

29 April 2010


Today's Tabbloid

PERSONAL NEWS FOR lg@limitedgovernmentnetwork.com

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

ATR Applauds Governor Lingle's Energy Tax Veto [Americans for Tax Reform]

APR 28, 2010 06:05P.M.


Kudos to Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle for proving her pen can be mightier than her tax and spend legislature with her veto of HB 2421, legislation that would have imposed a 2000% tax increase on p... 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

Wednesday Links [Cato at Liberty]

APR 28, 2010 04:59P.M.

By Chris Moody

- All eyes on Pennsylvania's 12th District: The May 18th special election "may provide an early glimpse for anyone wondering how big a millstone the health care law will be for Democrats this fall."
 - Richard Rahn: It's going to be much harder to start a business in America under the new proposed financial regulations.
 - The experts discuss: "How do we regulate or restrict new Wall Street creations, like synthetic C.D.O.'s, without squelching innovations that might enhance market efficiency?"
 - Members of Congress react to the *Citizens United* ruling.
 - Podcast: "Don't Tape Me Bro" featuring David Rittgers. 
-

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

Ed Morrissey on The Struggle to Limit Government [Cato at Liberty]

APR 28, 2010 04:58P.M.

By John Samples

Ed Morrissey kindly mentioned *The Struggle to Limit Government* and responds to the advice for Tea Partiers in my video.

Morrissey says:

I don't think it's accurate to say that some Tea Partiers "like" big government; it's more like some aren't enthusiastic about dismantling *as much* of the federal government as others, especially the more doctrinaire libertarians.

In the video I noted that polls showed a majority of the people who identify with the Tea Party movement also thought the entitlement programs were worth their cost. My colleague, Jagadeesh Gokhale, has estimated that paying for current entitlements would require 9 percent of GNP in perpetuity. This is unlikely. Entitlements will have to be changed since too much has been promised. People who think the programs have been worth their cost are not likely initially to support reining in the entitlements. In saying that, I expressed a concern, not a prediction. It may be that Tea Party people will also come to recognize, as Ed Morrissey does, that the entitlement state cannot continue.


I said in the video that Tea Party people should recognize that "Democrats are not always the enemy." Morrissey rightly says I should not talk about enemies in domestic politics. He adds that the current House Democratic caucus does not deserve support because its leaders favor expanding government. He's right. Divided government is what we need now. However, I had in mind the more centrist Democrats that supported the tax and spending cuts of 1981 and the tax reform of 1986. I am urging Tea Party people to avoid becoming too partisan. Perhaps some of them will still be in Congress in 2011.

Then there's the question of foreign policy and defense spending. In the video I said that a limited government movement like the Tea Party should start thinking outside the box on spending. I suggested rethinking America's expansive commitments in foreign affairs as a way to reduce our military spending. I did not deny – who could deny it? – that the Constitution entrusts the common defense to the federal government. I

also recognize that the United States continues to have enemies. The question is: what should the government do to provide the common defense consistent with limited government?

In the past decade, we have spent enormous sums trying to transform two nations and the entire Middle East into liberal democracies. This was our “forward strategy” for dealing with terrorism. It reminded me of past Progressive crusades at home and abroad. The strategy was a domestic political disaster, and we shall see whether our massive outlays eventually produce stability in Iraq or Afghanistan. For my part, I remain partial to the conservative virtues of realism, restraint, and prudence in dealing with other nations.

The United States is currently spending about half of all military spending in the world. We have some room for restraint without endangering American lives. We will still have a Navy that protects trade routes to the extent they are threatened. As I said in the video, we need to rethink our overall place in the world if we are to corral the big government beast. The Tea Party folks can lead the way here.

The Pentagon is not most of the federal budget. It is the only part historically, however, that can vary downward as well as upward. Sometime soon, the non-defense parts of the budget are going to have to vary downward rather than just upward. Being serious about limiting government, however, requires that all spending be considered. Since I think the Tea Party movement is serious about cutting government, it would be better if they had a look at *all* spending from the start. 

In fact, many of them were prophesied before passage of the bill, but the prophets were ignored by President Barack Obama and the Democratic majority in Congress. That's because their uppermost goal was not to pass the best health-care bill possible but merely to pass anything that could be called “health-care reform” and could be claimed as a political victory by a president desperate for one.

The latest analysis of the bill's likely effects comes from the Office of the Actuary in the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The report by Chief Actuary Richard S. Foster says that, far from reducing the cost of health care, the overhaul will add \$311 billion to the nation's health-care costs over the first decade the law is in effect...

As the weeks roll by, more and more unintended and should-have-been-anticipated consequences of this ill-conceived law will be revealed.

