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The Hotline

NATIONAL JOURNAL'S DAILY BRIEFING ON POLITICS

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THE BLOGOMETER

The Blogometer is a daily report from The Hotline taking the temperature of the political blogosphere. The Blogometer appears in The Hotline's subscription-only tip sheet and in this space every weekday at noon.

7/22: You're Playing Into Their Hands!

Liberal bloggers are buzzing about an internal RNC memo -- a copy of which was obtained by [The Huffington Post](#)'s **Sam Stein** -- which "calls for like-minded advocates to help defeat" Pres. **Obama**'s health care proposal "by delaying its consideration." The netroots see this memo as [proof](#) that the GOP "isn't interested in reforming the existing health care system" and that congressional Dems should stop trying to negotiate with them. **Joan McCarter** writes: "The sooner Democrats on the Hill recognize that delaying this process just plays into the Republicans' hands, the better." However, that's not stopping Blue Dog Dems from [demanding](#) that health care reform "happen in a bipartisan way" -- to the netroots' [frustration](#).

What else is happening in the blogosphere?

- The liberal blog [Firedoglake](#) continues to lobby congressional Dems on health reform. The latest Dems being targeted are Reps. [Lynn Woolsey](#) (D-CA), [Diane Watson](#) (D-CA), and [Dan Boren](#) (D-OK).
- Conservative bloggers ([Faughnan](#), [Geraghty](#), [Allahpundit](#), [Malkin](#)) are mocking Rep. **Russ Carnahan** (D-MO) after several audience members [laughed at him](#) during a recent health care forum.
- Conservative bloggers ([Lane](#), [Klein](#), [Geraghty](#)) are excited about the new [Quinnipiac Univ. poll](#) showing ex-Rep. **Pat Toomey** (R) tied with Sen. **Arlen Specter** (D) in a hypothetical '10 matchup. Meanwhile, [Markos Moulitsas](#) calls Gov. **Ed Rendell** (D) an "asshole" for [urging](#) Rep. **Joe Sestak** (D) to drop his Senate bid.
- Liberal bloggers ([Bergmann](#), [Benen](#), [Dayen](#), [Klein](#), [Fallows](#), [Drum](#)) are pleased that the Senate voted to [end production](#) of the F-22 fighter jet, as Def. Sec. **Robert Gates** has recommended. Conservative bloggers are divided on the issue: [The Weekly Standard](#)'s **Michael Goldfarb** condemns the move, but [The Cato Institute](#)'s **Christopher Preble** supports it.
- [Erick Erickson](#) is urging RedState readers to call senators and ask them to support the "Concealed Carry Reciprocity Amendment" that Sen. **John Thune** (R-SD) is trying to attach to the Defense authorization bill. Meanwhile, liberal blogger [David Waldman](#) is frustrated by the GOP's "habit of bringing gun riders to the floor."
- Liberal bloggers ([Lewison](#), [Sudbay](#), [Serwer](#), [Benen](#)) are buzzing about the fact that various prominent conservatives -- including [Rush Limbaugh](#), [Lou Dobbs](#), Rep. [John Campbell](#) (R-CA) -- seem unsure whether Obama is a U.S. citizen.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: Bad-Faith Negotiators?

Lefty bloggers see the [RNC memo](#) as proof that the GOP isn't interested in reforming the health care system:

- [Daily Kos](#)' **mcjoan**: "This is just longer form (10 pages, in fact) [Bill Kristol](#). Kill it, kill it through delay. The sooner Democrats on the Hill recognize that delaying this process just plays into the Republicans' hands, the better. But it also has the potential to put the Republicans in deeper political doo-doo, as the White House well knows. They are [exposing the GOP's effort](#) to kill healthcare reform for what it really is -- an effort to bring down a very popular president. They're playing politics with our lives."
- **Oliver Willis**: "A [memo being circulated](#) in GOP circles shows us much of what we already knew: the right isn't interested in reforming the existing health care system, and in fact their overriding goal is to prevent President

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