



TRANSCRIPT

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**Guests: Austan Goolsbee, Chairman, President's Council
of Economic Advisors**

Dr. Cornel West, Professor, Princeton University

Crystal King, Pink Together Survivor Ambassador

Karen Finney, Democratic Strategist and MSNBC Contributor

**Keli Goff, Contributing Editor, TheLoop21.com;
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**(HEAD-
LINES)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: At the top of our agenda this week: Mike Huckabee and Donald Trump say no to taking on Pres. Barack Obama in 2012. Newt Gingrich puts both feet in his mouth and twists himself into a pretzel, trying to get them out again. And Pres. Obama’s ideas on Israeli-Palestinian peace bring a vicious response from Israel and Republican leaders and risk support from Jews here in America. Our “Washington Watch” newsmakers, Austan Goolsbee, chairman of Pres. Obama’s Council of Economic Advisors, on what he sees as certain disaster for our country and the economic recovery if Congress fails to raise the debt ceiling. Plus, scholar Dr. Cornel West says Pres. Barack Obama has “a certain fear of free Black men.” I’ll challenge Dr. West’s high critical comments in an interview and a special “Perspective.” And our “Washington Watch” roundtable: Karen Finney, Democratic strategist and MSNBC contributor; Keli Goff, contributing editor for TheLoop21.com and a blogger for The Huffington Post; Armstrong Williams, host of “The Right Side”; and Anthony Coley, former communications director for the late Sen. Ted Kennedy. Also, a breast cancer survivor shares her story of life after the diagnosis and why African-American women especially need to be on the lookout for the disease. All that and more today on “Washington Watch.”

**(SEG-
MENT 1)**

MR. MARTIN: Every president has harsh critics, sometimes even from folks who supported them in an election, but recent comments about Pres. Barack Obama by scholar and Princeton University professor Cornel West ha[ve] taken it to – to a whole new level and ha[ve] stirred significant conversation among African-Americans. Some say it's personal. Others say it's about policy.

Well, right now we're joined by Dr. Cornel West from Princeton to get to the bottom of his particular comments and concerns as relates to Pres. Bala- -- Barack Obama and the Black agenda.

Dr. West, welcome to the show.

DR. CORNEL WEST: How ya doin', my brother? Good to see you.

MR. MARTIN: Oh, a- --

DR. WEST: Good to see you.

MR. MARTIN: -- absolutely. Le- -- let's get right to it.

You have made some comments about Pres. Barack Obama that ha[ve] been met with a lot of resistance from African-Americans, dealing with his – the whole issue – dealing with the economy and your concern that he is not necessarily someone who is comfortable with what you call a “free Black man,” an “independent thinker.” Can you expound on that? And what do you mean by those comments?

DR. WEST: What I mean, my dear brother, is that I try in my life to be a Jesus-loving, free Black man who tells the truth. The condition of truth is to allow suffering to speak. When I look at the country, especially Black America, I see *mass*

unemployment and underemployment. I see *mass* incarceration. I see *mass* lack of quality of education. I see police surveillance and police harassment and too – too many young brothers of all colors, but especially young, Black brothers. I have a sense of emergency, a sense of urgency. I believe issues of poor and working people are issues of national security. I don't see that kind of urgency coming out of the White House.

And it's not personal against Bro. Barack himself. I both respect and protect him against the right-wing, vicious attacks on him; but I want to correct him when he leans away from poor and working people and leans toward Wall Street, toward the Chamber of Commerce, toward the well-to-do, toward the wealthy. It's very seductive in the White House, there, brother.

MR. MARTIN: But what is the difference when you say “right-wing attacks” and calling him a “Black mascot for Wall Street” and then questioning him growing up – and that is being uncomfortable in Black skin? What's the difference between their attacks on his Christianity, on his birth certificate and those kind[s] of comments?

DR. WEST: Well, one, the right-wing attacks are not attacks in the name of poor and working people. The right wing is – is basically bankrolled by the billionaires and the well-to-do. I say that when you look at Tim Gar- -- Geithner, when you look at the economic team, who are Barack Obama's advisors? And who are those who have his ear? They are Tim Geithner from Wall Street, tied to the Wall Street oligarchs, tied to the corporate plutocrats. The last thing we need is a leader at the moment who's not

focusing on jobs, who's not focusing on education, who's not – not – not – spending \$150 billion in Afghanistan, but can't find money – we have to cut back when it comes to our poor children of all colors, disproportionately black, red and brown.

Where is that sense of emergency? We['ve] got Martin Luther King, Jr.'s bust in the Oval Office, brother. Bro. Martin is *crying* every day. He *died* for poor people. He *died* for babies in Vietnam. *Where is that legacy?* I'm just trying to keep that legacy alive. That's all, my brother.

MR. MARTIN: Yet, when individuals talk about those personal comments, when they recite comments – you speaking about not getting inauguration tickets – the perception is that your criticism is more personal, as opposed to policy-oriented. And so you're absolutely right when you talk about the unemployment rate for African-Americans being higher than anybody else['s], Black –

DR. WEST: *Absolutely!*

MR. MARTIN: -- teens being unemployed –

DR. WEST: *Definitely*, we['ve] got to –

MR. MARTIN: -- at 44 percent –

DR. WEST: -- keep the focus.

MR. MARTIN: -- bu- --

DR. WEST: That's what we['ve] got to highlight, though, brother. *Absolutely!* See, I think part of the problem is, though, brother – and you know this better than I, and – and, you know, we['ve] got a[n] '06 connection here, man – that you['ve]

got the pundit class that is so preoccupied with their careers and ambition, they don't want to focus on the truth, and the truth is tied to the suffering. I only talked about my personal situation because, after 65 events for my brother from Iowa all the way to the last day in Ohio, and without a "thank you" – that, for me, is disrespect. When someone disrespects me – it could be the president of Harvard, it could be the President of the United States, it could be somebody on the block – I let them know I don't like to be disrespected. I'm a free Black man.

At the same time, it's not about me. It's not about the pundit class. It's not about middle-class Negroes. It's about the brothers and sisters who are catching hell every day on the block, Latisha and Jamal and Bay' Bruh and Ray-Ray. They catchin' hell. The- -- there's a class war that is being waged by Wall Street oligarchs and corporate plutocrats against working people of all colors, against poor people of all colors. Where is our sense of emergency? That's what I was talking about in the piece. But isn't it interesting that it ends up being primarily a discussion about little skin color here and somebody's career there and somebody's wounded self-love there? No!

We[ve] got a crisis in this country –

MR. MARTIN: -- but it – but –

DR. WEST: -- and we need –

MR. MARTIN: -- but – but –

DR. WEST: -- to hit it –

MR. MARTIN: -- but, Dr. West –

DR. WEST: -- head on. That's --

MR. MARTIN: -- but -- but if --

DR. WEST: -- all I'm talking --

MR. MARTIN: -- we --

DR. WEST: -- about.

