



Written by [John F. McManus](#) on December 7, 2015

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## Quick Quotes

### New House Speaker Describes What He Inherited



**Paul Ryan**

AP Images

“The House is broken. We are not solving problems; we are adding to them. Neither the members nor the people are satisfied with how things are going.”

*Representative **Paul Ryan** (R-Wis.) sounded a strong message when he was sworn in as the speaker of the House, but constitutionalists will likely be disappointed. His cumulative score in this magazine’s Freedom Index, which rates every member of Congress based on the U.S. Constitution, is an unimpressive 58 percent.*

### Taliban Leader Condones Stoning a Woman to Death

“If you’re married and you commit adultery, you have to be stoned. The only question was whether this was done according to Shariah law with witnesses or confessions as required.”

*A 19-year-old woman named Rukhshana fled from a marriage she had been forced into, and then ran away with another man. She was apprehended, put into a pit, and stoned to death, a punishment approved by **Maulavi Inayatullah Baleegh**, a mullah at Kabul’s largest mosque.*

### Protests Over Flying a Confederate Flag Continue

“My flag’s been flying for 33 years, and I’m not about to take it down. It doesn’t stand for hate. It means a lot of people fought and died.”

*A homeowner in Louisville, Mississippi, **Nancy Jenkins** will resist any call to cease flying the flag at her residence.*

### U.S. Sends 50 Troops to Syria to Help in the Fight Against ISIS

“There’s no denying the serious risk they will be facing. But they are not in a combat mission.”



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White House spokesman **Josh Earnest** insisted that the 50 men will supply only advice and support while not being involved in any combat. After President Obama's repeated insistence that there will be no American "boots on the ground" in Syria, one wonders if these 50 will be equipped with sneakers or sandals!

## He's a Fan of Nuclear Power

"Nuclear power plants are the only serious alternative to carbon-fired electricity, but nuclear power is anathema to most of the same people who want big reductions in carbon-dioxide emissions."

Barron's editorial page editor **Thomas Donlan** adds that even if climate change is a problem, we shouldn't throw away economics textbooks and the U.S. Constitution.

## European Union Sides With Edward Snowden, U.S. Disagrees

"Mr. Snowden is accused of leaking classified information and faces felony charges here in the United States. As such, he should be returned to the U.S. as soon as possible, where he will be accorded full due process."

The European Parliament narrowly adopted a resolution terming Snowden a heroic whistleblower. National Security Council spokesman **Ned Price** does not concur.

## Jeb Apologizes to the French

"I made the mistake of saying that Congress operates on a French workweek. I really did a disservice to the French."

During a GOP debate, **Jeb Bush** criticized Marco Rubio for missing Senate votes. His criticism likened Rubio's absence to a French workweek.



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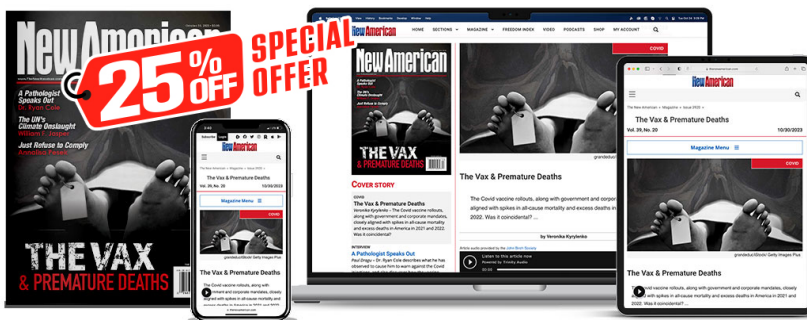
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