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Inside Track

Obama Administration Sets Up Complaint Hotline for Illegal Immigrants



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has established a hot-line so that illegal immigrants who think that their apprehension and pending deportation might not be in compliance with the new Obama administration amnesty “priorities” may call and tell CBP about their experience.

CBP lists several categories of illegal immigrants who might wish to avail themselves of this service, including “individuals in CBP custody,” “individuals with removal orders who are scheduled for removal and are not in CBP custody,” and “individuals who wish to file a complaint regarding a CBP removal encounter.”

To make it easier for illegal immigrants to take advantage of the Obama administration’s new executive action policies, the CBP page gives people the ability to complain online, by clicking on a “Submit a Complaint” button. The user then has the option of giving his or her name and receiving a reply or remaining anonymous. This anonymity feature turns the concept of an “anonymous tip line” on its head, allowing those who have admittedly broken our laws to anonymously name and complain about our law-enforcement agents!

“Instead of supporting our agents, this administration has decided it is more important to find new ways to solicit complaints and invite ridicule against them,” Shawn Moran, vice president of the National Border Patrol Council, told the *Washington Times* February 8. “We demand that this administration spend more time defending the men and women defending our nation and less time promoting the extreme agendas of pro-illegal-immigration organizations.” Moran said he would rather see the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) set up a complaint line for agents instead, so they could register their concerns over the Obama administration’s “failure to fully enforce our immigration laws.”

The Border Patrol has apparently gone from being a law-enforcement agency to a group of social workers. And with the institution of the CBP hotline, illegal immigrants can now lodge complaints against the agents who are trying to do their jobs by enforcing our immigration laws, and they don’t even have to give their names when doing so.



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By Warren Mass

Illinois Governor Orders End to “Unfair Share” Union Dues



Bruce Rauner

AP Images

Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner announced an executive order on February 9 barring unions from requiring non-union state workers to pay the equivalence of dues, called “fair share” fees. Calling the compulsory fees a “critical cog in the corrupt bargain that is crushing taxpayers,” Rauner also claimed they violate the U.S. Constitution.

“Government union bargaining and government union political activity are inextricably linked,” Rauner said. “As a result, an employee who is forced to pay unfair share dues is being forced to fund political activity with which they disagree. That is a clear violation of First Amendment rights and something that, as governor, I am duty-bound to correct.”

Anticipating a legal challenge, Rauner filed a pre-emptive federal lawsuit in Chicago, asking the court to declare his executive order legal. Union officials, who were quick to declare the order an illegal abuse of power, are sure to file lawsuits of their own. The order might also be overruled by the Democratic majority in the state’s legislature.

Bob Bruno, director of the labor education program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, questioned the legal justification for the governor’s order, calling it “an assault on the institutional existence of the union in the public sector.” At the same time, he noted the practical effect will be small. “In principle, it’s a pretty serious assault,” Bruno told the *New York Times* February 10. “In terms of impact, it remains to be seen because it’s a relatively small percentage of the population that’s chosen fair share.” The move was vigorously denounced by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which is set to begin negotiations for a new contract with the state. The current contract expires July 1.

Rauner’s move to curb the power of public employee unions follows a trend among Republican governors in the heavily unionized Midwest, including Mitch Daniels of Indiana, Scott Walker of Wisconsin, and Rick Snyder of Michigan. Daniels and Snyder both signed right-to-work legislation in 2012, making Indiana and Michigan the 23rd and 24th right-to-work states.



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By Jack Kenny

Lawmakers Move to Shield Americans' E-mails From Snooping



A significant number of folks in Congress are trying to secure Americans' right to electronic privacy, at least to some extent. On February 4, Senators Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) introduced the Electronic Communications Privacy Amendments Act of 2015. Representatives Kevin Yoder (R-Kan.) and Jared Polis (D-Colo.) have introduced companion legislation in the House.

"The government is essentially using an arcane loophole to breach the privacy rights of Americans," Yoder told McClatchy Washington Bureau on February 11. "They couldn't kick down your door and seize the documents on your desk, but they could send a request to Google and ask for all the documents that are in your Gmail account. And I don't think Americans believe that the Constitution ends with the invention of the Internet."

