



**TRANSCRIPT**

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K. Wills Transcripts

**(HEAD-  
LINES)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: At the top of our agenda this week, the talk is over. The House vote for healthcare is not. Will healthcare become a reality, or will the President be dealt a huge blow? They’ve trained generations of Black professionals, but can historically Black colleges and universities survive in this so-called “post-racial” America? And Winnie Mandela of South Africa on turning the talk of change into lasting action.

Our “Washington Watch” newsmaker this week: California congresswoman Barbara Lee, the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, who is right in the middle of the battle for healthcare reform and job creation in the Black community.

And in our “Washington Watch” news panel: Robert Traynham of “Roll Call TV” on the Comcast Network; Deborah Mathis, contributor to BlackAmericaWeb.com; Michelle Bernard, MSNBC contributor and president of the Independent Women’s Forum; and the “Black Eagle,” Joe Madison, talk show host on Sirius/XM Radio. Plus, Politico.com’s Nia-Malika Henderson reports on First Lady Michelle Obama’s charge to the nation’s grocers to get moving on providing healthier foods for our children.

**(SEG-  
MENT 1)**

MR. MARTIN: Spring temperatures have descended on Washington, D.C., as you see with my spring colors, but will Democrats have the winter blues if they don’t get

the necessary votes to pass healthcare reform? President Barack Obama's top campaign issue, as he predicted, has not been easy. His ambitious goals have left him at times at odds with many Americans, as well as members of his own party. One person who knows how difficult this has been is California Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Congresswoman Lee, welcome back to "Washington Watch."

REP. BARBARA LEE: Glad to be with you, Roland.

MR. MARTIN: It has been a crazy, crazy week, and so Democrats have been back and forth, because – look – Republicans have made it clear in terms of where they stand. None are voting for this healthcare bill. Was the critical issue the report released by the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, that all of a sudden really set this battle properly, because folks who were on the fence, who were not quite sure, finally saw the numbers?

REP. LEE: Sure. I think it's very important to recognize that healthcare costs a lot of money, first of all. And if we have healthcare reform, we will end up reducing the deficit, and there are many – including myself – who want to see the deficit reduced so that we don't leave this huge debt to our children and grandchildren. Now, here we're talking about over the course of – I think it's 20 years – a trillion-dollar *savings*. That's a lot of money, and so for those who were narrowly focused – I mean for many of us it's a moral imperative, but for some it was a fiscal issue. And so for those who saw the fiscal issue as being primary, I think the CBO's scoring was very important in terms of

moving the votes.

MR. MARTIN: One of the things that I – I heard from the White House this week [was] they said, “Look. No more deal cutting.” They said, “We’ve learned our lesson,” when it came to the deal cutting. We saw with the Senate, in terms of the ... so-called “Louisiana Purchase,” what happened in Nebraska – things along those lines.

And for you, in talking to other Democrats – you mentioned “moral imperative.” Has it, frankly, boiled down to, “Look. Either you’re going ... to be for this thing or against this thing, as opposed to all the dancing – you trying to get your own side deal cut”?

REP. LEE: At this point, *absolutely*. And let me say these side deals that were beneficial to only one member of Congress didn’t make any sense. Most of us did not support that. But what’s important is that we get provisions – and we *did* get provisions – in the bill that cover at least 31 million people, and that was extremely critical. When you look at the disparities provisions, which the CBC, the Hispanic Caucus and Asian Pacific American Caucus – we got those provisions in, establishing an Office of Minority Health Services, an expansion of community clinics to the tune of \$11 billion. You know, we’ve got a lot of provisions in that will really cover the indigent, the middle class and bring health insurance costs down.

And so special interests? No. You know, we did everything we could do to make sure this bill ... covered the broadest amount of people and made it affordable and accessible in terms of our healthcare system.

MR. MARTIN: You already have Republicans who are plotting the next step. They are anticipating this actually passing, the Democrats getting the 216 votes. The vote likely will take place Sunday afternoon. And then now ... you have states who are saying they're going to sue the federal government, so the battle clearly is not over. Are you ... hopeful that you will see entities who'll begin to organize, galvanize and mobilize people on the local and the state level to understand that ... frankly, if it passes, it is time to lo- -- you've done your part federally, but they also have to stand up locally? Because that avalanche is going to come.

REP. LEE: Sure, the battle is not over. However, I think when people see the *benefits* of this reform package and see how they will be covered and how their insurance costs will come down, then I'm sure that's going to take the wind out of any kind of movement there is at the local level. People are uninsured. They're *desperate*, they're hurting all over the country. And when they realize that this is going to help them, they're going to wonder why in the world all of the lies and distortions, and what really is the motivation for the -- the push to try to kill this bill and, now, to try to stop it at the state [level].

MR. MARTIN: Before --

REP. LEE: People aren't going to tolerate that.

MR. MARTIN: -- before I get to jobs, one more question on healthcare. I have a section on this show called "Call 'Em Out," and this week on [the] "Tom Joyner Morning Show," I called out, ... frankly, Alabama congressman Artur Davis, because he's voting

no, against it. You talked about that “moral imperative.” I want to go back to that, because what bothers me [is] when I hear members of Congress talk about, “I need to keep my job,” or, “I’m running for another office.” And so Congressman Davis said, “That’s not why I’m voting against it,” but, frankly, people are saying, “It’s because you’re running for governor of Alabama.”

How do you feel when you make a decision? Do you sit here and say, “Well, let me be more concerned about keeping my job,” or, frankly, make a difficult decision that, “I might lose my job, but it benefits people in the long term”?

REP. LEE: We have to make these difficult decisions. Healthcare in America has been a privilege for a few. Now, we’re about to make it a basic human right for many and finally come into the industrialized nations’ realm. And so we have to take moral stances against cer- -- for certain issues and *against* certain issues. I was against going to war against Afghanistan. I was the only one who voted against that – *because that was wrong*. It gave President Bush – and *any* President – a blank check to use force, and I just didn’t think that was right.

We have to take stands when we really believe in something, and when it’s a matter of conscience, and I think for most, healthcare, as a basic human right – this is a moral issue, and it’s an economic imperative.

MR. MARTIN: We saw the President this week sign the jobs bill into law, and even at the signing, he – you know, he even said, “We’ve got to do more.” The Congressional Black Caucus met with the President. Folks talked about how positive a

meeting it was, but the reality is when it came time for the vote, CBC members said, “No, thanks.”

