

Third Saturday Seminar 2008-2009

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 06

21 February 2009

The New Oligarchs

Why are we bailing them out?

Roger Hall

ALL Program, Montgomery College, Conroe, Texas

**“...we are the leaders we've
been looking for.”**

Grace Lee Boggs

**“Do not call for black power or
for green power. Call for brain
power.”**

Barbara Jordan

“You don't ever want a crisis to go to waste; it's an opportunity to do important things that you would otherwise avoid.”

Rahm Emanuel

Rahm Emanuel

Program for TSS Meeting 21 February 2009

- 9:30 am Introduction & Current Events (30 Minutes +/-) – Roger Hall
- 10:00 am – Bill Moyers Interviews Simon Johnson – video
- 10: 40 10 minute break
- 10:40 am Roger Hall Discussion Continues
- 10:55 am- Closure – Feedback
- 11:00 am Session ends
- Next Session 21 March 2009

Disclaimer

The following presentation consists of material from many sources in addition to my own work and experience. I usually try give appropriate attribution for this material, but may have overlooked some. In many cases an Internet link to the source material is provided in order to allow you to better put these excerpts in context.

The inclusion of materials and the facts, opinions and ideas contained within them, does not in any way mean that I personally endorse or disavow any of them in whole or in part; but, that it is of importance to the discussion.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Curt Gibby <gcgconsult@n-star.com>

To Any Members of Law Enforcement

If there are any members of law enforcement here in any sort of official capacity and not in a uniform recognizable as one of law enforcement we ask that you identify yourself or selves, your agency, department or organization and your official reason for being here.

Rest assured that we are engaged in no illegal activity, but we are aware of, value and have faith in our Constitutional rights.

In any case you are welcome to stay and participate as a member or guest of the Third Saturday Seminar. But, if at any time you consider anything you see or hear happening or about to happen is or will be putting any one or all of us in jeopardy of breaking the law as you understand it, we request that you advise us of that situation .

This is consistent with your obligation as a peace officer or agent to protect and serve the people. Anything else will be a betrayal and you will be derelict in your duty. It will result in harm to those you are obligated to protect.

The donuts are free to law enforcement.

PSAs (Public Service Announcements)

Thing's you might be interested in.

ALL Political Affairs lecture series

The Academy for Lifelong Learning Political Affairs lecture series begins in March and should be quite interesting this year. If you've ever wondered what the taxing entities on your tax bill do, here is your opportunity to ask the experts. While this is an ALL program, a limited number of guest passes are available by contact me at 936.273.7259 or email at

Donna.S.Burns@lonestar.edu

Current Events

21 February 2009

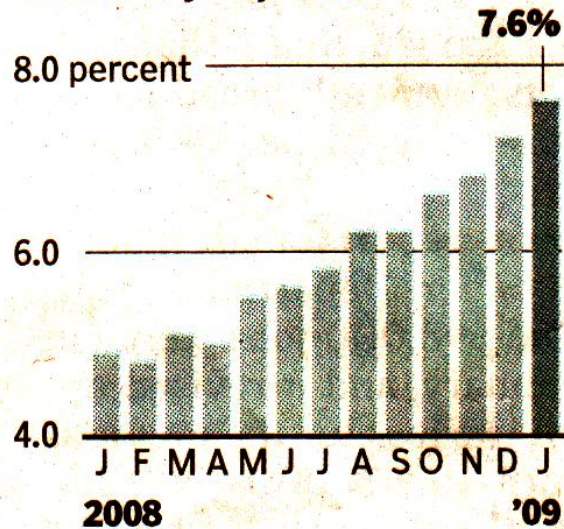
Don't*be***Panic***ked!*

Jobs

UNEMPLOYMENT

The monthly unemployment rate for the past 13 months:

Seasonally adjusted



Source:
Metrostudy ASSOCIATED PRESS

Houston Chronicle 7 Feb 09, p D1

Were they on auto pilot?

NTSB: Crew reported ice buildup before crash

50 people killed when plane plunges into home in upstate New York



Stan Honda / AFP - Getty Images

An investigator walks through the scene Friday of a Continental Airlines commuter plane crash in Clarence, N.Y.

 [View related photos](#)



Launch

 NTSB: Crew reported ice buildup
Feb. 13: NTSB official Stephen Chealander tells reporters that the crew of Flight 3407 reported significant ice buildup on the windows and leading edge of the wings prior to crashing.

MSNBC

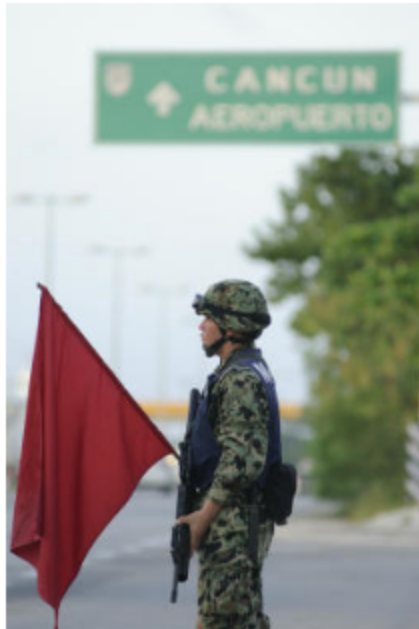
Cancun Bound?

Violence, corruption show not all of Cancun is pristine

Not far from town's famous beaches, gang violence and corruption are common

By DUDLEY ALTHAUS
Copyright 2009 Houston Chronicle
Feb. 16, 2009, 2:48PM

1 2 3 4



Kelley Danner Miller For the Chronicle
A Mexican official monitors a highway checkpoint south of town, searching for drugs and weapons after the general's death.

CANCUN, Mexico — Sparkling seas, shimmering beaches and super-sized resorts made Cancun famous. But street thugs and prostitutes, smugglers and stick-up artists now threaten to make it notorious.

Cancun Mayor Gregorio Sanchez took office last year promising to clean up the city. He vowed to disband Cancun's 100-odd gangs, shut down or banish its brothels, and end drug sales in its working-class neighborhoods. He bragged that its police department was one of the best in the country.

The bragging stopped last week.

Federal police arrested the police chief as they investigated the Feb. 2 torture-murder of a retired general hired by Sanchez to command his cleanup. Also, federal prosecutors issued a report alleging that the chief and many of his 1,700 officers worked on the sly for Mexico's most feared gangsters, the Zetas.

"Whoever is corrupted," Sanchez said after hearing the report, "should be punished with all the weight of the law."

Crime has had little impact on the millions of tourists from Texas and other U.S. states who sun, sip and play at the swank hotels offshore from downtown.

But many who live in the city's urban neighborhoods know its touch. The local crime takes place amid an unprecedented wave of mostly drug-related gangland violence across the country, which last year killed more than 5,400 people and sowed terror in urban and rural areas alike.

Cancun itself recorded just 65 homicides last year, but the ingredients now exist in the city for real trouble, the new acting police chief said.

Share

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Pennsylvania Judges Mark Ciavarella and Michael Conahan's Mischief Anything but Juvenile (Findlaw)

In a shocking display of judicial corruption, the [AP reports](#) that two senior juvenile court judges in a Pennsylvania county have been charged in a kickback scheme which may have resulted in hundreds of juveniles being wrongfully sent to detention centers for minor offenses. The judges, who were recently removed from the bench by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, are actually scheduled to plead guilty to fraud on Thursday with their agreements calling for "sentences of more than seven years behind bars."

