

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

July 2009 “While the Times has in the past, and will in the future, send many deserving boys and girls to the best schools and colleges in Southern California, it desires especially to call the attention of the older boys in the contest to one particular scholarship not on the list of awards in former contests. The scholarship referred to is that of the Southern Pacific Telegraph and Shorthand School. As proof of what the school does for young men who graduate from it, the author of a letter of a boy of 17 reports drawing a salary of \$97.75 a month as the result of a six month course in railway telegraphy and accounting. ‘I see a future that is very bright. In my mind a man is very foolish who would not seize upon such an opportunity as this to advance himself.’ ... The employees of the transportation interest of this country exceed in number seven-fold that of any other combined interest. The Biography of Railroad Officials shows six hundred railroad officials, each with a salary exceeding \$15,000 per annum, who started their railroad career as a telegraph operator or station agent.” Los Angeles Times (July 17, 1909) p. I15.

July 1909 “Corporations sometimes have souls. At least one in Los Angeles has, as is shown by the way in which the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company looks after the welfare of its employees. Its latest move has been to install restaurants in its various offices in the city. At the main downtown office, on South Hill street, more than 200 girls are benefited. The average luncheon costs only 9 cents. The service is on the cafeteria plan, and the food is sold at actual cost. A portion of meat may be had for 4 cents; creamed salmon, apricot cobbler with real cream, raspberries with cream and chocolate ice cream for 5 cents each; any kind of pie, tea, coffee, cocoa, milk or cake for 2 cents; and sandwiches for 4 cents. A charge is entered on the books against each employee for the amount of the check and at the end of two weeks, the total is deducted from the regular salary. The dining room is 100 feet long, 40 feet wide, well ventilated and can accommodate eighty persons at a time. Adjoining it are the circulating library and the rest rooms.” Los Angeles Times (July 25, 1909) p. II3.

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the California State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CHILDREN & YOUTH

“Parental Imprisonment, the Prison Boom, and the Concentration of Childhood Disadvantage.” By Christopher Wildeman. IN: *Demography*, vol. 46, no. 2 (May 2009) pp. 265-280.

Full text at:

<http://muse.jhu.edu/login?uri=/journals/demography/v046/46.2.wildeman.pdf>

["Although much research has focused on how imprisonment transforms the life course of disadvantaged black men, researchers have paid little attention to how parental imprisonment alters the social experience of childhood. This article estimates the risk of parental imprisonment by age 14 for black and white children born in 1978 and 1990.... 1 in 7 black children born in 1978 and 1 in 4 black children born in 1990 had a parent imprisoned.... By age 14, 50.5% of black children born in 1990 to high school dropouts had a father imprisoned. These estimates, indicate that parental imprisonment has emerged as a novel -- and distinctively American -- childhood risk that is concentrated among black children and children of low-education parents."]

[Request #S09-21-3890]

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Children of Incarcerated Parents. By Steve Christian, National Conference of State Legislatures. (The Conference, Denver, Colorado) March 2009. 18 p.

Full text at: <http://www.f2f.ca.gov/res/pdf/ChildrenOfIncarceratedParents2.pdf>

["The nation's growing prison and jail population has raised serious questions about the collateral effects of incarceration on children, families and communities. Whatever one's views about the appropriate role of incarceration in the criminal justice system, it is clear that imprisonment disrupts positive, nurturing relationships between many parents -- particularly mothers -- and their children. In addition, many families with children suffer economic strain and instability when a parent is imprisoned. Research suggests that intervening in the lives of incarcerated parents and their children to preserve and strengthen positive family connections can yield positive societal benefits in the form of reduced recidivism, less intergenerational criminal justice system involvement, and promotion of healthy child development."]

[Request #S09-21-3896]

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CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Persistence Of Racial And Ethnic Profiling In The United States: Follow-Up Report To The U.N. Committee On The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination. By Chandra Bhatnagar, American Civil Liberties Union, and others. (The Union, New York, New York) June 30, 2009. 88 p.

