

# The Hotline

March 5, 2012 Monday

## Dramatic Exit

"The sudden departure of trusted House Majority Leader **Eric Cantor** (R-VA) aide **Brad Dayspring**" March 2 "followed a heated, nearly physical confrontation with another senior Cantor staffer" **Mike Ference** "over the unveiling of a major GOP initiative."

Dayspring, "one of the House GOP Conference's savviest and most controversial operatives, and Ference exchanged words" Feb. 28, "and Ference later that day aggressively confronted Dayspring, almost getting into a physical altercation, sources familiar with the incident said. Later that week, Dayspring did not attend a Cantor fundraiser."

Dayspring will now work for the Young Guns Action Fund super PAC, started by ex-Cantor aide **John Murray** (**Sherman/Palmer/Bresnahan, Politico**, 3/4).

Murray: "It is with great enthusiasm that we're adding Brad Dayspring as a senior adviser to our team. When Young Guns was formed it was designed to help leaders like Eric Cantor and **Kevin McCarthy** chart a new course for the center-right movement and the House majority. Brad's years of work both on Capitol Hill and in the campaign world are a perfect blend to help take us to the next level!" (**Wilson, National Journal**, 3/3).

"Dayspring's move off the Hill signals, is if it weren't already clear that the prospects of big-time legislating are over for the year and that top-level" GOP "operatives have turned their focus to protecting, and possibly expanding," the GOP majority (**Garrett, National Journal**, 3/3).

### Blowing Off Steam

More than 150 people turned out for a fundraiser for House Speaker **John Boehner** (R-OH) with Rep. **Vern Buchanan** (R-FL).

"The two also played golf earlier in the day at an undisclosed golf course" in Sarasota, FL. Reporters were not allowed in the fundraiser. The minimum to get in the event was \$500 at the home of **Kim Githler**. For \$10K, "couples at the event could be part of a VIP reception and get photos with Boehner. Neither Boehner nor Buchanan spoke to reporters after the event."

"It's the second year in a row that Boehner has come to Sarasota for a fundraiser with Buchanan and to shot a round of golf" (**Wallace, Sarasota Herald-Tribune**, 3/4).

### Seizing Control

"The battle for control over a prominent libertarian organization in Washington has cast a spotlight on its highly unusual structure, which allows the nonprofit research institution to be controlled by shareholders" (**Farnam, Washington Post**, 3/3).

**Cato Institute** pres/CEO **Ed Crane**: "Catoites, you are all probably aware by now of the unfortunate development with **Charles** and **David Koch**. They are in the process of trying to take over the **Cato Institute** and, in my opinion, reduce it to a partisan adjunct to Americans for Prosperity, the activist GOP group they control" (**Weigel, Slate**, 3/5).

### We Will Get Through This

"At separate events this weekend" House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA) and Boehner threw "their support behind lawmakers in their party who are enmeshed in ethics troubles." Pelosi endorsed Rep. **Jesse Jackson Jr.** (D-IL), who the House Ethics Cmte is investigating at least two allegations, while Boehner appeared "next to Rep. Vern Buchanan at a fundraiser."

"The appearances by" the GOP and the Dem "leaders are a clear signal that the charges of ethical

misconduct have not reached levels they consider to be politically toxic" (**Yager, The Hill**, 3/3).

Messaging

**Washington Post's George Will**, on GOP leaders not condemning radio host Rush Limbaugh's comments: "It was depressing because what it indicates is that the Republican leaders are afraid of Rush Limbaugh. They want to bomb Iran, but they're afraid of Rush Limbaugh" ("This Week," ABC, 3/4).