

POSTED BY: [TheInDecider](#)

Congressional Confidential

Join former United States Senate Pages Dylan and Ethan Ris as they bring you the dish on not just the presidential race but all the exciting triumphs and disgraces inside, outside, and below the Beltway!

Food Fight! It seems like everywhere you look, a great restaurant is going under. First it was New York's legendary **Second Avenue Deli**. Then it was that **Cracker Barrel** out by Exit 304. And now it's the Pages' own favorite dining establishment, the **U.S. Senate Food Service**. According to the *Washington Post*, [the Senate's network of restaurants is losing two million dollars a year, and a couple of know-it-all Senators want to privatize the service](#). The *Post* describes the restaurant network as "struggling like some neighborhood pizza joint" and points out that many Senate staffers have been seen sneaking over to the House of Representatives cafeteria to partake in "Taco Salad Wednesday."



Now if the Senate Dining Service went private, the employees would probably have to leave their union, which angers many pro-labor Democrats. On the other hand, privatization would break the Senate's long-standing soda monopoly, which excites many pro-**Pepsi** Republicans. Needless to say, the debate has been spirited.

We Pages would certainly not bat an eye if the Senate's basement cafeteria became, say, a **Panda Express**, but we would be very upset at any changes in the venerable [Senate Dining Room](#). This refined institution is only open to Senators and their invited guests, and has hosted power-lunches involving every Senate legend from **Henry Clay** to **Jack Abramoff**. With this in mind, we feel compelled to pass along a few tips to the good people of **Halliburton**, who will soon be serving lunch to our Senators on a no-bid contract:

- * **Sen. James Inhofe** (R-OK) takes his foie gras battered and deep-fried, extra tartar sauce.
- * **Sen. Jon Tester** (D-MT) will try to sweet-talk you into swapping his diet soda for a regular, and you need firmly say no and immediately tell his doctor.
- * Don't top off **Sen. Robert Byrd's** I.V. within an hour of closing.
- * **Sen. Jim Webb** (D-VA) has taken to killing his own food at the table, so don't be alarmed.
- * Budget Saver: Dining room staff has been passing off grits as caviar to **Sen. Susan Collins** (R-ME) for years.
- * **Sen. George Voinovich** (R-OH) still loves the famous Senate Bean Soup, but he now brings his own in [12-pound containers from Amazon.com](#).
- * **Sen. Mike Crapo** (R-ID) is lactose intolerant, in case you were looking to pull a good prank.
- * **Sen. Barack Obama** (D-IL), when cameras are present, can only eat food fried in corn ethanol.
- * **Sen. John McCain** (R-AZ) can taste non-organic bulgur in half a bite, so don't even think about getting cute on him.