

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

September 1910 “The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company last night carried out a feat in telephone circles, or it might be said, in telephone vibrations. The company connected a phonograph horn with a transmitter in such a way that records played here could be listened to in the lobby of the Coliseum in San Francisco, where a convention of general electric appliance men is being held. Then, talking over the long-distance line, the local officials were assured by a newspaper representative in San Francisco that the music was heard very plainly by all present. Newspaper men of this city were put on the wire to verify the fact that the music was really going from Los Angeles.” Los Angeles Times (September 20, 1910) p. I13.

1910 “What is declared to be the first actual demonstration of the wireless telephone in America took place this afternoon between stations in Sacramento and Stockton, a distance of fifty miles. The wires which send and receive are supported from poles 208 feet high on the principle of the wireless telegraph.... The demonstration today was considered a little crude in view of the fact that the apparatus has not arrived as yet to allow both stations to carry on a conversation the same as on a wire telephone. After sending the message, it was necessary to reverse the power and get an answer through a receiver much the same as the ordinary telephone.” Los Angeles Times (February 24, 1910) p. I3.

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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.
- *Studies in the News* is also available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

DRUGS

Scapegoating Immigrants: Arizona's Real Crisis Is Rooted in State Residents' Soaring Drug Abuse. By Mike Males and Daniel Macallair, Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. (The Center, San Francisco, California) August 2010. 11 p.

Full text at: http://www.cjcj.org/files/Scapegoating_Immigrants.pdf

["Based on a detailed analysis of law enforcement reports on crime rates in Arizona and the growth of the state's Hispanic population over the past 20 years, this report finds that widespread assertions by many opinion leaders attributing rising crime to increased immigration are not confirmed by the best information available. To the contrary, this analysis found that crime rates in Arizona have fallen precipitously over the past 20 years as immigration has increased.... Why, then, has panic over illegal immigration suddenly emerged as a political and news media force? This report suggests that new fears toward immigration have become conflated with deeper anxieties over Arizona's unadmitted crisis of soaring drug abuse among its resident population."]

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GUNS & GUN CONTROL

Drive-By America. By the Violence Policy Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2010. 18 p.

Full text at: <http://www.vpc.org/studies/driveby2010.pdf>

["California led the nation in drive-by shootings during a six-month period in 2008 with 148 reported shootings that killed 40 and injured 129.... When it comes to California, 39 percent of the shootings happened at a residence. Forty-two percent of them occurred between 7 p.m. and midnight. Seventeen percent of those dead or injured in California were said to be under the age of 18, and 32 percent of the news reports noted 'potential gang involvement.'... The study recommends looking into whether a drive-by-shooting category could be added to uniform crime reports; having communities with higher instances of drive-by shootings collect their own information on them; and having state and federal policies 'focus on limiting the caliber and capacity of firearms marketed to the general public.'" California Watch (July 22, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-17-5056]

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PRISONER REENTRY

System Change Accomplishments of the Corporation for Supportive Housing's Returning Home Initiative. By Jocelyn Fontaine, the Urban Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) June 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412157-returning-home-initiative.pdf>

["In 2006, the Corporation for Supportive Housing launched its Returning Home Initiative (RHI) with two goals: 1) to establish permanent supportive housing as an essential reentry component for formerly incarcerated persons with histories of homelessness, mental illness, and chronic health conditions; and 2) to promote local and national policy changes to integrate the corrections, housing, mental health, and human service systems. The Urban Institute assessed the process of system change stimulated by the RHI activities in three communities that received significant RHI investment and other jurisdictions. In addition, the report identifies challenges and lessons learned from the RHI to date.... The initial geographic focus of the RHI was the nation's three largest cities -- New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago."]

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VICTIMS

Student Victimization in U.S. Schools: Results From the 2007 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey. By Jill Fleury DeVoe and Lynn Bauer, Education Statistics Services Institute. (National Center for Education Statistics, Washington, DC) July 2010. 75 p.

Full text at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010319.pdf>

["In the school year 2006–07, about 4.3 percent of students ages 12 through 18 reported that they were victims of any crime at school. Three percent reported being victims of theft, 1.6 percent of students reported a violent victimization, and 0.4 percent of students reported a serious violent victimization. Three percent of both males and females reported being victims of theft at school.... Thirty-eight percent of student victims of any crime reported the presence of gangs at school compared to 22.6 percent of students who were nonvictims.... About 48.3 percent of student victims of theft and 50.3 percent of student victims of violent crime said drugs were available at their schools, compared to 31.6 percent of students who were not victims."]

