



**TRANSCRIPT**

**SHOW AIRING January 31, 2010**

**Host: Roland Martin**

**Guests: U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan**

**Dr. Wilhelmina Leigh, senior research associate, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies**

**Dr. Algernon Austin, director of the program on race, ethnicity and the economy, Economic Policy Institute**

**Derek Dingle, editor-in-chief, *Black Enterprise* magazine**

**April Ryan, correspondent, American Urban Radio Networks**

**Joe Madison, talk show host, Sirius/XM Radio**

**Armstrong Williams, host of "The Right Side"**

**News One/Interactive One Chief Content Officer Smokey Fontaine**

**Nia-Malika Henderson, White House reporter, Politico.com**

**Frank Martin, producer, "For Love Of Liberty"**



TV One – Washington Watch

K. Wills Transcripts

Contact/Producer: Jay Feldman

Host Roland Martin – TV One’s “Washington Watch” - January 31, 2010 Show

Story/Angle: “Washington Watch”/SOTU & Education

**(HEAD-  
LINES)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: At the top of our agenda this week: Obama Presidency 2.0. For his second year in office, the President calls for a jobs program, common sense, bipartisanship and healthcare reform. But was anyone in Washington listening?

The First Lady and the surgeon general take on obesity in children and adults. And from the revolution to the Iraq war, we’ll look at the stories behind the men and women who put their lives on the line for our liberty.

Our “Washington Watch” newsmaker this week: Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on the quiet revolution in education he and the President are promoting. Plus, Dr. Wilhelmina Leigh of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Dr. Algernon Austin of the Economic Policy Institute, and *Black Enterprise* magazine’s editor-in-chief Derek Dingle discuss the President’s economic plans and what it will mean for the Black community.

And in our “Washington Watch” news panel, April Ryan, White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks; Joe Madison, talk show host on Sirius/XM Radio; and Armstrong Williams, nationally syndicated TV and radio host of “The Right Side.” All of that and more today on “Washington Watch.”

**(SEG-  
MENT 1)**

MR. MARTIN: Folks, we're now joined by Education Secretary Arne Duncan here on "Washington Watch."

Welcome to the show.

SEC'Y. ARNE DUNCAN: Thanks so much for having me. I appreciate –

MR. MARTIN: All right.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: -- it.

MR. MARTIN: Glad to have you. Look. Education is a huge issue for me, because I fundamentally believe that that is the one issue that can absolutely change the condition of Black America. So many different things the Administration is doing – you guys are catching a whole lot of heat. Let's – let's jump right into this whole notion of challenging people to raise their expectations – parents, students, school districts, teachers, unions – you name it.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: We all have to step up, Roland – *all* of us: you, me, everybody. Nobody gets a pass in this. We have to educate our way to a better economy. I'm – I'm absolutely convinced education is *the* civil rights issue of our generation. You're not free – if you can ride the front of the bus, but you can't read, you're not free. You're *still* in shackles. This –

MR. MARTIN: You can't read the sign.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: -- you can't read the sign. This is the only way we get there, so we're pushing extraordinarily hard at every level: early childhood education, K to 12,

higher ed. The only way to end poverty, the only way to get away from social failure, the only way to have a chance to enter the middle class, to pursue your dreams is by getting a great education; and we all have to do some things very, very differently to get the dramatically better results our children and our country desperately need.

MR. MARTIN: There were a lot of things that the President talked about in the State of the Union. Education was one of them. Here's what he had to say the other night.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

PRES. BARACK OBAMA: In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the best anti-poverty program around is a world-class education.

[APPLAUSE.]

PRES. OBAMA: ... And in this country, the success of our children cannot depend more on where they live than on their potential.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: Some 14 – what – billion dollars – new dollars – in terms of targeting this whole issue, to speak to what the President talked about; but what, though, has been the response from districts, people you talk to who said, “Look. This stuff is not going to work”? Are they all of a sudden changing their tune?

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: I- -- it's been amazing to see the outpouring of support. People know we have to get better. We're not just gonna – we don't want to just put more money into education. We have to invest in reform – not in the status quo – and

we're pushing states and districts very, very hard to change behavior; to raise the bar; to raise expectations, [as] you talked about; to r- -- to honestly put children first; and to have high expectations for *every, single child* – not just some, not just a few. And I'm unbelievably c- -- hopeful about where, as a country, we can go. Folks want to move. Folks want to get better. We're challenging them to step up to the plate.

MR. MARTIN: Here's what I found to be interesting. I was at the Congressional Black Caucus, and I – I – I met some folks from the California teachers union, and they said, "Man! These charter schools" – you know, "We're going to fight this thing. This is" – "This is George W. Bush, III." Frankly, that's what they're calling President Barack Obama – a third-term George W. Bush – when it comes to education.

And I said, "Stop." I'm saying, "Let me be honest. I need you to back the hell up."

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: I said, "I'm sorry. I don't care if it's home school, charter schools, vouchers, online, public schools, private." I said, "There's no one way to educate a child, and as long as you keep saying, 'Keep it the same. Just give us more money, and then be quiet'" – I said, "I'm sorry. It's clear. *Our kids are not graduating.*"

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: We have a 27 percent dropout rate around the country. In the Black community, it's closer to 50 percent. How can those children get a good job without a high school diploma? It's *impossible*.

What I always think in our country, Roland, is what's been good for the wealthy

in our country is probably good enough for poor folks. Wealthy folks have had a choice of two, three, four great schools to go to for – for *centuries*. Poor folks often have had one school to go to, one choice – and often, frankly, that’s not been a good one. What if every poor family had two, three, four good schools in their neighborhood to choose from – different types of schools? That’d be a great, great thing. We have to empower parents. We have to create different models of schools. What works – let’s do more of it. What doesn’t work – let’s close them down. I’ve said good charter schools are a big part of the solution. Bad charter schools are part of the *problem*.

MR. MARTIN: Now, I was talking to James Carville and Mary Matalin. They’re, of course, very involved in what’s happening in New Orleans, and what’s amazing is New Orleans was devastated because of Hurricane Katrina, but because everything was wiped out, in essence, you are building from ground zero to change the i- -- the dynamics of education in that city.

SEC’Y. DUNCAN: It’s a fascinating one. I spent a lot of time in New Orleans, and this is a tough thing to say, but let me be really honest. I think the best thing that happened to the education system in New Orleans was Hurricane Katrina. That e- -- education system was a disaster, and it took Hurricane Katrina to wake up the community to say that “we have to do better.” And the progress that they’ve made in four years since the hurricane is unbelievable. They have a chance to create a phenomenal school district. Long way to go, but that – that city was not serious about its education. Those children were being desperately underserved prior, and the

amount of progress and the amount of reform we've seen in a short amount of time has been absolutely amazing.

I have so much respect for the adults, the teachers, the principals that are working hard. I spent a lot of time talking to students at John – John Mack High School there, many of whom had missed school for six months, eight months, 13 months after the hurricane and still came back to get an education. Children in our country, they want to learn. They're resilient. They're tough. We have to meet them halfway. We have to give them an opportunity, and New Orleans is doing a phenomenal job of getting that system to an entirely different level.

MR. MARTIN: You know how I feel about parental responsibility. When you ran Chicago Public Schools, my wife and I raised my four nieces, took them from my sister and her husband because they were not doing their job when it came to dealing with those children after school. They were failing, and now they've caught up. They're doing much better.

You've to- -- focused on, obviously, the infrastructure; but how do you get through to a single mother, or a father, or even two parents, to understand that the education does not end when the school day ends; that they have to be ha- -- they have to have their children reading and writing and going over those things at home as well? Ho- -- how do we get the *parent* to understand that?

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: Well, I have so much respect for you and what – what you and your wife did. It's just a – a remarkable thing that's going to change those students'

– tho- -- those children’s lives forever.

We have to look those parents in the eye. We have to not sit in our school doors and wait for them to come in. We have to go knock on doors. We have to be in laundromats. We have to be in beauty salones [phonetic] – salons. We have to be at churches on Sundays. We have to be telling parents repeatedly [that] parents are always going to be their children’s most important teachers. They’re obviously their first teachers. When parents come to school only to curse out the teacher – [chuckles] – that’s not a partnership; that’s not going to work.

