



Wednesday's Mini-Report

By Steve Benen

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Today's edition of quick hits:

* **Intervention in Syria?** "President Obama has authorized initial U.S. planning for possible intervention in Syria, but the lack of unity within the Syrian opposition and the international community currently argue against such a mission, top U.S. defense officials said Wednesday."

* **Consumer credit:** "U.S. consumer credit expanded sharply in January in a generally positive sign for the economy as people borrowed money to buy cars and go to school, Federal Reserve data showed on Wednesday."

* Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R) initially rejected federal aid to tornado-stricken communities, but fortunately, he's **reconsidered** and has welcomed FEMA teams in.

* **This** is a conflict worth watching, and I'll have more on it tomorrow: "House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) will hold a closed-door meeting with Budget Committee members on Thursday to settle an internal GOP fight over 2013 spending limits."

* Some House Democrats want **congressional hearings** into Chief U.S. District Judge Richard Cebull and his racist email. Republicans are unlikely to go along.

* In Vermont, "**personhood**" measures have nothing to do with abortion and contraception, and everything to do with corporations' legal status.

* The **conflict** between the Cato Institute and the Koch brothers is well worth keeping an eye on, and has a larger significance beyond the world of D.C. think tanks.

* For now, Daniela Pelaez, a high school valedictorian in Miami threatened with deportation, **can stay** in the United States -- for two years. She continues to be a perfect example of why the Dream Act is so important.

* And while the 2008 Obama campaign got a boost from Will.I.Am. and "**Yes We Can**," this year, the Santorum campaign **has**, well, this.