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The New York Times

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2009

IRAQ WAR ENDS

ation Sets Its Sights on Building Sane Economy

e Cost Tax, Salary Caps, Trust-Busting Top List

By T. VEBLEN

he President has called for passage of the Safeguards New Economy (S.A.N.E.) bill, omnibus economic package ludes a federal maximum wage, ndatory "True Cost Account- g" a phased withdrawal from mplex financial instruments, d other measures intended to prove life for ordinary Ameri- ns. (See highlights box on Page 10.) He also repeated earlier calls r passage of the "Ban on Lobby- g" bill currently making its way hrough Congress.

Treasury Secretary Paul Krug- man stressed the importance of the bill. "Markets make great ser- vants, terrible leaders, and absurd religions," said Krugman, quoting Paul Hawken, an advocate of cor- porate responsibility and author of "Blessed Unrest, How the Larg- est Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming."

"At this point, the market is our leader and our religion. No won- der the median standard of living has been declining so much for so long."

Krugman said that the new Treasury bill seeks to ensure the prosperity of all citizens, rather than simply supporting large cor- porations and the wealthy. "The market is supposed to serve us. Unfortunately, we have ended up serving the market. That's very bad."

Much as Roosevelt, after the Great Depression, put the brakes on C.E.O. wages and irresponsible banking practices, administration officials claim that today we need to rein in the industry that has caused such chaos and misery.

"The building blocks of post- World War II American middle- class prosperity have all been swept away," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who initially op-

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Maximum Wage Law Succeeds

Salary Caps Will Help Stabilize Economy

By J.K. MALONE

WASHINGTON — After long and often bitter debate, Congress has passed legislation, fiercely fought for by labor and progressive groups, that will limit top salaries to fifteen times the minimum wage. Tying the bill to a plan of overall reform of the U.S. economy, the bill echoes a similar effort enacted by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1942, which was followed by the longest period of growth for the middle class in U.S. history.

"When C.E.O. salaries remain stable thanks to high taxation of high salaries, there's little incentive to take big risks with shareholders' money, and the economy remains in a steady growth mode," said Sen- ator Barney Frank, one of the bill's co-sponsors. "But when C.E.O. sala- ries can fly through the roof, there's a very strong incentive for C.E.O.s

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TREASURY ANNOUNCES "TRUE COST" TAX PLAN

By MARCUS S. DRIGGS

The long-awaited "True Cost" plan, which requires product pric- es to reflect their cost to society, has been signed into law.

Beginning next month, throw- away items like plastic water bottles and other items which are wasteful or damaging to the envi- ronment will be heavily taxed, as in many developed countries. Steep taxes will also apply to large cars and gasoline.

The new plan calls for a 200 per- cent tax on gasoline, comparable to the one long in effect in most Eu- ropean countries. Companies and consumers are already switching in droves from inefficient gas vehi- cles to new electric cars. "We sud- denly have a waiting list 200 names long for the EV1," said Jake Cluber, the owner of Cluber Chevrolet in

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COURTESY ARMY MIL

U.S. Army helicopters begin moving troops and equipment from Saddam Hussein's former Baghdad palace.

Recruiters Train for New Life
As a ban is imposed on recruiting minors, ex-recruiters nationwide look for new work. The Times fol- lows one on his job-hunt odyssey through Manhattan and surround- ing areas.

BY BARRY GLOAD, PAGE A12

USA Patriot Act Repealed
Eight years later, a shamefaced Congress quietly repeals the much-maligned USA Patriot Act, unanimously... or almost.

BY SYBIL LUDINGTON, PAGE A5

Evangelicals Open Homes to Refugees
Up to a million Iraqi exiles — nearly half of the total — will find sanctuary in Christian homes across the U.S., vows the National Association of Evangelicals. Other denominations are expected to follow.

BY W. WILBERFORCE, PAGE A7

Last to Die
Two proportional monuments — one to the Iraqi dead, 300 feet high, and one to the American dead, 15 feet high — are unveiled in Baghdad, and a five-year-old boy whose lifespan coincided with that of the Iraq War is remembered.

BY J. FINSTEIRA, PAGE A5

Public Relations Industry Starts to Shut Down
The public relations industry has been criticized for misleading the American people, corrupting politicians, and even helping to start wars. Now, it's beginning the process of shutting down for good.

BY LOUIS BECK, PAGE A10

Troops to Return Immediately

By JUDE SHUNBIN

WASHINGTON — Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation En- during Freedom were brought to an unceremonious close today with a quiet announcement by the Department of Defense that troops would be home within weeks.