When parents and teachers are locked together in collaboration, those students are going to do very, very well. Parents have to turn the TVs off at night. They have to read to their children. They have to get to know their teachers. They have to be actively engaged, not just picking up report cards once or twice a year, but *every single day*. And we need to be working – and – and let’s be honest. We have some parents who could do a much, much better job. We need to challenge them. We have some children where mom might be on crack. Dad’s in jail. The *community’s* got to step up. We can’t let that child fall through the cracks. I think in many communities, we’re being out-hustled. We’re being out-worked by the gangs. They’re out there every, single day, on the corner. They know what children don’t go h- -- aren’t going home –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC’Y. DUNCAN: -- to a family.

MR. MARTIN: And they’re filling a void.

SEC'Y DUNCAN: They – they're *right there*. They're out-h- -- they're out-working us. So, whether it's community groups, whether it's churches, whether it's school counselors, whether it's social workers, whether it's teachers taking children under – under their wing – and we have so many examples of people who're doing just an extraordinary job. Nothing to do with their job description. You know, working *huge* numbers of hours because they want to make a difference. And we have to do that child by child, school by school, block by block.

MR. MARTIN: The changes are not just about what's happening in elementary school, middle school and high school. We also see it's happening in colleges. The administration took a huge hit [from] a lot of folks in the historically Black [college] community in the first year because – in terms of funding. What is happening on that front in terms of the funding of HBCUs from – from this administration?

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: We actually have great news that – that, going forward, we're proposing in the budget an increase of \$98 million annually for HBCUs, so it's a tremendous commitment. I said from day one we desperately need HBCUs not just to survive, but to thrive. *Half – half* of our African-American teachers nationwide come out of HBCUs. That's our pipeline. And so this is a huge commitment that the President is making. That's for the institutions themselves. On top of that, with all the work we're going to do to increase Pell grants, Perkins Loans, tuition tax credits, we're basically going to almost double Pell grant opportunities for students going to HBCUs. So, we want to support the institutions. We're going to make sure many more students can go

through.

One other point I'd like to make, Roland, is at the back end. We need to get students into college. They need to graduate. At the back end, we've put in place something called "income-based repayment," IBR, which most folks don't know about yet.

MR. MARTIN: Um-hum.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: Income-based repayment says we're going to index your loan repayments to your income, and if you work in the public sector, if you become a teacher, after ten years, those loans are going to be erased. They're going to be absolutely forgiven.

MR. MARTIN: Okay. So -- so, basically, i- -- if -- if you, you know, let me just -- for the person sitting at home, trying to understand it -- and that is just like how we dealt with public housing for so many years. You make X amount of income --

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- this is -- this is the subsidy, if you will. This is what you -- you're going to be able to pay for -- for -- for your mortgage. So, if you g- -- come out, and you have a \$20,000-a-year job --

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- your friend has a \$50,000-a-year job, the person making \$20,000 will be then paying less on those student loans than the person making 50.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: That's exactly right, and then after ten years, if you're in

public service –

MR. MARTIN: My math teachers –

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: -- if you're a teacher –

MR. MARTIN: -- are real impressed right now –

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: -- [chuckles] –

MR. MARTIN: -- but go ahead.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: You're do- --

MR. MARTIN: [Laughs.]

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: -- you're doing well. You're doing well. After ten years – not only will those monthly payments be reduced, after ten years they'll all be forgiven.

We're going to need a million teachers in our country over the next five, six, eight years. We have a baby boomer generation retiring.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: We want to get this next generation of talent, the hardest-working, the most committed, the people that really believe that every child can be successful, who want to come work in tough communities – in inner-city and disadvantaged areas, rural as well – we want to get the best and brightest, the hardest-working into education; and we're trying to remove the financial impediments for doing that. Many folks historically wanted to teach, had a heart for it –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: -- or, a passion for it, but they came out of school with

\$20,000 in loans, or \$100,000 –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: -- in loans. They simply couldn't afford it.

MR. MARTIN: But – but you –

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: We're removing that barrier.

MR. MARTIN: -- but you also – but – but that's where the incentives also come in, because let's just be honest. We live in a capitalistic society. When you say "signing bonuses" –

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- I'm sorry. That gets people's –

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: That helps.

MR. MARTIN: -- attention.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: Yeah. And so we're saying, "We'll take away those impediments. You come teach, we're going to dramatically reduce your loans. At the end of the day, they're all erased."

MR. MARTIN: In terms of tracking these things, in terms of – it's all a matter – a question of progress. How do you ensure that happens? Because a lot of times, you can spend money. Then it's kind of like, well, you know, a year later, "What really happened?" And so what are the accountability measures to make sure that things are working? And if something that you're — you're doing that's not working, do you –

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: You[ve] got –

MR. MARTIN: -- stop doing it?

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: -- to change. You[ve] got to change. So, our budget, as you said, got a significant increase. We're actually *eliminating* six programs, and we're consolidating 38 others. We can't just keep feeding the beast. We can't perpetuate the status quo. We have to push a very strong reform agenda, so every, single year, we're going to be absolutely transparent about what's working, what's not. What you're seeing through our Race to the Top initiative is tremendous changes in behavior: state laws changing, higher standards – 48 states working together to raise the bar for students. We're going to hold ourselves accountable every, single year to say, "This is what's working, this is what's not, and here's where we're going to change."

MR. MARTIN: Well, let me be clear. I'm sure there're some teachers who're watching, and – and my position is very clear, and that is I fundamentally believe in teachers. My brother, two of my – no, all three of my sisters – all of them are teachers. I[ve] got four teachers in my family. I'm the only one not teaching.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: But the reality is this here: that there are teachers they're working alongside who are sorry and who are not educating the children. I believe the good teachers need to tell the bad ones, "You need to go," and stop supporting them and keeping them in those systems.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: I think we need to do a couple of things. Teachers who simply shouldn't be teaching, after help, after support, they need to find another career.

This is –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: -- too important. They need to –

MR. MARTIN: “Nothing personal” –

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: -- find something else to do.

MR. MARTIN: -- “but you got to go.”

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: The flipside is where you have phenomenal teachers, phenomenal principals, great schools, great school districts where the average child is gaining two years of growth for two years of instr- -- for – for a year's instruction, where they're accelerating student achievement, where dropout rates are going down, graduation rates are going up – we need to *reward* those guys. We need to *learn* from them. We need to *recognize* them. We need to pay them more money. We need to pay math and science teachers more money.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: We have a shortage. So, we need to reward excellence, we need to challenge the middle to continue to improve, and those at the bottom – they['ve] got to find something else to do.

MR. MARTIN: Gotta get our folks educated. We certainly appreciate it. Thanks a bunch.

SEC'Y. DUNCAN: Thanks so much for having me.

[THE TWO SHAKE HANDS.]

MR. MARTIN: All right. Thank you.

Coming up next: our “Washington Watch” panel with April Ryan of American Urban Radio Networks; Joe Madison, Sirius/XM Radio host; and Armstrong Williams, host of “The Right Side.” They talk about the President’s State of the Union address and the state of the Presidency.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 2)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. Welcome back to the show, my *favorite* part of the show, where our panelists get to just flat-out act a *fool* on the issues of the week.

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: Joining us this week, of course: April Ryan, American Urban Radio Networks, White House correspondent; my man Joe Madison, “The Black Eagle,” Sirius/XM Satellite Radio; and Armstrong Williams. He’s got about 15 jobs, host of “The Right Side with Armstrong Williams,” TV, radio, online – you name it.

Let’s jump right into it. State of the Union – everybody’s making a big deal. Le- - le- -- let me just come out of the gate. Don’t – I don’t know anybody who actually remembers any State of the Union address. So, is --

MS. APRIL RYAN: *I do.*

MR. MARTIN: -- the re- -- *that’s what you do!* Okay?

