

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

A Nonpartisan Resource for Information and Analysis

A selection of op-eds and editorials from the U.S. and around the world.

Clinton's Comeback

March 6, 2008

Hillary Clinton's victories in Ohio and Texas excite comment around the world on Thursday. The *Australian* says in an editorial that Democrats again appear to have become their own worst enemies on the eve of a presidential election campaign. The *Christian Science Monitor* believes that if Clinton wins the next "big" state, Pennsylvania, on April 22, the race will likely last into the party's August convention. The *Guardian* says that even after Clinton's three victories this week, it is hard to see how she will assemble the votes to win the nomination. The *New York Times*, in an editorial, says the failure to resolve the Democratic nomination means there is still a chance to raise serious debate about major issues. Karl Rove, former deputy chief of staff to President George W. Bush, writes in the *Wall Street Journal* that the Democratic contest has not shifted to advantage Mrs. Clinton. The *Washington Post* says, in an editorial, that the lack of a conclusion to the Democratic primary race is a phenomenon that's not optimal for the party, but that could be healthy for the democratic process.

Also in today's papers:

Age (Australia)

- In a separate editorial on the United States primaries, the paper argues that it would be misguided to underestimate the Republicans' ability to retain the presidency.

Belfast Telegraph

- In an editorial on the announcement by the First Minister of Northern Ireland, Ian Paisley, that he will soon be stepping down, the paper describes his decision to enter a coalition with rival republicans as the unlikeliest conversion since Paul on the road to Damascus.

Daily Nation (Kenya)

- In an editorial on the day parliament convenes to vote on last week's power-sharing agreement, the paper calls on MPs to unanimously vote for the bills aiming to create the positions of prime minister and his deputies, and also to re-organize the management of government.

Daily Telegraph

- In an editorial on John McCain's securing of the Republican nomination, the *Telegraph* says that considering the depth of George W. Bush's unpopularity, for a Republican candidate to be in such an advantageous position is extraordinary.
- Columnist Iain Martin, writing about the vote in the British parliament not to have a referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon, calls it squalid example of bullying and gerrymandering.

Dawn (Pakistan)

- In an editorial on Pakistan's lack of a government more than two weeks after a general election, the paper says the two biggest parties and their allies need to work together on all fronts, accepting blame for any mistakes and problems jointly instead of scoring points when it becomes politically expedient.

Financial Times

- In an editorial, the paper says the Republicans in the United States have two reasons to celebrate Tuesday's primary contests: First, because their own race for the nomination is over, and second, because the contest for the Democratic nomination might now drag on for months.
- In a further editorial, the *FT* says that the United States, with the assistance of Arab allies like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, should seek an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and an end to Israel's siege.
- Josu Jon Imaz, the former general secretary of PNV, the Basque nationalist party, writes that Europe needs a common energy market.

Guardian

- In an editorial on the retirement of Ian Paisley, the paper says that while rose-tinted retrospection is a temptation, Paisley's CV is a long list of moves that inflamed sectarian tension.
- The president of Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams, a bitter rival of Paisley's for most of his life, writes that Paisley helped to radicalize his generation, but that his lasting legacy will be helping secure peace.

Independent (London)

- The paper's Northern Ireland correspondent, David McKittrick, writes that most of Paisley's career was not a pretty sight, featuring torrents of bigotry.
- In an editorial on Britain's debate over the European Union treaty, the paper says it should be quite clear to the objective observer that this treaty does not represent a shift in Britain's relationship with the European Union worthy of a referendum, no matter what the Eurosceptic lobby maintains.

Jerusalem Post

- In an editorial following the visit of U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice to the West Bank, the *Post* says the boycott of peace talks by the Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas follows a pattern established well before the current escalation in Gaza.

Jordan Times

- In an editorial on the same subject, the paper asks what the point of negotiations is if the United States does not do something to stop Israel's violence.

New York Times

- In an editorial on rising tensions in South America, the *Times* says it is hard to believe that in the 21st century the democratically elected governments of Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela would be talking about war.

News (Pakistan)

- In an editorial, the paper expresses concern that over two weeks after the completion of the February 18 polls, a new government has yet to take charge in Islamabad.

Times of India

- In an editorial on the presidential race in the United States, the *Times* says the course of U.S.-India relations is unlikely to change, no matter which of the three contestants eventually succeeds Bush, adding that India is now too big a player on the global stage to be ignored by any US administration.

Times of London

- In an editorial on Ian Paisley, the *Times* describes the timing of his loss as profoundly unfortunate.

- Dean Godson of Policy Exchange tells his readers to forget the patronising encomiums to the Mr Paisley from such long-time foes as Gerry Adams and the British and Irish governments: the truth is, he says, that “the Doc” is shuffling off the political stage as a pathetic shadow of his former self.
- Columnist Magnus Linklater says the world is sleepwalking towards a food crisis.

Wall Street Journal

- In an editorial, the paper says it has seen some puzzlers over the years, but admits it never expected to see a Federal Reserve Chairman talking down the capital cushion of the nation's banking system.
- In a further editorial, the *Journal* considers how the World Bank has damaged its reputation in Kenya after endorsing President Kibaki's claim to victory in last December's election.
- Kyoko Nakayama, a special adviser to the Japanese prime minister, laments the stalling of the six-party talks on North Korea, and thus the issue dear to Japanese people's hearts: the rescue of their country's abductees in North Korea.
- Luke Allnutt of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty writes that recent prisoner releases in Belarus provide an unprecedented opportunity for the West--and in particular the European Union--to engage that country.
- Greg Rushford of the Rushford Report examines the credibility of American leadership in promoting free trade in the wake of a recent World Trade Organisation ruling on the taxation of shrimp imports.

Washington Post

- Columnist George F. Will, writing about Cuba, says Fidel Castro's departure means nothing. Castroism remains and Cuba still suffers, he says.
- In one of several op-eds the *Post* carries on the presidential primaries, columnist David Broder says it has been a magnificent campaign on both sides, adding that he believes that the best of it may still lie ahead.

Washington Times

- In an editorial, the *Times* considers the credentials of Mike Huckabee as an eventual running mate for the Republican nominee John McCain.

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