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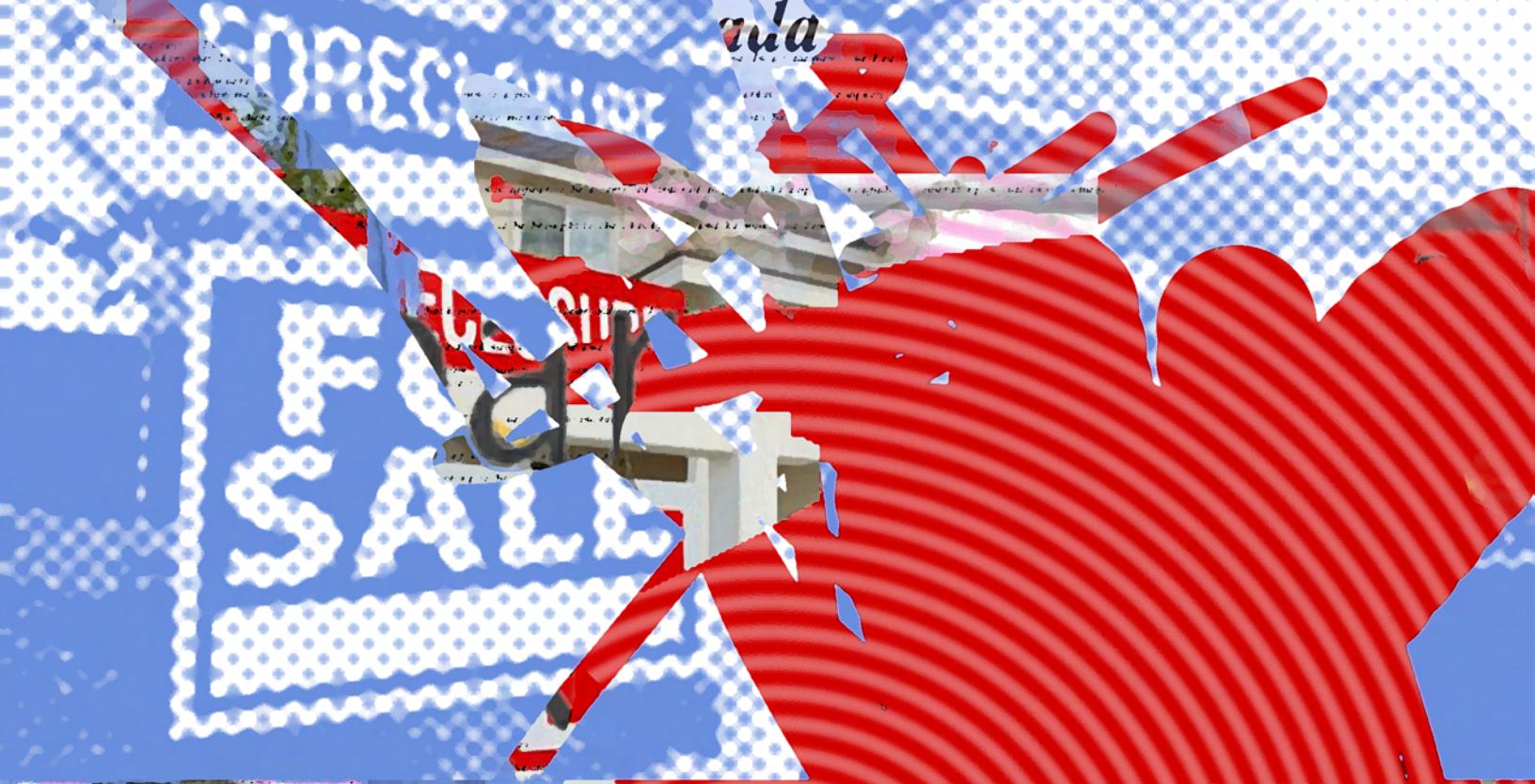
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Bailout bill goes to the White House

To the Point on 01 October, 2008 10:50:00

Congress has reversed itself and passed what's now called "stimulus" plan -- 263 to 171 -- amid dismal news about employment in California and a big federal loan.

Saying that passage of the bill would be a relief, the House Republican leader John Boehner admitted that "I don't want to see this bill pass."

Democrat Nancy Pelosi, the House speaker, said she would support the bill. California, officials -- including the governor -- are pushing for federal legislation to help them deal with the crisis.

Will the bill resolve the credit crunch? Will it provide the \$200 billion investment in infrastructure that the President has promised? Will it help ease the crunch in housing and in business?

Guests:

- Richard Rubin: Economics

- Steven Davidoff: Professor, University of California

- Robert Reich: Former Secretary of Labor

Hosted by a very popular and

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More "To the Point" Professor: Cornell University

- Richard Rubin: Economics

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crunch and the crisis in housing?

