



TRANSCRIPT

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Host: Roland Martin

Guests: Ray LaHood, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

Dr. Claire Nelson, President, Institute of Caribbean Studies

Marc Morial, President, National Urban League

Arnold Jackson, Associate Director, Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

**April Ryan, White House Bureau Chief and White House Correspondent,
American Urban Radio Networks**

Ana Marie Cox, Washington Correspondent, GQ magazine

Robert Traynham, Host, "Roll Call TV," Comcast Network

Smokey Fontaine, Chief Content Officer, NewsOne.com/Interactive One



TV One – Washington Watch
Contact/Producer: Jay Feldman
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K. Wills Transcripts

**(HEAD-
LINES)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: At the top of our agenda this week: President Barack Obama’s come-from-behind victory on healthcare; the racial taunts and threats of violence over healthcare continue; and how the Census, happening right now, can shape our communities for decades to come.

Our “Washington Watch” newsmaker this week: Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood on roads, jobs and minority construction contracts. And in our “Washington Watch” news panel: April Ryan, White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks; Ana Marie Cox, Washington correspondent for GQ magazine; and Robert Traynham, host of “Roll Call TV” on the Comcast Network.

**(SEG-
MENT 1)**

MR. MARTIN: Rebuilding the nation’s roads and infrastructure is one way the Obama Administration is getting Americans back to work. Billions in stimulus dollars from the Recovery Act are going to states, but why aren’t African-Americans and other minorities getting more of the money? What is being done to ensure we’re getting our fair share? Here to talk about that and more is Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood.

Mr. Secretary, welcome to the show.

SEC’Y. RAY LAHOOD: Thank you very much. Good to be here.

MR. MARTIN: Before we talk about transportation, let's talk about all this drama we're seeing with healthcare. I mean you have all of these attacks and things along those lines. We see Republican AGs across the country filing a lawsuit against healthcare reform. You served in Congress – Republican from Illinois. So, what is happening in terms of with the party you – that – that, frankly, you represented in Congress, you know, in terms of some of the stuff we're hearing out here? Because it's – it's getting pretty vicious, this – these attacks against healthcare.

SEC'Y LAHOOD: Um-hum. Well, look. This is a huge, huge, big, big thing that's happened in the country and in the Congress – probably the most significant, most historic during my lifetime. I've been in public service 30 years, and it's – i- -- it's – it's *controversial*, and I – and the Republicans made a decision. The Republicans in the House and Senate made a decision they were going to be the – the “party of no” on everything, whether it's economic recovery, or healthcare, or – or whatever. And o- -- once you make that decision, then you – and you go down that path, it – it causes a lot of controversy.

MR. MARTIN: Were you surprised by that? W- -- were you surprised that – I mean look. I mean you've al- -- you've said before, look, the President has you in there to fight for the – to ge- --

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- to get Republican votes. Were you surprised that they pretty much said, “Look, we're just going to say no to everything”?

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Yes, I am, because it doesn't really reflect the districts that these members of Congress – particularly in the House – or even the states that the senators come from. Their people don't want them to come here and say, "No, no, no." They want them to say, "Let's solve some problems." "Let's get people back to work," and –

MR. MARTIN: And there's natural disagreement on bo- –

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- of course –

MR. MARTIN: -- on both sides.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- there's a disagreement, but the idea that you just say no to everything doesn't reflect what people really want you to do back home, and we're going to see that played out in the elections. I – I don't think there's any question about that.

MR. MARTIN: Well, let's t- -- just talk about what's happening with transportation. So much money going to various states, and – and we've seen different reports. One particular study showed that of some \$46 billion being spent, 1.7 percent of those stimulus dollars [are] going to Hispanic businesses, 1.1bi- -- percent going to African-Americans. I mean *extremely* low numbers. And so what have you done in the Department of Transportation to really change that to make sure that these communities are not being left out?

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: We – we ha- -- we have a program – our DBE program – disadvantaged businesses and women-owned businesses – and we have reached out.

Brandon Neal, the fellow that runs that program, has been all over the country, been to fi- -- 56 different cities around the country, promoting the program, making sure that s- - - disadvantaged and women-owned businesses have the opportunities that – the *knowledge*. That’s what they need. They need to know what states have money and then how they can really enter into contracts to begin to spend that money and put people to work.

And some states have done better than others. Missouri and Wisconsin, they actually called all the DB businesses and women-owned businesses in a room, said, “Here’s how much money we[‘ve] got. Here’s how you can access it, and here’s how you can put people to work.” And we’re trying to give that kind of an opportunity around the country. We have actually spent \$1.3 billion that has a- -- been allocated to disadvantaged and women-owned businesses. We need to do better. That’s why we had a two-day seminar here in Washington. 600 people attended. Thank you for participating.

MR. MARTIN: I appreciate it.

SEC’Y. LAHOOD: Thank you for speaking at it. But – but we need to do better. We need to communicate more. I’ve – I’ve talked to the governors. The governors need to make sure that disadvantaged businesses know when they have the money and are ready to spend it. And we – we’re really going to – we’re going to step it up. Part of our job is to step it up and to get the information out to folks.

MR. MARTIN: I – I said in that particular speech that I believe that DOT and

other departments need to really lean on these states to make it clear that, “Look, you can’t leave folks out,” when you look at the unemployment rate for African-Americans exceeding 16 percent, double that of Whites in this country. And so as a result, if these business are be- -- businesses are being left out – they, frankly, largely employ African-Americans, Hispanics and others. And so when they’re not getting dollars, then it’s not going to the folks who actually need the jobs, and so now, all of a sudden, you’ve a problem that’s further exacerbated because the money is simply being – is not – not going to those communities.

SEC’Y. LAHOOD: Look-it. I – what the – we plead guilty, in part, to the fact that not – not that we haven’t communicated with governors. I’ve sent them a letter.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC’Y. LAHOOD: I talked to them when they were here in Washington for their annual governors meeting. I told them, “You need to get this information out,” and we’re going to continue to work 24/7 until every disadvantaged, women-owned business has the information about what money is in the states and how they can access it and how they can put people to work.

MR. MARTIN: I made a point in the speech as well that – that’s often overlooked, and that is when you deal with unions – because we have seen over the years, when it comes to construction, industry and trade industry, that minorities, frankly, are being – being, frankly, left out. City College of Chicago did a study where they said that if – just for Black men over a period of 20 years, had they not been shut

out of the construction and trade union jobs, it would've resulted in a nearly \$5 billion economic impact for those communities.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: And so even when DBs are getting their fair share, when you have these major construction projects, they simply are not em- -- being employed as well. And so I've said, "Look" -- especially Democrats. Granted, you're not a Democrat, but Democrats need to be leaning on their union --

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Sure.

MR. MARTIN: -- folks to say, "Look. Stop the racism. Stop freezing people out from these jobs," that pay anywhere from 40, 70, \$80,000.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Absolutely. These are good-paying jobs, and you've -- you've made a good point. There're a lot of moving parts here. The states get the money, and then they enter into contracts, but then it's up to the contractors to go to the building trade --

MR. MARTIN: So -- so --

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- and it's up to the building trades to --

MR. MARTIN: -- right.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- provide the training to people to -- for apprenticeships and -- and journeymen, so that -- that there are African-Americans, people of color -- Hispanics, Asians -- that can get in the mix here, so they can actually go on these jobs and make the kind of money that you just talked about. That has to be a part of it. And

some building trade groups around the country are doing better than others –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- but we – we – we also need to make sure that they understand this money really needs to go to a broad range of apprenticeship programs and journeymen programs, so that everybody's in the mix.

