



TRANSCRIPT

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Journalists Roundtable: George Curry, Syndicated Columnist

Robert Traynham, Washington Bureau Chief/Comcast Network

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Cynthia Tucker, Political Commentator



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**(HEAD-
LINES)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: At the top of our agenda this week, voters send a message to overreaching politicians: “Stop the shenanigans.” But is there a message of hope for the President and the Democrats? And GOP presidential candidates Herman Cain and Rick Perry embarrass themselves and their party. Our “Washington Watch” newsmakers: one of the 12 Super Committee members, Cong. James Clyburn, as well as Lee Saunders, one of the most powerful union leaders on the big win for the working class in Ohio. In the “Washington Watch” Roundtable, April Ryan, White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks; Robert Traynham, Washington bureau chief for the Comcast Network; and syndicated columnists Cynthia Tucker and George Curry. Plus, African-American ministers join together to secure your right to vote; and “Apprentice” winner Randal Pinkett on how Black folks can survive in a White, corporate environment. And R&B star Monica on her new crusade to fight hunger. All that and more today on “Washington Watch.”

**(SEG-
MENT 1)**

MR. MARTIN: Welcome to “Washington Watch.”

Our newsmaker guest is a key member of the Democratic leadership in the House of Representatives and a member of the so-called “Super Committee” charged with reducing the deficit. He is James Clyburn of South Carolina and no – and is no

stranger to “Washington Watch.”

Sir, welcome back.

REP. JAMES CLYBURN: Well, thanks for having me back.

MR. MARTIN: Now, inside the beltway, the lobbyists, politicians and journalists are focused on the Super Committee; but for our viewers at home, let’s see the stakes. Or, let’s set the stakes. When the debt ceiling was raised last summer, part of that deal included \$900 billion in cuts, and a Super Committee of six senators and six members of the House – half Democrats, half Republicans – they were given the goal of cutting an additional \$1.5 trillion from the deficit over the next ten years. If the Super Committee comes to an agreement, that agreement gets an up or down vote in the House and the Senate, no filibuster allowed. If it fails to pass, or if there’s no Super Committee agreement, then there are massive and automatic cuts to defense and domestic programs totaling \$1.2 trillion.

There’s certainly a Thanksgiving deadline to get a deal done, and so this is certainly big, Congressman –

REP. CLYBURN: Yep.

MR. MARTIN: -- and all the talk back and forth is Democrats, according to Sen. Rand Paul – Democrat – said, “Walk away from the table.” Republicans are saying, “We don’t want to see any taxes raised.”

And so where do you stand on actually coming to a deal?

REP. CLYBURN: Well, thank you so much for having me. I don’t know what

Rand Paul is talking about. I had three meetings on yesterday on this issue. Staffs are meeting today. I expect for some more meetings to take place.

Now, I believe that we still have time. Most of the Republican senators who are on the committee – Rand Paul is not on the committee – believe that we have time to get a meaningful package done in time for us to do something before going home for the Thanksgiving holidays. So, I'm very optimistic that we will get a deal done, and it'll be one that will get favor in both the House and Senate.

MR. MARTIN: Is the major stumbling block Republicans trying to operate at the behest of Grover Norquist, who is saying, "Look. You signed a 'no tax increase' pledge. I'm going to hold you to it"? Is the issue revenue increases, or is it also them – them not wanting to cut defense?

REP. CLYBURN: I think the issue is finding balance. I tell everybody that whatever we do, it should be a big deal. It should be a bold proposal; and, quite frankly, it ought to be balanced and not unduly harsh to any one group of people. The problem we've got now is most Democrats would like to see us not touch entitlements. Now, the problem with that is we've got to do deficit reduction in a way that will be sustaining. We want to do a ten-year budget, but then we don't want to be back at this another two or three years, so we want to do job creation. Whatever we do, we need to get people off unemployment rolls, people off of food stamps and other support programs and into productive work, so they can begin to pay taxes. That's how you sustain what you're doing. So, for us to cut taxes – or – or – or, cut benefits or raise taxes and not do job

creation will not be a good deal.

MR. MARTIN: I've made the point on this show that Democrats can't be in a position where they say, "Don't touch entitlements," and Republicans –

REP. CLYBURN: No.

MR. MARTIN: -- can't be in a position where they say, "No revenue increases whatsoever."

REP. CLYBURN: Can't be.

MR. MARTIN: And so when you're talking to Democrats and trying to get them to understand that, how do you get it across to them that, "Look, it can't be we get our way, and then they have to give us something on their side," and the same thing on the GOP side?

REP. CLYBURN: Well, I try to explain to people, look. If you say Social Security, according to the law, ought to be solvent up – for 75 years, we *know* that currently it is not. So, I think that it's incumbent upon this Super Committee, if you please, to do something about the solvency of Social Security. We're going to do something about maintaining and extending the life of Medicare and – [unintelligible] – up Medicaid. And to do that, we have to do some reforms. So, that doesn't mean you're going to take away benefits, but it *does* mean you can do it in such a way that it would no longer be contributing in any way to our debt and deficits.

MR. MARTIN: A lot of people are very concerned that if massive cuts are made, it is going to hurt the poor, the disenfranchised. You're the lone African-American on

that panel. We've heard Democrats say this Super Committee is a waste of time. We hear Newt Gingrich saying the exact, same thing in the Republican debates. And so from your vantage point, how do you protect the most vulnerable, but also recognize you've still got to confront the deficit?

REP. CLYBURN: Well, you do that by ensuring that firewalls stay in place. For instance, if you are going to look at any cuts in defense or discretionary versus mandatory, you[ve] got to put firewalls in place to make sure that nothing spills over and hurt[s] those people who are dependent upon the entitlement programs. There's a way to do it. We've done it *forever*. And for people to think that just because there's only 12 people in the room, that we can't get to those points now is not quite the way I think people ought to be looking at this.

