

Public Issues Report 1st Quarter 2010

Public File 2010 – 1st Quarter

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01/04/10

If you didn't know there was a census this year.. You will after today. The bureau is rolling out a 340 million dollar media campaign blitz. Starting with a road tour kicking off in Times Square. The tour will crisscross more than 150-thousand miles nationwide through April to promote the benefits of completing the census. It's the most money ever spent on pimping the census.

01/05/10

Keeping us safe in the skies and all around! President Obama is set to unveil some key changes today on national security; he'll continue meetings today, like the one last night concerning the attempted plane attack. With 20 fellow top officials on how to prevent a repeat of the botched Christmas day attack on a Detroit plane. The white house says some of the changes will include 'upgrading' the infamous terrorist "watch list".

01/06/2010

President Obama says the U.S. will stop transferring Gitmo detainees to Yemen, in light of the botched Christmas day terror attack on a Detroit plane. The white house also says Yemen isn't capable of handling more detainees right now. He also said that the administration is still committed to closing the facility.

01/07/2010 The grand jury received new information concerning the Nigerian man accused of trying to blow up a plane in Detroit on Christmas. Sources are saying, border patrol found out about his suspected terror ties while he was on the plane. The L.A. Times is reporting agents planned to question the suspect, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab when he landed. But had they found out about it sooner, he could have been questioned in Amsterdam before he boarded the plane.

01/08/2010 Four people are dead and five are hurt after a worker at a transformer manufacturing company opened fire on his co-workers and then turned the gun on himself. Cops say the shooter; Timothy Hendron was part of a group of employees who were suing ABB over retirement benefits.

01/11/2010 First New York City cuts out Trans fat, then they made restaurant chains show calorie counts on menus, now Mayor Michael Bloomberg is going after salt nation wide. Bloomberg is set to unveil new plans today to encourage food manufacturers and restaurants to stop shaking the salt. He wants to cut salt by 25 percent over the next five years, and has received support from other cities and states.

01/12/2010 Unfortunate numbers from the department of veterans affairs have been issued and the number of vets taking their own lives went up 26 percent from 2005 to 2007. Officials say most of them served in Iraq and Afghanistan. They did however release a 'little bit' of good news... vets who used the department's health care were less likely to kill themselves.

01/13/2010 The National Defense Department's report on the Fort Hood shootings isn't due out until tomorrow, but we're getting a sneak peak today. D.O.D says suspected shooter Major Nidal Hasan, was promoted despite his supervisor's concerns about his extremist views on Islam and odd behavior. The report will also show that the military and a terrorism task force didn't share information to determine if he was threat.

01/14/2010 The devastation in Haiti continues. Rescue workers in Haiti are struggling this morning to clear the rubble as they look for more people trapped in debris. Officials estimate that more than 100,000 people have died in the 7.0 initial quake. The capitol city, Port-Au-Prince has been destroyed as well as most hospitals. About 3 million people, one-third of Haiti's population, were affected by the quake in some way. Because of the devastation caused by the act of nature, the World Bank has promised \$100,000,000 in emergency aid.

01/15/2010 It's a big day on Capitol Hill; congressional leaders hope to reach an agreement on a 'final' healthcare bill today. President Obama and the Democrats met yesterday to hammer out the details surrounding the Bill. They won the support from the labor union for a revised tax on high-cost insurance plans, if this Bill passes more than 30 million uninsured Americans would get coverage.

01/18/2010 Martin Luther King jr's F.B.I. file made public? Well if it was left up to Senator John Kerry it would be. Kerry will announce a bill this week that addresses the issue of releasing thousands of F.B.I. documents on the life and death of Doctor King. The bill calls for creating a Martin Luther King record collection at the National Archives, it will include all government records related to King, and it will also require that they create a review board oversee the process.

01/19/2010 Due to the devastation that has befallen Haiti; the Federal Government just announced it will ease the requirements for adoption from Haiti. The State Department is working with the Department of Homeland Security to clear the red tape for nearly 300 pending adoption cases. 200 of these cases have already been accelerated and 24 children have been placed with American families.

01/20/2010 Haiti Update Since last weeks initial quake over 72,000 bodies have been found, with over an expected death toll of 200,000 and as of late, 28 Americans are also confirmed dead. In an effort to help over 12,000 U.S. troops, and 3,500 U.N. Peacekeepers have been dispatched to Haiti to aid in the devastation that has taken place.

