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As the World Turns – Seems the drama never ends when referring to legislators embroiled in sticky situations. Earlier in the week, former Assembly member Anthony Seminerio was handed a six year prison sentence for using his office to personally profit hundreds of thousands of dollars. Seminerio suggested such a punishment would be a “death sentence” noting... “With my health, I'm lucky if I last six months.” Seminerio pleaded guilty to “defrauding the people of New York of his honest services.” The same charges were used against former Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno who was also convicted and awaits sentencing, currently scheduled for late March. Bruno, however, is getting a little help from his friends...Capitol Confidential is reporting that many “local notables are filing pre-sentencing letters” on the former Majority Leaders behalf, requesting leniency.

Guiding Light – Ethics reform anyone? With the swish of his veto pen, the Governor killed (or at the very least, re-routed) the bi-partisan ethics reform bill passed by each house last week, noting that the effort “does not go far enough in addressing the corrosive effects of outside influence and internal decay that have caused the people of New York to lose faith and trust in their government.” He went on to say...“There are those who argue that I should sign this bill -- that this legislation would improve the status quo, and it's the most we can accomplish at this time. To them, I say, respectfully -- that is not acceptable. I realize that if I sign this bill into law, the leaders of the Legislature will celebrate their achievement and the Legislature will not address the broken ethics system again this year. On the campaign trail, politics would trump reality, and victory would be declared without being earned. As governor, I cannot allow this to happen.” Chatter around the capitol has suggested a possible override but the jury is still out...perhaps legislators will have an opportunity to discuss fully at any number of fundraisers next week?

Days of Our Lives – Another day another \$750 million! Yesterday, Governor Paterson released new estimates on the ballooning 2010-2011 fiscal deficit yesterday suggesting a “recessionary slowdown in income tax revenue and an explosion in Medicaid costs will drive the additional \$750 million shortfall, raising the projected deficit for the period ending March 2011. While the Governor is expected to formally react to the new predictions in his 21 day budget amendments, the legislature has requested “firmer numbers.” Paterson’s response to the legislature...“My partners in government are going to have to learn that we are going to have to be talking about reductions rather than restorations. They are going to have to face reality.”