Is this jobs bill signed into law, that other folks are touting as being important – is it really going to have a significant impact on the Black unemployment numbers, which are absolutely devastating across this country?

REP. LEE: Well, the CBC – the majority of the members of the CBC recognize that it really wasn’t a comprehensive jobs bill; it was more of a business tax credit bill – which is fine. That’s one, small drop in the bucket. We want – and we told the President, and we voted, actually, against the rule – the majority of us – *and* against the bill, because this was not the type of bill that’s going to cover the chronically unemployed in terms of creating jobs, job training.

We’re working right now – and the President – we met with the President. It was a good meeting, substantive meeting. He supports what we’re doing. We’re working now on a summer youth job amendment, also an expansion of – of TANIF, the emergency fund, for six months. You know, young people need to *work*. Their families are unemployed – their mothers and fathers – and so they have to help put food on the table and pay the rent. So, this Summer Youth Jobs Initiative, what we’re trying to work – the Senate, unfortunately, killed that –

MR. MARTIN: Um-hum.

REP. LEE: -- a couple of weeks ago. The President’s in full support; but, of course, we have to, as members of Congress, push forth a legislative package. We

have a bill. It's H.R. 4812, the Local Jobs for America Act, and this is a bill introduced by Congressman Miller, of which I am a cosponsor – and many members of the CBC – which would provide the type of comprehensive strategies that we think would work. You ha- -- you have to have worksfor- -- [work]force training. You have to have training as well as direct job creation ... and investments in infrastructure.

MR. MARTIN: The President's traveling around the country with healthcare town hall meetings. He's talking about jobs and going to Highland, Pennsylvania. I've talked to folks who've said, "Look. Why don't you go to ... Altgeld Gardens, which was ar-" – "which was around the corner from your house?" when he was a community organizer, to ... see, as you talked about, that, sure, tax breaks are nice; but here is the reality of where people actually stand. "You were a community organizer, and so you understand where people were."

So, you know, I get the whole Ohio, Pennsylvania thing, but it's in Black neighborhoods and Hispanic neighborhoods where you – where it is truly devastating when you have mothers and fathers and the kids can't get a job. Now you have a[n] entire *neighborhood* that, frankly, [there's] no income coming in.

REP. LEE: The President knows that, and – trust me – members of the Congressional Black Caucus every day are working on these issues to address it and to try to make sure that we get bills to the President's desk, and I – I'm sure he will sign those bills. He told us in the meetings that we've had – and this wasn't the first meeting – that he understands and gets the issue of the chronically unemployed. And, in fact,

the Joint Economic Committee just put out a report on the Hill – Congresswoman Carolyn ... Maloney did a phenomenal job – showing how, in the chronically unemployed populations, the majority are African-American and Latino. These are people who have been [un]employed 20 months, 24 months. African-American men, for example – since 2007, the unemployment rate has doubled, same as for African-American women. And so we have to have targeted approaches and strategies to address specific popula- --

MR. MARTIN: Which –

REP. LEE: -- -tions.

MR. MARTIN: -- which ... does not mean this is a jobs bill for Black folks; it's a jobs bill for all Americans, but in certain – in ... particular areas, we will target those most in need.

REP. LEE: *Absolutely*. And we've never said we'd –

MR. MARTIN: And some places –

REP. LEE: -- [crosstalk] – race –

MR. MARTIN: -- they might be White.

REP. LEE: -- *sure*. We never said we think that a race-based formula should be developed. We're talking about areas of need, areas –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

REP. LEE: -- of high unemployment, and who happens to live in those areas will benefit from the job creation efforts. And so that's a big deal that we're pushing this

formula that we want the President and the Congress to accept, that would do just that.

MR. MARTIN: And I hope folks also understand that whenever I've heard Republicans talk about getting rid of Affirmative Action programs, they've always said, "Let's have scholarship programs and emissions programs based upon those in need, who are poor, impoverished, whether they're White, or Black, or Hispanic." I guess my point is, "Fine. Have the same policy when it comes to jobs."

REP. LEE: *Sure*. For those in need, for – where there're high – the highest areas ... of unemployment, we have to have specific, targeted approaches. When we help those who are at the bottom of the ... ladder, we help America. We make America stronger. And that's what we want to do. We are Americans also, and we intend to make sure that any jobs package is comprehensive, leaves no one behind. And that's why the Congressional Black Caucus is *adamant* in our approach to this whole unemployment crisis. People are desperate, and we've got to do more.

MR. MARTIN: Well, some say President Obama [is] not the president of Black America, but he is the president of *all* America – which includes Black folks.

REP. LEE: Absolutely.

MR. MARTIN: Congresswoman, we certainly appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

REP. LEE: Thank you. Good being with you.

MR. MARTIN: Folks, coming up on "Washington Watch," we'll talk to the heads of four historically Black and public ... Black institutions who carry the hopes and dreams of the next generation of African-American men and women in their hands, but

up next, our roundtable discussion of this week's top stories with Robert Traynham, host of "Roll Call TV"; Deborah Mathis, BlackAmericaWeb.com contributor; Michelle Bernard, MSNBC contributor; and Joe Madison of Sirius/XM Radio. Back in a moment.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 2)**

MR. MARTIN: All right. My panel might be a little loose, but trust me. It is not loose on Capitol Hill this week. Quite tense as relates to healthcare. Joining me this week on "Washington Watch," Robert Traynham, host of "Roll Call TV" on the Comcast Network; Deborah Mathis, always so shy and quiet, BlackAmericaWeb.com ... contributor; a newbie to our panel, Michelle Bernard, MSNBC contributor and president of the Independent Women's Forum; and my dog, "The Black Eagle," Joe Madison, talk show host on Sirius/XM Radio.

Folks, welcome to the show.

MR. JOE MADISON: Thanks.

MR. ROBERT TRAYNHAM: Good to see you.

MR. MARTIN: We'll try not to haze you too much, Michelle. We always do that

—

MS. MICHELLE BERNARD: Thank you.

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: -- to first timers.

On Capitol Hill this week, ... it's real tense. It's real tense. Every time there was

a vote or anything, when they came out, it was like running the gauntlet, trying to get through White House folks, staffers, media as well.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Lobbyists.