MR. MARTIN: You spoke of Wisconsin and –

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Missouri.

MR. MARTIN: -- Missouri.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Yeah.

MR. MARTIN: What are they doing that – that – that has been effective, beyond just saying – you know, calling folks in? Because, clearly, if – if – if – and I believe in best practices.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Right.

MR. MARTIN: Let's follow the folks who're actually –

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- doing something –

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- that's good and –

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- meeting their goals.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Right. Not only calling people in, saying, "Okay" – in the case

of Missouri and Illinois, they're building a bridge across the Mississippi River.

MR. MARTIN: Um-hum.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: *Big, big, big* project – mi- -- millions of dollars. *And* they not only called people in, but then they made sure that the states had the contracts with the disadvantaged and women-owned businesses. Once they gave them the information, they followed up to make sure that they had access and could enter into contract[s] with the states. So, it wasn't just the information; it was also the follow-up, where these disadvantaged businesses actually got access to the money and started employing people of color.

MR. MARTIN: Some people do not b- -- truly understand how to use political power to advance economic power, and I often say that Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson is the best model for that, because by pr- -- by really making it clear to banks who don't lend. He said, "Look. We're going to take our city money out of your banks if you don't want to support these minority businesses." He also made it clear that people – let's not focus on just being subprime [sic] contractors. You need folks who're *prime* contractors, but that's really where the – the – the – frankly, the larger dollars are.

And so as a part of your process as well, are you looking at – in terms of money that's going out, really how it is being spent? Are you – tha- -- that whole infrastructure – or, institutional barriers there – who's getting primes, who's getting subprimes [sic]? Becau- -- that – but that's really a part of this debate as well.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: It really is. One of the things Brandon and I – Brandon Neal –

MR. MARTIN: Um-hum?

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- who runs our DBE program -- did [was] we went to Harlem. We went to a bank in Harlem and -- and really highlighted what they've been doing in terms of making capital available to these small --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- disadvantaged or women-owned businesses. Part of the problem is you have to have some capital in order --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- to -- to have operat- --

MR. MARTIN: Especially where states and -- and the government pay -- they pay, frankly [in] --

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- that --

MR. MARTIN: -- 180 days.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: You[ve] still got to survive.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Exactly, exactly. And so we -- we've -- we've highlighted the bank in Harlem and -- and provided them the kind of opportunities to provide capital to some of these disadvantaged businesses.

And we want to do that in other places in the country, too. We know that without capital, it's very difficult to get --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- these contracts going. So, that -- the -- like I said, there's a lot of moving parts -- whether it's the building trades; whether it's the capital; the banks; the contractors; the states making sure that, you know, the DBEs are aware of these projects.

MR. MARTIN: And I know this is drilling down further, but I've co- -- I covered city government and county government for a couple of newspapers in Texas, and I literally saw how the RFPs were written. And so you had provisions by saying -- where you have to own equipment versus leasing equipment.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Right.

MR. MARTIN: You look at the bonding requirements. Congressman Cummings spoke -- Elijah Cummings, from Maryland, spoke at the event as well; and he said there's a bonding proj- -- there's a bonding provision. They had put in the bill some \$20 million made available.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: W- -- you know, for the folks who -- at home who say, "Look, I need the kind of" -- wha- -- how do they access that? Exactly what is that -- to help them with --

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Well, one of the --

MR. MARTIN: -- the -- with the deals?

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- things we want to do is make sure that doesn't expire. It's due to expire in September, so --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- that was a very good provision that Congressman Cummings, from Maryland, put in the -- in the bill, and that money is the money that we've made available to banks to help these DBEs have the kind of capital that's necessary to re- -- to -- to have a -- a -- longstanding relationships with banks, so when they need capital, they have access to it, so they can either start entering into these contracts, or have the capital necessary until they get the reimbursement back for the work they've done.

MR. MARTIN: Well, we certainly want to have you back --

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Thank you --

MR. MARTIN: -- when --

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- Roland.

MR. MARTIN: -- to certainly deal with accountability -- [an] update on what's going on --

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Absolutely.

MR. MARTIN: -- anytime we can talk about that, because we certainly believe in pushing folks to understand --

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Appreciate it.

MR. MARTIN: -- and to have good partnerships --

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Appreciate your interest --

MR. MARTIN: -- in the process.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: -- in what we're doing.

MR. MARTIN: Thanks a bunch.

SEC'Y. LAHOOD: Thank you, sir.

MR. MARTIN: I appreciate it. Look forward to having you back.

Also, folks, be sure to go to TVOneOnline.com to get further details on the bonding program we talked about. As Secretary LaHood said, that money runs out. It has to be spent by September – some \$20 million – and so we want you – your business to be sure to access that.

Coming up on “Washington Watch,” the passage of healthcare reform has not stopped the racist taunts and threats of violence. Smokey Fontaine tells us how Twitter and other social media are being used to spread hate, but also stop it. That's later in the program, but next our roundtable panelists, April Ryan, of American Urban Radio Networks; Ana Marie Cox of GQ magazine; Robert Traynham of “Roll Call TV” will be here to discuss the President's healthcare victory and what's next on his agenda.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 2)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. The threats, violence and vandalism over healthcare reform – *totally* out of control. In the words of Marvin Gaye, “What's goin' on?” Joining me today to discuss it are April Ryan, White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks – you won't hear Marvin Gaye on “Meet the Press” –
[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: -- Ana Marie Cox, Washington correspondent for GQ magazine; and Robert Traynham, host of "Roll Call TV" on the Comcast Network.

Folks, welcome. All right. Healthcare. Folks are like, "Oh, my God! Democrats actually *passed* it?" *Huge* week, obviously, for the President and -- and -- and for Democrats, but I am -- I am I *amazed*, though, at how Republicans -- their whole attitude is, "We're just not going to cooperate with anything now." I mean that -- that's just -- it -- it's a -- 's *nonsensical*.

MS. ANA MARIE COX: Take their ball and go home, basically --

MR. MARTIN: Absolutely.

MS. COX: -- although they weren't coo- -- cooperating *before*. I mean I don't remember how many Repub- -- [feigns uncertainty] -- how many Republican voted -- votes were there for the healthcare reform bill again?

MS. APRIL RYAN: Zero. Goose egg.

MS. COX: [Laughs.]

MR. ROBERT TRAYNHAM: Well -- well, let's loo- -- let's look at this. I mean this -- this is no different than when the Democrats said, "You know what? We're not going to participate in the war no more. The President lied to us. This is not something" --

MS. COX: That's a --

MS. RYAN: No -- [crosstalk] --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- "that we're gonna" --

MS. COX: -- *little* different.

MS. RYAN: -- big difference.

MS. COX: [Chuckles.] Yeah.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- “participate [in].” So, the issue –

MS. RYAN: *Big* difference.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- no, w- -- wait a minute. But wait – if I can finish. But the issue really is – is that from a philosophical standpoint, the Republicans – rightfully or wrongfully – have drawn their line in the sand. Truth be told, we will find out come November whether or not that’s a good strategy or not.

