FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 10.29.2009

Wall Street Journal: "FTC's Powers Would Grow Under Financial Overhaul ... The Federal Trade Commission would get new powers to oversee and punish companies that run afoul of its rules as part of a financial-services oversight bill currently before Congress, a further step in the Obama administration's beefing up of the U.S. regulatory machinery."

Wall Street Journal: "Credit Ratings Now Optional, Firms Find ... Some debt issuers are finding they don't need credit ratings."

Wall Street Journal: "Congress Weighs Scope of Fed's Authority ... Get ready for a fiery debate about the role of the Federal Reserve."

Wall Street Journal: "Pay Czar Tells House Panel He Wants No Wider Authority ... The Obama administration's pay czar told lawmakers Wednesday he doesn't want to expand his authority beyond the seven firms he now oversees, resisting entreaties from some lawmakers to more broadly rein in Wall Street pay."

Wall Street Journal: "Politicians Butt In at Bailed-Out GM ... Montana Rep. Denny Rehberg was no fan of the $58 billion federal rescue of General Motors Co., saying he worried taxpayer money would be wasted and the restructuring process would be vulnerable to "political pressure." Now the lawmaker says it's his "patriotic duty" to wade into GM's affairs."

Wall Street Journal: "In Reversal of Fortune, AIG Recoups Collateral ... After shelling out billions of dollars to Wall Street banks last year on souring trades, American International Group Inc. has gotten some of that money back, thanks to a turnaround in the very securities that helped level the insurer."

Wall Street Journal: "Dodd's Card Trick ... Senate Banking Chairman Chris Dodd has been hearing from constituents upset because banks have been raising the interest rates on their credit cards. This week Mr. Dodd decided to do something about it. He proposed a bill imposing an immediate freeze on those rates."

Washington Post: "The dollar's fall is felt overseas ... The dramatic decline of the U.S. dollar is aiding the American economic recovery but setting off alarm bells overseas, with corporate executives, politicians and pundits calling it among the biggest threats to the rebounds underway in Europe and Japan."

Washington Post: "Credit-rating bill clears committee ... A House panel on Wednesday voted to tighten controls on credit-rating firms in response to complaints that the firms misjudged the risks of many of the mortgage-related securities that sank financial markets last year."

Washington Post: "U.S. pay czar says renegotiating AIG bonuses is a 'top priority' ... Kenneth R. Feinberg, the Obama administration's "pay czar," said Wednesday that renegotiating bonuses guaranteed to executives at American International Group will be a "top priority" as he reviews pay packages for 2010, setting the stage for a potential showdown between the federal government and the troubled insurer."

LA Times: "Pay czar: Don't give me more power ... The Obama administration's "pay czar" doesn't want his domain expanded beyond the seven major recipients of government bailout money."

LA Times: "GMAC seeks more aid from Treasury Department ... GMAC, the former lending arm of General Motors Co., is in talks with the Treasury Department for a third injection of taxpayer aid, a further sign of the U.S. government's entrenchment in the auto industry."

USA Today: "Two economists see red flags again for stock market ... Ignoring warnings from Wall Street skeptics is as American as apple pie - especially when stock prices are rising and investors are making lots of money, as they have since the market took off in early March."

USA Today: "CIT Group receives $4.5 billion financing loan ... Struggling commercial lender CIT Group said Wednesday it obtained $4.5 billion of additional financing from its creditors, just as it seeks to complete a debt exchange."

NY Times: "Ongoing Agony of the Banks ... It is hardly surprising that GMAC is circling back to the government for a third helping of taxpayer money."

The Hill: "Reps. Frank, Waxman square off over new consumer agency ... Democratic Reps. Henry Waxman and Barney Frank, powerful committee chairmen, are clashing over a bill that creates a consumer financial protection agency."

Politico: "Morning Money"