



**TRANSCRIPT**

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**(HEAD-  
LINES)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: At the top of our agenda this week, the unemployment rate for African-Americans falls, but it's still nearly twice that of Whites. What more can be done? A black politician in the South runs away from Black support and gets *clobbered*. The President made his third trip to the Gulf this week. Is he doing enough? His head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa Jackson, reports from Louisiana on cleanup efforts and the next steps in the BP oil disaster. In our “Washington Watch” roundtable, April Ryan, White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks; Sonya Ross, news editor for the Associated Press; Robert Traynham, host of “Roll Call TV” on the Comcast Network; and Joe Madison, talk show host on Sirius/XM Radio. And Bill O'Reilly says a Black college professor looks like a *dope* dealer. NewsOne.com's Smokey Fontaine has the details. All that and more today on “Washington Watch.”

**(SEG-  
MENT 1)**

MR. MARTIN: President Barack Obama made his third trip to the Gulf coast this week to check on the status of BP's efforts to deal with the massive oil spill in the Gulf. The disaster, which took place on April 20<sup>th</sup>, after an explosion and the sinking of a deepwater rig that killed 11 people, is the nation's worst oil disaster in history. Joining me today from New Orleans, Louisiana, to talk about the cleanup efforts and where we go from here is the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa Jackson.

Lisa, glad you're here.

MS. LISA JACKSON: Thanks for having me, Roland.

MR. MARTIN: Thi- -- this is obviously stunning to so many different people. This has been going on for more than -- first of all, nearly 40 days now, and so all kind[s] of efforts, trying to -- to cap this well, trying to stop the leak, but -- but I want to deal with the protection of the people, the water, the air. You're there taking samples. Where do we stand in terms of impact on the water and the air, other folks in the gulf as a result?

MS. JACKSON: Well, the American people and the people in the Gulf should know, Roland, that EPA has been taking air and water samples since April 28<sup>th</sup>, monitoring the air along the Gulf coast and monitoring the water along near-shore areas, in order to be able to tell the American people with confidence and with data that they can *look* at online, that they're not in any increased health danger because of this incident. Obviously, there're also issues associated with the workers out at sea. That's OSHA's responsibility, but we have an interest in *all* Americans' health.

MR. MARTIN: Let's talk about dispersements [sic]. And you actually issued a ruling, because BP was using -- what -- some 70,000 gallons a day, trying to impact the oil, break it up, or -- or -- or -- or move it out. And fra- -- and you guys ruled that that was way too much -- too many chemicals they were using in the waters. Talk about that, and what was the impact of that amount of chemicals on the water there in the Gulf, and how could that affect the average person who swims, or who actually fishes, or -- or -- or, actually, you know, able to get shrimp and oysters -- whatever -- out of the Gulf of

Mexico?

MS. JACKSON: I've made it very clear – and EPA's made it clear in a directive, Roland – that BP has to stop and cut down on its use of dispersant chemicals. Now, dispersants are chemicals. They're less toxic than the oil itself, but, still, they're a tool that can be in our toolbox, but shouldn't be overused. We went from 70,000 gallons a day when EPA issued the directive to under 15,000. Two days ago, they used about 10,000 gallons. I think yesterday they used about 15,000. And we asked them to stop spraying, unless it's absolutely necessary – if they have a situation where the Coast Guard approves it to be necessary.

And it's for exactly the reasons that you said, Roland. It's because people are concerned – not so much about swimming or it showing up in the water – although we're monitoring for that, and it's not showing up in the water near shore. They're worried about the unprecedented amounts of this chemical that's been used. And it makes some sense to use it, because it's such a large spill, but we don't want to overuse it.

MR. MARTIN: Obviously, we've been seeing these photos of – of birds and other animals covered in oil on the beaches there, and so what is the plan of action to keep the oil from reaching the beaches? We're hearing the reports that it's on its way to beaches in Florida, in Alabama. And so what kind[s] of protections are being put in place to stop that from happening – in essence, protecting the wetlands, protecting those precious beaches?

MS. JACKSON: Yeah, this is a battle, Roland. You know, I spent a half a day with Admiral Thad Allen. He is the National Incident Commander. He's from the U.S. Coast Guard, 39 years of experience in fighting oil spills. EPA and the Coast Guard work side by side in response – by law, on oil spill response, and he said exactly that – that he is fighting a multi-pronged battle. And one of those fronts is clearly doing everything we know how to do to keep that oil away from shallow water, away from estuaries, marshes and coastline, not just because of the tragic pictures that we see of wildlife – the pelican is the Louisiana state bird, and being a resident of New Orleans growing up, I remember our efforts to save it from becoming extinct; it's heartbreaking to see those pictures – but also because of the economic and just the cultural damage that happens as people see the places they love, the places they go – they live and go to enjoy the shoreline – devastated, potentially, by oil.

MR. MARTIN: What are the long-term impact[s] here? Because I mean, look. We get some 60 percent of Americans' shrimp from the Gulf coast, 70 percent of ... our oysters. We're hearing people – this is their livelihood. You talked about growing up in New Orleans, knowing folks who actually – you know, this was their *life* in terms of how they're able to make their money. And so are ... we looking at, you know, really, the next several years of a down economy in this area as a result of this oil spill?

MS. JACKSON: Well, we're going to do everything to fight that – that outcome, Roland, because if that *is* the outcome, although the President has made clear that we're going to be here for the people of the Gulf coast -- we're going to send aid; we're

going to do whatever the federal government needs to do to try to keep families whole, to try to keep people with money in their pockets to make up for lost income – that’s not the outcome we want. Listen, Roland, there are generations of people out on – who work these waters – fathers and sons and daughters and moms who have spent their lives and livelihood[s] building businesses along these waters. And you’re absolutely right. Everyone in the country enjoys the seafood and the – the bounty from these waters.

You asked earlier about what we’re doing to fight this battle. We burn the oil out at sea. That’s actually quite effective. We skim it, and there are more skimming vessels arriving every day. Admiral Allen has now ordered a flotilla of near-shore skimmers, so that if oil gets away from us in the deep sea, as it approaches the shoreline, he can try to surge over to where we see oil and skim it. Then [there’re] booms on the shoreline to try to catch the oil. And the other day, in Cocodrie, Louisiana, and Port Fauchoux, I saw – I saw snare booms – booms that actually hold on to the oil as it rushes past, so that it doesn’t get past them. And then, of course, if it makes it – and it can make it past the booms, depending on the weather and the flows – then the cleanup begins. All of those things have to be done.

MR. ROLAND: What do you say to your critics ... and when[?] I[?] say, “your critics,” meaning [of] the Obama Administration – who say the President has not shown enough empathy, enough anger as a result? Is this really a perception issue, or does it simply speak to the fact that, because you’re relying on BP to cap this oil, there’s really

not much the government can do to stop the leak; it's really everything beyond the leak? How do you answer the critics who're not happy at all with his attitude, his response to this crisis?

