

# DEAL IN WORKS TO KEEP MOORE AT ALABAMA



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# The Birmingham News

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## Senate OKs finance overhaul



Sen. Richard Shelby  
Opposed to law rewrite

Shelby slams bill, blasts Democrats

By MARY ORNDORFF  
News Washington correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama next week will sign a massive rewrite of the nation's banking laws over the strident objection of U.S. Sen. Rich-

ard Shelby, who excoriated Democrats in a Thursday floor speech for approving a bill he believes will threaten the American free enterprise system.

In increasingly partisan tones over the past few months, Shelby, R-Alabama, went from lead Republican negotiator on the historic legislation to its harshest critic. He put an exclamation point on his opposition

with an alarmist floor speech Thursday that left Democrats incredulous.

"I wonder if we've been in the same city and same chamber," Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said after Shelby's outburst.

Shelby, the top Republican on the banking committee for

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▶ Loan terms, tighter debt collection practices expected under reform / 8B

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Zoo loses second animal in a week

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OIL SPILL IN THE GULF

# Leak capped after 87 days



In these images taken from video provided by BP, oil flows from two of three valves on the 75-ton cap atop the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico at 5:04 p.m. on Wednesday, left. In the center, oil flows from one of three valves at 10:25 p.m. on Wednesday. And in the final image, oil no longer flows from the cap at 3:57 p.m. on Thursday.

## Relief well is viewed as final solution

By JOEL ACHENBACH  
The Washington Post

The gusher is gone. The plume is off the well. BP's Macondo well isn't dead yet, and it may be back in a flash, but at 2:25 p.m.

Thursday it ceased to spew oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

As part of what BP calls an "integrity test," a robotic submersible slowly closed a valve on the well's new sealing cap. That choked the flow until the plume, a fixture of cable TV and many a nightmare, disappeared.

The technological breakthrough came 87 days into the crisis, which began with the April 20 blowout that killed 11 workers and sent the burning rig Deepwater

Horizon to the bottom of the Gulf.

BP could nix the test at any moment and reopen the well. Whether the well remains "shut in" depends on the analysis of pressures in the well. Engineers and sci-

entists hope to see high pressure hold steady during the 48 hours allotted for the test. That would suggest that the well bore is physically intact. Lower pressure

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## Hubbert quits party post, cites AEA's interest



Paul Hubbert  
"I believe AEA's interest is better served by my resigning from a leadership role in the Democratic Party..."

By CHARLES J. DEAN  
News staff writer

It's not every day that a state political party vice chairman resigning makes news, but when the guy quitting is Paul Hubbert, well, that's news.

Hubbert, arguably the state's most powerful Democrat and a fixture in the party for more than 40 years, resigned the vice chairmanship Wednesday.

In a letter to party Chairman Joe Turnham, Hubbert said that his leadership position in the party "has at times clouded" the fact that AEA supports friends of education regardless of party and that the 105,000-member organization is made up of Democrats, Republicans and independents.

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BIRMINGHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

## New HR director reconsidered after background check

By MARIE LEECH  
News staff writer

The Birmingham Board of Education will meet this afternoon to consider whether to withdraw a job offer the board made to an Ohio man hired earlier this week to be the district's human resources director.

The board hired Craig S. Bickley on Tuesday at a salary of nearly \$111,000 and

he was to start work on July 26. However, board members say they were not aware of two issues in Bickley's work history:

▶ The Youngstown State University student newspaper reported in December 2008 that Bickley had been placed on administrative leave and later resigned from his job as chief human resources officer at the school after an investigation there

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