



**TRANSCRIPT**

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**Guests: Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver (D-MO)**

**Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), Chair, Congressional Black Caucus**

**Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD)**

**April Ryan, White House Correspondent, American Urban Radio Networks**

**Cornell Belcher, Democratic Pollster and Strategist**

**Deborah Mathis, BlackAmericaWeb.com Contributor**

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**(HEAD-  
LINES)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: The oil spill in the Gulf dominates our agenda this week. The White House forces BP to put up \$20 billion to make it right. Some Republicans were outraged – until they weren't. The President addresses the nation from the Oval Office in an attempt to demonstrate command and control. Pundits said he failed, but were they right? Our “Washington Watch” newsmaker: Missouri congressman Emmanuel Cleaver. His committee took on the top oil company execs this week, including BP. Plus, California congresswoman Barbara Lee, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus; and Maryland congresswoman Donna Edwards [are] here to talk jobs, small business lending and the stimulus. And in our “Washington Watch” roundtable: April Ryan, White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks; Deborah Mathis, BlackAmericaWeb.com contributor; Robert Traynham, host of “Roll Call TV” on the Comcast Network; and Cornell Belcher, Democratic pollster and strategist. All that and more today on “Washington Watch.”

**(SEG-  
MENT 1)**

MR. MARTIN: President Barack Obama this week got BP to put up at least \$20 billion in an escrow account to help those struggling from the Gulf Coast oil disaster, but Congress got to question BP and the other oil companies in hearings on Capitol Hill. One of the men during the questioning is our guest today, Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver, coming to us from his home district in Kansas City, Missouri.

Congressman Cleaver, welcome back to “Washington Watch.”

REP. EMMANUEL CLEAVER: Good to be here with you.

MR. MARTIN: All right. During the hearings, you noted that Congress has an extremely low [approval] rating by the public, but you also made point – point out that BP has an even *lower* public approval rating. How do you think the oil companies came across? And did pe- -- the American people have any faith that they know exactly what they’re doing when it comes to plugging this leak, but also developing strong safety plans to prevent future leaks?

REP. CLEAVER: I don’t believe there’s any trust in what BP says, and the President, I – I think, was moving in the right direction by exacting from them \$20 billion that may not even be enough to satisfy all of the economic problems that will be created by BP’s criminal action.

MR. MARTIN: Also, one of the things that struck me when it came to the emergency plans that the oil companies talked about [is] they pretty much were all the same. In fact, the testimony revealed that their plans contain the exact, same phone number and the name of a *dead* expert. And so how in the world – you have people right now – Republicans are saying we should be continuing the offshore drilling and not have this ban, but how can you – we have the confidence that they should be doing more drilling when you do not have adequate safety plans in place?

REP. CLEAVER: I think many of the Republicans seem to be upset over the fact that we have a six-month moratorium. / think that six months may not be enough, but

certainly it's enough time for us to examine everything that went wrong, and maybe by then we'll have a better control over this exploding wellhead to – to – to know what not to do with additional drilling. BP cannot expect the United States to roll over and allow them to continue to reap huge profits from this drilling. And – and – and one of the things I think –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

REP. CLEAVER: -- we -- we've got to mention on this show is that we lost *lives*, and people –

MR. MARTIN: Eleven people.

REP. CLEAVER: -- in many instances are forgetting the fact that *people are dead* as a result of – of – of this negligence and malfeasance by BP. And so we've got to hold them accountable, and also, before we allow any additional deepwater drilling, we've got to make sure that everything is in place – because that was not the case with this wellhead that – that is causing all – all of this environmental chaos.

MR. MARTIN: But what do you say, Congressman, to those folks – especially along the Gulf Coast – who say, "Look. Livelihoods are based upon drilling," that if you have this moratorium for six months or longer, this will impact thousands of jobs; families trying to pay mortgages, send kids to school? And so what is the balance there? Because if it's six months or longer, they say, you're going to wipe out the income of thousands of people along the Gulf Coast.

REP. CLEAVER: Well, you know, everyone becomes a geology expert the day

after the earthquake. And I – I think we've got to understand that our expertise on how to safely drill for oil in the Gulf of Mexico is coming now as a result of what happened, you know, almost two months ago.

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

REP. CLEAVER: And – and so for the – the people who live in the area, we've *got* to be sensitive to their – their needs and their concerns. There're all *kinds* of people down there who've been damaged and may never recover financially, but why should we allow a c- -- a continuation of the drilling without having found exactly what went wrong here? Remember, BP had over 700 violations – *700 violations*. So, we know that a part of it was an absence of – of thorough regulation on the part of the United States government, but there were probably some engineering problems that went without detection, and we've got to find out what went wro- -- went wrong. If we don't, we're going to damage fisheries and the ecosystem all the way from Louisiana into the Florida Keys –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

REP. CLEAVER: -- and possibly into the Caribbean Sea. And if that happens, we're – we're not only going to do *enormous* damage to – to the economics of – of the Gulf, but we're going to do enormous damage to – to – to the ecosystem and to the – the – the kinds of revenue generated by the Caribbean Islands, because –

MR. MARTIN: Congressman –

REP. CLEAVER: -- that is their only – yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- Co- -- Congressman, fi- -- finish that point -- [unintelligible] -- my la- -- my final questions. [Unintelligible]- --

REP. CLEAVER: I'm saying the Caribbean Sea provides, as its only --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

REP. CLEAVER: -- economic income, tourism, and all of that's already been damaging the coast. And the f[a]rther the oil drifts into the Caribbean, the least likely we're going to be able to contain it, and we're going to wake up one day, and it's going to be sitting on the beach in -- in the Bahamas.

MR. MARTIN: President Barack Obama said this in his address to the nation. He said that ending our dependence on fossil fuels, quote, "has been blocked not only by oil industry lobbyists, but also by a lack of political courage and candor," end quote.

Now, the House has already said, "We're not going to move on this until the Senate moves," and so what is it going to take? What is the chance of us seeing energy legislation in 2010, before the midterm elections? Or, do you think it will get pushed into 2011?

REP. CLEAVER: Well, it may become a lame duck issue after the elections in November, but one of the reasons that we're not going to move in the House is because the House doesn't trust the Senate whether Republican or Democrats are in control, and if we're going to take a hard vote -- it won't be a hard vote for me, but for many of my colleagues --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

REP. CLEAVER: -- it's going to be a difficult vote, and they don't want to take that hard vote only to have it hanging out there and -- and -- and get non-action on the part of the Senate.