MS. JACKSON: Well, I – I think they have to separate their anger and frustration from the realities of what our response has been. From day one, the President has made it clear this is priority for this federal government. He's made clear to everyone in the Cabinet that if Admiral Allen asks, he's to get whatever resources he needs to support the cleanup, and that cleanup is growing every day: 20,000 people on the ground, almost 2,000 vessels – it's actually getting crowded out there – 4 million feet of boom, and growing every day.

But what I think is happening is, every day, as Americans look at pictures that are either horrifying, like this release – these plumes of oil in the sea – or heart-wrenching – heart-wrenching pictures of wildlife and fishermen and – and their wives crying and wondering what's going to happen – that anger and frustration is – is what they see and – and want to see reflected. And I can tell you the President is angry. He's made it clear to everyone that his frustration and his anger are as high as anyone else's, but he sees also the imperative to change that emotion and channel it into action to protect the American people.

MR. MARTIN: There's a great fear among many folks, in the oil industry and other industries that EPA oversees, that this will give you the strength to be even tougher when it comes to environmental standards. So, let's talk about the future for a

moment here. Are we likely to ... see a greater investigative process when it comes to these oil rigs? Because as you and I discussed last week, you said they're using technology that is new, but the efforts to fix the technology [are] 20 years old. And so talk about, going forward in the future, the kind of oversight we can expect to prevent these kind[s] of things from happening down the road.

MS. JACKSON: Well, President Obama has been clear on that point as well. There was a 30-day review that's already made recommendations about blowout preventers and inspection and safety as a result of just a quick, 30-day review of what happened on the Deepwater Horizon rig. Eleven people lost their lives, of course, but the President went further than that. He instituted a six-month commission – a presidential commission. It's the kind of thing that was done after Challenger, or after Three Mile A- -- Three Mile Island. It's headed by one Democrat and one Republican, former Sen. Graham and Bill Reilly, former head of the EPA. And the job of that commission is to find out what happened, both on the safety front and the environmental front, because on the safety front, we know that people lost their lives. More could be in danger. And on the environmental front, we're not able to write the end of the story about what this has done. And what the President has said is that this pause – this pause in deep sea drilling – is to allow us to make sure that we have the means and the ability to respond more effle- -- more effectively than BP has done so far.

MR. MARTIN: Americans are very, I – I would say, reactionary. I think that that

is a fair assessment – that, all of a sudden, you see people are saying that the Gulf of Mexico is a birthright, if you will. It is a protected area, how vital it is to our economy; but then when you begin to talk about enforcement, people always say, “Well, don’t do too much.” And so how critical is it for the American people to recognize that protecting the environment goes beyond simply water and land? We’re talking about thousands of jobs, and we’re talking about, frankly, billions of dollars in industry that is being affected by the spill in a negative way.

MS. JACKSON: It’s – it’s absolutely a reminder, and a tragic one, that we cannot take for granted our need to protect the bounty that we have been given. America has incredible natural bounty. The Gulf of Mexico is but one, world-class example of – of the bounty that is all over this country. And you know, Roland, we’ve talked before about my belief that we can have both. We can have a strong, thriving economy, but we can also have the world’s cleanest air. We should also have the world’s cleanest water. Our children deserve both. They deserve to be able to work, but they also deserve to be able to go out on a summer day and breathe, and we’re not worried about whether or not they’re going to have asthma or respiratory problems as a result. We should have both, and, sadly, these kinds of big catastrophes remind Americans once again that we – we cannot – *cannot* – stop being vigilant about our need to protect each other and to remember that it’s not business’ –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. JACKSON: -- job to protect the environment; it’s *government’s* job to protect

people here.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Lisa Jackson, head of the EPA, we certainly appreciate it. Thank you so very much.

MS. JACKSON: Thanks for having me, Roland.

MR. MARTIN: Folks, coming up: does President Obama need to wear his emotions on his sleeve? Spike Lee thinks so. Plus, did Alabama gubernatorial candidate Cong. Artur Davis sink his political career by distancing himself from African-Americans? Our roundtable guests, April Ryan of American Urban Radio Networks; Sonya Ross of the Associated Press; Robert Traynham of the Comcast Network; and Joe Madison of Sirius/XM Radio, are ready to dig in on these stories and much more.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 2)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks, we've got a lot to talk about, so let's get right to it. April Ryan, the White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks; Sonya Ross, news editor for the Associated Press; Robert Traynham, host of "Roll Call TV" on the Comcast Network; and Joe Madison, talk show host on Sirius/XM Radio.

All right, folks, everybody seems to want Pres. Barack Obama to have more empathy, to show more emotion as a result of the oil spill in Louisiana. Did he make a mistake in maintaining his cool, calm, collected demeanor and not show[ing] more emotion to connect with the people?

MS. APRIL RYAN: We needed to hear the fact that the President said, and had

clenched teeth saying, "Plug this damned hole." And not only that, the messenger that was delivering the President's message really downplayed it at the very be- --

MR. MARTIN: Okay. You --

MS. RYAN: -- -ginning.

MR. MARTIN: -- said "the messenger." Who is that?

MS. RYAN: We're talking about Robert Gibbs --

MR. MARTIN: Thank you very much.

MS. RYAN: -- the White House press secretary. I remember, Roland, asking him early on something about the leak, and he and Carol Browner in that briefing said, "Oh, it's just the exploratory well." Well, this "*exploratory well*" is still gushing and causing this kind of damage. So, they tried to downplay it, but now we have the visuals. We're seeing the Exxon Valdez type of situation, where birds --

MR. MARTIN: Actually --

MS. RYAN: -- are --

MR. MARTIN: -- it *exceeds* that in terms --

MS. RYAN: -- right, but we're seeing --

MR. MARTIN: -- the greatest oil --

MS. RYAN: -- the *pictures* now.

MR. MARTIN: -- spill. Right.

MS. RYAN: We're seeing the pictures now, and -- and -- and the White House and the administration are saying, "Look. We cannot predict what's going to happen as

far as the environmental concern is” --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. RYAN: -- “because this is unprecedented.”

MR. MARTIN: Well, this is not a president, frankly, who is prone to show emotion. Even during the healthcare debate, you would think that he would read one of those emotional letters from someone, saying –

MR. ROBERT TRAYNHAM: Or, talk about – [crosstalk].

MR. MARTIN: -- “I want healthcare” – right. He simply doesn’t *do* that, the White House makes it perfectly clear. So, is this an example of your greatest strength in this case being your greatest weakness?

MR. TRAYNHAM: Absolutely. Look, we come – we – we’d just come off the eve of a White House – meaning the Bush Administration – where it was “my way, or the no way.” It was the swagger. It was a president that was *overly* emotional in terms of “bring ‘em” – you know, “dead or alive,” or whatever the case may be. And –

MS. RYAN: [Crosstalk] –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- obviously –

MS. RYAN: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- and, obviously, this president’s clearly different. And so you can’t have it both ways – the American people.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Either you have a president that’s *overly* emotional, or you

have a president that's somewhat "detached."