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: Let’s just be honest. So, is the real issue not necessarily what he

said, but now what he *does*, the next step – *what he does*?

MS. RYAN: It – yeah, it’s the next step, but this president – his – his actions have to match up with the words. And also, it’s not just about that. It’s about what he promised early on, before he became President. This president became President because, one, he said he was going to pull the troops out of Iraq; and, two, the *main* thing, the issue of jobs in a recession. “It’s about the j-o-b if you wanna be with me” – meaning voters will line up with him if he can create those jobs that he’s saying. It’s about walkin’ the walk and talkin’ the talk.

MR. MARTIN: Joe.

MR. JOE MADISON: Absolutely. It is now about jobs. I think when we were on before, we said by March that’s going to be the – the –

MR. MARTIN: Dominant issue.

MR. MADISON: -- issue. The dominant issue is jobs. Clearly, they understand it.

What I think fascinates me more about the State of the Union address is really the *Republican* response. I mean they are playing a political rope-a-dope, and some of us are old enough to know what rope-a-dope –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MADISON: -- is. You just sit back. You don’t do –

MR. MARTIN: Just go rent –

MR. MADISON: -- anything –

MR. MARTIN: -- rent "When We Were Kings." You'll love it. [Chuckles.]

MR. MADISON: -- and you -- [chuckles] -- yeah. And you just let the -- let Democrats pound away, pound away, pound away. And so it'll be interesting to get the final result of the meeting in Baltimore. I mean here we are Sunday morning. I don't know if much 'll change. I gotta tell you. I interviewed, after [the] State of the Union address, just about five or six individuals -- media and politicians. The one common thread that went through everybody's discussion was nothing's going to change in terms of political alignment. *Nothing's going to change.*

MR. MARTIN: Armstrong, in his speech, the President obviously took aim at Republicans, but also at Democrats. He made a point, "Don't run for the hills," in terms of Democrats, and we made the -- I made the argument on this show his problem really isn't the Republican Party. You *know* where they stand. The issue has been a lack of unity from the *Democrats*. That seems to be his biggest problem.

MR. ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS: Well, the President did mention in his State of the Union that he did not plan to ma- -- abandon those who are uninsured in terms of the healthcare debate. I think that was a message to the Democratic base, not to abandon them.

MR. MARTIN: But he --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- but --

MR. MARTIN: -- also -- he didn't say "healthcare *reform*"; he said "health *insurance*" --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- he- --

MR. MARTIN: -- "reform" --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- health insurance --

MR. MARTIN: -- an important --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- which he has --

MR. MARTIN: -- distinction.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- which he has the -- a chance of possibly having pass. We -- many of us doubt it.

But I think the President has to be very careful here, because I think your point is well taken -- is that the President cannot totally abandon healthcare, because if he does, and nothing happens, he will lose his liberal base. He cannot afford to do so. The President is talking about extending Bush's tax cuts. The President is talking about [a] capital gains break for small business owners, which is very important. The President is talking about freezing spending for a certain time, and the Speaker of the House said, "Yeah, we'll do so if you s-" -- "if you include the Department of Defense."

Listen. It was important what the President had to say. A lot of people are suffering. They'd like to see the President work --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- together with Republicans. They want to believe that the President got the message. We don't want to hear about healthcare any longer. We want to hear about jobs, the economy and terrorism.

MR. MARTIN: Okay. Now – now – now, you say working with Republicans. You also mentioned tax cuts. I'm going to play a bite when he talked about tax cuts in his speech and also –

MR. MADISON: And here's what –

MR. MARTIN: -- how the –

MR. MADISON: -- they did.

MR. MARTIN: -- Republi- --

MR. MADISON: Sat on –

MR. MARTIN: -- how Republicans –

MR. MADISON: -- their hands.

MR. MARTIN: -- responded. Let's –

MR. MADISON: That's –

MR. MARTIN: -- watch it –

MR. MADISON: -- exactly –

MR. MARTIN: -- right now.

MR. MADISON: -- what they did, yeah.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

PRES. BARACK OBAMA: We cut taxes for 95 percent of working families.

[Applause.] We cut taxes for small businesses. We cut taxes for first-time home buyers. [Cheering, applause.] We cut taxes for parents trying to care for their children. We cut taxes for *8 million Americans paying for college*.

[APPLAUSE, VIRTUALLY ONLY ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE OF THE AISLE.]

PRES. OBAMA: [Looks to his right, to the Republican side of the chamber.] I thought I'd get some applause on *that* one.

[LAUGHTER FROM THE DEMOCRATS.]

PRES. OBAMA: [Chuckles.]

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: Now – now, he – and the last line: “I thought I was gonna get some applause on that.”

MR. MADISON: On – from –

MS. RYAN: But –

MR. MADISON: -- from the –

MR. MARTIN: On –

MR. MADISON: -- from the other s- --

MR. MARTIN: -- tax cuts.

MR. MADISON: -- fro- -- from the other *side* –

MR. MARTIN: Yes.

MR. MADISON: -- that sat on their hands over there. And – and – and I'm *telling* you that's why I said, “*Nothing* is going to change.” This is political rope-a-dope. He punched p- -- I'm using these analogies. He punched, punched – *good* punches, good punches. And then the strategy is, “Just wear yourself out, because all we have to do with this super majority is to sit back, do nothing, create the debate, get people

confused; and then all of a sudden, folks ‘ll start disappearing.”

Now, I *do* agree with one, final thing that you – [turns to Mr. Williams] – said. He will – he runs – and Colbert King made this point. He runs the risk of losing his *base* –

MS. RYAN: Yes.

MR. MADISON: -- if he does not pass healthcare and if he does not imp- -- incl- -- get jobs going, and if he does not address Afghanistan properly.

MR. MARTIN: April?

MS. RYAN: Going to Joe’s point, and to Armstrong’s point, I watched the State of the Union address, and – and what was glaring to me – I watched the nuances. You didn’t get the kind of rousing applause that we’ve seen for President George W. Bush in the past – even at the *worst* of times for him – and also with Bill Clinton during the worst of times for *him*.

MR. MARTIN: But, April, that’s par- --

MS. RYAN: And –

MR. MARTIN: -- that’s partly be- --

MS. RYAN: -- but wait –

MR. MARTIN: -- -cause Repub- -- first off, that’s partly because the Democrats – that is his real *problem*. They are so all over the map, they have *no* sense –

MS. RYAN: There –

MR. MARTIN: -- of –

MS. RYAN: -- ya go.

MR. MARTIN: -- let's -- let's just be honest.

MS. RYAN: There you go.

MR. MARTIN: Republicans understand unity. They understand that.

Democrats are a- -- they -- I mean you've got to satisfy the -- the Blue Dogs, the -- the super liberal[s]. You['ve] got to satisfy the folks -- rural -- the Democratic party, frankly, is too damned democratic!

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.] Well, it --

MR. MADISON: [Smiles.] We-e-ell --

MR. MARTIN: [Chuckles.]

MR. WILLIAMS: But the President -- let me just say this. The President -- the most interesting thing about his speech is that people said he took responsibility, but he didn't really res- -- take responsibility. He blamed the Democrats. He blamed the Republicans. He blamed the Supreme Court. And the bottom line --

MR. MARTIN: No, he --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- is --

MR. MARTIN: -- no, he didn't blame the Supreme Court.

MR. MADISON: He didn't blame --

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, but for the t-

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: He s- -- no, no.

MR. WILLIAMS: [Crosstalk]- --

MR. MARTIN: He took issue with –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: -- a *decision*.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- well –

MR. MARTIN: He didn't *blame* the Court.

MS. RYAN: [Crosstalk] –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- foreign money? He sai- -- oh, come on.

MS. RYAN: -- not –

MR. WILLIAMS: But, look.

MS. RYAN: -- true.

MR. MADISON: He didn't *blame* –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- [crosstalk]- --

MR. MADISON: -- them.

MR. MARTIN: But, Armstrong, Armstrong, no –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- he –

MR. MARTIN: -- no, no.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- here's –

MR. MARTIN: No, no. Fa- --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- here's –

MR. MARTIN: -- no, Armstrong. *Facts*.

