
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 4.10.2009

Washington Post: "Signs of Revival In Retail, Banks ... The ailing financial and retail sectors showed tentative signs of strength yesterday, an encouraging shift for an economy whose prospects are tied to their recovery."

Washington Post: "Banks Expect to Swing to a Profit ... Wells Fargo, the fourth-largest U.S. bank, said yesterday that it expected to earn \$3 billion in the first three months of the year, its highest quarterly profit ever, generating investor hopes that the battered banking sector will show improvement next week when the nation's biggest banks start reporting earnings."

Washington Post: "Obama Extols Impact of Lower Mortgage Rates ... President Obama touted his administration's efforts to lower mortgage interest rates in a round-table discussion yesterday with Washington-area homeowners who have benefited from refinancing into more affordable loans."

Washington Post: "How Bernanke Staged a Revolution ... Every six weeks or so, around a giant mahogany table in an ornate room overlooking the National Mall, 16 people, one after another, give their take on how the U.S. economy is doing and what they, the leaders of the Federal Reserve, want to do about it."

Washington Post, Milbank: "When It Comes to Mortgages, Obama Is Salesman in Chief ... I just lost another loan to Obama! When last we heard from the salesman in chief 10 days ago, he was pitching General Motors and Chrysler cars so aggressively that he did everything but offer to rotate every American's tires. Now, it seems, he's moonlighting for LendingTree.com."

Wall Street Journal: "Debate Continues Over US Treasury Toxic-Asset Plan Rule ... Eligibility requirements for a key U.S. Treasury Department program to address toxic assets are still stirring up controversy, leaving the program open to attack from bailout skeptics on Capitol Hill."

Wall Street Journal, Noonan: "Not so long ago, there were heroes on Wall Street. ... Wall Street, or what remains of it, has dealt a catastrophic blow to its reputation in the past eight months of bonuses, bailouts and bankruptcies. What its current leaders, and the young who are lucky enough to be entering business, have to do now is begin rescuing and restoring that reputation."

Wall Street Journal, Op-Ed: "'Empty Creditors' and the Crisis ... The defining moments of our financial crisis are now familiar. Last September, Lehman collapsed and AIG was teetering. Because an AIG collapse was viewed as posing

unacceptable systemic risks, the Federal Reserve provided the company with an emergency \$85 billion loan on Sept. 16."

Wall Street Journal, Op-Ed: "How to Make the Bank Asset Plan Work ... The government has finally figured out how to get us out of a credit crisis caused by leverage and securitization: more leverage and securitization."

Washington Times, Editorial: "Another shoe drops ... There is no doubt that the bank bailout was mismanaged. Now it's time to buckle up for a government run on the insurance industry."

New York Times, Editorial: "Predatory Brokers ... Mortgage brokers are supposed to be impartial advocates who search out the best possible deal for prospective homeowners seeking a loan. The mortgage crisis has revealed a different truth. Too many brokers were far more interested in earning fat fees for steering their clients to ruinously priced loans that the borrowers could never hope to repay."

Reuters: "Bank group urges U.S. to expand legacy loan plan ... A major banking industry group urged U.S. regulators to expand the types of loans eligible under a public-private investment program to cleanse banks' balance sheets of toxic assets."

National Review Online, Lowry: "Rise of the TARP State ... The National Security Act of 1947, a reorganization of the foreign-policy and military apparatuses of the U.S. government, created what historians call "the national-security state." Critics complain that the national-security state vastly empowered government and cut the executive branch loose from legislative accountability. It marked the beginning of a hyperactive interventionism abroad."

The Economist, Editorial: "Whistling in the dark ... ALWAYS look on the bright side of life. Equity investors must have been humming the Monty Python classic last month. In the 14 trading days to March 27th, the S&P 500 index jumped 21%, the steepest rally since 1938."

Investor's Business Daily, Editorial: "Reagan's Legacy: Our 25-Year Boom ... After 25 years of record-setting economic performance around the world, set off by President Reagan's free-market policies, the world has fallen into a recession. Is this the inevitable end of an era?"

The Hill: "Geithner absorbed bad publicity for Obama ... A new Democratic poll shows that Americans blame Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner more than President Obama for allowing AIG executives to collect \$165 million in bonuses, a scandal that rocked Washington last month."