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Gov. Beverly Perdue cranked up the rhetoric this week, saying legislative Republicans are committing "extortion" with their budget proposals. Host Donna Martinez is joined by Rick Martinez, news director of the North Carolina News Network, SGRToday.com, and NewsRadio 680 WPTF in Raleigh to discuss the political and fiscal battle, as well as this week's visit to Camp Lejeune by First Lady Michelle Obama and Second Lady Jill Biden, President Obama's falling poll numbers with the left wing of his Democratic base, legislative efforts to term-limit Senate and House leaders, and the speculation over a possible indictment of John Edwards on allegations of campaign finance violations related to former mistress Rielle Hunter. Carolina Journal Managing Editor Rick Henderson also analyzes recent interview comments by disgraced former House Speaker Jim Black, who is denying elements of the corruption case that sent him to prison for more than three years. That's followed by comments from Attorney General Roy Cooper about reforms to the state's crime lab in the wake of a devastating investigation into misconduct by the lab, and comments from Democratic Congressmen Brad Miller and David Price about federal budget negotiations and government shutdown drama between Democrats and Republicans. Finally, Gurnal Scott explores this week's N.C. Senate vote that saw a Civil War-era North Carolina governor, William Holden, get a chance at political redemption.