MR. MADISON: [Crosstalk] – disagreed.

MR. MARTIN: Armstrong, hold – hold – hold up.

MR. MADISON: He *disagreed*.

MR. MARTIN: Hold up. Facts. He did not di- -- he did not take issue. He disagreed with the decision and called on Congress to pass a law –

MR. MADISON: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- to right what they did.

MR. MADISON: Which he –

MR. WILLIAMS: The President –

MR. MADISON: -- will sign.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- the President crossed the etiquette [line] when he singled out the Supreme Court.

[CROSSTALK.]

MS. RYAN: I'm not going –

MR. WILLIAMS: Whether you admit it –

MS. RYAN: -- to say –

MR. MADISON: [Crosstalk] –

MS. RYAN: -- that was etiquette.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- or not.

MR. MADISON: -- [crosstalk] –

MS. RYAN: He's discussing –

MR. WILLIAMS: He crossed the line.

MR. MADISON: You want me –

MS. RYAN: -- he discussed an –

MR. MADISON: -- to cross the etiquette line? That is the [biggest] bunch of *crap* I've ever heard. How's *that* for crossing –

MS. RYAN: [Laughs.]

MR. MADISON: -- the etiquette line? There's not a president in the United States that has not criticized a Supreme Court decision. Abraham Lincoln threatened to put 'em in *jail*. I mean get – let's get off of this – who crossed – first of all --

MS. RYAN: We can bring –

MR. MADISON: -- Joe – when the –

MS. RYAN: -- the issues up.

MR. MADISON: -- wai- -- wait a minute. Joe –

MS. RYAN: We can bring the issues –

MR. MADISON: -- Wilson's first –

MS. RYAN: -- up, yeah.

MR. MADISON: -- sta- -- s- -- first – not State of the Union; first joint session: "You lie!" Then you break – you break precedent by having a Supreme Court justice who broke etiquette, who sat there as a *justice* and said –

MS. RYAN: "'S not" – "not true."

MR. MADISON: -- "You" – "You're" – "Not true."

MR. WILLIAMS: They *both* were –

MR. MADISON: The- --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- wrong.

MR. MADISON: -- well -- [crosstalk]- --

MR. WILLIAMS: The President --

MR. MARTIN: No. I --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- *and* the Supreme Court justice --

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

MR. MADISON: -- well, then, say that.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- [crosstalk].

MR. MARTIN: -- but -- but excuse me.

MR. MADISON: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: In a State of the Union address, if the President is calling on Congress to act on a decision, that's when you *mention* it!

MR. WILLIAMS: No.

MR. MARTIN: You don't --

MS. RYAN: The President *is* allo- --

MR. MARTIN: -- do it in a *press release*.

MS. RYAN: -- the President *is* --

MR. MADISON: What they want --

MS. RYAN: -- allowed --

MR. MADISON: -- him to do is do it --

MS. RYAN: -- to bring it up.

MR. MADISON: -- do it -- "Do it tomorrow, be-" -- "to *The Detroit News*."

MR. WILLIAMS: You know what?

MR. MADISON: -- "Don't" --

MR. WILLIAMS: None of this -- [crosstalk] --

MR. MARTIN: You do it --

MR. MADISON: -- "do it now."

MR. MARTIN: -- when 48 million are watching.

MR. MADISON: Yeah. [Chuckles.]

MS. RYAN: -- the President is a- -- the President is allowed to bring up any issue he chooses.

MR. MADISON: He -- he chooses.

MS. RYAN: The decorum --

MR. MADISON: It's his show.

MS. RYAN: -- the decorum comes with the President as well as the people in the well of the House. And for Sam Alito to -- to make that gesture, that was -- that was a resounding verbatation [sic] of w- -- a non-spoken verbatation [sic] for him to say that.

Now, going back to other issues --

MR. MARTIN: *What the hell* is a "non-spoken verbatation"? I mean the person at home d- --

MR. MADISON: He didn't yell --

MS. RYAN: Without words!

MR. MADISON: -- out, "It's a lie!"

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk] –

MS. RYAN: Right. Yeah. Okay?

MR. MADISON: [Chuckles.]

MR. WILLIAMS: [Crosstalk] --

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk]. That's – that's called – that's called "mime" and "lip synching." Folks –

MS. RYAN: Okay.

MR. MARTIN: -- there at home [are] out there goin', "April said 'non-verbal 'verbatation.'"

MS. RYAN: [Laughs.]

MR. MARTIN: I'm tryin' to –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- you know what?

MR. MARTIN: -- oh, I'm sorry. I was –

MS. RYAN: Follow -- [laughs].

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

MR. WILLIAMS: The President – the President can talk about whatever he wants to, but until people begin to see b- -- they're – they're benefiting from these bailouts and the stimulus package the way Wall Street is, and the banks – and the President can play this charade and talk about he's punishing the banks, he's taking –

MS. RYAN: But you know what?

MR. WILLIAMS: -- the banks on --

MR. MARTIN: But -- but what --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- and --

MR. MARTIN: -- but what --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- and his -- and his Treasury Secretary is setting up  
conference calls and meetings with --

MR. MARTIN: -- but --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- the very people he's criticizing.

MR. MARTIN: -- what a- --

MR. WILLIAMS: People want jobs, and they want this --

MR. MARTIN: -- okay --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- economy --

MR. MARTIN: -- but he's *here* --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- to turn around.

MR. MARTIN: -- though. What about this whole notion of taking the \$30 billion,  
providing that to community --

MS. RYAN: S- -- [crosstalk] -- yeah.

MR. MARTIN: -- banks, where, first of all, 65 percent --

MS. RYAN: Small businesses.

MR. MARTIN: -- of all small businesses actually --

MS. RYAN: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: -- get their bank loans --

MR. WILLIAMS: It makes sense.

MR. MARTIN: -- from?

MR. WILLIAMS: It makes sense.

MR. MARTIN: Now, but -- but here's the deal. It makes sense, but when he talked about taxing these banks to get our money back, Republicans didn't *move*. So, at some point -- see, I mean it's interesting. When he sits here and talk- -- but Repub- - I hear Republicans talk about, you know, "the average person," "targeting the banks," but when he said, "Let's target the banks," in *that speech*, here's what they did. [Puts his hands behind his back, tight-lipped.]

MR. WILLIAMS: But the problem is --

MS. RYAN: There's no teeth in that legislation.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- there's no --

MS. RYAN: There's no teeth.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- teeth in it -- none.

MS. RYAN: The -- the banks can take the money and take the fees that they are charged with and then spread that to the consumer -- to *me*. And guess what? In this legislation, there's no teeth in it to say, "Look. You are not" -- "Banks are not allowed to do that," so we're back at square one again.

And let me say this on the economy. The economy is moving; it's going up, but

guess what? Does the American public see it? You know, the President talked about it in the State of the Union.

MR. MARTIN: But i- --

MS. RYAN: He *did* say – wait a minute.

MR. MARTIN: -- but it doesn't –

MS. RYAN: The President –

MR. MARTIN: -- he –

MS. RYAN: -- said, "I've cut your" – "I've" – "I've given you tax credits." *People are saying they don't see it* – not just Black people, but overall. Mainstream America's

–

MR. MARTIN: -- but here's – but – but –

MS. RYAN: -- not seeing it –

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

MS. RYAN: -- and that's the –

MR. MARTIN: At –

MS. RYAN: -- problem.

MR. MARTIN: -- some – look. We –

MS. RYAN: "As I think" –

MR. MARTIN: -- we all –

MS. RYAN: -- "it, so am I."

MR. MARTIN: -- but here's the –

MS. RYAN: "As I think it" –

MR. MARTIN: -- other piece.

MS. RYAN: -- "so am I." If I –

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk]- --

MS. RYAN: -- don't believe it, it's not gonna –

MR. MARTIN: -- I didn't say –

MS. RYAN: -- translate into –

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk] –

MS. RYAN: -- approval –

MR. MARTIN: -- but –

MS. RYAN: -- ratings.