MR. MARTIN: I mean *this is it!* I mean probably, when it comes to Sunday or Monday, depending on when the vote is – but, Robert, this is *it*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: This is it. It's – this is politically. This is it, policy-wise. This is the moment that everybody's been talking about. Republicans and both Democrats are nervous, because, frankly, Republicans are nervous that it may pass. The Democrats are nervous that it may pass. And the reason why is because there's a lot of ramifications on this, both from a political standpoint, but also from a policy standpoint –

MR. MARTIN: The Dem- --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Roland.

MR. MARTIN: -- the Democrats are also nervous that it will *not* pass, because, look. You can talk all about people being scared about their jobs, but if it doesn't pass, their base will be up in arms, and I think there'll be an even larger bloodbath if Democrats *don't* pass healthcare.

MS. DEBORAH MATHIS: Well, somebody is going to lose and lose big in this – in this situation. It's going to pass whether the vote comes today, or tomorrow. The – there's going to be a sliver that you can pass between passage – the – the yeas and the nays. It's going to be very, very close no matter what. If the Democrats don't

deliver on this, they're going to look weak, useless, a joke; and no one will believe that if they put all their blood, sweat and tears in this one issue and could not deliver on this one, that they will deliver on anything else.

MR. MARTIN: Michelle, 18-vote margin for the Democrats in the Senate, 78 in the House. The President was supposed to go to Indonesia, Australia. They've canceled that trip. It is truly all hands on deck.

MS. BERNARD: It's all hands on deck, and I tell you this is – it is a critical time not just for Republicans and Democrats on the Hill; it is a critical time for the President. He has staked his – his inaugural year in the presidency on healthcare reform. We've got two wars going on. The unemployment rate for Whites is about 10 percent. For African-Americans, it's 16.75 percent.

MR. MARTIN: That's the *official* number.

MS. BERNARD: Tha- -- that's the official –

MR. MARTIN: The unofficial –

MS. BERNARD: -- number.

MR. MARTIN: -- it – it sees twenty- -- almost –

MS. BERNARD: E- -- exactly.

MR. MARTIN: -- 30 percent.

MS. BERNARD: He – he has staked his entire presidency on what happens with this vote, and in my – you know, my personal opinion is, no matter what happens, everyone has lost. It has taken a year to get to this point. This is a do-nothing

Congress. Democrats control, and most people, no matter what happens – le- -- let's assume that it *does* go through. People are going to legitimately look to the Congress and say, "If" – "If this is how you were going to do it" – let's say they do the S- -- use the Slaughter Rule – "why on earth didn't you do it a year ago? Why have we been talking about healthcare instead of unemployment for the first 12 months of this man's presidency?"

MR. MARTIN: Yeah, but you know what, Joe? 31, 32 million don't have insurance. Trust me. They are not going to say, "We lost."

MR. MADISON: Oh, *absolutely*. And – and the reality is – I guarantee you – that this time next year, if we – if it – if it wins, it won't be about, "Did it win by 2?" "Did it win by this number?" "This margin?" I think what will happen is the Democrats will look at this as a victory and now move forward on comprehensive job creation. They'll move their agenda forward, and what you'll have, quite honestly, is them feeling emboldened.

MS. MATHIS: Yeah, and I –

MR. MADISON: And that –

MS. MATHIS: -- *hope* they feel –

MR. MADISON: -- and that will –

MS. MATHIS: -- emboldened.

MR. MADISON: -- that will – I think that is what you'll see – them being emboldened –

MS. MATHIS: That – [crosstalk].

MR. TRAYNHAM: But, Roland –

MR. MADISON: -- by this.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- let's talk about the unfortunate truth here. The unfortunate truth is ... that 52 percent, according to *The Wall Street Journal* poll – NBC poll – of Americans do not want this healthcare bill – at least the little bit –

MR. MARTIN: Okay –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- that they understand.

MR. MARTIN: -- 52.

MR. TRAYNHAM. So, having said –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- that – but wait a minute. So, having – understanding that, if, in fact, this does pass today or tomorrow, the Democrats have a hard, *hard* sell to the American people to say, “Wait a minute. We did this in your best interests. Even though you may not like this, you’re g-“ – ... “a) you’re going to have to pay for this, but also, b) you’re going to have to understand this and the ramifications of it.” That’s a –

MS. MATHIS: But that’s not –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- really big deal.

MS. MATHIS: -- that’s not the way things generally work. Theoretically, you would *think* that’s the case, but the way we are as human beings, once something is done, we kind of buy into it.

MR. TRAYNHAM: No –

MS. MATHIS: We get –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but – but this is –

MS. MATHIS: -- into it, and we –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- different, Deborah.

MS. MATHIS: -- accept it.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Deborah, this is different. We have to –

MS. MATHIS: Let me – let me tell you –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- we have –

MS. MATHIS: -- le- --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- to *pay* for this.

MS. MATHIS: -- wait a minute. But here's –

MR. TRAYNHAM: And there's going –

MS. MATHIS: -- the difference.

MR. TRAYNHAM: to be a lot of –

MR. MADISON: You know –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- pain –

MR. MADISON: -- you – you are not going to have 30 – the only people who say, "We don't want this," are people who what? Have insurance.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Joe –

MS. BERNARD: No, I –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- that's a good point.

MS. BERNARD: -- could I -- could I just raise --

MR. TRAYNHAM: I -- first of all --

MS. BERNARD: -- one point?

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- I'm here. I'm here, and let me -- let me --

MS. BERNARD: As -- as --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- respond to that.

MS. BERNARD: -- as the newbie --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Go ahead.

MS. BERNARD: -- I'm going to -- I'm just going to --

[CHUCKLING.]

MS. BERNARD: -- I'm just going to inject myself --

MR. MARTIN: Oh. Oh --

MS. BERNARD: -- into this.

MR. MARTIN: -- so she tryin' to guilt-trip. Like -- [throws up his hands] --

MS. BERNARD: I *am*!

MR. MARTIN: -- "I'm ne-e-ew. Let me talk!" [Laughs.]

[LAUGHTER.]

MS. BERNARD: As the newbie, I am going to inject myself into this, because the country is 50-50. If you -- if you look at this from the perspective of the President and from the perspective of a Democratic Congress, everybody's looking to get reelected, whether it's in November, or in 2012, and -- and they have forgotten the

people who put him in office. It's not the far left wing of the Democratic Party. They're going to be upset with the President no matter what, because –

MR. MARTIN: And – and –

MS. BERNARD: -- there's no public –

MR. MARTIN: -- the same as the –

MS. BERNARD: -- option.

MR. MARTIN: -- far right.

