



May 2011



Government Affairs Experts

Dear :

Obama and Osama

Evolution of a Presidency?

I don't know about you, but I was shocked to learn that President Obama commenced and implemented the successful surgical strike that resulted in the capture and demise of Osama bin Laden. Since the debates with Hilary Clinton, I've contended, as have many, (both Democrats and Republican Members of Congress) that the President is bystander in chief. Frankly, I'm pleased to be dead wrong. Rather than Professor Obama, we can finally see Commander in Chief Obama. Instead of the passivity or inept actions of the 444 days of the Iranian Hostage Crisis that tainted Jimmy Carter's Presidency, Obama acted in a deliberate and meticulous fashion.

Thank you to our Navy Seals, especially the spy novel style Joint Special Ops Command, (JSOC). In a rare display of national unity, both Republicans and Democrats praised Obama's leadership. Can't wait to see the movie!

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Here are some top stories from the Hill:

["That's Where the Money is"](#)[Budget Cuts Can Leave Scars](#)[Anger Over Gas Prices Will Fuel Political Debate and Action in May](#)

Caren Z. Turner

TOP 2011
BUSINESS

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"That's Where the Money is"

By Scott Orr

Bank robber Willie Sutton, when asked why he robbed banks, once famously replied "because that's where the money is."



Now, we're not comparing President Obama's fund raising operation to bank robbery, but there is a certain symmetry between Sutton's remark and Obama's recent efforts to cozy up to Wall Street. Let's face it, President Obama has not exactly been Wall Street's best friend, in turn bashing the financial sector as greedy and backing stricter government regulation.

In fact, feelings were so raw that one hedge fund manager said in a widely circulated email that he and his colleagues felt a bit like battered wives: "I am sure, if we are really nice

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and stay quiet, everything will be alright and the president will become more centrist and that all his tough talk is just words... I mean, he really loves us and when he beats us, he doesn't mean it."

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Budget Cuts Can Leave Scars

By Scott Orr



The most important issue in the 2012 presidential election is also the most politically dangerous: the size of the federal budget deficit.

Everyone agrees that at \$1.5 trillion per year and growing, the deficit is the Damocles' sword hanging over America's economic come-back. The solutions are simple: cut spending, raise taxes, or do both. But simple and politically easy are not the same thing as, America is about to find out.

Raising taxes? We can take that one off the table right now. As Walter Mondale proved in 1984, running for president by being honest about the need to raise taxes is like defending yourself against a right hook by leaning into it.

So that leaves cutting spending, an idea that took on new currency recently as President Obama and congressional Republicans crafted a budget deal that avoided a government shutdown. Obama, wisely, is now casting himself as a budget hawk who has more cuts up his sleeve.

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Anger Over Gas Prices Will Fuel Political Debate and Action in May

By Carl Chancellor

The only thing going up faster than the price of a gallon of gas is the anger of voters. With Americans feeling real pain at the pump, Congress is taking aim at rising gas prices that have already topped \$4 a gallon, with no end in sight.



Returning to the Hill this week after a two week recess where they heard from angry voters back in their home districts, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle will introduce bills to address the skyrocketing price of gasoline. Unfortunately, there's as much chance of Washington rescuing your wallet or pocketbook from gas pump piracy as Donald Trump being lauded for humility.

Thus far, what is being offered up by lawmakers are no more than dusted-off, shopworn ideas that are more about scoring political points and painting the opposition in a negative light,

rather than providing solutions to rising gas prices.

According to our sources, Republicans in the next few days will introduce three bills: Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back To Work Act; Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act; and, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act —aimed at increasing domestic offshore oil drilling by speeding up the approval of drilling permit applications and requiring the resumption of the sale of offshore leases.

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