What probably the President was hinting [at] the other day -- I -- I'm not one of the supporters of this -- is that he's going to remove cap and trade. Cap and trade would be similar to the public option in healthcare. Republicans are -- are simply ne- -- never going to support cap in trade, and the -- just as they never would support a public option.

I'm saying to my colleagues that I don't think they're going to support an energy bill even if cap in trade is removed. Remember, they didn't support it even after the public option was --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

REP. CLEAVER: -- removed. I think we need to get the strongest energy bill possible before the Senate, and if they pass it, we ought to pass it in the House. If they don't, we start over in January.

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

REP. CLEAVER: We've *got* to have a -- a public policy.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Congressman Cleaver, we certainly appreciate it.

Thanks a lot.

REP. CLEAVER: Good to be with you.

MR. MARTIN: Coming up next: was President Obama's Oval Office address

too little too late? The pundits couldn't wait to chime in on this issue. Neither can my roundtable panelists. Joining me when we return are April Ryan of American Urban Radio Networks, Deborah Mathis of BlackAmericaWeb.com, Robert Traynham of "Roll Call TV," and Democratic pollster and strategist Cornell Belcher.

We'll be right back.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 2)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. We're joined now by our roundtable guests: April Ryan, White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks; Deborah Mathis, BlackAmericaWeb.com contributor; Robert Traynham, host of "Roll Call TV" on the Comcast Network; and Cornell Belcher, Democratic pollster and strategist.

All right, folks. Interesting week, obviously. President – Oval Office address. And Politico put together this mash-up, if you will, of the craziness that we heard on TV before and after. Here we go.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. KEITH OLBERMANN: I thought it was a great speech if you've been on another planet for the last 57 days.

MR. JUAN WILLIAMS: Overall, I thought this was a very effective speech.

MR. DAVID GERGEN: Crisp speech, well delivered. I thought he looked good in the Oval Office. It surprised me that it lacked more – it lacked specific action.

MR. BRETT BAIER: Not a lot of specifics here.

MR. HOWARD FINEMAN: I don't think he was specific enough, Keith.

MR. KEITH OLBERMANN: There wasn't any specificity to it.

MR. MIKE BARNICLE: How about some *specifics*?

MR. OLBERMANN: Where was the "how" in this speech when the nation's crying out for "*how*"?

What did you think of the speech?

MS. RACHEL MADDOW: [Sighs heavily.]

MR. OLBERMANN: Okay. We – we're in full agreement – aren't we?

MS. MADDOW: [Chuckles.]

MR. GERGEN: I think it was *intended* to be a reassuring speech. I'm not sure it moved the country in a sense of "I'm taking command of this, and I'm gonna change what's not working."

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: Well, first of all, one thing I can also say is that we only saw one Black person in that whole roundup right there, so you didn't see many Black voices on mainstream cable television talking about this. So, that needs to be said. You also see no Black hosts as well.

But, frankly, I think a lot of these people were, frankly, clueless and far off-base this week with some of the analysis in terms of what took place, because 24 hours later, it was like, "Oh, my *God!* \$20 billion se-" – "\$20 billion escrow fund. Oh, my bad. We kinda messed up last night."

MS. APRIL RYAN: Well – and, first of all, you have to remember when the President talks, normally it's during the day; and he talks in sound bites. The White House needed to get the American public rallied around him to see this one, conclusive speech that he's been giving. And he did that. But he could not come out with specifics that he came out with the next day, because the negotiations were still going on for the \$20 billion escrow account, where there's no ceiling and no floor; also, the \$100 million for the offshore drillers who have lost their jobs right now because of the moratorium – for the moment – and then also the other issues that 're going on. So, basically, this was for the American public to get a sense of what's going on and show a presidential president who was very – what would you say with his hands? *Expressive* with his hands.

MR. MARTIN: Here's – well, and, obviously, some people have been wanting him to go – to go off. But here's what I find to be interesting. If you really listen to a lot of – lot of the folks who were talking, they sounded like they wanted to hear George W. Bush. I mean they kept – they ... didn't want to say, "I want to hear a 'decider,'" but when you listen to the language, it – it was as if the thing they have liked about this president, now, all of a sudden, they *don't* like about this president –

MR. CORNELL BELCHER: But – but –

MR. MARTIN: -- because he didn't just come in there and just start saying, "I'm just gonna – [crosstalk]" –

MR. BELCHER: -- but, Roland –

MR. MARTIN: -- “heads[?] off[?].”

MR. BELCHER: -- this is – this is – it’s a disconnect. It’s a cau- -- it’s a – it’s a classic disconnect in Washington to the real world, because –

MS. RYAN: Right.

MR. BELCHER: -- the funny thing is, you know, this is not anything new. We saw this in the – [unintelligible] -- primaries for -- and the funny thing is we actually did do focus groups around – with ... swing voters ... around some of what the President was saying. And guess what? There was a clearly that s- -- disconnect, because the folks who were participants, the *real* Americans out there who actually vote, actually thought the President did a good job. They thought he was reassuring. They thought – they liked his turn on energy independence. They loved that, because guess what? Americans want to turn the page on energy independence, and they – and they loved sort of what he – what he laid out. They were reassured, even if inside Washington was not.

MR. MARTIN: Well, Robert, of course – De- -- Deborah, none of these folks [has] actually gone to the Gulf. All of these folks have been sitting in Washington, D.C. studios – or New York –

MS. DEBORAH MATHIS: Well, *some* of them have –

MR. MARTIN: -- just –

MS. MATHIS: -- to be fair. Some of those that – that were shown in that Politico

montage –

MR. MARTIN: Probably about *one*.

MS. MATHIS: -- have – have gone –

MR. MARTIN: But go ahead.

MS. MATHIS: -- to the Gulf. But that being set aside, there have been – I don't know if there're studies, or what, but there have been reports that people in the Gulf, particularly, *were* reassured by this and found the speech to be wonderful for them. Furthermore, the White House, and specifically the Oval Office, is not the place to get into specifics. When you're doing an address to the nation, and that's your bully pulpit, you're supposed to be thematic. You're supposed to be big-picture. You're supposed to – to ... give a sense of something. The specifics are what your surrogates, your –

MR. MARTIN: Now –

MS. MATHIS: -- your lieutenants –

MR. MARTIN: -- one second.