Full text at: http://www.aclu.org/pdfs/humanrights/cerd_finalreport.pdf

["Data and anecdotal information from across the country reveal that racial minorities continue to be unfairly victimized when authorities investigate, stop, frisk, or search them based upon subjective identity-based characteristics rather than identifiable evidence of illegal activity.... The disproportionate rates at which minorities are stopped and searched, in addition to the often high concentrations of law enforcement in minority communities, continue to have a tremendous impact on the over-representation of minorities (and especially members of African American, Latino, and Native American communities) in the American criminal justice system. Unfortunately, certain U.S. government policies continue to contribute significantly to the persistence of racial profiling."]

[Request #S09-21-3845]

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IMMIGRATION

Harold P. Sturgeon v. William J. Bratton, et al. California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District. B209913. June 17, 2009. 25 p.

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/B209913.PDF>

["A city can prohibit its police from stopping or arresting people to find out if they are illegal immigrants. A taxpayer challenged a 30-year-old Los Angeles Police Department rule barring officers from either arresting anyone for entering the United States illegally or taking any action solely to determine someone's immigration status. The suit claimed the policy conflicts with a 1996 federal law that requires state and local governments to let their employees share information about someone's immigration status with federal authorities.... But the court found no conflict between the local policy and the federal law. The restriction on police conduct during arrests 'has no effect on the voluntary flow of immigration information' between local officers and federal authorities,' the court said." San Francisco Chronicle (June 18, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-21-3840]

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DEMOGRAPHY

CALIFORNIA

Are the Rich Leaving California? By Jed Kolko, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) July 2009. 2 p.

Full text at: http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/jtf/JTF_LeavingCAJTF.pdf

["Despite California's high taxes, the poor are more likely than the rich to leave the state for other locales. Among poor families, those with incomes of \$22,000 or less, 1.73 persons leave California for every one that comes here. The ratio drops as incomes rise, with those in the top quintile, with incomes of \$110,000 up, the least likely to leave. At the very top, families with income of \$300,000 or more, the ratio drops to 1.09. That said, the states without personal income taxes, such as Texas, Nevada and Florida, are the most likely destinations for high-income families and individuals leaving California. However, those states are also among the most frequent destinations of low-income families as well." Sacramento Bee (July 10, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-21-3891]

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ECONOMY

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Public Safety at Risk: Bankruptcies Leave Legacy of Defects, Injuries and Deaths. By Safety Research & Strategies. (Safety Research & Strategies, Rehoboth, Massachusetts) June 23, 2009. 9 p.

Full text at:

http://www.safetyresearch.net/Library/Public_Safety_at_Risk_062309_Final.pdf

["Under the terms of the bankruptcies, General Motors and Chrysler will shed all product liability claims for tens of millions of vehicles currently on the road, leaving thousands of individuals and families uncompensated for the permanent injuries or deaths caused by vehicle defects.... If neither company is responsible for the past and future claims involving 40 million vehicles, few will file death or injury claims. If death and injury claims data do not reflect the status of real world problems on the road, safety is compromised. And, if GM and Chrysler no longer bear the liability for uncorrected defects, the automaker has few motivations to fix the pre-bankruptcy problems."]

[Request #S09-21-3892]

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EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Economic Impact Analysis of the University of Southern California Annual Operations. By Economics Research Associates. Prepared for the University of Southern California. (The Associates, Los Angeles, California) February 2009. 59 p.

Full text at: http://www.mayocommunications.com/2009-USC/18041_USC_EconomicImpact_FY08_2009-02-09.pdf

["The University is responsible for approximately \$2.1 billion dollars in total direct spending.... For every dollar spent by USC in Los Angeles County during the 2008 fiscal year, an additional 63 cents of output was created elsewhere in the regional economy. Every dollar of USC payroll expenditures in Los Angeles County supported an additional 33 cents of wages elsewhere in the County. Finally, every \$1 million spent in the region by USC supported 11.1 full-time equivalent jobs in addition to the University's own employment. Based on these findings, economic activities related to USC's presence created an additional 19,100 full-time equivalent jobs with average earnings of \$34,900 within the County."] [Request #S09-21-3847]

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ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

File-Sharing and Copyright. By Felix Oberholzer-Gee, Harvard University, and Koleman Strumpf, University of Kansas. (Harvard Business School, Cambridge, Massachusetts) May 2009. 46 p.