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DEMOGRAPHY

IMMIGRATION

U.S. Unauthorized Immigration Flows Are Down Sharply Since Mid-Decade. By Jeffrey Passel and D'Vera Cohn, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2010. 37 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/126.pdf>

["After years of rapid growth, illegal immigration is slowing down in California and across the country, with the state's share of the nation's estimated 11.1 million undocumented immigrants dropping to 23% from 42% in 1990.... The study, which is drawn largely from Census data and labor statistics, cited the recession and increased border enforcement as possible reasons for the slowdown. Several South Atlantic states between Delaware and Georgia that have become new immigrant magnets in recent years, have also seen a decline in its illegal migrant population." Los Angeles Times (September 1, 2010) 1.]
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Young Children of Immigrants: The Leading Edge of America's Future. By Karina Fortuny, the Urban Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) August 2010. 14 p.

Full text at: <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412203-young-children.pdf>

["This brief highlights the life circumstances of young children age 0 to 8 growing up in immigrant families. The number of young children of immigrants has doubled since 1990; this increase accounts for the entire growth in the U.S. population of young children since 1990.... Young children of immigrants are still highly concentrated, but they and their families have been dispersing to nontraditional immigrant states.... Most young children of immigrants are U.S. citizens, but half live in families with noncitizen parents.... Parental education varies substantially across immigrant origin.... The incidence of two-parent families is higher for young children of immigrants."]
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ECONOMY

ECONOMIC POLICY

Economic Growth and Institutional Innovation: Outlines of a Reform Agenda.
By William A. Galston, Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) June 2010. 8 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/0601_innovation_galston/pb_172.pdf

[“Today’s economic crisis is characterized by three distinct but linked deficits -- the fiscal deficit, the savings deficit and the investment deficit. Meeting these challenges and laying the foundation for sustained economic growth will require institutional as well as policy changes. The following institution-based recommendations would help the nation meet the current economic crisis and could help prevent future crises of similar destructiveness: 1) To promote fiscal sustainability, change long-term budget procedures and create empowered commissions -- answerable to Congress but largely insulated from day-to-day politics; 2) To boost savings, consider new mandatory individual retirement accounts as a supplement to Social Security; and 3) To improve public investment, create a National Infrastructure Bank with public seed capital.”]
[Request #S10-17-4985]

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EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Working for California: The Impact of the California State University System.
By ICF International. (Office of the Chancellor, Long Beach, California) May 2010. 144 p.

Full text at: <http://www.calstate.edu/impact/>

["The CSU provides a significant source of benefit to the California economy by generating revenues and creating jobs throughout local economies.... The CSU-related expenditures for wages and salaries; capital equipment and supplies; student spending on textbooks, meals and housing; and an array of other items related to its educational mission for the 2008-09 academic year totaled \$7.96 billion. The full economic impact of this \$7.96 billion of direct CSU-related expenditures is estimated at nearly \$17 billion. Simply stated, each dollar of direct spending by the CSU ‘grows’ to \$2.13 when indirect and induced spending is considered. This level of spending activity supports almost 150,000 California jobs annually and generates over \$995 million in annual taxes for state and local governments."]
[Request #S10-17-5201]

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INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING

Framework Conditions for Foreign and Domestic Private Investment in California's Infrastructure: Seizing the P3 Opportunity. By Sean Randolph, Bay Area Council Economic Institute. (The Council, San Francisco, California) July 2010. 46 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bayeconfor.org/media/files/pdf/SeizingtheP3opportunity.pdf>

["Ultimately, California must decide how to close the gap between what the state needs built and what private investors want to build.... A process that shows that the public sector knows what it wants, knows how it is going to get it, has clear rules for engagement, has a funding strategy, and can effectively allocate risks and rewards, will enable both domestic and overseas boards of directors to more easily make investment decisions in California's favor. To successfully attract infrastructure investment on a large scale, California must also offer a critical mass of revenue-generating projects that meet competitive national and global risk-reward standards. The potential scale of California's infrastructure market is perhaps its greatest advantage in the global competition for P3 investment."]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

World Trade Organization (WTO): Issues in the Debate on Continued U.S. Participation. By Raymond J. Ahearn and Ian F. Fergusson, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) June 16, 2010. 41 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R41291_20100616.pdf

["The purpose of this report is to analyze some of the main issues in any debate on U.S. participation in the WTO and to address some of the criticisms leveled at the organization. Academic studies indicate that the United States benefits from broad reductions in trade barriers worldwide, but some workers and industries might not share in those gains.... The United States has been a frequent participant in WTO dispute proceedings, both as a complainant and as a respondent. There have been complaints that countries do not adhere to decisions and that U.S. trade remedy laws have not been judged properly. Certain advocates for the environment, food safety, labor, development, and financial regulation have criticized the WTO. Much of the criticism is based on interpretations of various WTO agreements or rulings that have been controversial."]

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EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

The College Completion Agenda: 2010 Progress Report. By John Michael Lee, Jr. and Anita Rawls, the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center. (The Center, New York, New York) July 2010. 228 p.