MR. BELCHER: [Crosstalk] –

MS. MATHIS: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: One second. For our audience – also, folks – you spent years covering the White House as a White House correspondent, so it's not like you haven't been around it[?]. But go ahead and finish your point.

MS. MATHIS: Right.

MR. MARTIN: Our audience needs to know that. Go ahead.

MS. MATHIS: Right. And so I mean when Franklin – when Franklin Delano Roosevelt – of course, I believe it was on the radio – said, “We have nothing to fear but fear itself,” he didn’t go into all the s- -- the strategy and the tactics that we were going to take against the Japanese.

MR. ROBERT TRAYNHAM: You know, you’re right, but also I think you’re wrong. Here’s why. Twenty-one million people tuned in to the President’s speech last week, and the reason why they did so is twofold. One, this wasn’t –

MR. MARTIN: Actually, it was about 32 million, but go ahead.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- the reason why, first and foremost, is because this was his first presidential address from the Oval Office.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: And I – I agree with you overall, thematically. Ronald Reagan did it. Bill Clinton did it. There’s no question about it. However, when there is a national tragedy – let me give you an example. Whether it was Challenger in 1986, or, perhaps, it was 9-11, obviously, after – after 9-11, the president and the American people need and want specifics. And I think that’s where the President lacked a little bit last week – was there –

MR. MARTIN: But – but –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- *wasn’t* any specificity –

MR. MARTIN: -- but I don’t –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- when it came to – when it came to plugging the hole *now*.

MR. MARTIN: -- but -- but the --

MS. MATHIS: There *were* no --

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

MS. MATHIS: -- specifics from the White House --

MR. MARTIN: But, R- -- but -- but --

MS. MATHIS: -- about --

MR. MARTIN: -- Robert --

MS. MATHIS: -- Challenger.

MR. MARTIN: -- Robert --

MS. MATHIS: I -- I --

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk] -- Cha- -- right.

MS. MATHIS: -- I *was there*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: But e- -- but --

MS. MATHIS: [Chuckles.] There were *no* specifics from the --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- no, no, but --

MS. MATHIS: -- White House about that.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but I -- w- -- I *wasn't* there, but I remember watching it on television, and what Pres. --

MS. MATHIS: It's not --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Reagan did, to *my* knowledge, was reassure the nation that everything was going to be okay, that, "We're gonna get to the bottom of this," *and* --

MS. MATHIS: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- "we're gonna hold people accountable" --

MS. MATHIS: Which is --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- as it rela- --

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk] --

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- hold up.

MS. MATHIS: -- what Obama *did* --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Hold on. Hold -- [crosstalk] --

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk] --

MS. MATHIS: -- the other night.

MR. MARTIN: -- but isn't that what happened? I'm trying to --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- ho- -- ho- --

MS. MATHIS: [Crosstalk] --

MR. MARTIN: -- I mean so -- so, is it *style*?

MS. MATHIS: -- *that's what he did*.

MR. MARTIN: Or, is it -- so, I m- -- so -- so, what *is* it? I mean because that sounded like what he actually *said*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- if I could finish, what -- what Pres. Obama *did* last week, which was a little unconcerting [sic] for certain people, is that he talked about the partisanship, or the lack thereof, when it came to energy policy. The American people

weren't there yet in terms of wanting the – the ... hole fixed *now*. What the President did thematically was talk about that, and then he very – [snaps his fingers] – quickly swit- -- switched to overall energy policy. But that wasn't –

MR. MARTIN: A- -- A- --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- the place or the –

MR. MARTIN: -- A- --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- time for it.

MR. MARTIN: -- April – April, go ahead.

MS. RYAN: But the – but the next day, he came out and said – they had negotiations.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Oh, absolutely.

MS. RYAN: He worked it out. And the problem is – with the Republican Party is that they don't want big government. They don't want to push regulation on oil companies, particularly when you have – I'm going to call his name – Joe Bar- --

MR. MARTIN: Hold o- -- now, I want you to hold that thought, because we need to *hear*, actually –

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: -- what took place for those folks who may have been sleeping or just totally watching the World Cup. Here is Texas congressman Joe Barton, a fellow Aggie like myself – Texas A&M Aggie – who became a personification of the Aggie joke this week.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

REP. JOE BARTON: And I'm ashamed of what happened in the White House yesterday. I think it is a tragedy of the first proportion that a private corporation can be subshun- -- [sic – phonetic] – subjected to what I would characterize as a shakedown – in this case, a \$20 billion shakedown. I'm not speaking for anybody else, but I apologize.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MS. RYAN: Wow.

MR. MARTIN: F- -- a – a fierce reaction, obviously, from Republicans on this, and April had a chance to ask Vice Pres. Joe Biden *his* response to the incredulous [sic] statement made by Congressman Barton. Here it is.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

MS. RYAN: What are your thoughts about Mr. Barton's comments this morning?

VICE PRES. JOE BIDEN: Well, since you know I never say what's on my mind

–

[CHUCKLING.]

VICE PRES. BIDEN: -- I probably shouldn't comment on Mr. Barton's comment.

OFF CAMERA VOICE: Aw, come on.

OFF CAMERA VOICE: Come on!

[CROSSTALK FROM THE PRESS URGING A RESPONSE.]

VICE PRES. BIDEN: They're *encouraging* me. What can I say?

[CHUCKLING.]

OFF CAMERA VOICE: Well, okay.

VICE PRES. BIDEN: Look. Look. [Pauses, massaging his brow.] Uh –

[LAUGHTER.]

VICE PRES. BIDEN: -- [smiles] –

OFF CAMERA VOICE: How big a deal was it?

[CHUCKLING. AN AIDE TAPS THE MICROPHONE AS IF TO TEST FOR SOUND.]

VICE PRES. BIDEN: Thank *God* my mother isn't around. Look, guys. I – I – I find it *incredibly* insensitive, *incredibly* out of touch.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: Now, of course, Republicans are now saying, “Well, it was a constitutional issue. They put pressure on them.”

*This is nuts*, Robert! The reaction is *nuts*. And for Barton to sit here – and he had to retract it, because Republicans said, “We gon’ throw your behind outta your position” –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Right.

MR. BELCHER: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- “if you don’t,” in terms of the ranking member on that committee.