MS. BERNARD: A- -- and the –

MR. MARTIN: They –

MS. BERNARD: -- and the far right is going to be upset. So, if you look to the center, and you look to independents, it's not that they don't want healthcare reform. They want their members of Congress to be able to say that they voted on a bill that they read, that they know what it means, that they know what it says. If you – if -- ... I'm Black. I'm thinking about this from a – from the perspective of an African- – of African-Americans. Regardless of what you think about this, Medicare Advantage – nobody's talking about what's our stake in this.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Right.

MS. BERNARD: Medicare Advantage is going to be cut. They're cutting billions of dollars out of it. Who does that hurt? African-Americans and Latinos. Nobody's talking about that. Everybody wants to shove the bill through and talk about what – and – and forget about what the unintended consequences –

MR. MARTIN: Deborah.

MS. BERNARD: -- are for our people.

MS. MATHIS: And this is what I was trying to complete my -- my thought --

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead.

MS. MATHIS: -- on, that it doesn't -- here's what I mean. The *process* will not matter to people eventually. They'll -- ... they will be dealing with the content. They will be dealing with the substance of the bill. And to be honest with you, *I am afraid*. I don't know, and I'm not qualified to take that 2,000+ pages, or to take even the CBO report and dissect it and autopsy it. I *have* to take their word for it. I *hope* they're correct, because if they are, it is going to cut down on the -- slice the deficit. It's going to produce a lot of benefits for people, but there *has* to be some downside to it --

MR. MARTIN: But -- but --

MR. TRAYNHAM: And, Deborah --

MS. MATHIS: -- and I'm --

MR. MARTIN: -- but who --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- the --

MS. MATHIS: -- worried about --

MR. MARTIN: -- who --

MS. MATHIS: -- what that may be.

MR. MARTIN: -- but who knew what was going to happen with Social Security?

Who knew what was going to happen with Medicare and Medicaid?

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- that's --

MR. MARTIN: Who --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- I think that's --

MR. MARTIN: -- I mean -- no, no! But -- but --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but --

MR. MARTIN: -- it -- it --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- that's a good point.

MR. MARTIN: -- there are no political guarantees.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Right, but -- Roland, that's a good point. What you have right now with -- when you take a look at Social Security, when you take a look at the Iraq War vote, the American people said, "Okay. We trust you, leaders in Washington." And guess what? At the end of the Iraq War in terms of the process, people are saying, "We were duped." The point is ... there's a lack of trust between the American people and lawmakers. The lawmakers specifically have said repeatedly to "trust us," and the American people are saying repeatedly, "We *don't* trust" --

MR. MARTIN: And --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- "you."

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: -- and -- and I've said on this show, and those same American people return them to Congress every two years.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Well --

MR. MARTIN: So, my point there is the American people also have to suck up some of their responsibility for sending incumbents back at – at a rate of 95 percent.

MS. BERNARD: And that's –

MR. MARTIN: Michelle.

MS. BERNARD: -- what they're going to do. They're going to – I – I hope that they vote every, single one of them out.

Now, going back –

MR. MADISON: They *won't*, though.

MS. BERNARD: -- quickly –

[CROSSTALK.]

MS. BERNARD: -- there are –

MR. MARTIN: That ain't happenin'.

MS. BERNARD: -- there are –

MR. TRAYNHAM: But this time – [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: So – that's nice, but it's not happenin'.

[CROSSTALK.]

MS. BERNARD: -- there are unintended –

MR. MARTIN: Michelle, go ahead.

MS. BERNARD: -- there are unintended consequences for every piece of legislation that passes. Social Security – for some people, it's great. For you two, it's not. For Deborah and myself, it's great.

MR. MADISON: No. For me –

MS. BERNARD: Ron Walters –

MR. MADISON: -- I'm not complaining –

MS. BERNARD: -- R- -- well, no.

MR. MADISON: -- about –

MS. BERNARD: -- I'm just saying –

MR. MADISON: -- Social Security.

MS. BERNARD: -- Ron Walters, famed – famed political scientist, has said  
Social Security – reverse reparations for Black men.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Correct.

MS. BERNARD: You will *die* before you see your Social Security. So, *think*  
about it. Just don't think about, "This is great," big government overhaul, take – you  
know, government expanding. *It always has a negative impact* –

MR. TRAYNHAM: But you know what, though?

MR. MADISON: [Crosstalk] –

MS. BERNARD: -- *on us, somehow*.

MR. MADISON: -- just misrepresented Ron Walters, who – [chuckles] – I've had  
on my show many times –

MS. BERNARD: No, I – I –

MR. MADISON: -- who would not –

MS. BERNARD: -- I – I –

MR. MADISON: -- who would not give up Social Security –

MS. BERNARD: -- no, I di- --

MR. MADISON: -- for investment in –

MS. BERNARD: -- but I – but I did not say –

MR. MADISON: -- Wall Street.

MS. BERNARD: -- that he would give it up –

MR. MADISON: Oh, okay.

MS. BERNARD: -- to – to invest in Wall Street. That didn't come –

[CROSSTALK.]

MS. BERNARD: -- out of my mouth. But Ron Walters *did* say – *verbatim* –

“Social Security is reverse” –

MR. MARTIN: But here –

MS. BERNARD: -- “reparations” –

MR. MARTIN: -- but here's –

MS. BERNARD: -- “for African-“ –

MR. MARTIN: -- but here's the –

MS. BERNARD: -- “-American” --

MR. MARTIN: -- but here's the reality. Here's the reality.

MS. BERNARD: -- “men.”

MR. MARTIN: We can talk about people not having a trust of – of government, a trust of elected officials, but the reality is there is no other body for us to go to when it

comes to pass things. And the reality is what our job is, [is] to, frankly – is to try our best to make whatever comes up as strong as possible, as effective as possible. And, frankly, pol- -- politicians should have also the courage that when we see something that's not w- -- that's *not* going well, to fix it and not continuing –

MS. BERNARD: So, what is –

MR. MARTIN: -- a problem –

MS. BERNARD: -- the Congressional Black Caucus *doing*?

MR. MARTIN: -- what do you mean?

MS. BERNARD: What are they *doing*? What are –

MR. MARTIN: On w- -- on *what*?

MS. BERNARD: -- they doing – what are –

MR. MARTIN: On *what*?

MS. BERNARD: -- o- -- on *healthcare*. I'm *asking* how – where have you heard any member of the Congressional Black Caucus go to bat –

MR. MADISON: I – I'll tell you what. [Crosstalk] –

MS. BERNARD: -- for Medicare Advantage?