The bill would require government agents to obtain a search warrant based on probable cause before rummaging through someone's e-mail. "Agencies also would have to notify users within three business days of accessing their email or other digital communications, though law enforcement would have 10 days to provide notice," reported McClatchy.

"There is no reason we should still be operating under a law written in the analog age when we're living in a digital world," Lee said in a statement. "Yet that's exactly what has happened with the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, which has remained virtually unchanged since it was first enacted in 1986.... The prevalence of email and the low cost of electronic data storage have made what were once robust protections insufficient to ensure that citizens' Fourth Amendment rights are adequately protected." Under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, electronic communications left on remote servers — "in the cloud," in today's parlance — for more than 180 days are considered abandoned and therefore not protected by the Fourth Amendment's requirement that government agents obtain a warrant before searching and seizing them.

Similar legislation has been introduced in recent years but stalled. Outrage over the National Security Agency's spying on Americans, however, may give the 2015 version the boost it needs to become law.

By Michael Tennant



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ATF Bans Popular Rifle Ammunition It Says Is “Armor-piercing”

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) issued its latest broadside against the Second Amendment in mid February, declaring that “green tip” M855 “ball ammunition” chambered in 5.56 mm is now “armor piercing” and can no longer be manufactured, imported, or sold in the United States.

According to the ATF, “armor-piercing ammunition” means:

A projectile or projectile core which may be used in a handgun and which is constructed entirely ... from one or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium; OR

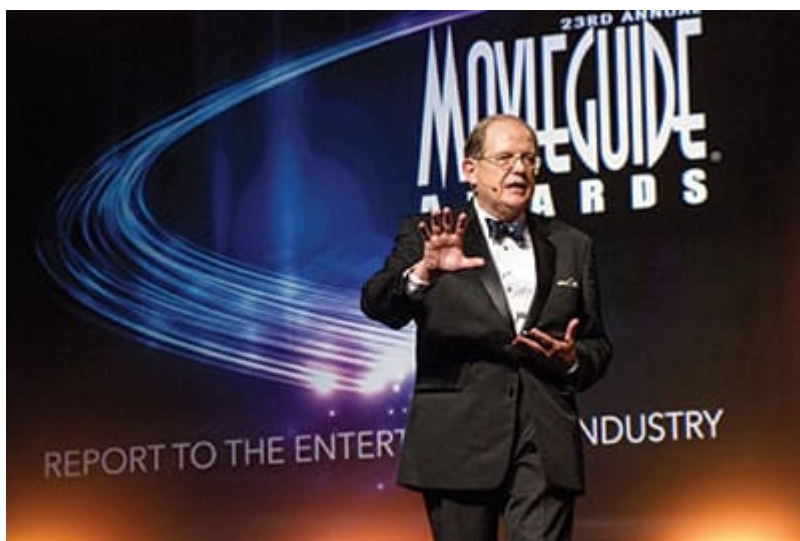
A full jacketed projectile larger than .22 caliber designed and intended for use in a handgun and whose jacket has a weight of more than 25 percent of the total weight of the projectile.

The ATF had previously exempted the now-disfavored rounds from such restrictions because they were used mostly for “sporting purposes.” But since these rounds might now be used in a handgun that might be used in an attack on law-enforcement officials sometime in the future, they must now be banned.

But armor-piercing ammunition has never been a significant factor in crime, with “assault weapons” accounting for less than two percent of all guns used in crimes committed in the United States. So the ATF’s proclamation is without merit on its face. Instead it is part of its agenda in the war against the Second Amendment.

By Bob Adelman

Rewarding Movies With Heart and Soul



[movieguideawards.com](#)

Heaven Is for Real took top honors in the category of Best Movie for Families at the 23rd Annual Movieguide Faith & Values Awards Gala at the Universal Hilton in Hollywood. Based on the best-selling book about a four-year-old boy, Colton Burpo, who recalls visiting Heaven while on an operating table



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and comes back to talk about his experience, the film stars Greg Kinnear as Todd Burpo, his father. Other films that contended in the “top ten” family category included, among others, *Son of God*, *Big Hero 6*, *Penguins of Madagascar*, and *God’s Not Dead*.

