
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 6.29.2009

Wall Street Journal: "Wary Banks Hobble Toxic-Asset Plan ... A look at why the program has stumbled underscores how difficult it has been to solve one of the economy's biggest problems: Mountains of bad debt sitting on the books of the nation's banks."

Wall Street Journal: "GM Agrees to Liability for Defects After Bankruptcy ... General Motors Corp., under pressure from state attorneys general, agreed to assume legal responsibility for injuries drivers suffer from vehicle defects after the auto maker emerges from U.S. bankruptcy protection."

Washington Post, Samuelson: "Panics 'R' Us! ... Since its earliest days, the United States has suffered periodic financial crises. The first dates to 1792. In the 19th century, bank panics occurred regularly. Then, of course, came the great stock market crash of 1929 and the failure of two-fifths of the nation's banks in the Great Depression. Now we're in the midst of another crisis. It would be reassuring to think that the Obama administration's financial "reforms" -- or, indeed, any conceivable alternative -- would prevent these collapses for all time. Dream on."

New York Times: "Paper Avalanche Buries Plan to Stem Foreclosures ... Somewhere on earth, there must be a more difficult task than this: persuading American mortgage companies to lower payments for homeowners who can no longer afford their loans. But as Karina Montenegro struggles to accomplish this feat for a troubled borrower, she strains to imagine a more futile pursuit."

Reuters: "Madoff can expect de facto life term at sentencing ... Admitted thief Bernard Madoff will leave his jail cell and be taken under guard to court on Monday morning to hear his punishment for running Wall Street's biggest and most brazen investment scheme."