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Bailout bill goes to the White House

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of Labor  
- winning four-  
"To the

federal legislation to avoid  
economic catastrophe."  
Will the bill resolve the credit  
crisis? Will taxpayers make  
money on a \$700  
billion investment? "To the  
Point" looks at what that could  
mean for the credit  
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Thu Jun 11, 2009 7:39 PM EDT  
By David Morgan  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Insurgent violence in Afghanistan has accelerated sharply alongside the arrival of new U.S. troops, reaching its highest level since 2001 last week, U.S. officials said on Thursday.

Insurgent attacks soared 52 percent to 5,222 incidents from January through May, compared with 3,283 attacks in the first five months of 2008, according to U.S. military officials and excerpts of a report by NATO's International Security Assistance Force obtained by Reuters.

That is more than double the growth rate for violence in Afghanistan between the same months in 2007 and 2008, when military officials estimate insurgent attacks rose about 25 percent. All told, insurgent violence climbed 33 percent in 2008, they said.

"The past year has seen the highest level of security incidents in Afghanistan's history, at least that post-liberation history," said General David Petraeus, who is responsible for military strategy in the Middle East and Central Asia, head of U.S. Central Command.

U.S.-led forces toppled Afghanistan's former Taliban regime in 2001 after the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington, which U.S. officials say were planned from al Qaeda safe havens on Afghan territory.

"There are some months ahead. Some of this (violence) will go on because we are going to go after their sanctuaries and they are going to go after their safe havens as we must," Petraeus told a Washington forum in a presentation unrelated to the ISAF report.

Accelerating violence could pose political risks for President Barack Obama, as his administration pours thousands of fresh troops into Afghanistan as part of a larger strategy to thwart Taliban influence and stabilize the war-torn nation.

Petraeus, whose strategy is widely credited with rescuing Iraq from the brink of open civil war in 2007, is overseeing the military segment of the Obama strategy.

The United States has already increased its military presence in Afghanistan to 56,000 troops from about 32,000 in late 2008, and Petraeus said he expects to see a total of 68,000 troops in the war zone by autumn.

Analysis has warned the counterinsurgency strategy could lead to snappy higher U.S. casualties, potentially diminishing support for the war at home as members of Congress head into mid-term elections in 2010.

ISAF statistics show the number of insurgent attacks in May at 1,450, surpassing the 1,400 mark for only the second time since January 2007. Monthly attacks first topped 1,400 in August 2008. In May 2009, there were 944 insurgent attacks in Afghanistan, U.S. officials said.

The data include attacks on U.S. and NATO forces as well as Afghan military, police, government and civilian targets.

Military officials blame the increase partly on a mild winter, which enabled Taliban and other insurgents to cross freely into Afghanistan from safe havens in Pakistan.

The ISAF report showed a 78 percent jump in attacks from January through May, ISAF said.

But rising violence was also driven by heightened NATO and Afghan military operations, which increased by about one-third from January through May, ISAF said.

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where most of the additional U.S. troops are headed.

Armed forces in the ISAF's eastern Afghanistan, which lies across the border from Pakistan, have been in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

ISAF's eastern command has been in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

ISAF said attacks were also 7.3 percent higher in western Afghanistan, where the military has been engaged in a counterinsurgency effort over civilian deaths that occurred during U.S. air strikes.

The report said direct-fire attacks rose 61 percent in the first five months of 2009, compared with 37 percent in the same months of 2008.

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Afghan insurgent violence accelerates in 2009 | Reuters.com http://www.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=USN1272747

Insurgent violence in Afghanistan has accelerated sharply since the arrival of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops in 2001, while attacks in the north have been em- ployed in a counter-offensive against Taliban forces, according to U.S. military officials.

U.S. military officials said the number of attacks in Afghanistan rose to 3,224 in the first five months of 2009, compared with 2,833 in the same period in 2008, they said.

The increase in attacks was particularly sharp in the south and east, where the U.S. military has been em- ployed in a counter-offensive against Taliban forces, according to U.S. military officials.

Attacks in the north have been employed in a counter-offensive against Taliban forces, according to U.S. military officials.

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Afghan insurgent violence accelerates in 2009 | Reuters.com <http://www.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=USN1152158320>

The number of attacks in the war zone rose 61 percent in the first five months of 2009, while strikes employing road bombs and suicide bombings were up 125 percent from January through May, U.S. military officials said on Thursday. The number of attacks in Afghanistan has accelerated sharply since 2001, just last week, U.S. officials said. The number of attacks in Afghanistan rose 61 percent in the first five months of 2009, compared with 3,283 attacks in the same months of 2008, according to U.S. military officials and excerpts of a report by NATO's International Security Assistance Force obtained by Reuters.