MR. MARTIN: -- know that's the case, if we know how media will respond to the personal stuff and not the policy stuff, why even give them something to focus on? Why not *make* it all about policy and not make those kind[s] of personal attacks, if you know full well that they're not going to focus on the policy stuff?

DR. WEST: No, and -- and I -- I appreciate that question, my brother. I think part of the -- th- -- th- -- part of the challenge for me is when someone asks me a question about what is my relation to my dear brother Barack Obama, I have to tell them the truth in terms of my history. That's -- and, of course, I'm not the only one. There's a whole --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

DR. WEST: -- host of Black folk out there who supported Barack Obama from the very beginning, and he won't give them the time of day now. But I've got to be true about my history. If I've been disrespected, I'm not going to keep that on the down low, brother. I'm not that kind of brother, man.

MR. MARTIN: Some folks --

DR. WEST: And I think Curtis Mayfield and John Coltrane and Nina Simone

would say the same thing. If they'd been disrespected, they – they'd voice it, but they'd say the whole debate is about not their personal situation; it's connected to the indifference, or the distance from wrestling with jobs, wrestling with this – the – the drug- -- the war against drugs – this bogus war against drugs that's generating the escalation of the prison-industrial complex. Where is some kind of focus on that using the bully pulpit of the White House?

MR. MARTIN: -- some folks are saying, "How can you be so supportive of someone, then make these comments?" I want to play for our audience what you had to say at a forum at Howard University, which I moderated, that Spike Lee's company put on the day before the inauguration. Here's what you had to say.

DR. WEST: Oh, that's true.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

DR. WEST: We tell our dear brother Barack Obama out of love, "Be a thermostat, not a thermometer."

[APPLAUSE.]

DR. WEST: A thermostat *shapes* the climate of opinion. A thermometer just reflects it. If you're not going to teach the people, take the time to point out what the situation and say, "Sacrifice for fairness," then you're just going to be a thermometer reflecting all the views that's out there, and it's going to end up a mess."

You[ve] got to be leading. That's what Martin was about. That's what

you can learn from Bro. Martin Luther King, Jr., and we'll be there to *help* Bro. Barack, but we're going to put some *pressure* on that brother, too.

[APPLAUSE.]

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: So, basically, Dr. West –

DR. WEST: Yeah.

MR. MARTIN: -- you made it clear, even before he got into office, that you were going to put this kind of pressure on him.

DR. WEST: Oh, *absolutely*. That – I made it clear in all 65 events that I did that I would be a Socratic supporter, a prophetic supporter. Why? Because in the end, it wasn't just about him, wasn't just about me. It's not just about you. You and I know it's about the social misery and the suffering, and we want to speak out of a love for the people and a love for Black people. And I supported him out of that same love. I critique him out of that same love – and I would critique any president of any color. I critique Clarence Thomas. Clarence Thomas is a beautiful Black man, phenotypical- -- phenotypically, but I critique him when he sides with the well-to-do.

MR. MARTIN: That's[?] – [crosstalk] –

DR. WEST: I will critique Barack Obama. He's a beautiful Black man, phenotypically, too. He had a different *formation* than Clarence Thomas, but that doesn't make him less Black. It – it depends on what he *does* in light of who he is.

MR. MARTIN: -- last question. Does it bother you f- --

DR. WEST: That's the bottom –

MR. MARTIN: -- when –

DR. WEST: -- line for me.

MR. MARTIN: -- doe- -- does it bother you when African-Americans will get upset with a critique of the President, as opposed to look at the various issues? Because we've seen this before. You've s- -- experienced it with Tavis Smiley. People said that his comments were more personal, that his tone was, frankly, indignant and [self-]righteous; but also, when the Congressional Black Caucus – when they opposed the President, people have attacked them. And so are Black – are African-Americans afraid to publicly criticize this president? And do you think African-Americans are too protective of the President, to their own detriment?

DR. WEST: No, I understand, though, brother. Well, first, let me say that my love for Black people is unconditional. I love Black people 'cause they're worthy – not that they're going to make – not that they're going to love me back, or I'm in some popularity contest. So, at that point, it doesn't make any difference in terms of just the response.

But I *do* say this. Black people have a deep admiration for the President, a deep sense of protection for the President and almost a pity that he's overwhelmed by so much. So, yes, Black people *do* want to in many ways have a – a – create a certain kind of protectorate, a – a – a – a fortress around him.

That's not a good thing. In a democracy, we must engage in criticism based on

principles and, for me, based on the plight of poor and working people.

But look at it this way, though, brother – that when – when Pres. Obama says, “I am the President of *all* America – not Black America,” and you say, “Well, why is it then that poor and working people have such low priority in terms of economic policy, or Black, poor people have even a *lower* priority; but when you go to the Chamber of Commerce, you don’t say, ‘I’m President of all America’; you say, ‘I owe you. I shoulda brought a cake’? Or, when you go into a Catholic context, you say, ‘You’re a[n] integral part of America’?” Or, when he goes into a Jewish context, he says, “I know what your interests are. I want to respond to them.” Then he’ll come to Black folk and say, “I’m President of all America, but not Black America.”

No. We[re] just as American as *anybody* else. *And we[re] catchin’ more hell!* And we – we provided 96 percent of our *votes* for the President.

So, don’t take us for granted. You know what I mean? Don’t – don’t have a relation to us on the down low when our children are *suffering*.

MR. MARTIN: Um-hum.

DR. WEST: Our fellow brothers and sisters of all colors, but specifically Black, in this case, are *suffering*. *We will not remain silent!* At least –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

DR. WEST: -- / won’t. I – no – no doubt about that!

MR. MARTIN: Dr. Cornel West, we certainly thank you for joining us here on “Washington Watch” and look forward to you coming back again.

DR. WEST: Stay strong, my brother.

MR. MARTIN: Thanks a lot.

Folks, up next, Austan Goolsbee, the chairman of Pres. Obama's Council of Economic Advisors, talks about the debt ceiling and why that should matter to you.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 2)**

MR. MARTIN: This past Monday, the United States hit its limits on the amount of money it could borrow. By law, the country can't borrow any more money, no matter what bills need paying, whether Social Security checks, pay for our soldiers, interest on savings bonds and other debt. Luckily, the U.S. has emergency measures in place to keep paying those bills – just for a little while – but by August, those emergency measures will be exhausted, and we will have to borrow *more* money, or the bills and paychecks don't get paid.

Joining me today to explain why the President insists that Congress raise the debt ceiling is Austan Goolsbee, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors.

Austan, welcome back to "Washington Watch."

MR. AUSTAN GOOLSBEE: Great to see you again, Roland.

MR. MARTIN: Now, folks sitting at home right now are saying, "Look. I keep hearing this 'debt ceiling' thing. I don't understand what's going on. Why can't Congress, the White House – why can't this country get this thing under control?"

So, what will happen if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling?

