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When the Ship Comes In – Due to a Supreme Court ruling yesterday afternoon, campaign coffers now have the potential to grow exponentially in the upcoming election cycle. In a surprising move, the court overturned a 60 year prohibition against corporations and unions from contributing to campaigns freely. President Obama slammed the ruling, noting "It is a major victory for big oil, Wall Street banks, health insurance companies and the other powerful interests that marshal their power every day in Washington to drown out the voices of everyday Americans." Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell countered the president's remarks to reporters in saying "For too long, some in this country have been deprived of full participation in the political process. Our democracy depends upon free speech, not just for some but for all." Hmm...perhaps we need to alter the constitution to reflect this new ruling? I can see it now... "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, *for goliath companies who can ante up millions of dollars*, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." There, all better.

Blowin In The Wind – As promised a number of Senator Montserrate's colleagues are ready to hang him out to dry as evidenced by Senator Foleys Senate Resolution (3691) which "provides for the expulsion from the New York State Senate of Senator Hiram Monserrate of the 13 Senate District." Though Foley reported earlier in the week that he would indeed file such a resolution, chatter around the capitol began to speculate whether the Senate truly had the power to expel their colleague. Precedent stemming from a case against former Assemblywoman Gerdi Lipschutz of Queens in 1987 noted that "The Assembly Committee on Ethics and Guidance concluded that the state constitution doesn't allow for expulsions..." To read more about the Lipschutz case and its findings log onto <http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/21810/is-lipschutz-an-ace-in-the-hole-for-monserrate/>

Too Much of Nothing – Governor Paterson slammed the legislatures attempt at ethics reform earlier this week..."While there are some good aspects of the ethics bill passed today by the Legislature, it does not go far enough to address the underlying issues that have caused the people of New York to lose faith and trust in their government," Paterson said in a statement Wednesday evening. "It is for this reason that I will veto this bill once it has been delivered to my desk." Those words set off a firestorm, prompting legislators to threaten an override of the governors' threatened veto. This will be an interesting showdown folks!