MR. MARTIN: -- look. The economy cannot, and it will not, flip in two or –  
months, or three months, or six months.

MS. RYAN: Amen! Right.

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk.]

MS. RYAN: I agree with you.

MR. MARTIN: And so – and –

MR. WILLIAMS: But, Roland –

MR. MARTIN: -- but also, d- -- shouldn't –

MS. RYAN: But when –

MR. MARTIN: -- the American people –

MS. RYAN: -- you make a –

MR. MARTIN: -- but shouldn't –

MS. RYAN: -- people are looking –

MR. MARTIN: -- the American –

MS. RYAN: -- to him –

MR. MARTIN: -- the American –

MS. RYAN: -- as a savior, unfor- --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- but, Roland –

MS. RYAN: -- -tunately.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- the problem is it's not just the conversation about the banks.

People are concerned about foreclosure on their homes and their ability to refinance. If you don't have a home and a place to live, what good is this other –

MS. RYAN: "Who is" –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- rhetoric?

MR. MARTIN: Who owns the –

MR. WILLIAMS: He's not a even –

MS. RYAN: -- "gonna bail *me* out?"

MR. WILLIAMS: -- addressed –

MR. MARTIN: -- bank notes?

MS. RYAN: "Who's gonna bail *me* out?"

MR. WILLIAMS: -- he's not addressed the foreclosures.

MR. MARTIN: Who owns the bank notes?

MR. WILLIAMS: Who owns the bank notes?

MR. MARTIN: The banks.

MR. WILLIAMS: The ba- --

MR. MARTIN: So, if you don't target the banks, and you don't put pressure on them, they're not going to sit here --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- they will *totally* --

MR. MARTIN: -- and refinance.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- ignore this president. He has *no* leverage over them -- *none* -- unless he passes legislation.

MS. RYAN: "Who's gonna bail" --

MR. MARTIN: Last comment?

MS. RYAN: -- "us out?"

MR. MADISON: [Crosstalk]- --

MR. MARTIN: Joe, last comment.

MR. MADISON: -- somebody who's maybe a little -- *little* older, with some -- some experience pointed --

MR. MARTIN: About 20 seconds.

MS. RYAN: Oh -- [places a consoling hand on Mr. Madison].

MR. MADISON: -- out --

MR. MARTIN: About 20 seconds.

MR. MADISON: -- pointed -- thank you, sweetheart -- pointed out --

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.]

MR. MADISON: -- pointed out that we've *been* through this.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MADISON: Roosevelt --

MR. MARTIN: This ain't our first rodeo.

MR. MADISON: -- this -- and Roosevelt --

MR. WILLIAMS: Socialism?

MR. MADISON: -- not so- --

MR. MARTIN: Oh, *not socialism*. *Come on!*

MR. MADISON: -- oh, look, look, name caller.

MR. WILLIAMS: Well, call it any name you want to.

MR. MADISON: Yeah, you're *right*, but you'd better be accurate, and def- --

MR. WILLIAMS: Socialism!

MR. MADISON: -- and *define* it.

MR. MARTIN: Was it anarchy -- the previous --

MR. MADISON: [Crosstalk]- --

MR. MARTIN: -- eight years?

MR. MARTIN: Go --

MR. MADISON: -- *excuse* --

MR. WILLIAMS: Progress!

MR. MARTIN: -- ahead.

MR. MADISON: -- me. Excuse me.

MR. MARTIN: [Cracks up.]

MR. MADISON: If it was socialism, then the biggest socialists on the planet in this country work on Wall Street, 'cause they sure didn't turn --

MR. WILLIAMS: Well, the --

MR. MADISON: -- down --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- President is financing --

MR. MADISON: -- excuse me.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- them now.

MR. MADISON: They did not turn down --

MR. MARTIN: Wait a minute.

MR. MADISON: -- wait a minute.

MR. MARTIN: Hold up. Republicans get --

MR. MADISON: Wait a minute.

MR. MARTIN: -- a lotta Repub- --

MR. MADISON: Wait a minute.

MR. MARTIN: -- Wall Street donations. *Come on.*

MR. MADISON: Excuse me. It was the Bush administration who gave Congress the two-page plan. Not one Republican voted against it --

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk] --

MR. MADISON: -- so if there -- if there --

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk] --

MR. MADISON: -- and -- and --

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk].

MR. MADISON: -- and -- and --

MR. WILLIAMS: [Crosstalk.]

MR. MARTIN: -- but it's true.

MR. WILLIAMS: Obama has the entire --

MR. MADISON: -- oh. Now we --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- country[?] to himself now.

MR. MADISON: -- *now* we f- --

MR. WILLIAMS: *Forget* about --

MR. MADISON: -- I wish --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- Bush.

MR. MADISON: -- I *wish* we'd 've forgot[ten] --

MR. WILLIAMS: Bu- --

MR. MADISON: -- about him --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- Bush is not working --

MR. MADISON: -- eight years ago.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- anymore, man. Try something else.

MR. MADISON: Yeah.

MR. WILLIAMS: That song is dead.

MR. MADISON: Yeah.

MR. MARTIN: But I'll te- --I'll te- --

MR. MADISON: Well, t- --

MR. WILLIAMS: That song's no longer *here*.

MR. MADISON: -- oh, yeah.

MS. RYAN: I'm glad --

MR. WILLIAMS: It's Obama time.

MS. RYAN: -- [gestures toward Mr. Madison and Mr. Williams] -- they're over there.

MR. MADISON: No, no.

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.]

MR. MADISON: You got it. No, no.

MR. WILLIAMS: It's Obama time.

MR. MADISON: You -- we --

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

MR. MADISON: -- you do -- we *do* have history.

MR. MARTIN: Gotcha.

MR. MADISON: Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Americans are not paying it any attention. *Obama's* getting the blame --

MR. MADISON: Now, that's –

MR. WILLIAMS: -- and they need to –

MR. MADISON: -- what you call se- --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- get that quick, fast and in a hurry.

MR. MADISON: -- that's what you call –

MR. MARTIN: All right.

MR. MADISON: -- selective history –

MR. MARTIN: And we sh- –

MR. MADISON: -- over here.

MR. MARTIN: -- and we –

MR. MADISON: Yeah –

MR. MARTIN: -- and we shall –

MR. MADISON: -- yeah.

MR. MARTIN: -- continue the conversation next week.

MR. MADISON: Yeah, "Do-" – "Hey. For-" --

MR. MARTIN: April –

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: -- Joe –

MR. MADISON: -- "*Forget*" –

MR. MARTIN: -- Armstrong –

MR. MADISON: -- "eight years of hard times." [Chuckles.]

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: -- I appreciate --

MR. WILLIAMS: -- Massachusetts -- [crosstalk].

MR. MARTIN: -- it.

MS. RYAN: Wow.

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks.

MR. WILLIAMS: Massachusetts message[?].

MR. MARTIN: I *told* --

MS. RYAN: Wow.

MR. MARTIN: -- y'all it was gon' be hot!

All right. April, Joe, Armstrong, thanks a bunch. We certainly appreciate it.

All right, folks. You can get in on this discussion by logging on to TVOneOnline.com and leaving your comments there.

Coming up next: a special panel of economists break down President Obama's plans to put people back to work, grow the economy and cut the deficit. If that seems impossible, that's why we brought in the big thinkers.

And later, we honor our African-American military heroes who faced adversity while never losing their love for their country.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 3)**

MR. MARTIN: As we've mentioned, President Barack Obama is now focusing

on the one, key issue most Americans are concerned about, the economy. My ne- -- my next guests: Dr. Wilhelmina Leigh, of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies; Dr. Algernon Austin, from the Economic Policy Institute; and editor-in-chief of *Black Enterprise* magazine Derek Dingle.

Folks, welcome to “Washington Watch.”

DR. WILHELMINA LEIGH: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: Let’s be clear. One reason I wanted to do this is I’m tired of seeing all these White economists talking about the economy. I said, “*Surely*, there’re some Black folks who can talk about the economy as well” –

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: -- “beyond just African-Americans [sic].” So, let’s get right into it. And also, you two are newbies here, so I’m gonna haze you a little bit.

