

## 1 **Commenting on SOTU speech, press release**

2 Tuesday, January 20, 2015

### 3 **Press Statement**

- 4
- 5
- 6 • Press statement to put out for the State of the Union was so bad it was like Nancy Pelosi
- 7 wrote it. It's really bad. It's just reeked of politician. It didn't say anything. In the first place,
- 8 nobody gives a shit what you think about his State of the Union speech, unless you're going
- 9 to say something of interest. Why are you sticking your nose in there? It's just words. You
- 10 don't want to keep doing this. The more you do politician type of things, the more you're
- 11 seen as just another politician.
- 12
- 13 • If you're going to say something on the subject he's talking about, he's talking about tax
- 14 reform, but that's not tax reform. What he's talking about doesn't have anything to do with
- 15 tax reform. If you have something to say about the issue of tax reform, then this could be a
- 16 time to say it. But what you say there is so nothing. It just sounds so politician.
- 17
- 18 • All the things that these guys are doing, it's just all for show. In other words, it's not going to
- 19 change anything. It's not going to do anything. People are still going to be struggling to just
- 20 make ends meet, especially here in Hawaii. It's just meaningless. There are no real solutions
- 21 here. There are no real changes or anything.
- 22
- 23 • Have to know these issues. If you don't know the issues, then you can't really speak on them,
- 24 can't really see the nonsense. If you want to say something, say something real. But, it's hard
- 25 to say something real if you don't know the issues, because you don't do the homework. So
- 26 you end up having somebody write something for you to say that doesn't say anything or that
- 27 doesn't make any sense.
- 28

### 29 **Put out a picture and a short statement**

- 30
- 31 • Why not put out a statement and a picture? They just put your picture up and they have your
- 32 statement. Not that you have a lot to say anyway, but at least they'll give you some air-time.
- 33

### 34 **Giving own look at the State of the Union to KHON**

- 35
- 36 • Maybe give your own kind of look at the State of the Union. Look at it from that angle: what
- 37 the actual state of the union is. Instead of just commenting on his speech, have your own
- 38 state of the union commentary, rebuttal, or whatever. You want to talk about things. We have
- 39 issues and problems he's not addressing. We are not getting to the fundamental problems that
- 40 are facing our economy, not talking at all about the banks, etc. In other words, say
- 41 something. If you are not going to say anything, why say anything?
- 42
- 43 • Think about what you are going to say. Don't want to be negative or criticizing him. Can just
- 44 talk about the state of the union: "What we need to do is: \_\_\_\_\_ . Where there
- 45 are areas of agreement," or whatever.
- 46

1 **Issues**

2  
3 **Banking reform**

- 4
- 5 • When Obama was first elected in 2008, he promised that he would embark on serious  
6 banking reform to ensure we won't have another economic crisis like we had in 2008.  
7 Unfortunately, he never got around to doing it. So I was hoping that tonight he would have  
8 committed himself to getting the Glass-Steagall Act reinstated and whatever else is needed to  
9 protect the American people. [Something like that, just don't want it to be repetitive.]

10  
11 **Economy & Islamic extremism two main points to bring up**

12  
13 Say a couple things you agreed with or something, like:

- 14
- 15 • Raising taxes on 1% and giving tax credits to middle class families is helpful, but it's not  
16 going to be enough to help the middle class stay in the middle class and help others rise to  
17 the middle class.

18  
19 Then say:

- 20
- 21 • But I'm disappointed he didn't commit himself to serious banking reform by, at the very least,  
22 passing the Glass-Steagall Act, which would separate banks' investment arm from their ...  
23 [whatever it does.]
  - 24  
25 • I was also disappointed that he did not address the issue of Islamic extremism and how he  
26 proposes to defeat it.

27  
28 We can look at what other issues people are interested in. The economy is the main thing people  
29 are interested in, but they are interested national security, the Islamic threat. So those are two  
30 main things you could bring up. You might think of something else. Look at what he's going to  
31 talk about and not talk about. But that would be a good framework to start with.

32  
33 **Internet neutrality**

- 34
- 35 • The one about the Internet neutrality is OK.

36  
37 **Education**

- 38
- 39 • The absurdity of this whole education thing—the reason there is such inflated costs for going  
40 to university is because the government started giving people money to go to college, in other  
41 words, subsidies. And so the universities took advantage of the subsidies. They know the  
42 government has to pay. The government gives a whole bunch of the money to help solve the  
43 cost problems, but then what do the universities do? They immediately raise their prices,  
44 which means it is not different than it was originally except now the universities are richer.

