



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CALPEEK TAKES A VACATION BREAK

Another reminder. *Calpeek* will take off the week of April 18th, meaning no newsletter until May 2nd. We're also planning to publish a 2011 U.S. Govt. Guide...

BUDGET WARS: GOV. BROWN'S BIRTHDAY WISH MAY COME TRUE. A BUDGET DEAL IS POSSIBLE.

Editor's note: On April 7th Gov. Jerry Brown turned 73. No big birthday bash for the governor, but *Calpeek* thinks he may have made a *birthday wish*: a budget deal. There is a possibility for extending the current tax package for a couple of months until a ballot measure is drafted that could then be placed before voters. This info comes from an April 13th story in Capitol Weekly by reporter Allen Young. Here's our analysis and commentary...

...Just in case you've forgotten, Calif. now has a budget deficit of \$15.4 billion dollars. The original budget is \$26 billion dollars. Brown has almost cut the red ink in half...

...According to various blogs and news reports, Gov. Brown is still trying to engage with a handful of GOP lawmakers, even though formal talks were called off at the end of March. In a Sacramento BEE story on April 10th, Brown said, "A couple of Republicans I've talked to, they keep saying they want to get there."...

...Maybe the breakthrough happened Monday, April 11th. According to the Capitol Weekly story, State Sen. Bob Huff of Diamond Bar outlined a plan which could work. And it means there might be GOP votes within both the State Senate and State Assembly to pass a budget. Huff said in the story that there is support in his caucus for extending the tax package for just enough time to get a ballot measure before voters, either in September or November...

...Details need to be worked out, but if voters refused to extend the taxes (income, sales and cars) they'd end. But it would be a short term fix because these tax end in June...

...And the GOPers still want pension reform, a spending cap and some other regulatory reforms. The reason talks broke down in March was because Huff and GOP Senate Leader Bob Dutton presented a "wish list" of 53 items to Gov. Brown. Except for pensions and the spending cap, the wish list proba-

bly caught Gov. Brown and legislative Demos by surprise – and the list was rejected...

...When Brown broke off talks, he literally hit the road to sell his plan to voters in Northern Calif. and in the Inland Empire. He picked places where there are lots of GOP voters. Republicans didn't think much of the plan, but Brown is no fool and he went directly to mayors, council members, school board members and administrators, police chiefs and county sheriffs with this message: without a vote he will have no choice but to make massive cuts to education and public safety. *Calpeek* doesn't know if these local officials had the clout to move some GOP lawmakers, but it was worth trying. The publicity surrounding Brown's trip was excellent and may have swayed some GOPers. Stay tuned...

WILL THE REAL GLENN BECK PLEASE STAND UP? PUNDITS HAVE LAST WORD OVER BECK'S FIRING.

Editor's note: No one really knows for sure what happened and what was actually said during Glenn Beck's meeting with Fox News Chairman Roger Ailes. *Calpeek's* Dick Rosengarten has an idea and for what it's worth, here is our spin: Ailes to Beck: "You're fired." Beck to Ailes: "You can't fire me." Ailes to Beck again: "Why not?" Beck to Ailes: "Because I quit." Lots of excellent spin and two of the best were stories written by Howard Kurtz of CNN's *Reliable Sources* and nationally syndicated radio talk show host Bill Press. Here's *Calpeek's* analysis & commentary on a story that isn't going to die for a while...

...Both Press and Kurtz wrote almost the same thing, just with different twists. "Even though he was a popular talk show host, there was always a mean, dark side to Beck. He was a serial name caller," Press said. Undoubtedly, as both Kurtz and Press noted, the most vicious comment from Beck was when he called President Barack Obama a *racist*...

...And when Beck started mixing his politics with his own brand of religious zealotry and prejudice, the *end of the world* stuff, that is what pushed viewers and sponsors over the edge. It was only a matter of time until Fox decided to throw Beck under the bus...

...Don't feel too sorry for Mr. Glenn. He still has his radio show and he'll find a way to continue spouting his poison. For those who weren't familiar with Beck, he came to the Fox Channel in January of 2009. He was already on radio with a

show produced by his own firm: Mercury Arts Radio. But with his arrival at Fox Beck doubled the viewership in the afternoon prime time. 2.5 million viewers...

...Press was also correct about another thing: when you're on tv and get canned, it's because the host loses their credibility; their sponsors get pressure and POed; or their ratings go south. All three happened to Beck. In Beck's case, according to Kurtz, 400 advertisers pulled the plug on his show. They didn't abandon FOX News, but they refused to be on Beck's show...

