

THE WIND AND THE LION: TED KENNEDY MANS UP TO MORTALITY

Literally generations of politically active American citizens have been motivated to study and participate in the process by the men, and women, in the Kennedy family (I am one). The last of a kind is nearing the end, and he is thinking of his constituents until his last breath.

LIVE-BLOGGING SCRAPPLE FOR BREAKFAST

Ari Melber starts by asking Scrapple who is he and why he is here.

Scrapple starts by raising choice.

MCCAIN IS A CLUNKER, CAN I TRADE HIM IN?

John Sidney McCain III, the blue blooded husband of a beer heiress, who cannot remember how many houses he owns, has decided he will be the Republican face of opposition to continuance of the wildly successful Cash For Clunkers program.

DODD AND CONRAD: THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY

Both Connecticut's Chris Dodd and North Dakota's Kent Conrad steadfastly deny any knowledge or fact of preferential treatment in their real estate loans from Countrywide Mortgage, but the fact the story keeps hanging around is disquieting. And apparently it has been doing quite a bit more than hanging around, there have been hearings and testimony.

SENATE HATE CRIMES BILL THREATENS FIRST AMENDMENT

There are inherent First Amendment and equal protection issues with any "hate crime" legislation as I pointed out when Eric Holder started aggressively pushing Congress. That said, if you are going to enact such laws, they must be targeted, rational and designed to effect the result desired and not any other. The Senate just violated that with their Hate Crimes Bill passed last night.

WHAT PELOSI, ROCKEFELLER & HARMAN COULD HAVE

DONE

There has been an ongoing discussion for the last few weeks or so about the briefings that congressional leaders were allegedly given regarding the Bush/Cheney torture program and what Congressmembers like Pelosi, Rockefeller, Harman and Graham could have done to fight the malfeasance of Bush and Cheney. This post will explain what they could have done.

PELOSI'S ADVISORY ON ABU ZUBAYDAH AND TORTURE

As Marcy noted back on April 29th, the issue of Nancy Pelosi's briefing back in 2002 on the Bush/Cheney torture program, whether or not it was being applied to Abu Zubaydah and, if so, to what extent has really turned into a he said-she said game. So, it should not come as any surprise that yet another missive has been launched in this little passion play.

IS THIS HEALTHCARE REFORM OR JUST ASSISTANCE TO HEALTH CORPS?

I have a busy morning here, but want to draw attention to an article this morning in the New York Times by Robert Pear on the ongoing discussions of healthcare reform for the United

States: Since last fall, many of the leading figures in the nation's long-running health care debate have been meeting secretly in a Senate hearing room. It is not not a great plan they appear to be cooking up.

STEELE AND BOEHNER GO GANGSTA

Well, you just knew that the GOP wouldn't take the bonecrushing loss in last November's elections to Rico Suave Obama and too cool for school Dems lightly. They were, like an octogenarian on Viagra, going to get hip. Or a hip replacement. Whatever. They started by electing the rootin tootin slick dick midnight mustache Michael Steele as DNC Chairman. Between Steele and Boner Boehner, what could go wrong?

BREAKING: BURRIS FESSES UP

Chicago tenor Roland Burris is singing a new tune by acknowledging he sought to raise campaign funds for then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich at the request of the governor's brother at the same time he was making a pitch to be appointed to the Senate seat previously held by President Barack Obama. Burris' latest comments in Peoria Monday night were the first time he has publicly said he was actively trying involved in seeking campaign financing for Blagojevich.