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Pundits & Editorials

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Dana Milbank mocks the various ways the media and administration marked **President Obama's** first 100 days. "In just 100 days, the national media have shown they have a clear double standard in how they cover **Obama**, ▼ compared with Republican presidents," Rep. **Lamar Smith**, R-Texas, scoffs in **Politico**.

"In only 100 days," **Obama** ▼ 's "politics and policies have shifted America way to the left," **Lawrence Kudlow** seethes on RealClearPolitics.com. "We are witnessing a triumph of government bureaucrats over entrepreneurs, investors, and small businesses."

The **Financial Times** praises **Obama** ▼ for his first 100 days but also details what challenges he will likely face ahead.

Examining **Obama** ▼ 's time leading the Harvard Law Review, **Daniel Henninger** expresses his doubts about **Obama** ▼ 's leadership style when it comes to the presidency.

"**Obama** ▼ is enormously deferential to Democrats in Congress and has outsourced formulation of key policies to them." **Karl Rove** charges that "he appears largely ambivalent about the contents of important legislation, satisfied to simply sign someone else's bill."

Roger Cohen lauds **Obama** ▼ for his ability to communicate, considering the downward spiral he has seen English take in recent years.

"**Arlen Specter**, with his unparalleled instinct for self-preservation, became a Democrat because the people of Pennsylvania like the Democratic agenda better," remarks **Gail Collins**.

Specter switching parties is "an opportunistic move by one of the most opportunistic politicians of modern times," **David S. Broder** argues.

Writing in the **Chicago Tribune**, **Cato Institute** Vice President **David Boaz** believes "there's every reason to expect" Specter's "voting record [will] shift left."

"In partly reinventing himself at the age of 79, he has done more than replace the 'R' after his name with a 'D,'" the **Los Angeles Times** asserts. "He also has changed his former party by further depleting the ranks of moderate Republicans in the Senate."

Specter's switch "might eventually provide the footing Republicans have been struggling to find," **Ron Bonjean**, who has worked in high-level positions for the congressional GOP, speculates in **Politico**.

"Specter relished his day before the cameras, basking in that suspended moment when you have finally made the decision to leave an unhappy marriage and are momentarily unaware of the problems likely to arise in a second," **Margaret Carlson** quips.

USA Today fears what national consequences could come to pass with increasing polarization between the parties.

Former Rep. **Chris Chocola**, R-Ind., president of the right-leaning Club for Growth, counters in an opposing view that the country benefits when there are "clear distinctions" between the parties.

In the **Washington Times**, Minority Leader **John Boehner**, R-Ohio, touts GOP legislation aimed at helping Americans with their savings.

George F. Will criticizes the use of budget reconciliation, whether it's the Democrats' use of it now or the Republicans' use of it in past administrations.

"**Obama** ▼ should ground the genius on his staff who arranged a photo-op of Air Force One flying low around the skyscrapers of lower Manhattan," the **Philadelphia Inquirer** contends.

In the **Washington Post**, **Mack McLarty**, **Bill Clinton**'s chief of staff and chair to an automotive group, maintains that the government can't help Detroit if it hurts auto dealers.

Paul Ingrassia is skeptical about the United Auto Workers' increased stake in Chrysler and GM.

Caroline Baum argues that, contrary to what many people are saying, capitalism is not a failure.

"The economy shrank more than most expected, but [new] data also showed signs that the worst of the recession is over," the **Wall Street Journal** notes.

"It comes as at least a mild surprise to find the U.S. Supreme Court cheerfully authorizing the government to engage in censorship, as it did this week," **Steve Chapman** scoffs.

What's National Security Adviser **Jim Jones**' leadership style? **David Ignatius** recounts a recent interview to answer this question.

The **Washington Post** urges Congress to confirm **Dawn Johns** to lead the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

The **New York Times** wants the White House and Attorney General **Eric Holder** to support the passage of the State Secrets Protection Act in the Senate.