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EDITORIALS

What others are saying

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To those critics who say (Gingrich is) reckless, I reply that a bold president will sometimes seem reckless to those trapped in the status quo. Can you imagine a President [Romney](#) ignoring the advice of his [State Department](#) and National Security Council and delivering an incendiary line like "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"?

And those ethics charges? What exactly were the offenses? A Rostenkowski-type scandal? Some sort of improper personal enrichment? Income from a [Dominican Republic](#) resort pad he "forgot" to report on his income-tax form? Nope. Nothing so obvious. ...It was a kind of "ethics" charge that one party uses to tie up a dangerous opponent in a legal tangle.

What about the money he received as a consultant from Fannie or Freddie? ...Well, good for him! I'm glad to see someone on our team getting money out of that Sunnyvale Retirement Home for Old Democratic Hacks!

Melissa O'Sullivan, National Review Online

The assertion — or implication — that (Obama) saved the auto industry is bogus. The auto industry was never on the verge of collapse. GM and [Chrysler](#) were in deep trouble, but Ford, Honda, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Kia, Hyundai, BMW and Mercedes Benz (to name some U.S. producers) were fine. Yes, in 2008-2009 the economy was in recession and automobile demand had tanked. The companies that had been the most profligate, the most reckless, and the least disciplined were exposed, but talk of industry collapse was the product of a Detroit public relations campaign ...

GM's recent profits speak only to the fact that politicians committed more than \$50 billion to the task of rescuing those companies and the United Auto Workers. With debts expunged, cash infused, inefficiencies severed, ownership reconstituted, sales rebates underwritten and political obstacles steamrolled — all in the midst of a recovery in U.S. auto demand — only the most incompetent operations could fail to make profits.

Daniel Ikenson, Cato@Liberty

[Newt Gingrich](#) is conservatism's [Bill Clinton](#), but without the charm. He has acquired wit but he has all the charm of barbed wire. Newt and Bill are 1960s generation narcissists, and they share the same problems: waywardness and deviancy. Newt, like Bill, has a proclivity for girl hopping. It is not as egregious as Bill's, but then Newt is not as drop-dead beautiful.

Newt and Bill, as 1960s generation self-promoters, share the same duplicity, ostentatious braininess, a propensity for endless scrapes with propriety and the law. They are tireless hustlers. Now Newt is hustling my fellow conservatives in this election. ... He is not a leader. He is a huckster. Today Mitt Romney has 72 congressional endorsements. Newt has 11. Possibly the 11 have yet to meet him.