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: All right. Let’s ge- -- let’s get right into it. The State of the Union speech – we saw the President focus on healthcare the entire year. All of a sudden, he is focusing on the economy. Clearly – was it a mistake, in your estimation, on his part to be so wrapped up in healthcare and not come out of the box to say, “I need to be absolutely focused on the economy, to build the confidence in the American people”?

DR. LEIGH: I think it was a bit of a misstep on his part to have focused solely on healthcare. I can understand why it was done, though, because healthcare costs take up such a large chunk of our GDP each year. So, I can understand it was – it – it was a

step that he was taking to try to get to the bigger picture, but I think people across the USA wanted him to get to the bigger picture –

MR. MARTIN: And, of course, when –

DR. LEIGH: -- as – quicker.

MR. MARTIN: -- you – when you – because you're broke right now, you sort of think like Huey P. Long. When he – when he campaigned, he said, look, "Put a chicken in every pot." I mean like it or not, people are focusing on the short term – what is happening today – versus cost savings ten years down the road.

DR. LEIGH: That's right.

MR. DEREK DINGLE: If – if individuals don't have jobs, then, you know, everything else takes a backseat. You know, right now the g- -- the President had to refocus his agenda on jobs creation. He had to focus on supporting small business in terms of job creation, because they're one of the generators of -- of new jobs.

We just had a – an economic forum that we conducted with Wal-Mart, where we had economists and – [crosstalk]- –

MR. MARTIN: "We" in terms of *Black Enterprise*.

MR. DINGLE: -- *Black Enterprise* –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. DINGLE: -- magazine. And that was the core issue: how can we get a – people working, and America working, at a time when you have people unemployed, underemployed? And right now, you have jobs that are going – that are going away

that are not coming back. So –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. DINGLE: -- we have to solve that problem.

MR. MARTIN: Algernon, we saw the Congressional Black Caucus, you know, in – in September-October, really pressing the administration in terms of an economic po- -- plan for African-Americans. And the White House, they – they responded, but it seems, you know, the Black Caucus – they were very much ahead of the curve there, saying, “*Look*. I’m trying to tell you. This is nice, but *this* is the primary issue,” and now it seems the administration is going full tilt, saying it *has* to be about the economy.

DR. ALGERNON AUSTIN: Yes, yes. It *has* to be about the economy. The unemployment rate for African-Americans is over 16 percent, so it’s, you know, a serious crisis for African-American communities. However, the – the administration is not doing enough. We’re short about 11 million jobs. We lost about 8 million. Si- -- we’ve been in this economic downturn for two years, so the labor force has grown.

MR. MARTIN: Okay. Le- -- let’s work it out. You say they’re not doing enough. So, what can government do when the reality is [the] private sector actually creates jobs? You see folks tryin’ to press them when it comes to giving credit, when – in terms of the bailouts, when it comes to the stimulus package. And so in a political climate where you have Republicans saying “no, no, no,” what more can an administration *do*?

DR. LEIGH: We- --

MR. DINGLE: What government *can* do is they can put in place policies that will

stimulate higher --

MR. MARTIN: Like what? Give me an example.

MR. DINGLE: -- a payroll tax holiday for small business.

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

MR. DINGLE: They have a situation where -- that they will have -- free up funds so that they can start hiring individuals. In fact, at our forum this week, we talked about a direct lending program to small business and providing -- having small business have more input in terms of how to lend to them, because community banks -- even though --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. DINGLE: -- they changed the structure in terms of loan guarantees through the SBA, they're not lending.

MR. MARTIN: What --

DR. AUSTIN: Well --

MR. MARTIN: -- specifically? Give me --

DR. AUSTIN: -- well --

MR. MARTIN: -- specifics.

DR. AUSTIN: -- we're concerned about how to pay for more job creation, and my organization, the Economic Policy Institute, argues for a financial transactions tax. So, all of the trading that Wall Street does, if you tax that at a half of a percent, that will generate a considerable amount of revenue.

MR. MARTIN: No, no, no. That's generate revenue. How does that give folks --

DR. AUSTIN: But the –

MR. MARTIN: -- jobs?

DR. AUSTIN: -- revenue will fund public-sector job creation that can be targeted specifically to African-American communities, depressed cities across the country.

MR. MARTIN: Specifically, if you were talking to the President right now, what would you say he can do *right now*?

DR. LEIGH: Right now, what he could do is set into motion a public works kind of job. We're – we're at a point when you can't trust that the private sector can generate enough jobs without some stimulation from –

MR. MARTIN: Okay. Public work[s] –

DR. LEIGH: -- the public –

MR. MARTIN: -- kind[s] of –

DR. LEIGH: -- sector.

MR. MARTIN: -- jobs. What does that mean? Are you talking about –

DR. LEIGH: That means using some of the stimulus money that's out there and maybe hasn't gotten out to all the –

MR. MARTIN: -- right?

DR. LEIGH: -- places it needs to, to have people work on roads; fix the bridges, that tend to collapse every now and again; upgrade the school buildings that are not in great shape.

MR. MARTIN: But – but –

DR. LEIGH: Do those kinds –

MR. MARTIN: -- but –

DR. LEIGH: -- of w- -- of –

MR. MARTIN: -- but –

DR. LEIGH: -- jobs. And they are not permanent jobs, but they get people working. They generate income for families, and then families can spend –

MR. MARTIN: -- but – but wha- --

DR. LEIGH: -- money that can support other –

MR. MARTIN: -- what we –

DR. LEIGH: -- people.

MR. MARTIN: -- hear, though – what we hear from the administration is, “Look. We’re actually doing that with stimulus funds,” but, again, you already have companies – you have companies who are working on various projects, and so the money’s going from the government to the states, states to then bidding on these projects. Are you saying that, well, no, those are private companies –

DR. AUSTIN: Well, the stimulus –

MR. MARTIN: -- [that] hire their own people –

DR. AUSTIN: -- the stimulus is not up to scale. As – as I said, we need 11 million jobs. The stimulus is designed for 3 ½ million, so that’s a *big* gap. We need much more, and like I said, a financial transactions tax can pay for –

MR. MARTIN: But here’s –

DR. AUSTIN: -- those new jobs.

MR. MARTIN: -- the deal, though. We're talking -- I -- I understand all that, but --

DR. AUSTIN: Um-hum?

MR. MARTIN: -- it als- -- there's a political reality. He's dealing with folks who're saying, "Look, the deficit is exploding," and ma- -- in fact, here's what the President said in his State of the Union address when it came to this whole notion of even freezing government spending. Here's what he said.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

PRES. OBAMA: Starting in 2011, we are prepared to freeze government spending for three years. [Applause.] Spending related to our national security, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security will not be affected, but all other discretionary government programs will.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: So, here we're talking about spending. You've got Republicans saying, "Absolutely *don't* spend"; conservative Democrats saying, "Man, we're go-" -- "We're gonna get *killed* in November, with the continued spending." And so that's the quandary the President is in. How do you get out of it, recognizing the political reality?

DR. AUSTIN: The only way -- if there's high unemployment, people are going to be unhappy, [and] Democrats are not going to do well. The only way -- since the private sector is not creating jobs now, the only way is for the public sector to step in. So, unfortunately, the -- the President is moving in the wrong way. We need more stimu- --

MR. MARTIN: Wrong –

DR. AUSTIN: -- -lus.

MR. MARTIN: -- direction. Wrong direction with this freeze?

DR. LEIGH: Yes and no. Here's why I say –

MR. MARTIN: How the – how “yes and no”? *Come on* –

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: -- now. How is it “yes or no”?

DR. LEIGH: [Chuckles.] Haven't you hear- -- haven't you heard of a two-handed

–

MR. MARTIN: Naw, no, no –

DR. LEIGH: -- economist –

MR. MARTIN: -- no.

[LAUGHTER.]

DR. LEIGH: -- “yes and no”?

MR. MARTIN: Okay, but go ahead.