...Beck was especially popular with the Tea Party. One pundit suggested Beck's comments helped to boost the Tea Party's standing at the expense of the *Grand Old Party*. That holds particularly true if you believe what many liberal pundits say, *Fox News is the communications arm of the Republican Party*...

...The only one at FOX who won't miss Beck is host Bill O'Reilly. Press said, "Only Beck makes Bill O'Reilly (sound) almost reasonable..."

...The organization and person that pushed the hardest to get rid of Beck on Fox was David Brock of DC-based Media Matters for America, a web-based research center which monitors and tries to correct conservative misinformation. Brock says Beck lost 300 advertisers (Kurtz says 400) and 1 million viewers. And *Calpeek* also gives lots of credit to former MSNBC *Countdown* host Keith Olbermann, who at least twice a week named Beck as "The worst person in the world." The only question left for Ailes and Fox is who will be Beck's replacement? Stay tuned...

BUDGET WARS: DID THE U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE REALLY CUT \$38.5 BILLION FROM 2010-11 BUDGET?

Editor's note: Most of the news media covering the latest budget battle in the U.S. Congress are under the impression that the final amount of the cuts was about \$38-39 billion dollars from the 2010 appropriation bill. However, *Calpeek* came across a long story in the April 12th edition of the National Journal which says the reductions were not that big. Here's a very short analysis & commentary...

...The National Journal's story by Tim Fernholz is titled *Budget Cutting Isn't Easy*. The first paragraph reads: "President Obama and congressional leaders needed some clever accounting to come up with nearly \$40 billion dollars in budget cuts." But it's the 3rd paragraph that is the grabber: "*For example, the final cuts in the deal are advertised as \$38.5 billion less than was appropriated in 2010, but after removing rescissions, cuts to reserve funds and reductions in mandatory spending programs, discretionary spending will be reduced only by \$14.7 billion.*" This story is really long, but is worth reading. It's very wonkish...

...The vote to approve the main budget bill for 2010-11 (funding up to the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30th) was 235 to 189 in the House. All the House Demos voted no and there were three GOPers who bucked Speaker John Boehner: John Campbell of Irvine, Jeff Flake of AZ and Walter B. Jones of NC. Campbell is drifting further and further to the right and

some consider him to be a Tea Party member. FYI: the vote doesn't add up to 435 because there are some vacancies – Demos Jane Harman resigned and Gabby Giffords is still on medical leave. The U.S. Senate approved the bill on a voice vote. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2012: ROMNEY EXPLORES WHITE HOUSE BID. ANNOUNCES VIA VIDEO & TWITTER.

Editor's note: It's not all that difficult to cover and write about the 2012 White House run from Calif. Thanks to all those tv cable stations, the weekend tv talk shows, the internet and a host of news outlets on the web, such as *Politico.com*, the *Huffington Post* and *The Daily Beast*, *Calpeek* has everything it needs to cover the 2012 presidential contest. Here's our analysis & commentary for the week of April 11th...

...Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney on April 12th announced the formation of his exploratory campaign committee to run for president next year. It will allow him (and others who take this step) to start raising funds. According to Jon Ward of the Huffington Post, Romney used the Univ. of New Hampshire's football field as a setting for his web video. His first line was, "It is time we put America back on a course of greatness, with a growing economy, good jobs and fiscal discipline in Washington..."

...The first three important presidential GOP contests are the Iowa caucuses, followed by the New Hampshire primary and finally the South Carolina primary...

...FYI: April 13th is the 5th year anniversary of Romney's health care law being signed into law in MA. Many parts of Romney's law were used to draft key parts of Pres. Barack Obama's health care bill. Romney's GOP presidential rivals are **not** likely to let the former governor off the hook on health care - they call his plan *RomneyCare*...

...Neither are the Democrats. Dee Dee Myers, former Clinton White House press secretary, hasn't lost her touch with the political zingers. She said of Romney's announcement timing, (it) "was bound to backfire." In an email, Myers wrote, "He's lashed to that plan like Ahab to Moby Dick..."

...Now lets look at some recent polling. This survey was done for WSJ/NBC. It shows the frontrunner to be Romney with 21%. In second was NY businessman Donald Trump, tied with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee at 17%. There's a drop off to 4th place with Newt Gingrich at 11%, slightly ahead of Sarah Palin with 10%. The rest of the field is in single digits: Tim Pawlenty at 6%; Michele Bachmann with 5%; former PA U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum at 3% and current Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour at only 1%...