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: Oh, my *goodness*! Well, they – they've been on that show[?] a whole lot.

MR. MADISON: -- *excuse* me.

MR. MARTIN: Joe, go ahead.

MR. MADISON: I'll answer it. This week, the Nati- -- the NNPA met. They --  
and they had De- --

MR. MARTIN: National --

MR. MADISON: -- Barbara Lee --

MR. MARTIN: -- hold up.

MR. MADISON: -- National --

MR. MARTIN: The National Newspaper Publishers --

MR. MADISON: -- Publishers --

MR. MARTIN: -- Association, the --

MR. MADISON: -- Association.

MR. MARTIN: -- Black press.

MR. MADISON: They had Barbara Lee. Barbara Lee spoke to that organization  
and ran a *litany* of things that the Congressional Black Caucus put into that bill and  
made sure would be in that bill -- a *litany* of things --

MR. TRAYNHAM: But --

MR. MADISON: -- that we don't have enough time --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MADISON: -- to discuss. So, to your answer your question is you should  
bring Barbara Lee on and let *her* --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- [crosstalk] --

MR. MARTIN: Well, ... first of all --

MR. MADISON: -- tell you what she did.

MR. MARTIN: -- we've already had -- we've already had Barbara.

MR. MADISON: *Yeah.*

MR. MARTIN: But here -- but here's the other piece that's also important, and that is the Black Caucus. They've done a number of things, but also -- I understand your particular issue, but the one thing that we've learned about this bill: you can have a particular position on one issue, but it's a much larger bill. S- -- ... Congressman John Conyers has been for single payer every year he's been in Congress. Is single payer in the bill? No. What people are saying is, "I can't just say just my one thing. I must look at [it] in" -- "in its totality and the greater good."

MR. TRAYNHAM: But, Roland, here's another unfortunate truth. This is a Democratic Party issue. Speaker Pelosi, as we literally are speaking right now, is trying to whip her *own* members. This is not really a Republican issue.

MR. MARTIN: Oh, it's not.

MR. TRAYNHAM: And my point--

MR. MARTIN: It's not.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- so, my point here is ... that, you know, we can talk all we want about, you know, the -- the outside factions here, but the *internal* factions here -- it's within the Democratic Party.

MS. MATHIS: But -- but --

MR. TRAYNHAM: And when it comes --

MS. MATHIS: -- [crosstalk] --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- [crosstalk] --

MR. MARTIN: Deborah, go ahead.

MS. MATHIS: -- but why --

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- [crosstalk] -- to pass this bill.

MS. MATHIS: -- why don't we understand this? Think about this. The Democratic Party is in pieces in some way over this issue, as it has been --

MR. MARTIN: But -- but they -- but they've --

MS. MATHIS: -- wait, wait, wait!

MR. MARTIN: -- *a/ways* been. But go ahead.

MS. MATHIS: But *wait* a minute. And -- and so here you have the Speaker herself, getting down on her hands and -- [chuckles] -- knees, working this deal. Okay? The Republican Party is in lockstep. Which one is more principled? A group that will just say, "Okay. Republicans tell us to do this. I'm going to go march down that road," or one that you have to -- that --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Yeah, but --

MS. MATHIS: -- that really has a *debate* going on --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- you're right.

MS. MATHIS: -- within itself?

MR. TRAYNHAM: You're -- you're -- you're absolutely right. But -- but -- but the

flipside of that is look at the Republican Party when it came to immigration. Look what [sic] the Republican Party when it came to Harriet Miers when she was a Supreme Court Justice [sic]. You saw *major* in factions within the – within the Republican Party.

MR. MARTIN: M-m-m, no –

MR. TRAYNHAM: My point –

MR. MARTIN: -- actually, I think with Harriet Miers you saw social –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- oh, *come* on!

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk] – hold on a second.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Roland.

MR. MARTIN: Hold on a second.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Roland.

MR. MARTIN: No, no. I will protect a fellow Texan.

MS. MATHIS: But there –

MR. MARTIN: You saw social –

MS. MATHIS: -- was substantial[?] –

MR. MARTIN: -- conservatives who did not trust whether she was conservative *enough*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: But the point is –

MR. MARTIN: So, it wasn't – so, moderates had no voice in that.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but –

MR. MARTIN: But go right ahead.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but -- but the poi- --

MS. MATHIS: -- well, there were some --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but the point is that there [were] dissenting voices within their own party about the re- -- about the --

MR. MADISON: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- nomination.

MS. MATHIS: -- which is --

MR. TRAYNHAM: I -- I totally --

MS. MATHIS: -- *healthy*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- I totally agree with you, but I think --

MS. MATHIS: Which is healthy.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- I totally -- but the point is ... that the reality is Speaker Pelosi has got to pass this bill by trying to get Bart Stupak, who is a Democrat from Michigan who's pro-life --

MR. MADISON: But, you know -- [crosstalk] --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- by trying to get other --

MR. MADISON: -- she *will* pass the bill.

MS. MATHIS: And -- [crosstalk] --

MR. MADISON: And I --

MS. MATHIS: -- from Michigan.

MR. MADISON: -- guarantee you --

MR. MARTIN: All right.

MR. MADISON: -- that bill --

MR. MARTIN: Let's --

MR. MADISON: -- *will pass*.

MR. MARTIN: -- so, you say absolutely. Michelle?

MR. MADISON: Oh, *yeah*.

MR. MARTIN: Michelle, pass or fail?

MS. BERNARD: It's going to pass.

MR. MARTIN: Deborah?

MS. MATHIS: Pass. Pass.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Making sausage, it will pass -- but painful, very --

MS. BERNARD: Yes, very --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- painful.

MR. MARTIN: Well -- [crosstalk] --

MS. BERNARD: -- painful.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MADISON: And, thank God, 30 million people will have insurance --

MR. MARTIN: Well, according to the CB- --

MR. MADISON: -- that we all enjoy.

MR. MARTIN: -- excuse me.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk] – but according to the ... Congressional Budget Office, 32 million. But –

MR. MADISON: I'm sorry. 32 million.

MR. MARTIN: -- gotcha. But ... let me say this, and I think it's also more important, and I think it went to Deborah's point. The people sitting at home, they don't give a damn about the process and whether you want to call it the Slaughter, the reconciliation – whatever – because the reality is that's D.C. people who are talking that whole conversation.

MR. MADISON: Inside the beltway.

