binders.”

— CNN correspondent Jessica Yellin on *Anderson Cooper 360*, October 17.



“The bigger picture is, he [Romney] wouldn’t have supported the Lilly Ledbetter Act, which is the first act, first piece of legislation the President signed when in office. The President set up the White House Council on Women and Girls, he’s been working to get women equal pay every step of the way down the road here in this administration. And Mitt Romney just completely doesn’t have any leg to stand on when it comes to women and the economy.”

— MSNBC *Morning Joe* co-host Mika Brzezinski on NBC’s *Today*, October 18.

Romney Would Enable Bosses to Be “Birth Control Nazis”

Chris Matthews: “A young woman who works, in her 20s or 30s, and is not ready to have a child, that’s her decision, I think we all agree on that. She wants birth control. Isn’t it in society’s interest for her to get that as part of her health care?”

Obama spokesperson Stephanie Cutter: “Absolutely.”

Matthews: “Is it in society’s interests for her boss to be able to be the birth control Nazi, to decide who gets it and who doesn’t?”

Cutter: “No, it’s not....”

Matthews: “Do you hear the 1950s in Romney’s voice? I hear it all the time. It’s this, ‘Women have children. They got to go home to feed the kids.’”

— MSNBC’s *Hardball*, October 22.



Thanks for Exposing “Vicious and Callous” GOP Plans

“If his [the House GOP] budget were ever to come to pass, then Meals on Wheels would be killed, transportation services to the disabled would be destroyed, food stamps would be eviscerated. I think many Americans would end up in soup kitchens like that. So I don’t think we should be critical. I think we should be grateful that what Mr. Ryan has shown us is exactly what will happen to people if the kind of vicious and callous budget that he would wish to impose on American people ends up coming to pass.”

— MSNBC’s Martin Bashir on *NewsNation*, October 16.



Romney’s Real Plan: Rich Get Richer While Poor People Die

“Mitt Romney doesn’t see dead people. But that’s only because he doesn’t want to see them; if he did, he’d have to acknowledge the ugly reality of what will happen if he and Paul Ryan get their way on health care....A literal description of their plan is that they want to expose many Americans to financial insecurity, and let some of them die, so that a handful of already wealthy people can have a higher after-tax income.”

— *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman, October 15.

Blame GOP Shenanigans If Romney Wins Ohio

“Ohio seems still close enough that Romney could upset and win there (keep in mind: the whole upper tier of Ohio state government is in the hands of the GOP now; in very close voting they have the power to influence what votes are counted and how...remember Ohio, Bush v. Kerry in 2004 and Florida, Bush v. Gore in 2000).”

— Dan Rather in an October 22 posting to the Facebook page for his AXS-TV show, *Dan Rather Reports*.

Republican Voters Just a Bunch of Racist Haters

“They hate Obama. They want him out of the White House more than they want to destroy al Qaeda. Their number one enemy in the world right now, on the right, is their hatred — hatred for Obama. We can go into that about the white working class in the South, and looking at these numbers we’re getting in the last couple days about racial hatred in many cases. This isn’t about being a better president. They want to get rid of this president. That’s their number one goal and they’re willing to let Romney go to the hard center, even if it’s to the left on issues, as long as they get rid of this guy.”

— Chris Matthews during MSNBC’s post-debate coverage, October 22.



Joe Biden Spat Out Paul Ryan “Like a Little Shriveled Piece of Something”

“I think Biden just completely trounced him. Ate him for dinner and then spit him out on the table like a little shriveled piece of something. I don’t know what. I mean, seriously — it’s kind of clear to me.”

— Co-host Mika Brzezinski talking about the vice presidential debate, MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*, October 12.

Teen Girl Forced to Watch MSNBC All Day by NPR Mom

“Before falling comatose into bed around 10:30, I probably will listen to all or part of Rachel Maddow’s show on MSNBC (on weekends, I also watch *Up with Chris Hayes*.) My 14-year-old daughter can rattle off the entire MSNBC line-up, so that should tell you something about our household viewing habits.”

— Maureen Corrigan, book reviewer for National Public Radio and the *Washington Post*, in an October 1 *Atlantic Wire* “What I Read” feature.

Notable Quotables

PUBLISHER: L. Brent Bozell III

EDITORS: Brent H. Baker, Rich Noyes, Tim Graham

DEPUTY RESEARCH DIRECTOR: Geoffrey Dickens

TIMESWATCH: Clay Waters

NEWS ANALYSTS: Scott Whitlock, Brad Wilmoth,

Matthew Balan, Kyle Drennen and Matt Hadro

INTERNS: Jeffrey Meyer, Matt Vespa and Ryan Robertson

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