MR. MARTIN: Is the deadline important because it forces people to recognize the stakes of if you do not come to an agreement –

REP. CLYBURN: Absolutely.

MR. MARTIN: -- that what happens after the fact – the – the – the amount of pain – both sides will not be happy with what comes down?

REP. CLYBURN: The deadlines *are* important, and I think that November 23rd, December 23rd and January 1 are very, very important deadlines. We ought to do whatever we can to meet those deadlines.

MR. MARTIN: Well, the pressure's certainly on you, and I would say this is sort of like a three-foot putt –

REP. CLYBURN: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: -- with all the money on the line. So, you['d] better make that putt.

REP. CLYBURN: [Chuckles.] Well, I'm -- I'm looking for the sweet spot today[?], then.

MR. MARTIN: I -- I understand. Congressman --

REP. CLYBURN: [Crosstalk.]

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

REP. CLYBURN: Thank you so much for having me.

MR. MARTIN: They were celebrating in the streets of Ohio this week. Union workers sent a loud and clear message to Republican governor John Kasich and to the rest of the country by defeating a state law that stripped collective bargaining rights from government workers. Here to celebrate a bit and talk about the next battleground for workers' rights is secretary-treasurer for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and my frat brother, Lee Saunders.

Lee?

MR. LEE SAUNDERS: Good seeing you, man.

MR. MARTIN: Likewise. A huge victory in Ohio. And we have seen Republican governors in Ohio, in Wisconsin try to go active [sic] the -- after the whole issue of collective bargaining rights. What put this over the top by a huge percentage, where Ohio folks said, "You know what? I'm sorry, Governor. You went too far"?

MR. SAUNDERS: Well, it was a huge victory – make no mistake about it – but let’s – let’s really put this in perspective. You look at a year ago in Ohio, when we had the new [sic] – November 2010 elections. We lost the governor’s seat. We lost *every, single* statewide election. We lost the le- -- the state legislature – all to conservative Republicans who wanted to steal our voices away from us.

When they came out, and they said they wanted to take collective bargaining away and limit our ability to represent our workers, the communities in Ohio, the trade union movement stood up and said, “That can’t happen.” So, we – we formed coalitions. We formed alliances. We formed partnerships all over the state. In the Buckeye State, those citizens spoke.

Now, it’s interesting to say this. In Ohio last Tuesday, we had more “no” votes on Issue 2, which, again, permits us to bargaining for public-sector workers – we had no – more “no” votes than the governor received in his election campaign. That’s making a very, very strong statement across Ohio, but it also makes a very, very strong statement across the nation.

MR. MARTIN: Now, the governors are saying one of the reasons they wanted to do this is because union demands were greatly impacting the state budget; so, therefore, they needed to close these defick- [sic] – deficits. Union leaders said, “That’s just nonsense.”

MR. SAUNDERS: It was nonsense. If you looked at what Scott Walker said in – in Wisconsin when we agreed to concessions – and we agree to concessions when we

know that a state or local government is experiencing difficulty, but we will not be used as a scapegoat. But when we agreed to all of the concessions that he recommended, he still said that he wanted to come after collective bargaining, so it had nothing to do with the budget. It's a power play, pure and simple, and they want to take us on. And that's when we mobilized those communities in Wisconsin, we mobilized those communities in Ohio, and we're going to *continue* aggressively to mobilize.

MR. MARTIN: What do – do you – do you believe that these efforts by them, as some have said, woke up a “sleeping giant,” and that – so here we are a year out of the presidential election, congressional elections; that unions are now energized to a greater extent than they were, frankly, in '08 or 2006? How do you see these elections playing out for next year?

MR. SAUNDERS: Well, I think that it did s- -- wake up a sleeping giant. I think not only within the labor movement, where we are working more closely together like never before, both private and pro- -- public-sector unions, but we're also working with our community partners – with the faith-based community, with the civil rights community, with students, with retirees, with the progressive community – those 99 percent of this country who in sick – who are sick and tired of that 1 percent getting more and more power and gaining more and more wealth. They are speaking up like never before. Look at what's happening with the Occupy Wall Street movement. All of this is coming together, and I think that if we are smart, and if we continue to mobilize aggressively, next year we will make a very, very strong statement.

MR. MARTIN: Yug- -- unions have spent a lot of focus and time and money on these national elections. Did they learn in Ohio and Wisconsin that what happens on the state level also matters, that who you elect to statehouses and governors mansions is, frankly, sometimes more important than who is put in the Oval Office?

MR. SAUNDERS: Well, for our – for our union, AFSCME, it's *extremely* important that we elect friends in the governor's house and in state legislatures. That's where our neighborhood is. That's where we – our business is. That's where we work. That's where our members reside. But just as importantly, we've got to make a transition. We've got to continue the pressure in Ohio and across this country and battle those state legislators and those governors who want to take away our voices, who want to steal our rights. We've got to continue to do that in 2012, but we've also be- -- got to be engaged in the national elections.

MR. MARTIN: You spoke of pressure. Union leaders have been highly critical at times of Pres. Barack Obama not doing enough to advance their efforts, and folks decided that, "Look, we're not going to necessarily spend money, giving it to Democrats. We're going to create our own infrastructure to drive the vote."

How do you see that playing out over the next 12 months?

MR. SAUNDERS: Well, number one, we – I think that the President's efforts to create jobs in this country with his American Jobs Act, to rebuild the economy is a very positive step, and we support that 100 percent. We're behind him 100 percent, because those are the number-one issues in this country: rebuilding the economy and creating

jobs for Americans, and that's exactly what we're going to do. We're going to build a war chest to support those who support *us* and support the creation of jobs, who support rebuilding this economy so working families have a fair cha- -- chance to achieve the American Dream and to move into the middle class.

MR. MARTIN: All right, Lee. Thanks a bunch.