MR. GOOLSBEE: Well, I – I – I’d say two things about that. The first is, as just a practical matter, if we hit the debt ceiling, and we run out of emergency measures, and we have to default either on Treasury bonds, on Social Security, on payments to the military or Medicare, it’s going to be a disaster. It’s going to be really problematic for the recovery. It’s literally the last thing we need, coming out of the recession that we just went through, because interest rates will go up substantially. You saw S&P say if we default for any period of time, they’re going to downgrade the credit rating of the United States, and it would potentially last for *years* – that interest rates would go up for years, because people would say, “Well, maybe U.S. Treasury bonds are not the safest investment in the world.” If we get into some problem. They – they might default.

But the second thing I’d say about it is, separate from just the “what would happen if you hit it,” is this is different from the budget. Let’s have a discussion about how we live within our means. The President has put forward a plan to cut \$4 trillion off the deficit over the next ten years. That’s a very similar amount to what Republicans have put forward and what the Fiscal Commission put forward. The debt ceiling isn’t about that. The debt ceiling is, after you’ve already signed up for bills, you went and bought the thing; then, when you get the bill, refusing to pay. No other country in the world that I know of has a debt ceiling like this, and for the U.S. to say it’s not going to pay its bills does not make any sense.

MR. MARTIN: Speaker John Boehner has said trillions need to be cut before Republicans will go along with raising the debt ceiling. And so will the White House

accept that? Or, will you keep the issue of cutting our expenses, cutting debt separate from raising the debt ceiling? They want to put the two together.

MR. GOOLSBEE: Well, I would say the President put forward a plan that cut trillions from spending and cut the deficit \$4 trillion over ten to 12 years. So, by all means, we should continue the negotiations we're having, and we must live within our means. Now, I think the way the President's going to do, it in a balanced way, is far superior to abolishing Medicare or replacing it with a voucher and getting rid of financial aid for 9 million college students and getting rid of our Clean Energy investments – which is what you have to do if you want to pay for it in – in the Republican budget.

But the tying of these two things together, the thing that should make you nervous is we're having these negotiations. If we cannot agree on what the trillions of how to do the budget, that we've been arguing about for ten or 20 years, in the next three weeks, i- -- it hardly strikes me as we – th- -- th- -- th- -- as making sense to play chicken with something that would default on the full faith and credit of the United States. Leg's agree that we're going to pay our bills --

MR. MARTIN: -- Right.

MR. GOOLSBEE: -- and raise the debt ceiling, *and* let's live within our means and agree on a budget that cuts trillions out of the deficit.

MR. MARTIN: Austin –

MR. GOOLSBEE: That part we can both agree on.

MR. MARTIN: -- Austin, since Speaker Boehner's laying down markers, will the

President lay down a strong marker and say, flat-out, that it is time to end all subsidies to oil companies, that he is not going to sign a bill unless that is taken out? How much sense does it make for Republicans – and, even, some Democrats to say, “We need to cut the debt. We need to get rid of some programs if we’re continuing to give billions of dollars to oil companies who are making billions of dollars? Will the President lay that marker down?

MR. GOOLSBEE: Well, I think the President *has* laid that marker down, that – it’s – and fair- -- look, it does- – the answer to your question is it doesn’t make any sense. The price of gas is four dollars a gallon. They’re making *unbelievable* amounts of profits, while the U.S. government is subsidizing them billions of dollars per year, while we’re facing major deficits. We have *got* to get rid of those subsidies. They don’t make any sense.

MR. MARTIN: Republicans have held up several, different appointments from the President. It has been a contentious issue as to whether or not he should appoint Elizabeth Warren to head the Consumer Protection Bureau. Since Congress is in session, is the President going to push that through now? Because as he has said – and she’s been on this show many times – somebody has to be out there looking out for the average American.

MR. GOOLSBEE: You know, I – I don’t know what – the personnel decision’s, obviously, the President’s to make. As you know, I’m a – I’m an old friend of Elizabeth Warren, and I like her very much. I don’t know the exact circumstance. I *do* know the

President is committed to exactly the vision that Elizabeth Warren has been laying forward, that we need to have consumer protection, and that all the lobbyists in the world that the financial industry puts up to prevent that cannot succeed. How could you not look at the last two and-a-half years – at the financial crisis that took place because of increasingly exotic and untenable mortgages were put on lower- and lower-income people who could not afford what situations they were gotten into – and not think that we need better disclosure and better consumer protection? It almost brought the entire financial system and economy of the United States.

So, the President's got a firm commitment to do that, and I'm sure whoever he puts in that role is going to back up that commitment.

MR. MARTIN: Well, Austan Goolsbee, always a p- -- pleasure having you on the show, this time from the North Lawn at the White House. We look forward to having you back in the studio, Austan, and we'll chat soon.

MR. GOOLSBEE: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Thanks a lot.

My journalists' roundtable is up next, where we look at the faltering Republican presidential field and Pres. Barack Obama's politically damaging tough stand on Israel.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 3)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. Time for our roundtable. Joining me this week: Karen Finney, Democratic strategist and MSNBC contributor; Keli Goff, contributing

editor for TheLoop21.com and a blogger for The Huffington Post; Armstrong Williams, host of “The Right Side”; and a newbie this week, Anthony Coley –

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. MARTIN: -- former communications director for the late Sen. Ted Kennedy and director of The Brunswick Group, a corporate communications company.

Now, Anthony, normally we haze people who are new, so –

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. ANTHONY COLEY: Oh, yeah.

MR. MARTIN: -- you know –

MR. COLEY: I’m ready for it.

MR. MARTIN: -- I’m lettin’ –

MR. COLEY: Bring it –

MR. MARTIN: -- you know how –

MR. COLEY: -- on!

MR. MARTIN: -- we roll. All right.

MR. COLEY: Okay. Let’s –

MS. KELI GOFF: We’ll – we’ll be –

MR. COLEY: -- go!

MS. GOFF: -- gentle.

MR. MARTIN: That’s right. Be gentle.

But the GOP was not gentle this week to Newt Gingrich.

MR. COLEY: No.

MS. GOFF: No!

MS. KAREN FINNEY: No, not so much.

MR. MARTIN: He had –

MR. COLEY: No.

MR. MARTIN: -- a *horrible*, horrible --

MS. GOFF: [Laughs.]

MR. MARTIN: -- week.

MR. COLEY: Amazing.

MR. MARTIN: But here's what I found to be interesting. Of course, he made these comments on "Meet the Press," talking about Cong. Paul Ryan's budget dealing with Medicare, but earlier, Newt said, "Look. I'm a professor. Normally, I make these sort of" – you know, "different kind[s] of comments." I – for me, really, this was Newt really speaking –

MR. COLEY: It –

MR. MARTIN: -- *truthfully*.

MR. COLEY: -- it really was. And one of the things I saw, Roland, is that, if you think about it, this guy's been on "Meet the Press" *35 times*. This was *not* his first time at the –

MR. MARTIN: Right, right.