Full text at: <http://completionagenda.collegeboard.org/>

["The percentage of American adults with postsecondary credentials is not keeping pace with other industrialized nations. Improving postsecondary success for all our citizens, but most urgently for low-income and minority students, is critical to our nation's economic and social health. To help policymakers and educators achieve the goal of 55% by 2025, The Center has developed the College Completion Agenda and a companion State Policy Guide that was co-created with the National Conference of State Legislatures. They combine comprehensive research from nationally recognized sources with best-practice policy examples, all aligned around 10 key recommendations. The agenda's purpose is to provide reliable, measurable information that tracks our collective progress, as well as policymaking strategies each state can use to help reach our destination."]

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READING

Lessons in Reading Reform: Finding What Works. By Julian R. Betts, Public Policy Institute of California, and others. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) August 2010. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=922>

["The San Diego Unified School District, the nation's eighth-largest, launched an ambitious program of literacy reforms in 2000 aimed at narrowing reading achievement gaps.... This study summarizes our statistical evaluation of all of the reforms over the five-year period, drawing lessons for educators about why some elements of the [program] succeeded and how they could be implemented elsewhere. Elements that appeared particularly helpful were extended-length English classes in middle school and an extended school year for low-performing elementary schools.... One of the lessons of the Blueprint is that specific changes in both state and federal government policy could foster these kinds of ambitious reforms elsewhere, at the school district level.... But perhaps the most important lesson for education policymakers is that many of the reforms took several years to bear fruit."]

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TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

Measuring What Matters: A Stronger Accountability Model for Teacher Education. By Edward Crowe. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) July 2010. 44 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/07/teacher_accountability.html

["Our current system for holding U.S. teacher education programs accountable doesn't guarantee program quality or serve the needs of schools and students. State oversight for teacher preparation programs mostly ignores the impact of graduates on the K-12 students they teach, and it gives little attention to where graduates teach or how long they remain in the profession..... The redesigned accountability system proposed in this paper is an effort to direct regulatory oversight to things that matter: whether or not K-12 students are learning, how well teachers have developed the classroom teaching skills to be effective with their students, a graduate's commitment to teaching as a professional career, feedback from graduates and employers, and high-quality tests of teacher knowledge and skills that are tied to classroom teaching performance and K-12 student learning."]

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Using Performance on the Job to Inform Teacher Tenure Decisions. By Dan Goldhaber, University of Washington, Bothel, and Michael Hansen, National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) May 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001385-using-performance-calder-brief10.pdf>

["As a number of states begin to revamp their tenure-granting policies, the idea that high-stakes personnel decisions need to be linked to direct measures of teacher effectiveness is gaining traction among education policymakers. Contributing to the debate over policies that enhance teacher quality, this brief evaluates how well early-career performance signals teacher effectiveness after tenure.... Today, teaching is a relatively low-risk occupation as salaries are generally determined by degree and experience levels, and job security within the field is high. Policies that make the occupation more risky might induce different types of entrants, but economic theory also suggests that teacher quality will only be maintained if salaries are increased enough to offset any increased risk associated with becoming a teacher."]

[Request #S10-17-5213]

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Problems with the Use of Student Test Scores to Evaluate Teachers. By Eva L. Baker, University of California, Los Angeles, and others. (Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC) August 2010. 29 p.

Full text at: http://epi.3cdn.net/b9667271ee6c154195_t9m6iij8k.pdf

["While there are good reasons for concern about the current system of teacher evaluation, there are also good reasons to be concerned about claims that measuring teachers' effectiveness largely by student test scores will lead to improved student achievement. If new laws or policies specifically require that teachers be fired if their students' test scores do not rise by a certain amount, then more teachers might well be terminated than is now the case. But there is not strong evidence to indicate either that the departing teachers would actually be the weakest teachers, or that the departing teachers would be replaced by more effective ones. There is also little or no evidence for the claim that teachers will be more motivated to improve student learning if teachers are evaluated or monetarily rewarded for student test score gains."]

[Request #S10-17-5251]

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EMPLOYMENT

IMMIGRATION

Evidence Shows Immigrants Come to Work, Not to Collect Welfare. By Stuart Anderson, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) August 2010. 3 p.

Full text at: http://www.cato.org/pubs/irb/irb_august2010.pdf

["Concerns about immigrant welfare use do not represent valid grounds for supporting reductions in legal immigration. Nor is it reasonable to oppose a better approach to addressing illegal immigration, such as by instituting new temporary visa categories. Historically, immigrants have come to America not for a handout, but in search of opportunity. There is no reason to think this will change."]

[Request #S10-17-5254]

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JOB CREATION

Investing in Care: A Strategy for Effective and Equitable Job Creation. By Rania Antonopoulos and others, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. (The Institute, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York) August 2010. 30 p.