01/21/2010 The Justices are meeting in an unscheduled session to issue opinions about campaign dollars. Normally the High Court schedule these sessions months in advance, but nothing has been normal about how they've been handling the campaign finance case to undo limits on corporate spending.

01/22/2010 Big Bank vs. White House Congress will decide to debate President Obama's new banking rules. If approved, banks won't be able to use the normal public's deposits to speculate on Wall Street, meaning they would have to have more cash on hand. If passed, this will limit how influential banks can be.

01/25/2010 Many question if job depression is at its most evident with the nations largest retailer slashing more than 11,000 jobs at its Sam's Clubs. The chain is getting rid of about 1,200 membership recruiting jobs and 10,000 product demonstration jobs. But the good news is that the company is set to hire just as many positions as was laid off.

01/26/2010 President Obama seeks to put a three year freeze on spending. The freeze will include all funding for education and health systems, but exclude the Department of Defense and Homeland Security. The White House believes that in implementing this freeze, over 250 billion dollars will be saved.

01/27/2010 Hunger in America. New numbers show that one in every five households ran out of money to buy food at least once last year. The Food Research and Addiction Center wants the Federal Government to do more to help keep food on American household tables

01/28/2010 President Obama's first State of the Union, the President's main concerns in his address was small business, health care, jobs, and unemployment. All topics that got President Obama elected into the White House, during his historical presidential race.

01/29/2010 The Pentagon has a plan for repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". The Defense Secretary Robert Gates just announced that preliminary steps must be taken 'inside the military' before congress can develop a plan concerning the rights of gays to serve openly in the military.

02/01/2010 Toyota the car company known for its reliability and practicality has started a gas pedal recall on over 2.5 million cars in the U.S. and over 8 million worldwide. Toyota states that they will be suspending production for at least a week.

02/02/2010 President Obama's team is breaking down the numbers for congress on the President's new 3.8 trillion dollar budget today. If approved, those on Social Security would get another \$250.00 check, American's unemployment benefits will be extended, also 3 billion will be given to education, 1 billion to upgrade the 'No Child Left Behind' program, another year of tax credits for the middle-class, \$400.00 for singletons, and \$800.00 for couples. The budget has a high public approval rating, but many factors concerning the budget remains unseen.

02/03/2010 President Obama's top military man will present his plan on how to rollback 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is expected to call for no longer discharging people who are sexually "outed" by others. Gates was interested on creating a military counsel to work out all details concerning the plan.

02/04/2010 Violence against women is the new topic on the table for the Senate. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee wants to increase funding for shelters, as well as other domestic violence and sexual assault victims. If approved, the act would also help prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in crisis situations, like the Haiti earthquake.

02/05/2010 The eleven year Space Station Project coming to an end! The countdown is on for the final night-time-shuttle launch. The endeavor will blast off from Kennedy Space Station just after 4:30 a.m. Sunday morning. The shuttle will haul a new room full of life support equipment and another room with a lot of windows to the International Space Station.

02/08/2010 The final countdown! While you were sleeping, space shuttle endeavor lit up the sky in NASA's last nighttime launch. The six members of the crew blasted into space just after 4:00 a.m. this morning to deliver an observatory to the International Space Station. There remain only four launches left for the shuttle program.

02/09/2010 Toyota officially announced a recall this morning on thousands of its Prius and Lexus hybrid cars due to brake problems. The company is recalling 133,000 Prius hybrids and 14,500 Lexus H-S 250H vehicles in the United States alone. The recall is also spreading to Europe, bringing the total to 437,000 recalled vehicles worldwide.

02/10/2010 New numbers from Haiti this morning arrived, almost a month after the quake; the government has updated the death toll to around 230,000, with bodies still being counted. This toll does not victims buried by their families or in private ceremonies. Also a new poll was taken showing 60% of Haitians lost a love one in the disaster.

02/11/2010 Honda has joined the ranks of the recall club. Honda has added 440,000 cars worldwide to its recall list this morning, bringing the total to 950,000 cars being recalled because of faulty airbags. The list of cars include; 2001 and 2002 Accord, Civic, Odyssey, CR-V, Pilot and the 2002 Acura T-L and C-L. A total of 11 people have been injured so far in the United States due to these airbags.

02/12/2010 The late Ted Kennedy's son says he's done with politics this morning. Patrick Kennedy just announced he won't be running for a 9th term. The Rhode Island representative says his life has taken a new direction. But that he'll continue to fight for those suffering from depression, addiction, autism and

PTSD.