MR. COLEY: -- rodeo. What this interview reminded me of was that this is a

guy who says what he – whatever comes to his mind, without thinking, and then – you know, so be it – whatever the consequence is. He doesn't think through –

MS. FINNEY: I –

MR. COLEY: -- things.

MS. FINNEY: -- I think that's an important point; because, you know, part – the whole rationale for Newt's campaign is to convince people that he's "the new Newt," and this reminds people of the *old* Newt.

MR. COLEY: Yeah.

MS. FINNEY: And the second thing he basically did is he boxed in all of the GOP 2012 presidential Republicans –

MR. COLEY: Yeah.

MS. FINNEY: -- as well as the House, and he may have actually given us the rationale to take back the Senate because, essentially, the litmus test now is, "Do you support Paul Ryan's plan to end Medicare?"

MR. MARTIN: What I –

MR. ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS: Listen.

MR. MARTIN: -- found – what –

MR. WILLIAMS: Listen.

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

MR. WILLIAMS: Gingrich's base – let's be clear – is the GOP and the conservatives in this country.

MS. GOFF: Who are – [crosstalk] –

MR. WILLIAMS: You don't –

MR. COLEY: Well, he didn't –

MS. GOFF: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. WILLIAMS: You don't –

MR. COLEY: -- win anything –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- you don't –

MS. GOFF: -- have anything right now.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- you don't go on "Meet the Press," given his history of understanding where he was, and trash Paul Ryan and Medicare. You just don't do that.

MR. MARTIN: But, Armstrong –

MR. COLEY: And –

MR. WILLIAMS: No.

MR. MARTIN: -- here's what's interesting. Here's what's interesting. When I heard his comment – again, right before he made the comment – when he talked about this whole notion of Americans not being ready for so much, I recall Democrats who got nailed because of the healthcare bill, saying the exact, same thing.

MS. FINNEY: Right.

MR. MARTIN: I remember *Republicans* said, "This is too much, too fast." This is where I thought Newt was being honest –

MR. COLEY: He was.

MR. MARTIN: -- when he was saying, "Look. We're going to get our butts kicked" --

MR. COLEY: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- "by these older voters" --

MS. GOFF: [Crosstalk.]

MR. MARTIN: -- "if we go down this path." That's what he was really --

MR. WILLIAMS: But --

MR. MARTIN: -- *saying*.

MS. GOFF: And Democrats came out using his language, actually, in that upstate congressional race that's up for grabs --

MR. MARTIN: Right --

MS. GOFF: -- right now.

MR. MARTIN: -- in New York.

MS. GOFF: Absolutely.

MR. WILLIAMS: You know, the problem with the country is everybody cares about getting reelected, what is politically correct. This country is facing a financial crisis, and in order to get this financial crisis under any kind of control, you've *got* to look at the sacred cows of Medicare --

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. WILLIAMS: -- Medicaid and Social Security. It was a principled position for

Republicans that – why they want to make these cuts and why they want to make changes –

MS. FINNEY: [Crosstalk] – here’s the problem.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- to these programs –

MS. FINNEY: He – he made –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- whether –

MS. FINNEY: -- that “principled” –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- you like it or not.

MS. FINNEY: -- position, and in pr- -- some honesty, but then he spent the rest of the week backtracking and calling Paul Ryan and c- --

MS. GOFF: And –

MS. FINNEY: -- apologizing. So, I mean you can’t –

MR. WILLIAMS: Politician!

MS. FINNEY: -- be –

MR. WILLIAMS: He wasn’t –

MS. FINNEY: -- you –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- sincere!

MS. FINNEY: -- okay!

MS. GOFF: But you – but –

MS. FINNEY: [Crosstalk] –

MS. GOFF: -- you said –

MS. FINNEY: -- then why –

MR. WILLIAMS: [Crosstalk.]

MS. FINNEY: -- should we –

MS. GOFF: -- vote for this – [crosstalk].

MS. FINNEY: -- *vote* for him?

MS. GOFF: But –

MR. WILLIAMS: I didn't –

MS. GOFF: -- can I – can I –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- say Newt Gingrich had a principled –

MS. GOFF: -- c- -- ca- --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- position.

MR. MARTIN: Actually – actually –

MS. GOFF: You – [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: -- but no –

MR. WILLIAMS: No –

MR. MARTIN: -- actually –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- I did not.

MR. MARTIN: -- no, I thought he did think through what he was saying.

MR. COLEY: He *did* think through –

MR. MARTIN: And I think –

MR. COLEY: -- it.

MR. MARTIN: -- he gave an honest –

MR. COLEY: *Absolutely*, he –

MR. MARTIN: -- answer.

MR. COLEY: -- did.

MR. MARTIN: The problem was –

MR. COLEY: Absolutely, he did.

MR. MARTIN: -- the Re- -- the Republicans were not happy he was that honest.

MR. COLEY: That's right.

MS. GOFF: A- -- and kicked him in the tush afterwards.

And on that note, in terms of him having a horrible week and no- -- you know, and – and – and tr- -- and taking a principled position, how much did we hear of people like him and him, specifically, talking about debt? And then we hear of the Tiffany's bill. And that sounds, like, funny –

MR. COLEY: That's right.

MS. GOFF: -- and dismissive, but we live in this age of Twitter, where immediately on the heels of the – the Paul Ryan misstep, it sounds like, again, Republicans not practicing what –

MR. WILLIAMS: The Tiffany –

MS. GOFF: -- they preach.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- bill – that was a personal bill –

MR. COLEY: No, no, but –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. COLEY: -- but –

MS. GOFF: No, but the – the –

MR. WILLIAMS: That was –

MS. GOFF: -- whole – the –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- *personal*.

MS. GOFF: -- whole idea of having debt – the whole –

[CROSSTALK.]

MS. GOFF: -- idea of having debt –

MR. WILLIAMS: Come on!

MR. COLEY: -- this is – [crosstalk] –

MS. GOFF: -- and being irres- --

MR. COLEY: -- [crosstalk] –

MS. GOFF: -- being irresponsible. And that – that was –

MR. COLEY: -- this is –

MS. GOFF: -- the *perception*. I'm –

MR. COLEY: -- this was –

MS. GOFF: -- telling you, Armstrong.

MR. COLEY: -- interesting to watch, as a Demo- –

MS. GOFF: With his third wife.

MR. COLEY: -- -crat. In addition to him being – having a bill of \$500,000 at this

elite jewelry store. The –

MS. GOFF: [Crosstalk] –

MR. COLEY: -- funniest part of this – this, to me was watching him sign bills and being hit with this *glitter* bomb by, you know, this gay rights activist, who told him to “stop the hate.” And he –

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk] –

MR. COLEY: -- thought his campaign needed –

MR. MARTIN: And he- -- here’s – here’s a –

MR. COLEY: -- a – a makeover.