DR. LEIGH: What I'm getting at is in the short run, we need to take steps and move towards creating jobs to – to get our economics moving in the right –

MR. MARTIN: Um-hum?

DR. LEIGH: -- direction, but we also can't keep spending government money that we don't have, that we're borrowing from other places, in order to support what – what we're doing. So, I think that what would help is to simultaneously do more to

stimulate job creation by making a bigger stimulus effort a- -- 'scuse me -- and creating more public works jobs, *and* establishing a schedule to get us so we're back on track [so] that our --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

DR. LEIGH: -- expenditures and our revenues balance.

MR. MARTIN: Derek?

MR. DINGLE: Quite frankly, the stimulus was too small, to begin with. It should've been much larger, should've had a greater focus on job --

MR. MARTIN: Okay, okay.

MR. DINGLE: -- creation at the --

MR. MARTIN: That's should have.

MR. DINGLE: -- beginning.

MR. MARTIN: That was last year.

MR. DINGLE: Deficit --

MR. MARTIN: Today.

MR. DINGLE: -- def- -- end term, he has to continue d- -- deficit spending in order to get the economy --

DR. AUSTIN: Yes.

MR. DINGLE: -- moving, because other sectors of the economy are not moving.

DR. LEIGH: A- --

MR. DINGLE: And down the road, he has to look at reducing the -- the deficit.

MR. MARTIN: But y- -- but --

DR. LEIGH: -- and that's --

MR. MARTIN: -- but -- yeah.

DR. LEIGH: -- why I said he needs to have a schedule for when he's going to start trying to get the deficit shrunk and get revenues and expenditures in balance, because if he doesn't, people are going to say, "Oh, this [is] runaway spending."

MR. MARTIN: Right.

DR. LEIGH: "Democrats are taking us" --

MR. MARTIN: And -- and -- a- --

MR. DINGLE: 2011 is too soon. This is a reaction to Massachusetts.

MR. MARTIN: -- but here's the deal. At the end of the day, it's called "political reality." That is if -- if his majorities in the Senate and the House shrink, it's even [more] difficult to even pass a lot of the stuff you're talking about, and so that's the box he's in. And so, look, you can talk about spending all day, but you[ve] also got to recognize the deficit's kicking some folks' butt.

MR. DINGLE: Spend the --

MR. MARTIN: Well, that's --

MR. DINGLE: -- political capital when --

MR. MARTIN: -- I gotcha.

MR. DINGLE: -- you have it.

MR. MARTIN: Well, you sai- --

DR. AUSTIN: [Laughs.]

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: -- he spent the capital on healthcare, and so even *that's* bankrupt.

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: Drs. Leigh and Austin, also Derek, we certainly appreciate it.

Thanks a lot.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Folks, how did President Obama's first State of the Union address play on the Web? And did Chris Matthews of NB- -- MSNBC cross the line with his comment about the President -- or, him forgetting the President was *Black*? I didn't realize you can forget the brutha was Black. News One's Smokey Fontaine is up next. Plus, hope still remains for those hungry and homeless in Haiti, and here's how you can help. *Give now.*

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 4)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. What's happening on the worldwide Web? We turn to News One's Smokey Fontaine, joining us now via Skype.

Hey, Smokey!

MR. SMOKEY FONTAINE: How are you, sir?

MR. MARTIN: All right, man. Lots of chatter and conversation online about MSNBC's Chris Matthews making *this comment* about the *President*.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. CHRIS MATTHEWS: You know, I forgot he was Black tonight for an hour.

It's so hard to even talk about – or, maybe I *shouldn't* talk about it, but I am.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: All right, Smokey. Now, after, you know, that was played, man, it went viral. Folks are talking about it online. What have you been hearing? Because they were blowin' up my Facebook and Twitter page.

MR. FONTAINE: Well, Twitter was – was in outrage the *second* after he made that comment. Black folks *and* White folks on Twitter were – were dissin' Chris Matthews for that. I mean someone even wrote in, "Hey, Chris Matthews, I forgot I'm Black, too – until I try to hail a cab and walk out my front door." No one spared this man, even though he's had quite a liberal bent for most of his career. However, what's interesting [is] in the 48 hours since the – his comments, things have calmed down. There've been a lot of African-Americans online, defending Chris Matthews and saying, "You know what? He was not being insulting. In fact, he was being complimentary, and we need to stop pulling the race card against this man and just move on."

MR. MARTIN: And here's the thing tha- -- again, remember we talked about on the show, a couple of weeks ago, this whole issue of how to have a conversation about race and not to get – not to call somebody a racist. He wasn't – he was not being a racist. He was not sitting here, slamming African-Americans, but I *do* think, as a part of our conversation, Smokey, that folks have to recognize – folks who are White, understand when you say that, "Well, all of a sudden, I just didn't realize he was Black,"

it sound- -- it's -- it comes off as if he is so exceptional, he is now placed in a different category than the rest of Black people -- as opposed to saying he *is Black*. You can't forget he's Black, but he's simply the President.

MR. FONTAINE: Well, Chris Matthews is trying to say we're living in a post-racial world --

MR. MARTIN: Which --

MR. FONTAINE: -- right? But what --

MR. MARTIN: -- we're not.

MR. FONTAINE: -- does that *mean*?

MR. MARTIN: Which we --

MR. FONTAINE: Which we're not.

MR. MARTIN: -- are not. I mean it's a --

MR. FONTAINE: And is that even possible?

MR. MARTIN: -- yeah, I --

MR. FONTAINE: Right? Our --

MR. MARTIN: -- mean it's -- it's -- it's *not* a post-racial world. Now, when he did the explanation, he was correct when he was saying that we're not blocking people out because of race, going back to what he called our "tribal instincts" -- Black, White, Hispanic, or whatever -- but we have to -- w- -- I don't understand why we have accepted the notion that, "Well, if I can recognize that you're Black, so *be* it." There's nothing *wrong* with that. It's if I hold something *against* you because you're Black.

*That's* the problem.

MR. FONTAINE: Well, let me – let me read an interesting comment. A member wrote in from Phoenix, Arizona. He said, “Here is somebody actually admitting to the guilt of thinking color first, but that acknowledges him as a man and then his leader. That is a breakthrough.”

And so what we've seen is, as you're saying, African-Americans are no longer – we're going to – we're going to raise –

MR. MARTIN: Yes?

MR. FONTAINE: -- this conversation. We're going to elevate the debate. So, have a substantive conversation –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. FONTAINE: -- about what it means to be Black in America and these – and – and to be – have a racial dialogue.

MR. MARTIN: And that's why – what we're trying to do with NewsOne.com and BlackPlanet.com – is to teach people, use the moments to have real conversations – not drama, but learn from each other.

News One's Smokey Fontaine, we certainly appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

All right. First Lady Michelle Obama gets a shout-out during the State of the Union from [sic] her newly formed efforts on childhood obesity. Politico's Nia-Malika Henderson is up next with more on why this initiative is so dear to the First Lady's heart.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 5)**

MR. MARTIN: Childhood obesity – that is the new initiative being pushed by First Lady Michelle Obama as she steps into some real meat when it comes to the issues. Of course, last year it was all about gardening and eating right, but now she is tackling a major issue in America, but especially among African-Americans.

Joining us to discuss it: Nia-Malika Henderson of Politico.com.

Hey, Nia.

MS. NIA-MALIKA HENDERSON: Hey. Good to be here.

MR. MARTIN: All right. You were at the announcement this week, with the First Lady when she made this announcement regarding her initiative. Here's what she had to say, a – a *personal* point about childhood obesity.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA: We were fortunate enough to have a pediatrician, as I mentioned, that kind of rai- -- waved the red flag for – for me as a mother and basically cautioned me that I had to take a look at my own children's BMI. Now, we went to our pediatrician all the time. I thought my kids were perfect. They *are*. And always will be.

[LAUGHTER.]