Full text at: http://www.levyinstitute.org/pubs/wp_610.pdf

["In this paper we analyze the job creation potential of social service -- delivery sectors -- early childhood development and home-based health care -- as compared to other proposed alternatives in infrastructure construction and energy. Our microsimulation results suggest that investing in the care sector creates more jobs in total, at double the rate of infrastructure investment. The second finding is that these jobs are more effective in reaching disadvantaged workers -- those from poor households and with lower levels of educational attainment. Job creation in these sectors can easily be rolled out. States already have mechanisms and implementation capacity in place. All that is required is policy recalibration to allow funds to be channeled into sectors that deliver jobs both more efficiently and more equitably."]

[Request #S10-17-5255]

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LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

Where the Jobs Are: A First Look at Private Industry Job Growth and Wages in 2010. By the National Employment Law Project. (The Project, New York, New York) August 2010. 16 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nelp.org/page/-/Justice/2010/WhereTheJobsAreAugust2010.pdf?nocdn=1>

["Job growth is anemic and not nearly strong enough to make up for two years' worth of job losses or move the needle on unemployment. That said, over the past seven months the private sector has seen a net gain of 630,000 jobs, giving us the opportunity to take a first look at where the jobs are growing, and what types of opportunities they are providing to America's workers -- job seekers, new labor market entrants, and current job holders. In this data brief, we use a unique synthesis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data to track private industry employment and wages from December 2007 (the start of the recession) through July 2010 (the most recent month of data available)."]

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LABOR UNIONS

The State of the Unions in 2010: A Profile of Union Membership in Los Angeles, California and the Nation. By Lauren D. Appelbaum, UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, and Ben Zipperer, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. (The Institute, Los Angeles, California) September 2010. 15 p.

Full text at: <http://www.irle.ucla.edu/research/pdfs/StateoftheUnions2010.pdf>

["The recession is taking a toll on union jobs, which are disappearing in California at a faster rate than anywhere else in the country. In the 12 months ending in June, the union membership rate dropped from 18.3% to 17.6% in California and from 12.4% to 12.1% nationwide. The drop was most acute in the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, Ventura and San Bernardino, where unionization rates fell from 17.5% to 16.5%. The loss of union jobs has wiped out two years of gains, putting membership rates in the U.S. and California back to around 2007-08 levels.... The losses have been particularly acute in private sector industries such as residential construction and manufacturing." Los Angeles Times (September 6, 2010) 1.]

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ENERGY

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Using Biofuel Tax Credits to Achieve Energy and Environmental Policy Goals. By Ron Gecan and Rob Johansson, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/114xx/doc11477/07-14-Biofuels.pdf>

["The costs to taxpayers of reducing consumption of petroleum fuels differ by biofuel. Such costs depend on the size of the tax credit for each fuel, the changes in federal revenues that result from the difference in the excise taxes collected on sales of gasoline and biofuels, and the amount of biofuels that would have been produced if the credits had not been available.... In the future, the scheduled rise in mandated volumes would require the production of biofuels in amounts that are probably beyond what the market would produce. To the extent that the mandates determine levels of production in the future, the biofuel tax credits would no longer be increasing production, but they would still be reducing the costs borne by producers and consumers of biofuels and shifting some of those costs to taxpayers."]

[Request #S10-17-5097]

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ENERGY POLICY

Strengthening Clean Energy Competitiveness: Opportunities for America Competes Reauthorization. By Rob Atkinson, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, and others. (Breakthrough Institute, Oakland, California) June 2010. 24 p.

Full text at:

http://thebreakthrough.org/blog/Strengthening_Clean_Energy_Competitiveness.pdf

["As important as the environmental objectives are, clean energy innovation is also an economic imperative. Unfortunately, the United States is lagging behind in this race, in part because it lacks an effective strategy to compete.... This report offers a number of recommendations organized around three guiding themes: 1) Increasing the scale of investment in clean energy education, research and innovation, and production and manufacturing; 2) Funding innovative programs that offer new institutional paradigms for accelerating the pace of clean energy innovation; and 3) Effectively leveraging federal investments by fostering coordination between existing and new clean energy innovation programs to spur regional public-private collaboration, strengthen clean energy industry clusters, and accelerate technology innovation, manufacturing, and commercialization."]

[Request #S10-17-5030]

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SOLAR POWER

Solar and Nuclear Costs - The Historic Crossover: Solar Energy is Now the Better Buy. By John O. Blackburn and Sam Cunningham, Duke University. (Waste Awareness & Reduction Network, Durham, North Carolina) July 2010. 18 p.