MR. MARTIN: The person at home is sitting there, saying, "Look. Is it" – "Will it pass? Will it fail?" no matter what the mechanism is. *And* –

MR. MADISON: "And when will I" –

MS. MATHIS: "Can I get" –

MR. MADISON: -- "get covered?"

MS. MATHIS: -- "to" –

MR. MARTIN: -- tha- --

MS. MATHIS: -- "the doctor?"

MR. MARTIN: -- that – let's just cut to the chase.

MR. TRAYNHAM: I don't know if I agree –

MR. MARTIN: That's –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- with that.

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: In – in ... reality –

MR. MARTIN: Ten seconds, but – but trust me.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- no. “Will” – “Will it pass? Yes or no?” “How much does this cost?” “And how does it affect *me*?”

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. BERNARD: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: No, no, no.

MR. TRAYNHAM: That – that’s the question –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: I *gotcha*. But the point is, no – the – the schoolteacher, or the woman running the daycare, she’s not sitting here, going, “M-m-m, that Slaughter Rule. I” –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Of *course* not.

MR. MARTIN: -- “wonder if that’s *really* gonna work.” I’m just saying maybe some of the folks in D.C. need to realize it’s –

MS. MATHIS: Yeah. They’ll get over –

MR. MARTIN: -- not about the –

MS. MATHIS: -- the process.

MR. MARTIN: -- process.

MS. MATHIS: They'll get over the process.

MR. MARTIN: Robert, Deborah, Michelle, Joe, we certainly appreciate it.

Thanks a bunch.

All right. We should've got[ten] to more topics, but what the heck? Healthcare –

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. MARTIN: -- it's only dominated our conversation for *14 months*. Why not?

All right, folks. Let your voice be heard. Log on to TVOneOnline.com and leave your comments, and I'll certainly read them all.

Still to come, we'll look at the financial crisis facing our historically Black colleges and universities and how they're also doing a job when it comes to turning out the next generation of Black professionals.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 3)**

MR. MARTIN: The nation's historically Black colleges and universities, along with predominantly Black institutions, have been the path to social and economic success for generations. Now, the heads of these colleges and universities are faced with fiscal woes and attacks on their relevancy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and they're tackling the issues head-on. Here with me today: president of Chicago State University, Dr. Wayne Watson; from Mississippi, Tougaloo College president Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan; and Jackson State University president Dr. Ronald Mason, also in Mississippi.

Folks, welcome to "Washington Watch."

DR. WAYNE WATSON: Thank you – [crosstalk].

DR. BEVERLY WADE HOGAN: Thank you.

DR. RONALD MASON: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Let's jump right into it – the – the whole issue of education. I want to first deal with the President's financial aid bill. How are you galvanizing students on your campus to fight on behalf of the effort to give more money directly to them, because young folks, frankly, were a critical component of the President's campaign? You have banks who are fighting this, you know, left and right. I think the folks who are most in need should really be making the most noise, saying, "Look, we need to see this become a reality." So, what is happening on your campuses on this particular issue?

DR. WATSON: With my student government association – we've met with the student government association, and we've shared with them President Barack Obama's position with regards to SAFRA and the benefits of it. And our students, just like they did with MAPP – MAPP is the grant within the state of Illinois – they organized strongly to ensure that we receive MAPP. They're organizing to make sure that this – you know, that SAFRA will be available.

DR. MASON: Well, of Governor – one of the President's local organizers is actually one of my students, so he has been involved with the student government association and all the other student organizations, making sure that they stay on top of the issues and get out to vote and write letters when they need to.

DR. HOGAN: You know, Tougaloo College history is steeped in student activism, so our students are well aware of the benefits of this act for their future. So, we're encouraging our students to stay alert, to guide them, and talking to their congressional – congressional representatives and all of those things – to write the letters. So, we are poised to keep our students active, and I think we have to do this beyond Sunday. We have to keep our students engaged in the national issues that are affecting us at a local level and get our students' voices heard.

MR. MARTIN: But there –

DR. HOGAN: We've got to do a better job at that, too.

MR. MARTIN: -- because also, whe- -- when you're out – when you're fighting for funding – I mean look. Black college presidents are here in the nation's capital and ... meeting with folks on the Hill. And the point that I'm always making is – it's very interesting. When I go to a lot of campuses, many of them don't have particular days in their state capitol where they try to move their faculty and students and alumni to come down there. And, frankly, as presidents – when you come down with your government relations people, that's one or two people; but I think when you drop a thousand, 2,000, 5,000 people –

DR. WATSON: That's right.

MR. MARTIN: -- on the capitol, it's a – it's a whole different conversation.

DR. WATSON: We are taking this April – early April – a number of our students down to the capitol, to Springfield, for that very purpose. What we're also doing is we're

pushing very hard the – the whole concept of registering every one of our students to vote.

MR. MARTIN: Um-hum?

DR. WATSON: We're pushing very hard on the Census, making sure that everybody – we had a big concert on campus, trying to make sure everybody fills out the Census, so that w- -- our – so we get the appropriate representation in Congress.

MR. MARTIN: Have you gotten the sense that your alumni also needs to understand that you can't fight this battle alone, that they've got to engage in this and can't, frankly, just be excited about your schools at homecoming?

DR. MASON: Yes.

DR. HOGAN: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: [Chuckles.]

DR. MASON: A- -- absolutely. It's not just federal; it's local, and we just last week had JSU Day at the state capitol. And we have a very active program here up in Washington where both Dr. Hogan and I are on the President's HBCU Advisory Committee. So, we do it not only from our lobbying and government activities efforts, but also, you know, with our alumni and students as well.

MR. MARTIN: Gotta ask you. A lot of people sit here, and they say, "Well, what's the need for these HBCUs?" And I say, "Well, first of all, I never hear anybody question Notre Dame, or question Xavier and Catholic Universities." And so even in this day, in 2010, this so-called "post-racial America" – which, to me, is – is ridiculous –

the reality is the predominant number of Black professionals are coming from these institutions.

DR. HOGAN: Right. I think all of us know the statistics on how – the – the number of leaders and outstanding citizens that ‘ve come from our historically Black colleges and predominantly Black institutions, but I think at a deeper level, we must understand that our HBCUs and PBIs are our repositories of our heritage. They’re community anchors. And even in this day, when we’re talking about the contributions that African-Americans have made to this country, in the process of being integrated into a larger society, do we need to dismantle *everything* that’s representative of our identity? We are needed in this 21<sup>st</sup> century just as much as we were needed in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> – in ... the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

MR. MARTIN: A gentleman who was a very good friend of mine – Wayne, you knew him well, Ronaldo Glover –

DR. WATSON: Ah.