Full text at: <http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/09-132.pdf>

["Economists argue that while file sharing has weakened copyright protection, weak copyright protection benefits society. File sharing has not discouraged creative artists from producing new works. 'While album sales have generally fallen since 2000, the number of albums being created has exploded,' the paper explains. The paper makes similar observations about the number of feature films produced and the number of books produced in the past decade. The paper, however, acknowledges that content quality has not been considered. Entertainment industry complaints about falling revenue don't tell the full story. Revenue may have declined in some areas, but that calculation changes with the inclusion of a broader set of revenue streams for the industry" Information Week (June 17, 2009) 1.] [Request #S09-21-3848]

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INCOME

New Data Show That California's Income Gaps Continue To Widen. By Alissa Anderson and Raúl Macías, The California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) June 2009. 4 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2009/0906_pp_IncomeGaps.pdf

["The income gap between the state's wealthiest and poorest taxpayers continues to widen. From 2006 to 2007 personal income increased by \$64 billion. However, more than 30 percent of that amount was earned by the richest 1 percent of taxpayers. To put these uneven gains in context, the average taxpayer in the top 1 percent experienced a \$128,261 increase in adjusted gross income ... which was more than three times the total AGI of the average middle-income taxpayer in 2007 (\$36,115),' the study concluded." San Francisco Chronicle (June 26, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-21-3850]

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EDUCATION

EDUCATION FINANCE

California School Finance Revenue Manual. By Margaret Weston, Public Policy Institute of California, and others. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) June 2009. 296 p.

Full text at: http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_609MWR.pdf

["The funding system for California's public schools is overly complex -- even many experts lack information about how revenue is distributed. This comprehensive manual provides some fundamental and much needed facts, describing each revenue source and providing basic statistics on how that source distributes funds. This information, especially when used in conjunction with the PPIC School Finance Model, should help to promote a more open and informed discussion of school finance policy in the state."]
[Request #S09-21-3793]

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SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Strong Leaders Strong Schools: 2008 State Laws. By Sara Vitaska Shelton, National Conference of State Legislatures. (The Conference, Denver, Colorado) May 2009. 20 p.

Full text at:

<http://elan.wallacefoundation.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/WF/ELAN/2009/strong-leaders-strong-schools-2008.pdf>

["The role of the school leader has changed vastly during the last decade from building manager to instructional leader. School leaders are expected to be jacks of all trades -- building and fiscal managers, discipline dynamos, data analysts, instructional leaders, fundraisers, community leaders, politicians and public relation specialists -- all while being held accountable for raising achievement for all students.... This publication is the second annual report featuring legislative efforts to recruit, prepare and support effective school leaders. It provides a snapshot of legislative activity and is not intended to focus on all areas of state-level activity, including the role of the governor, chief or school boards. New this year are examples of state fiscal appropriations to provide a more complete picture of how states are strengthening school leader initiatives."]

[Request #S09-21-3927]

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EMPLOYMENT

LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

California Labor Market and Economic Analysis: 2009. By the Labor Market Information Division, California Employment Development Department. (The Divison, Sacramento, California) May 28, 2009. 60 p.

Full text at: <http://www.calmis.ca.gov/specialreports/labor-market-economic-analysis.pdf>

["The analysis provides a detailed description of the State's economy, its labor pool, and its labor market context. More specifically, it addresses such questions as: 1) How has the economic downturn affected California's economy, 2) What are the current and anticipated effects on employment by sector, 3) What are the current and projected demographics of the available labor pool, 4) What are the skills gaps, if any, that California employers face based on the skills held by current and expected dislocated workers, and 5) What skills and occupations demanded by industries are expected to grow through economic recovery?"]

[Request #S09-21-3893]

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Effects of Changes to the Health Insurance System on Labor Markets. By Janet Holtzblatt and Benjamin Page, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 13, 2009. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/104xx/doc10435/07-13-HealthCareAndLaborMarkets.pdf>

["Changes to the health insurance system could affect labor markets by changing the cost of insurance offered through the workplace and by providing new options for obtaining coverage outside the workplace. For example: Requiring employers to offer health insurance -- or pay a fee if they do not -- is likely to reduce employment, although the effect would probably be small. Providing new subsidies for health insurance that decline in value as a person's income rises could discourage some people from working more hours. Increasing the availability of health insurance that is not related to employment could lead more people to retire before age 65 or choose not to work at younger ages. But it might also encourage other workers to take jobs that better match their skills. The overall impact on labor markets, however, is difficult to predict."][Request #S09-21-3925]

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ENERGY

ENERGY POLICY

The Economic Benefits of Investing in Clean Energy: How the Economic Stimulus Program and New Legislation Can Boost U.S. Economic Growth and Employment. By Robert Pollin, and others, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) June 2009.