Full text at: http://www.ncwarn.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/NCW-SolarReport_final1.pdf

["Solar photovoltaic systems have long been painted as a clean way to generate electricity, but expensive compared with other alternatives to oil, like nuclear power. No longer. In a 'historic crossover,' the costs of solar photovoltaic systems have declined to the point where they are lower than the rising projected costs of new nuclear plants. This crossover occurred at 16 cents per kilowatt hour. While solar power costs have been declining, the costs of nuclear power have been rising inexorably over the past eight years.... The study was prepared for an environmental advocacy group, which is committed to 'tackling the accelerating crisis posed by climate change -- along with the various risks of nuclear power.'" New York Times (July 26, 2010) 1.]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

AGRICULTURE

Tests Indicate that Imported “Extra Virgin” Olive Oil Often Fails International and USDA Standards. By Edwin N. Frankel, University of California, Davis, and others. (UC Davis Olive Center, Davis, California) July 2010. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://olivecenter.ucdavis.edu/news-events/news/files/olive%20oil%20final%20071410%20.pdf>

["In a first of its kind study by a U.S. academic institution, the UCD research team found that 69 percent of the imported oils sampled failed to meet internationally accepted standards for extra virgin olive oil. By comparison, only 10 percent of the California-produced oils in the test failed to meet those standards.... By definition, extra virgin oil must be extracted from the olive without heat or solvent and meet specific criteria for quality, smell and taste. But many of the oils tested did not meet those standards due to oxidation, adulteration with cheaper refined olive oil or poor-quality oils made from damaged and overripe olives, processing flaws or improper oil storage. Oxidation also may be caused by improper storage, including exposure to high temperatures and light as well as aging." Sacramento Bee (July 15, 2010) 1.] [Request #S10-17-5192]

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Updated Economic Analysis of the WCI Regional Cap-and-Trade Program. By the Western Climate Initiative. (The Initiative, Denver, Colorado) July 2010. 57 p.

Full text at: <http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/news-and-updates/119-wci-releases-updated-economic-analysis>

["An updated economic analysis confirms that its regional plan to reduce greenhouse emissions (GHG) is both environmentally achievable and economically positive. The economic analysis indicates that the WCI Partner jurisdictions can achieve the goal of reducing emissions to 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 -- and realize net cost savings of approximately US\$100 billion between 2012 and 2020.... The updated economic analysis considered a range of scenarios with varying assumptions about future economic growth, fuel prices, and other factors. In each instance, the analysis showed that the WCI program would deliver net cost savings -- even when the assumptions resulted in different carbon allowance prices. These findings are similar to the results of other recent economic analyses."] [Request #S10-17-5197]

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WATER CONSERVATION

California's Next Million Acre-Feet: Saving Water, Energy, and Money. By Heather Cooley and others, the Pacific Institute. (The Institute, Oakland, California) September 2010. 28 p.

Full text at:

http://www.pacinst.org/reports/next_million_acre_feet/next_million_acre_feet.pdf

["A report lays out water-saving ideas it says could save California a million acre-feet of water a year through whittling water use in homes, business and farming. Many of the ideas are being used already, such as tiered water prices, drip irrigation and water-saving clothes washers, but the report pushed to make these practices commonplace.... If the suggestions in the report are followed, the estimated cost would be \$1.9 billion, shared by state, federal and local agencies as well as residents and landowners, with a cost of \$185 an acre-foot. The report contrasts this with the cost for the \$3 billion to provide 184,000 acre-feet of water a year by building Sites Reservoir near Maxwell, a cost of \$520 per acre-foot." Chico Enterprise-Record (September 8, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-17-5263]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CITIZENSHIP

Birthright Citizenship in the United States: A Global Comparison. By Jon Feere, Center for Immigration Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 2010. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cis.org/articles/2010/birthright.pdf>

["Only 30 of the world's 194 countries grant automatic citizenship to children born to illegal aliens. Of advanced economies, Canada and the United States are the only countries that grant automatic citizenship to children born to illegal aliens. No European country grants automatic citizenship to children of illegal aliens. The global trend is moving away from automatic birthright citizenship as many countries that once had such policies have ended them in recent decades.... This Backgrounder briefly explains some policy concerns that result from an expansive application of the Citizenship Clause, highlights recent legislative efforts to change the policy, provides a historical overview of the development of the 14th Amendment's Citizenship Clause, and includes a discussion of how other countries approach birthright citizenship."]

[Request #S10-17-5215]

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FEDERAL / STATE RELATIONS

State and Local Governments: Fiscal Pressures Could Have Implications for Future Delivery of Intergovernmental Programs. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-899. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 2010. 47 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10899.pdf>

["All levels of government face long-term fiscal challenges which could affect future federal funding of intergovernmental programs, as well as the potential capacity of state and local governments to help fund and implement these programs. The interconnectedness which defines intergovernmental programs requires that officials at all levels of government remain aware of and ready to respond to fiscal pressures. These pressures have implications for a wide range of federal, state, and local programs, policies, and activities, and include costs associated with health care, physical infrastructure, state and local employee pensions and retiree health benefits, and education, among other areas."]

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Qualified Patients Association, et al. v. City of Anaheim. California Court of Appeals, Fourth Appellate District. G040077. August 18, 2010. 38 p.