Folks, up next, Herman Cain attacks the women accusing him of sexual misconduct, and Gov. Rick Perry's epic debate fail has *everybody* talking. We'll relive the GOP lowlights in our roundtable. And later in the broadcast, Dr. Randal Pinkett – also an Alpha – talks about how to be successful as an African-American in White, corporate America. Plus, singer Monica on why you need to address hunger in your neighborhood. Stay with us.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 2)**

MR. MARTIN: Welcome back.

There's a lot to talk about this week, and it's not all Herman Cain. Here at our roundtable: April Ryan, White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks; Robert Traynham, Washington bureau chief for the Comcast Network; syndicated columnist Cynthia Tucker I her nice leather jacket – [chuckling] – and syndicated columnist –

MS. RYAN: It's *beautiful*.

MR. MARTIN: -- George Curry.

All right, folks. You know I had to go ahead and say something, now.

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: All right, le- --

MS. RYAN: Fashion police.

MR. MARTIN: -- le- -- hey, let's -- let's get right to it.

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: The GOP debate -- it was quite interesting, and the moment I think we'll all be talking about -- it certainly blew up Twitter -- was this.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

GOV. RICK PERRY: And I will tell you. It's three agencies of government when I get there that are gone: Commerce, Education and the, um, uh -- what's the third one there? Let's see.

[LAUGHTER.]

GOV. PERRY: Com- --

REP. RON PAUL: You mean[?] five.

GOV. PERRY: [Chuckles.] Oh, *five*. Okay.

REP. PAUL: [Crosstalk] -- make it five.

GOV. PERRY: So, Commerce, Education and, uh, the, um, um, uh --

OFF CAMERA: EPA?

GOV. PERRY: -- EPA. There ya go. No -- [unintelligible].

REP. MICHELE BACHMANN: Let's talk -- let's talk -- [crosstalk].

MR. JOHN HARWOOD: Seriously?

[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER, APPLAUSE.]

MR. HARWOOD: Is EPA the one you were talking about? Or –

GOV. PERRY: No, sir. No, sir. We were talking about the, um, agencies of government – EPA needs to be rebuilt. There’s no doubt about –

MR. HARWOOD: But you can’t –

GOV. PERRY: -- that.

MR. HARWOOD: -- but you can’t name the third one?

GOV. PERRY: The third agency of government?

MR. HARWOOD: Yes.

GOV. PERRY: I would – I would do away with Education, uh, the, uh –

[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER.]

OFF CAMERA: Commerce.

GOV. PERRY: -- I – I – C- -- Commerce and let’s see. I can’t. The third one, I can’t. Sorry.

[CHUCKLING.]

GOV. PERRY: Oops.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MS. RYAN: Um!

MR. MARTIN: “Oops.”

MR. ROBERT TRAYNHAM: But you know what, Roland? Can I – can I answer

this.

MR. MARTIN: Well, later –

MR. TRAYNHAM: I – I don't e- -- I don't –

MR. MARTIN: -- it wa- --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- even know what the question –

MR. MARTIN: -- later, it –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- is, but –

MR. MARTIN: -- wasn't EPA. He later said it was Department of Energy.

MR. GEORGE CURRY: Right.

MR. MARTIN: That was bad!

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it was – it was *horrible*. But look. Let's look at this globally.

Everyone in front of the camera has brain freezes. Everyone who –

OFF CAMERA: [Crosstalk.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- speaks – hold on. Everyone who speaks obviously stumbles every now and then. We all do it. We're all human. Here's the issue with – with Rick Perry. Going into this debate, the perception has been that hi- -- he does not have the horsepower. The perception has been – is that debates are not his strongest strength. The perception has always been – is that, "You know what? Perhaps, maybe he's a little loosey-goosey with the facts.

MS. RYAN: "Loosey-goosey"? [Chuckles.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: So – so, go- -- [chuckles] – so, going into this debate, the

expectations were very, very high. He *clearly* missed the ball.

MS. RYAN: All right. Uh-ruh, uh-ruh – yes, we do have brain freezes sometimes, but it goes to the issue, “do you believe this?” Does he *believe* it? And apparently, he didn’t – he was ill prepared. His team did not serve him well. He went in there not understanding what he had to do. This was his time to show up, and he *didn’t*. He fell on his *face*.

MR. CURRY: I don’t –

MS. CYNTHIA TUCKER: April –

MR. CURRY: -- think –

MS. TUCKER: -- I don’t think it’s his team’s fault.

MS. RYAN: You don’t?

MS. TUCKER: I really don’t. We were talking about – *you* were talking about the *perception* that he doesn’t have the horsepower. *He doesn’t have the horsepower!* It’s now –

MS. RYAN: He doesn’t have the horse either.

MR. CURRY: [Chuckles.]

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.]

MS. TUCKER: He can’t – his – you – I – I – I will bet you that, given a string of poor debate performances, his team has had him in a room somewhere, coaching him, working with him; but he cannot get through his prepared responses. And it is true that a moment like this would not have hurt a Mitt Romney. The perception is that Ri- -- Mitt

Romney is bright. It wouldn't 've hurt him. But given the perceptions that linger around Rick Perry, I don't see how he can come –

MR. MARTIN: George –

MS. TUCKER: -- back from this.

MR. MARTIN: -- what really stood out – I remember when they had all the talk about Perry getting in the race. And look. Native of Texas, I remember, you know, him be- -- of course, being elected – one of the first offices. I said this is like the NFL draft, where you come out of college, and you're a stud, and people say on paper, "Oh, man. You're great." But when you go to the NFL, you might be a JaMarcus Russell. You might be a total bust. And I said we can't get excited about what it looks like in paper. It's what happens- – happens when you get in the game. And I said then he has to go through all these debates, has to go through campaigning. Then we'll actually see.

We're seeing why there is an electoral process, why you can't just jump in three months out and somehow think "I got this." That's why six, nine months a year – why you have to get in early enough to go through all of these different things versus what Perry tried to do, [which] is hop in at the last second and figure "I can wing it."