But to the President's defense, he says, "Look. I can walk and chew gum at the same time. Am I upset about this? *Absolutely*. Do I need to go and" – "out and bang my fist on the presidential podium? *Absolutely not*." And the reason why is because – and here I am defending the President – here – and – and the – here – and the reason why the President says this is because at the end of the day, that's still not going to solve the problem.

MR. MARTIN: But –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Solving the problem is holding people accountable that did this.

MR. MARTIN: -- but are we looking at, really, a – a communication issue, because that – that feeds into the perception? Because the White House says, "Look. We were on this. We were sending out press releases" – things along those lines – but it seemed to me around that 30<sup>th</sup> day, when we reached – reached that point, all of a sudden, it changed, and people were saying, "*Wait* a minute. It's been a *month* now! That thing is still going *on*?" And then, all of a sudden, people wanted to see *action*. They wanted to see boats. They wanted to see buoys. They wanted to see all kind[s] of different things. That – to me, that seems to be the issue here –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Roland –

MR. MARTIN: -- the *perception*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Roland, there's a difference between being overly

emotional and being detached, and I think *that's* where the President falters in this trap – where he looks pre- -- professorsorial [sic] and does not look like he's on – engaged in the whole, entire scene. And I think *that's* where the American people have this disconnect with this president. They want to make sure that he understands the problem and understands the magnitude of this problem.

MR. MARTIN: Joe –

MR. JOE MADISON: Roland –

MR. MARTIN: -- a lotta folks are not happy.

MR. MADISON: -- well, they *shouldn't* be happy. And, quite honestly, the – the position that I've taken is that I think the President should, number one, bring out of retirement Lt. Gen. Honoré.

MR. MADISON: Right.

MR. MARTIN: Russel – Russel.

MR. MADISON: Russel Honoré, because he is the one that has a clear plan. We know he's capable of – of taking over a situation, if necessary, breaking the rules to get things done. But i- -- i- -- I watched the governor of Louisiana this –

MR. MARTIN: Bobby Jindal.

MR. MADISON: -- who – who had excellent imagery.

MR. MARTIN: That was a he- -- it was a – it was a hell of a news conference, and my folks on Twitter were like, "I can't believe you're defending Bobby Jindal."

MR. MADISON: Oh, no. No, no.

MR. MARTIN: I'm like, "I'm sorry. *That* was a strong news conference!

MR. MADISON: It was, and – and so here you have the President looking at little specks of oil on the beach, and here you had the governor of Louisiana on a be- -- oil-covered beach with brown pelicans that were dying. *That's* the imagery that you want, that shows you care.

You are absolutely right, Roland. This is not a bullhorn kind of president. *However*, he's *got* to be flexible. He's *got* to –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MADISON: -- understand this is what the American people want. *But* the bottom line – and I'll finish up by saying – you can be bo[i]sterous, you can be prof[fes]sorial. It is solutions. He's got to put somebody in there like Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré and take control of this –

MR. MARTIN: Sonya –

MR. MADISON: -- situation.

MS. SONYA ROSS: Now, Pre- --

MR. MARTIN: -- you covered the White House when Bill Clinton was there, and people often said he was too emotional on *everything*. Should a president understand that ebb and flow? Because people are looking to that person as a leader to say, "I'm feeling your pain, but also I'm coming down on the people who made this happen."

MS. ROSS: -- this is about display of *authority*. You – presidents have to come across as if they are *authoritative*.

MR. MARTIN: Is he doing that?

MS. ROSS: Whether they're cool –

MR. MARTIN: Right?

MS. ROSS: -- like Obama, or whether they're hot-blooded like Bill Clinton or George W. Bush, they have to make the American public feel that they are in command, that –

MR. MARTIN: I- -- is he *doing* –

MS. ROSS: -- they are –

MR. MARTIN: -- that?

MS. ROSS: -- authoritative.

MR. MARTIN: Is he give – i- -- is that impression being *given*?

MS. ROSS: Well, loo- -- we'll find that out. You know –

MR. TRAYNHAM: When you – [crosstalk]- --

MS. ROSS: -- with what the President is doing in terms of canceling overseas travel and taking care of home, it's a potent statement. However, if you go down and look like a tourist, you know, strolling across the beach, you don't get as many authority points from the public –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. ROSS: -- as you would if you were to say, "Here is what I've done."

MR. MADISON: This is a BP problem.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MADISON: This is not an Obama problem. This is – this is –

MR. TRAYNHAM: But they're one [and] the same now.

MR. MARTIN: *But* –

MR. MADISON: -- well, that's be- --

[CROSSTALK.]

MS. RYAN: No, they –

MR. MARTIN: -- but – but –

MS. RYAN: -- [crosstalk] – they're not. They're not.

MR. MADISON: -- no, I don't know about that.

MS. RYAN: They're not.

MR. MADISON: I don't know about that.

MR. MARTIN: -- but – but – but –

MS. RYAN: They're – they're in support of each other.

[CROSSTALK.]

MS. RYAN: -- [crosstalk] --

MR. MARTIN: -- but hasn't it changed, though –

MS. RYAN: -- a difference –

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk]. Hasn't it changed, though, that the leak itself is the BP problem, but the protection of beaches, the dispersements [sic] – you – you – we just had Lisa Jackson talking about that issue as well.

MR. MADISON: But it's also – it's –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MADISON: -- *government's* problem --

MR. MARTIN: It's -- it's -- a- --

MR. MADISON: -- yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- and so --

MR. MADISON: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- w- -- wha- -- what I seem to be getting from people [is] they're not seeing the massive action in that area --

MR. MADISON: Good point.

MR. MARTIN: -- and so now, all of a sudden, you -- *now* you have a BP and federal --

MR. MADISON: Good point.

MR. MARTIN: -- government problem.

MS. RYAN: But it's a BP problem, because the federal government cannot federalize this because we don't have the equipment. We don't have the wherewithal. We --

MR. MARTIN: No, no, no, no, no.

MS. RYAN: No, no, no, no!

MR. MARTIN: N- -- April, you missed --

MS. RYAN: We're not in charge.

MR. MARTIN: -- my point.

MS. RYAN: We can't[?] –

MR. MARTIN: No, no, April. You missed my point. On the leak itself, BP,  
according to Lisa Jackson –

MR. MADISON: [Crosstalk.]

MR. MARTIN: -- they have the technology. They own that.

MR. MADISON: Right.

MS. RYAN: Right.

MR. MARTIN: *But* –

MS. RYAN: That's what I'm saying.

MR. MARTIN: -- when you saw the conference with – news conference with  
Bobby Jindal, that was *him* saying –

MR. MADISON: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- “In the Coast Guard's own plan, this is” –

MR. MADISON: “We need” –

MR. MARTIN: -- “how you protect it.”

MR. MADISON: -- “to protect” –

MR. MARTIN: And what I –

MR. MADISON: -- that's right.

MS. RYAN: And – [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: -- and s- --

MS. RYAN: -- have not done that.

MR. MARTIN: -- and so *now*, when you see stories of oil coming on the beaches of Alabama and Florida, that's people saying, "*Wait* a minute. You *knew* the oil was coming."

MR. MADISON: Right.

MR. MARTIN: "Where was the action?"