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/G040077.PDF>

["A court issued a split ruling in a closely watched medical marijuana case but failed to decide whether cities in the state can ban pot dispensaries or be forced to accept them. Ruling in the case of an Orange County medical marijuana patients' group that sued after being denied the right to operate a dispensary in Anaheim, the court rejected city arguments that state legislation allowing dispensaries improperly amended California's 1996 medical marijuana law. But the court also rejected arguments by Qualified Patients Association that the Anaheim ban violates California's Unruh Civil Rights Act against discrimination." Sacramento Bee (August 19, 2010) 1.]

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Toward a Culture of Consequences: Performance-Based Accountability Systems for Public Services. By Brian M. Stecher and others, RAND Corporation. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) August 2010. 273 p.

Full text at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2010/RAND_MG1019.pdf

["During the past two decades, performance-based accountability -- the application of incentives on the basis of measured outcomes as a means of improving services to the public -- has gained popularity in a wide range of public service fields. This monograph presents the findings of a cross-sector analysis of the effectiveness of performance-based accountability systems (PBASs) for improving public services in child care, education, health care, public health emergency preparedness, and transportation.... The monograph is directed toward decisionmakers charged with designing PBASs for public services who want to know how to develop and implement a system effectively. It should also be of interest to policymakers and their staffs who are charged with deciding whether to adopt a PBAS and why and how to evaluate one."]

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PROPOSITIONS

The Case of the Stolen Initiative: Were the Voters Framed? By Craig M. Burnett, Appalachian State University, and Vladimir Kogan, University of California, San Diego. (The Authors, San Diego, California) September 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://polisci2.ucsd.edu/vkogan/research/stoleninitiative.pdf>

["Those who fight ballot language wars do so because they believe that how a measure is officially presented on the ballot could affect the outcome of the election.... Two political scientists conducted what they call a 'unique survey experiment based on three actual ballot measures that have appeared in several states to explore this question.' They concluded that ballot summaries could affect outcomes, but 'the effect of framing is far from absolute. Exposure to campaign information -- in particular, endorsements from prominent interest groups -- attenuates the effect of a framed ballot measure, helping voters cast reasoned votes. In a realistic campaign environment where voters are bombarded by millions of dollars in advertising and direct appeals from political parties and other elites, ballot measure framing is unlikely to change election outcomes.'" Sacramento Bee (August 12, 2010) 1.]

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HEALTH

HEALTH CARE

California Health Care Almanac: Quality of Care Facts and Figures. By the California HealthCare Foundation. (The Foundation, Oakland, California) August 2010. 50 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.chcf.org/~media/Files/PDF/Q/PDF%20QualityOfCareFactsAndFigures10.pdf>

["Despite heightened attention paid to patient safety issues in recent years, the quality of health care across the country is improving slowly. Although incremental gains have been made, the United States overall, and California in particular, are still grappling with questions of quality. The almanac shows some bright spots in childbirth-related measures, cancer incidence, and some condition-specific indicators, but still illustrates that there is more work to be done in providing appropriate care for many hospital and long term care patients.... Although California continues to perform better than the nation on most childbirth-related measures, its maternal mortality rate more than doubled from 1999 to 2006.... In spite of greater attention in recent years, California nursing homes compare poorly to national averages across a variety of quality measures, especially with the use of restraints."][Request #S10-17-5223]

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MEDICAID

Medicaid Policy and Long-Term Care Spending: An Interactive View. By James W. Fossett and Courtney E. Burke, Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) August 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/health_care/2010-08-Medicaid_Policy.pdf

["Medicaid plays a particularly important role in financing long-term care for the elderly. It pays for approximately one half of all long-term care costs in the U.S., and finances care for about two-thirds of all nursing home residents. About 35 percent of Medicaid spending in 2004 was for long-term care. The average Medicaid payment per elderly beneficiary was approximately five times as large as the average payment per nondisabled adult or child... A measure of Medicaid program generosity, applied in this paper, explains more variation in states' long-term care spending than individual policy measures analyzed in previous research.... Variations in this measure may have important implications for understanding the differences in states' use of home- and community-based waiver programs."][Request #S10-17-5229]

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PHYSICIANS

California Unprepared for the Aging of the Baby Boom: Cutbacks at the California State University System Reduce Workforce Readiness. By Steven Wallace and others, California Geriatric Education Center. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) July 2010. 2 p.

Full text at: http://www.geronet.ucla.edu/images/stories/CGEC_issue_brief.pdf

["This issue brief describes how state budget cuts to California State University system are affecting gerontological education -- in the form of fewer classes, fewer faculty and less administrative support for those faculty. It details the impact of FY2009-10 budget cuts to the 23 campuses of the CSU system and the subsequent loss of \$584 million in state funding, resulting in salary and hiring freezes for faculty and staff, furloughs and restrictions on student enrollment. The California state universities train the largest number of social workers, psychologists, program managers, policy analysts, nurses, and others who will staff the positions that current and future older adults rely upon."]