Getting Warmer?



GLOBAL WARMING UPDATE

**WHAT HAPPENED TO RISING
TEMPERATURES????**

- A twelve-month long drop in world temperatures erases global warming

Over the past year, anecdotal evidence for a cooling planet has exploded. China has its coldest winter in 100 years. Baghdad sees [its first snow](#) in all recorded history. North America has [the most snowcover in 50 years](#), with places like Wisconsin the highest since record-keeping began. Record levels of Antarctic sea ice, record cold in [Minnesota](#), Texas, Florida, Mexico, [Australia](#), Iran, [Greece](#), South Africa, Greenland, Argentina, Chile – canals in Denmark freeze over for the first time in 100 years the list goes on and on.

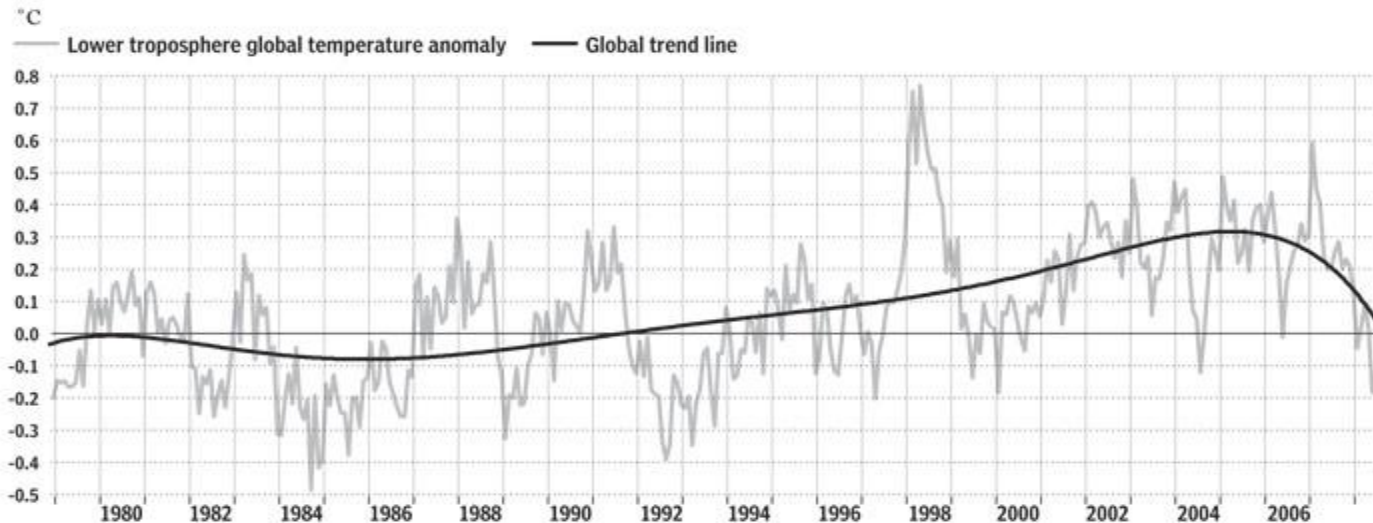
- No more than anecdotal evidence, to be sure. But now, that evidence has been supplanted by hard scientific fact. All four major global temperature tracking outlets (Hadley, NASA's GISS, UAH, RSS) have released updated data. All show that over the past year, global temperatures have dropped precipitously.
- Meteorologist Anthony Watts compiles the results from all sources. The total amount of cooling ranges from 0.65C up to 0.75C -- a value large enough to erase nearly all the global warming recorded over the past 100 years. All in one year time. For all sources, it's the single fastest temperature change every recorded, either up or down.

WHO IS KIDDING WHO??

LOWER TROPOSPHERE GLOBAL TEMPERATURE: 1979-2008

Since 2005, global temperatures have given back most of the warming that had occurred since 1980.

CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE



SOURCE: THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

ANDREW BARR / NATIONAL POST

- Global Warming supporter have shifted their rhetoric from temperature change to increasing CO₂ levels
- New administration research grants (\$300,000,000) for “Climate Change Studies”
- Carbon trading in Europe a failure.
- Expect the U.N. to push for new Kyoto (2)

- BRADENTON, Fla. —PepsiCo, which owns the Tropicana brand, decided to try to answer that question. It figured that as public concern grows about the fate of the planet, companies will find themselves forced to perform such calculations. Orange juice seemed like a good case study.

PepsiCo hired experts to do the math, measuring the emissions from such energy-intensive tasks as running a factory and transporting heavy juice cartons. But it turned out that the biggest single source of emissions was simply growing the oranges. Citrus groves use a lot of nitrogen fertilizer, which requires natural gas to make and can turn into a potent greenhouse gas when it is spread on fields.

PepsiCo finally came up with a number: the equivalent of 3.75 pounds of carbon dioxide are emitted to the atmosphere for each half-gallon carton of orange juice.

PepsiCo's experience is a harbinger of the complexities other companies will have to face as they will be forced to calculate their emission of carbon dioxide, a number known as a "CARBON FOOTPRINT"

HELLO CARBON TAX !!!!!

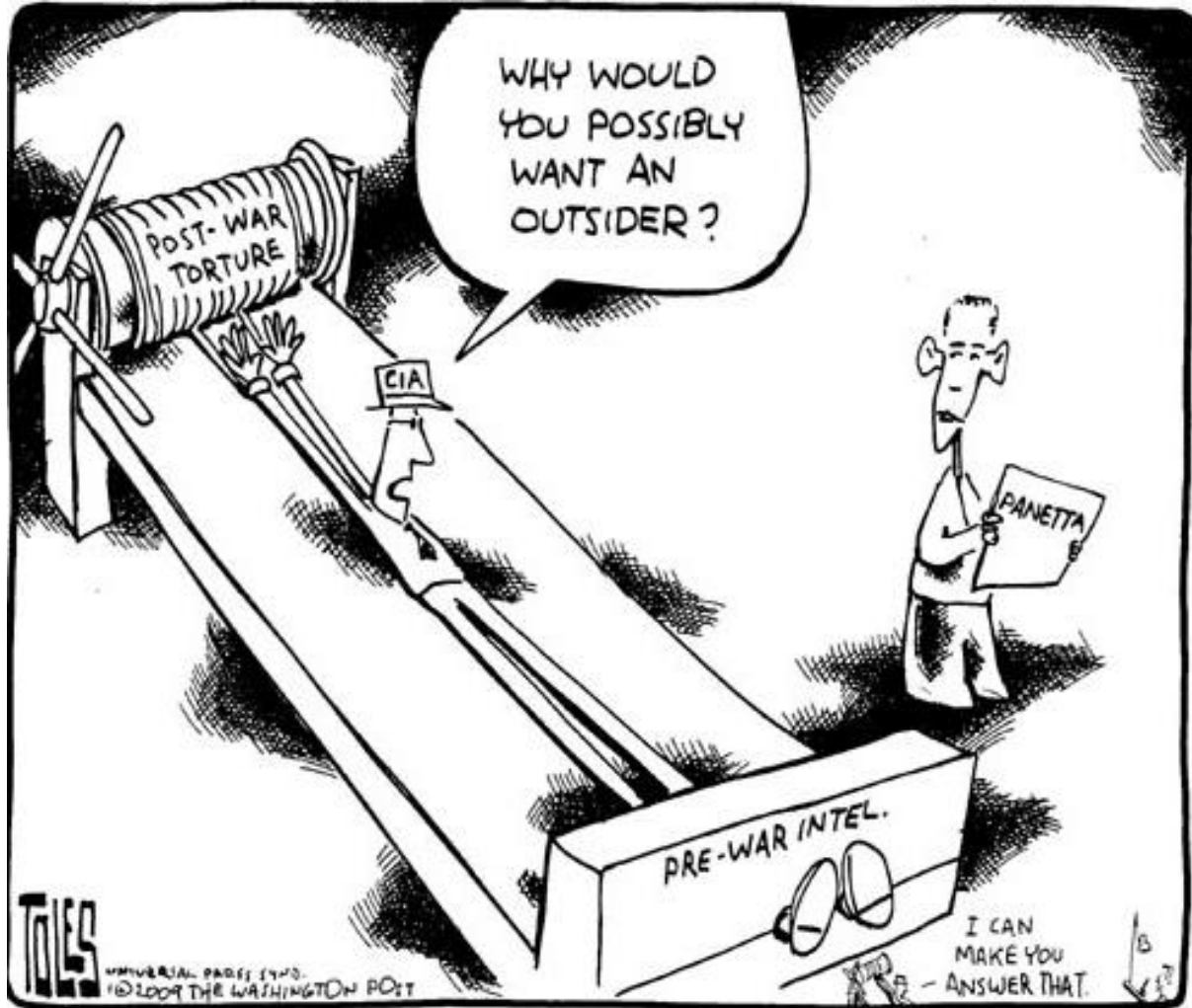
HILLARY WHO ?

- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is finding that her job description is dissolving under her feet, leaving her with only a vestige of the power she must have thought she acquired when she signed on to be President Obama's chief Cabinet officer.
- Since her designation:
Vice President Biden has moved vigorously to stake out foreign policy as his turf. His visit to Afghanistan, right before the Inauguration, could not but send a signal to Hillary that he would conduct foreign policy in the new administration, leaving Hillary in the role of backup.

Make Work Pay Refundable Tax Credit

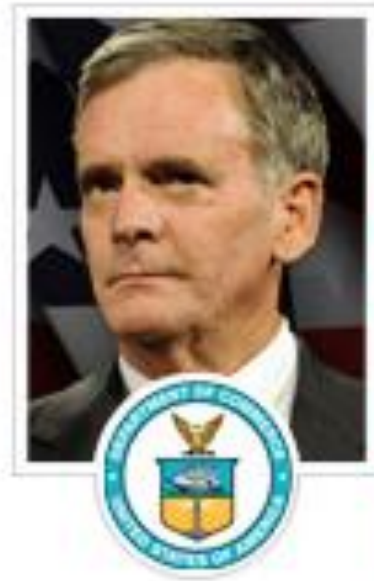
Dressed up as a tax cut, it will be a national welfare program, guaranteeing a majority of American households an annual check to “refund” taxes they never paid. And it will eliminate the need for about 20% of American households to pay income taxes, lifting the proportion that need not do so to a majority of the voting population. Unlike the Bush stimulus checks, this new program will be a permanent entitlement, a part of our budget that can only go up and never down. Politically, it will transform a majority of Americans from taxpayers, anxious to hold down government spending, into tax eaters, eager to reap new benefits.

APPROVED:



1-12-09

OOPS!



Commerce

www.doc.gov

Gov. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., was nominated, but withdrew on Jan. 4, 2009. Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., was then nominated and withdrew on Feb. 12, 2009.

Still unfilled



Health &
Human
Services

www.hhs.gov

**Former Sen. Tom
Daschle, D-S.D.
withdrew his
nomination Feb. 3, 2009**

Send him your money?



Treasury

www.ustreas.gov

CONFIRMED:

Timothy Geithner

» [Profile & News](#)

When you use a thief to catch a thief, you can count on getting robbed again!

Past Performance is no Guarantee

We can only hope

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner will unveil a long-awaited package of measures to help the financial sector at 11 am New York time. (10 Feb 09)

But Rogers said Geithner, who was president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, "has been dead wrong about everything for 15 years in a row," and so was President Barack Obama's economic advisor Lawrence Summers, who acted as Treasury Secretary at the turn of the century.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Banks-Rescue-Will-Make-Things-cnbc-14311295.html>

Bailout II

The Washington Post

NEWS | OPINIONS | SPORTS | ARTS & LIVING | Discussions | Photos & Video | Going Out Guide | CLASSIFIEDS | JOBS | CARS | R

Disappointment Over Bailout Drives Losses

Sunday, February 15, 2009; F06

U.S. stocks fell last week after Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner failed to convince investors that his bank rescue will work.

Financial shares, led by [SunTrust Banks](#) and [Huntington Bancshares](#), tumbled the most in the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, losing 10 percent. The benchmark index suffered a 4.9 percent retreat on Tuesday, the day Geithner's plan was announced, amid speculation that the economy is weakening because loans remain scarce for businesses and consumers.

"People were hoping for quicker action," said Michael S. Strauss of Commonfund in Wilton, Conn. "The expectations with that plan were that we would see some nuts and bolts of how we're going to do it, what the price will be. They didn't see that silver bullet."

The S&P 500 fell 4.8 percent, the most for a week in three months, to 826.84. The measure has now declined 8.5 percent in 2009. The [Dow Jones industrial average](#) slumped 430.18 points, or 5.2 percent, to 7850.41.

The S&P 500 Financials Index retreated 10 percent for the week as Geithner said he's still "exploring a range of different structures" to bail out lenders. SunTrust Banks and Huntington each slumped 28 percent. [Bank of America](#) and [Citigroup](#) slipped more than 9 percent.

The Nasdaq composite index finished the week down 3.6 percent.

Geithner pledged up to \$2 trillion in government financing for programs aimed at spurring new lending and addressing banks' toxic assets. The plan, which he said will "take time" to bear fruit, includes limits on bank dividends and acquisitions.

Pardon Me



Does he still get Christmas cards from Marc Rich?

Burris – the story continues

washingtonpost.com | nation

Burris Denies Affidavit Contradicts Testimony

By [Peter Slevin](#)

Washington Post Staff Writer

Sunday, February 15, 2009; 8:03 PM

CHICAGO. Feb. 15 -- Illinois Republicans called today for a perjury investigation of Sen. Roland W. Burris (D), who declared that he did not try to mislead state lawmakers about his contacts with associates of former governor Rod Blagojevich.

"I can't believe anything that's coming from Mr. Burris at this point," said state Rep. Jim Durkin (R). He described Burris's version of his contacts with Blagojevich insiders as a "continuously changing story."

"I think it would be in the best interest of the state if he resigned," Durkin said at a Chicago news conference, the day after news broke that Burris had filed an affidavit contradicting two earlier statements he made under oath.



New Words

e·con·o·clast n. 1. One who attacks and seeks to overthrow economies. 2. One who destroys faith and trust in sacred economic principles.

e·con·o·path n. One who is affected with a personality disorder marked by aggressive stupidity and greed and disregard of fiduciary responsibilities. --**e·con·o·path·ic** adj.