MS. RYAN: First of all –

MR. TRAYNHAM: That’s the –

MS. RYAN: -- you can’t –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- bottom line.

MS. RYAN: -- you cannot equate the war and going to war – you – you lost people in 9-11 – that was – we had to go out and fight for our country and our homeland – versus something to give Americans security – *health* security. That’s a totally different equation –

MR. TRAYNHAM: April, my -- you’re missing –

MS. RYAN: -- and emotions –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- my point.

MS. COX: [Crosstalk] –

MS. RYAN: -- emotions –

MR. TRAYNHAM: April, you're missing point.

MS. RYAN: -- emotions -- no, no. I *got* your point, but --

MR. TRAYNHAM: No, you didn't.

MS. RYAN: -- emotions were played on. That's a whole different thing.

MR. TRAYNHAM: No.

MS. RYAN: Democrats and Republicans are *a/ways* going to --

MR. TRAYNHAM: You're missing --

MS. RYAN: -- fight, but --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- my point.

MR. MARTIN: Okay. Okay.

MS. COX: Actually, I -- I --

MS. RYAN: -- well, explain your point --

MS. COX: -- I --

MS. RYAN: -- a little bit clearer --

MS. COX: -- understand.

MS. RYAN: -- 'cause I --

MS. COX: I understand --

MS. RYAN: -- I didn't understand --

MS. COX: -- your point, that there -- there's --

MS. RYAN: -- it at *all*.

MS. COX: -- an --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Thank you.

MS. COX: -- I -- I don't --

MR. TRAYNHAM: You see, she got it -- completely.

MR. MARTIN: [Laughs.]

MS. COX: -- there's a -- I understand that there's an ideological line --

MS. RYAN: A *piece* of the point.

MS. COX: -- that -- that the -- that both of these --

MR. TRAYNHAM: So, take it back[?].

MS. COX: -- situations --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. COX: -- have an ideological line --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Thank you.

MS. COX: -- but I *do* think that the *scale* of them is very, very different.

MS. RYAN: [Crosstalk] --

MR. MARTIN: Here's -- here's --

MS. COX: And I think that the --

MS. RYAN: -- apples and oranges.

MS. COX: -- that the -- that the moral -- the moral weight in each of them is very different. And I also think -- I mean you were saying we're -- we'll find out in November whether or not that line in the sand is too far for most people, or too close -- whatever --

you think.

I think it's probably going to wind up not to be the big winner that Republicans think it is.

MR. MARTIN: -- but they --

MS. COX: I -- I think that they -- ... they've taken a big risk based on polls that we know are not very reliable. People do not understand the healthcare bill.

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

MS. COX: There're polls all over the place.

MR. MARTIN: -- right.

MS. RYAN: But they --

MR. MARTIN: Fir- -- first, they're -- they --

MS. RYAN: -- *do* understand --

MR. MARTIN: -- they're all --

MS. RYAN: -- subs- --

MR. MARTIN: -- over the place. But here's the -- here's the -- what I'm really trying to get to. You've got education issues coming up --

MS. RYAN: -- uh-huh.

MR. MARTIN: -- No Child Left Behind. You've got reg- -- regulating Wall Street -- trying to deal with that. You've got immigration reform. And so when you send a signal that, "Okay. We're not" -- "We're not going to participate," those are issues Americans actually *care* about. And I'm *sorry*. Republicans *and* Democrats need to be

at the table, hashing these things out, and so this whole notion of, “Oh, no. Forget about it. We’re so ticked off” – look, it’s like any other thing. You lost. When you’re in a legislative issue, you’ve got those who are for, [those] who’re against, and it comes down to the votes. I just don’t think for the American people it makes sense to say, “Hey, we’re gonna check out.”

MS. COX: It also is true that, although Democrats, you know, really dug in against the war towards the end of the Bush presidency, they cooperated with Bush on a *ton* of things –

MR. MARTIN: *Lo-o-ong* --

MS. COX: -- including –

MR. MARTIN: -- time.

MS. COX: -- immigration.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Well, of *course*, a- -- and a- -- that’s a perfect segue – *perfect* segue – because when you take a look at financial regulatory reform, you take a look at immigration, it *appears*, based on what Lindsey Graham has said, based on what Mitch McConnell has said recently over the last couple of hours – 72 to 48 hours – that they look like they may participate in a bipartisan fashion with –

MS. RYAN: I wanna go –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- the – with the Democrats sooner rather than later. So, to – so, to suggest that just because from a philosophical standpoint they have drawn their line in the sand with healthcare, that they’re not going to participate with the Democrats

on other issues, I think, is –

MS. RYAN: -- but –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- very –

MS. RYAN: -- you know why –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- e- -- elementary.

MS. COX: But that's –

MS. RYAN: -- let's go back –

MS. COX: -- what they're threatening.

MS. RYAN: -- to the basic – [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: *Yeah*, tha- -- and they're –

MS. RYAN: -- [crosstalk] –

MS. COX: That's what –

MR. MARTIN: -- threaten- --

MS. COX: -- they're *threatening* that.

MR. MARTIN: -- they're *threatening* that.

MS. RYAN: -- let's go back to the basic –

MS. COX: [Chuckles.] Yes.

MS. RYAN: -- issue why they're drawing the line in the sand, and one of those issues is a very major issue – a *heart* issue for many people, the issue of abortion, whether federal money will be subsidizing abortions through healthcare reform. And the President had to go back and – and – and create an executive order to say, "Look,

we're going to keep the status quo. Nothing's going to change."

But now, here's the deal also: not only that, you have people upset [that] in a time of recession, we don't have money to pay for anything, and they're talking about how much is this going to cost. So, you have issues of cost, and you have issues of abortion. *That's* where the line in the –

MR. MARTIN: Now, I- –

MS. RYAN: -- sand's being drawn.

MR. MARTIN: -- let's get to the President, because I mean, obviously, he's walking a little bit different[ly].

MS. RYAN: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: You know, he – he – he's –

MS. RYAN: He can – [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: -- he's g- -- he's got a little – he's got a little flow in his –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Yeah –

MR. MARTIN: -- step.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- a little swagger.

MR. MARTIN: Go- -- ... got a little – ... got some swagger.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Confidence.

MR. MARTIN: He- -- here's what he said, actually –

MS. RYAN: -- [crosstalk].

MR. MARTIN: -- at the signing that I thought was very interesting. So, le- -- ...

let's roll that, and we'll talk about it.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

PRES. BARACK OBAMA: Today, I'm signing this reform bill into law on behalf of my mother, who argued with insurance companies even as she battled cancer in her final days. I'm signing it for Ryan Smith, who's here today. He runs a small business with 5 employees. He's trying to do the right thing, paying half the cost of coverage for his workers. This bill will help him afford that coverage. I'm signing it for 11-year-old Marcellus Owens, who's also here. Marcellus lost his mom to an illness, and she didn't have insurance and couldn't afford the care that she needed. So, in her memory, he has told her story across America so that no other children have to go through what his family's experienced.

[APPLAUSE.]