- 1 • If you look at the inflation of going to a university, it is so much higher than any other  
2 business or than any other occupation. Why? The reason is because they can get away with it.  
3 They have somebody who is going to cover the cost. So, the university raises the price, and  
4 the government then pays that price. They pay whatever the universities ask for. It's just a  
5 scam. Doesn't help the students. The students are paying more than ever. All it means is that  
6 they are going into greater and greater debt.  
7
- 8 • This means more people are going to community college, which means there is going to be  
9 less quality education in the community colleges than there is already. It will just make the  
10 prices for the community colleges to go higher. They'll start raising the prices to go to  
11 community college.  
12

### 13 ***Making it more costly for banks to engage in risky activity***

14  
15 In Obama's speech he's doing something in connection with banks to make it more costly to  
16 them to engage in risky activities. Should say:

- 17  
18 • I agree that's good, but that's not going nearly far enough. That's not going to do anything to  
19 prevent another financial crisis caused by banks engaging in risky investments and lending.  
20

### 21 ***ISIS***

22  
23 Didn't know he was going to be talking about wanting money for combating ISIS, use of force.  
24 According to yesterday's news, he wasn't going to say anything about that.  
25

### 26 ***AUMF***

27  
28 If asked about the Authorization for Use of Military Force:  
29

- 30 • The problem with that is that the administration is refusing to identify who the enemy is. The  
31 enemy is not just people; it is also an ideology. It's like when we are fighting with the Nazis  
32 or when we are fighting with Communists or Communism. There is not just people involved,  
33 there is also a philosophy. The ideology that we are fighting against is Islamic extremism, or  
34 Islamism, and his failure to recognize that makes it impossible to win against it. If you can't  
35 understand clearly who we are war with, then how can we come up with a strategy that will  
36 succeed? It is impossible.  
37

### 38 ***Have better Tweets prepared***

39  
40 Warren put out a comment, and it was OK. She tweeted something showing she supported part  
41 of what he's doing. You could do something like that, but maybe more substantial than that. It's  
42 kind of a weird tone to it. You should get some better tweets and things prepared for that speech.  
43

44 Right around the time when he's talking about banks, tweet out something like:  
45

- 1 • That's a good start but we need to reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act to separate the ...  
2 [whatever]

### 3 4 **Take more active role**

5  
6 You should take a more active role in this. Don't see you putting any effort into even thinking  
7 about these things or coming up with any intelligent ideas. You're not even trying. You've  
8 become really intellectually lazy.

9  
10 [3.54pm]

11  
12 What do we want to do now? The point is can she communicate?

13  
14 *Allison: Yes by text. She's on the House floor.*

15  
16 **Tell her: You can do a live statement for Hawai'i TV. Focus on economy and national security;**  
17 **okay.**

18  
19 I guess the question is: what do we want to say?

20  
21 *Allison: Yes she was working on something. Kd sent something on ISIS.*

22  
23 I will look at it. **Have them bring it over here.**

24  
25 [4:22pm]

### 26 27 **AUMF**

28  
29 We're not going to be able to defeat the Islamic extremists without a clear strategy. And  
30 we're not going to be able to have a clear strategy unless we have a clear understanding of  
31 who the enemy is and what their ideology is. President Obama has yet to clearly identify  
32 the enemy and their ideology and this is why he does not have a clear strategy on how to  
33 defeat them. It disappoints me greatly that he continues to refuse to acknowledge that we  
34 are at war with Islamic extremism.

35  
36 OR: Regarding the authorization for the use of force against ISIS, the problem is that the  
37 President has not yet acknowledged that the war against ISIS and other Islamic extremists  
38 is not just a military way, it's also an ideological war. But we cannot defeat their ideology  
39 if we do not recognize what that ideology is--namely Islamism. Until we understand who  
40 the enemy is, we cannot have a clear strategy to defeat them.

41  
42 She said it fairly well in the interview with Wolf. She might want to take some of what she said  
43 on the interview with Wolf Blitzer and say it like that.

44  
45 OR: Regarding the President's request for an authorization for the use of force, we will  
46 have to look carefully at what his strategy is. If he doesn't have a clear strategy, which  
47 necessitates having a clear understanding of who the opponent is, then I'm not going to be

1 able to support it. The problem is that the President continues to [then say the stuff about  
2 not looking at the ideology]

3  
4 OR: While I applaud the President for finally asking Congress to approve Use of  
5 Military Force against ISIS, my concern is that he still refuses to accurately identify the  
6 enemy. If we don't clearly identify those who declared war on America on 9/11 as  
7 Islamic terrorists, there is no way we will be able to defeat them. This is both a military  
8 and an ideological war against Islamic terrorists. We have to acknowledge that 9/11, as  
9 well the recent violent attacks in Paris and elsewhere around the world, are rooted in  
10 Islamic extremism. A reality of war is that if you don't know and understand your enemy,  
11 you cannot defeat them. As long as the President fails to recognize that we are at war  
12 with Islamic extremism, we cannot win this war no matter how much military force we  
13 use.

