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5 pieces worth reading

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Sarah Huckabee Sanders has a funny idea of what the Republican Party should be

New York Times columnist Jamie Bouie argues in this essay that Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders did not appeal to the American public at large in her Republican response to President Biden's recent State of the Union speech, but instead provided something of a fan service for viewers of Fox News and related conservative news media. Bouie argued that Sanders did not offer a broad and accessible message because the party is not interested in appealing to median voters, but to its most likely supporters, who allow it to remain competitive due to gerrymandering and Constitutional features.

Bouie, J. (2023, February 14). "Sarah Huckabee Sanders has a funny idea of what the Republican Party should be." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/14/opinion/sanders-republican-party.html>

The G.O.P.'s long war against Medicare and Social Security

New York Times columnist Paul Krugman argues in this piece that Republicans were posturing when expressing supposed outrage concerning President Biden's assertion in his State of the Union address that the party wants to cut Social Security and Medicare, as reducing and eliminating these two programs has been a central position of the GOP for more than 40 years. Party leaders, including Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, Newt Gingrich, and Paul Ryan, have advocated for substantial cuts or elimination of these safety net programs when they were in the White House or led a majority in Congress.

Krugman, P. (2023, February 14). "The G.O.P.'s long war against Medicare and Social Security." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/13/opinion/columnists/republicans-medicare-social-security.html>

Nikki Haley is a poor 2024 GOP candidate

South Carolina journalist and professor Issac Bailey argues in this *CNN* piece that former South Carolina Governor and United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley will ultimately not be a viable

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

candidate for the GOP presidential nomination in 2024 because she has lost the moral high ground she once enjoyed by joining Trump's administration and by supporting policies that have hurt the residents of South Carolina.

Bailey, I. (2023, February 15). Opinion: Nikki Haley is a poor 2024 GOP candidate. *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/14/opinions/presidential-ambitions-nikki-haley-2024-bailey>

Reporter's dismissal exposes political pressures on West Virginia Public Broadcasting

This article from *NPR* addresses the relative lack of independence of West Virginia Public Broadcasting, as that organization has continually faced partisan pressure in recent years from Governor Jim Justice's administration. Those pressures have affected the organization's capacity to make independent decisions concerning the reach and character of its coverage. David Folkenflik profiles reporter Amelia Ferrell Knisley's story as an example of this scenario. Knisley was dismissed from her post with West Virginia Public Broadcasting for reporting on allegations that people with disabilities had been abused by staff members at state-run facilities after officials of an affected state agency demanded retraction of one of her key stories. Meanwhile, no one at West Virginia Broadcasting has challenged the accuracy of her reporting and Folkenflik contends that her dismissal seems to be a part of a long run trend of state political officials threatening the journalistic integrity and autonomy of the organization.

Folkenflik, D. (2023, February 13). "Reporter's dismissal exposes political pressures on West Virginia Public Broadcasting." *NPR*. Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/13/1153590012/west-virginia-public-journalist-dismissed-wvpb-political-interference>

When the seas rise in Senegal, so do the fortunes of far-right parties in Europe

In this story, a group of *NPR* reporters highlight the effects of climate change in Senegal, and suggest that far-right party leaders in Europe have encouraged African countries to take a hardline stance on immigrants trying to flee the effects of sea levels rise in their nations.

Shapiro, A., Bior, A., Caldwell, N., Macias, M., & Ozug, M. (2023, February 6). "When the seas rise in Senegal, so do the fortunes of far-right parties in Europe." *NPR*. Retrieved from <https://apps.npr.org/climate-migration-senegal-morocco-spain/>