MR. TRAYNHAM: And, Roland -- and, Roland, it's not just Bobby Jindal. It's Mary Matalin. It's James Carville. It's all the local folks down in there.

MR. MARTIN: It's Chris Matthews.

MR. TRAYNHAM: It -- it's a --

MR. MARTIN: You -- you now have pundits --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- there you go.

MR. MARTIN: -- and hosts --

MR. TRAYNHAM: There you go.

MR. MARTIN: -- coming after you. Shepard Smith on --

MR. TRAYNHAM: There you go.

MR. MARTIN: -- Fox. That's a whole different *conversation*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: The- -- the- -- there you go. And tha- -- that's -- that's my next point -- is that the Obama Administration -- this is *their* problem, because they have lost the narrative. They -- they're so used to writing their own press releases, b- -- the American people now are saying, "Well, *wait* a minute. It's one thing to be authoritative. It's one thing to be outraged. What are you *doing* here? This is almost like Katrina in

the sense of – and I – I’m being very careful with that. It’s in the – in the context of  
“*Who is in control here?*”

MS. RYAN: No –

MR. TRAYNHAM: This is –

MS. RYAN: -- it’s getting ahead of the problem. I think that’s more the Katrina issue, because the – President Bush was not able to get ahead of the problem when Katrina first happened. And this president – it took 40 days for him to come down, and it’s going to be two times in one week that he’s gone to the Gulf, because the issue is getting head of this. And they *should’ve* had the booms –

MR. MARTIN: And he’s play- -- he’s playing –

MS. RYAN: -- like Bobby Ji- --

MR. MARTIN: -- he’s playing defense, ra- -- rather than –

MS. RYAN: -- right.

MR. MARTIN: -- offense.

MS. RYAN: Right.

MR. MARTIN: And I – I – a- --

MS. RYAN: Like Bobby Jindal –

MS. ROSS: When --

MS. RYAN: -- said –

MS. ROSS: -- problems –

MS. RYAN: -- “I needed the booms” –

MR. MARTIN: -- a- -- and -- and -- [crosstalk] --

MS. ROSS: -- lang- --

MS. RYAN: -- “but the booms weren’t *there*.”

MS. ROSS: -- when problems languish for a long time, especially in *this* town, it becomes a game of “Who? What? When?”

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. ROSS: And if *anyone* finds a *spec* of information that says the Obama Administration knew that this catastrophe could snowball as early as day 4, or as early --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. ROSS: -- as day 20 --

MS. RYAN: Why would you wait --

MS. ROSS: -- why -- you know --

MS. RYAN: -- until the 40<sup>th</sup> day?

MS. ROSS: -- “Why is this *taking* so long?”

MR. MARTIN: A- -- and I think -- I think this is to Joe’s point. Look, if you have a -- a Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré -- I’m sorry -- Thad Allen is not coming across as being authoritative, “I’m absolutely in control.” And I think that it also feeds into the perception “who’s actually running this whole show?”

Gotta go --

MS. ROSS: But it is --

MR. MARTIN: -- to a break.

MS. ROSS: -- President *Obama's* responsibility --

MR. MARTIN: I -- I --

MS. ROSS: -- to come across as being in --

MR. MARTIN: -- I *gotcha*.

MS. ROSS: -- control.

MR. MARTIN: But also -- but if your -- but if your -- but if your general on the ground -- your commander on the ground --

MR. MADISON: That's it.

MR. MARTIN: -- doesn't give the impression --

MR. MADISON: That's right.

MR. MARTIN: -- that "I'm handling this," then people say, "I don't know what's going on."

MS. RYAN: This gusher is --

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk] --

MR. MADISON: Roosevelt and --

MS. RYAN: -- this gusher's not going to stop.

MR. MADISON: -- Eisenhower.

MR. MARTIN: There ya go.

MR. MADISON: Ei- --

MS. RYAN: This gusher is not going to stop, and this is what the administration said.

MR. MADISON: -- yeah, right.

MS. RYAN: They're not expecting it to *stop*. It's going to keep –

MR. MARTIN: And that's going –

MS. RYAN: -- on growing.

MR. MARTIN: -- to feed further into the problem.

Gotta take a break right now. When we come back, we'll deal with the whole issue of the jobs report. The White House say[s] it's wonderful. Look inside the report – not so great.

Folks, more from our journalist roundtable is coming up right after the break.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 3)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. Back with round two of our journalists' roundtable discussion. Let's get right into it. Jobs report: unemployment goes down from 9.9 percent to 9.7 percent. African-American unemployment goes down to 15.5 percent. [The] White House is touting that as job growth. Some 430,000 jobs, but when you look inside of it, they're mostly *Census* jobs. So, 41,000 private-sector jobs – is this really something to get excited about?

OFF CAMERA: No.

MS. ROSS: No.

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. MARTIN: [Shrugs.] Okay!

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. MARTIN: All right!

MR. TRAYNHAM: Well, first of –

MR. MARTIN: Ne- -- next up[?!]

[CROSSTALK, MORE LAUGHTER.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- first of all, we sh- -- we shouldn't –

MR. MARTIN: Wow! Robert, April *agree – together!* Whoo!

[CHUCKLING, CROSSTALK.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- well, first of all – first of all, we shouldn't – le- -- let's put a lipsti- -- let's put a lipstick on the pig.

MS. RYAN: Oh, Lord!

MR. TRAYNHAM: 431,000 people have a job. However, out of those 431,000, 411[,000] of those folks are not going to be out of – or, are going to be out of a job six weeks from now. These are only temporary jobs. So, this is only a temporary fix to the problem. This is the main reason why Wall Street is not enthusiastic about this. This is the main reason why this is still a jobless recovery. We still have to give the Obama Administration credit. They have gotten us out of a horrific mess, starting in January of –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- 2008. *However* – or, January 2009. However, the devil's still in the details. There are many, many people out there that are still underemployed

and not employed. This is still a major problem, and going into 2010, the Democrats are going to have a major, major –

MS. RYAN: The numbers –

MR. MARTIN: So, April –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- problem –

MR. MARTIN: -- so, April –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- over this.

MS. RYAN: -- the numb- –

MR. MARTIN: -- go, go, go. Go ahead.

MS. RYAN: -- the numbers are still going to fluctuate, and – and we're still in a recession. We're coming *out* of a recession, and – and – and to solidify this – I talked to Marsha ... Fudge, congresswoman of Cleveland, Ohio, and she said, "Look." You know, "This state" – "Our state, Ohio, saw," you know, "more jobs created, but the city of Cleveland had a problem." The blue-collar area of Cleveland, east and west, still had a problem with Black job unemployment.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. RYAN: And you go from 16.5 to 15.5 – she says, "Look. It's not significant enough, and there need to be targeted approaches."

MR. MARTIN: Joe, what more can the government *do*? I mean is this simply one of those situations where you have to wait this thing out?