MR. MARTIN: -- bu- -- but where’s what I find to be interesting, because you talk about him, obviously, trying to seek the GOP nomination. All of a sudden, funders, donors are now running away from him.

But then Mike Huckabee decides not to run.

MR. COLEY: That’s right.

MR. MARTIN: We knew chump Trump wasn’t going to run. That was a joke –

MR. COLEY: That’s right.

MR. MARTIN: -- the whole time. But it’s –

MS. GOFF: [Crosstalk.]

MR. MARTIN: -- very surprising how so few Republicans are jumping into this race to oppose Pres. Barack Obama.

MR. COLEY: That’s right.

MR. MARTIN: Gov. Rick Perry in Texas, he keeps saying, “No, I’m not going to do it.” Sarah Palin says, you know, “There’s something that s-“ -- “with-“ – “within me.” Gov. Chris Christie, he’s saying, “I’m not going to do it.” Sen. Mark Rubio, he’s saying, “Forget about it. I want no part of it.”

MR. WILLIAMS: Wrong interpre- --

MS. GOFF: [Crosstalk]- --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- -tation. Wrong interpretation.

MR. MARTIN: No. I’m only res- -- I’m only –

MR. WILLIAMS: I – I – think – [crosstalk]- --

MR. MARTIN: -- stating –

MS. GOFF: What they *said*.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- what they’ve *said*.

MS. GOFF: What they’ve *said*.

MR. WILLIAMS: But that’s the – let me just say this, and I’m going to say it – don’t be surprised that if Christie, out of New Jersey, and Jeb Bush are convinced to run in next year’s election.

MS. GOFF: Can – can I tell –

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead.

MS. GOFF: -- you what – can I tell you what’s getting les- -- le- -- left out of this story, though? They’re perceived as GOP heroes ‘cause they’re not running yet. The secret about Rick Perry, from my home state of Texas, is that his approval ratings are

totally slipping – as are Chris Christie's.

MR. COLEY: They are. That's right.

MS. GOFF: So, this idea that there's some big Republican hero that has the magic bullet to beat Obama – that's part of why we haven't seen some of these guys –

MR. WILLIAMS: They don't –

MS. GOFF: -- in the ring.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- *need* a hero.

MS. GOFF: The national press that they're getting doesn't actually match what the reality of what their record is and what some of their approval ratings –

MR. COLEY: That's right.

MS. GOFF: -- are.

MS. FINNEY: And Jeb Bush has already said that he's taken a look at everything and figures it's a smarter plan to wait 'til 2016. And I think that's when a *lot* –

MR. WILLIAMS: You –

MS. FINNEY: -- these –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- fear –

MS. FINNEY: -- guys are –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- Jeb Bush.

MS. FINNEY: -- doing.

MR. WILLIAMS: The Democrats *fear* him.

MS. GOFF: [Laughs.]

MS. FINNEY: I'm just –

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes!

MS. FINNEY: -- telling you what –

MS. GOFF: I[?] –

MS. FINNEY: -- Jeb Bush –

MR. WILLIAMS: Oh –

MS. FINNEY: -- *said*.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- yes.

MS. GOFF: -- they – they fear –

MR. COLEY: Jeb Bush –

MS. GOFF: -- them so much –

MR. COLEY: -- is a keen –

MS. GOFF: -- because –

MR. WILLIAMS: Don't want Jeb to –

MR. COLEY: -- political –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- run.

MS. FINNEY: But I – [crosstalk] –

MR. COLEY: -- observer.

MR. WILLIAMS: Don't want him to –

MR. COLEY: He's – [crosstalk] –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- run. I understand.

MR. COLEY: -- [crosstalk].

MR. MARTIN: Now – bu- -- *but* the question is this here. If you look at Huntsman – J- -- who was, of course, Pres. Barack Obama’s ambassador to China – I thought it ver- -- that it was a very smart move for him to say, “Excuse me. When the President of the United States calls and asks you to serve” –

MR. COLEY: That’s right.

MS. FINNEY: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: -- “you serve.” This is his way of saying right now, “Don’t dog me because I serve under Pres. Barack” –

MR. COLEY: That’s right.

MR. MARTIN: -- “Obama. This” –

MR. COLEY: That’s right.

MR. MARTIN: -- “was the Office of the *President* calling.”

MR. COLEY: The –

MS. GOFF: -- but – but –

MR. COLEY: -- problem that –

MS. GOFF: -- but –

MR. COLEY: -- he’s going to have now is convincing Republicans in a primary to vote for him.

MS. GOFF: -- and this is – [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: Tha- -- that he’s –

MS. GOFF: -- and -- [crosstalk]- --

MR. MARTIN: -- not conser- -- more cons- -- that -- tha- -- that he's too moderate, or not conservative enough?

MR. COLEY: That he's -- that he's *too* moderate.

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

MS. GOFF: I can --

MR. COLEY: Yeah.

MS. GOFF: -- tell you that's become the story of this GOP race, Roland, which is that the candidate that's causing the most problems in the GOP primary is Barack Obama. You have John Huntsman, who served Barack Obama. You have Mitt Romney, who had a healthcare plan --

MR. MARTIN: "*President* Barack Obama."

MS. GOFF: -- 'scuse me -- Pres. --

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead.

MS. GOFF: -- Barack Obama. Thank you for correcting me. And by the way, my mother just nodded to the screen when you did --

MR. MARTIN: All right.

MS. GOFF: -- that.

MR. MARTIN: [Chuckles.]

MS. GOFF: But you have John Huntsman, who served. You have Mitt Romney, whose healthcare plan was *completely* different from the President's -- except that it

wasn't. And –

MR. COLEY: [Chuckles.] That's right.

MS. GOFF: -- that's becoming the –

MR. COLEY: That's right.

MS. GOFF: -- story of this – of this primary race – is that the candidates who actually are true to Republican principles are the ones –

MR. WILLIAMS: Why did you –

MS. GOFF: -- who are the –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- point at me?

MS. FINNEY: Actually –

MR. WILLIAMS: [Chuckles.]

MS. GOFF: -- who are the – who are the – [crosstalk].

MR. COLEY: [Chuckles.]

MS. FINNEY: -- a- -- a- --

MR. WILLIAMS: Why are you pointing at *me*? [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: You – you sure help our Democrats!

MR. COLEY: [Laughs.]

[CHUCKLING, CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: You're not a Democrat!

MS. FINNEY: I disagree with that –

MR. WILLIAMS: [Chuckles.] Please!

MS. FINNEY: -- a bit in that I think the story of this Republican primary is that anyone who can get through the primary will not win in the general election –

MR. COLEY: That's right.

MS. FINNEY: -- because the Republican Party has gone so far to the right.

MR. COLEY: That's right. That's right.

MS. FINNEY: I mean it basically took the implosion of Newt Gingrich for people to even take a second –

MR. WILLIAMS: Wait a minute –

MS. FINNEY: -- look at –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- now.