This should be no surprise, considering that the law was slapped together behind closed doors without proper testimony and vetting by health-care, financial and insurance experts, and is a patchwork of political and special-interest deals rammed through Congress using procedural gimmicks.

The nation deserved something much, much better than this.

Read the full editorial. Repeal the bill. 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

Columbus Dispatch: ObamaCare = Malpractice [Cato at Liberty]

APR 28, 2010 04:05P.M.

By Michael F. Cannon

Popular discontent with ObamaCare extends even so far as the traditionally left-of-center *Columbus Dispatch* editorial page:


Almost daily, the ill effects of the health-care overhaul passed by Congress last month are becoming apparent. As employers and government bureaucrats analyze the law's effect on bottom lines for the private sector and for government, the alarm bells are ringing.

The tragedy is that these ill effects could have been and should have been calculated before the law was passed, not after.

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

Strike III for Dodd's Wall Street Bailout – When Will Dems Go Back to Drawing Board? [Americans for Tax Reform– When Will Dems Go Back to Drawing Board?]

APR 28, 2010 03:45P.M.

Today, for the third day in a row, the U.S. Senate failed to reach cloture on Sen. Dodd's “Wall Street Bailout” bill, S. 3217 the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 201... 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

Ron Paul, the Chamber of Commerce, and Economic Freedom [Cato at Liberty]

APR 28, 2010 03:24P.M.

By David Boaz

Tim Carney has a blog post at the Examiner that's worth quoting in full:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has issued its 2009 congressional scorecard, and once again, Rep. Ron Paul, R-Tex. — certainly one of the two most free-market politicians in Washington — gets the lowest score of any Republican.

Paul was one of a handful of GOP lawmakers not to win the Chamber's "Spirit of Enterprise Award." He scored only a 67%, bucking the Chamber on five votes, including:

- Paul opposed the "Solar Technology Roadmap Act," which boosted subsidies for unprofitable solar energy technology.
- Paul opposed the "Travel Promotion Act," which subsidizes the tourism industry with a new fee on international visitors.
- Paul opposed the largest spending bill in history, Obama's \$787 billion stimulus bill.

(Rep John Duncan, R-Tenn., tied Ron Paul with 67%. John McHugh, R-N.Y., scored a 40%, but he missed most of the year because he went off to the Obama administration.)


I wrote about this phenomenon last year, when the divergence was even greater between the Chamber's agenda and the free-market agenda:

Similarly, Texas libertarian GOPer Rep. Ron Paul—the most steadfast congressional opponent of regulation, taxation, and any sort of government intervention in business—scored lower than 90% of Democrats last year on the Chamber's scorecard.

Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., had the most conservative voting record in 2008 according to the American Conservative Union (ACU), and was a "taxpayer hero" according to the National Taxpayer's Union (NTU), but the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says his 2008 record was less pro-business than Barack Obama, Joe Biden, and Hillary Clinton.

This year's picture was less glaring, but it's still more

evidence that "pro-business" is not the same as "pro-freedom." The U.S. Chamber is the former. Ron Paul, and the libertarian position, is the latter.

I suspect that on issues such as free trade agreements and immigration reform, I might be closer to the Chamber's position than to Ron Paul's. But to suggest that Paul is wrong to vote against business subsidies — or that DeMint was wrong to vote against Bush's 2008 stimulus package and the \$700 billion TARP bailout — certainly does illustrate how much difference there can be between "pro-business" and "pro-market." Instead of "Spirit of Enterprise," the Chamber should call these the "Spirit of Subsidy Awards." 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

More and More Caution Flags in Race to the Top [Cato at Liberty]

APR 28, 2010 03:04P.M.

By Neal McCluskey




With the first round of the so-called "Race to the Top" having produced just two winning states — and those states appearing to have won primarily because they were able to get teachers' unions to sign onto their reform proposals — there seems to be a growing backlash against RTTT.

For one thing, several states are not applying for the second round of RTTT grants. Apparently, many just don't think jumping through all the RTTT hoops is worth it, especially when, as a welcome new Economic Policy Institute briefing paper illustrates, who wins and who loses is pretty arbitrary.

Perhaps the more interesting new objection to RTTT, though, is that it is,

frankly, illegal. So writes the Brookings Institutions' Grover J. "Russ" Whitehurst, who asserts that nowhere in the "stimulus" legislation authorizing RTTT does it say that the U.S. Secretary of Education can award money based on states doing things he prescribes. No, the authorizing legislation, according to Whitehurst, says that the money must go to states that have already made significant reform progress.


