
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 7.24.2009

Wall Street Journal: "Fed Unveils Rules to Protect Borrowers ... The Federal Reserve on Thursday proposed sweeping new consumer protections for mortgages and home-equity loans. The proposals seek to overhaul the timing and content of disclosures to consumers, and to ban controversial side payments to mortgage brokers for steering customers to higher-cost loans."

Wall Street Journal: "After Buffett Rebuff, CIT Eyes a Breakup ... Conglomerates Berkshire Hathaway Inc. and Leucadia National Corp. made a bid to buy parts of CIT Group Inc. but were rebuffed by CIT, according to people familiar with the matter, because the price was too low."

New York Times: "Traders Profit With Computers Set at High Speed ... It is the hot new thing on Wall Street, a way for a handful of traders to master the stock market, peek at investors' orders and, critics say, even subtly manipulate share prices."

Washington Post: "Fed Pushes New Curbs On Lending Practices ... The Federal Reserve on Thursday unveiled a proposal to curb abusive lending practices by reining in compensation for mortgage brokers and by helping borrowers better understand the terms of loans available to them."

Washington Post, Editorial: "Focus on the Fed ... The Federal Reserve Board's independence is a bit like the judiciary's independence. Absolutely vital for the institution's proper functioning, it nevertheless depends on Congress and the president to respect decisions with which they disagree. In such cases, the best protection for either the Supreme Court or the Fed is to stay strictly within its legally prescribed authority and to act according to principled criteria: legal ones for the justices, technical economic ones for the central bank."

USA Today: "CIT Group amends its debt buyback offer ... Small business lender CIT Group (CIT) said Friday that it's amending the terms of a tender offer for its debt but warns it may have to seek bankruptcy protection if enough bondholders don't agree to the terms."

USA Today: "Banks cut borrowing from Fed emergency program ... Banks trimmed borrowing from the Federal Reserve's emergency lending facility over the past week and cut back on other programs designed to ease the financial crisis, a sign that some credit problems are easing."

Los Angeles Times: "Financial regulator's chief does an about-face on derivatives ... Gary Gensler once fought against tighter rules while serving in the Clinton administration. Now he's urging strict rules for the contracts as head of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission."

Los Angeles Times: "Mortgage relief efforts are criticized ... Senate panel hears complaints amid a new push by some lawmakers to allow bankruptcy judges to modify home loans."

Investor's Business Daily, Editorial: "Something's Smelly At GM ... You're a once-mighty auto company that's been bailed out by taxpayers, taken over by government and just posted a 22% sales drop. What's your next move? Why, unveil a new men's fragrance, of course!"

MarketWatch: "Obama sends Congress plan to unwind problem institutions ... Facing opposition to key parts of its bank

regulatory reform package, the Obama administration on Thursday submitted a detailed proposal to Congress for unwinding systemically significant financial institutions so their collapse does not cause collateral damage to the financial system."