"This is the best face we can put on the most unfortunate adven- ture in modern American history," Defense spokesman Kevin Sites said at a special joint session of Congress. "Today, we can finally enjoy peace — not the peace of the brave, perhaps, but at least peace."

As U.S. and coalition troops withdraw from Iraq and Afghani- stan, the United Nations will move in to perform peacekeeping duties and aid in rebuilding. The U.N. will be responsible for keeping the two countries stable; coordinating the rebuilding of hospitals, schools, highways, and other infrastruc- ture; and overseeing upcoming elections.

The Department of the Treasury confirmed that all U.N. dues owed by the U.S. were paid as of this morning, and that moneys previ- ously earmarked for the war would be sent directly to the U.N.'s Iraq Oversight Body.

The president noted that the Iraq War had resulted in the barri- ing of many bridges. "Yet our his- tory with our allies runs deep," he said, "and we all know that friends forgive friends for anything. Or nearly." A spokesperson for the French Ministry of Defense con- firmed that France would assist the U.S. withdrawal. "The U.S. helped the Soviet Union defeat Hitler. We do recognize that."

In conflict zones worldwide, leaders and rebels pledged peace. (See "In Conflict Zones Worldwide, Peace Moves," on Page A4.)

On Wall Street, reactions were mixed, with the Dow Jones Indus- trial Average up 84 points, to close at 4,212. While KBR stock was quickly downgraded to a "junk" rating of BBB-, defense contrac- tors such as Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman started up.

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Ex-Secretary Apologizes for W.M.D. Scare

300,000 Troops Never Faced Risk of Instant Obliteration

By FRANK LARIMORE

Ex-Secretary of State Condolee- za Rice reassured soldiers that the Bush Administration had known well before the invasion that Sadd- am Hussein lacked weapons of mass destruction.

"Now that all of you brave servicemen and women are re- turning, it's important to us to reassure you, and the American people, that we were certain Hus- sein had no W.M.D.s and that he would never launch a first strike against the U.S.," Ms. Rice told a group of wounded soldiers at a Veterans' Administration hospital yesterday.

"I want you to know that if we had had the slightest suspicion that Saddam could use W.M.D.s against you, we never would have sent hundreds of thousands of you to be sitting ducks on the Iraqi border for several months."

Mr. Rice was referring to the fact that by August 2002, eight months before the ground invasion, the US had over 100,000 troops stationed in countries throughout the Gulf, a number that grew to over 300,000 shortly before the 2003 attack on Baghdad. Most of these were with- in range of the Scud missiles used by Mr. Hussein in the 1991 Gulf War, that could easily have been fitted with chemical or biological weapons if they had existed.

Nationalized Oil To Fund Climate Change Efforts

By MARION K. HUBBERT

Congress has voted to place ExxonMobil, ChevronTexaco, and other major oil companies under public stewardship, with the bulk of the companies' profits put in a public trust administered by the United Nations, and used for alternative energy research and

Popular Pressure Ushers Recent Progressive Tilt

Study Cites Movements for Massive Shift in DC

By SAMUEL FIELDEN

The spate of reform initiatives undertaken by the Administration and both houses of Congress can be attributed directly to grass- according to a

The report includes extensive in- terviews with House and Senate staff, who speak of "unimaginable change," a "dramatic policy shift," and "a new era of accountability"

ALL THE NEWS

Barely a week after President Obama's historic election victory, thousands of commuters in New York City and Los Angeles were startled to read that the war in Iraq was over, universal health care was a reality, and George W. Bush had been imprisoned—all according to a "special edition" of the *New York Times*. Distributed freely, the 14-page hoax was virtually indistinguishable from the real thing, except for its altered motto ("All the News We Hope to Print").

Fans of political satire won't be surprised to learn that provocateur **Igor Vamos '90** was behind the spoof. A leading member of the prank-pulling, left-leaning Yes Men, Vamos is also known for launching the Barbie Liberation Organization, the group that switched the voice boxes of hundreds of GI Joes and Barbies nationwide. (Astounded shoppers listened to GI Joe giggle, "Math is hard!" and Barbie growl, "Vengeance is mine!") This latest caper united the Yes Men with like-minded organizations and volunteers to pose, as Vamos wrote in an email, "hopeful solutions geared towards making people ask 'Why not? Why is this not real?'" Answers forthcoming (we hope) from the Obama Administration.

—*Cielo Lutino '94*