





Written by [Wallis W. Wood](#) on June 21, 2013

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our rights and freedoms. Isn't that wonderful?

Given all of this, you won't be surprised to learn that a huge majority of Americans now believe that the country is heading in the wrong direction. In the most recent poll by [Real Clear Politics](#), only 31.3 percent of Americans feel the country is on the right track. While almost twice that number, 59.4 percent, says the country is on the wrong track.

Clearly, despite all of the efforts of the mainstream media to defend and excuse the present Administration, the wave of recent scandals is taking its toll — as well it should. When the Justice Department targets respected journalists as potential criminals, the Internal Revenue Service harasses patriotic organizations and the National Security Agency collects billions of phone records and millions of emails from virtually every citizen of the country, no wonder so many fear and mistrust our leaders. And we get new evidence almost every day to support our position. One of the latest examples concerns the government program to give away free cellphones.

Have you heard about the scandal over the “Obama phones”? It's a mind-blowing example of how the welfare state has run amok.

It started as one of those ideas that liberals just love: Give poor people access to telephones, to help them look for work and call for assistance in case they face an actual emergency. And thus the [Lifeline](#) program was born.

But guess what? Turns out that giving folks something for nothing leads to all sorts of abuse and corruption. And thanks to some conservative activists armed with a video camera, we can see for ourselves just how rotten the program has become. (To see video, [click here.](#))

Investigators for a group called [Project Veritas](#) took their hidden cameras along when they applied for some of the free phones. They told the people processing the applications that as soon as they got them, they intended to sell the phones and use the money to buy drugs.

“No problem” was the typical response. One representative even suggested the investigator visit a pawn shop, to find out how much cash he would receive. “Yeah, I don't care what you do with it,” the clerk can be heard to mutter.

In another encounter caught on tape, one of Project Veritas founder James O'Keefe's investigators says she has to sell “a lot of phones” to pay for her Louis Vuitton handbag. The woman dispensing the free cellphones makes it clear that her job is just to give away the phones — not to question what the recipient will do with it.

Oh, one rep did point out that selling the free phones was illegal — but then suggested “pleading the Fifth” if caught. The Project Veritas video illustrates this last point with another knee-slapper — a clip from IRS official Lois Lerner pleading the 5th Amendment in her appearance before a Congressional committee last month.

We have Project Veritas and its founder to thank for this maddening report of how taxpayer funds are being so badly misused. You may remember the group from the exposure it did back in 2009 of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), one of Obama's favorite “community activist” organizations. ACORN employees were caught on camera promoting child prostitution, human trafficking and tax evasion. (See video [here.](#))

As a result of the scandal, the House and Senate voted to stop all federal subsidies to the group. The U.S. Census, which had provided many of the grants that funded the organization, severed its ties with



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the organization. Ultimately, ACORN was forced to disband.

We enjoyed a wonderful victory then. Now, we'll discover what lawmakers will do when presented with undeniable evidence of fraud and deceit in the \$2.2 billion Lifeline program.

By the way, if you're one of the suckers who actually pays for your telephone service, take a closer look at the next bill you receive. You'll see a "Universal Service Charge" somewhere on it. That's the fee you pay to help fund this \$2.2 billion giveaway.

I'll grant you, having a majority of Americans say they mistrust and fear big government isn't the same thing as getting them to vote for candidates who will actually do something about it. Nor is it the same as finding candidates who will keep the promises they made back home once they get to Washington.

But Obama's plunging popularity means a lot of our friends and neighbors share our concerns. Our job now is to get more of them to agree with us on the solutions.

We'll find out next November how good a job we've done there.

Until next time, keep some powder dry.

**Chip Wood** was the first news editor of *The Review of the News* and also wrote for *American Opinion*, our two predecessor publications. He is now the geopolitical editor of *Personal Liberty Digest*, where his *Straight Talk* column appears weekly. This article first appeared in [PersonalLiberty.com](#) and has been reprinted with permission.



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