PRES. OBAMA: I'm signing it for Natoma Canfield. Natoma had to give up her health coverage after her rates were jacked up by more than 40 percent. She is terrified that an illness would mean she'd lose the house that her parents built, so she gave up her insurance. Now she's lying in a hospital bed as we speak, faced with just such an illness, praying that she can somehow afford to get well without insurance.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: Now, as I watched this, two words came to mind: "About time!"

MS. COX: [Laughs.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: This is a president, for some reason, throughout this whole healthcare debate, who never personalized this issue. And as I've seen him on the campaign trail, he's finally – it seems to me he finally understood that you cannot talk in these very –

MS. RYAN: In the last –

MR. MARTIN: -- lofty terms.

MS. RYAN: -- few weeks.

MR. MARTIN: You have to personalize issues for Americans to understand it. So, not whether it's healthcare, not whether it's saving your home, we react emotionally to issues and not ne- -- sort of in this, "Well" – "Well, we'll deal" – "Let's just" – "We'll just explain."

MS. RYAN: If he had –

MS. COX: That's what –

MR. MARTIN: "Then they'll" –

MS. RYAN: -- would've done that last year –

MR. MARTIN: -- "get it."

MS. RYAN: -- if he would've done that last year, this would've passed last year.

MS. COX: -- he's actually –

MS. RYAN: If he would've used the victims and had victims –

MS. COX: Right.

MS. RYAN: -- faces of --

MS. COX: He's mentioned --

MS. RYAN: -- victims --

MS. COX: -- he's mentioned those -- those same people before. I mean he's talked about --

MS. RYAN: But he had --

MS. COX: -- his children.

MS. RYAN: -- them *with* him.

MS. COX: He's talked about his mother. He's talked about the -- the young man that was there.

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

MS. COX: But --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but --

MS. COX: -- I think what was different here is actually the assumption of confidence.

MS. RYAN: No, he had the vi- --

MS. COX: I -- I --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MS. COX: -- I -- I -- I --

MS. RYAN: -- no, but --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exa- --

MS. RYAN: -- he had the vi- --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- you're exactly right.

MS. RYAN: -- you saw the *face* of the victim, not hearing a name. You saw --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Uh --

MS. RYAN: -- you were able to put a face --

MR. MARTIN: -- I -- I'll -- no. I'll --

MS. RYAN: -- *yes!*

MR. MARTIN: -- I'll give you an example. Do -- do you remember the primetime healthcare news conference?

MS. COX: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: Do you remember when he stood there and said, "Before I go to sleep, I'll read these letters that I receive each night"? And so I'm watching the news conference. I'm sitting here, saying, "Okay. Here it comes. We're about[?]" -- "We actually hear" --

MR. TRAYNHAM: "We're gonna hear" --

MR. MARTIN: -- "from one of those letters."

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- "[crosstalk] -- he's going to read."

MR. MARTIN: Went *right* by. I'm going, "*What?*" So, I c- -- I called a senior administration official, and this is what I was told. "Roland, you know he doesn't like to get emotional or go personal." And I s- -- and he said, "He didn't during the campaign; he [won't] do it now." And I said, "Look. At the end of the day, we react emotionally to

stories,” and so I think they took a very, you know, academic approach to this here[?] and realized –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: -- “I’ve got to *sell* it.”

MS. RYAN: They – they followed what other presidents have done. Bill Clinton has done it. Had the –

MR. MARTIN: Ronald Reagan was –

MS. RYAN: -- the victim there.

MR. MARTIN: -- good at it.

MS. RYAN: *Yes!*

MR. MARTIN: Bill Clinton was good –

MS. RYAN: George *Bush* –

MR. MARTIN: -- at it.

MS. RYAN: -- even did it. So, you always had the victim there, *standing* there to say, “This is” –

MS. COX: I think –

MS. RYAN: -- “a[n] actual face.”

MS. COX: -- but he’s – there is a *totally* different change in attitude at the White House –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MS. COX: -- right now.

MR. TRAYNHAM: His posture has changed.

MS. COX: Yeah.

MR. TRAYNHAM: He's much more –

MS. COX: Like, *literally* –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- confident now.

MS. COX: -- his posture –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead.

MS. RYAN: -- [crosstalk] – follow tradition.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: No, go ahead. Go ahead. Go ahead.

MS. COX: You know, I think –

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead.

MS. COX: -- like, literally, he – he – it feels different. Li- -- in the r- -- in the room

–

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MS. COX: -- on the signing day, the energy and the –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MS. COX: -- joy was – was – was –

MR. MARTIN: Winning –

MS. COX: -- really –

MR. MARTIN: -- does --

MS. COX: -- palpable.

MR. MARTIN: -- that.

MS. COX: Well, I *know*, but it j- -- it -- it -- they could've felt that before --
[chuckles].

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly. Two --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- two things. This is the first time, to my knowledge, that he actually has personalized an issue e- -- e- -- given the fact that the last time he did it was back in May of 2008, when he personalized the whole race thing with his grandmother and the whole nine yards. That's number one.

Number two, I agree 100 percent with her. When it comes to the President's body language, you can see the way he wa- -- walked up to the presidential podium, the way he said it with conviction --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- the way he enunciated his words. He finally has got his mojo back, and he's found his voice.

MS. RYAN: [Crosstalk].

MR. MARTIN: And[?] --

MR. TRAYNHAM: No question --

MS. COX: I think this --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- about it.

MS. COX: -- is really smart. I -- I also think this is pretty calculated on the White House's part. I mean let's face it. They're not -- they do everything for a reason, and --

MR. MARTIN: -- of course.

MS. COX: -- I --

MS. RYAN: [Crosstalk] -- strategic.

MR. MARTIN: Of course.

MS. RYAN: Str- -- yeah.

MS. COX: And I think that this choice to really *own* healthcare --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MS. COX: -- and to say, like, "If you want to repeal" --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MS. COX: -- "it, go ahead. Go get it" --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Right, exactly.

MS. RYAN: He's -- [crosstalk]- --

MS. COX: -- is -- is they've decided that they're just going to, like -- they -- the Republicans have made a mistake.

MS. RYAN: -- all right.

MR. MARTIN: April.

MS. RYAN: Everybody, remember this, though. This is very critical. Yes, he's owning healthcare, but he had to go back days after signing this major bill into law -- he

had to go and *sell* it, because all of this background –

MR. MARTIN: *No*. I mean that's –

MS. RYAN: -- but he's got to make sure he lessons their back- --

MS. COX: I – I –

MS. RYAN: -- -ground noise, so that he can help for –

MR. MARTIN: I – I –

MS. COX: -- [crosstalk] –

MS. RYAN: -- 2010.

MR. MARTIN: -- think[?] the *sell*'s a little different.

MS. COX: -- that ba- --

MS. RYAN: *No*. *No*, *no* –

MS. COX: -- that –

MS. RYAN: -- *no*, *no*.

MS. COX: -- background noise is actually pretty small. I mean –

MS. RYAN: *No* –

MS. COX: -- I think –

MS. RYAN: -- it's not. The Tea Party has made that much –

MS. COX: The Tea Party –

MS. RYAN: -- of a difference –

MS. COX: -- Tea Party is –

MS. RYAN: -- to go to Iowa – [crosstalk]- --

MS. COX: -- only 13 percent of Americans identi- -- even --

MS. RYAN: -- the Tea Party --

MS. COX: -- identify --

MS. RYAN: -- is challenging --

MS. COX: -- themselves as Tea --

MS. RYAN: -- you've --

MS. COX: -- Party- --

MR. MARTIN: Okay, one second.