MR. TRAYNHAM: He stepped on his own message, and the – but – but the –

I'm sorry. He didn't step on it.

MR. MARTIN: But he *wrote* it!

MR. TRAYNHAM: He – he wrote –

MR. MARTIN: This wasn't –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: -- like, off the –

MR. TRAYNHAM: I agree.

MR. MARTIN: -- cuff.

MR. TRAYNHAM: I agree, but you know what? H- -- two things here. Very quickly, first and foremost, he shouldn't have said it, because it's not accurate. That's first and foremost. And the thing that he did was he got right in front of a bullet that was headed towards the Democrats as related to the overall narrative of this, and so that's why Republicans said, "You know what? You need to shut up. And, perhaps, if you don't shut up, we're going to strip you of your position."

Secondly – and this is, arguably, just as importantly – is Democrats that I've spoken to have said, "This is what Republicans really think. This is the narrative that Republicans really think. They're in bed with" –

MS. MATHIS: Because it *is*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- "the big" –

MR. MARTIN: One second. One second.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- "[crosstalk]" –

MR. MARTIN: One second – [crosstalk] –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- “because” – “because it’s” – “it’s about big oil” and the whole nine yards.

But it’s not. The fact of the matter is – I don’t know if you drive a hybrid or not Cornell but you –

MR. BELCHER: [Crosstalk.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- you are just as addicted to oil just as I am. [Crosstalk] –

MS. RYAN: Whoo!

MR. MARTIN: One second. One second. Okay –

MR. TRAYNHAM: [Crosstalk] – but – but –

MR. BELCHER: [Crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: -- here’s the deal.

MR. BELCHER: -- yeah, but –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. BELCHER: -- yeah. Yeah, but I’m not –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. BELCHER: -- I’m not – but I’m not defending –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk] -- going to a break.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: Going to a break! Going to a break. I’ll do this here.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: I'm going to a break. We'll be right back to finish this conversation. Back in a moment.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 3)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. Obviously, the – [unintelligible] – continued during the break, so we're going to pick it – we'll pick it right back up.

Cornell, you wanted to respond –

MR. BELCHER: Yeah, a- –

MR. MARTIN: -- to Robert.

MR. BELCHER: -- actually, I *do* bi- -- drive a big SUV, but – but I'm not carrying

–

MR. MARTIN: Lincoln Navigator right here, baby.

MR. BELCHER: -- [laughs] – but –

MR. MARTIN: American-made.

MR. BELCHER: -- but I'm not carrying BP – BP's water. Look, is there anywhere where the rich and powerful are being threatened for accountability that Republicans won't step in? We see this around BP. We saw it around Wall Street. *This is who they are*, and Americans should be very a- -- frightened of the ideal [sic] that this man who's defending BP, if they get back in charge, is going to be the head of that committee. *This is who they are*. They're looking out for the big and rich.

Wherever there's – [will] be powerful –

MR. TRAYNHAM: That's not –

MR. BELCHER: -- interest –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- that's not happening[?].

MR. BELCHER: -- groups under threat, the Republicans will be there.

MR. MARTIN: Deborah – and, Deborah, you're sitting here ta[lking about] a situation where even Republican Gulf members of Congress said, "This man" – "This is nuts," and it was a *Republican* from a Gulf state who called for him to resign from this committee.

MS. MATHIS: Well, they *had* to, because their local politics is *deep* pressure for them, that – you know, their – BP is the Devil in the Gulf at this point, and there's –

MR. TRAYNHAM: No, it's not!

MS. MATHIS: -- nothing can be s- --

MR. TRAYNHAM: No, it's *not*!

MS. MATHIS: -- *yes, it* –

MS. RYAN: How can you say that?

MS. MATHIS: -- *is*!

MR. TRAYNHAM: Because we're[?] – [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: Right –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- talking about –

MR. MARTIN: -- right now in the Gulf?

[CROSSTALK.]

MS. MATHIS: Yes, it is.

MR. MARTIN: *BP is the Devil.*

MS. MATHIS: *Yes, it is!*

MR. TRAYNHAM: We- -- [crosstalk] – well –

MS. RYAN: Jobs are being lost.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- ha- -- have you –

MS. MATHIS: The environment –

MS. RYAN: [Crosstalk] – is the Devil.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- [crosstalk] –

MS. MATHIS: -- is damaged.

MR. MARTIN: When you – when you –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- well –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- let – let me –

MR. MARTIN: -- 11 people were ki- --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- let me be clear.

MR. MARTIN: -- Robert – Robert –

MR. TRAYNHAM: [Crosstalk]- --

MR. MARTIN: -- now, Robert, remember. Eleven people were killed.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Absolutely!

MR. MARTIN: The *families* even said BP didn't call, didn't write –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Robert –

MR. MARTIN: -- made no – I mean so it's not like that they – first of all, we had Emmanuel Cleaver at the top. He said that BP's ratings – public opinion – [are] lower than [those of] *Congress*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- look. Look. I'm not –

MR. MARTIN: Now, *that's* real low!

MR. BELCHER: [Chuckles.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- look. Look. I'm not going to stand here and be a defender for BP. What they –

MS. MATHIS: But you –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- did –

MS. MATHIS: -- *are* –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- what they --

MS. RYAN: It *sounds* like you *are*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- what they did was despicable, and, obviously, they're doing whatever they do to clean up. However, we're also talking about people's livelihoods and people's jobs, and oil – and oil jobs and energy j- -- energy jobs are extremely well-paying. And when it co- -- and when it comes to the overall culture in the Gulf – and you probably know this better than anyone, being in Texas –

MR. MARTIN: Oh, I *agree!*

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it is in people's blood.

MS. MATHIS: This is not what – this is not controversial, Robert. I'm – I don't doubt that that is – it is the lifeblood of the Gulf in many ways. Everybody knows that. That's an obvious, incontrovertible fact. What I'm *saying*, though, [is] that BP *particularly* is now the Devil in the Gulf because of the way it has handled – it's not only the m- --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Oh, I agree.

MS. MATHIS: -- not only the *problem* that occurred, but the way it's handl- --

MR. TRAYNHAM: I agree.

MS. MATHIS: -- it will not even own up to the magnitude or the enormity of the *problem*.