MR. CURRY: Well, first of all, I – I disagree with Robert. I – I think there were *low* expectations. Nobody expected him to be a shining debater. *Please*. We saw his performance *before* now. And I – and he had a lot going – weighing on this debate, because he had done so poorly in the past. And so to get up there and lose yourself for almost a minute and have no clue to even what *planet* you're on –

[CHUCKLES.]

MR. CURRY: -- I think he's -- you know, he -- he's a -- there's a part of a horse that you refer to that he -- he looked like.

MR. MARTIN: Some [crosstalk] --

MS. RYAN: [Laughs.]

MS. TUCKER: [Laughs.]

MR. MARTIN: -- sugge- -- somethi- -- something also jumped out at me as --

MS. RYAN: I said he didn't *have* --

MR. MARTIN: -- as -- a- --

MS. RYAN: -- the horse. [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: -- something also jumped out at me as I watched this debate, a- - and I listened to them talk about housing, and I listened to all of these candidates. And it was amazing that Cong. Ron Paul was the only candidate on the stage willing to challenge the banks for their role --

MR. CURRY: Um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: -- in this whole housing debacle. They all went after Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and then talked -- the- -- talked about the fact that they were the cause, but Pres. George W. Bush was a huge advocate of those very institutions when it came to housing.

MS. TUCKER: But, you know, I have been watching that in every, single debate. I have to tell you -- first of all, let me just say there were some very good questions --

MR. CURRY: Oh, yeah.

MS. TUCKER: -- asked last night --

MR. MARTIN: Absolutely.

MS. TUCKER: -- about the global economy. Very few answers were given.

Somebody asked a question about the global economy -- what's happening in -- in Europe with the euro, and very few of them even *tried* to answer that question. I'm not even sure how many of them *know* --

MS. RYAN: Understood.

MS. TUCKER: -- about the --

MS. RYAN: That's right.

MS. TUCKER: -- euro crisis. But this business of not blaming Wall Street and the banks at *all* for the housing crisis; it's all the government -- I have been watching the Republicans say that since the very first debate. It is an alternative *universe*. I am *amazed*. You know, the government -- whatever has happened wrong in this country, the government did it: "I don't like the way my hair looks today." "Government did it."

MS. RYAN: [Laughs.]

MR. MARTIN: I believe that them fau- -- going down this line plays right into Pres. Obama's hands, because when you look at Occupy Wall Street, when you look at what took place in Ohio this week when it came to collective bargaining, there's an anger in this country; and the Republicans have set themselves up as being the party that says, "We will not criticize the rich. We will not criticize Wall Street. We will only

say it's Fannie and Freddie." When you had Newt Gi- -- Gingrich onstage, who took 300 grand –

MS. RYAN: Yes!

MR. MARTIN: -- from o- --

MR. CURRY: It's not –

MR. MARTIN: -- and then said, "I gave advice" – I mean it's – it's c- -- whe- -- whe- -- when you – when you can't even say they had a role in it, that, to me, spells –

MR. CURRY: -- that –

MR. MARTIN: -- disaster.

MR. CURRY: -- particularly, when Newt's position – your friend Newt, your homeboy –

MS. TUCKER: [Chuckles.]

MR. CURRY: -- [chuckles] – is that – you know, that – that's to- -- total *denial*. And they are really missing – they are so out of touch with the American people, if they don't understand the genuine –

MR. TRAYNHAM: I – I think –

MR. CURRY: -- anger there.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- I – I think -- well, I think what – what we need to focus on is that this is a Republican primary conversation, so this is a conversation within the family. I guarantee that –

MS. RYAN: Whose family?

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- that who -- within the Republican family --

MR. CURRY: His family.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- right about now.

MS. RYAN: Okay.

MR. TRAYNHAM: And so -- well, regardless of whether it's my family or not, it's the Republican family, and this is an internal conversation. We saw --

MR. MARTIN: But --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- the --

MR. MARTIN: -- Robert, even --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- we -- we --

MR. MARTIN: -- Republicans recognize -- Republicans in red states recogni- -- are also getting screwed by banks. And so when you can't even say they had a role in the problem, that's a problem.

MS. RYAN: The issue is the process -- how do we fix it. And that's what the -- the -- both sides are fighting about.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. RYAN: People don't -- the Democrats say we need revenue. The Republicans are saying no. And this is not -- the President can't -- this is not the time for the President to shine. He realizes there is a fierce group of Republicans that feel that he's doing it so wrong, they'll go with *anybody* --

MR. MARTIN: Speak- --

MS. RYAN: -- right now.

MR. MARTIN: -- speak- -- a- -- and --

MS. RYAN: And the President --

MR. MARTIN: -- and loo- -- and -- and --

MS. RYAN: -- but wait a minute.

MR. MARTIN: -- look. If e- --

MS. RYAN: The President right now -- they realize this is going to be tight
whoever they decide --

MR. MARTIN: -- and -- and look. And look.

MS. RYAN: -- he will --

MR. MARTIN: Spea- --

MS. RYAN: -- go against.

MR. MARTIN: -- speaking of that, in the debate the question came up, to
Herman Cain, as relates to sexual harassment al- -- allegations.

MS. RYAN: Oh, Lord.

MR. MARTIN: The crowd started booing. We've s- -- we -- we saw his news
conference this week, where he addressed it, opened himself up to even some more
criticism in terms of a lie detector test. Is it your understanding that, basically, GOP
voters are saying, "Look. You know what? We don't" -- "[It] doesn't even matter"?

MR. TRAYNHAM: I don't --

MR. MARTIN: "Doesn't even matter."

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- know -- I don't know if GOP voters think that. I think what GOP voters think is that, "You know what? You're innocent until proven guilty." "You know what? This is really a he-said-she-said thing."

