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Here Are Some Things Which Are NOT Being Said About the Financial Crisis

1. **The Credit Rating Agencies Brought On This Crisis.** Investors depend on Moody's and S&P to rate investments, and those two agencies failed to recognize the poor quality of the mortgage-backed securities which are at the root of the current crisis. By rating these securities higher than they should have, the agencies fed the frenzied marketing of "stated income" and similar mortgages to unqualified borrowers. Lenders issued too many mortgages based not on whether borrowers could repay them, but on whether the loans could be resold to investors. The agencies provided that assurance. When the inevitable defaults forced a re-rating of the securities, we were brought to today's crisis. In terms of damage to the economy, those two agencies arguably

did more damage to America than the two planes that brought down the World Trade Center.

2. **The Iraq War Is Bankrupting Our Country.** I remember when the Soviet Union fell, it was said that its disastrous and costly war in Afghanistan was a major contributing factor. With our greater economic strength, we simply outlasted the Soviets financially. When Barack Obama is at-

tacked as a big-spending liberal, he should reply that social spending on the home front pales in comparison to the Iraq war — which is being waged with borrowed money. Also not discussed is the consumption of fossil fuels to wage the Iraq war — enough to impact the price of gas at home.

3. **Did John McCain Really Say That?** On "60 Minutes" last Sun-

day, John McCain said that if the government recoups any money from the bailout, that money should go straight to the taxpayers. Really? What about reducing the debt? Let's say we recover all \$700 billion. Would he give every man, woman and child \$2,500 instead of reducing the debt created for the bailout?

4. **Isn't This Nationalization?** The United States fought the Cold War against communism, but our conservative Republican administration is nationalizing companies and industries faster than you can say "chairman Mao." Of course, they are only doing this because of the crisis we're in, but they're doing it. Just don't call it "nationalization" or "state-owned enterprise."

I have no doubt, despite the scale of the current crisis, that the resilience of our economy and our system of government will allow us to avoid the fate of the Soviet Union, and a big part of that will be our greater ability to face the truth.

REAL ESTATE TODAY



By JIM SMITH, Realtor®

This Week's Featured New Listing:

Finally, a Home That Backs to Open Space!

Sure, every Golden home is close to open space, but this one backs to it. With its nearly 1/4-acre corner lot, this "Horizon" model by Johnson has a finished walk-out basement, 5 bedrooms, 3½ baths, and just under 4,000 finished square feet. It has a 3-car garage, a large master suite with retreat, and a 14'x16' loft suitable for home office or play area. On the main floor, it has both a formal dining room and large eat-in kitchen, and there's a see-through fireplace separating the living room and family room. The full-width deck is being rebuilt, so there will be no showings for another week or two, but call now to be the first to know when it's ready to show. A house like this hasn't been on the market for some time and will go fast! A video tour is in production for the website.



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