MS. RYAN: -- got --

MR. MARTIN: One second.

MS. COX: -- -associated.

MR. MARTIN: Okay.

MS. COX: So, it's a very -- it's a very small, but vocal, part --

MS. RYAN: It's not --

MS. COX: -- of America.

MS. RYAN: -- small.

MS. COX: And -- 13 percent is the highest it gets in the polls.

And another thing is that we're talking about the unreliability of healthcare polls.

To- -- it -- it -- but the one reliable thing is that every time they poll on it, asking about the specific --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. COX: -- things that 're in it, it does very, very well.

MR. TRAYNHAM: E- -- exactly.

MR. MARTIN: Robert, I d- -- I think why he has to sell this the way he is doing it [is] not just dealing with the Tea Party. First, they -- they're not even in the equation. He's really speaking to his base --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: -- because when you look at --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: -- the enthusiasm among Democratic voters, all of last year they were some 20 points behind Republicans.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Right.

MR. MARTIN: So, what really he is doing [is] he is trying to get his *base* --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: -- fired up --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: -- to close that gap --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: -- so now, when he gets to financial reform --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: -- now --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Immigration.

MR. MARTIN: -- when he gets to No Child Left Behind --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: -- he wants to have momentum built up, leading into November.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Look.

MS. RYAN: That's exactly --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Politically --

MS. RYAN: -- my point.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- and legislatively -- po- -- politically first, this was brilliant on the White House's part. There's no question about it that this is a major, major stoke in the eye [sic] to his base. *But* that comes [at] a significant price. The significant price --

MR. MARTIN: Of course.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- is that the 13 percent of Tea Partiers -- and she's absolutely right. The last poll that I saw, it was about 12 percent.

MR. MARTIN: Gotcha.

MR. TRAYNHAM: We're -- we're in the same thing.

MR. MARTIN: Same thing.

MR. TRAYNHAM: *But* the other thing is -- is that he's also ignited the Republican base. The *real* question is -- is who will be able to turn up that base in record numbers --

MR. MARTIN: Now --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- come November.

MR. MARTIN: -- now -- now let's --

MS. COX: And I think --

MR. MARTIN: -- transition, because on that particular point, that's where I think the -- the -- these taunts come in.

MS. COX: -- that's the --

MR. MARTIN: And that is, you know, clearly Republicans are dancing, because they -- "We criticize, but we don't want the" -- "the word usage" -- "revolt," things along those lines. But if we remember when the Republicans lost under Gingrich, it was largely because White, suburban women did not like the attacks --

MR. TRAYNHAM: The angriness --

MR. MARTIN: -- on minorities.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: And so I think they recognize that, while you guys are all taunting and playing up to it, they're talking to independent voters -- [unintelligible].

MS. COX: -- that -- that's --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Roland --

MS. COX: -- right. I think that's exactly, exactly right. Americans are really turned off by violent rhetoric. I mean we like it in our movies -- [chuckles]. You know, we --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. COX: -- like it on TV, but we really are turned off by it in politics. And so I

think that's obviously a – a – that was another strategic decision by the House Repu- -- or, House Democrats to *talk* about these threats.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. COX: And it's another thing for – for them to sort of put it as a talking point.

Not really – it hasn't come out of the White House yet, I don't –

MR. TRAYNHAM: La- -- last- --

MS. COX: -- think. I – I bet it *does* get mentioned.

MR. MARTIN: Yeah[?].

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- last Saturday –

MS. RYAN: It *has* been mentioned.

MS. COX: Oh, it has?

MS. RYAN: Robert Gibbs –

MS. COX: All right.

MS. RYAN: -- Robert Gibbs has talked about it. He said, you know, "We should be able to have passionate discussions about issues without going to violence." And what's happening – going back to what you said, and Roland said, it – it challenges the peace and tranquility of our home when we see the issue- -- yes!

MR. MARTIN: "Peace and tranquility."

MS. RYAN: Yes! The tr- -- peace and tran- —

MR. MARTIN: I can hear ocean waves –

MS. RYAN: -- [chuckles] –

MR. MARTIN: -- playing right now.

MS. RYAN: -- I try to do that.

MR. MARTIN: But go ahead.

[CHUCKLING.]

MS. RYAN: But it *does*. It challenges it. When you hear [of] people *spitting* on someone, a – a – a congressional leader; when you hear that people are getting faxes, strange fruit hanging on a tree – a noose and gallows – and things of that nature going through fax machines, and hearing the n-word and the wor- -- and the f-word about an openly gay congressman, *there is a problem*. *There is* a problem –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Right.

MS. RYAN: -- and we have digressed to that.

MR. MARTIN: Robert?

MR. TRAYNHAM: Last Saturday, John Boehner went to the Republican Caucus and said, "I want you to act like grownups. And the reason why I want you to act like grownups is because the American people are watching."

MS. RYAN: Has –

MR. TRAYNHAM: And what –

MS. RYAN: -- it made a difference?

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- and what the American people need to do is they need to look at the Republican Party a little bit differently, 'cause right now it *is* a bunch of angry, Bla- --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- White males.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: And so having sai- --

MR. MARTIN: A- -- a- -- and an- --

MS. COX: Acting poorly[?].

MR, MARTIN: -- angry – angry *brutha*. They only got one in Steele, but go ahead.

MR. TRAYNHAM: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: But go ahead. [Laughs.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: No, but – no, but having said that, the Republican Party has a real major image problem –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- right now in terms of how they deal with this, because they can't be –

MS. RYAN: But is the Republican –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- “talk to the hand” –

MR. MARTIN: One – one second. One – now –

MS. RYAN: -- leadership –

MR. MARTIN: -- o- --

MS. RYAN: -- able to make a *difference* with that? That's the *question*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- they -- they can't be "talk to the hand," the "party of no."

They have to --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- be about the "party of yes" as well. And the real question is -- is with that independent voter out there --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- which is that White female -- typically -- who makes up their mind at the last --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- minute, how will they vote, and what is the perception of how they vote -- [unintelligible]?

MR. MARTIN: O- -- o- --

MS. COX: One thing --

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

MS. COX: -- [crosstalk] -- I also --

MR. MARTIN: Real quick.

MS. COX: -- [crosstalk] -- getting back to the 12 percent that's -- that's Tea Party, I did -- in the reporting on the Hill I did this week, everyone knows it's at that small number, but the Republicans I talked to said they didn't realize how much influence that it had.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Well, it's a small number --

MS. RYAN: *That's* what –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but they're –

MS. RYAN: -- I'm saying.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- very –

MS. RYAN: Thank you.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- influential. Well, but there –

MS. RYAN: *That's* what I –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it's a – [crosstalk] –

MS. RYAN: -- said.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- there's a big difference.

MS. COX: Attitude-wise, too.

