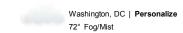
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OPINIONS

Posted at 07:45 AM ET, 05/26/2011

Morning Bits

By Jennifer Rubin

The worst state Republican Party: "Once again, a New York Republican blew it. While the national debate rages about whether Tuesday's special election in the 26th Congressional District was a referendum on Medicare, recriminations are flying in the Empire State, directed at a state GOP that can't seem to get its act together."

The best short summation of President Obama's fundamental error: "Central to Israel's continued existence as the nation-state of the Jewish people is the Palestinian recognition that there can be no so-called 'right of return' to Israel, and that the Palestinian leadership and people must acknowledge that Israel will continue to exist as the nation-state of the Jewish people within secure and recognized boundaries. Unless President Obama sends that clear message, not only to the Israelis but to the Palestinians as well, he will not move the peace process forward. He will move it backward."

Actually, the worst thing Tim Pawlenty could do would be to go isolationist. ("To make the most of his momentum, he should stop criticizing Barack Obama's Libyan intervention as insufficiently ambitious.") So far, he's sitting at the grown-up table on national security, debt and pro-growth policies.

In fact, he's at his best when he's not pandering to the green-eyeshaders and instead standing up for a bold foreign policy . He told the Cato Institute crowd: "I'm not one who is going to stand before you and tell you we should cut the defense budget."

The worst approach to bipartisan debt reduction efforts: holler at Republicans for refusing to raise taxes. Alan Simpson becomes unhinged, asking in reference to Grover Norquist. "What kind of a nut is this guy?" Actually Norquist sounds pretty sane: "I suppose that the former senator can have fun calling me names if he wants, but his argument is with the Republican caucus in the House and the Senate and with the majority of the American people, who see this as a spending problem. And the only way to solve the spending problem is to spend less."

The <u>best</u> advice for Republicans on Medicare comes from Karl Rove: "Next year, Republicans must describe their Medicare reforms plainly, set the record straight vigorously when Democrats demagogue, and go on the attack. Congressional Republicans—especially in the House—need a political war college that schools incumbents and challengers in the best way to explain, defend and attack on the issue of Medicare reform. They have to become as comfortable talking about Medicare in the coming year as they did in talking about health-care reform last year. There needs to be preparation and self-education, followed by extensive town halls, outreach meetings, visits to senior citizen centers, and the use of every available communications tool to get the reform message across."

About Jennifer Rubin | 🖢 On Twitter | 📑 On Facebook | 🚨 RSS Feed | E-mail Jennifer ABOUT JENNIFER RUBIN

I'm a labor-lawver-turnedblogger who believes in limited government, in free markets and that nearly all wisdom can be found in the Godfather movies and the Torah. Read more

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Worst vote ever on a president's budget? The Senate yesterday voted 97-0 against Obama's plan. Rep. Paul Ryan's budget got 40 votes, but the best showing was for Sen. Pat Toomey's offering (42 votes). By Jennifer Rubin | 07:45 AM ET, 05/26/2011 Categories: Morning Bits Be the first of your friends to Send Recommend recommend this. Save & Share: Previous: Republican senators try to end recess appointments Next: Experts weigh in on Obama's Middle East flub Weigh In About Discussions, Badges **Discussion Policy** LOG IN REGISTER + SHARE THIS DEBATE You are not logged in. You must login or register with the Washington Post to comment or post. If you post before logging in, your comment will be saved while you are guided through the login process. Type your comment here... Limit 3000 characters (3000 characters remaining) Post Top Comments (1) All Comments (2) Newest first Oldest first Most Recommended first nvjma wrote: The New York Republican Party is as incompetent as the gang that couldn't shoot straight; but it is still better than the Massachusetts "Republican" Party. The fact that Romney is a creature of the Massachusetts "Republican" Party is another liability for him, one he has so far hardly had to deal Today 5/26/2011 8:56:20 AM EDT Recommend Reply Report RSS Feed Subscribe to The Post © 2011 The Washington Post Company

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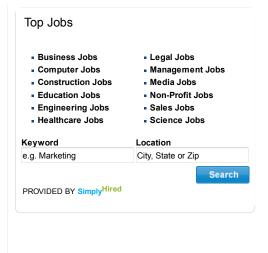
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12:00 PM	Carolyn Hax Live: Advice columnist tackles your problems (Thursday, May 26)	
12:00 PM	Oprah's final shows: Lisa de Moraes' TV Column	
12:00 PM	D.C.'s big stories: Lunchline's Clinton Yates breaks them down (Video)	
1:00 PM	Campus Overload Live with Jenna Johnson	
1:00 PM	Got Plans? Discuss great ideas for local entertainment, dates and family fun with the Going Out Gurus.	
2:00 PM	The Web Hostess: Online manners, memes and must-see video	
2:00 PM	The Sarah Palin movie; Kim Kardashian's engagement and huge 20.5-carat ring; So long, Oprah, and more: Celebritology Live	
	See schedule of all upcoming Live Q&As	

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