["Two measures operating together can generate roughly \$150 billion per year in new clean-energy investments in the United States over the next decade. This new spending includes government funding but is notably dominated by private-sector investments. We estimate this sustained expansion in clean-energy investments triggered by the economic stimulus program and the forthcoming American Clean Energy and Security Act can generate a net increase of about 1.7 million jobs. These job gains would be enough -- on their own -- to reduce the unemployment rate in today's economy by about one full percentage point, to 8.4 percent from current 9.4 percent levels -- even after taking into full account the inevitable job losses in conventional fossil fuel sectors of the U.S. economy as they contract."][Request #S09-21-3851]

Report. 69 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/06/pdf/peri_report.pdf

Executive Summary. 6 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/06/pdf/peri_report_execsumm.pdf

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Energy Discovery-Innovation Institutes: A Step toward America's Energy Sustainability. By James Duderstadt, University of Michigan, and others. (The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC) February 2009. 78 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0209_energy_innovation_muro/0209_energy_innovation_muro_full.pdf

["The need to renew America's economy, foster its energy security, and respond to global climate change compels the transformation of U.S. energy policy. Innovation and its commercialization must move to the center of national reform. Not only must a broad range of carbon pricing and regulatory responses be adopted, but major increases in federal R&D are essential along with the deployment of bold new research paradigms. To that end, the federal government should establish a national network of regionally based energy discovery-innovation institutes to serve as the hubs of a distributed research network linking the nation's best scientists, engineers, and facilities."]

[Request #S09-21-3864]

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PETROLEUM

The High Cost of Fossil Fuels: Why America Can't Afford to Depend on Dirty Energy. By Sarah Payne, Frontier Group, and others. (Environment California, Los Angeles, California) June 2009. 45 p.

Full text at:

http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/uploads/xO/uj/xOujaErg8b3iN_e28CEOyQ/Th e-High-Cost-of-Fossil-Fuels-CAE.pdf

["The costs of continuing on our current energy path are steep. American consumers and businesses already spend roughly \$700 billion to \$1 trillion each year on coal, oil and natural gas, and suffer the incalculable costs of pollution from fossil fuels through damage to our health and environment. If America continues along a business-as-usual energy path, U.S. fossil fuel spending is likely to grow, totaling an estimated \$23 trillion between 2010 and 2030.... The United States cannot afford to wait to break our dependence on fossil fuels. The cost of fossil fuels to our economy and our environment will continue to mount in the years to come unless the nation takes bold steps now to embrace the benefits of a clean energy future."]

[Request #S09-21-3861]

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

Western Renewable Energy Zones: Phase 1 Report. By the Western Governors' Association and the U.S. Department of Energy. (The Association, Denver, Colorado) June 2009. 27 p.

Full text at: <http://www.westgov.org/wga/publicat/WREZ09.pdf>

["This Phase 1 Report of the four-phase Western Renewable Energy Zones initiative achieves several important outcomes. First, it takes important steps toward identifying those areas throughout the Western Interconnection that feature the potential for large scale development of renewable resources in areas with low environmental impacts, subject to resource-specific permitting processes.... Second, this Report marks the completion of important work to assist evaluating various transmission strategies.... Finally, this Report identifies the breadth of renewable energy potential across the Western Interconnection, beyond the potential that will be identified in the Western Renewable Energy Zones."] [Request #S09-21-3904]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR POLLUTION

“Association between Local Traffic-Generated Air Pollution and Preeclampsia and Preterm Delivery in the South Coast Air Basin of California.” By Jun Wu and others. IN: Environmental Health Perspectives, doi: 10.1289/ehp.0800334. (June 24, 2009) 39 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ehponline.org/members/2009/0800334/0800334.pdf>