MS. RYAN: It's a big –

MR. MARTIN: But – but –

MS. COX: -- [crosstalk]- --

MS. RYAN: -- but John McCain's actual seat is being challenged by a Tea Partier. He's bringing *Sarah Palin* in –

MR. MARTIN: -- but –

MS. RYAN: -- because *she* attracts that Tea Party. There *is* a problem.

MR. MARTIN: -- but we also have to remember in 1992, Ross Perot, the Reform Party – [to] be perfectly honest, the people in [the] Tea Party today were with the Reform Party in '92.

MS. RYAN: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: When he ran, that – that helped pave the way, because they were largely on economic issues.

MS. RYAN: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: You had a lot of the anger. You had a lot of the resentment, but the reality is when they ran against the Republicans, Republicans lost because they took away voters, and Bill Clinton was able to win because – [unintelligible] – three folks running. But –

MR. TRAYNHAM: But you know – but, you know, Roland –

MR. MARTIN: R- -- real quick, 'cause –

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

MR. MARTIN: -- I want to get – I'm going to get you in quickly –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it's okay –

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk].

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- to raise your voice about a passionate –

MR. MARTIN: Yes!

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- issue. It's okay to feel very strongly, but it's *never* okay –

MR. MARTIN: Don't call me the n-word. Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it's never okay to use the n-word, or the f-word –

MS. RYAN: No, to spit on someone –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- or anything like that.

MS. RYAN: -- 'cause that's --

MR. TRAYNHAM: It's never --

MS. RYAN: -- assault.

MR. MARTIN: Absolutely.

MS. RYAN: To spit is -- is assault.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it's never okay to act in a derogatory way, and that's it. And that's -- [unintelligible]. You're talking about one sixth of the economy here, so it's okay to raise your voice.

MR. MARTIN: I want to get to home foreclosures. We had Elizabeth Warren on the show a couple of weeks ago, and she talked about the fact that nearly 50 percent of Black wealth could be wiped out as a result of the --

MS. RYAN: Uh-huh.

MR. MARTIN: -- foreclosure problem. On this show a few months ago, when we had Shaun Donovan, HUD Secretary, talking about it, he talked about how they were working with the banks; and I challenged him as to why you aren't *forcing* -- *forcing* them to change. Here's what he said.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

SEC'Y. SHAUN DONOVAN: There's no question that we have not seen, particularly early on, the kind of response that we had expected from servicers. The other thing I would say, though, very clearly is we have the ability to -- to fine

servicers a- -- and to make sure that they live up to their agreement. I think we've begun to turn the corner. I – I'm not going to say we're there yet – and we're going to keep the pressure on, but I think we've really begun to see some momentum.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: That was Shaun Do- -- ... Donovan a few months ago. Now the President finally is getting the message, 'cause his foreclosure program is not working. So, what are they doing? Forcing banks to now modify the loans. If they had done this on a – six months ago, the reaction from the American people would probably be a heck of a lot different, because they would've seen they're standing up to the banks.

MS. COX: Yeah.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Yeah, but the reality is – is that it's very intricate with the markets and the whole nine yards, because there [are] major ramifications to do[ing] that. The Administration is doing the right thing, which is gingerly – although people – [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: But we saved their butts!

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- although – although people's lives are at stake here, and I – let me just be very cl- -- very clear about that. There are people that are underwater right now [with] their homes, and the only reality that they have is to walk away. What the Obama Administration wants to do is to stem that loss by – [crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- the process, forcing the -- the ... banks to -- to shore up the loans. But they have to do that very gingerly, because it's not about Main Street right now -- and sadly. It's about Wall Street.

MS. RYAN: [Crosstalk] --

MS. COX: [Crosstalk] -- like, some of these -- these loans are actually, like, *criminal*, almost, like, in terms of what they're charging. It's not --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. COX: -- like the banks will lose money and re- -- they'll lose money, but they won't not *make* money --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Um-hum.

MS. COX: -- if they --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. COX: -- renegotiate these loans.

MR. TRAYNHAM: Um-hum.

MS. RYAN: Very grassroots approach. Basically, you heard people last year and during the Bush administration saying, "You're bailing these banks out. Who's gonna bail us out now?" So, now the people are saying, "Okay. You're trying to help us now. That's a good thing," but you have to remember that for -- for African-Americans, particularly, a home -- equity in that home can help make a business --

MR. MARTIN: Yeah.

MS. RYAN: -- create a small business. Equity in that home can in- -- can send a

child to college. So, it's very crucial – particularly to the African-American community, who were preyed upon with this predatory – these predatory loans.

MR. MARTIN: The mistake that critics of this are making is they don't understand. It's not just the people and their individual homes. It's the people who are paying their mortgage, who live around these homes.

MS. RYAN: That's right.

MR. MARTIN: Property values have actually –

MS. RYAN: Dropped.

MR. MARTIN: -- fallen.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: Now you're talking about businesses in the particular area –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Sure.

MR. MARTIN: -- and so you have to confront that, because in some areas, you have seen the value of a property fall 30, 40, 50, 60 percent; and so you're trying to keep a *neighborhood* together, not just one home.

Ten seconds. Real –

MR. TRAYNHAM: Well[?] – and –

MR. MARTIN: -- quick.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- tha- -- and that's what Wall Street is all about, because Main Street *does* run into Wall Street. So, it's a – it's a major, major, complicated puzzle that you just can't fix with just one fix –

MR. MARTIN: I –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- sadly.

MR. MARTIN: -- agree, but my whole point is, “Who saved your butt? It’s time to save the American people’s butt, ‘cause you” – they – they couldn’t get the bonuses if we didn’t give ‘em the billions of dollars.

MS. COX: Okay.

MS. RYAN: All right.

MR. MARTIN: All right. April, Ana, Robert, we certainly appreciate it. Thanks a bunch.

Folks, you can keep this discussion going by logging onto TVOneOnline.com and leaving your comment there. Please, no online spitting or racist language.

Have you filled out your Census form yet? You *better!* When “Washington Watch” returns, we’ll be joined by a high-powered group who will show you why this Census is so important to you and your family. It could mean billions of dollars to your community. 00:16:51

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 2)**

MR. MARTIN: Hey, folks, welcome back to “Washington Watch.” This is form here – this form here literally could be worth billions of dollars, and I’m quite sure you should’ve received it by now. And here to explain what it means – filling out this simple form – and why they’re so important to the Black community: Dr. Claire Nelson,

President of the Institute of Caribbean Studies; Arnold Jackson, Associate Director for the Decennial Census at the U.S. Census Bureau; and Marc Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League.

Folks, welcome to “Washington Watch.”

MR. MARC MORIAL: All right, Roland.

DR. CLAIRE NELSON: Thank you.

[CROSSTALK.]

DR. NELSON: Thank you for having us.

MR. MARTIN: All right. You know, again, we talk about, you know, this – this simple form doesn’t take long at all, but it is amazing how people just don’t understand what this really means – the kind of money we’re talking about, resources coming back to a community. And so, Arnold, you know, for the audience, you know, make it plain on what it really means – this – w- -- why we do this every ten years.

MR. ARNOLD JACKSON: We do this, Roland, because it’s constitutionally mandated, but it does represent how over \$400 billion a year get[s] back to local communities.

MR. MARTIN: And we’re talking about what? We’re talking about education.

MR. JACKSON: We’re – we’re talking about –

MR. MARTIN: What? Sewer systems? Parks? What?