14  
15 Have her try to write something and send it over, write her talking points. Also about the  
16 economic thing, too.

### 17 **Economy**

18  
19  
20 *Ard: She sent an email saying she's not able to write anything herself right now. She just said*  
21 *"Can't really write coherently myself now." She didn't say why. I don't know if it's because of all*  
22 *the distractions or what. Her staff sent something else, and I just finished writing something*  
23 *about the economy. I wrote: "I appreciate the focus on the economy, but I'm disappointed the*  
24 *President didn't commit himself to serious banking reform by, at the very least, reinstating*  
25 *provisions of the Glass-Steagall Act to keep investment banking separate from commercial*  
26 *banking, as well as prevent the largest banks from engaging in speculative trading."*

27  
28 But that's not something you would say, it's something you would write.

29  
30 *Ard: I think she could put it in her own words when she's speaking it.*

31  
32 Yeah, maybe. I think it'd be better to put it in speaking word. I didn't understand your first  
33 sentence, I appreciate the focus on the economy." I don't think so.

34  
35 *Ard: The other one was "Raising taxes for the top 1% and giving tax credits to middle class*  
36 *families is helpful," then there'd be a but there.*

37  
38 These are proposals, not something he does.

### 39 **From her staff:**

40  
41  
42 "Rather than focus on words tonight, we should focus on what is ahead for our nation.

43  
44 "Our financial stability depends on serious efforts to prevent Wall Street from making  
45 risky investments at taxpayer expense. America needs true Wall Street reform, which  
46 begins with reinstating Glass-Steagall. The focus must always be on the needs of Main  
47 Street; we must prevent big banks from gambling with the well-being of our nation.

1  
2 OK for writing, to put out as a press statement, need to put in speaking terms.

3  
4 *Ard: There's another paragraph: "America also faces challenges abroad. Events in Paris, and*  
5 *heightened terror around the world, illustrate the growing threat posed by Islamic terrorists. We*  
6 *need an effective strategy to keep the American people safe by defeating our enemy, the Islamic*  
7 *extremists— no matter where they are or what name they call themselves."*

8  
9 Throw that away.

10  
11 She'll just have to take something from the thing the staff wrote on the economy, then what we  
12 put down for her speaking points on ISIS. Then she can work out from that what she wants her  
13 talking points to be.

14  
15 [4:39pm]

16  
17 **Agree about infrastructure**

18  
19 He said something about reinvigorating our infrastructure, investing in infrastructure. That's  
20 something she can agree with.

21  
22 Make sure she isn't coming out to support so-called free trade.

23  
24 [4:40pm]

25  
26 [Watching speech:

27 *Obama: This year, we have an opportunity to change that. Let's close loopholes so we stop*  
28 *rewarding companies that keep profits abroad, and reward those that invest in America. Let's use*  
29 *those savings to rebuild our infrastructure and make it more attractive for companies to bring*  
30 *jobs home.]*

31  
32 Close all the loopholes. Underline all.

33  
34 [5:16 pm]

35  
36 **Re. funding for infrastructure**

37  
38 Tomorrow morning, she might want to bring up, in connection with infrastructure: She supports  
39 the idea of increasing our infrastructure, the funding of infrastructure, which will be a big help to  
40 the economy. However, the problem is that it's going to be hard to get Congress to go along with  
41 it because last time, the money didn't end up going towards funding infrastructure. There's  
42 nothing to show for hundreds of billions of dollars that was supposedly spent on several ready  
43 projects. It ended up that the money got spent, but nothing seemed to have been achieved by it.  
44 In other words, there's no real results. So it's going to be hard to convince Congress that this time  
45 it will be any different.

46  
47 I presume he has finished talking?

1  
2 *Ard: Yeah, he just finished 5 minutes ago.*

3  
4 Ok. Did she send anything, or was she going to do anything? She's just going to talk, yeah?

5  
6 *Ard: Yeah, she was just going to talk. But she might send something later based on those two*  
7 *points.*

8  
9 **Keep the vibe up**

10  
11 Her vibe is important. Tell her I want her vibe to be up and "aloha spirit," you know. It should be  
12 up, and smiling and so forth, but it should also—The point is that she can say real things and  
13 grave things and yet still have a positive vibe. I talked to her about this before. She doesn't want  
14 to be all downer, yeah.

15  
16 **Glass-Steagall**

17  
18 On the Glass-Steagall thing, maybe she can try to do it in a positive way, that:

19  
20 "I hope he will take the opportunity of this last two years to pass this Glass-Steagall act,  
21 which separates (the banking—whatever that thing does), which will help prevent another  
22 economic melt-down."

23  
24 Something that both democrats and republicans should be able to agree on.

25