MR. MARTIN: -- he passed away a few years ago – was p- -- he was head of the Fisk University board of trustees, also City College, where you were chancellor. And he – he pulled me aside one day, and he said, “Roland, average l- -- [the] average, in the last five years, graduation rate at Fisk: 72 percent Black women, 28 percent” –

DR. WATSON: Um.

MR. MARTIN: -- “Black men.”

DR. HOGAN: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: On your campuses, are you seeing that same trend? And how are you trying to combat that, where, frankly, you're having fewer and fewer Black men who are going to school? So – [gestures to Dr. Mason] – start with you, and we'll come this way.

DR. MASON: Well, those – those statistics are not just Black statistics. I mean that's a general, national trend, where there're more women in college –

MR. MARTIN: But for –

DR. MASON: -- than men.

MR. MARTIN: -- African-Americans, it's – obviously –

DR. MASON: It's a little higher.

MR. MARTIN: -- much wider.

DR. MASON: It's a little higher, so what we're doing specifically is reaching down further into the education continuum. We work with the K-12 schools very, very closely. And 70 percent of the teachers in Jackson public schools come from Jackson State, so between the teachers and working with the school system, over time we're hoping to solve the problem of Black men not ending up in college, as opposed to ending up in other places.

MR. MARTIN: Wayne?

DR. WATSON: You know, the – the statistic for Chicago State is identical: 72 percent female. What we have right now is an African-American Male Center that was sponsored by President ... Barack Obama when he was a senator and is –

MR. MARTIN: A state senator.

DR. WATSON: -- now --

MR. MARTIN: Yeah.

DR. WATSON: -- w- -- w- - *no*.

MR. MARTIN: Oh, U.S. senator.

DR. WATSON: *No* --

MR. MARTIN: Gotcha.

DR. WATSON: -- when he was U.S. senator. President Barack Obama and Congressman Davis put that through, and we now, along with 17 other universities, have strong programs that are going after African-American men, to retain them.

In addition, what we're doing is we're working with the Chicago Public Schools to try to identify those young men.

MR. MARTIN: Um-hum?

DR. WATSON: Without a doubt, young men are a -- are an endangered species. The good thing is that on the horizon, President Barack Obama has recommended the re-funding of the PBI grant that will make it possible for young Black men to be salvaged.

MR. MARTIN: How are you combating that? Because I mean if the numbers continue -- when you look at the dropout rates, 35 percent young ... Black men graduate in Chicago, 25 percent in Detroit. You look at these large centers. If they're not graduating from high school, they're not coming to your colleges.

DR. HOGAN: Right. Tougaloo College is a small, independent college, and similar to Jackson State University, we work with the K through 12 schools. But one of the things we also have is a Family Life Center there, where we have programs with some of the schools directly in- -- involving the African-American males. Just recently, I've been in conversation with a local foundation, and what I -- we'd really like to do is explore, to do -- get our faculty in this research of how -- taking courses into the public schools there in Jackson as a pilot program, teaching them about their history -- more African-American history, more civil rights history -- to see if that correlates with the -- the ... performance of African-American males and getting them -- and slowing the dropout rate. So, we're going to be looking at that research over the next couple of years, because I think something's going on --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

DR. HOGAN: -- and we need to look at it very closely.

MR. MARTIN: I'm going to steal a few seconds from another segment that we have. What is happening in Mississippi? How are you battling this governor who's trying to merge a couple of Black institutions?

DR. MASON: That's a long -- long --

DR. HOGAN: [Chuckles.]

DR. MASON: -- conversation there.

MR. MARTIN: Okay, but -- but for our audience, what do you need *them* to do?

DR. MASON: Well -- well, quickly, the bigger question is, how do you survive

and get stronger in a hostile environment? They're cutting our budgets in Mississippi. This "post-racial America" is starting to question the need for African-American institutions, so it's been a confused conversation that the governor confused even more by suggesting something that nobody thought made any sense.

MR. MARTIN: He's trying to merge what two schools?

DR. MASON: Well, he's trying to force Alcorn and Valley to become a part of Jackson –

MR. MARTIN: Gotcha.

DR. MASON: -- State, but it doesn't answer the question whether the three schools should be working together anyway.

MR. MARTIN: Gotcha. All right.

Well, we certainly appreciate it. Thanks a bunch. We'll have you back when you're in the nation's capital.

DR. WATSON: Thank you.

DR. HOGAN: Thank you, sir.

DR. MASON: Thank you very much.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Up next, a new study lays out the details on the obesity rates among African-American girls – alarming numbers, making the First Lady's focus on childhood obesity even more important. Nia-Malika Henderson of Politico.com is up next with the details on First Lady Michelle Obama's appeal to the nation's grocers to do their part.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 4)**

MR. MARTIN: Remember when your parents – mom and dad – told you to eat your vegetables? I *hated* when my parents did that! Well, First Lady Michelle Obama is truly being that kind of mother by change – by trying to change the eating habits of our youth. According to a new study by Kaiser Permanente, 12 percent of African-American teenage girls are extremely obese. Folks, not just overweight, not just – not just obese, but *extremely* obese. It is certainly a crisis in the Black community. Politico.com's Nia-Malika Henderson is here with the story of how the First Lady wants the nation's grocers and food suppliers to help in her cause.

Nia, how ya doin'?

MS. NIA-MALIKA HENDERSON: Hey, I'm good. It's good to be here.

MR. MARTIN: The First Lady was talking with *Newsweek's* Jon Meacham about this issue, and she's made it clear she is *dead serious* about this topic.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

1<sup>st</sup> LADY MICHELLE OBAMA: We need to work really hard and stretch, so when we talk to the food industry, we say, "You have to do more." When we talk to ourselves as parents, we have to push ourselves. We have to talk to Congress, and we have to say, "You have to push to ensure that we're getting the kind of regulations and support so that our school meals are healthy." We all have to stretch on this one. And if we do, I think we can – we – we will see a

change in our kids that we can be proud of.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: Now, Nia, she's using the bully pulpit, but what about policy? How is that changing?

