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# PoliticsBLOG

FROM THE **San Francisco Chronicle**

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Welcome to the Politics blog.

By Wyatt Buchanan, Michael Collier, Richard Dunham, Bob Egelko, Joe Garofoli, Marisa Lagos, Carolyn Lochhead, Carla Marinucci, [Read Bios](#)

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## Public pensions under attack

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It's one thing when the Reason Foundation and Cato Institute take aim at the generous public pensions (and salaries) that are bankrupting California and other states.

It's another when the center-left New America Foundation does it. Today we have a report called "Public Affluence, Private Squalor," citing "pension envy" as one reason for the decline in sympathy for state and city workers.

Fiscal stimulus is finished, and this is one reason why. With millions of private-sector workers unemployed, the public is turning against public workers. House Democrats have officially surrendered on \$10 billion they wanted to add to the war spending bill to help states keep teachers employed. The White

House has turned in desperation to try increase exports to try to bring down unemployment. (Does anyone remember the campaign broohaha about renegotiating NAFTA?)

The average state and local worker now earns \$67,812, compared with \$59,909 for private sector workers in 2008, according to Cato. California state and local government employees were the best paid in the nation in 2008, earning \$86,417, including benefits.

Our own metro staff has been chronicling high city salaries throughout the Bay Area for years. Today the New York Times is piling on with a profile of Maywood, Ca, where all the city workers were fired and "the sky didn't fall." The Washington Post's two-year investigation of the post 9/11 anti-terror campaign casts a harsh eye on bloat and extravagance in the intelligence bureaucracy. Public sector workers look to be in for some rough sledding.

Posted By: Carolyn Lochhead (Email) | July 20 2010 at 08:10 AM

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