["Local scientists studied the relationship of traffic pollution, preterm birth and a complication called preeclampsia that can lead to maternal and perinatal morbidity. By measuring pregnant women's exposure to chemicals emitted by local traffic (nitrogen oxides and particulate matter), the researchers concluded that the risk for preeclampsia increased by as much as 42% at the highest exposures. The risk for 'very preterm delivery' (meaning delivery when the fetus is less than 30 weeks old) increased by as much as 128% for women exposed to the highest levels. The study was the first to look at the connection between preeclampsia and air toxics." Los Angeles Times (June 25, 2009) 1.] [Request #S09-21-3868]

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GREEN HOUSE GASES

Retrofitting of Coal-Fired Power Plants for CO2 Emissions Reductions. By Melanie Kenderdine and others, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (The Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts) 2009. 45 p.

Full text at: <http://web.mit.edu/mitei/docs/reports/meeting-report.pdf>

["Finding an economical way to capture carbon dioxide from existing coal burning power plants is key to getting China to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions as well as for U.S. efforts to combat global warming. The report concludes that the United States cannot meet its targets for stabilizing greenhouse gases unless it finds a way to economically capture carbon dioxide emissions coming from existing coal-burning power plants.... Multiple technologies are being explored for carbon capture, but the government still has not adequately supported carbon capture research and is moving too slowly to develop large demonstration projects to show that capturing carbon dioxide and injecting it into the ground will work at the scale needed." Associated Press (June 19, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-21-3911]

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Evaluating Options for U.S Greenhouse-Gas Mitigation Using Multiple Criteria. By Nicholas Burger and others, RAND Corporation. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) 2009. 54 p.

Full text at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP252.pdf

["Choosing a set of policy responses to mitigate greenhouse gases (GHGs) responsible for climate change is one of the great challenges that the United States faces in the coming years. Many policy options emphasize overall cost-effectiveness in reducing GHG emissions. In the search for options that are effective and politically feasible, however, other concerns have comparable importance. Mitigating GHGs in practice will require balancing cost-effectiveness and other objectives that reflect the institutional and political realities of passing major federal legislation with widespread impacts on U.S. producers and consumers. This paper develops a framework for evaluating GHG mitigation policy in the United States that balances several criteria."]
[Request #S09-21-3902]

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GROUNDWATER

Groundwater Availability of the Central Valley Aquifer, California. By Claudia C. Faunt and others, U.S. Geological Survey. (The Survey, Reston, Virginia) July 2009. 225 p.

Full text at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/1766/m>

["California's San Joaquin Valley has lost 60 million acre-feet of groundwater since 1961. That's enough water for 60 Folsom reservoirs.... The Central Valley is America's largest farming region; it's also the single-largest zone of groundwater pumping. About 20 percent of groundwater pumped in America comes from under the Central Valley.... In the Sacramento Valley, the study found groundwater levels have remained stable. Virtually all of the groundwater loss has occurred in the San Joaquin Valley, where aquifer levels have dropped nearly 400 feet since 1961.... California is the only state in which groundwater use is almost completely unregulated. California well owners are not required to report pumping or consumption patterns." Sacramento Bee (July 16, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-21-3908]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

COURTS

Language Access In State Courts. By Laura Abel, Brennan Center for Justice. (The Center, New York, New York) July 2009. 80 p.

Full text at: http://brennan.3cdn.net/c611a37ee2b6eb199e_9bm6b3so4.pdf

["The court system can be a bewildering place for anyone, but it can be terrifying for those who do not understand English. Federal law requires civil and criminal courts that receive federal financing to provide free interpreters for those with limited proficiency in English. But while interpreters are commonly offered in criminal cases, many states do not require the services in all civil cases. The state of California provides interpreters in some civil cases and not others.... The study examined the 35 states with the highest immigrant populations and found that interpreter services are not always provided, or not provided well, and are not keeping up with growing demand.... While some states have made progress in the last decade, 'the state courts are just slow to comply,' said Laura Abel." New York Times (July 3, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-21-3889]

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INCOME TAXES

Raising State Income Taxes on High-Income Taxpayers. By Elizabeth C. McNichol and others, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) April 20, 2009. 13 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/files/4-20-09sfp.pdf>

["The personal income tax, a major source of revenue for 41 states, can yield a significant amount of money from small rate increases that involve a relatively low number of taxpayers -- those that are best able to afford the cost.... An effective way to tap this revenue source is to create an additional tax bracket at the top of the existing income tax rate structure. The first decision a state must make is to determine the income cut-off. One option is an additional rate applied to incomes above \$1 million.... Another way a state could choose the cut-off for the new bracket would be to structure it to affect only the top 1 percent of taxpayers rather than those above a particular income level."]