MS. RYAN: And there's a conflict of interest. Barton took at *least* \$27,000 from BP and affiliates – okay – for his campaign, and then the – what is it? 1.4 –

MR. MARTIN: Actually, 1.5 million –

MS. RYAN: -- yeah.

MR. MARTIN: -- overall from –

MS. RYAN: Yeah –

MR. MARTIN: -- big oil.

MS. RYAN: -- I was getting ready to say that. So, the bottom line is there seems to be a conflict of interest, and he is embedded with the oil companies.

Now, the bottom line, the way I'm taking it – and you tell me if I'm wrong – are you saying, "Because it's broke, it doesn't matter. Just keep on movin'"? Why –

MR. TRAYNHAM: No.

MS. RYAN: -- can't we try to *fix* it to see what's going on first? The environment is lost. Lives were lost. I mean you've got people's livelihoods.

MR. TRAYNHAM: I agree.

MS. RYAN: Imagine being ripped from where you live, being told, "Hey, you may" –

MS. MATHIS: *Home.*

MS. RYAN: -- "home."

MS. MATHIS: *From home.*

MS. RYAN: [Crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: A- -- a- -- ... and the New Yor- -- New Orleans *Times Picayune*, they had a story this week stating that a lot of the trash and debris and stuff that's being picked up is being dumped in minority neighborhoods in New Orleans –

MS. MATHIS: Oh, *well* –

MR. MARTIN: -- further impacting what's happening there.

MS. RYAN: The "small people" again. The "small people" –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk] – envi- -- yeah, there you go.

MS. MATHIS: That – that's – tha- -- that's an old, unfortunate story – and

especially in that area, where so many refineries are. There's something called "Cancer Alley" along the Mis- -- the -- the ... river from -- from Baton Rouge to New Orleans, where the- -- there're all these cancer clusters there. That -- *we know* how that happens. And I gotta tell ya. The environmental impact of this stuff years and years and years and generations down the road -- that's something that we all have -- have to fear. BP has mishandled this from the go.

MR. MARTIN: I cannot ignore this story. Many of the folks in the national media, they have done so. And that is Iowa Republican Steve King, on a radio show [with] G. Gordon Liddy, and he had this to say about Pres. Barack Obama.

[SOUND BITE.]

REP. STEVE KING: But the President has demonstrated he's got a default mechanism in *him* that breaks down the side of race -- on -- on the side of, uh -- it -- it favors the Black person.

[END OF SOUND BITE.]

MS. RYAN: "... Black" --

MR. BELCHER: Wow!

MS. RYAN: -- "person."

MS. MATHIS: What?

MR. MARTIN: So, uh --

MS. MATHIS: Am I "the Black person"?

MR. MARTIN: -- the President now favors "the Black person."

MS. MATHIS: "... the Black person."

MR. BELCHER: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: Cornell – [unintelligible].

MR. BELCHER: Why – why'd you throw this to me? I thought you were going to throw this to *Robert*.

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. BELCHER: Why *me*? [Laughs.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: I'm glad to.

MR. BELCHER: Look, the President has –

MR. MARTIN: New plan!

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. MARTIN: Go head, Cornell.

MR. BELCHER: -- that was too easy, Robert.

[LAUGHTER.]

MS. MATHIS: He came out. He came out.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. BELCHER: What – what – what's –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead. Go – Cornell, go ahead.

MR. BELCHER: -- what's fair- --

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead.

MR. BELCHER: -- what's fairly clear is that this president has been the president of all Americans, and what he's reach- -- and -- 'cause a lot -- in fact, some of our Congressional Black Caucus members would say that he's not done enough specifically aimed toward Black people and the co- -- and -- and the Hispanic C- --... Caucus would say he hasn't done enough aimed toward the black and brown coalition that -- that got him here. He's trying to fix the larger problems and -- and -- and -- you know, and not focus on -- on race issues, 'cause he *can't* focus on race issues.

MR. MARTIN: You have -- you have Glenn Beck, who is comparing himself to MLK and to Rosa Parks. You have this comment by Congressman Steve King. And I was talking to a gentleman, and -- and he said -- a political watcher, and he said that what we are seeing -- we are seeing, really, the ... beginning stages of White victimhood.

MS. MATHIS: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: And as this country's becoming more --

MS. MATHIS: Yeah.

MR. MARTIN: -- majority minority --

MS. MATHIS: Absolutely.

MR. MARTIN: -- there are seven s- -- a r- -- a report came out -- seven states in America where people 15 or younger, they -- it's majority minority. The number was ... supposed to be 20-50. Now it's 20-42. And so when you have the Glenn Becks of the world saying that, "We" -- to his listeners, "We are the heir to the Civil Rights

Movement,” when you have Congressman Steve King making these comments, what does it tell –

MR. BELCHER: Let me say –

MR. MARTIN: -- you?

MR. BELCHER: -- one, quick thing.

MS. RYAN: [Crosstalk]- --

MR. BELCHER: One, quick thing, April. It’s interesting, ‘cause in – in polling, what ... I find is when you ask ... White Americans – particularly sort of White men – sort of about discrimination of African-Americans, or “reverse discrimination,” they actually think reverse discrimination is a bigger deal right now than – than – than traditional discrimination.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: [Crosstalk] – abou- --

MS. MATHIS: [Crosstalk] – there are –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- I’m sorry. Go ahead.

MS. MATHIS: -- there – the- -- they’re really kind of – forgive me for this generalization, but I find that there’re kind of two kinds of White people. There are the unreconstructed and unevolved, and there’re those who are – are progressing and learning and living –

MR. MARTIN: So, B.C./A.D.

MS. MATHIS: -- and open-minded –

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.]

MS. MATHIS: -- and --

MR. MARTIN: Gotcha.

MS. MATHIS: -- fair. Okay. The latter group -- the -- the latter group -- the *former* group, the ones that are un- -- unreconstructed, are panicking right now. Their world as they've always known it is going away. All of a sudden, they aren't the majority race anymore. All of a sudden, they don't have Whites in the ultimate power structure. You see Black CEOs and Black Fortune 500 company executives and a Black president. All of a sudden, the -- the borders are not holding, and people that speak a different language --

MR. MARTIN: Oh, so they're totally --

MS. MATHIS: -- [from] them are --

MR. MARTIN: -- freakin' out.

MS. MATHIS: -- coming across and taking over --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. MATHIS: -- and -- and -- and the society is changing to accommodate them.