...A *Daily Beast* story on April 7th ripped into the news media, especially NBC Today show hostess Meredith Vieira, who didn't object when Donald Trump said of Obama: *his grandmother, in Kenya, said he (Obama) was born in Kenya and she was there to witness his birth.* Sorry, I saw part of that interview and I think Pres. Obama's grandmother was

...FYI: Calif. GOP presidential candidate Fred Karger says he'll participate in the May 5th South Carolina Republican Party and Fox News debate in Greenville, SC. Others who have said they will participate are Rick Santorum and former Louisiana Gov. Buddy Roemer. On March 22nd Karger met with new RNC Chair Reince Priebus, RNC Vice Chair Sharon Day and RNC COS Jeff Larson in DC. They will include Karger's representative in future RNC meetings...

...Karger was on MSNBC on Tuesday morning (4/12) talking about his campaign. When asked about Romney and the Mormon Church, Karger said he's going to see if he can get Romney to persuade the Mormon Church to drop its opposition to same sex marriage. Karger was a one-man gang in the NO on Prop. 8 campaign of 2008. Stay tuned...

POLITICAL SHORT TAKES: ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Editor's note: Here are some political items worth noting...

◆ With former VA Gov. Tim Kaine(D) running for the U.S. Senate seat of Jim Webb(D-VA), Pres. Barack Obama has picked U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida to be the new chair of the Democratic Nat'l Committee(DNC). She was already a DNC vice chair...

◆ State Controller John Chiang has some good news for Calif. taxpayers, Gov. Jerry Brown and the Calif. Legislature. Personal income tax went up in March, \$1.2 billion dollars more than the projections. According to a Sacto BEE story, the reason is that Calif. paid out \$953 million dollars less in refunds...

...Gov. Jerry Brown is due to release his budget revision numbers on May 14th...

◆ U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders(I-VT) will be the keynote speaker at the April 29-May 1 Calif. Democratic Party convention in Sacramento. He is far to the left of most Democrats – a socialist in fact...

◆ The Planning & Conservation League has moved up one flight of stairs in the same 1107 9th Street building, but now in suite 901. Same phone (916)822-5631...

◆ Investigative correspondent Michael Isikoff has interviewed Dr. Chiyome Fukino, the former director of Hawaii's Dept. of Health, and she told Isikoff that, "It's kind of ludicrous at this point" speaking of GOP businessman Donald Trump. Trump was interviewed on NBC's Today show and again repeated his claims about Pres. Barack Obama not being born in the U.S. "No matter what state officials release on the issue, the 'birthers' are going to question it," Fukino said. "The whole thing is silly," she concluded. The more Trump spouts this nonsense, the more he looks and sounds like a buffoon...

◆ In case you missed it, Jeff Miller who raised \$60 million dollars for the Calif. Republican Party(CRP), is leaving his post as CRP finance director. The S.F. Chron noted that at the recent CRP convention, it was Miller who raised the alarm to delegates that the party is only speaking to "30% of the state" and that donors are tired of the CRP's "infighting and losing."...

◆ Easily missed was a story in the L.A. Times by reporter Jack Dolan that Gov. Jerry owns three guns. He's no gun-grabber. And in fact, while Brown was AG he sided with the NRA (friend of the court brief) to overturn a gun ban in Chicago...

◆ Seems like the L.A. City's Ethics Commission and the CA FPPC are handing down lots of fines for campaign reporting violations. In L.A., Councilmembers Tony Cardenas, Herb Wesson and Jose Huizar AND Council President Eric Garcetti all admitted they accepted gifts of more than \$100 from contributors who do business with the city. Up in Sacto, the FPPC hit potato producer Larry Minor with a \$60,000 fine for illegally spending his money on candidates and using the names of others to hide his identity. AG Kamala Harris also announced a 14-count indictment of Larry Minor for \$66,400 in illegal political contributions...

◆ The Democratic Foundation of Orange Co. has finally picked a replacement for Josh Kurpies who is now working for Demo Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner. The new Exec. Director of the DFOC is Demo political activist and interim Exec. Director Henry Vandermeir. Originally the board of directors wanted to hire Long Beach Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske. Vandermeir is a much better choice...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: ODDS AND ENDS.

Editor's note: Here are a few news items of interest...

