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## Sunday's Letters to the Editor

Posted: 01/24/2009 10:00:00 PM PST  
Infrastructure goals

As President Obama begins his term and California legislators continue to struggle with the state budget deficit, both are talking about fast-tracking infrastructure projects in order to stimulate the national, state and local economies.

We applaud these steps to improve our aging infrastructure while putting our residents back to work. However, care must be exercised in executing these specific infrastructure plans.

In order to get the biggest bang for our scarce tax dollars we encourage our state and federal legislators, as well as our county supervisors and City Council members to develop specific guidelines on how such contracts will be allocated to the private sector to maximize employment of residents within the region in which the infrastructure project will be undertaken.

By having a competitive bidding process open to both union and non-union contractors, along with clear goals for staffing projects with local residents and priority allocation of at least 20 percent of such contracts to local small businesses, we will lower overall contract costs while improving employment.

The time is also perfect for private companies to partner with state and local governments in the Public Private Partnership structure championed by Gov. Schwarzenegger. The joint planning and execution of critical projects throughout the state can bring together the best minds from the private sector and the government to address other local, state and national projects, while spreading the risks and rewards to the public and private sector. We also support the expediting of environmental approvals requested by Gov. Schwarzenegger in order to start these (often) fully funded projects as soon as possible.

Blake Christian

Chairman of the Long Beach Area

Chamber of Commerce

~~The bum's Rush~~

~~Re "Rush to judgment" (Letters, Jan. 23):~~

~~I disagree with (letter writer) Jerry Patrone, who says Rush Limbaugh owes an apology to President Obama for expressing his hope that Obama will fail.~~

~~Any such apology would make absolutely no difference in the president's efforts to bring our country back from the brink of disaster, but it might give a tiny inkling of civility to the reputation of Limbaugh, something he would immediately sully by issuing another outrageous statement.~~

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Dode Penrod

Long Beach

Jerry Patrone wrote in his letter that many conservatives labeled critics of the war in Iraq as anti-American. That statement has been bandied about by the left since the war started and is a flat-out lie. He further states that Mr. Limbaugh is "hoping for further harm to the United States," which is another incorrect statement. Rush Limbaugh hopes President Obama's socialist intentions fail - something I hope and pray will happen as well.

And ironically, Mr. Patrone says that if Rush cannot "come up with something constructive to say," then he should "just shut up." Now let me get this straight. For eight years, the loony left has had nothing constructive to say about President Bush - in fact, he has been labeled a Nazi, a warmonger, stupid, unintelligent, etc. - and now on the second day of President Obama's administration, conservatives are being told not to criticize our new president and just "shut up." To any thinking person, there is clearly a double standard being promoted here.

But if the "Fairness Doctrine" is implemented by the Obama administration, conservatives will be "shut up" by the government - something not even considered by conservatives. And that would be anti-American.

Christopher T. Hicks

Long Beach

After Guantanamo closes ...

Now that we have scheduled Gitmo to close, just so we can get the world to love us again, many questions come to mind.

Will the world be satisfied with just relocating Gitmo to some other place in America and renaming it? And where are we going to put these kind gentlemen, since the hypocritical world doesn't want anything to do with them?

I suggest the new location should be in a blue state, since it was their idea to close Gitmo. How about Long Beach or San Francisco or L.A.? They may be released one day, and we wouldn't want them to be greeted by those mean-spirited red state, gun-toting, brainless people, now would we? Plus I'm sure those kind, sensitive, blue state people will be more helpful to those angry young unemployed terrorists.

Paul Najera

Santa Fe Springs

Where do we put the Gitmo detainees? I have four suggestions:

By Raffle: Write all the cities' names that had 90 percent or more votes for Obama on pieces of paper. Put them in a hat, and let President Obama pick the winner.

Washington, D.C.: With three electoral votes, it had the highest percentage (93 percent) of votes for Obama.

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Hawaii: It had the highest state percentage (72 percent) of votes for Obama. It is the birthplace of our president. It is not part of the continental U.S. In fact, the island of Niihau, or "the Forbidden Isle," would be an ideal choice. It is off-limits to the general public, but not the Navy or government officials.

Iraq: Let the courts that tried Saddam Hussein deal with the suspected terrorists.

Russ Hoekman

Lakewood

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