(With apologies to the American Heritage Dictionary)

Billions or Trillions?

\$787 billion may not be enough for grand plans

By MICHAEL COOPER

NEW YORK TIMES

Feb. 14, 2009, 9:21PM

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Technorati



Yahoo! Buzz

There is no shortage of big dreams or grand schemes as the U.S. struggles to rebuild itself for the 21st century. But from a public works perspective, the \$787 billion stimulus package is unlikely to transform the physical fabric of the nation as the New Deal did when it built hundreds of airports, tens of thousands of bridges, and hundreds of thousands of buildings and miles of roads.

The final plan devotes more than \$100 billion to public works projects — but that is only a fraction of the \$2.2 trillion that the American Society of Civil Engineers says is needed to put the nation's

infrastructure into a state of good repair.

And much of it is likely to be spent on small needs sprinkled throughout the 50 states — repaving a road here, painting a bridge there — rather than on bigger, more transformative — but slower — projects.

To put the scope of the spending into perspective, think of it this way: The stimulus bill will devote about \$50 billion to transportation projects, which is about what the federal government authorizes for transportation every year.

The money will be welcome, but hardly enough to transform transportation. And since many local governments have curtailed their own construction programs to save money, in some places the stimulus may end up simply keeping public works at their pre-recession pace.

A long wish list

Californians want finally to bring high-speed rail to the United States. Planners want to build bridges to Canada from Detroit, a tunnel for trucks to the Port of Miami and a new one for trains between New York and New Jersey.

Transit systems want to expand, ports want more capacity, and freight train companies want to untangle bottlenecks on the tracks.

But even with the biggest push for infrastructure spending in years, most of these big-ticket projects are unlikely to get very far from the stimulus alone.

Some may not qualify for aid at all.

Others will get modest down payments, which they hope will be enough to keep them going.