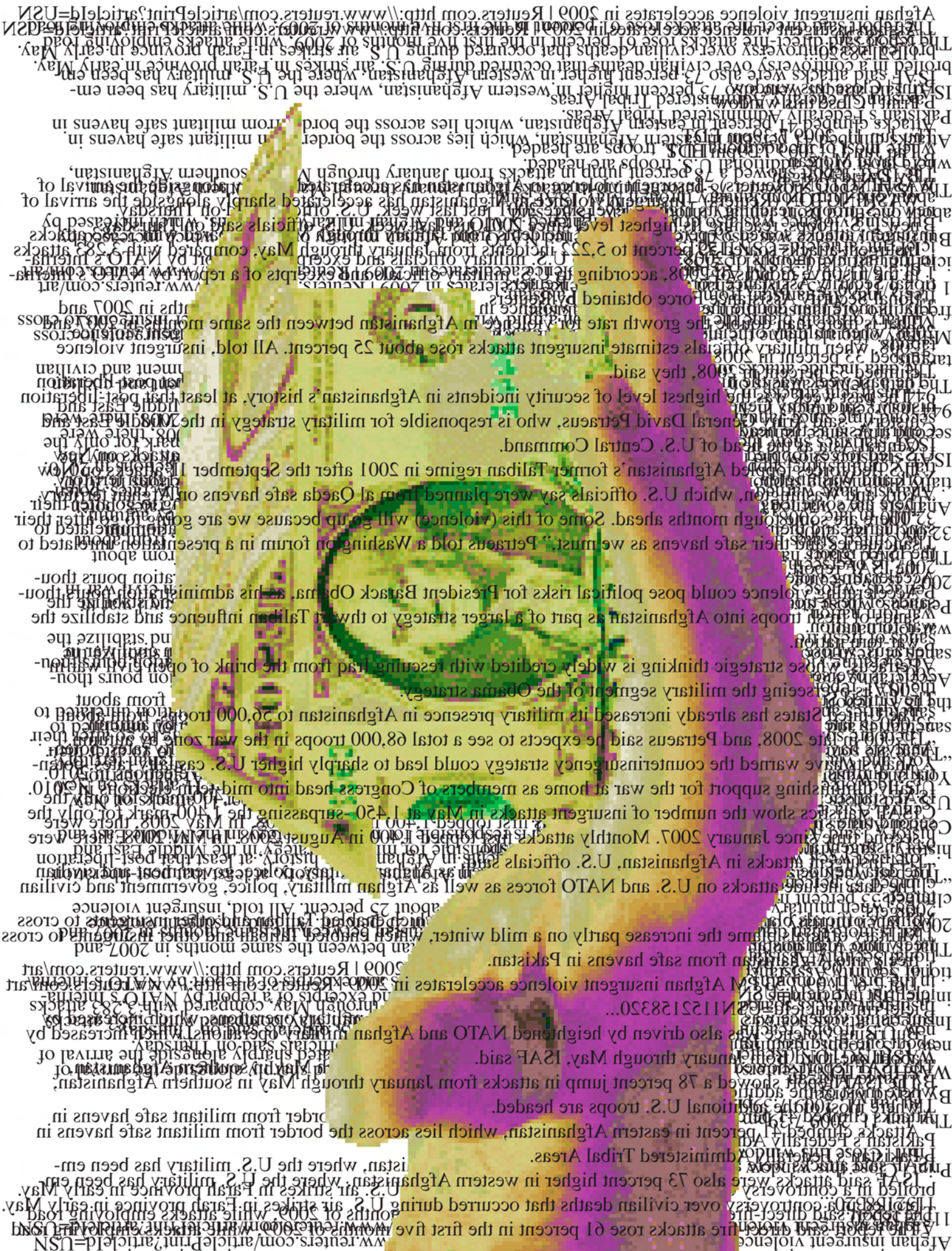
The growth rate for violence in Afghanistan between the same months in 2007 and 2008 was 33 percent, they said. The number of attacks was at its highest level in Afghanistan's history, at least that post-liberation period, General David Petraeus, who is responsible for military strategy in the Middle East and North Africa, said in a speech on Tuesday. Petraeus, who is responsible for military strategy in the Middle East and North Africa, said in a speech on Tuesday. Petraeus, who is responsible for military strategy in the Middle East and North Africa, said in a speech on Tuesday.

The U.S. military has already increased its military presence in Afghanistan to 56,000 troops, and Petraeus said he expects to see a total 68,000 troops in the war zone by the end of 2009. Petraeus said he expects to see a total 68,000 troops in the war zone by the end of 2009. Petraeus said he expects to see a total 68,000 troops in the war zone by the end of 2009.

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Afghan insurgent violence accelerated in 2008. The highest level of acceleration was in the southern provinces, where the U.S. military has been em-

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