They're *panicking*.

MR. MARTIN: Robert?

MR. TRAYNHAM: This is obviously an ongoing conversation with the "browning of America" that we will continue to have for the next five to ten to 15 or 20 years.

MS. MATHIS: Absolutely.

MR. MARTIN: April, final comment.

MS. RYAN: Bottom line, he's saying this. Consider the source. But, number one, this – [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: 'Cause he's nuts – but go ahead.

MS. RYAN: -- yeah.

MR. MARTIN: [Chuckles.]

MS. RYAN: The White House has always been concerned about the fact that race and politics will always follow this president, and they don't want to do things to – quote, unquote – “amplify” the racial issues. And, therefore, we're *still* fussing in – in – within the White House, back and forth: “Will there be targeting on unemployment” –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. RYAN: -- “for” – “for minorities?” So --

MR. MARTIN: And this is why I explain to people all the time you can forget the whole notion of “post-racial,” because, look –

MS. RYAN: Absolutely.

MR. MARTIN: -- as we b- -- become more majority minority, you're going to see this take place, because you're right. The polling data shows African-Americans and ... Hispanics are more optimistic about the future. The polling data says Whites are less optimistic, and I think it speaks to that whole notion of how the world is changing. It's not what it used to –

MR. BELCHER: And –

MR. MARTIN: -- be.

MR. BELCHER: -- the Tea Party is cultural and just about the budget and taxes.

MS. MATHIS: Absolutely!

MR. BELCHER: It's also about culture.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: That's -- [crosstalk]. All right. We certainly appreciate it. April, Deborah, Robert, Cornell, thanks a bunch.

MR. BELCHER: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: Folks, I want to know what you have to say about our discussion today. Log on to TVOneOnline.com and leave your comments there.

The House did its part on the job bill, but what the heck is going on in the *Senate*? Plus, we'll get the details of the small business bill the House passed this week and how it can help Black business owners try to borrow from community banks.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 4)**

MR. MARTIN: Voting mostly on a party line, the House of Representatives passed a small business bill this week. The Senate needs to tackle the measure, too, but that's on the back burner until the current jobs bill they're working on is squared away. Here to talk about both of those measures are California congresswoman and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Barbara Lee and Maryland congresswoman Donna Edwards.

Folks, welcome back to the show.

REP. BARBARA EDWARDS: Thanks.

REP. BARBARA LEE: [Crosstalk.]

MR. MARTIN: The jobless bill. Here's what's interesting. Republicans keep talking about the deficit and saying, "Look. Enough with all this government spending." When you look at polling data, Americans continue to say, "Spend money to advance jobs." And so how can that be made a reality when you have the other side – and some conservative Democrats – who are saying, "No more. Forget spending"?

REP. LEE: Thank you, Roland. First of all, you ha- -- you have to spend money to also reduce the deficit. Consumer spending actually helps reduce the deficit, not to mention the fact that people need and want to work. And so it's very important – and I'm a member of the Appropriations Committee – that, as we move forward, we need to understand that, first of all, the deficit was not created by Pres. Barack Obama. The deficit was created during the last eight years under the Bush Administration, with these huge tax cuts for the wealthy, which – with this huge Pentagon budget and two wars that did not need to be fought. And so we're digging out from that hole, but we cannot put our nation at risk, and the economic security of our people at risk, by saying that we can't have a direct investment in job creation.

And that's part of what the Congressional Black Caucus has been fighting for. The bill that we were able to get a billion dollars for summer youth job programs, \$2.5 billion for the expansion of TANIF and the Black farmers' settlement – that bill is stuck

in the Senate. And so I hope the – for those who are watching your show, they will call members of the Senate and ask them to move that jobs bill, because our children need to work. They have to not only help develop their work skills and work experience; but this year, given the recession, they have to help put food on the table and help pay the rent.

MR. MARTIN: Congresswoman?

REP. EDWARDS: Well, it's pretty conventional economic wisdom that when you're coming out of a recession – in a recession, you have to spend, and that's what we're doing. And the reason that you spend is because you want consumers to spend. You want to put money out into the economy. You want people paying taxes, and so it's really important to – to spend, and spend productively, so that you're really creating jobs – not just for the short term, but for the long term. And part of that is about what we do with our summer youth employment, getting those ba- -- them back to work before the summer is over, and then some of that is also doing some job creation so that out of this recession, we really do see long-term, sustained economic growth.

MR. MARTIN: You mentioned spend money and spend it wisely. Y- -- we hear lots of folks on Capitol Hill not happy at all with the level of spending that we continue to see in Afghanistan and Iraq. It's now going to, in Afghanistan, exceed what we've been spending in Iraq. What is likely going to happen from a congressional standpoint? The President says, "Look. Move forward," but even lots of Democrats are saying, "Look. We're not going to continue to fund this operation." Are we moving to a head?

REP. LEE: Let me say, Roland, first of all, nine years ago, when the Congress authorized – it was a blank check to give then Pres. Bush – *any* president – the blank – a blank check to use force and go to war. I did not support that, because I knew we would end up exactly where we are.

We need to develop a comprehensive strategy that's going to address our national security and terrorism and keep our young men and women out of harm's way in wars that do not need to be fought. When you look at the fact that we've spent almost a *trillion dollars* now in Afghanistan and Iraq, and when you look at the fact – and I'm on the Appropriations Committee, and now we have a supplemental that may or may not come. But there's an additional request for the surge that I don't agree with, and I'm going to try to stop that. I have an amendment that says no more additional funds to provide for an increase in troop level for Afghanistan. We have to do this differently. Our domestic priorities at home should be our priorities, but we also have to be concerned about global peace and security and find that balance. I don't think continuing to fund the Pentagon, continuing to fund Cold War-era weapon systems that have no use in a world where asymmetrical wars now are fought – we do not need to do that. We need to stop it, and we need to regroup.

MR. MARTIN: Congresswoman Edwards, what's interesting is that African-Americans [are] huge supporters of this president, but [are] the *biggest* opposers of the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq. This issue appears to be coming to a head, because at the end of the day, if you don't have that funding – you already heard

Secretary of Defense Bob Gates say the Pentagon may start doing all kind[s] of, you know, crazy things to keep this – keep this going. And so should the President pull back and realize that the support simply isn't there to continue to fund these wars?

