



Quick Quotes

Feeling the Pressure From Voters, Kentucky Senator Vows to Ban Earmarks



Mitch McConnell

(Photo credit: AP Images)

“I know the good that has come from the projects I have helped support throughout my state. But there is simply no doubt that the abuse of this practice has caused Americans to view it as a symbol of the waste and the out-of-control spending that every Republican in Washington is determined to fight.”

*A former supporter of earmarking, Senate Minority Leader **Mitch McConnell** (R-Ky.) reversed course and is now willing to see the practice banned.*

GOP Bigwigs Want the Fed to Scrap the Plan to Create 600 Billion More Dollars

“The planned asset purchases risk currency debasement and inflation, and we do not think they will achieve the Fed’s objective of promoting employment.”

In an open letter published in several major newspapers, a group of prominent Republicans asked Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke to abandon his plan to purchase U.S. Treasury bonds with money created out of thin air.

Medal Winner Would Trade His Award for Return of His Slain Comrades



Written by [John F. McManus](#) on January 10, 2011

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Salvatore Giunta

(Photo credit: AP Images)

“I lost two dear friends of mine. I would give this back in a second to have my friends with me right now.”

*The first living service member to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War, Army Staff Sergeant **Salvatore Giunta** displayed unusual courage and bravery during a firefight in Afghanistan. He said the honor bestowed on him was “bittersweet.”*

CFR President Urges Shift in Language Training

“If we’re going to remain economically competitive and provide the skill and manpower for our government, I think we need more Americans to learn Chinese or Hindi or Farsi or Portuguese or Korean or Arabic.”

*Speaking at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Council on Foreign Relations President **Richard Haass** questioned the continuation of teaching European languages in America’s schools.*

New Mexico’s Governor-elect Downplays Her Gender and Ethnic Background

“I have said over and over again that being a woman and being Hispanic is only one of the small steps. Turning New Mexico around is what is going to be historical.”

*Governor-elect **Susana Martinez** wants to be judged by her performance, not by the fact that she is a woman with a Hispanic ethnicity.*

Ireland Faces Bleak Future Along With a Loss of Its Religious Traditions

“Ireland found riches a good substitute for its traditional culture. Now we may be about to discover what happens when a traditionally poor country returns to poverty without its culture.”



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*The years of booming economy in Ireland fueled a turning away from religious traditions and, as hard times now face the nation, journalist **Christopher Caldwell** worries how the Irish people will react.*

Coach Puts First Things First



Urban Meyer

(Photo credit: AP Images)

“I’ve not seen my two girls play high school sports. They’re both very talented Division 1-A volleyball players, so I missed those four years. I can’t get that time back. At the end of the day, I’m very convinced that you’re going to be judged on how you are as a husband and as a father, not on how many bowl games we won.”

*Announcing his resignation as the University of Florida’s football coach, the highly successful **Urban Meyer**, whose teams have won two national titles, walked away from a \$20 million guaranteed salary.*



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