Stimulus Bill

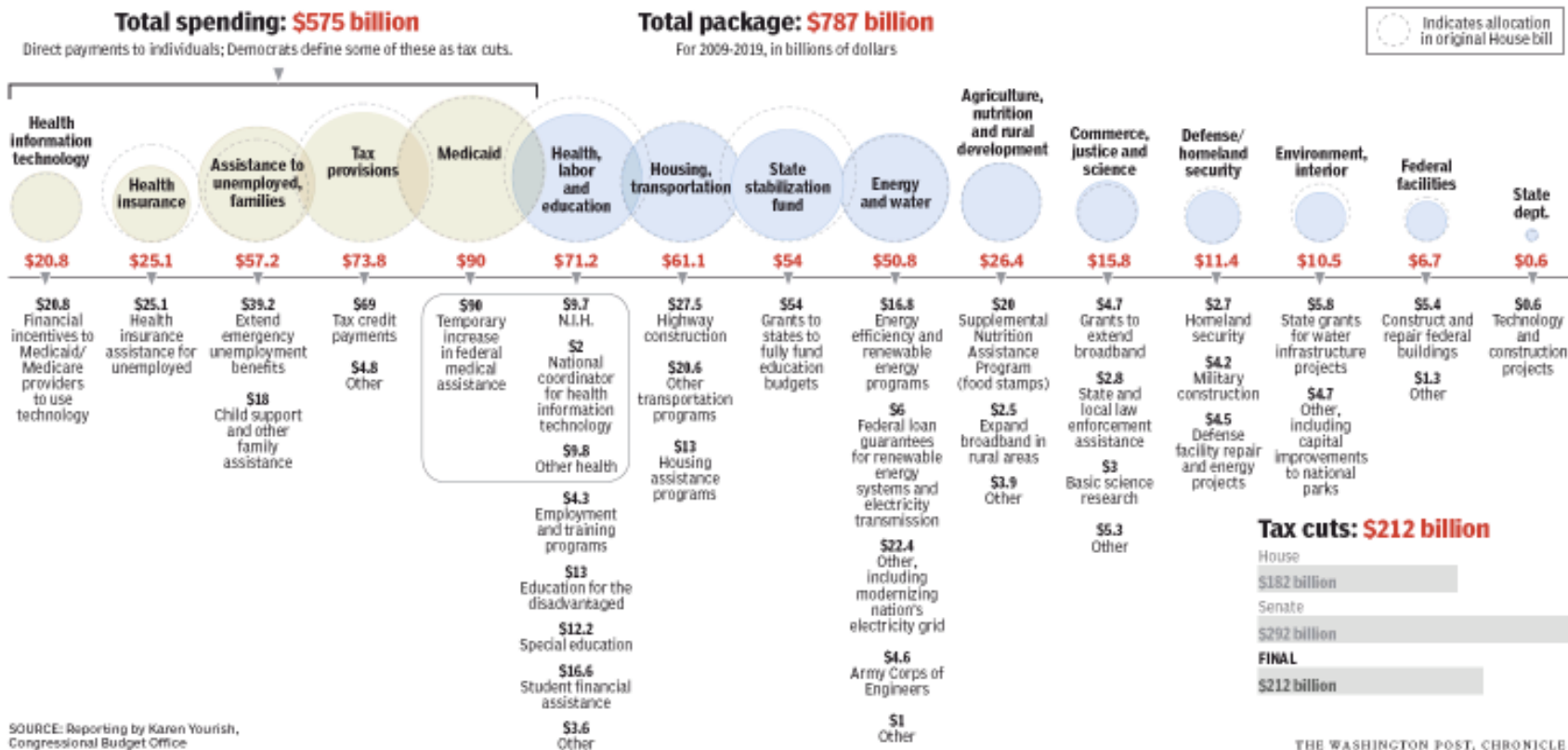
Sunday, February 15, 2009

THE STIMULUS BILL

*** HOUSTON CHRONICLE A3

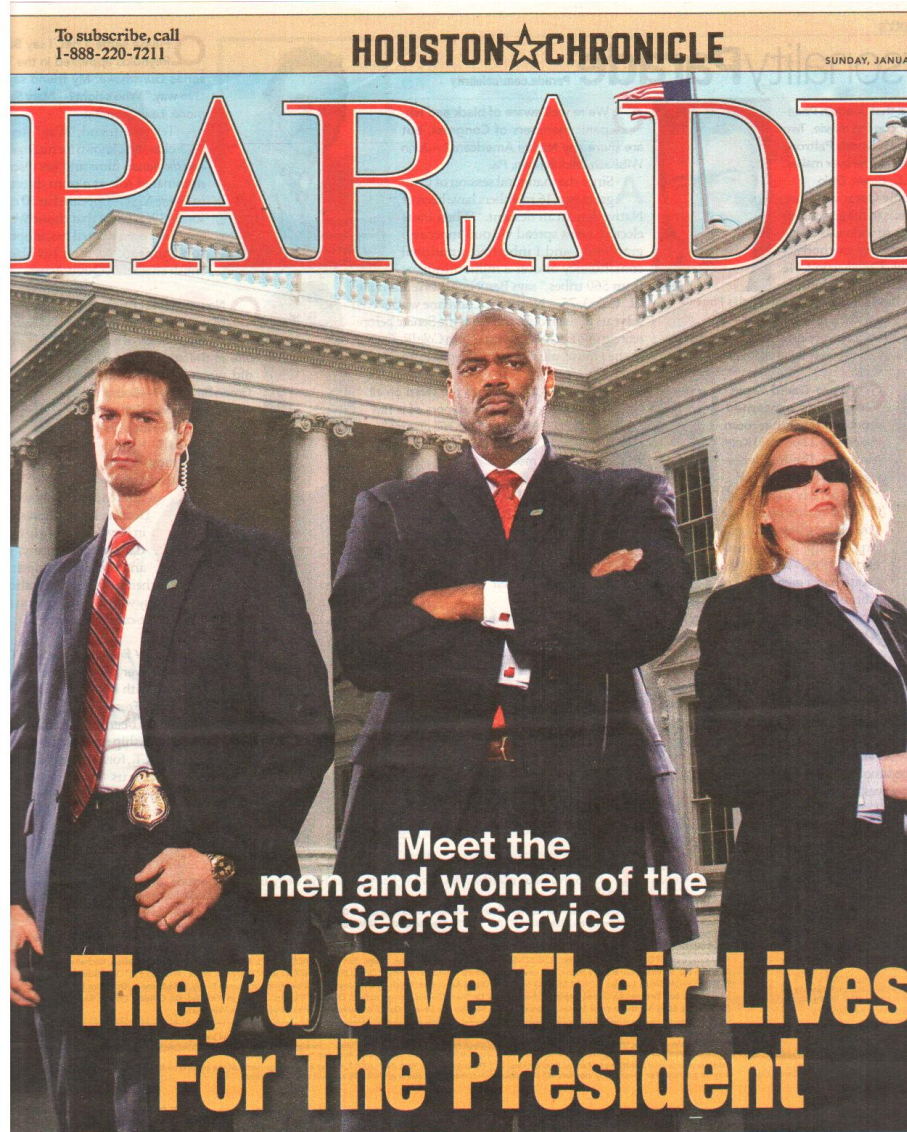
A BREAKDOWN OF THE FINAL BILL

After months of negotiations, an economic stimulus package is headed for President Obama's signature. The final bill is a trade-off between spending sought by House Democrats and trims demanded by three Senate Republicans in exchange for their support.



**"Every government interference in the economy consists of giving an unearned benefit, extorted by force, to some men at the expense of others." --
-Ayn Rand**

What Third World Country?



Octupletssssssss...

Octuplets mother now has agent but no publicist

By ROBERT JABLON

The Associated Press

Saturday, February 14, 2009; 4:44 PM

LOS ANGELES -- The public relations group that has represented octuplets mother Nadya Suleman is stepping down because of death threats, its president said Saturday.

Joann Killeen also said the mother now has an agent: Wes Yoder, the same man who arranged book and music deals for the McCaughey septuplets a decade ago and publicity for controversial pastor Rick Warren.

The Killeen Furtney Group was ending its free representation after receiving at least 100 graphic e-mailed threats and swarms of nasty voicemails that went to the Los Angeles agency and even to some of its other clients, Killeen said.

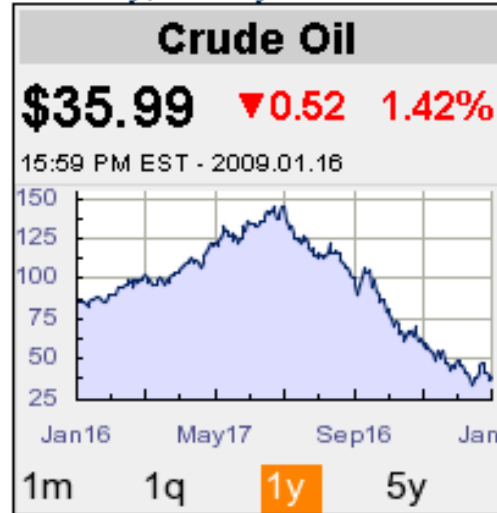


This image made from a 2006 video provided by KTLA shows Nadya Suleman speaking at a fertility clinic in Los Angeles. Suleman, who gave birth on Jan. 26, 2009 to octuplets, acknowledged in an interview aired Monday, Feb. 9, 2009 that she was "fixated" on having children but said she never expected to have more than twins in her latest pregnancy. (AP Photo/KTLA) (AP)



Crude Oil Price

January, Friday 16 2009 - 15:59:40



Crude Oil Price by OIL-PRICE.NET ©

Price		Change	Trades	Volume
15:59 - \$ 35.99		↓ 0.52 1.42% ↓	20,009	56,756
Range	Open	52 Wk Range	1 Year Forecast	
34.18 - 36.87	35.19	33.45 - 147.27	\$ 41 / Barrel	

<http://oil-price.net/dashboard.php?lang=en>

Price at the pump – going up?

Crude oil is getting cheaper — so why isn't gas?



By CHRIS KAHN and JOHN PORRETTO, AP Energy Writers

Sun Feb 15, 6:36 pm ET

NEW YORK – Crude oil prices have fallen to new lows for this year. So you'd think gas prices would sink right along with them.

Not so.

On Thursday, for example, crude oil closed just under \$34 a barrel, its lowest point for 2009. But the national average price of a gallon of gas rose to \$1.95 on the same day, its peak for the year. On Friday gas went a penny higher.

To drivers once again grimacing as they tank up, it sounds like a conspiracy. But it has more to do with an energy market turned upside-down that has left gas cut off from its usual economic moorings.

The price of gas is indeed tied to oil. It's just a matter of which oil.

The benchmark for crude oil prices is West Texas Intermediate, drilled exactly where you would imagine. That's the price, set at the New York Mercantile Exchange, that you see quoted on business channels and in the morning paper.

