WALL STREET JOURNAL

Vol. 26, No. 2

February 27, 2013

A reminder is overdue about the experts we quote, especially in economic-trend articles: Fresh voices are much encouraged to replace the dial-a-quote gurus who surface repeatedly, often with their biases peeping through.

This issue comes to mind anew because an article on the resurgence of big mergers quoted the same deal-maker executive that competitive Brands X and Y quoted in the same context the same day, with much the same insight or lack of it. Although the transgression was innocent enough in this case, insights from a different M&A expert would have been refreshing.

An ancillary reminder: When we quote analysts affiliated with research organizations and such, we should try as hard as we can to suggest the ideological tilt of the outfits, as in the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute, the libertarian Cato Institute, etc. (But progressive is a nonstarter because it is just self-serving.)