

--Advertisement--



--Advertisement--

The Hotline
NATIONAL JOURNAL'S DAILY BRIEFING ON POLITICS

[About The Hotline](#)
[About National Journal Group](#)

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.

[« 5/21: Running Scared](#) | [Main](#) | [5/26: It's Sotomayor »](#)

May 22, 2009

5/22: Battle Of The Speeches

Not surprisingly, liberal and conservative bloggers had opposite reactions to ex-VP **Dick Cheney's** national security [speech](#): the former [hated](#) it and the latter [loved](#) it. What is perhaps more interesting is that despite Cheney's [low approval ratings](#), conservative bloggers [see](#) his emergence as a leading **Barack Obama** critic as a good thing for the GOP. In fact, they believe that Cheney benefited from the contrast between his speech and [Obama's](#). [Melissa Clouthier](#) writes: "Contrasting the wussy Obama with the manly Cheney was a nice refreshing breath of fresh air and a reminder why Republicans win every once in a while." [Allahpundit](#) thinks it was "awfully stupid" of Obama to schedule his national security speech on the same day as Cheney's, since it only elevated the importance of the latter. Liberal bloggers, on the other hand, thought that ["Cheney was simply outclassed"](#) and that ["it wasn't even close"](#). The netroots are confident that Obama benefits whenever the face of the opposition is an unpopular figure like Cheney or **Rush Limbaugh**.

As for Obama's [speech](#), conservative bloggers (not surprisingly) hated it, but liberal bloggers had a more nuanced reaction. While they were impressed by Obama's eloquence, many of them are [complaining](#) that the President's actions on matters of civil liberties aren't consistent with his words. Lefty bloggers were particularly alarmed by Obama's comments about creating a system of ["preventive detention"](#) for suspected terrorists who are considered dangerous but who cannot be tried in court. [Joan McCarter](#) complains: "You cannot at the same time reiterate 'our values' and 'our timeless ideals' and the 'rule of law' and indefinitely, 'preventively' detain people in prison with no charges or proof of any crime."

What else is happening in the blogosphere?

- Conservative bloggers ([Erickson](#), [Hawkins](#)) are urging NRSC Chair **John Cornyn** to follow the [example](#) of FL GOP Chair **Jim Greer** and back off his endorsement of Gov. **Charlie Crist** in the FL GOP Senate primary.

OBAMA SPEECH: He Talks A Good Game, But...

Many liberal bloggers are complaining that Obama's rhetoric about upholding America's "values" is contradicted by his actions:

- [Salon's](#) Greenwald: "The speech was fairly representative of what Obama typically does: effectively defend some important ideals in a uniquely persuasive way and advocating some policies that promote those ideals (closing Guantanamo, banning torture tactics, limiting the state secrets privilege) while committing to many which plainly violate them (indefinite preventive detention schemes, military commissions, denial of habeas rights to Bagram abductees, concealing torture evidence, blocking judicial review on secrecy grounds). Like all political officials, Obama should be judged based on his actions and decisions, not his words and alleged intentions and motives. Those actions in the civil liberties realm, with some exceptions, have been profoundly at odds with his claimed principles, and this speech hasn't changed that. Only actions will."
- [TAPPED's](#) **Adam Serwer**: "With his soaring and sincere rhetoric, the president has done an incredible job of selling his kinder, gentler War on Terror, and ultimately, the American people will likely have his back, if only because they trust him. In a sense, Barack Obama may be far more dangerous than **George W. Bush** when it comes to violating our civil liberties; where the American people feared the excesses of Bush, they trust

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](#)

[The Campaign Spot](#)

[The Next Right](#)

[Ross Douthat](#)

[FiveThirtyEight](#)

[Balloon Juice](#)

[Digby's Hullabaloo](#)

. . .