[Request #S09-21-3611]

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STATE TAXES

Taxing Sins: Are Excise Taxes Efficient? By Katelyn Christ and Richard Williams, Mercatus Center at George Mason University. (The Center, Arlington, Virginia) May 2009. 4 p.

Full text at:

http://www.mercatus.org/uploadedFiles/Mercatus/Publications/RSP_MOP52_Taxing%20Sins_web.pdf

["Most economists, particularly those in public finance, find it preferable to raise revenue by taxing a broad base at a low rate in order to maximize the amount of revenue while reducing the distortions to the economy. The opposite of a broad-based tax is an excise tax, a tax levied on particular goods.... Policies that tax sweetened soft drink for the purposes of reducing obesity and, in some cases, raising funds to advance this goal seek the same economic legitimacy as past attempts to tax 'sin products' like tobacco, alcohol, and firearms. Not surprisingly, though, this tax raises efficiency concerns similar to those taxes. Taxes on sweetened soft drinks do not necessarily advance the overall public interest, may be regressive in nature, and hardly ever work as intended."]

[Request #S09-21-3833]

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TAXES

Behavioral Economics and Tax Policy. By William J. Congdon, The Brookings Institution, and others. (The Institution, Washington, DC) June 2009. 21 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0616_behavioral_economics_kling/0616_behavioral_economics_kling.pdf

["We argue that the implications of behavioral economics -- the integration of economics and the psychology of preference formation and choice -- for public policy, including tax policy, have yet to be systematically explored, and that this oversight leads to both mistaken policy and missed opportunity.... Because a complete reconceptualization of tax policy from the ground up is beyond the scope of a single review paper, we take the approach of working through the implications of behavioral economics in a series of extended examples, from each of three distinct levels of analysis for tax policy: understanding the welfare consequences of taxation, using the tax system as a platform for policy implementation, and employing taxes as an element of policy design."]

[Request #S09-21-3874]

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HEALTH

FOOD SAFETY

Bottled Water: FDA Safety and Consumer Protections Are Often Less Stringent Than Comparable EPA Protections for Tap Water. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-610. (The Office, Washington, DC) June 2009. 56 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09610.pdf>

["FDA's bottled water standard of quality regulations generally mirror the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) national primary drinking water regulations.... FDA's regulation of bottled water, particularly when compared with EPA's regulation of tap water, reveal key differences in the agencies' statutory authorities. Of particular note, FDA does not have the specific statutory authority to require bottlers to use certified laboratories for water quality tests or to report test results, even if violations of the standards are found. Among GAO's other findings, the state requirements to safeguard bottled water often exceed FDA's, but still are often less comprehensive than state requirements to safeguard tap water."]

[Request #S09-21-3920]

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MEDICAID

Medicaid Outreach and Enrollment for Pregnant Women: What Is the State of the Art? By Shelly Gehshan, National Academy for State Health Policy, and others. (The Urban Institute, Washington, DC) May 2009. 142 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411898_pregnant_women.pdf

["The level of attention that federal and state policymakers have focused on publicly sponsored health insurance for pregnant women has fluctuated.... This study presents findings from a 50-state analysis of Medicaid outreach and enrollment strategies targeting pregnant women. The study finds significant variation across states, but observes that the majority have policies to facilitate pregnant women's access to coverage through simplified enrollment; however, there is considerable room for improvement in outreach efforts and enhanced prenatal care. The paper presents policy recommendations for state officials to facilitate enrollment of pregnant women, raise public awareness of available coverage, and broaden the scope of prenatal care."]