[Request #S10-17-5221]

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TOXICOLOGY

"Lead and Bisphenol A Concentrations in the Canadian Population." By Tracey Bushnik and others. IN: Health Reports, vol. 21, no. 3 (September, 2010) 13 p.

Full text at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2010003/article/11324-eng.pdf>

["Bisphenol A, a widely used chemical that Canada is banning from baby bottles, is present in the bodies of 91 percent of Canadians, according to a report that shows just how prevalent the controversial chemical is in daily life. Statistics Canada said the report was the first time it has measured the extent that the industrial chemical, known as BPA, has been absorbed by people exposed to it. 'The real value in this is... for the very first time (we) have baseline information against which we can study trends and track what is happening with respect to bisphenol A exposure,' said Tracey Bushnik... It found a mean concentration of 1.16 micrograms per liter in the urine of Canadians tested. Teenagers had the highest concentrations of BPA, while children between 6 and 11 had higher concentrations than adults over 40." Reuters (August 17, 2010) 1.]

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HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS

True North: The Facts about the Canadian Mortgage Banking System. By David Min, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/08/true_north.html

["Given the relative stability of Canadian housing markets, many observers try to draw comparisons between the housing finance policies of Canada and the United States. Why is it that the United States suffered through such a painful housing bubble and bust in the last decade, while Canada did not?... The answer, quite simply, is that Canada did not become enthralled with the laissez faire ideology that dominated U.S. economic policy making in the 2000s, and thus did not allow major gaps in its regulation of housing finance to develop.... While private-label mortgage securitization saw large market share increases in the United States in the last decade, this financing channel remained a negligible source of mortgage lending in Canada, remaining at less than 3 percent of the Canadian market during the 2000s."][Request #S10-17-5259]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

Promoting the Social-emotional Wellbeing of Infants and Toddlers in Early Intervention Programs: Promising Strategies in Four Communities. By Taniesha A. Woods and others, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) June 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_946.pdf

["State Early Intervention programs provided through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act offer unique opportunities to enhance children's chances of realizing their full educational and personal potential. Early Intervention (EI) services provided to infants and toddlers, birth up to age 3, with identified disabilities, can greatly reduce the long-term negative consequences of early developmental delays.... Despite our current knowledge about the importance of young children's social-emotional wellbeing, EI programs across states show highly varying levels of attention to the social-emotional needs of infants and toddlers. However, promising policies and practices are emerging in some states and communities, and these suggest strategies for strengthening the efforts of EI programs."][Request #S10-17-5016]

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ELDERLY

Elders Who Can't Make Ends Meet in California As Measured by the California Elder Economic Security Standard Index. By the Insight Center for Community Economic Development. (The Center, Oakland, California) August 2010. AND: Older Adults Need Twice the Federal Poverty Level to Make Ends Meet in California. By Steven P. Wallace and others, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) September 2010.

["The California Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index) is a new tool that quantifies how much income is needed for a senior with a given living arrangement and geographic location to adequately meet his or her basic needs living in the community. It is the only elder-specific financial measure of its kind, based on credible, publicly available sources and has been calculated for all 58 California Counties."]

[Request #S10-17-5150]

Elders who Can't Make Ends Meet. Various pagings.

<http://www.insightcced.org/communities/besa/cal-eesi/elder-index.html>

Older Adults Need Twice the Poverty Level. 8 p.

<http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/Publication.aspx?pubID=423>

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WELFARE TO WORK

How Effective Are Different Approaches Aiming to Increase Employment Retention and Advancement?: Final Impacts for Twelve Models. By Richard Hendra, MDRC, and others. (MDRC, New York, New York) April 2010. 540 p.

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/558/overview.html>

["Research completed since the 1980s has yielded substantial knowledge about how to help welfare recipients and other low-income individuals prepare for and find jobs. Many participants in these successful job preparation and placement programs, however, ended up in unstable, low-paying jobs, and little was known about how to effectively help them keep employment and advance in their jobs. The national Employment Retention and Advancement project sought to fill this knowledge gap, by examining over a dozen innovative and diverse employment retention and advancement models developed by states and localities for different target groups, to determine whether effective strategies could be identified."]