Now, let me be very clear. Sexual harassment is an extremely, extremely, extremely hor- -- horrific thing for anyone to go through. And so what I think Republican voters are saying [is], "You know what? Let's give this man the benefit of the doubt."

MR. MARTIN: [Unintelligible]?

MR. TRAYNHAM: Wha- -- bu- -- and s- -- and so having said that, "We're still going to continue to stand by him." The question becomes -- is whether or not these Republican voters will continue to stand by him --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- in the days to come. If -- If --

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it's -- [crosstalk] -- hold on. Hold on. Hold on.

MR. MARTIN: But also --

MR. TRAYNHAM: It's evidenced --

MR. MARTIN: -- Cain --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it's evidenced by the m- -- the amount of money that he's gotten. It's evidenced by the polling data that we're --

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- that we're looking at.

MR. MARTIN: -- but also, ca- -- Robert, though, can he stay in the debate and call Nancy Pelosi “princess”?

MR. TRAYNHAM: Well, that’s –

MR. MARTIN: Can he –

MS. RYAN: No.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- totally deroga- --

MR. MARTIN: -- attack the –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- -tory.

MR. MARTIN: -- character of –

MS. RYAN: No, he –

MR. MARTIN: -- women – [crosstalk] –

MS. RYAN: -- cannot.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. CURRY: Listen, listen, listen. Listen.

OFF CAMERA: Especially – especially –

MR. CURRY: Listen. It’s – this is not a he-said-she-said – [unintelligible]. It’s “he said, she said, she said, *she* said, she said”!

MR. MARTIN: I want to switch. The White House had a conference this week –

MS. RYAN: Yes, it did.

MR. MARTIN: -- targeting – in terms of what they’ve done for African-Americans. I couldn’t attend. I was under the weather.

Cynthia, you were there. You were s- -- first of all, here's what the President had to say when he spoke to those assembled. Then I want to come back and just talk -- talk about your thoughts on why -- why they held it, and why they held it now.

[BEGIN VIDEO CLIP.]

PRES. BARACK OBAMA: -- a report that has been prepared. It is a compilation of everything we've done over the last three years that has not only lessened the severity of the crisis for millions of people; kept millions of folks out of poverty; made sure that millions of folks still had unemployment benefits, healthcare, et cetera; but also talks about the foundations that we are laying so that as the economy recovers, the African-American community and communities all across the country of every stripe are going to have an opportunity to finally begin to rebuild.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: But, April, you were there.

MS. RYAN: I was there.

[CHUCKLING.]

MS. RYAN: I was there. I was with -- I actually walked in with the President 'cause I had pulled[?] duty that day. It was very interesting. The -- the crowd -- to include MLK, III -- Martin Luther King, III -- Freddy Haynes -- Pastor Freddy Haynes from Dallas, Roz Brock from the NAACP. They were there, including Congresswoman Edwards, CBC member. And -- and it's interesting. They laid out -- the White House

laid out all the accomplishments for the Black community, and then when the President walked in, the crowd went – went berserk. They went *crazy* over him, and it was like I was seeing the rock-star-in-chief come back. It was interesting. They talked about, you know, the business part, where – you know, years ago, we used to have 30 to 45 days before businesses would get paid by the federal government. Now it's 15 days –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. RYAN: -- and they talked about housing and what they're trying to do to fix housing issues. They talked about the economy. They talked about so many different things.

MR. MARTIN: Why – why do you think they held it?

MS. TUCKER: Well, for obvious reasons. [Chuckles.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: *Reelection.*

MS. TUCKER: You know – you know –

MS. RYAN: Show 'em the – [crosstalk].

MS. TUCKER: -- the –

MS. RYAN: [Chuckles.]

MS. TUCKER: -- the President – a – a couple of things. For all of the harsh criticism that the President has gotten from some leading Black intellectuals, from members of the CBC, actually, rank-and-file, Black voters are v- -- are solidly behind him – in fact, so much so, that some CBC members who have criticized the President are drawing primary challengers based on that alone. I am – challengers are saying,

“This person criticized the President. I’m not going to do that.”

However, the President does have to worry about that enthusiasm gap. When asked, Black voters say, “Absolutely, I am behind the President,” but the fact of the matter is average Black folk are struggling with high unemployment rates, foreclosures.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. TUCKER: Will they bother to turn out on Election Day in 2012?

MR. MARTIN: George, final comment.

MR. CURRY: Certainly, the President realized that he’s not going to win this without mobiliz[ing] his base, and – and the base has been *shaken*. The – yeah, you – most BI- -- African-Americans say, “I’m for him,” but they – they do raise questions about him. So, I think he’s going to solidify his base, because that’s the only way he can possibly win.

MR. MARTIN: And speaking of what you say, a Latino poll came out this week. Same thing. Significant support among Latinos over the GOP candidates, but the enthusiasm gap for Latinos – same issue there.

April, Robert, Cynthia, George, we appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

Folks, up next, the assault on voters goes on; and so does our coverage of efforts to protect our right to vote. We’ll talk with three ministers who are working to preserve our free access to the polling booth. And later, R&B artist Monica on her personal connection to hunger in America.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 3)**

MR. MARTIN: Welcome back to “Washington Watch.”

The Black Church has – has historically been the strength of the African-American community. At the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement, they continued to provide spiritual and social leadership. Today, our voting rights are under attack again. The African-American Ministers Leadership Council has launched a nationwide 2012 get-out-the-vote program designed to get around Republican attacks on our right to vote.

Joining me now to share their plans are Minister Leslie Watson Malachi, Director of African-American Religious Affairs with People for the American Way; Rev. Dr. Gregory King, pastor of Williams Temple CME Church in Philadelphia; and Rev. Dr. Gerald Thomas, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield, New Jersey.

Well, folks, welcome to “Washington Watch.”

REV. LESLIE WATSON MALACHI: Well –

REV. GREGORY KING: Thank you.