MR. JACKSON: -- yes, we’re talking about roads. We’re talking about school programs. We’re talking about health assistance programs. We’re talking about

bilingual education, recreation, and we're talking about retail development. Many folk don't know that most large retail outlets use Census data to decide where they're going to put stores, where are they going to join in development –

MR. MARTIN: Because what they're –

MR. JACKSON: -- to turn neighborhoods –

MR. MARTIN: -- be- -- because they're –

MR. JACKSON: -- around.

MR. MARTIN: -- they're looking at migration patterns, where people are moving, where they're building –

MR. JACKSON: That's right.

MR. MARTIN: -- single-family homes, who's living in apartments –

MR. JACKSON: That's right.

MR. MARTIN: -- stuff like that.

MR. JACKSON: That and the s- -- the Census, that's done every ten years, is the only source of information at the block level about who's where and who they are.

MR. MARTIN: Now, Marc, of course, you – you run the Urban League, but in your previous life, you were mayor of New Orleans, and so you understand what this form actually means when you come to Washington, D.C., looking for resources.

MR. MARC MORIAL: Well, for local government, for local elected officials, for mayors and city council members and county executives, this Census is critical to where the money comes and the allocation of those dollars. And so I think one of the

things we're trying to emphasize is that the count is not a count for the sake of a count. It's a count that has a cost and that has a purpose, and that we can shortchange ourselves if we don't participate in the Census, and that's what's important. So, it's about *political* power. You know, reapportionment takes place in every state in the Union after 2010. These numbers will determine which states add members of Congress; which states lose members of Congress; where in a state and how district lines can, in fact, be drawn. And so when people think about how to advance and continue the political progress we've made, this Census is probably *the* most important thing they're going to do this year.

MR. MARTIN: Claire, what amazes me is when you talk to folks. I mean they sit here, come up with all kind[s] of reasons why *not* to fill it out, but these – these are the *same* folks who will be complaining about, you know, the need to rebuild their school in terms of construction as well. And so when you're talking to people, you know, ho- -- how do you make it clear to them why this matters not only in terms of people who have no- -- in the United States, people who actually come to this country, who really don't understand the process as well?

DR. NELSON: Well, I talk about quality of life. I bring it down to, "Look. You have a child that's four years old? I don't know your k-" – "your k-" – "Your child is there? Well, come time to plan, there'll be no school space for a child." I try and take it as personal as possible, so they understand the relationship between the big numbers and the fact that their mayor, their city council, their congressperson, their policymakers

require these numbers for good planning. So, if you don't participate, if you don't see it as your responsibility to participate, we're not going to get the numbers we need to make good public policy. It's as simple as that.

MR. MARTIN: Arnold, we've seen – we've heard this whole debate, if you will, over “Negro” being on the form, and – and ... so just – the e-mails are going out around. Why was that done, and – and what was the purpose behind it?

MR. JACKSON: The term “Negro,” Roland, remains on the form because before the 2000 Census, our research indicated that there were still a fair number of people who associated with that term. Going into 2010, we are already experimenting with how we can ask that question, going forward, without use of the term “Negro.” However, for the 2010 Census, we did not do that research, and we don't do anything without a lot of testing. It is a term that probably will go away; however, let me emphasize that whether one considers themselves Negro, African-American, or Black, it's most important to be counted.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. JACKSON: That's an interesting debate that can –

MR. MORIAL: Roland –

MR. JACKSON: -- go on –

MR. MORIAL: -- I want to say this, 'cause I've gotten a lot of questions, and the – the form says, “African-American,” comma, “Black or Negro.” So –

MR. JACKSON: Right.

MR. MORIAL: -- we don't want people who may not have seen the form to think that "Negro" -- the term "Negro" is the *exclusive* term used for people of African descent

–

MR. JACKSON: Right, exactly.

MR. MORIAL: -- here in the United States. And so we also -- and I want to say this *very clearly*. The presence of that term on the form, for people who may think it's an old-fashioned term -- like I do -- is not, should not be a reason --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MORIAL: -- not to participate in a Census. And that's what we've got to emphasize in our community -- is -- is get the form, take a look at the form. Could the form -- and will there be modifications of the form for 2010 [sic]? In all likelihood, there will; but right now, we've got to keep our eye on political reapportionment, on the distribution of federal funds and our right and responsibility to com- -- be completely and fully counted here in the United States.

MR. MARTIN: You want -- go ahead.

DR. NELSON: Well, in the Caribbean community, we have an issue. And in the Black immigrant co- -- communities we have an issue, because people are reading it as "African-American," as opposed to "Black." So, we've had a huge conversation -- complaints, criticisms -- but the good thing is that, as a part of our networking, we've created a united diaspora, a coalition, which brings together *all* of us -- Black immigrants from around the world and traditional, historical African-Americans -- to talk about

maybe we should go back just to be being “Black.” You check that if you are Black, and then you write in your country. *But* for Caribbean people, who still hang on to this idea of being mixed, or for Caribbean people who say they are not Black; they’re Asian, I simply say, “Look. It’s self-identification.”

MR. MARTIN: Right.

DR. NELSON: If you are B- -- if you feel yourself to be Black, you’ll check “Black,” and you’ll write in your country – if you’re Nigeria, Ghana – whatever –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

DR. NELSON: -- Colombia –

MR. MARTIN: A- --

DR. NELSON: -- you –

MR. MARTIN: -- and there’s space on here. You can write in “Other” –

DR. NELSON: -- exactly. Just –

MR. MARTIN: -- or your country. So, *just* –

DR. NELSON: -- or[?], you could –

MR. MARTIN: -- *fill the form out!* I mean it’s just *one box!* [Chuckles.]

MR. JACKSON: [Chuckles.]

DR. NELSON: -- and the beauty of it is that, as a result of the conversations we’ve had with the Census going back in 2008 – and I must say they were very welcoming to us from the first day we went in – we have got an agreement that if people write in “Honduras,” or “Colombia,” or “Jamaica,” or “Ghana,” or “Nigeria,” they will keep

that data out so we can get it back to them, so they will see that their efforts have not been in vain.

MR. MARTIN: Now –

DR. NELSON: And they've agreed to do that.

MR. JACKSON: Well, Claire has – has explained it exactly as it is. And let me thank Claire and – and Marc, because both of their organizations represent a partnership effort that we did launch several years ago, so that we could understand just these kind[s] of issues. And what – what we've said, what I've said to – to her group and to other groups is just what she said.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. JACKSON: *Please* be counted. If you want African-American congress people, state legislators, city council people, school board members, you've got to be counted so that the laws that enforce that can be executed. It's very, very important.

MR. MARTIN: Folks, look. This is the form. All right? Just so y'all – this is it. All right? That's the front of it. This is not a lot. It then – literally, it takes – my wife filled it out. Takes about ten minutes, and so when you get this in the mail, don't throw it away. It's not a *bill*.

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. MARTIN: No one is tryin' to – if you owe child support –

DR. NELSON: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: -- calm down. They're not tryin' to come pick you up. So, again,

fill this out, because when you start asking for resources, trust me, you are going to want these dollars coming to your community. We certainly appreciate it.