MR. MADISON: Oh, *no*. You don't – you *can't* wait this out. I think what the

government's go to do – and it goes back to what we discussed in the last segment. I think that the President's got to slap Wall Street in its *head*. These people have got to start investing in Americans in this country. I – I mean, look. We – we – we're – we're offshoring these jobs left and right. It's *still* being done. The United States Senate just refused to put money in a bill that would provide *summer* jobs for students. *Somebody* needs to be *punk-slapped* in this city and told that "I'm not going to go down because these little, greedy folk on" – "in" – "in Wall Street get their bonuses, keep offshoring jobs and not employing people." Thi- -- "You must employ people. *Put this country back to work!*" And that's got to be the *message*.

MR. MARTIN: I – I w- --

MS. ROSS: The jobs –

MR. MARTIN: -- I w- --

MS. ROSS: -- scenario was already past the past of urgent when the numbers began to creep up at the start of the recession. So, what they're reporting now certainly wouldn't be any kind of silver bullet –

MR. MARTIN: -- right.

MS. ROSS: -- in solving the problem, and they *know* this.

MR. MADISON: There *is* no –

MS. ROSS: So, the –

MR. MADISON: -- silver bullet.

MS. ROSS: -- smarter thing –

MR. MARTIN: But – [crosstalk]- --

MS. ROSS: -- to do would be to say, “Look. We still have a long, long way to go,” and not try to make this as –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. ROSS: -- if it’s been some magical solution.

MR. TRAYNHAM: But, Roland, here’s the unfortunate truth. The unfortunate truth is those jobs are not coming back.

MR. MARTIN: -- right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: I’ll just leave it at that.

MR. MARTIN: I wanna go to – spe- -- speak- -- speaking of one person who’s about to be out of a job, Cong. Artur Davis ran for governor in the Democratic primary in Alabama. *Crushed!* I mean *totally* blown away. I- --

MS. RYAN: Are you surprised?

MR. MARTIN: -- no, I’m not surprised.

MS. RYAN: Okay.

MR. MARTIN: But –

MR. TRAYNHAM: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: -- le- -- le- -- let’s get right into it. He was the one running in Alabama – Deep South – but he ran away from *Black* folks.

MR. MADISON: Hey, I don’t have any sympathy with him, and I’ll say this on this show right now. I called his campaign, his people – staff people here in Washington,

and campaign folk in Alabama – to *please* come on the show. We got a lot of folk who listen in –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MADISON: -- Alabama, Black and White. They would *refuse* to come on Black talk –

MR. MARTIN: Joe[?] –

MR. MADISON: -- radio.

MR. MARTIN: -- we asked him six times to come on this show. They said no. He didn't do "Tom Joyner." I'm sorry. If you're running for governor, and you're African-American, and you're trying to raise money, and you're trying to get support, how do you *ignore* Black media?

MR. MADISON: Wait a minute.

MR. TRAYNHAM: But, Roland – [crosstalk]- --

MR. MADISON: But then, in the *end* – I'm sorry – [crosstalk] –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Go ahead.

MR. MADISON: -- but – but one thing. But then, in the *end*, he *realized* he was in trouble, and what did he do? He brings in Jesse Jackson, Jr., and John Lewis. And so you can't win when you've got one group over here that's after you be- -- for ethnic and cultural reasons, another group over here that's saying you're ignoring [them]. It's a s- -- it's a formula for –

MR. MARTIN: I mean – and – and –

MR. MADISON: -- failure.

MR. MARTIN: -- and the candidate he ran against went after the Black political --

MR. TRAYNHAM: The Black leaders.

MR. MARTIN: -- organizations, got their endorsements, but also --

MR. MADISON: *Yeah.*

MR. MARTIN: -- he -- I mean *I've* talked to folks there. He showed up at Black events. He was shaking hands. He was pressing the flesh -- and Davis was *absent*.

MR. MADISON: So, what's --

MS. RYAN: But let me tell you --

MR. MADISON: -- the lesson?

MS. RYAN: -- something. People -- the lesson is if you're going to be a man who's running for an office, be true to who you are. And that's what many --

MR. MADISON: That's right.

MS. RYAN: -- CBC people -- I'm sorry. He --

MR. MADISON: That's right.

MR. MARTIN: And also, if you --

MS. RYAN: -- never --

MR. MARTIN: -- April --

MS. RYAN: -- he *never* went to a --

MS. ROSS: That's only *part* of --

MS. RYAN: -- single[?] Congressional --

MS. ROSS: -- the lesson.

MS. RYAN: -- I know, but he never went to a Congressional Black Caucus meeting, and there was even a come-to-Jesus meeting about *him*, and they were thinking about not supporting him, because he voted against many of the things that --

MR. MARTIN: And, Robert --

MS. RYAN: -- they said.

MR. MARTIN: -- that --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Roland --

MR. MARTIN: -- vote against healthcare --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- a- -- it was a --

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

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it was a --

MR. MARTIN: -- it --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it was a death knell.

MS. RYAN: He voted against the --

MR. TRAYNHAM: It was a death --

MS. RYAN: -- *hate* crimes --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- knell.

MR. MARTIN: -- and -- and tha- --

MS. RYAN: -- bill!

MR. MARTIN: -- and that was --

MR. TRAYNHAM: It was a death knell.

MR. MARTIN: -- ri- -- right.

MS. RYAN: He voted against the *hate* crimes bill!

MR. TRAYNHAM: But – but you know what? But, listen –

MR. MARTIN: And – [unintelligible] – was a non-vote on “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but listen to Cong. Davis. Cong. Davis: “I’m a Black” – “I was a Black man running in Alabama. The fact of the matter is” – “is that I still had to run to the center in order to get the nomination.” Now, obviously –

MS. RYAN: He reminds me of Barack –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- now –

MS. RYAN: -- Obama.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- now, obviously – now, obviously, that lost. Now, the typical

–

MR. MARTIN: But – but – but, Robert –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: -- but – but, Robert –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: -- but, Robert, Robert –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but, Roland –

MR. MARTIN: -- but if Black voters make up 40 percent of the primary, don’t you

have to secure the nomination *first* --

MR. TRAYNHAM: I agree with you.

MR. MARTIN: -- before you start running a *general campaign*?

MR. TRAYNHAM: I -- I agree with you. *However*, Artur Davis tried to do the Barack Obama model in the beginning. Remember, Barack Obama --

MR. MARTIN: M-m-m-m --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Roland --

MS. RYAN: Yes, he did!

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Roland --

MS. ROSS: Well --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- during the primary --

MS. ROSS: -- wait.

MS. RYAN: Yes, he did.

MR. MARTIN: -- no, no, no, no. I -- I --

MS. RYAN: Yes, he did. Yes, he did.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Time out!

MS. RYAN: Yes, he did.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Time out!

MS. RYAN: Yes, he did.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: Let's -- let's go --

MR. MARTIN: Obama *still* –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- let's –

MR. MARTIN: -- talked to Black folks.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- let's go down to Memory –

MS. RYAN: But it took –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Lane.

MS. RYAN: -- a long time –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Roland –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: No. Not – not true.

MS. RYAN: During the campaign –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Roland –

MR. MARTIN: That's not true.

MS. RYAN: -- no. We would argue. We would talk –

MR. MARTIN: That's not true.