REV. MALACHI: -- thank you.

REV. GERALD LAMONT THOMAS: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: Last week, we had Congresswoman Wilson – Frederica Wilson – from Florida, and she said one of the things that she is doing is moving churches there to start getting their folks to vote absentee, she said, to get around the efforts by requiring a photo I.D. So, she said where before, it was about driving folks, early voting,

she said now we've got to simply move around all the different barriers they're putting in place. Your thoughts on that, and what are you seeing also take place across the country to deal with these voter suppression efforts?

REV. MALACHI: My – my theme really is – our theme is taking public policy to the pulpit, to the pew. The pew takes it to the people. We take it to the pole, and that demonstrates our power as a people.

REV. THOMAS: We have to understand those laws that have been passed, Roland, in order that we can set up our strategy and our game plan to deal with the enemy at hand. Political skill will give us political will. That's where we get our power from.

REV. KING: One of the things I think that's most important is that we help our community to recognize that we need to be an *educated* electorate, that it's not just going in and pulling a ballot; it's knowing the issues ahead of time and being involved far enough ahead of time to have impact before an issue hits the ballot.

REV. MALACHI: Our program is called "I Am a Vessel, And I Vote," and our strategy is it's not an either/or; it's a both/and. It's multifaceted. It's what's worked for you. But the bottom line is that we need to make sure that our folks can answer the question, "Are you ready to be a vessel?" "Are you ready to vote?" and the answer has to be "yes."

MR. MARTIN: Should pastors take the moment maybe right after the service, maybe right before the service, to say, "I want you to bring your voter I.D.," "I want you

to bring your voter registration card,” “We’re going to cross-reference it. We’re going to check here”? Because in Ohio, one of the rule- -- one of the pieces of their bill, which actually has been put off –

REV. MALACHI: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- was that a poll worker did not have to tell somebody the actual place where they’re voting.

REV. MALACHI: Right.

MR. MARTIN: And so are you t- -- telling pastors, “Look, don’t just say, ‘Check your I.D.’”

REV. MALACHI: Right.

MR. MARTIN: “No, no. Bring it to us. We’ll check here, and if it’s” – “if it is not right, we’ll get it fixed now.”

REV. KING: One of the projects we’re trying to work through some of the high schools is getting high school students to get the proper registration for voting and the photo I.D. for those students who are in high school who are 18 years old.

MR. MARTIN: And literally bringing them in, sitting –

REV. KING: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- them down.

REV. KING: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: “Here’s the process.” Fill the application out, mail it for you[?] – stuff like that.

REV. KING: Yes. We're using the – the students in these high schools to do that.

MR. MARTIN: And – and, again, to re- -- for folks at home to understand, if you're a pastor, if you are a deacon or whatever, as long as you are talking about voting, period, that's not – that's not ideological.

REV. THOMAS: Right.

MR. MARTIN: That's not –

REV. MALACHI: That's right.

MR. MARTIN: -- partisan.

REV. MALACHI: That's right.

MR. MARTIN: And so it's not endorsing – it's not telling them who –

REV. MALACHI: That's right.

MR. MARTIN: -- to vote for, and so they – they shouldn't be afraid of their tax I.D. status –

OFF CAMERA: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- by actually doing this. As long as they're not saying, "Oh, we're doing this to vote for Pres. Obama" –

OFF CAMERA: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- "to vote for Herman Cain," "to vote for this candidate for state rep, local office" or whatever.

REV. MALACHI: Absolutely.

MR. MARTIN: And so I – so, I certainly appreciate, you know, all that you’re doing. You know, we’ve made the effort, again, to drive this issue home, because people hear about it, and they wait until September of next year to go, “Oh, that’s right. Let me go find my card.” So, we certainly appreciate it. And good luck at all that you’re doing.

REV. THOMAS: Thank you so much.

REV. KING: Thank you.

REV. MALACHI: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Thanks a bunch.

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MARTIN: Folks, up next, we’ll hear from two – actually, next week, we’ll hear from two more pastors: Dr. Freddy Hanes and Dr. Vashti McKenzie on their work to keep our voting rights safe.

It’s time now to update the commitments made earlier this year at Rev. Al Sharpton’s “Measuring the Movement” town hall. Here’s what 13-year-old Mary Pat Hector, founder and president of Youth In Action, had to say.

[BEGIN VIDEO CLIP.]

MS. MARY PAT HECTOR: It would have to be preparing high schoolers, in general, to get ready and prepared to go to college, because that’s what they need.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: Now, we spoke with Youth In Action, and they reported, quote:

Youth In Action added six new chapters in Jacksonville, North Carolina; Milwaukee; Detroit; St. Louis; Washington, D.C.; and Dayton, Ohio. Throughout 2011, Youth In Action held chapter workshops, group discussions and forums. Through these activities, Youth In Action learned that one of the biggest roadblocks to educating our nation's students is youth violence. Students cannot learn if they do not feel safe.

MR. MARTIN: Well, you can certainly say that again. And we thank you for the update, Youth In Action, and keep it up.

Now, we'll continue to hold these organizations accountable for the commitments they made to move our community forward.

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

We watched a shameless display at Penn State University as thousands of students protested the firing of beloved coach Joe Paterno. The move by the board [of] trustees was important to make, because after the allegations of sexual misconduct against a former coach, it needed to be made because, clearly, Joe Paterno and other officials at Penn State failed – failed the leadership, failed the students involved, failed the young people who were allegedly sexually assaulted; but also failed themselves. They should've stepped up and done more to notify the authorities of what this coach was involved in.

But what's amazing to me is that we saw a display of anger because a coach

wasn't allowed to finish a distinguished career. But he made the choice to not call the cops. He only reported it to his superiors and left it at that.

What every parent should do if your student goes to Penn State is call them and say, "What were you thinking? Don't you understand that what took place and what affected those young people is far more important than a football game? Is far more important than a coach's career?"