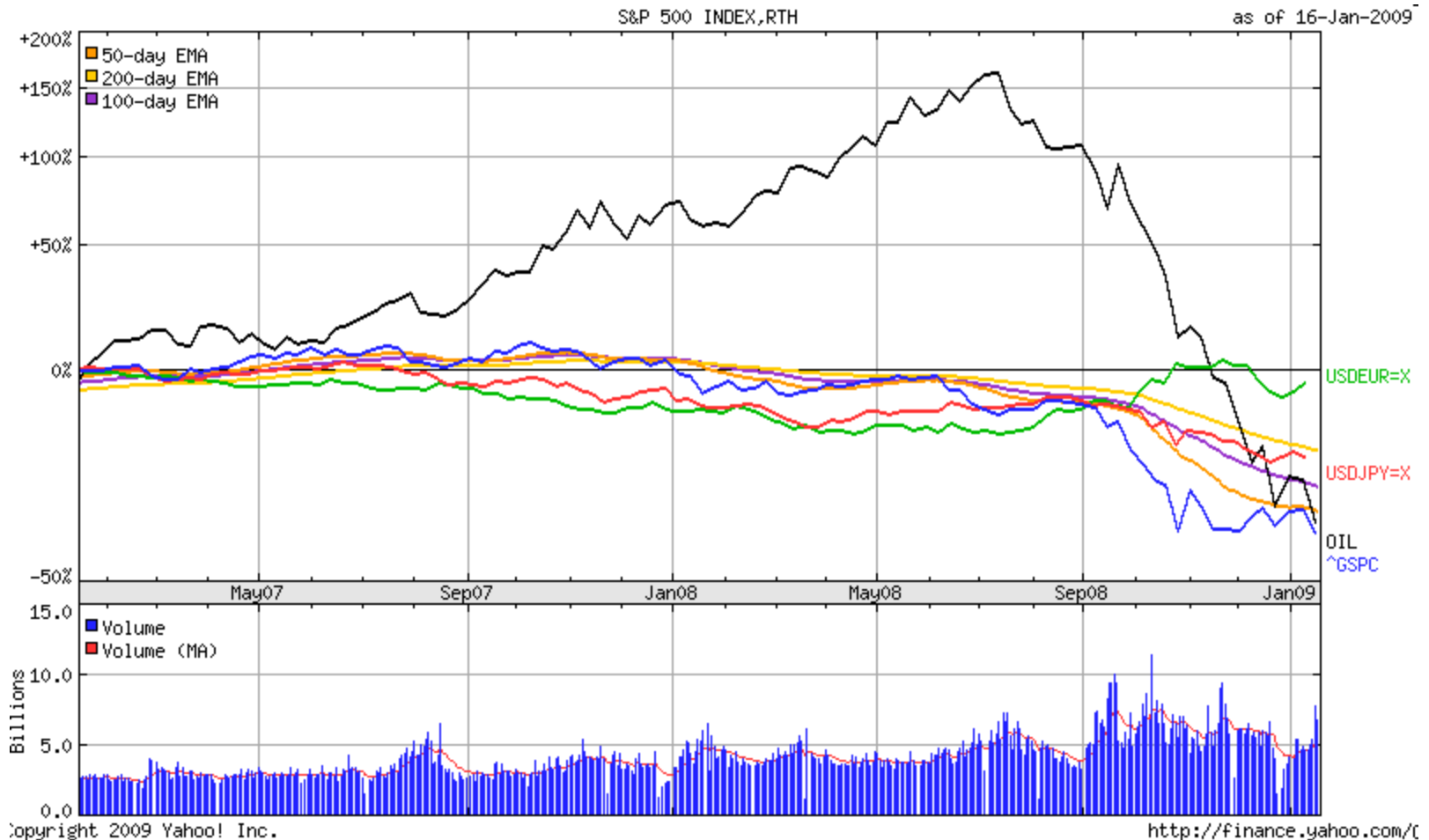
Right now, in an unusual market trend, West Texas crude is selling for much less than inferior grades of crude from other places around the world. A severe economic downturn has left U.S. storage facilities brimming with it, sending prices for the premium crude to five-year lows.

But it is the overseas crude that goes into most of the gas made in the United States. So prices at the pump will probably keep going up no matter what happens to the benchmark price of crude oil.

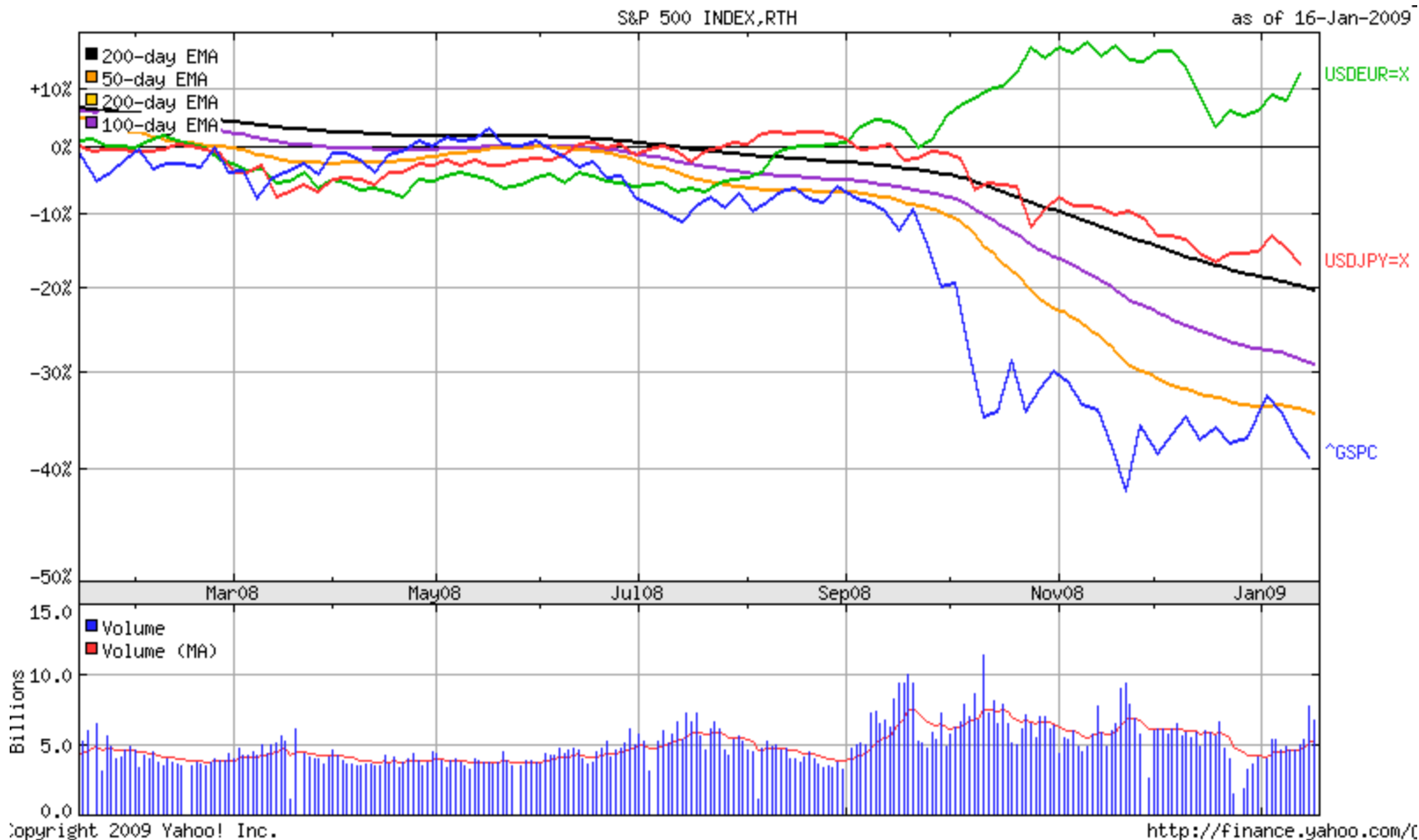
"We're going definitely over \$2, and I bet we'll hit \$2.50 before spring," said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service. "This is going to be an unusual year."

On the last day of 2008, gas went for \$1.62 on average, according to the auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express, a company that tracks transportation data.