MS. FINNEY: -- to sake –

MR. WILLIAMS: Come on!

MS. FINNEY: -- take a second look at –

MR. WILLIAMS: Come on.

MS. FINNEY: -- Mitch Daniels, or John – remember? Huntsman, at the beginning – they said, “Oh, he's too moderate. No way.”

MS. GOFF: Right.

MS. FINNEY: And now they're saying, “All right. Well, maybe we'll take another look at” –

[CROSSTALK.]

MS. FINNEY: -- “him.”

MS. GOFF: [Crosstalk] – the primary.

MR. WILLIAMS: [Crosstalk] – let's not forget –

MS. GOFF: [Crosstalk] –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- that –

MS. GOFF: -- [crosstalk] -- primary.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- before the last presidential election, we – we would've thought it was a *joke* that Barack Obama would've defeated Hillary Clinton –

MR. MARTIN: That was a –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- in the primary.

MR. MARTIN: -- that –

MR. WILLIAMS: So, look –

MR. MARTIN: -- right.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- we're a *long way*. And it's the same with the Republican Party.

MR. MARTIN: Now –

MR. WILLIAMS: Their candidate has yet to rise. But they're rising.

MR. MARTIN: -- now, now, now, speak- –

MS. GOFF: Where – like –

MR. MARTIN: -- no- -- now –

MS. GOFF: -- like Bob Dole rose in '96.

MR. MARTIN: -- now – now speaking of rising, the s- -- the – the tempers

between Israel and the United States, Israel not happy at all with the President's speech this week, laying out his thoughts a – on a Mid East peace plan. It appeared to me the President was saying, "Look. We can sit here and keep dilly-dallying around, but we've got to get to a peace accord."

MR. COLEY: And this is what I like about this president, Roland. This is – this is a – a situation that presidents on both sides of the aisle have been trying to ta- -- tackle for generations. Now, what I think this president's going to do – and I – I – I see this as a way to seize the moment. But what I think this president ought to do, and probably will do, is take that speech, take – take that message, actually, to Jerusalem. You know, he *hasn't* visited Israel since he – since he has – has been sworn in.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. COLEY: And so, you know, I – I *do*. I think he's going to roll up his sleeves, and I think you're going to see him get involved.

The problem now is that he's got so many pressing issues –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. COLEY: -- on his – on his agenda.

MR. WILLIAMS: Listen.

MR. COLEY: Perhaps, as Joe Biden – who, as you all know, was the –

MR. WILLIAMS: The speech –

MR. COLEY: -- chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations –

MR. WILLIAMS: The speech –

MR. COLEY: -- [Committee] for so long –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- about Israel is nothing but rhetoric. There will never be –

MR. COLEY: That's not true.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- two states.

MR. COLEY: That's not true.

MR. WILLIAMS: It's not going at all.

MR. COLEY: That's not true.

MR. WILLIAMS: Bush advocated this –

MS. FINNEY: [Crosstalk] – not –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- and it went no- --

MR. COLEY: That's not true.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- -where. He's –

MS. FINNEY: That's not actually – [crosstalk].

MR. WILLIAMS: -- and listen.

MR. COLEY: That's not true.

MR. WILLIAMS: I don't think the –

MS. FINNEY: Armstrong –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- President reached this conclusion without going to Jewish
leaders –

MR. MARTIN: So – so –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- in this country.

MR. MARTIN: -- so, Armstrong, you –

MR. WILLIAMS: I think it's just –

MR. MARTIN: -- think – so – so –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- rhetoric.

MR. MARTIN: -- Armstrong, you – you are of the position that, look, we could sit here and talk all day, but these two sides will never come –

MR. WILLIAMS: Never!

MR. MARTIN: -- to an agreement.

MR. WILLIAMS: No matter –

MS. FINNEY: But –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- what – who's –

MS. FINNEY: -- but they –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- in the White –

MS. FINNEY: -- did.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- House.

MS. FINNEY: But – but they already have. I mean let's go back to history here. The – basically, what Pres. Barack Obama was talking about was the agreement that Bill Clinton had *on the table*.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes!

MS. FINNEY: *That's the deal.*

MR. WILLIAMS: It was on the table.

MS. FINNEY: And it was agreed to, and then –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- and –

MS. FINNEY: -- somebody backed –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- there ya go.

MS. FINNEY: -- out.

MR. WILLIAMS: There ya go.

MS. FINNEY: Okay.

MR. WILLIAMS: And that –

MS. FINNEY: But point –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- will continue –

MS. FINNEY: -- B –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- to happen.

MR. COLEY: Does – does – are –

MS. FINNEY: -- but point B –

MR. COLEY: -- you saying we give *up*? Do -- you saying Barack Obama –

MR. WILLIAMS: No. I'm just –

MR. COLEY: -- gives *up*?

MR. WILLIAMS: -- saying – no –

MR. COLEY: Are you saying –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- because –

MR. COLEY: -- you said –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- but I'm just --

MR. COLEY: -- you --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- saying --

MR. COLEY: -- but you said it wasn't --

MS. FINNEY: -- but they *have* --

MR. COLEY: -- a done deal.

MS. FINNEY: -- agreed to it.

MR. COLEY: Then you said --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- [crosstalk] --

MR. COLEY: -- it's never going to happen.

MS. FINNEY: They have agreed to it --

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

MR. COLEY: So, does he --

MS. FINNEY: -- once is my point.

MR. COLEY: -- give *up*?

MR. MARTIN: -- on -- on -- on --

MR. WILLIAMS: Netanyahu has already *signaled* that what the President is asking for has *no chance* of happening.

MR. MARTIN: -- on -- on this one -- on this one, Armstrong and I are in agreement -- that I do believe that, at some point, the United States has to say, "You know what, guys?"

MS. GOFF: “Figure it out.”

MR. MARTIN: “We’re sick and tired of you playing games. Until the two of you come to an agreement” –

MS. GOFF: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- “give us a call. We’ll be back.” Because – because the bottom line is it keeps moving. Israel moves –

MS. GOFF: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- Pe- -- the Palestinians move. Somebody agrees, somebody disagrees. It – it’s a little game they’re –

MR. COLE: Roland –

MR. MARTIN: -- playing, and so you can’t just keep having the same discussion over and over and over again.

MS. FINNEY: Well, and I think the President made that clear in his speech. And then later in the day on Friday, when he did the press conference with Netanyahu, it – *clearly*, what went on behind the scenes was a conversation that both of them are much happier with.

MR. COLEY: Absolutely.

MR. MARTIN: Well, I’ll –

MR. COLEY: Absolutely.

MR. MARTIN: -- tell you what, though. We’ll be s- -- we’ll be s- -- we’ll certainly see what happens, but the question also comes up what will happen to his American

Jewish supporters –

MS. GOFF: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- when it comes to 2012.