We spend way too much time putting so much emphasis on athletics, we actually lose sight of humanity.

That's my perspective. What's yours?

When we come back, *Black Faces In White Places*. And later, we remember two icons in the Black community who passed away this week, heavyweight boxing champion Smokin' Joe Frazier and "the overweight lover," Heavy D. We'll be right back.
[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 4)**

MR. MARTIN: Welcome back.

Remember that old song Kermit the Frog sang on "Sesame Street," "It's Not Easy Being Green"? Well, all too often, it's not easy being Black in corporate America. But it doesn't have to be difficult, if you know the game. Here to fill us in is the first and only Black winner on Donald Trump's "Apprentice" and author of the book *Black Faces In White Places*, Dr. Randal Pinkett.

Randal, welcome to the show.

MR. RANDAL PINKETT: Good to be here, Roland. Thanks for having me.

MR. MARTIN: Sort of like a[n] Alpha day. We had Lee Saunders on earlier.

Now we[ve] got you on. That's the way it rolls.

MR. PINKETT: Hey, I like that.

MR. MARTIN: Let- --

MR. PINKETT: O-6.

MR. MARTIN: -- let -- let's talk about this book, because there are so many African-Americans who walk into corporate America, and there's the belief that, "Look. I've got the degree."

MR. PINKETT: Right.

MR. MARTIN: "I've got the pedigree."

MR. PINKETT: Right.

MR. MARTIN: "I've done all the right things," but then when they come up against the reality of being Black in largely White corporate America, it's a shock to them.

MR. PINKETT: It can be, and it's not just corporate America. You see it in entrepreneurship. You see it in the nonprofit sector. You see it in government. You see it in media. You can be a t- -- testament to that.

MR. MARTIN: Oh, yeah. Trust me. Yeah.

MR. PINKETT: Yeah, yeah. So, the phenomenon of being a 'Black face in a White place,' as the book implies, is one that almost every person of color at some point

in their lives has been e- -- experience to. And what we've done with this book – my co-author, Jeff Robinson, another Alpha, and I – have tried to understand what have been the challenges that you face when you're the only one, one of the few in your department, your team, your organization, your division – take your pick; and how do we overcome those challenges.

So, we interviewed dozens of African-Americans who've made it to the top of their profession.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. PINKETT: Don Thompson, Alpha, president of McDonald's; Hill Harper, Alpha – [laughs] –

MR. MARTIN: [Laughs.]

MR. PINKETT: -- Kevin Powell, Ben Jealous from the NAACP, Angela Glover Blackwell, a guy named Roland Martin we interviewed as well.

MR. MARTIN: [Chuckles.]

MR. PINKETT: [Chuckles.] And we, through the interviews, saw these patterns of strategies that we've employed to not just navigate these environments, but not lose a sense of who we are – to maintain a sense of pride of where we come from and to make it without compromising oneself. And so that gave rise to what we call the “10 game-changing strategies” that the book basically conveys.

MR. MARTIN: And one of the things that people have to remember: when you won “The Apprentice” – and I think what you were asked –

MR. PINKETT: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- is something similar that a lot of African-Americans have gone through. So, here you are, final two.

MR. PINKETT: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: It's supposed to be about the best.

MR. PINKETT: It's *supposed* to be.

MR. MARTIN: All of a sudden –

MR. PINKETT: Supposed to be

MR. MARTIN: -- Donald Trump, who I don't like on this show anyway – Donald Trump, he says, "Well, Randal, why don't you share" –

MR. PINKETT: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- "this with" –

MR. PINKETT: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- "your competitor?"

MR. PINKETT: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: And you were like –

MR. PINKETT: "*Absolutely* not!" [Chuckles.] I said, "*Absolutely* not!" And you recall recently there was a valedictorian who was asked to share being a valedictorian – a high school senior – Black girl – with a White girl who had not – who did not have grades that were commensurate with her performance – which is almost unheard of.

And I took heat for making the decision to not to share the title, and my response

to that is, “Why *should* I?” I was the clear victor. I had a better record, better performance; and by any objective measure, it was a clear victory. Now, that begs the question, which we ask in the book, “Now, why was *I* asked the question, and all of the prior winners, who were not Black, haven’t been asked; and every winner since me – there’ve been 11 seasons of the show – none of them have been asked?”

Now, why is that the case?

One can only conclude, when you see these kinds of nuances that you can’t quite make sense of, that race has to be a factor. That there’ve been 11 seasons. I’m the only person of any color. I’m the only one asked to share the title. It was insulting to me, insulting to lots of people of color, because it just drove home the age-old adage you have to be twice as good just to be considered equal. And that’s the challenge we still face in the 21st century.

MR. MARTIN: What has been the response you’ve gotten from folks who – who’ve read the book? And have they emailed you, called you and said, “Man, I was going through this stuff” –

MR. PINKETT: Yeah.

MR. MARTIN: -- “and now I understand that it’s a game I have to play”?

MR. PINKETT: Yeah, yeah. So, we draw the analogy of these environments that we navigate as the – as a playing field, and you’re competing in a game. And whether you choose to acknowledge it or not, it’s a very competitive game. If you want to be a CEO, if you want to be a world-renown journalist, if you want to be an

entrepreneur, it's a very serious comp- -- competition.

And so what we've gotten as feedback from people on the book is that it has done a great job of really capturing the intricacies of the challenges that we face, because it wasn't – it's – nowadays, it's not fire hoses. It's not dogs chasing us down. It's not people calling you the n-word to your face. It's *far* more subtle. It's you win, and then you're being asked to share. It's you make a point that somebody else makes, but then everyone says that's a great point. But didn't I just say that? It's I'm a valedictorian, but yet and still, somebody else is being considered equal to my performance, when I was clearly the valedictorian. So, what we've heard from people is that, "It captures those nuances, but more importantly, it's given us practical strategies on how to navigate, overcome them and not lose a sense of who I am."

