

LINKS, 8/1/11

Our dying economy

Hendrik Hertzberg [catches](#) Louie Gohmert stealing Leon Trotsky's dustbin.

HSBC is [closing a bunch of branches](#) in the US, apparently having decided the US is not longer the land of opportunity for profit.

Yves Smith [argues](#) that Liz Warren would be better of primarying Obama than running for Senate. I think her analysis is spot on.

Bruce Levine [looks](#) at the 8 ways our society has undermined the traditional rebelliousness of youth, from medications to No Child Left Behind to student loan debt.

[Free birth control!](#) At least we have some good news.

Surveillance Nation

The Senate Intelligence Authorization extends FISA past the 2012 election; if it passes, Obama will never be held responsibly for his past flip-flop on FISA and his promises to fix it.

The House Judiciary Committee [passed](#) their Internet-surveillance-posing-as-Porn-law on Tuesday, even managing to make it worse. I like John Cole's approach to this: to make this into an issue about the DNC, since DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz is one of the original co-sponsors. Next time the DNC hits you up for money, tell them no, and it's DWS' fault.

The Brits botched the redaction of a FOIA response, thereby [revealing](#) cooperation between Capita and ISPs.

The British torture inquiry is actually [planning](#) on going to Gitmo to interview detainees about events they may have witnessed. This is far more than I expected from this inquiry, though it's still safe to assume it'll be a whitewash.

Obama has finally found [nominated someone](#)

(another Harvard JD) to replace Glenn Fine, who as DOJ Inspector General found a lot of the abuses the FBI committed under the PATRIOT Act. I'll have to do more research, but I am skeptical about a former prosecutor taking this job.