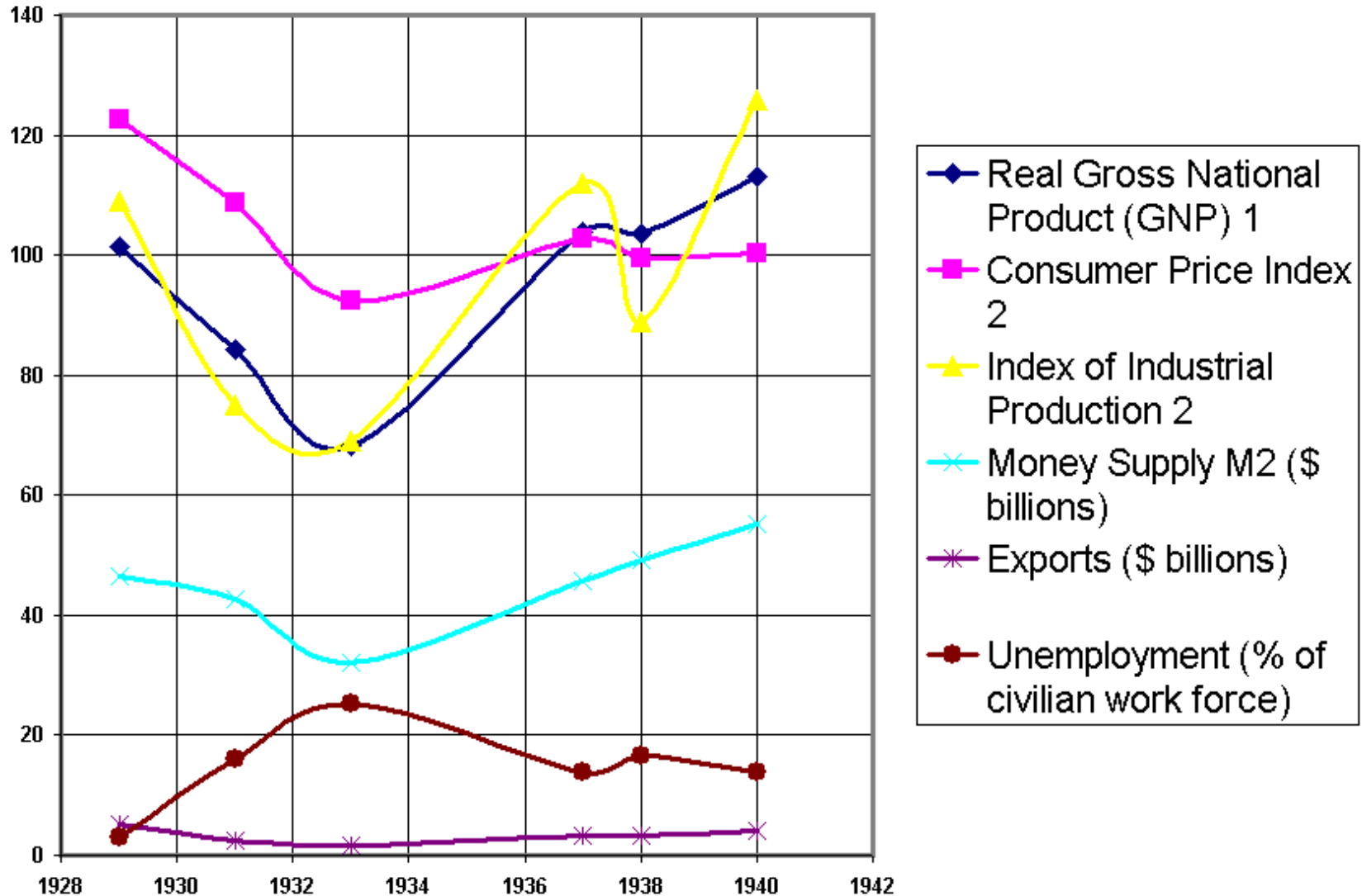
S&P vs OIL (2 yr.)



S&P 500 – 1 Year

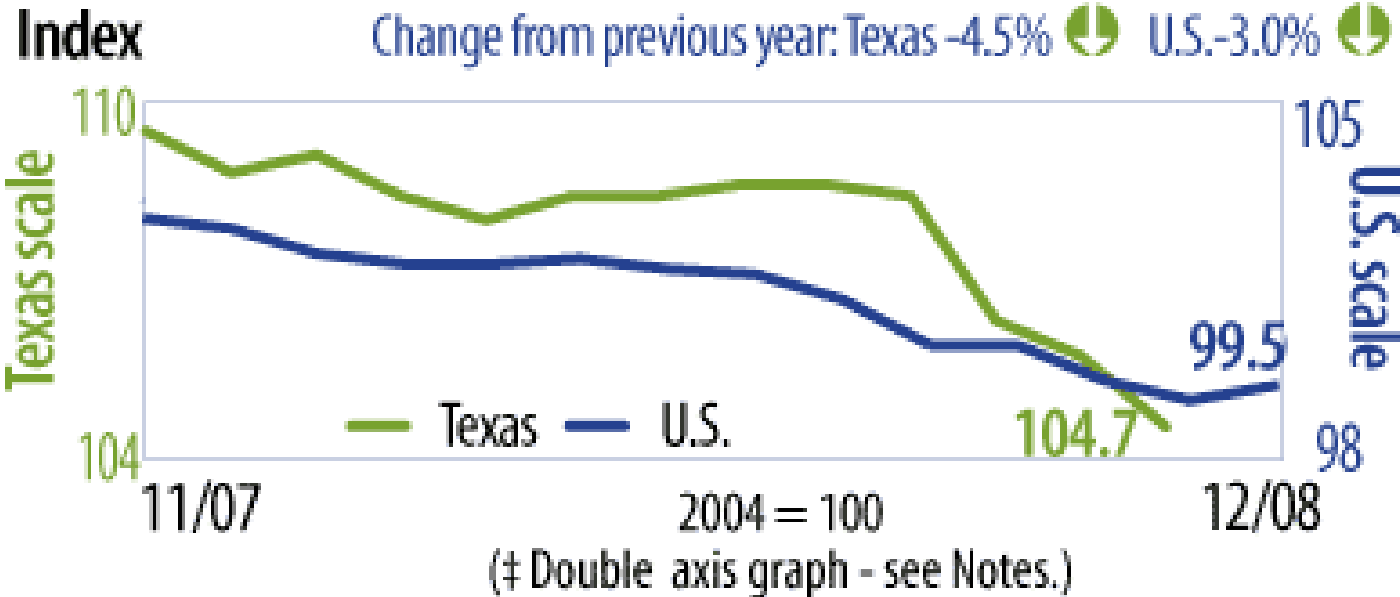


The Years of the Great Depression



Texas Leading Economic Indicators

Leading Economic Indicators Index



Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, The Conference Board

[View Leading Economic Indicators Index in Table Format](#)

[View Historical Leading Economic Indicators for Texas](#)

<http://www.texasahead.org/economy/tracking/>

When Submarines Collide

British, French nuclear submarines collide

STORY HIGHLIGHT:

- British, French nuclear submarines collide
- Accident occurred during routine national patrols
- Both vessels, HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant, were damaged
- Anti-nuclear group: "The collision is a disaster"

[Next Article in World](#)

READ

VIDEO

TEXT SIZE - +

LONDON, England (CNN) -- A British Royal Navy nuclear submarine and its French equivalent collided while on operations in the Atlantic Ocean earlier this month, defense ministries in Paris and London confirmed Monday.



The British Royal Navy submarine HMS Vanguard.

1 of 2

Both vessels, HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant, were armed with nuclear warheads and suffered damage but were able to return to port under their own power following the collision.

"Two "SNLE" (nuclear submarines), one French and the other British, were, a few days ago, on standard patrols in the Atlantic. They briefly came in contact in a very slow speed while they were immersed," the French Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

"There is no casualty or injury among the crew. Neither the nuclear deterrent mission nor the nuclear security have been compromised."

In an earlier press release issued on February 6, the Ministry of Defense said the vessel's sonar dome had been damaged in a collision. The vessel was able to return to its base at Ile Longue

in Brittany, northwest France, accompanied by a frigate.