MR. MARTIN: Last question. I believe that we're living in a moment where White fear is dominant[ing], and what I mean by that is look at Pat Buchanan and his book – this whole deal of, "Oh, my God. Our" – "We're losing our culture."

MR. PINKETT: Yeah.

MR. MARTIN: The demographics are changing.

MR. PINKETT: They are.

MR. MARTIN: And so do you have a sense that White corporate America has to understand that "the ballgame is going to be different" –

MR. PINKETT: Yeah.

MR. MARTIN: -- "for your kids than it has been in the past"? And are African-

Americans and Hispanics ready for this changing demographic [that], by 2042 – some say could be sooner – that we are a majority minority country?

MR. PINKETT: No, it's a great question, and as I go out and talk to corporations about our findings from the book, one of messages I'm delivering is, "If you are not prepared to make your organizations more receptive to all people of all backgrounds, then you will not be competitive in the 21st century."

But there's a flipside to that. Traditionally, we've always talked about us as African-Americans having to learn about the majority culture. Nowadays, it's not just about learning about the culture of Whites. You[ve] got to learn the culture of Asians –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. PINKETT: -- culture of Hispanics, the cultures overseas. And if we, as African-Americans, aren't similarly willing to make that – that shift as well – and I think we're well equipped to do it, 'cause over time we've always been able to manage and navigate our culture and other cultures; but now it's more global, and we have to be just as tuned to that as others for us to be competitive.

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks. The book is called *Black Faces in White Places*, and I tell you it's a good read – one you and your children should check out.

Randal, we appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

MR. PINKETT: Thanks, Roland. Thanks very much.

MR. MARTIN: Folks, when we come back, a look at poverty in America and what singer Monica plans to do about it in her own community. Stay with us.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 5)**

MR. MARTIN: Welcome back to “Washington Watch.”

According to a report released by the Census Bureau this week, more than 49 million Americans – that’s 16 percent of the population – lives in poverty. That helps explain the growing Occupy movement and an increasing identification by Americans with the 99 percenters. The poor are tired of staying poor and watching the rich get richer.

Singer Monica had a reality check from her son, and now she wants to do something to make a difference. I caught up with her at the Congressional Black Caucus Weekend here in Washington, D.C., and I asked her why this matters to her.

[ON LOCATION.]

MONICA: Well, for me, it started off with – with the fact that children are suffering so much when parents lose their jobs. Poverty-stricken situations affect them the most. That’s the generation that has to be brought up in the things that we’re talking about on a constant basis. And after actually having a hands-on experience with one of my son’s class members, I just felt it was very necessary for me to bring awareness in my world, because a lot of us – we just did not know that people were suffering the way that they were – especially in the United States of America. When you think about hunger, you think about third-world countries and other places, because we see food in abundance.

But the reality is that it's right *here*.

MR. MARTIN: Talk about that experience with your son's classmate. What happened there when you said it really caught your attention?

MONICA: He was taking food to her, and I think that it was amazing that he –

MR. MARTIN: So – so –

MONICA: -- knew –

MR. MARTIN: -- your son was taking food to her.

MONICA: -- yes, he was taking food to her, and he's six years old. And that reality just spoke volumes to me, because if he's willing to do something, how could I not be willing to do something, or participate in some way, so that people who are able to maybe help somebody else can do just that?

MR. MARTIN: We're seeing significant budget cuts, obviously, in Congress. Republicans are saying, "Cut the deficit." What would you say to other celebrities, or other entertainers – folks who, you know – who talk about the bling, who talk about the lifestyle; but the reality is people are living a different kind of existence every, single day in communities – especially Black communities across the country?

MONICA: And, you know, the funny thing is – is that most of us had nothing in – in the beginning, as well. So, all you have to do is use a little bit of your memory and have some compassion, and you can step up and do what you need to do. You know, for a lot of the celebrities, I don't think that they know, 'cause I – I was *totally* unaware of

the amount of people that are suffering. And once you know, you can do some things about it.

So, I'll be pulling in friends of [mine] as the years go on and as the months go on. The first thing that we did, we actually partnered with Cheesecake Factory, and you had Ali Londry* and a lot of different people there – Rick Fox. And just different people are really starting to become aware, and as they do, they step us. So, we're just trying to make sure that the voice is heard for the people that can't speak directly to them.

MR. MARTIN: You don't have to be a star to help someone living in poverty. Check out actionagainsthunger.org. That's actionagainsthunger.org.

Well, two deaths this week of famous and talented African-Americans. The legendary fighter known as "Smokin' Joe Frazier" was taken by liver cancer on Monday of this week. He was the 1964 Olympic heavyweight boxing gold medalist, the heavyweight boxing champion of the world and one of the few fighters to ever defeat Muhammad Ali. Joe Frazier was one tough fighter, and he will certainly be missed, and our thoughts and prayers will be with him and his family.

We also lost one of hip-hop's most beloved stars. Dwight Arrington Myers, known as "Heavy D," rose to stardom in the late '80s and continued to be a force in hip-hop through the '90s. He called himself "the overweight lover," and we loved to watch him dance. He recently performed on the BET Hip Hop Awards, his first performance in 15 years. He also spent lots of time on the stage, honing his craft – one of the first actors to actually hit the stage. Heavy's last tweet said – was simply, "Be inspired." It

was sent just hours before he collapsed outside of his home in Beverly Hills. Heavy D dead at just 44, and he will be missed.

We'll be back with more "Washington Watch" right after this.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 6)**

MR. MARTIN: And right before we go, my nephew Christopher, he turned four yesterday. My brother Reginald, he turns 44 today. And, of course, my birthday is tomorrow. I turn 43. So, [a] whole November cluster going on.

That's it for this edition of TV One's "Washington Watch."

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

[END.]