Unbroken, the gripping, inspirational story of real-life World War II hero Louis Zamperini, a Christian Olympic athlete and soldier who endured unimaginable hardship as a POW, came away as the winner of Best Movie for Mature Audiences. It was up against stiff competition from a strong lineup that included *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, *The Giver*, *The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies*, and *Divergent*, among others.

Known as the “Crystal Teddy Bear Awards,” the Faith & Values Awards Gala also presents awards for inspiring performances, as well as movies and television programs promoting traditional social values such as liberty, religious freedom, patriotism, representative government, the right to life, and free market principles. Created by Dr. Ted Baehr, media critic and founder of the Christian Film & Television Commission and *Movieguide: The Family Guide to Movies and Entertainment*, the annual Awards Gala program has grown over the years into an institution that is having a tremendously positive impact on the content and direction of film and television entertainment. This year’s awards ceremony, which took place on February 6, was carried on the REELZ Channel on February 21, with a repeat on February 23.

Highlights of the Awards Gala included presentations of the \$100,000 Epiphany Prize for the Most Inspiring Movie of 2014 and the \$100,000 Epiphany Prize for the Most Inspiring TV Program of 2014, the \$50,000 Kairos Prize for Spiritually Uplifting Screenplays by First-Time and Beginning Screenwriters, and the \$50,000 Chronos Prize for Inspiring Screenplays by Established Artists.

The winner of the \$100,000 Epiphany Prize for Most Inspiring Movie this year is *God’s Not Dead*, a movie from Pure Flix about a Christian college student who stands up for his faith against an atheist bully professor played by Kevin Sorbo, best known for his *Hercules* TV series. Other nominees were *The Giver*, *The Good Lie*, *Heaven Is for Real*, *Little Hope Was Arson*, *Son of God*, and *Unbroken*.

Love Finds You in Sugarcreek, a romance/murder mystery from UP TV set in Ohio’s Amish country, captured the \$100,000 Epiphany Prize for Most Inspiring TV Program.

The other nominees were *Duck Dynasty: A Home for the Holidays*, *The Gabby Douglas Story*, *The Last Ship*, *Louis Zamperini: Captured by Grace*, *Paper Angels*, and *When Calls the Heart*.

“This year, we had even more top contenders for the Epiphany Prizes than ever before,” Dr. Baehr said. “It was very hard to narrow down the nominees. 2014 was a tremendous year for Godly, inspirational content.”

At the awards ceremony, Dr. Baehr also presented highlights from *Movieguide’s 2015 Report to the Entertainment Industry*, a comprehensive financial analysis of the movie business showing what types of movies and what types of movie content moviegoers favor the most with their hard-earned money.

For the 23rd year in a row, the annual report notes, the bottom line “shows clearly that moviegoers prefer clean, heroic, family-friendly movies with Christian, biblical, redemptive, conservative, and patriotic faith and values.”

“This was also true in 2014, despite a significant decrease in box office earnings for Hollywood in general,” said Dr. Baehr.



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For example, he noted, “Ninety percent of the Top 10 Movies in the United States, overseas and home video sales in 2014 contained strong or very strong Christian, redemptive, biblical, and/or moral content, values or worldviews, including such movies as *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1*, *Big Hero 6*, *Frozen*, the last two *Hobbit* movies, *The Lego Movie*, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Thor: The Dark World*, and *Guardians of the Galaxy*.”

Each year *Movieguide* analyzes and reviews 275 or more major theatrical movies according to basic biblical principles, morality, and theology, from a Christian perspective. “In 2014, movies with very strong Christian, redemptive worldviews following biblical principles and values averaged \$66.79 million at the domestic box office in 2014, but movies with very strong non-Christian worldviews averaged only \$20.13 million,” *Movieguide* reported, noting further: “In fact, movies with humanist/atheist worldviews did the worst, averaging only \$1.98 million! Also, movies with absolutely no foul language, sex, explicit nudity, or substance abuse earned the most money.”

By William F. Jasper



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