[Request #S09-21-3917]

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MEDI-CAL

Independent Living Center of Southern California, Inc. et al. v. David Maxwell-Jolly, Director of the Department of Health Care Services, State of California. U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. 08-56422, 08-56554. July 9, 2009. 31 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2009/07/15/08-56422.pdf>

["California acted illegally by trying to cut Medi-Cal fees by 10 percent last year for doctors, pharmacists and others who treat 7.1 million poor people.... The court said California had violated a federal law that requires states to set rates at levels that will pay for quality care and lead to equal access to health services for poor people. The federal government pays half the costs of the Medicaid program, which is called Medi-Cal in California. State health officials and legislators did not study how the cuts would affect Medi-Cal patients and acted entirely for economic reasons.... The ruling requires the state to reimburse doctors, dentists, pharmacists, clinics and adult day health care centers by the amounts that the state cut from their fees July 1, 2008." San Francisco Chronicle (July 10, 2009) 1.]

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OBESITY

F as in Fat 2009: How Obesity Policies are Failing in America. By Jeffrey Levi and others, Trust for America's Health. (The Trust, Washington, DC) July 2009.

[Adult obesity went up in 23 states. If that weren't bad enough, in 30 states, the percentage of overweight or obese children is at or above 30%. Take a bow, Mississippi, you're No. 1 for the fifth year in a row, with an adult obesity rate of 32.5%. Colorado ranks lowest at 18.9%. And California is in 41st place with 23.6%. Mississippi also holds the No. 1 spot for obese and overweight children ages 10 to 17, with a rate of 44.4%. Utah and Minnesota tied for the bottom spot at 23.1%, and California is in 28th place at 30.5%.... The report's National Strategy to Combat Obesity recommends increasing the availability of affordable, healthful foods everywhere; limiting screen time; and giving healthy foods and beverages to schoolchildren." Los Angeles Times (July 1, 2009) 1.]

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Report. 108 p.

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity2009/Obesity2009Report.pdf>

Executive Summary. 8 p.

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity2009/Obesity2009Summary.pdf>

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The Economic Costs of Overweight, Obesity and Physical Inactivity Among California Adults: 2006. By Chenoweth & Associates, Inc. (The California Center for Public Health Advocacy, Davis, California) July 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/costofobesity.html>

["The excess weight and inactive habits of many Californians don't only exact a personal toll, they're saddling businesses and taxpayers with more than \$41 billion in annual costs.... If the trend continues, the economic toll of excess weight and inactivity will rise to \$52.7 billion in 2011. Half the costs were attributed to health care expenses, and half to lost productivity, such as absenteeism. These figures demonstrate the real and very unsettling financial impact of the obesity epidemic on a California economy already in crisis," said Harold Goldstein, executive director of the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. "We need to stop unnecessary use of precious dollars in this area as quickly as possible." Contra Costa Times (July 9, 2009) 1.]

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HOUSING

HOME OWNERSHIP

The Housing Problem and the Economic Crisis: A Review and Evaluation of Policy Prescriptions. By Ashok D. Bardhan and others, University of California, Berkeley. (University of California, Oakland, California) June 2009. 80 p.

Full text at:

<http://repositories.cdlib.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1059&context=iber/fcreue>

["It is clear that in order to restore economic growth and confidence internationally, policies must be designed and implemented to stabilize the housing market. With this objective in mind, our paper analyzes and evaluates a wide and comprehensive spectrum of policy proposals that have been put forward to deal with the critical issue of housing foreclosures and the need to stabilize the housing and housing finance sector. We also describe the genesis and evolution of the crisis, as well as present our own cross-state analysis of the determinants of subprime mortgages and foreclosures.... Proposed plans include solutions involving auxiliary loans, shared appreciation mortgages, standards for renegotiated principal, across-the-board rate adjustments, creation of new Government institutions and legal reform."]

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REAL ESTATE LOANS

Why Don't Lenders Renegotiate More Home Mortgages? Redefaults, Self-Cures, and Securitization. By Manuel Adelino and others, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. (The Bank, Atlanta, Georgia) July 6, 2009. 41 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bos.frb.org/economic/ppdp/2009/ppdp0904.pdf>

["American policy makers have long held that mortgage modification is one of the best ways to tackle the country's housing bust.... The sticking point, according to conventional wisdom is securitization.... The economists looked at sample of mortgages in a huge data set.... Differences between securitized mortgages and others were scant.... Why are lenders so reluctant to renegotiate? One reason is that it often fails. Almost half of renegotiated loans are delinquent again within six months. And when house prices are falling, to delay foreclosure means taking a big loss.... The study also suggests a second reason for the reluctance to renegotiate. Almost a third of seriously delinquent borrowers 'self-cured' within a year. They either paid off their mortgages or caught up on their payments." The Economist (July 11, 2009) 73.]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

Understanding the Child Welfare System in California: A Primer for Service Providers and Policymakers. By Diane F. Reed and Kate Karpilow, California Center for Research on Women and Families. (The Center, Oakland, California) June 2009. 48 p.