FIRST LADY OBAMA: But he warned that he was concerned that something was getting off-balance.... It's often hard to see changes in your own kids when

you're living with them day in and day out. As parents, we all know, and will readily acknowledge broadly, that kids, in general – we will say we *know* they don't eat right. Right? And we know they don't get as much exercise as they should – generally. But we often simply don't realize that “those kids” are *our* kids. And our kids could be in danger of becoming obese.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: Nia, this is a *huge* issue that has implications even on our national healthcare system.

MS. HENDERSON: It is, and Mrs. Obama said that she has to have an –an ambitious plan for this. So, her plan is essentially trying to increase the number of parks and playgrounds around the country that kids have access to; increase the number of healthy schools, so when kids go to these schools, they have healthy lunches; and also increase the amount of information that parents have about nutrition.

As you said, this is a huge problem, particularly in the African-American community. The statistics show that something like 50 percent of African-American kids and Latino kids are either overweight and obese. And, of course, if you're overweight or obese as a kid, you can go on to have really – really compromised health, whether it's diabetes or heart disease. So, there is not only a health component, but, ultimately, an economic component as well.

MR. MARTIN: Are we going to see her testifying on Capitol Hill? Are we going to see her asking for more funding? Are we going to see a major policy push from the

West Wing, as opposed to her coming from the East Wing, talking about these issues? Because, you know, you can talk about it, but there has to be action and money behind it.

MS. HENDERSON: Right. Well, this is really an administrative-wide [sic] effort. Last week, when we – when she, you know, made this announcement that you guys just showed, the surgeon general was there – Regina Benjamin – as well as the secretary of Health and Human Serv- -- Services, Kathleen Sebelius. So, it's very much an administrative-wide [sic] effort.

Mrs. Obama, when I was in the White House, she said she would be willing to go in front of Congress and testify. Congress is now considering bills –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. HENDERSON: -- that would look at improving school lunches. So, yeah, she's willing to pu- -- put, you know, her – her muscle and her platform behind it, but also she's been meeting with Cabinet officials from the West Wing. So, it really is an across-the-board initiative from the West Wing and East Wing.

MR. MARTIN: Well, I can tell you right now. On this show, we – we were not going to treat this simply as talking about her clothes and her hair. This is a health crisis in Black America. I launched the Million Pound Challenge at *The Chicago Defender*, and so I can guarantee you we'll be dealing with this issue more in depth and providing more time and analysis on the issue as well.

Nia-Malika Henderson of Politico.com, we certainly appreciate it. Thanks a

bunch.

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

Some Republicans have been talking about a "purity test" to make sure that you have the "right" Republican. They want them to toe the line on every issue.

The Democrats – do they really have a purity test? When you listen to some of the Democrats today, they're saying, "Look. No public option? No healthcare bill." You look at other issues, they're saying, "It has to be done our way." Every time you read Paul Krugman of *The New York Times*, he's now saying, "I'm falling out of love with this President. He may not be the person." Arianna Huffington, of "The Huffington Post," whenever she's talking about stuff, they want it [to] be done their way.

The problem with Democrats now? You control the House [by] 78 votes. You control the Senate [by] 18 votes – even losing Massachusetts. This is your opportunity to lead. At some point, Democrats have to remember you can't get everything your way. You have to be able to compromise in your own party. If you don't do it, you're going to lose in November, and you'll wish you still had that power.

That's my perspective. What's yours?

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-  
MENT 6)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Tomorrow marks the beginning of Black History Month, and in honor of the month, we turn our spotlight on my next guest. Frank Martin is producer of the PBS documentary "For Love Of Liberty: The Story of America's Black

Patriots.”

Frank, how're you doin'?

MR. FRANK MARTIN: I'm doing good, man. Thank you for having me on.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: This is an amazing story. I actually ran into you at the All-Am- -- U.S. –

MR. FRANK MARTIN: Right.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: -- Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio –

MR. FRANK MARTIN: Right.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: -- and you were talking about this particular project. It's been a *ten-year* labor of love?

MR. FRANK MARTIN: Ten years. Ten years. We started it in 2000, and I actually thought this film would be done fairly quickly. I thought people would just come out of the woodwork to support it, and, in fact, you know, that never really happened – which was one of the great surprises. People ask me, “What's the big surprise that you learned in all this?” I learned how difficult it is to get this story told.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: And, of course, this story is there's African-Americans who have, frankly, been in the military, who have made major contributions – not just one particular war, but *all* of them.

MR. FRANK MARTIN: All the way back to the revolution. You know, the – one of the first people to die in the cause that would *become* the revolution was Crispus Attucks. You know, he died at the Boston Massacre, and, you know, the – wo- --

another of the great pleasures in – for *me* – in this film was all the sort of discoveries that we made along the way –

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Um-hum.

MR. FRANK MARTIN: -- the – the – the stories from guys like James Roberts, who –

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Right.

MR. FRANK MARTIN: -- was, you know, a slave in the revolution, who fought with Washington and who fought in the War of 1812, who, you know, at the end of *both* those wars was sold back into slavery – you know? And – and the – the film asks, I think, a really important question, and the question is, “Why would a group of people shed their blood in defense of a” – “a nation that treated them worse than second-class citizens?”

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Yeah.

MR. FRANK MARTIN: You know? And that story is – that question is answered time and time again throughout the film.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Well, you’ve got some amazing folks who’re involved in this thing. Halle Berry hosts it.

MR. FRANK MARTIN: Halle.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: All kind[s] of a- --

MR. FRANK MARTIN: [Crosstalk.]

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: -- actors and actresses. So, I mean – I look – I’m – I’m

looking forward to it.

MR. FRANK MARTIN: Yeah.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: It's going to be fascinating.

MR. FRANK MARTIN: Yeah.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: And, again, I hope everybody watches it. But also, if they miss it on the show, they can also get the DVD?

MR. FRANK MARTIN: They can get the DVD at Wal-Mart, and they can also find it online at [ForLoveOfLiberty.org](http://ForLoveOfLiberty.org).

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: All right. We'll show a little clip of the show.

MR. FRANK MARTIN: Great.

[VIDEO CLIP. FOOTAGE OF A MILITARY PARADE AND CELEBRANTS AND ONLOOKERS.]

NARRATOR: When the Harlem Hell Fighters came home, more than 1 million people cheered as they marched up Fifth Avenue to a hero's welcome. It was the greatest Black American celebration since Emancipation.

VOICE: "Every bayonet was shining, just like the highest polished steel. Every rifle was dustless, as though it had been resting in an airtight case. Trousers were creased, coats pressed and helmets shined as though they had never been covered with the white clay of the Champagne Mountains" – Second Lieutenant Noble Sissle.

NARRATOR: One of the Harlem Hell Fighters' White officers, Major Arthur Little, would later write: "During the entire progress of that seven-mile march, I

scarcely heard ten consecutive bars of music, so great were the roars of cheers, the applause, or shouts of personal greeting. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 1919, New York City knew no color line.”

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Well, first of all, amazing also that old footage there.

MR. FRANK MARTIN: It’s wonderful.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Thanks a bunch.

[THE TWO SHAKE HANDS.]

MR. FRANK MARTIN: Thank you for --

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Good luck --

MR. FRANK MARTIN: -- having me.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: -- with it.

MR. FRANK MARTIN: All right.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: All right. It’s time to hear what *you* have to say about “Washington Watch.” Here’s what Gerald had to say about last week’s panel question on whether it’s time for White House chief-of-staff Rahm Emanuel to go. “The answer is most definitely ‘yes, and now.’ And take Geithner, Summers, Orszag, Bernanke, Sunstein and all the other behaviorist mad dogs with him.”

Wow. Tough comments there, Gerald.

Here’s Matt Progressive. Here’s what he had to say about this very issue.

“Obama needs to discover his inner FDR and LBJ and kick some ass. We need to see

this President propose policies and then fight like hell to push them through – something he has yet to do.”

Well, we saw the State of the Union, so he definitely had a little fire in that speech. We’ll see – we’ll see – we’ll see what happens.

Thanks for your comments, folks. If you want to speak out, log on to TVOneOnline.com and leave your comments there. You can also send us a video message. We’d love to hear from you.

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

**[END.]**