

The National Journal

March 30, 2010

## Pundits & Editorials

**SECTION:** EARLYBIRD PUNDITS EDITORIALS

**LENGTH:** 611 words

"For decades now, the most serious threat of domestic terrorism has come from the growing ranks of paranoid, anti-government hate groups that draw their inspiration, vocabulary and anger from the far right," inveighs **Eugene Robinson**.

"Critics focus on racial data because they want to make race the center of the argument," the **Washington Times** argues. "This is a way to avoid the inconvenient truth that vast segments of the electorate are becoming disenchanted with [**President Obama's**] broken promises. The American middle class is deserting him in droves. "

Having Tea Party candidate "[**Jon Scott**]**Ashjian** on the ballot may be" Senate Majority Leader **Harry Reid's** only hope of survival" during the coming midterm election, writes **Marc A. Thiessen**.

"While [Education Secretary **Arne Duncan**] proposed an impressive toughening of consequences for failing schools (often the poorest) and their teachers, he left significant room for merely ailing schools (often in middle-class areas) to get off the hook," argues **USA Today**.

Duncan counters: "Our proposal carries real consequences for schools in the middle that don't meet growth targets. They could lose flexibility and formula funding if they fail to close achievement gaps. And, districts that fail to provide schools, principals and teachers with the necessary support to improve could also lose control of their funding."

"It is time for the [Obama administration](#) ▼ to move quickly and powerfully to the monumental task of putting Americans back to work," urges **Bob Herbert**. "As for the budget deficits, they will never be brought under control if Americans are not put back to work."

Sen. **Scott Brown**, R-Mass., writes in the **Boston Globe**: "Now, it is time to listen to the people and focus on their top priority: jobs. It would be a mistake for the administration to try to ram through other items on the liberal agenda when so many Americas are struggling."

"As for the cost of college, expect it to become even less affordable as the subsidies keep flowing," predicts the **Wall Street Journal (subscription)**. "The main achievements of this new legislation will be to give more power to government, and to transfer more of the costs and risks of college financing to taxpayers."

"The belief that higher tax rates on the rich could eventually raise significant sums over the next decade is a dangerous delusion, because it means the already horrific estimates of long-term deficits are seriously understated," concludes **Alan Reynolds (subscription)**, a senior fellow with the **Cato Institute**.

**Charles R. Schwab**, chairman of the Charles Schwab Corporation, laments low interest rates in the **Wall Street Journal (subscription)**: "Retirees feel the consequences disproportionately, but because much of that income would have made its way into the economy, spending and job creation also suffer."

The **New York Times** warns that "after eight years of fighting, more than 1,000 American lives lost and more than \$200 billion from American taxpayers spent, [President **Hamid Karzai's**] failure to build a credible, honest and even minimally effective government remains the Taliban's No. 1 recruiting tool."

"Iraq bequeathed to this next government some of its toughest issues," argues the **Washington Post**. "As parties and factions jockey for control of the ministries, a lot is at stake, and accordingly bare-knuckled politics will ensue."

"Google, which admirably walked away from the biggest cellphone market in the world -- that and not its search engine was the real prize -- has shown that in the meantime the price of doing business in China is not its overvalued currency but its undervalued human rights," **Richard Cohen** applauds.

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**GEOGRAPHIC:** MASSACHUSETTS, USA (79%) UNITED STATES (94%)

**LOAD-DATE:** March 30, 2010

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Magazine

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