

- President Obama, seeing a challenge on the horizon, dispatched the secretary of education, Arne Duncan, to attack Texas's education record as a proxy for Rick Perry. "I feel very, very badly for the children there," Secretary Duncan said, compounding illiteracy with innumeracy: Building on an earlier observation by the blog-ger lowahawk, AEI scholar Andrew Biggs ran the numbers and found that Texas students' test scores run at about the national average. But the white students, black students, Hispanic students, Asian students, and Native American students in Texas outperform their counterparts in most other states. In Texas, as in most states, black and Hispanic students lag their white and Asian peers, and the fact that Texas scores about average rather than well above average is largely a result of its demographic mix, which includes a lot of poor immigrants whose first language is not English. Texas's race-weighted test scores are in the 71st percentile nationally, Biggs calculated, but its per-pupil spending is only in the 36th percentile. Better-than-average outcomes, lower-than-average spending: Secretary Duncan cannot say as much of the Chicago schools he once supervised. He should be asking Perry for tips.

"But Dad, if you don't raise my allowance I'll exceed my debt ceiling and face total shutdown!"



NBS NEWS DIVISION



"You've written a nice editorial on Sarah Palin here, but change 'said' to 'spewed' and 'speech' to 'vitriol'."

- Las Vegas casino mogul Steve Wynn, a noted Democrat, believes that he has discovered the main impediment to job growth: President Obama. "The business community in this country is frightened to death of the weird political philosophy of the president of the United States," he said in a conference call with investors. "This administration is the greatest wet blanket to business and progress and job creation in my lifetime." Mr. Wynn might note that the administration's chief legislative enabler is his dear friend Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, and that his continued support of Reid helps ensure that President Obama's "weird political philosophy" becomes the law of the land.

- International pressure is mounting to create a state of Palestine. Palestinian leaders are laying down numerous pre-conditions, and one of them is that their state must be racially pure. Hamas spokesmen in Gaza quite straightforwardly propose to achieve this through genocide. Speaking as leader of the movement's military wing, Muhammad Deif informs Israelis that they have "no right to even an inch" of land but are "on the path to extinction." For another Hamas leader, Ahmed al-Jaabari, Israelis face only the choice of "death or exile." The future state will consist of the West Bank alone, however, as Mahmoud Abbas, its titular president, wages undeclared war against Hamas and cannot even return to his house in Gaza. But he shares their racism. In the event that there is a Palestinian state, he emphasized at a press conference, "we won't agree to the presence of one Israeli in it." The Germans had a word for that.