MS. RYAN: -- amongst ourselves during the –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- absolutely. A- --

MS. RYAN: -- campaign – [crosstalk] –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Roland –

MS. ROSS: [Crosstalk] – complicating factor.

MS. RYAN: -- we were – I gotta be true.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- I gotta -- I gotta finish this.

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead. Go ahead. Go ahead.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Roland, in January of 2007 --

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.] Joe knows it's true. [Chuckles.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Barack Obama was not in South Carolina. He was not talking about his Black roots. He was talking to predominantly *White* individuals. And the reason why is because he had to go right to the center, because he had obviously --

MR. MADISON: No, no. No.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- so -- so, having said that -- so, having said that, let's be fair.

MR. MADISON: No. No.

MR. TRAYNHAM: I remember --

MR. MADISON: You're --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- vividly --

MR. MADISON: -- wrong.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- having --

MR. MARTIN: Okay, okay.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- I remember v- -- I remember --

MR. MARTIN: Hold on one second.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- vividly having --

MR. MADISON: *Excuse* me.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- a conversation --

MR. MADISON: With all due --

MR. MARTIN: Okay. Ho- -- hold on. Hold on. One se- -- one second.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: Sonya --

MR. MADISON: -- res- -- with -- with all due -- excuse me.

MR. MARTIN: Hold on. Hold on, Joe.

MR. MADISON: With all due respect --

MR. MARTIN: Hold on, Joe.

MR. MADISON: -- he was --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Go ahead.

MR. MADISON: -- running over --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Go ahead.

MR. MADISON: -- there with the Bushes.

MR. MARTIN: Hold up, Joe.

MR. MADISON: Some of us --

MR. MARTIN: Hold up, Joe.

MR. MADISON: -- some o- --

MR. MARTIN: One --

MR. MADISON: -- okay.

MR. MARTIN: -- second.

MR. MADISON: Go ahead.

MR. MARTIN: Robert, real quick.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: Then Sonya, then Joe.

MR. TRAYNHAM: I just – I just remember us having a conversation in the Black community about how Barack Obama, during the primaries – in the early part of the primaries – was not – quote, unquote – “Black enough.” He was not –

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- going after the Black community –

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- in the beginning.

MS. RYAN: He wasn't going --

MR. MARTIN: First of all –

MS. RYAN: -- to Black –

MR. MARTIN: -- hold on. Hold on.

MS. RYAN: -- meetings then.

MR. MARTIN: One second.

MR. TRAYNHAM: That's right.

MS. RYAN: Am I –

MR. TRAYNHAM: That's right.

MS. RYAN: -- correct?

MR. MARTIN: Hold up.

MS. RYAN: Am I correct, Joe?

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk] – there in a second.

MS. RYAN: Am I correct, Joe?

MR. MARTIN: Sonya, what's your –

MS. ROSS: In a season –

MR. MARTIN: -- Sonya, your comment.

MS. ROSS: -- in a season –

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.]

MS. ROSS: -- where the voters have been taking the politicians to school, you don't do anything *but* listen to the voters. You go after the *voters*. Public sentiment at – well, really, public *disgust* with – [chuckles] –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. ROSS: -- with the politicians and Washington is – is at a *very high level* right

–

MR. MARTIN: And when a –

MS. ROSS: -- now.

MR. MARTIN: -- president wins –

MS. ROSS: You –

MR. MARTIN: -- your district by 72 percent –

MS. ROSS: -- you –

MR. MARTIN: -- and you vote against the number one issue --

MS. ROSS: -- it's called --

MR. MARTIN: -- we had --

MS. ROSS: -- it's called --

MR. MARTIN: -- and Black people love him? You're dead --

MS. ROSS: -- and it is --

MR. MARTIN: -- if you run.

MS. ROSS: -- called -- it is called "dance with the one who brought you" --

MR. MARTIN: Hold on. Joe.

MS. ROSS: -- "to the party."

MR. MARTIN: Joe --

MR. TRAYNHAM: But -- but Ob- --

MR. MARTIN: One second. One second. Joe.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Obama lost --

MR. MARTIN: Joe. Joe.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Obama lost Alabama --

MR. MARTIN: No, no, no. No, no. No, no.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- by 3 points.

MR. MARTIN: No, no.

MR. TRAYNHAM: No, Roland.

MR. MARTIN: No -- okay.

MR. MADISON: No, but he didn't –

MR. MARTIN: Hold up.

MR. MADISON: -- lose the –

MR. MARTIN: Artur Davis lo- --

MR. MADISON: -- Black *district* –

MR. MARTIN: -- hold up, J- -- hold up. Robert, Artur Davis lost his *own* polling place.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Well –

MR. MADISON: [Laughs.]

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

MR. TRAYNHAM: [Chuckles.] Look, look – [chuckling] –

MR. MARTIN: Robert, the place where he goes to vote? Hhe lost *that* one.

MR. MADISON: -- can I now –

MR. MARTIN: Joe, go –

MR. MADISON: -- can I –

MR. MARTIN: -- ahead.

MR. MADISON: -- now – can I now –

MR. MARTIN: Joe, go ahead.

MR. MADISON: -- first of all –

MS. RYAN: Woo-oo!

MR. MADISON: -- he *did* –

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: [Chuckles.]

MS. RYAN: [Laughs.]

MR. MARTIN: When you lose your own pollin' place –

MR. MADISON: -- that's like a – right[?].

MR. MARTIN: -- that's like yo' *momma* not votin' for –

MR. MADISON: First of –

MR. MARTIN: -- ya!

MR. MADISON: -- all, le- -- let's –

MR. MARTIN: Joe, go ahead.

MR. MADISON: -- let's set history straight. Barack Obama, Michelle Obama *did* come on "The Madison Show." They *did* go on Tom Joyner's –

MS. RYAN: And they –

MR. MADISON: --show.

MS. RYAN: -- and they did me[?].

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MADISON: -- and – and they did April –

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk] -- absolutely.

MR. MADISON: -- they did April Ryan. And, yes, they – they – they balanced it. And there *was* the debate in the community was he "Black enough," based on *issues*, because he was to the center. But he knew, and he had on his list, those phone calls to

make to make –

MS. RYAN: Um-hum.

MR. MADISON: -- sure that he played – lemme tell you. Any Black politician running – I don't care where you are –

MS. RYAN: They – [crosstalk].

MR. MADISON: -- you better learn to play to Black –

MS. RYAN: That's right.

MR. MADISON: -- radio.

MS. ROSS: And –

MS. RYAN: That's right!

MR. MADISON: -- and – and – and –

MS. ROSS: -- to *dance with the one who brought* –

MR. MADISON: -- and who brought you to the –

MS. ROSS: -- *you to the party*.

MR. MADISON: -- to the party.

MS. ROSS: *Period*.

MR. MADISON: And –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MADISON: -- and – and we know – and I'll close by saying – we know that his campaign *deliberately ran from us*.

MR. MARTIN: And that's why –

MS. RYAN: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- he does not have a job.

And so we'll close it on that. Also –

MS. RYAN: Whoo!

