



Gasoline

Pressure at the Pump

SHNS' Isaac Wolf reports on an independent lab test of national gasoline brands for detergent additives, which affect the health of vehicle engines and environment; some automotive and fuel experts contend the Environmental Protection Agency's minimum standard is outdated. Detergent levels vary, fueling differences in gas quality. In gas price runup, many factors contribute

[States weigh raising gas taxes to fill budget potholes](#)

[Improve gas mileage with better driving, maintenance](#)

[Editorial: Gasoline mixed to an outdated standard](#)

Animal Testing

Crucial or Cruel?

Tens of millions of animals are still sacrificed to biomedical research projects in labs across America each year. Scientists say the studies have to go on to find cures; animal protectionists say much of the work is dubious, but all sides agree better and cheaper technology needs to be found.

[In animal-testing debate, fur still flies](#)
[Researcher trying to reduce lab-animal testing](#)

[Former breeder of lab animals now works to protect them](#)

[Group seeks to declare research into drugs, medical devices](#)

[Joint efforts help those with four legs or just two](#)

[Breast-cancer fighter sees animal research as a key weapon](#)

[Head of primate center defends research](#)

[Test animals protected by layers of oversight](#)

[Animal testing alternatives encouraged; hurdles remain](#)

[Researchers cut back on use of dogs, cats in testing](#)

[Clemson officials say lab investigations prompted change](#)

[Prices paid for research animals](#)

[Editorial: Animal testing alternatives need investment](#)

Taxing Times

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Parker: Kudos to Cantor

Submitted by SHNS on Fri, 06/24/2011 - 12:15

By [STAR PARKER](#), Scripps Howard News Service [editorials and opinion](#)

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Thank you, Eric Cantor. Thank you for walking out on useless talks, presided over by Vice President Biden, addressing raising the limit on our nation's debt.

According to press accounts, Republican House Majority Leader Cantor called it quits on talks between Democratic and Republican leaders because Democrats refuse to give in on raising taxes.

This, I am sure, is true. But we also must understand the deeper and broader issue.

We are in nothing less than hand-to-hand combat, fighting for what America is about and what it takes to get this country back on track of growth and prosperity. Whether we are, most fundamentally, a welfare state in which government runs the show, or whether this is a free country, in which free, private citizens run the show.

President Barack Obama assumed the presidency in January 2009, and, until this year, Democrats have controlled Congress.

Under their leadership, we've had massive government expansion and intervention into our economy in the name of saving it. The federal budget has grown by a trillion dollars, an expansion by one third. Federal spending, historically 18 percent of our economy is now 25 percent.

Now, 30 months later, the lowest unemployment rate that America has known since Barack Obama has been president was the 7.8 percent where it stood in the first month when he assumed office.

What should trouble every American is that there is not a hint from the White House or from Democratic leaders that they have erred and have taken our nation down the wrong path. There is not a hint that they have even considered that their ideas and approach are wrong.

What we are getting are jokes from our president, regarding the failure of the almost \$900 billion "stimulus" package, that "shovel ready was not as shovel ready as we expected."

We are facing many dangers. And one of them is that Americans get used to the way things are.

Unemployment currently stands at 9.1 percent. It has hovered between 9 and 10 percent for almost the entire Obama presidency.

From this perspective, we almost long for the 7.8 percent where it stood in January 2009. As this drags on, memories will fade that when the American economy is moving full tilt, unemployment is around five percent.

Let's also recall that back in January 2009 there were dissenting voices.

In that same month, the Cato Institute ran full-page newspaper ads challenging the statement of our new president that "There is no disagreement that we need action by our government, a recovery plan that will help jumpstart the economy."

The ad says "With all due respect Mr. President, that is not true." The ad is signed by hundreds of economists, including several Nobel Prize winners.

The ad reviews the historic failures of similar attempts at economic revival through government expansion and concludes: "To improve the economy, policy makers should focus on reforms that remove impediments to work, saving, and investment and production. Lower tax rates and a reduction in the burden of government are the best ways to use fiscal policy to boost growth."

Slavery, sex trafficking targeted by state attorneys general

By [CASEY NEWTON](#), San Francisco Chronicle

Placing ads in Web images is new way to sell products

By [CASEY NEWTON](#), San Francisco Chronicle

Men still Wimbledon Centre of attention: Other notes

By [BRUCE JENKINS](#), San Francisco Chronicle

Shut up and watch the film ... please

By [KIRK BAIRD](#), Toledo Blade

Parker: Kudos to Cantor

By [STAR PARKER](#), Scripps Howard News Service

Study: Eating habits stick as kids grow

By [JEREMY OLSON](#), Minneapolis Star Tribune

Once again, they return to Pittsburgh fast and furiously

By [LAUREN ROSENTHAL](#), Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Film: 'Buck' a moving look at a real horse whisperer

By [MICK LASALLE](#), San Francisco Chronicle

Vacation Planning 101 for hard workers

By [TRISH CHOATE](#), Scripps Howard News Service

Family Film Guide: 'Cars 2,' 'Green Lantern' and more

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Baby's microwave death inspires PETA billboard

By [KIM MINUGH](#), Sacramento Bee

Williams: Windham's tales of her South will live forever

By [BONNIE WILLIAMS](#), Scripps Howard News Service

Knapp: Dreaming of McIlroy-Woods Open duel

By [GWEN KNAPP](#), San Francisco Chronicle

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Ambrose: Astounding sphere world is on the way

By [JAY AMBROSE](#), Scripps Howard News Service

Auto-specs: 2012 Hyundai Accent GLS

By [RICHARD WILLIAMSON](#), Scripps Howard News Service

Eugenics victims testify in N.C. compensation hearing

By [REGINA WANG](#), Raleigh News and Observer

I wrote a column in February 2009 in response to which I'm still getting letters. I wrote then: "I thought we were on the road to moving socialism out of poor black communities and replacing it with wealth producing American capitalism. But, incredibly, we are going in the opposite direction. Instead of poor American on socialism becoming more like rich America on capitalism, rich America on capitalism is becoming more like poor American on socialism."

Any tax increases today simply accommodates the recent massive, misguided and destructive expansion of government. Spending cuts and rollback of government are our only hope.

Keep it up Mr. Cantor.

(Star Parker is an author and president of CURE, Center for Urban Renewal and Education (www.urbancure.org). She can be reached at [parker\(at\)urbancure.org](mailto:parker(at)urbancure.org).)

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COLUMN

Paying taxes unites us. It also divides us. People can pay five and even six times more in state and local taxes than other folks in similar circumstances making similar incomes. [Taxes unify Americans, but rates vary by state](#)

Identity Theft

[Who's got your number?](#)

In one of the fastest-growing forms of identity theft, crooks are stealing tax refunds by swiping personal information and using it to trick the Internal Revenue Service. [Crooks stealing tax refunds in latest ID theft trend](#)

[Ambrose: Warming skeptics are not 'deniers'](#)

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