MS. HENDERSON: Well, there is a policy aspect of this Let's Move initiative. There is a move now – the Chi- -- the Childhood ... Nutrition Act will be up for reauthorization this year, so she'll be pushing for measures in that that really cut the fat content, cut the sugar content in lunches that kids eat all around the country during ... school hour. So, that's one of the things. And also, there's a budget component. There's about \$10 billion over the next ten years that also looks at having healthier lunches served in schools.

She is, like you said, using the bully pulpit, but I am amazed that she in no way is coming off as a bully. And in that way, she isn't really attracting a lot of confrontation or a lot of consternation from folks ... on the right, for instance; and, of course, we know that's a very big departure from the way she was looked at on the campaign trail.

MR. MARTIN: Well, I think one of the things that – what – what they have not done is they have also not linked this issue to healthcare reform, even though the obesity rate in the country is having an adverse effect on our healthcare system.

MS. HENDERSON: It's true. I mean in some ways, she has. I mean she obviously talks about it within the context of healthcare and – and saying that obesity-related illnesses really cost billions of dollars a year. So, they *have*, but she's ... been

very careful about doing that. She is making maybe the soft-sell push for healthcare, and, of course, we see Democrats and Obama making the hard-sell, policy-oriented push for healthcare. So, in that way, she's been able to kind of avoid some of that harsh light and criticism that one might expect.

MR. MARTIN: Well, this is clearly her top initiative this year, and so we're ... definitely going to be seeing more of the First Lady on this issue. She went after the grocers. We also saw Pepsi say by 2012, they're going to be pulling their products – carbonated drinks – out of schools, and so it seems like other folks are realizing she's not playing around here, and they're taking a step to do – do the right thing before she even gets to them.

MS. HENDERSON: That's exactly right. I mean she's upping the – you know, her amount of travel. She's upping her hours in the East Wing. She's taking briefing books home. She's become a real expert in it – on this and really the face of this administration-wide push to curb this – this really serious ... issue – especially serious in the African-American community.

MR. MARTIN: Yeah. Maybe I'll start eating carrots. No, I don't think so.

MS. HENDERSON: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: All right, Nia. Thanks a bunch. I appreciate it.

MS. HENDERSON: Thank you, Roland.

["CALL 'EM OUT" FOLLOWS.]

MR. MARTIN: You know what? I cannot *stand* a scared politician. Now, on this

healthcare issue, you have all of these Democrats who are scared they're going to lose their jobs, or they have other ambitions as to why they're not going to vote for healthcare. For instance, Alabama Congressman Artur Davis represents one of the poorest districts in the nation. A ton of his folks don't have health insurance, but he says he's voting against healthcare because, frankly, it's too expensive, and it doesn't have the right things in it.

Well, you know what? You should've told President Barack Obama this. You were one of his biggest supporters. You campaigned with him all across the country. So, how is it you never shared those issues?

Some folks in Alabama are saying he's taken the position because he's running for the Democratic nomination for governor. But he was *elected* to represent the people from his district in Congress – not a future position that he may, or may not, get. To politicians: stop focusing on your job and focus on the people.

Congressman Davis, *you* have been called out.

Folks, coming up, I'll have part two of my exclusive interview with South African civil rights pioneer Winnie Mandela.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 5)**

MR. MARTIN: In part two of my exclusive CNN interview with Winnie Mandela, the ex-wife of South Africa's first Black president, Nelson Mandela, the civil rights leader shares with us why she's still on the frontline for freedom. Take a look.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: You've sort of reemerged in that [you're] back in parliament – in terms of in parliament, a leadership position with the ANC.

MS. WINNIE MADIKIZELA-MANDELA: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: Still living in Soweto. Why not just say, "I've done my part. I can go relax now. ... Let the next generation take it"? Why are you still on the frontlines and involved?

MS. MADIKIZELA-MANDELA: Well, I suppose if we had actually reached the ultimate, that we had total democracy, and we had fulfilled the promises we made to our people, and that total democracy was defined by satisfying the – the needs and implementing the policies of the ANC to the extent that the people were leading better lives. But we are still so far from that. I don't consider my job as completed at all.

MR. MARTIN: How would you assess South Africa today? Should it be further along? Or, do people need to understand that it took so much to repress, if you will, Black South Africans, that it's going to take a lot more to go to the next level?

MS. MADIKIZELA-MANDELA: It is extremely difficult for us to tell the masses of South Africa that change will not be as fast as we thought it would be.

MR. MARTIN: So, your assessment of President Barack Obama, his historic win as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, the first African-American? And – and

speak to the expectations of people for someone in his position not necessarily being backed[?].

MS. MADIKIZELA-MANDELA: I think it would be the most cruel thing to expect him to have done more than he already has within just one year. I think his task is even more difficult, because I think the African-Americans, for instance, would have – expect more, and countries like [on] the African continent would expect more from him because he's African-American; and, realistically, it is unfair. It is unfair –

MR. MARTIN: Why?

MS. MADIKIZELA-MANDELA: -- to expect him to have taken such a quick pace in changing what other presidents have taken years and years to develop and expect him to do that over the year. No president in *any* country has a singular – singular power to change the country. I believe even here, like in South Africa, countries are governed by a collective. And it depends entirely on the very people who put him into power to assist him achieve the dreams of the – of those who expect change from him.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: Winnie Mandela – truly a remarkable woman.

We'll be right back.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 6)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. Time for my feedback segment with my HP Touch Smart computer. This is the part where you talk and respond to what we said, and I talk back to you. Then you hit me back. Then I talk a back to you.

All right. This first comment is about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's report on herpes. Mary Byrd, she definitely hit us up. She said, quote, "When the CDC gives stats, why is it always percentages and not numbers? Black women are always reported to have the largest numbers of any ill-fated disease or addiction. Percentages give a very misleading impression and can be used to imply a fact when it really isn't true."

Mary, good point.

And here's what Rik wrote about my interview with New York Congressmen Gregory Meeks and Adolphus Towns about the unemployment outlook in the Black community. Rik says, "America's success doesn't translate into jobs or opportunities for Black people. There are certain areas that need targeted effort. What good is turning the economy around if Black employment remains ridiculously high? No, it's not all on the President; however, he is better equipped to address the issues that are unique to African-American communities."

I certainly want to thank all of you for your comments. If you want to speak out, log on to [TVOneOnline.com](http://TVOneOnline.com) and leave your comments there. You can either send it to us, you can write it to us, or you can even leave video comments.

Well, that's it for this edition of TV One's "Washington Watch." I'm Roland

Martin. Goodbye, and have a blessed week.

**[END.]**