

Current and former Senate members

Former Cabinet secretaries

Energy Arena

Aug. 30, 2010

Driving the Conversation:

Arena Ref: David Mark

GOP's family feud?

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Roger Pilon Vice President for Legal Affairs, Cato Institute:

Political parties are, strictly speaking, private entities. Therefore, they're free to insinuate themselves into primary contests, or not. But as they do,

so they will be judged.

Haley Barbour was absolutely right, therefore, to say that national party organizations shouldn't endorse (ordinarily, incumbents) in primaries -- much less assist one candidate over others. To the extent they do, they confirm the view of many Americans that the political class is more interested in preserving power -- its own -- than in governing for the common good under constitutional principle.

Do we need any better evidence than the way Republicans ran from the term limits plank in the Contract with America after they took over Congress in 1995? Oh, I forgot, there is better evidence: the way Democrats never even paid lip service to term limits.

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