02/15/2010 New info this morning about the Alabama college professor charged with murder after shooting six co-workers. Amy Bishop was investigated, but never charged in an attempted mail bombing when she worked at Harvard 17 years ago. She also shot and killed her 18 year old brother in 1986 but it was ruled an accident. Cops haven't confirmed a motive in last Friday's shooting that killed three people.

02/16/2010 Big news for the war on terror this morning, one of Osama Bin Laden's friends has been captured. The Taliban's top military leader, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, was taken down in Pakistan during a secret mission by Pakistani and American forces. He's now being questioned, specifically about Osama Bin Laden's whereabouts.

02/17/2010 Aspirin could be the next best defense against breast cancer. A new Harvard Medical School study shows, aspirin reduced the risk of breast cancer spreading by 60% in survivors who took it two to five days a week. Popping aspirin also lowered the risk of dying by 71-percent. Most of the women in the study were already taking aspirin to prevent heart attacks and stroke.

02/18/2010 President Obama will meet with the Dalai Lama at the White House today... even though china is pouting about it. They says the meeting could do more harm than good to already strained ties between the two countries. Why should we care what China feels? Well...Team Obama needs Beijing's help in dealing with Iran and North Korea's nuclear issues, we also need their help to improve the world's economy. By the way, all U.S. Presidents since 1990 have met the Dalai Lama.

02/19/2010 The head honcho of Toyota is about to get grilled. Ah-Kee-Oh, head of Toyota has agreed to meet with Congress next Wednesday to explain the company's safety problems. The auto maker has recalled more then 6,000,000 vehicles in the U.S. alone for problems involving accelerator pedals becoming stuck.

02/22/2010 It looks like Toyota executives gave themselves a big pat on the back for cutting costs on safety. The memo written by a Toyota executive, bragged about saving 100 million dollars in 2007 by getting the Feds to 'ok' just replacing floor mats for the Camry and Lexus E-S as a solution to the sticky gas pedals. Other memos allege Toyota knew about the problem in 2003, five years before they told the feds.

02/23/2010 It's a showdown between President Obama and insurance companies on Capital Hill. Obama wants to limit rate hikes, just one of many details of a new health care overhaul plan he'll announce today. The proposal would give the Feds power to deny extraordinary premium increases, roll them back or even demand consumer rebates. This plan comes after some insurance companies have hiked premiums as much as 39 percent recently. Lawmakers from both sides are set to meet Thursday in a televised summit. They'll be mulling over Obama's ideas that include; coverage for over 31 million Americans, more money for people to buy insurance, and keeping insurers rates hikes down. The plan does not include a public option.

02/24/2010 Voting day! Senators will be busy voting on the jobs bill today. The bill has been scaled-down to a 15 billion dollar plan that includes exemptions in payroll taxes and tax breaks for businesses to buy new equipment. Majority leader Harry Reid also wants a separate bill to extend unemployment benefits before they expire Sunday.

02/25/2010 After passing the jobs bill yesterday, Senators are now putting together an unemployment benefits, state aid, and tax break package to hit the floor next week. Senate Democrats are also in works of getting a bill together to boost small business lending by using the leftover bailout money

02/26/2010 Vice President Joe Biden will unveil a new plan to protect your hard earned money into your golden years. Biden will announce a plan today that'll help protect workers' retirement savings accounts from conflicts of interest of financial advisers who manage their 401(k)s and individual retirement

accounts.

03/01/2010 Starting today no more federal unemployment benefits for more than one million people, all because of Kentucky Senator Jim Bunning held up the vote. "I'm trying to make a point to the people of the United States of America" he believes extending the benefits would only increase the American deficit. Another vote is set this week.

03/02/2010 President Obama is flexing his guns to get the job done when it comes to healthcare. His health care strategy comes out tomorrow. The White House says the President is backing an "up or down vote" if needed. And word is, the House will pass the Senate bill and send it to Obama. A package of changes would then be passed under reconciliation rules with only 51 votes needed.

03/03/2010 The D.C. courthouse is expecting long lines today as same-sex couples can officially 'apply' to get married. After they apply, couples have to wait a full three days before they walk down the aisle. But there is a storm cloud brewing; a small group of people say the same-sex decision should have been left up to voters, now they trying to get it on a future ballot.

03/04/2010 President Obama has made his final offer, outlining his health care plan. He says the country is ready to get it done. "They are waiting for us to act. They are waiting for us to lead. And as long as I hold this office, I intend to provide that leadership" Obama wants a vote within the next few weeks. He also says he supports reconciliation, which could pass the bill with only 51 votes.