MR. WILLIAMS: You mean his –

MR. MARTIN: All right?

MR. WILLIAMS: -- liberal supporters.

MR. MARTIN: Huh?

MR. WILLIAMS: His liberal – [crosstalk].

MR. MARTIN: No, I said, “Jewish.”

MR. WILLIAMS: They’re liberal.

MR. MARTIN: No, not always.

MS. GOFF: Not all of them.

MR. WILLIAMS: [Crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: Not always.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- [crosstalk].

MS. GOFF: Actually –

MR. MARTIN: Not always.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: Karen, Keli, Armstrong –

MR. WILLIAMS: Well, maybe not –

MR. MARTIN: -- Anthony, we –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- [crosstalk].

MR. MARTIN: -- appreciate it. Thanks a bunch.

Folks, Smokey Fontaine is up next with “Web Watch.”

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 4)**

MR. MARTIN: Smokey Fontaine joins us from News One New York headquarters via the HP SkyRoom.

Smokey, what’s up?

MR. SMOKEY FONTAINE: What’s going on, sir?

MR. MARTIN: “Psychology Today” runs a piece on their website basically suggesting that Black women are less desirable than anybody else, and the sisters went *crazy* online this week.

MR. FONTAINE: Of course, they did. I hope they did. More power to them. I mean the *gall* that folks have. I don’t care if your name is “Psychology Today.” I don’t care what kind of institution you say you’re from. To put out something as intrinsically racist as that, saying that African-American women are, by definition, less desirable because not only of their physical shape, but because of their emotional stability and – and the whole – their whole *character* – just demeaning their whole character – this is the best thing that could happen to the World Wide Web, because the World Wide Web will not allow you to put out something like that without being attacked back. And that’s exactly what sisters did this week.

MR. MARTIN: And, of course, they actually removed that blog post from their we- -- website, and it just automatically disappeared.

MR. FONTAINE: That's *right*. That's public pressure. That's online pressure. We're not going to let people put this out anymore. We're going to go to all of the sites that we represent. We're going to use Black media. We're going to let our voices be heard. It's gone. It's not gone forever, 'cause it'll always be archived; but, thankfully, it's put in the back for right now.

MR. MARTIN: Now, of course, Smokey, you and I are talking right now – which means that the world did not end on Saturday. I mean, seriously. I saw folks tweeting about this, on Facebook. Who was really taking this thing seriously?

MR. FONTAINE: You know what? Harold Camping, who is the 88-year-old pastor – so-called “pastor” – he took it seriously. And when he has a microphone that goes out to millions of people – this man has 66 radio stations that he's been broadcasting this message on for months now – right? He's put up 2,000 billboards all across America, and there are still folks right now who think we should not be here.

But you know what? I'm glad I'm here. I'm glad you're here. I wish I could put – put out there some kind of cockamamie story and get that many people to follow *me*.

MR. MARTIN: Right. It makes no sense whatsoever.

Another hot story this week online. What was the online reaction to CNN anchor Don Lemon coming out, saying he's gay?

MR. FONTAINE: You know, he chose Twitter to be the primary place where he

put his message out – or, the *first* place he put his message out, and it was a very courageous moment for him. He admitted – he came out of the closet. He admitted that he was a gay man, and has been most of his adult life. And he used – his Twitter followers actually showed him a lot of support.

What was a *little* bit frustrating, however, was that he felt like this was – being Black made his admission of being gay that much worse. And he described being homosexual – admitting to being homosexual as the worst thing you could possibly do in the Black community. That made this story the most commented story on NewsOne.com. People felt we have more difficult and more important issues to worry about than coming out of the closet.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Smokey, always a pleasure. We certainly appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

MR. FONTAINE: Thank you, Roland.

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. Coming up, br- -- breast cancer is a disease that affects all women, but we'll find out why African-American women need to be even more diligent when it comes to detecting and treating the disease.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 5)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: My next guest is sounding the alarm about breast cancer, especially for African-American women. Stats show African-American women are less likely to develop breast cancer, but when they do, they are 37 percent more

likely to die from it. In fact, African-American women have a higher breast cancer mortality rate than any other race or ethnic group. Researchers are still working to determine why that's the case, but in the meantime, folks like my next guest are making sure women are doing what they can to protect themselves from this disease. Joining me now is Crystal King a Pink Together survivor ambassador.

Welcome to "Washington Watch."

MS. CRYSTAL KING: Thank you. Thank you for having me.

MR. MARTIN: Now, you have your own personal story as relates to breast cancer. Share that with our audience.

MS. KING: I was diagnosed at 25, so my case –

MR. MARTIN: Twenty- --

MS. KING: -- was –

MR. MARTIN: -- -five.

MS. KING: -- 25 – 25. And, you know, it's – it's – whereas, it's – it's odd, it's as odd as people might think. I had a dear friend diagnosed a couple of weeks behind me who passed away at 29, another very good friend who passed away right at the age of 40. So, it's one of those things that people have to realize. It strikes us younger. It strikes African-American women younger.

MR. MARTIN: Any part- -- did – any particular reason why that's the case?

MS. KING: Well, there're several different reasons. We- -- we're still studying why exactly it is that we're diagnosed younger, but we *do* know that when we are

diagnosed younger, oftentimes our outcome is a little bit more bleak for several different reasons. We tend to be diagnosed with more aggressive cancers. We tend to have issues when it comes to getting care. A – a lot of things impact that. Some of them are social. Some of them are myths. We don't want to go get a biopsy, because we heard by our grandma that, if we do, you know, cutting into the cancer is going to make it spread. So, there are several different things that impact us. There'[re] access-to-care issues. There's a lot that happens that really impacts why African-American women face more grim diagnos[e]s.

MR. MARTIN: Research is vital when it comes to this –

MS. KING: Absolutely.

MR. MARTIN: -- and so where does it stand as relates to Black women being participants in research projects, in clinical trials? Are – are – are we even lower there and are still afraid to even do those kind[s] of things?

MS. KING: *Absolutely.* There're so many things that plague us when it really comes to, you know, getting down into it and – and getting to the gut and the heart of what's going on. A lot of it is the Tuskegee study. You and I both know that that *still* plagues us, and we're trying to figure out ways to get around that.

Research is critical. We invested \$55 million in a research slate this year, so we're really excited about that as an organization. And there's just a lot that we're still trying to figure out. And as a matter of fact, I want to go back to something you said earlier. The most recent statistics actually show that African-American women have a

39 percent higher death rate from breast cancer, so we are out there in the market. We have a brand new platform that we just launched called The Queens Are Keeping It Real, which really gets at the heart of people where they are and where they're listening. So, that platform brought together some of the most powerful women in radio, and we're so very proud of that. So, you know, Carla Ferrell from "Steve Harvey Morning Show" and Sybil Wilkes from "Tom Joyner"; Ebony Steele from "The Ricky Smiley Morning Show"; the wonderful ladies of Café Mocha, which is MC Lyte and Angelique Perrin and Loni Love; and then the fabulous DeDe McGuire from "The Doug Banks Show" – just some powerful women. And they have joined together, because this im- -- this disease has impacted all of them in a personal way. So, it's – it's wonderful.