Full text at: http://www.ccrwf.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/final_web_pdf.pdf

["The report was first released in 2002, and this updated edition serves the same fundamental purpose as the original publication -- to provide local and state leaders and service providers a concise overview of the public institutions, laws, funding streams, and key issues that one must understand to successfully navigate, serve, and improve California's child welfare system.... There has been dramatic -- but mostly unsung -- success in reducing the number of children in the child welfare system, particularly foster care. From 1998 to 2008, the number of children in out-of-home placement, or foster care, decreased by 37 percent, from 108,057 to 68,475, due largely to increases in the adoption and placement of children with extended family members, improved efforts to coordinate services, and stepped-up prevention activities."]

[Request #S09-21-3912]

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HUNGER

Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report 2009. By Rachel Cooper and others, Food Research and Action Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2009. 17 p.

Full text at: http://www.frac.org/pdf/summer_report_2009.pdf

["The parents of children who relied on the National School Lunch Program for free or reduced-price meals every day during the 2007-2008 school year must figure out how to prevent their children from going hungry during the summer. The two federal Summer Nutrition Programs are designed to fill this food gap and provide children from low-income families the kind of nutritious meals and snacks in the summer that they receive during the school year.... The disparities in participation among the 50 states plus the District of Columbia are dramatic. Only 10 states managed to reach at least one quarter of their low-income children in July 2008. Not only are states with low Summer Nutrition participation rates failing to provide for their low-income children, they are missing out on the millions of dollars in federal funds that exist to provide healthy foods for these children."]

[Request #S09-21-3898]

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LEGAL AID

And Justice for All: Prioritizing Free Legal Assistance During the Great Recession. By Joy Moses, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2009. 22 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/07/pdf/legal_services.pdf

["Families are struggling with the challenges associated with the foreclosure crisis as well as with accessing government benefits, dealing with family strife caused by stress, and consumer concerns.... The recession is only widening the gap between the haves and the have-nots as avenues that provide free legal services to the poor are facing a series of financial challenges.... Closing the justice gap and ensuring low-income families can access needed resources will require substantial new commitments. At this point the federal government and the private bar may be best suited to contribute to the solution, but state and local governments, law schools, foundations, and individual donors can also play a role."]

[Request #S09-21-3888]

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PARENTS

Parenting Education is Economic Development. By Elaine Weiss and Grace Lee, Partnership for America's Economic Success. (The Partnership, Washington, DC) June 2009. 4 p.

Full text at:

http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/uploads/20090708_PAESParentingBriefFinal.pdf

["High-quality parenting education programs, implemented wisely, can sharply increase children's odds of healthy social, behavioral and cognitive development, helping them become the engaged citizens and productive workers our country needs. In addition, reductions in costs related to crime -- from victims' costs to police, court and prison expenses -- are substantial. These findings make a strong case for greater investment in effective parenting programs and highlight the need for further research to more fully understand how and why promising initiatives achieve positive outcomes."]

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TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC CONGESTION

2009 Urban Mobility Report. By David Schrank and Tim Lomax, Texas Transportation Institute. (The Institute, College Station, Texas) July 2009. 134 p.

Full text at: <http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/>

["Los Angeles and Orange counties continued to have the worst traffic congestion in the country in 2007, although motorists experienced slightly less delay as a surge in gasoline prices discouraged travel. Researchers said, however, that the current recession would prolong the respite only temporarily. When the economy rebounds, the growth in traffic-related delay will resume.... The average driver in Los Angeles and Orange counties spent an extra 70 hours in traffic in 2007 because of congestion, about two hours less than in 2006.... Nationally, traffic-related delay and wasted fuel cost motorists \$87.2 billion in 2007, more than \$750 per traveler.... About 4.2 billion hours were wasted -- the equivalent of one week per motorist." Los Angeles Times (July 9, 2009) 1.]
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