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WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM

WIC Food Package Should Be Based On Science: Foods with New Functional Ingredients Should Be Provided Only If They Deliver Health or Nutritional Benefits. By Zoë Neuberger, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 4, 2010. 14 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/files/6-4-10fa.pdf>

["Several foods offered through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) are now sold in higher-priced versions containing 'functional ingredients' that manufacturers claim confer health and developmental benefits. While the FDA ensures that these ingredients are safe, the FDA does not assess whether they are beneficial. Moreover, WIC has no mechanism for considering scientific evidence when deciding whether to purchase foods with these ingredients -- using taxpayer funds -- for millions of low-income women and very young children. To fill this void, Congress should include a provision in pending WIC reauthorization legislation directing USDA, which operates the WIC program, to get expert advice from the independent Institute of Medicine before deciding whether to offer more costly products with functional ingredients."][Request #S10-17-5004]

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TRANSPORTATION

FINANCING

Highway Trust Fund; Nearly All States Received More Funding Than They Contributed in Highway Taxes Since 2005. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-780. (The Office, Washington, DC) June 2010. 34 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10780.pdf>

["Since 2005, every state received as much or more funding for highway programs than they contributed to the Highway Account of the trust fund. This was possible because more funding was authorized and apportioned than was collected from the states and the fund needed to be augmented with general revenues. If the percentage of funds states contributed to the total is compared with the percentage of funds states received (i.e., relative share), then 28 states received a relatively lower share and 22 states received a relatively higher share than they contributed. Thus, depending on the method of calculation, the same state can appear to be either a donor or donee state.... The infusion of general revenues into the Highway Trust Fund affects the relationship between funding and contributions, as a significant amount of highway funding is no longer provided by highway users."]
[Request #S10-17-5238]

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Restoring Trust In the Highway Trust Fund. By Robert Poole and Adrian Moore, Reason Foundation. (The Foundation, Los Angeles, California) August 2010. 41 p.

Full text at: <http://reason.org/studies/show/highway-trust-fund-reform>

["This study accepts the case for large-scale increases in highway investment, to eliminate the backlog of cost-effective highway and bridge repair and modernization projects to rebuild the aging Interstate system as it begins reaching the end of its original design life, and to improve mobility for people and goods where needed.... On the other hand, asking federal highway users to pay substantially more in order to fund expanded programs for sidewalks, bikeways, recreational trails and more transit is unlikely to succeed, since the large majority of highway users do not use, and would not benefit from, these mostly localized urban projects. Principles of federalism suggest that these kinds of projects are more appropriately funded at state or local levels of government."]

[Request #S10-17-5242]

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HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Review of "Bay Area/California High-Speed Rail Ridership and Revenue Forecasting Study." By David Brownstone and others, University of California, Berkeley. (Institute of Transportation Studies, Berkeley, California) June 2010. 59 p.

Full text at: <http://www.its.berkeley.edu/publications/UCB/2010/RR/UCB-ITS-RR-2010-1.pdf>

["Ridership forecasts for the California high-speed rail project are so unreliable that it is difficult to predict whether the proposed bullet train will be profitable or suffer severe revenue shortfalls, according to a report.... Predictions of ridership are crucial to the \$42-billion project because they form the basis of ticket income, public funding forecasts, private investment decisions and equipment needs. Recent ridership predictions by the authority estimate that the system will have between 88 million and 117 million passengers a year by 2030. However, under various scenarios offered by the rail authority, the number of passengers could be as low as 40 million passengers a year.... The rail authority's chief executive officer, Roelof van Ark, took particular issue with the new report's conclusion that the bullet train could experience revenue shortfalls." Los Angeles Times (July 1, 2010.) 1.]

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Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train: Revised FINAL Program Environmental Impact Report. By the California High-Speed Rail Authority. (The Authority, Sacramento, California) August 2010. Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/library.asp?p=14062>

["The California High-Speed Rail Authority released a revised environmental study that stands by its ridership projections, despite a contention from project opponents that the numbers are inflated. The revised environmental impact report was unveiled after Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny tentatively ruled he won't reopen a 2008 lawsuit that sought to block bullet trains from zooming up and down the Peninsula. The cities of Atherton and Menlo Park -- along with the Planning and Conservation League, California Rail Foundation, and Bay Rail Alliance -- have argued that the lawsuit should proceed because studies they commissioned show the rail authority skewed ridership projections to justify running the Los Angeles-to-San Francisco line through the Peninsula instead of the East Bay." San Jose Mercury News (August 21, 2010) 1.]
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Thinking Ahead: High-Speed Rail in Southern California. By the Institute of Transportation Studies and the Center for Urban Infrastructure. (The Center, Irvine, California) Summer 2010. 31 p.

Full text at: <http://www.c-u-i.org/images/study.pdf>

["The proposal to build a high-speed rail system in California has the potential to create more than 127,000 permanent jobs in the Los Angeles-Orange County area by 2035 and contribute to the economic revitalization of the region.... As proposed, the high-speed rail system would run 800 miles from Los Angeles to San Francisco with links to Anaheim, Sacramento and San Diego. Plans call for one of the initial phases to be built between Los Angeles and Anaheim.... Cities with stations would use high-speed rail as a focal point for new commercial and residential projects, so-called transit-oriented development. In addition, researchers concluded that by 2035 high-speed rail would prevent the release of about half a billion pounds of greenhouse gases annually as travelers increasingly rely on trains instead of their cars." Los Angeles Times (August 26, 2010) 1.]
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