MR. MARTIN: But what would you also say to men? Because the reality is this – this is affecting their mothers, their sisters, their aunts, their cousins; but also, as we know with Richard Roundtree –

MS. KING: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- also former Sen. Edward Brooke –

MS. KING: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- *men* have also developed breast cancer.

MS. KING: Oh, yes. Men *do* develop breast cancer, and it's so funny. Men tend to think, "Oh, I'm so masculine. I'm so macho. This won't impact me." But it does, and it impacts men in a very different way. You know, oftentimes they think,

“Well, we don’t have breasts.” But you *do* have breasts, and so it *is* something that can impact men.

And more often than not, the way that men are most – most impacted by this disease is being the co-survivors. So, it’s important that they understand the nuances of the disease and they understand how to be supportive and how to be there for the women in their lives when they are impacted.

MR. MARTIN: What would you say to someone watching right now who has had a difficult time trying to get that woman in their life to go get checked?

MS. KING: Be there for those that you love. Oftentimes, we don’t get checked because we feel like we don’t have time to take care of ourselves. We’re so busy taking care of everybody else.

MR. MARTIN: And a lot of women actually have that view.

MS. KING: Oh, *absolutely*. And you can’t be here to take care of those you love if you don’t take care of yourself. So, I’d encourage everybody to log on to circleofpromise.org, or komen.org – and we are a partner of – we aren’t just a partner of Black women in the community. We’re –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. KING: -- trying to reach women globally.

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

MS. KING: All right.

MR. MARTIN: All right, then. Well, we certainly appreciate it, and good luck with

it. And, of course, we're always available to tell the story as well.

MS. KING: Thank you so much.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Thanks a lot.

MS. KING: Thank you for having us.

MR. MARTIN: Folks, up next, my perspective on this whole discussion between Dr. Cornel West, Pres. Barack Obama and Black leadership when it comes to a Black agenda.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 6)**

MR. MARTIN: Now it's time for "My Perspective."

There's no doubt the cringe factor was extremely high when I heard and read the comments by Dr. Cornel West with regards to the skin tone and whether or not Pres. Barack Obama is Black enough. To listen to a scholar like Dr. West raise the issue in terms of Obama, who is half Black and half White, being raised as a, frankly, man uncomfortable being in that Black skin was troubling. Why is that the case? Because we have seen significant attacks on this president and his character. We've seen people question whether he's a real American. We have fo- -- we've seen folks question whether he's a Christian. But early on in the campaign, there were many African-Americans – and I heard them say this – question whether or not he is Black enough.

But the real question comes in, “What is Black?” And, “How can someone be ‘Black enough?’” We’ve seen Bernard Hopkins criticize Donovan McNabb for growing up with a father and not necessarily being totally Black. We’ve seen the comments by Jalen Rose, his comments regarding Duke University and Grant Hill recruiting “Uncle Toms.” So, we’ve seen this kind[s] of discussions on many different occasions. But when it comes to Pres. Barack Obama, the real issue for me is not personal comments. The real issue is, what are the policies? And I think it is grossly unfair for anyone to go down a road where we begin to make personal attacks about his integrity, about his character. It should all be about policy.

And so as I’ve watched African-Americans online, social media, talk about this debate back and forth, I think the problem has been more time has been spent talking about personal feelings, as opposed to the policy initiatives that [are] at the root of Dr. Cornel West’s problem. You heard him earlier talk about that – talk about the poor; talk about young, Black men being picked up by cops; talking about the prison-industrial complex; talking about the lack of jobs; talking about the fact that Black teens [have a] 44 percent unemployment rate in this country.

If you talk to the White House, they will tell you they have *not* done enough, but they also will say there’re a lot of things that they *have* done that they think people like Do- -- Dr. Cornel West – they’ve not taken the time to actually find out what they’ve done and how they’re trying to impact the lives of so many people.

But I also think we should use this moment as a way to check ourselves as African-Americans, and that is, how do we actually view *any* kind of criticism of this president? I'll be honest. On this show in the last two years, we've had some very tough conversations about Pres. Barack Obama, his administration and some of their positions. And what's interesting is that when we have those challenging questions, we've gotten all kinds of comments on our website, on TVOneOnline.com, plus [mine] personally, saying, "How dare you criticize the President? We see others criticizing him. We shouldn't turn to a Black network and see the same kind of criticisms."

I say you're absolutely wrong. The issue here for me is not a *critique* of the President. It's really a question of tone. It's also what you say and how you say it. I believe that, had Dr. Cornel West made his comments solely about policy, we would not have the kind of discussion that we're having now. But when it becomes personal, I think pe- -- people begin to tune you out and don't listen to the great things you have to say. They focus on what they perceive to be those negative things.

We've seen the exact, same thing happen with the Congressional Black Caucus, as we've discussed on this show. It was very interesting when the CBC withheld their votes to oppose the financial reform bill because they wanted more protection in that bill for minorities. The White House pushed back, did not necessarily want to give up some of those things. How do I know? Because I got a phone call late one Thursday night, questioning whether or not I was willing to discuss the issue on "The Tom Joyner Morning Show" the next day.

The CBC got \$4 billion in concessions from Congress, from the administration. Yet, Black folks said, “How dare the CBC question the President.” The Congressional Black Caucus was sent to Congress by their constituents to fight on their behalf, and there’re going to be times when they also oppose Pres. Barack Obama. Like it or not, he is the 44th President of the United States. And for African-Americans, the concern should be not that we are excited about the historical nature of his presidency, not – not the symbolic nature, but also what is the return on our investment. Gays and lesbi- -- lesbians voted for him in record numbers. They also have demanded certain things, and they’ve gotten them. Hispanics voted for Pres. Barack Obama in record numbers. They, too, have made demands, and they want to see a return on their investment.

So, why should African-Americans not have a return on *their* investment? We should be asking critical questions. We should be saying, “How are you going to address the job situation in our community? Education in our community? How are you going to address the fact that we did not get enough of those contracts from the stimulus bill?” Those are *real issues*. Those are *policy* issues. They have nothing to do with his skin tone. They have nothing to do with his mother being White. They have nothing to do with him being raised in Kansas and Hawaii and Indonesia.

And so the focus of any critic of the President – be it Dr. Cornel West, be it Tavis Smiley, be it me, be it you – it should be all about policy and not personal issues, because if we go down that road, we’re no different than Rush Limbaugh, or Glenn Beck, or Sean Hannity, or Michael Savage, or any of the other critics of the President.

And so if we're going to sit here and say none of them should be attacking the President personally, well, the same thing should go for all of us. It's about policy – not personal issues.

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

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

Goodbye, and have a blessed week.

[END.]