None of this, importantly, gets at the main problem with RTTT (in addition to its unconstitutionality): That there is just no good reason to believe that it will lead to any meaningful, lasting reform. Still, the crescendoing drumbeat against what so far has been the crown jewel of the Obama administration's education policy is a good sign. More people, it seems, are realizing that the administration talks a great game about reform, but delivers quite the opposite.

Of course, hope still springs eternal for some folks. 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

The War on Happy Meals [The Club for Growth]

APR 28, 2010 02:24P.M.

Big government wants to get in between children and their toys. Voting against the measure was Supervisor Donald Gage, who said parents should be responsible for their children. 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

Charlie's Millions [The Club for Growth]

APR 28, 2010 01:39P.M.

A few days back, a reporter asked Charlie Crist if he would refund Republicans S COMMITTEE. 202-955-5500. 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

On CNBC's Kudlow Report Tonight [Larry Kudlow's Money Politic\$]

APR 28, 2010 12:40P.M.



Tonight at 7pm ET:

GREEK JUNK CONTAGION?

EURO .. DOLLAR .. IS GOLD THE NEW CURRENCY REPLACEMENT?

- Andy Brenner, Guggenheim Securities, Head of Emerging Markets
- Michael Farr, CNBC Contributor; Farr, Miller & Washington President
- Peter Navarro, "The Coming China Wars" Author; University Of California - Irvine Business Professor

FINANCIAL REFORM: WHAT'S THE RIGHT MARKET SOLUTION?

- Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)

WASHINGTON TAX ATTACK/DEBT COMMISSION

- Rep. Paul Ryan, (R) Wisconsin; Budget Cmte Ranking Member President Obama's Fiscal Commission
- Robert Reich, Fmr. Labor Secretary; Author, "Supercapitalism"; CNBC Contributor; Univ. of CA., Berkeley, Prof. of Public Policy

FED MATTERS: ISN'T THE EMERGENCY IS OVER?


- Brian Wesbury, First Trust Advisors Chief Economist
- Vince Reinhart, American Enterprise Institute resident scholar; former director of monetary affairs at the FOMC

Please join us. *The Kudlow Report*. 7pm ET. CNBC. 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

Mississippi Would Gain \$17 Million From Offshore Drilling [Americans for Tax Reform]


APR 28, 2010 12:14P.M.

With Mississippi facing a predicted \$917 million shortfall and 11.4 percent unemployment, Americans for Tax Reform continues to urge President Obama, Congress, and state elected officials to look t... 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

Dodd Wall Street Bailout Bill Creates Fannie Mae 2.0 [Americans for Tax Reform]


APR 28, 2010 11:36A.M.

Today, Americans for Tax Reform sent the following alert to all Senate offices. Click here for a PDF. Sen. Dodd's "Wall Street Bailout" bill, S. 3217, the Restoring American F... 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

The Final Countdown - Dodd Financial Bill Update, Day 3 [Americans for Tax Reform]


APR 28, 2010 10:54A.M.

Today at 12:20, the U.S. Senate will have their last vote on cloture on Sen. Dodd's "Wall Street Bailout" bill, S. 3217 the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010. ... 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

One Year Later, Specter Regrets Party Switch [The Club for Growth]


APR 28, 2010 10:51A.M.

Isn S COMMITTEE. 202-955-5500. 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

Kansas Taxpayers are Targeted with Tax Hikes [Americans for Tax Reform]

APR 28, 2010 10:10A.M.

As the Kansas legislative session reconvenes today, Kansas taxpayers are under attack. With government revenue estimates falling, the Governor and some legislators are asking the taxpayers to... 

FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BLOG FEEDS

All Shook Down [Cato at Liberty]

APR 28, 2010 08:57A.M.

By David Boaz

Steven Malanga of the Manhattan Institute writes in the *Wall Street Journal* about Andy Stern's retirement from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). He noted that Stern's

principal legacy will be having headed up a union that managed to add 1.2 million members during a time when overall unionization rates continued to plunge in the U.S.

But it's important to understand how Mr. Stern pulled this off, because his union's story is really the story of the transformation of the labor movement in America. The SEIU did not win its most significant victories on the picket lines, but rather in backroom political deals with legislative leaders, especially in states like California where the political class is already union-friendly.

Those deals helped the SEIU to organize workplaces that are nominally considered part of the private sector but actually

are heavily controlled and influenced by government regulation, most especially in health care.

The article mentions Malanga's forthcoming book, *Shakedown: The Continuing Conspiracy Against the American Taxpayer*.

Which is not to be confused with *Shakedown: How Corporations, Government, and Trial Lawyers Abuse the Judicial Process*, published by Cato Institute chairman Robert A. Levy in 2004. Then again, there probably are some points of overlap. 