And so, Claire, Arnold, Marc, thanks a –

MR. JACKSON: Thank you –

MR. MARTIN: -- bunch.

MR. MORIAL: Thanks, Roland.

DR. NELSON: Thank you.

MR. JACKSON: -- Roland.

MR. MORIAL: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: I gotta give Arnold a shout-out, 'cause he's Jack Yates, in Houston, Class of '64?

MR. JACKSON: That's correct, Roland.

MR. MARTIN: All right. I'm Class of '87, and as y'all know, we *are* the number one basketball team in the country, winning back-to-back –

DR. NELSON: [Laughs.]

MR. MARTIN: -- state championships.

All right, folks. Still to come on "Washington Watch," we live in the land of free speech, and I take advantage of that liberty every, single day. But threatening the President is not covered by that freedom. NewsOne.com's Smokey Fontaine will have the latest Twitter investigation to find the folks who are threatening the President in cyberspace. But next – oh, trust me – I call out some Republicans who want to stop

doing any business in Congress because they don't like healthcare reform – men taking their balls and runnin' home.

Back in a moment.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 4)**

MR. MARTIN: You all remember when you were kids, and there was that – always that one kid who would get upset when they lost a game, and they would take their ball and run home and just pout? That's how Republicans are acting this week after they lost the healthcare debate. Senator John McCain, he told a[n] Arizona radio station that Republicans would not cooperate with Democrats for the *rest of the year*, because they tainted this whole process with healthcare. Senator Lindsey Graham, he said the same thing over immigration reform.

Guys, give me a break. You lost. It happens. So, *what's the big deal?* Now, if you're Democrats, it's not like Republicans have truly been cooperating, anyway. On financial regulatory reform, Republicans said, "What the heck. We're not cooperating." Now they're saying on immigration. Now we're talking about on education.

If I'm the Democrats, you know what I'd do? You lead. I would sit here and say, "Hey, you're either with us, or you're against us. And if you don't want to follow us, that's fine. Take your little ball and go home, because you're pouting like some spoiled brats."

Enough with the petulant children-like attitude. You're members of Congress.

You're grownups. So, damn it, *act* like it. For – so, for Graham and McCain and the rest of you Republicans who want to sit back and do nothing – *you* have been called out.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 5)**

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. Welcome back to “Washington Watch.” Reading all your – all your tweets to rolandsmartin.

News One's Smokey Fontaine is here in our “Washington Watch” studio today.

Smokey, glad you're here.

MR. SMOKEY FONTAINE: Thank you, sir.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Let's get right into it. Of course, healthcare – huge issue this week, and folks have been losing their minds. Of course, we saw members of Congress spit on, called the n-word, f-word – you name it – all that sort of stuff. Now you have folks on Twitter threatening the President's *life*?

MR. FONTAINE: I don't know what's going on on Twitter. We know we use Twitter to express your First Amendment rights, but it is a crime, whether online or off, to threaten the President of the United States. We found a brother from Washington State who sent a tweet to @BarackObama saying, “You should be assassinated.” Then he said, “If I lived in D.C., I'd come and do it myself.”

MR. MARTIN: Wow!

MR. FONTAINE: His followers came back and said, “Hey, hey, ease up. This is

your quickest way to the federal penitentiary. You know what you're doing is wrong."

He tried to fall back and kind of capitulate –

MR. MARTIN: Well, first of all, he tried to talk about, "[I've] got a First Amendment right," and that kind of stuff along those lines – but his page wasn't taken down for quite some time.

MR. FONTAINE: His page wasn't taken down for a few days, and we did *another* search on Twitter, and we found *other* people threatening the life of the President of the United States.

MR. MARTIN: Saying things[?] like what?

MR. FONTAINE: We found someone asking for "the next American with a clear shot" to "drop him."

MR. MARTIN: Wow!

MR. FONTAINE: We found someone who said that, "Blacks" – we should "turn on him" – turn on Barack Obama. "We got past the assassination of Kennedy and Lincoln. We'll get past the assassination of Obama."

MR. MARTIN: So, you guys actually have this story on – on News One, basically laying this thing out, and this is actually – first of all, we're not going to give this guy a Twitter handle, but this is actually his photo?

MR. FONTAINE: This is actually his photo. We took this right off his Twitter page. You know, your Twitter page is public, unless you –

MR. MARTIN: That's right.

MR. FONTAINE: -- make it private. So, this is him. What I love about News One is that the whole community went on, commented about him, told him how foolish this was. And realize that we can't get caught up in all this criticism of Obama. He just passed the healthcare bill that we know the majority of our community supports, and these are the things that we're focused on.

MR. MARTIN: So, any idea what's happened to him? Are -- are the feds investigating?

MR. FONTAINE: We don't know. It *is* a federal offense. Twitter's terms of service say you cannot use the service to threaten anyone, to suggest any illegal act. And, again, you cannot threaten the President's life.

MR. MARTIN: On the flipside, you also have had people who've been using Twitter to fight back against these racial taunts and really demanding that Republican leaders and others step up. I've seen people going to their Twitter accounts, demanding they do something.

MR. FONTAINE: It's a battle. Create a group for your own views and your own viewpoint -- right? We can do whatever -- whatever view that you support, or whatever view that you oppose, you can mobilize yourself online. We've seen it time and time again, but don't let the right wing, or don't let racism, or all these kind[s] of unfortunate things feel like they're taking the lead in social media. Go on Facebook. Create a -- create a group that *supports* Obama.

MR. MARTIN: Okay. All right. Now, what's -- you[ve] got a Twitter handle?

MR. FONTAINE: Mine's smokeyfontaine – s-m-o-k-e-y-f-o-n-t-a-i-n-e. Follow me for all the latest news.

MR. MARTIN: Of course, mine is rolandsmartin as well, so be sure to check us out – and also go to our page on BlackPlanet.com as well and sign up to be one of our friends.

All right, Smokey. We appreciate it.

MR. FONTAINE: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. We'll be right back.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 6)**

MR. MARTIN: All right. It's time for our feedback segment with my HP Touch Smart computer. The healthcare reform bill may be law, but that's not stopping you-all from having your say. Here's what Larry had to say. "Change is coming in new and higher taxes. IRS agents will be breathing down your neck making sure you have proper health insurance. Your employer will eventually drop you from health care coverage, because it's cheaper for you to get your own. States will pay for most of this after 10 years, that's why 37 states are trying to stop this by filing a lawsuit."

Well, actually, just to correct you, Larry, you have 14 or 15 states where the AGs say they're going to actually file suit; and also, folks are disputing this whole IRS issue as well. So, I get your point, but I just want to make sure that we have a fact check here on some of your issues.

Latoya wrote this next e-mail in response to Larry's comment. "Anything worth having is going to cost something, so the notion that having health care shouldn't cost anything is ludicrous. Can't we give this bill a chance and work together?"

Folks, don't stop letting us know what's on your mind. If you want to speak out, log onto TVOneOnline.com and leave your comments there.

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

Before we go, I want to give a special shout-out [to] and, folks, ask you to pray for, Dorothy Height, Ben Hooks and Joseph Lowery, three of our civil rights icons. All three are having some health issues, so let's send as many prayers as possible for them to get well.

I'm Roland Martin. Goodbye, and have a blessed week.

[END.]