



Written by [John F. McManus](#) on May 9, 2011

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Quick Quotes

Anti-American Islamic Cleric Will Protest U.S. Plans to Remain in Iraq



Salah al-Obaidi

AP Images

“The first thing we will do is escalate the military resistance activity and reactivate the Mahdi Army in a new statement which will be published later. Second is to escalate the peaceful and public resistance through sit-ins.”

After Defense Secretary Robert Gates stated that American troops could remain in Iraq for several more years, tens of thousands of protesters allied with radical anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr took to the streets of Baghdad. Salah al-Obaidi, Sadr’s spokesman, announced plans to continue the protests.

Baghdad Embassy Doubling in Size

“The staff will increase from 8,000-plus personnel that we have now to roughly double that by 2012. This will be an extraordinarily large embassy with many different functions.”

The reasons for such a large number of personnel and this huge embassy complex, the largest U.S. facility of its kind in the entire world, weren’t announced by U.S. Ambassador to Iraq James Jeffrey.

Government’s Rolls Growing, Productive Sector Shrinking

“Today in America there are nearly twice as many people working for the government (22.5 million) than in all of manufacturing. This is an almost exact reversal of the situation in 1960 when there were 15 million workers in manufacturing and 8.7 million collecting a paycheck from the government.”

Stephen Moore, an economist who writes for the Wall Street Journal, concludes that “we have moved decisively from a nation of makers to a nation of takers.”



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President Delivers \$2 Billion to Brazil for Offshore Oil Drilling



David Vitter

AP Images

“Obama reaffirmed his insulting endorsement of boosting Brazil’s energy economy in his [March 30] speech, leaving drivers across the country wondering why we continue to import over 60 percent of our nation’s total oil consumption from foreign countries and leave vast resources here untouched.”

*Obviously perturbed by the President’s action, Louisiana Senator **David Vitter** has introduced legislation labeled “the 3-D Act” that is designed to access our nation’s plentiful domestic energy resources.*

Interior Department Report Points to Untapped Oil and Gas Resources

“These are resources that belong to the American people, and they expect those supplies to be developed in a timely and responsible manner and with a fair return to the taxpayers.”

*The **Interior Department Report** stated that more than two-thirds of offshore leases in the Gulf of Mexico are sitting idle. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar indicated that this situation exists because petroleum companies are sitting on their hands. Industry spokesmen have disputed that claim and point to the slow pace of permitting for new wells as a major cause of the problem.*

Light Bulb Regulation Gets Tough Response

“When Congress dictates which light bulbs folks in South Carolina must buy, it’s clear the ‘nanny state’ mentality has gotten out of control in Washington.”

*One of 27 cosponsors of a measure calling for repeal of the law mandating the demise of incandescent bulbs, Senator **Jim DeMint** thinks Thomas Edison’s method of lighting up the darkness ought to be retained.*



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Education Investments Don't Create Jobs, Especially for College Graduates



Phyllis Schlafly

AP Images

"The Center for College Affordability and Productivity found that approximately 60 percent of the increase in the number of college graduates from 1992 to 2008 now work in relatively low-skilled jobs that need only a high school diploma or less."

*In her syndicated column, **Phyllis Schlafly** pointed out that 17.4 million recent college graduates are working as a cashier, waiter, waitress, or bartender.*



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