MR. MARTIN: -- we're glad that Joe is back. Joe was battling prostate cancer.

Glad you're here.

Guys, get tested.

MR. MADISON: *Please* –

MR. MARTIN: We pushed the issue on this show.

MR. MADISON: -- *please* –

MR. MARTIN: Get tested.

MR. MADISON: -- get tested. And it's a –

MR. MARTIN: All right.

MR. MADISON: -- couples disease, and if your dumb husband or significant other doesn't go to get tested, Father's Day would be a good reminder.

MR. MARTIN: And, Joe, I'm a firm believer.

Ladies, if he don't wanna go, cut 'im off from sex. He'll be *runnin'* to the –

MS. RYAN: Oh!

MS. ROSS: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: -- doctor. No, you gotta go there! Some men don't wanna go there. I'm a firm believer. Cut 'em off! Trust me. He'll take his butt to the doctor.

MR. TRAYNHAM: *Roland!*

MR. MARTIN: *Look!* I've said it on TV before.

MR. TRAYNHAM: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: This ain't the first time.

MR. MADISON: But he –

MR. MARTIN: I'm tryin' to get men *tested!*

MR. MADISON: -- but let me tell you. *Some* men –

MS. RYAN: If that – [crosstalk] –

MR. MADISON: -- don't go because –

MS. RYAN: -- I'm glad.

MR. MADISON: -- they think they *won't* have sex.

MR. TRAYNHAM: That's true.

MR. MADISON: And if they *die*, they ain't havin' *anything*.

MR. MADISON: [Laughs.]

MR. MADISON: So – [chuckles] – *go get tested*.

MR. MARTIN: Go get tested. That's my whole point.

MR. MADISON: Right.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you very much.

MR. MADISON: Go get tested.

MR. TRAYNHAM: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: April, Sonya, Robert and Joe, thanks a bunch.

That's *right*. We cut to the *chase* here, Robert.

MR. TRAYNHAM: [Laughs.]

MR. MADISON: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: You can join in on this discussion by logging on to TVOnline.com and leaving your comments there.

Up next, commentators gone wild. Bill O'Reilly's got the Web up in arms after he seriously dissed a Black professor. Bill Maher wants the President to go *gangsta*? With a *gun*? NewsOne.com's Smokey Fontaine joins us with the raucous details.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 4)**

MR. MARTIN: All kind[s] of crazy and wild comments are being made on television, and we've got two that 've really burned folks up online. NewsOne.com's Smokey Fontaine joins us via the HP Sky Room from News One's New York headquarters with these two stories.

Smokey, how's it going?

MR. SMOKEY FONTAINE: Yeah, we're – we're doing very well over here. Like you said, these comments are burning up NewsOne.com and all of our websites – two, incredible statements that were made live on television.

MR. MARTIN: I wanna get to the first one. Bill Maher made a comment basically saying he wants the President to act like a "real Black president." Here's what he had to say.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. BILL MAHER: You know, I – [chuckles] – I thought when we elected a Black president, we were gonna get a *Black president*. I –

[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER.]

MR. MAHER: -- you know, this is where I want a *real Black president*. I want him in a meeting with the BP CEOs, you know, where he lifts up his shirt so they can see the *gun* in his pants.

[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER.]

MR. MAHER: That's – “We got mu-[bleep] *problem here?*” you know, and –

[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER, APPLAUSE.]

MR. MAHER: -- shoots somebody in the *foot*. I want a –

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: Bill Maher's a comedian, but a lot of folks were not ha- -- they were not laughing online.

MR. FONTAINE: No, they weren't. Over 250 comments came in to this one story alone. Let me read you some of the highlights. This came in from Brighton, Massachusetts. “What does Mr. Maher know about a ‘real Black president’? His statements about Obama are inherently racist. As someone who is supposed to have some kind of satirical bent in his standup, putting down a Black president is neither enlightening nor funny.”

So, it's been split, but I think what's most important is the comment that came in

from Chicago, Illinois, on the flipside. Let me read *this* to you. “What kills me most is that Black folks do *not* have a problem with Black comics making jokes about our mommas, our hair, our skin, our noses. But let a White man who makes fun of *all* politicians say something about Obama; and now some folks are crying “racism.” I’m not defending Maher, and I am not a fan of his, but when you make the decision to run for public office, you are fair game and should be held accountable the same as any White president.”

MR. MARTIN: All right. We[‘ve] got one person who made a – a statement. He’s not a politician. Here’s Bill O’Reilly talking to commentator Prof. Marc Lamont Hill. You gotta check *this* exchange out.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. BILL O’REILLY: Say you’re a cocaine dealer – and you kinda look like one a little bit.

PROF. MARC LAMONT HILL: [Chuckles.] As do *you*. You look like a –

MR. O’REILLY: [Crosstalk]- --

PROF. HILL: -- you like a cocaine *user*. So – [chuckles] –

MR. O’REILLY: -- yeah, I –

PROF. HILL: -- so, we’re even.

MR. O’REILLY: -- I’m too thin. I know.

PROF. HILL: [Chuckles.]

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: All right. So, here you have Lamont – La- -- Marc certainly taking a shot at Bill O'Reilly – great comeback there as well. What are folks saying online?

MR. FONTAINE: It was a great comeback, and the two of these guys, they go at each other all the time on the show. If you watch the show, you'll see that. Look. We're in a sound-bite culture. We know we're in a Web-driven culture. We're bringing in all this activity – all this activity online to these kind[s] of mini scandals. So[?], "Is this racist?" "Is that not racist?"

I don't think that's really the best point here. What the best point is, is let's have the dialogue. We've awakened our Black voices online through these scandals, but folks aren't just commenting in one or two sentences. If you look at News One, folks are writing a-hundred-word, two hundred-word, three hundred-word kind of essays about how they feel about these incidents –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. FONTAINE: -- and the larger political questions of our time. That's the most important thing.

MR. MARTIN: Well, I'll tell you what. Again – I mean I love the fact that you have the – the instant feedback, but it also goes to show you in this climate, when everything goes viral, the moment you make a comment, it's no longer, hey, the show airs that night, and then you wake up the next morning and see it in the papers. I mean people have it instantly, online. And so you have instant analysis and feedback. That's one of the reasons why you'll see folks like Glenn Beck make a crazy comment

regarding Malia Obama, where he criticizes – you[?] know[?], makes fun of her, and he apologized the same day ‘cause he got ripped apart by it.

So, Smokey, we certainly appreciate it. Thanks a bunch.

MR. FONTAINE: Thank you, Roland.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Folks, now it’s time for “My Perspective.”

Voters are looking for leaders and not politicians. Two recent folks lost at the polls, I think, because they sacrificed principles for politics. In Pennsylvania, Arlen Specter, long-time senator, switched from the Republican Party to the Democrats [and] lost in the primary. Parker Griffith, congressman in Alabama, split from the Democrats to the Republicans. He got blown away this week as well.