REP. EDWARDS: Well, the reports coming both from the Pentagon, but also from the field just suggest that we're not making any real headway in Afghanistan, anyway. And so, you know, despite the best efforts of our young men and women who serve, this is really not about that. It's really about a policy that was failed from the beginning. It's failed now, and we don't need to keep throwing good money behind it – and especially when we have so many pressing needs here in this country, and there are other ways that we have to fight globally to combat terrorism. And – you know. And it's not coming from any central place; it's a – you know, across the globe. And, yet, our policy really just doesn't seem to match what the real threat is.

And so I'm concerned. I – I don't plan to support a supplemental. I just returned from Afghanistan just about a month ago, and there is nothing that I've seen that really convinces me that we ought to spend – spend supplemental money on – on continuing the efforts there.

REP. LEE: Roland, let me just say we –

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead.

REP. LEE: -- have the Pentagon with \$750 billion over there. We have waste, fraud and abuse running rampant, and so you can't tell me that money can't be found and reprioritized in the Pentagon for the President's priorities. What we're saying is just

no more increase in funding for –

MR. MARTIN: Unfortunately --

REP. LEE: -- [crosstalk].

MR. MARTIN: -- we just saw an Army –

REP. LEE: -- [crosstalk].

MR. MARTIN: -- sergeant hit with 17½ years in jail for basically getting about \$9 million in bribes there. So –

REP. EDWARDS: Well, it –

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk] – yeah?

REP. EDWARDS: -- isn't just that. I mean it's the Afghan government *itself* that has – we don't know *where* some of that money that we've sent over in Afghanistan has gone.

REP. LEE: Not to –

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk]- --

REP. LEE: -- mention Iraq.

MR. MARTIN: -- right. Well, a- -- again, and we still haven't – I believe we have not had a true accounting and demand that those companies return the money they've been funneling, frankly – talking to other sources – cash just going crazy. And trust me. I think a lot of people in inner cities and rural America wouldn't mind having tha- -- that amount of cash actually being dropped off and then just dispersed any way they want to. That's a *whole* different story.

At the top, I mentioned the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act. For the average person sitting at home, how does this – if this is passed by the Senate, signed into law by the President, how does it help the average person?

REP. LEE: Well –

MR. MARTIN: How does it –

REP. LEE: -- a large –

MR. MARTIN: -- really impact their life?

REP. LEE: -- portion of this money goes into community banks, and community banks in many of our communities are those economic en- -- entities and –

MR. MARTIN: Well, 65 –

REP. LEE: -- engines –

MR. MARTIN: -- percent of small businesses get their loans from community –

REP. LEE: -- get their –

MR. MARTIN: -- banks.

REP. LEE: -- loans from community –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

REP. LEE: -- banks, and community banks create jobs. And so people need to really understand that when we talk about- -- and I'm a former small business owner – for 11 years – so I really understand why lines of credit, access to credit and this bill was so important – because if community – we – we, unfortunately have a h- -- very difficult time getting access to credit and loans from the big banks. So, this bill was

intended to help Main Street, help those banks that really *do* lend to small businesses, minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses in our communities, which create the bulk of the jobs for the chronically unemployed.

REP. EDWARDS: Well, I know in my district and across the country what small businesses tell me is that they need access to credit and capital. They *want* to create more jobs, and they want to hire people, but it's really tough to do when the credit market is constrained because the big banks control everything. And so I think it's really important that we finally move this through, get the President to – to sign this into law and make sure that our small businesses have the access to credit and capital that they need to – to continue to be the economic engines that really drive this economy.

MR. MARTIN: Last question. Congresswoman Lee, the Congressional Black Caucus, r- -- has – they've really been going after the Ethics Committee. I've seen various reports where folks are saying the CBC wants to get rid of the Ethics Committee. And then Congressman Watt, he also has raised some issues as well, and so one of the things that we're seeing is that folks want a sworn complaint filed by a person with knowledge of alleged wrongdoing before someone[']s name goes out there. What is the issue with the CBC and the Ethics Committee in terms of how they do their business?

REP. LEE: Well, first, let me just say the CBC – each and every member of the CBC believes in upholding the highest ethical standards possible. And when you look at – what we are discussing at this point is looking at the process and looking at [it] like

we look at every bill that comes through. Does it – is it going to –

MR. MARTIN: It see- -- it seems –

REP. LEE: -- accomplish –

MR. MARTIN: -- that all the names that come out there are all Black Caucus members.

REP. LEE: But –

MR. MARTIN: I mean that's one of the criticisms.

REP. LEE: -- well, that *is* one of the criticisms, but what we're looking at is making sure that this – OCE, which is what we're looking at, is accomplishing the goals that it was established to accomplish. And if it's not, then we need to look at how we tweak it –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

REP. LEE: -- to make sure it is held accountable and accomplishes the goals that it intends to accomplish. And so each and every member of the CBC, if you look at our record, we have been [in the] forefront – especially Congressman Mel Watt and all of the members in – in terms of making sure that each and every thing that we do complies with all of – the spirit and the law of –

MR. MARTIN: So, the question –

REP. LEE: -- the Congress.

MR. MARTIN: -- is really fair[ness] versus unfairness in terms of names getting out – that kind of stuff.

REP. LEE: Right.

MR. MARTIN: All right. We certainly appreciate it. Thanks a bunch. We look forward to having you back.

REP. EDWARDS: Thank you.

REP. LEE: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Folks, up next: a jaywalking case in Seattle goes viral when things get physical. NewsOne.com's Smokey Fontaine joins me with that story. Plus, the growing and surprising support for South Carolina senatorial candidate Alvin Greene. Oh, trust me. You remember him – the candidate who won. No bumper stickers. No signs. No nothing – and no one knew who he was.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 5)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. A warning for all you jaywalkers out there: do not do it in Seattle. One woman's refusal to stop doing it landed her and her friend in trouble with the law and the city's police department in the headlines. Smokey Fontaine joins us via the HP Skyroom from NewsOne.com's New York headquarters with the story.

All right, Smokey. How's it going?

MR. SMOKEY FONTAINE: It's going well.

MR. MARTIN: Crazy story – [unintelligible].

MR. FONTAINE: Here we go again, Roland. We know the theme of this

segment has always been about the web letting our voice be heard. It can also expose potential police brutality. We may have this in this situation in Seattle.

