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## FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 4.20.2009

Wall Street Journal: "Bank Lending Keeps Dropping ... Lending at the biggest U.S. banks has fallen more sharply than realized, despite government efforts to pump billions of dollars into the financial sector."

Wall Street Journal: "White House to Put Credit-Card Rates in Cross Hairs ... President Barack Obama will soon turn his attention to high credit-card rates, giving a potential boost to congressional efforts to put limits on the industry."

Financial Times: "US to put conditions on Tarp repayment ... Strong banks will be allowed to repay bail-out funds they received from the US government but only if such a move passes a test to determine whether it is in the national economic interest, a senior administration official has told the Financial Times."

Financial Times: "Inflation is looming on America's horizon ... The US last week showed its first signs of deflation for 55 years, prompting inevitable fears of further deflation in the future. Yet the primary reason for the negative rate of US inflation is the dramatic 30 per cent fall of commodity prices. That will not happen again. Moreover, excluding food and energy, consumer prices are up 1.8 per cent from a year ago. That is the good news: the outlook for the longer term is more ominous."

Washington Post: "A Bigger, Bolder Role Is Imagined For the IMF ... Inside a cavernous assembly hall in downtown Washington, dignitaries gather twice a year for routine meetings of the International Monetary Fund. Before long, though, the room could take center stage in the IMF's transformation into a veritable United Nations for the global economy."

Washington Times: "Treasuries shaky as investors' sanctuary ... America has seen a lot of speculative manias during the past decade - whether the wild buying spree in technology stocks in the late 1990s, the euphoric boom in housing in the middle of this decade, or the seemingly unstoppable rise in oil and other commodities last year."

New York Times: "U.S. May Convert Banks' Bailouts to Equity Share ... President Obama's top economic advisers have determined that they can shore up the nation's banking system without having to ask Congress for more money any time soon, according to administration officials."

New York Times: "Debt Settlers Offer Promises but Little Help ... Tyna Carter, burdened with \$25,000 in credit card debt, did not want to be a deadbeat. After looking for help on the Internet, Mrs. Carter, a West Virginia homemaker, wound up in the hands of a sweet-talking "credit specialist" from Texas."

New York Times: "3 Trustees of A.I.G. Are Quiet, Perhaps to a Fault ... In an early sign of just how tricky corporate governance has become in the era of taxpayer bailouts, three little-known trustees with no office, no staff and almost no mission will soon be deciding questions that affect the fate of American International Group, the giant insurance company."

Reuters: "U.S. to put conditions on TARP repayment: report ... Strong banks will be allowed to repay federal bailout funds, but only if such a move passes a test to determine whether it is in the national economic interest, the Financial Times reported on Sunday, citing a senior U.S. administration official."

CongressDaily: "Recess Over, Members To Return To Tough Issues On Budget, Mortgages ... Congress returns this week from its spring recess to face tough negotiations on a final version of the budget resolution, the details of a multibillion dollar supplemental war request from the Obama administration, and tough committee-level deliberations on climate change policy."

Politico: "Bailout overseer draws fire from right ... Elizabeth Warren, the Harvard law professor charged by Congress with overseeing trillions in financial rescue funds, has a surprising secret weapon: Dr. Phil."

Politico, Rep. Ron Paul: "Audit the Federal Reserve for answers ... A few weeks ago, the Federal Reserve responded to the American people's increased concerns over our monetary policy by presenting new initiatives aimed at enhancing the Fed's transparency and accountability."

Roll Call: "Congress Crams on Cram-Down ... After weeks of negotiations, banks and credit unions are continuing to drag their heels, at least publicly, on committing to compromise language in a bill that would give bankruptcy judges the power to modify mortgages."

The Hill: "Obama cautious as banks want out of TARP ... President Obama on Sunday struck a cautious note on the troubled banking sector, saying lending by banks remains down and the economy is still in a difficult spot."