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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.

6/2: Senate Speculation

Several liberal bloggers are discussing **Brian Beutler's** [interview](#) with Rep. **Joe Sestak** (D-PA), who plans on challenging Sen. **Arlen Specter** (D-PA) in next year's primary. During the interview, Sestak previewed some of his possible attacks on Specter, emphasizing the latter's "experience in the Washington senatorial establishment" and questioning whether he can really be trusted. Like most lefty bloggers, **Chris Bowers** is rooting hard for Sestak, but he wonders "if this message is enough." **Josh Orton** thinks Sestak knows something we don't know: "Bet money that Sestak's already poll-tested those attacks against Specter, and that they proved effective. If there's enough money behind this primary to get that message out, Arlen's happy numbers from last week might nosedive fairly quick."

In other Senate news, liberal bloggers are pleased that the MN Supreme Court justices were [skeptical](#) of the oral arguments made by ex-Sen. **Norm Coleman's** (R) lawyer. The netroots are fairly confident that the MN Supreme Court will soon rule in favor of **Al Franken** (D). **Markos Moulitsas** declares: "**Bill O'Reilly's** worst nightmare is about to become reality. All the foot dragging and dishonest arguments and bullshit legal filings are about to come to a close, and Democrats will finally have their 60th seat in the U.S. Senate."

What else is happening in the blogosphere?

- The debate over SCOTUS nominee **Sonia Sotomayor** continues to roil the blogosphere, with conservatives accusing Sotomayor of advocating "[racial essentialism](#)" and liberals [defending her](#) against those charges. Meanwhile, lefty bloggers ([Lemieux](#), [Yglesias](#), [Morrill](#), [Serwer](#)) continue to flay *National Journal* columnist **Stuart Taylor** for his criticism of Sotomayor.
- Conservative bloggers ([Impomeni](#), [Malkin](#), [Erickson](#)) are accusing Pres. **Obama** of being inconsistent because he released a [statement](#) deploring the [murder](#) of KS abortion doctor **George Tiller** but did not release a statement deploring the [murder](#) of a U.S. military recruiter in AR. Meanwhile, liberal bloggers ([Sudbay](#), [Steven D](#), [Benen](#), [Willis](#)) are blasting O'Reilly for his repeated attacks on Tiller.
- Gay marriage supporters in the blogosphere ([Sullivan](#), [Sudbay](#), [Dayen](#)) are pointing out that ex-VP **Dick Cheney's** [views on gay marriage](#) are more progressive than those of Obama.
- Sen. **Tom Coburn** (R-OK) wrote a [blog post](#) urging [RedState](#) readers to join him in his re-election effort. Conservative bloggers are [pleased](#) that Coburn is running again.
- Several righty bloggers ([Goldberg](#), [Hewitt](#), [Ikenson](#), [Cianfrocca](#), [Malkin](#)) are discussing the significance of the [GM bankruptcy](#).

PA SEN: Message-Testing

Liberal bloggers are buzzing about Beutler's [interview](#) with Sestak:

- **MyDD's** Orton: "On paper, Sestak might seem like a long-shot, but yet he's clearly convinced that a primary against Specter could succeed...so what does Joe know that we don't? Last week I [speculated](#) about the existence of internal polling that shows Specter vulnerable to negative messaging. Over at TPMDC, Beutler [posts an interview](#) that redoubles my suspicion. [...] Bet money that Sestak's already poll-tested those attacks against Specter, and that they proved effective. If there's enough money behind this primary to get that message out, Arlen's happy numbers from last week might nosedive fairly quick."

THE DAILY READ

- [Daily Kos](#)
- [Eschaton](#)
- [Talking Points Memo](#)
- [MyDD](#)
- [AMERICAblog](#)
- [firedoglake](#)
- [The Corner](#)
- [Townhall](#)
- [Michelle Malkin](#)
- [Instapundit](#)
- [RedState](#)
- [Power Line](#)
- [The Huffington Post](#)
- [TAPPED](#)
- [Washington Monthly](#)
- [TPM's Election Central](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [Crooks and Liars](#)
- [Matthew Yglesias](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [Calitics](#)
- [Outside the Beltway](#)
- [Right Wing News](#)
- [The Brody File](#)
- [AmSpec Blog](#)
- [Andrew Sullivan](#)
- [Kausfiles](#)
- [Blog PI](#)
- [Pollster.com](#)
- [The Reality Based Community](#)
- [Open Left](#)
- [AD Spotlight](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Hot Air](#)
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- [The Next Right](#)
- [Ross Douthat](#)
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- [Digby's Hullabaloo](#)

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