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« The Invisible Primary, 7/29 | Main | Question Of The Day: Better Host--Palin, Limbaugh or Huckabee? »

Jul 29 2009, 7:00 pm by **Chris Good**

**The Day In Politics, 7/29**

Today, we learned that people [think](#) health care reform will benefit the nation, but hurt them individually; Sarah Palin is [weighing](#) a foray into syndicated radio; Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus [gave](#) an optimistic prediction on his committee's health reform negotiations; and a food safety bill was [defeated](#).

We also wondered if Washington [has the political will](#) to reform health care; the [fading of Iraq](#) from political discussion; what a deal with four Blue Dogs [means for health care](#); and [what to watch](#) in the health care debate.

Tomorrow: President Obama hosts Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Sgt. James Crowley at the White House for their much-anticipated beer; the Center for American Progress hosts a discussion on counterinsurgency in Afghanistan; and the Cato institute hosts a policy forum on Venezuela.

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**THE ZEITGEIST**

Pollster.com Obama Average Job Approval	<b>52.5%</b>
Pollster.com Obama Favorability	<b>55.7%</b>
Pollster.com Right Direction / Wrong Track	<b>38.6% / 51.3%</b>
Pollster.com Congressional Approval	<b>23.2%</b>
Standard & Poor's S&P 500	<b>986.08</b> (up 152 points since 1/20/09)
National Federation of Independent Businesses Small Business Optimism Index	<b>87.9</b> (down 1.1% from May)
ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index	<b>47 points below zero</b>
U.S. Department of Labor Initial Weekly Jobless Claims	<b>584,000</b> (down 1,000 since 1/20/09)
Bankrate.com Interest on 30-Year Fixed Mortgage	<b>5.39%</b>
RealtyTrac Newly foreclosed properties in June	<b>336,173</b>
U.S. Department of Labor Unemployment	<b>9.5%</b>
U.S. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index	<b>+0.7% in June</b>
Mortgage Bankers Association Quarterly Delinquency	<b>8.22%</b>
National Association of Realtors Sales of Existing Homes, Annual Rate (Monthly)	<b>4.89 million in June</b> (up 3.6% from May)