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. Take a look at this here – interesting video – if you haven't already seen it.

[VIDEO CLIP FROM KOMONEWS.COM.]

*[A White police officer is struggling with a young Black woman.]*

WOMAN 1: [Unintelligible]. Get the – [expletive deleted] – offa me! Get *off* me! Get *off* me! Get the – [expletive deleted] – offa me *now*! [Unintelligible]. What do you think you're *doing*?

*[Another Black woman intercedes and confronts the police officer, making physical contact with him. Another person, partially off-camera, attempts to pull the second woman away and restrain her, but she breaks free and returns to confront the police officer, who is still struggling with the first woman. Woman 2 tries to break the police officer's hold on woman 1 and shoves him. The police officer responds by punching woman 2 in the face. She falls back, holding her face. The police officer follows her and pushes her up against the police cruiser. Onlookers can be heard as they express surprise and outrage.]*

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: All right. A lot of folks are talking about that. I've even seen some comments, folks, from people. They were offended by what the cop did, but they said, "Why was she fighting the cop?"

MR. FONTAINE: Well, that seems to be the thread. Over 800 comments have come into NewsOne.com, every one analyzing this piece of video. It seems, though, the prevailing thought is that we need to know how to deal with the police, and that she behaved antagonistically toward him, and that gave him the right to use force. Let me quote some of our readers. This from Tampa, Florida: “Everyone should know – especially Black folks – that you do not hit, push, or touch a cop with *any* violent force.”

This from Massachusetts: “If a police officer feels threatened, he has the right to use force. The officer could’ve pulled out his service pistol in the name of defense.”

So, a pretty articulate conversation going on.

What I’ve decided to do on News One is we’ve posted a survival guide of dealing with the police. Go to News One and read the exact steps you can take when you’re in a confrontation to know your rights and protect yourself.

MR. MARTIN: Smokey, real quick, folks have been talking about the South Carolina Democratic race. Alvin Greene, he won, getting 60 percent of the vote; but in looking at what’s happening online – the national media [are] calling him a joke. Online. Black people are saying something different.

MR. FONTAINE: You know, I’m always looking for new Black voices to express [themselves] online, and an author and professor, Bakari Kitwana, wrote a blog entitled “Five Reasons I’m Rooting for Alvin Greene.” He felt like someone needed to come to his defense. Alvin Greene came out of nowhere. He’s 32 years old. People are questioning where he got his funding from, how could he have been successful. Bakari

said this: “If Alvin Greene is the legitimate winner, I think politicians should find out with a fair investigation before asking him to step aside. This shows that grassroots, everyday people can still win elections in America, that the country – imagine this – still actually belongs to the people.”

MR. MARTIN: Wow. Pretty interesting comments there. And so we’ll be following the story as well, because the South Carolina Democrats, they tried to throw the results out. They – actually, the – Vic – Vic Rawl did, but the Democrats said, “No. It actually stands.”

All right, Smokey. You actually went down to New Orleans – correct?

MR. FONTAINE: I did. Well, excuse me for not having my shirt and suit on today, Roland. I just came back from the Gulf Coast. Everything has – has been so widely talked about down there – *except* how this tragedy has affected African-American life. I went to talk to some Black oystermen. I found Black elected officials in the Gulf Coast regions that really were very honest about the frustrations they have not only with the spill, but with Obama’s moratorium on drilling in that region. So, I’m putting a piece together. It’ll be ready on this show next week, and I look forward to having that dialogue.

MR. MARTIN: And we’ll also be going down to the Gulf ourselves in a couple of weeks, doing a special show there as well, getting a[n] update [on] where we are on the spill, on the disaster – the largest environmental disaster in American history.

So, Smokey, we certainly appreciate it. We’ll chat with you next week.

MR. FONTAINE: Thank you, sir.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Thanks a bunch.

All right. Now it's time for "My Perspective."

You've heard this sound if you've been watching the World Cup – right?

[MR. MARTIN PLAYS A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE *VUVUZELA* ON A HAND-HELD DEVICE.]

MR. MARTIN: Of course, those are – tha- -- that's what they call the *vuvuzela*. Basically, it's a horn that the fans there in South Africa actually play – or, actually blow on during all the various matches. Well, *some* players were not particularly happy with the sound. Even a lot of people watching around world, they said that it was interrupting their focus on the game, and even the broadcast officials will alter the sound.

The reason I have a problem with this level of criticism is because this is a cultural issue there in South Africa. This is how they celebrate. This is how they cheer at the games. It's no different to me [from] when you hear the cheering and the chanting and the singing at European soccer games. Frankly, it's offensive when other people begin to intrude on somebody else's culture and say what they should or shouldn't do. What makes the World Cup great, what makes this world great, is that we get to experience different places around the world and how they choose to celebrate and interact at games. I think that is a good thing.

So, South Africans, keep ... blowing your *vuvuzelas*.

I'm Roland Martin, and this is my perspective. What's yours?

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 6)**

MR. MARTIN: It's time for our feedback segment with my HP Touch Smart computer. Our first e-mail is from Ms. Tee. She thinks I bash Pres. Obama. "Imagine how disappointed I was when I turned on your show only to hear echoes of what's on the other shows. I'm not saying that you have to rubberstamp the president's policies, but I think that your show would be much better if you highlighted some of the good things that this president has done as an alternative for people like me who still believe [in] and support this president."

Well, Ms. Tee, we do it all the time; but what we *cannot* do is not "speak truth to power," even when the President does something. The focus on this show is very simple: if you do good, we'll talk about you. If you do bad, we'll talk about you. At the end of the day, we *will* talk about you.

And here what RaeWilliams wrote about rapper Slim Thug's comments about his beliefs on how White and Black women care for Black men. "If Mr. Thug chooses" – [chuckles] – wow. "Mr. Thug." "If Mr. Thug chooses to believe that white is better, or that mixed-race or white women take care of black men better than black women, black women must try to understand that he is talking from an enslaved mind. I wish Mr. Thug could see that black women have historically suffered through rapes, broken families, beatings, and we are still being degraded by comments like his."

“Mr. Thug” – that’s pretty interesting.

Keep your comments coming. We love to hear from you. Log on to TVOneOnline.com and leave your comments there.

Well, that’s it for this edition of TV One’s “Washington Watch.” I’m Roland Martin. Goodbye and have a blessed week.

**[END.]**