03/05/2010 Update on that pentagon shootout, the metro station is closed this morning as cops investigate. The suspect involved in the shootout has died at the hospital; cops say 46 year old John Patrick Bedell was trying to get inside the building when he opened fire right at the entrance near the Pentagon Metro Station. Two security officers were grazed, but managed to fire back, killing him. No word yet on why he opened fire.

03/08/2010 Defense top dog Robert Gates is in Afghanistan today meeting with his commanders. This is taking place as the U.S. intelligence at home is trying to confirm if an American militant suspect was taken down in Pakistan. Pakistani officials have contradicted each other on whether the man is 31-year old Adam Gadahn from California. But one thing is for sure, he's a big dog in Al-Qaida's I.T. department and appears in videos threatening the U.S.

03/09/2010 Shooting near school... One Ohio State University Employee is dead and two other employees are hospitalized after an early morning shooting in a building near campus. The cops say the shooter "is in custody." All Ohio State students have been notified of the incident by email... But cops say the campus is secure and classes will be held today.

03/10/2010 Senators should be 'voting on the 140 billion dollar bill to extend jobless benefits sometime this week. It also includes several tax cuts that are set to expire soon; like cuts for teachers who buy school supplies out of their own pockets, cuts for small businesses that pay workers called to active duty and cuts for restaurants and business improvements.

03/11/2010 The job bill got passed. House leaders will tackle the newly passed jobs bill from the senate this week. The 149 billion dollar plan would extend unemployment benefits and healthcare dollar to the end of 2010, businesses would get 25 billion in tax breaks that expired last year, and states would get 25 billion to cover Medicaid.

03/12/2010 If you're taking a road trip this weekend... here's some good news to keep in mind. Traffic deaths are down from last year to the lowest lever since 1954. Highway deaths dropped to just under 34 thousand, the Feds say that while this is exciting news, far too many people are still dying on the roads. Road safety advocates agree, saying that it takes three years of steady decreases before you can say that the roads are safer.

03/15/2010 Healthcare will be brewing a storm of controversy on Capitol Hill this week. The White House is confident, saying, this is the 'final' countdown to passing the reform health care bill. President Obama is heading to Strongsville, Ohio today for a third campaign-style appearance to drum up support. But word is... There still aren't enough votes to pass the bill.

03/16/2010 It's now up to Congress to upgrade the Bush era "no child left behind" program. After President Obama outlined how he wants to improve schools, his blueprint calls for all students to meet "college and career-ready" standards by 2020. Annual tests will not just be in reading and math, schools will be rewarded on progress, not just achievement, and principals at the lowest performing schools will be replaced.

3/17/2010: Brake problems in some Hondas are forcing 412,000 vehicles to be recalled.

3/18/2010: Barack Obama has given Democrats a March 18th deadline for the House to pass the Senate version of a healthcare reform bill.

3/19/2010: Should husbands give their wives a salary for housework?

3/22/2010: His Bedtime Body Language. The position your guy sleeps in most often can reveal surprising clues to his personality, relationship M.O., and deepest sexual desires. We crack the code.

3/23/2010: 10 states are lined up to sue over reform. The attorney generals from Florida, Alabama, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Washington are upset about the bill requiring people to buy health insurance.

3/24/2010: 10 Places NOT to Use Your Debit Card. Debit cards have different protections and uses. Sometimes they're not the best choice. Sometimes reaching for your wallet is like a multiple choice test: How do you really want to pay?

3/25/2010: Defense secretary Robert Gates will announce today new changes for 'don't ask, don't tell' that will protect gay troops. One will be.. outings by third parties may no longer be automatic grounds for separation.. especially if the person making the claim has a grudge against the suspected gay member. Gates' changes can be put in place without congressional approval.

3/26/2010: A new study shows Breast Cancer Survivors can have children after battling the disease and won't be at any higher risk of dying from cancer.

3/29/2010: True Dating Confession: "I Secretly Wish My Boyfriend Would Lose Weight"

3/30/2010: Should moms do their kid's college application work?

3/31/2010: A federal bond hearing will be held this afternoon in Michigan for the nine members of Hutaree, a radical militia facing charges including seditious conspiracy and attempting to use weapons of mass destruction. The small group of anti-government extremists, which had twice previously helped cops search for missing people, were arrested over the weekend by the f-b-i for planning to levy war against the U.S.