What this says is that voters are tired of politicians. They want people who believe in something. They want people who are going to Washington, D.C., to represent their interests and that are not simply interested in keeping a job. That’s the problem we have. We have too many people in Washington, D.C., [who] all they want to do is to keep a job for ten, 20, 30, 40 years and not truly care about the people who send them there.

So, I’m not shedding a tear because of Specter and Griffith’s loss.

I’m Roland Martin, and this is my perspective.

Coming up, a former federal prosecutor and law professor turns to hip-hop for answers to make the U.S. justice system more fair.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 5)**

MR. MARTIN: The influence of hip-hop on American culture is undeniable, but can hip-hop help curb inner-city crime and build trust among African-Americans and the police? My next guest thinks so. He's Paul Butler, author of *Let's Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice*. He's also professor of law at George Washington University.

Paul, welcome back to the show.

PROF. PAUL BUTLER: Great to be here, Roland.

MR. MARTIN: Explain this "hip-hop theory of justice." What is that? What does it mean?

PROF. BUTLER: Sure. So, it's Lil Wayne rapping about how Blacks get tougher sentences than Whites for the same crime. It's KRS-One saying that the police are like plantation overseers. It's Erykah Badu singing about how women and children in our community are doing time on the outside. So, it's ground-level reporting about how the criminal justice system really works from the people who know it best.

MR. MARTIN: Now, they're speaking to, obviously, those particular issues. So, you know, how can hip-hop be a difference maker? Because it's one thing to complain about people being attacked by forces in terms of the police, but you also have a situation where some folks do actually commit crimes.

PROF. BUTLER: Oh, sure. And so the community is very concerned about public safety. You know, people – if you remember that they're most likely to be *charged* with crimes, but young African-Americans are also mi- -- most likely to be *victims*

of crime, so hip-hop is laying down the tracks [on] how to make communities safer and how to treat people more fairly. So, we[’ve] got to listen. This stuff is *powerful*.

MR. MARTIN: What – what are some of the examples, though, that they are – are speaking to that can be a difference maker to change what we’re seeing – as some people would call [it], the “prison-industrial complex”?

PROF. BUTLER: Sure. Well, first of all, more responsible solutions to the drug issue. You know, the police are real good at moving the dope boys from one corner to the next corner. They’re not good at treating addicts. They’re not good at getting the dope dealers off the street, or going after the high-level guys. So, if you listen to hip-hop, you hear all kinds of recommendations about how the streets could be safer that way, about how we could feel safer.

And, again, when we think about all these women and children who are affected by the 1 million African-American men in prison – African-American people – more people – more Blacks are in prison now, Roland, than there were *slaves* in 1850. That’s *incredible*, and it has all of these horrible consequences in our neighborhoods. We think about why so many African-American women don’t get married. One big reason is because of the pool of Black men. There’re fewer Black men in the employment pool, fewer who are el- -- eligible for marriage, ‘cause so many of them have criminal cases. About 1 in 3 young brothers have a criminal court case.

MR. MARTIN: You begin the book with a story about you being arrested and prosecuted for a crime you didn’t commit. Talk about that and the impact that had on

your view of the criminal justice system.

PROF. BUTLER: So, you know, Roland, I was brought up t- -- I always tried to do the right thing, went to Yale College, Harvard Law School, graduated with honors, then got a job with the Department of Justice. I was a prosecutor, of the most high-level cases in the department, prosecuting a United States senator. And then I got arrested and prosecuted for a crime that I didn't commit.

Now, it was a little, Fred-and-Barney dispute about a parking space. Things worked out well for me. I got my "not guilty" from the jury. But, Roland, this is why – because I had social connections. I had standing. I had the best lawyer in town. The final reason things worked out well for me is because I was innocent. But that seemed way down on the list, and so that really opened my eyes. And when that jury came back and said "not guilty," you know, the prosecutor's office was happy to keep me there. I couldn't do that work anymore. I couldn't continue to lock up young, African-American women and men when I saw, now, how unfair the system really was.

MR. MARTIN: Because you also couldn't necessarily really trust what – the information you were getting to actually prosecute someone.

PROF. BUTLER: You know, because – you know, they – all the defendants in my cases, they say, "Oh, the police are lying," "Oh," you know, "they're" – you know, "The police messed it up." They actually – in my – [chuckles] – case, they got up in the courtroom and lied. And, you know, it shouldn't 've taken my own prosecution to open my eyes. Even before, you know, as a Black man, you always have questions about

how fair the system really is; and I'd actually gone into the office as kind of this "undercover brother" who was going to make a difference from the inside. But the system changed *me*. I became this "true believer," and it wasn't until I had my own kind of come-to-Jesus moment – getting prosecuted myself – that it opened my eyes.

MR. MARTIN: You were on the "Huffington Post" on what African-Americans should do when it comes to jury duty. Speak to that.

PROF. BUTLER: Oh, man. This is the most – [chuckles] – controversial part of the book. You know, Mike Wallace did a segment on "60 Minutes." He said, "This is going to scare a lot of people" – what this brother's talking about.

So, jury duty – people who have concerns about how fair the system is, about why all these Blacks are being prosecuted for crimes that White people don't get prosecuted for, like drugs. No, we don't use drugs any more than Whites, but we're 60 percent in jail for that. So, what should you do if you're a juror? What I suggest is, even if you think the guy did it, if it's a nonviolent drug case, vote "not guilty." It's *perfectly legal*. It's called "jury nullification." It's a proud part of our constitutional tradition. So, I think it's a kind of *civil disobedience* we could use to send a message to President Obama, to the Congress, to state legislators that we need more responsible solutions to the problems in our community, rather than locking up 1 in 3 young, Black men.

MR. MARTIN: So, you're saying *don't vote guilty*.

PROF. BUTLER: I'm saying don't convict if you don't think it's going to do the community any good. It's perfectly within your right. It's perfectly constitutional. It's

actually how the slave laws helped – how we got rid of the slave laws, ‘cause it was a crime for a slave to run away. Well, White, northern jurors, they refused to *convict* in those cases, even though the people who helped slaves were totally guilty. So, it’s a proud part of our constitutional tradition.

It’s a secret. The Supreme Court says even though jurors have this power, nobody should tell them about it. So, what I’m doing in *Let’s Get Free* is telling them about it.

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. The book is *Let’s Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice*, by Paul Butler. Definitely check the book out.

Certainly a[n] in- -- interesting theory that I’m sure some people will certainly be surprised that you actually made that comment, being a former prosecutor. Paul, thanks a bunch.

PROF. BUTLER: Thanks for having me.

MR. MARTIN: All right.

[HANDSHAKE.]

MR. MARTIN: Folks, back in a moment.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 6)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. That’s it for this week’s edition of TV One’s “Washington Watch.” Thank you so very much for watching. Be sure to reach out to me. Go to our blog on TVOneOnline.com. You can go to NewsOne.com, also our

“Washington Watch” fan page on BlackPlanet.com. Hit me on Facebook, as well as on Twitter. That’s [Twitter.com/RolandSMartin](https://twitter.com/RolandSMartin). We’d love to hear from you and hear your thoughts on the show.

Goodbye and have a blessed week.

**[END.]**