⌘ ***Congresswoman Giffords Plans to Attend Launch*** – According to a news release from U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords (D-AZ) she plans to attend the launch of the space shuttle Endeavor on April 29th with her husband Mark in command...

⌘ ***Moving 2012 Primary to June Passes Assembly*** – AB 80 to move the presidential primary back to June passed the Assembly on a 75-0 vote. The author is Demo Paul Fong of Cupertino. Until this bill is approved by the State Senate and signed by Gov. Brown, the state will have three elections: two primaries and a general...

⌘ ***Election Holiday Initiative Enters Circulation*** – An initiative to make election day in even numbered years a holiday has entered circulation. The proponent is Roy Benson (415)250-3371. Benson has until Sept. 1st to collect 504,760 valid signatures. Not a bad idea...

⌘ ***Three Initiatives Pending at AG's Office*** – The three measures are The Nuclear Waste Act of 2011; The Best Practices Budget Accountability Act; and Stop Special Interest Money Now Act...

⌘ ***Gallup Poll on Governors vs. State Employee Unions*** – A new poll by Gallup taken March 25-27 (after the restrictions on collective bargaining was passed in Wisconsin) shows 48% side with state employee labor unions vs. 39% with governors. 4% said neither and 9% were undecided...

(continued on next page)

⌘ **Is Abortion Back on the Table for 2012?** You bet, especially after mostly Tea Party conservatives tried to pull funding from Planned Parenthood in the budget fight. It didn't work, but it will be back. The Tea Party did manage to pull funding for Washington DC's women's health clinics. That was viewed as racist by DC Democrats who live in the District of Columbia. In Calif., look for another initiative attempt to require parental notification before a minor can have an abortion. Stay tuned...

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CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

April 28	The Pat Brown Institute celebrates its 30 th Anniversary Awards Dinner at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in L.A. Info (323) 343-3770...
April 29-May 1	Calif. Democratic Party annual convention at the Sacramento Convention Center.
May 3	4 th AD special election runoff
May 5	Fox News and the South Carolina GOP host a Republican Party presidential debate, Peace Center, Greenville, SC
May 17	36 th CD special election primary
June 7	New Hampshire Union-Leader, WMUR-TV and CNN host a GOP presidential debate, Manchester, NH
Aug. 11	Iowa GOP and Fox News Republican debate
Aug. 13	Iowa Republican Straw Poll, Ames, IA

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS & PERSONNEL NOTICES

Editor's note: Here are some items you might want to take note of...

◆ A very sad note: My good friend Kam Kuwata has died at 57 at his Venice condo. I tried calling him several times last week, but no one answered. He may have been dead for some time. I was away from my computer most of the day on Monday (4/11) until late in the afternoon. When I returned home and turned it on, there was an email statement from U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer about Kam's passing. Kam was a Demo political strategist with few equals who worked for lots of Democratic candidates. He had a great sense of humor and his counsel was sought by many candidates. I first met Kam when he was U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston's spokesperson. He was a terrific spin doctor and strategist. He also worked for former L.A. Mayor Jim Hahn and for for-

mer U.S. Rep. Jane Harman. He was getting ready to work on behalf of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's 2012 reelection. He worked with consultant Bill Carrick on all of Sen. Feinstein's U.S. Senate campaigns. I never quoted Kuwata by name, but he was one of my best and favorite sources. I'll miss him. And he will be missed by his many friends and family. R.I.P...

◆ CRP chair Tom Del Beccaro has appointed newly elected State Sen. Ted Gaines(R-1st SD) as Redistricting Chair of the CRP...

◆ The Valley Industry & Commerce Assn.(VICA) has hired Doug Arseneault as legislative affairs manager...

◆ Gov. Brown has appointed Claudia Cappio to be executive director of the Calif. Housing Finance Agency. She is currently the managing principal of Sparticles LLC. The job requires State Senate confirmation...

◆ Gov. Brown has appointed Richard Maullin to the Calif. Indep. System Operator Board of Governors. Maullin is the president of the polling firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz and Associates. He's been a longtime political ally of Brown, going back to the seventies. The job requires senate confirmation...

◆ Gov. Brown has appointed two persons to the State Parks and Recreation Commission. They are Paul Junger Witt of L.A. and Elva Yanez also of L.A. The jobs require senate confirmation...

◆ Former Sacramento Councilwoman Lauren Hammond has been appointed to the State Gaming Control Commission. The position requires Senate confirmation...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK IS \$50.

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