The UK's Ministry of Defence also confirmed the incident. In a statement, the First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Jonathan Band said the collision occurred during "routine national patrols."

If you miss the Cold War

August 1, 2009 -- Updated 10:25 AM (GMT-05:00) 11/17

Navy says sub leaked radiation since 2006

STORY HIGHLIGHT

- **NEW:** Total radiati
- Navy had earlier s
- Leak existed sinc
- USS Houston visi

[Next Article in U.S.](#)

READ

MAP

From Mike Mount
CNN Pentagon Producer

TEXT SIZE - +

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- A U.S. Navy submarine leaked trace amounts of radioactive water for two years as it made port calls in Japan and other Asian nations, the Navy said Thursday.



U.S. NAVY

The USS Houston arrives in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for routine maintenance, during which the leak was found.

Last week, Navy officials told Japan that the USS Houston, a Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine, had made one port call -- in March -- while leaking the contaminated fluid.

But after reviewing records of the sub, the Navy told Japanese officials Thursday that the Houston had been leaking much longer, since June 2006, and had made port calls to Japanese bases at Sasebo, Yokosuka and Okinawa before the leak was discovered.

Officials also have told the governments of Malaysia and Singapore that the sub made port calls to those countries while leaking the radioactive water, [Navy](#) officials said. The Houston also made stops in Guam and Hawaii.

 [See a map of the submarine's travels »](#)

A Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tokyo appreciated the United States reporting the new information promptly.

Third Saturday Seminar 2008-2009

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 06

21 February 2009

“The New Oligarchs”

Why are we bailing them out?

Roger Hall

ALL Program, Montgomery College, Conroe, Texas

OLIGARCH

definition

ol·i·garch *n.* A member of a small governing faction. [Greek *oligarkh* //s : *oligos*, few + -*arkh* //s, -arch.]

If they can demand our money and get it and give nothing in return but distain, they must have governing power.

Paying the New Oligarchy



February 13, 2009

On Tuesday, February 10, 2009 Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner unveiled the Obama administration's plan to address the crisis in the financial sector. The strategy he outlined calls for the largest Federal intervention in banks and finance since the Great Depression, flooding as much as \$2.5 trillion into the system. Given its size and scope — the bill's lack of detail drew a widely negative response from analysts and economists.

 [WATCH VIDEO](#)

 [READ TRANSCRIPT](#)

 [COMMENT](#)

Although he thinks the details are important, Simon Johnson, Professor of Economics at MIT, worries more

that Geithner and the Obama administration won't address a big underlying problem and be tough enough on the politically powerful banking lobby.

Too Big To Fail?

Johnson explains to Bill Moyers on the JOURNAL that the U.S. financial system reminds him more of the embattled emerging markets he encountered in his time with the International Monetary Fund than that of a developed nation. As such, Johnson believes that the U.S. financial system needs a "reboot," breaking up the biggest banks, in some cases firing management and wiping out shareholder value. Johnson tells Bill Moyers that such a move wouldn't be popular with the powerful banking lobby: "I think it's quite straightforward, in technical or economic terms. At the same time I recognize it's very hard politically."

Without drastic action, Johnson argues, taxpayers are merely subsidizing a wealthy powerful industry without forcing necessary systemic changes: "Taxpayer money is ensuring their bonuses. We're making sure that banks survive. And eventually, of course, the economy will turn around. Things will get better. The banks will be worth a lot of money. And they will cash out. And we will be paying higher taxes, we and our children, will be paying higher taxes so those people could have those bonuses. That's not fair. It's not acceptable. It's not even good economics."

<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/02132009/profile.html>

The greater fool theory

The greater fool theory (sometimes the bigger fool theory, also called survivor investing) is the belief held by one who makes a questionable investment, with the assumption that they will be able to sell it later to "a bigger fool"; in other words, buying something not because you believe that it is worth the price, but rather because you believe that you will be able to sell it to someone else for an even better price.^[1]

Wikipedia.org

Don't be Panicked

Can you take responsibility for yourself and others close to you?

Can you stay calm and assess a changing or changed situation?

Can you tell the difference between fact and fabrication.

Can you delay panicking until the threat has passed?

It all connects

Fear, War, Greed

To much capital in the hands of the few

Too little money in the hands of the consumers.

Credit is not a replacement for disposable income

Oil a limited resource

Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

Lacks critical ability/Education

etc

Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat

Jill Carroll

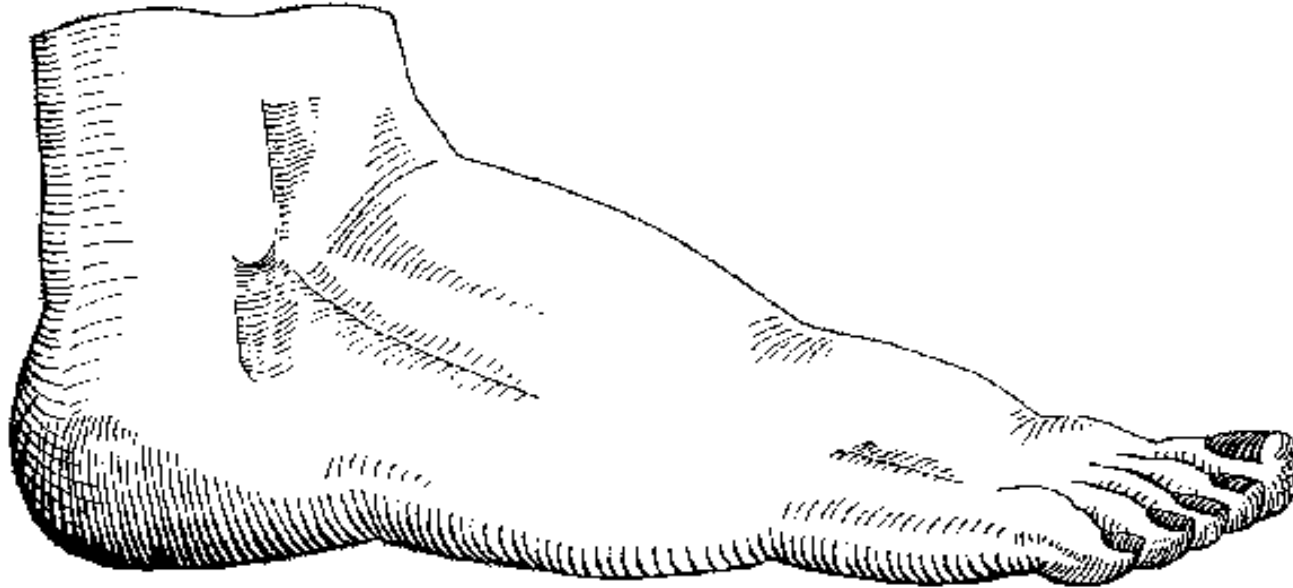
Don't panic!

Don't be Panicked!

Seriously

See You 21 March 2009

The Monty Python Foot, a convenient way to end something that would seem to go on for ever accomplishing nothing.... (*See deus ex machina*)



The famous Python Foot can here be seen in its original format in the bottom left corner of "An Allegory of Venus and Cupid" by [Bronzino](#) (~1545)

When Monty Python had no ending for a skit, this foot would appear out of the sky and squash whatever was on screen with a rude noise. Allowing the show to move on.

Enrichment Material

One of life's persistent questions:

“Why do cockroaches roll over before the die?”

