

Let's Talk About Jobs, Race, and Herman Cain

Democrats and Republicans chant in unison jobs, jobs, jobs. President Obama offers an American Jobs plan, but Republicans use the filibuster in the Senate to kill it and a Republican majority will not consider it in the House. House Democrats offered a heftier jobs bill, but it is ignored by the majority in control. Republicans offer more of the same - tax cuts for the rich whom they call "job creators" - but they have put no actual jobs plan on the table.

As a result, 15 million Americans still languish, officially unemployed, with another 10 million underemployed or so discouraged they have stopped looking for work.

One of the leading Republican candidates for President, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, is an advocate of Tenth Amendment (states' rights) solutions and we are suspicious of anyone advocating Tenth Amendment solutions because that amendment protected the peculiar institution. Further, the Tenth Amendment solutions guy was also found to have taken friends, colleagues and contributors hunting on a ranch widely known by the name on a rock at its entrance called Niggerhead.

While in the past, unacceptable language used by Minister Louis Farrakhan was overwhelmingly



DEMOCRAT REP.

Jesse Jackson Jr.

condemned by a House resolution, Republicans voted down a similar resolution that would have con-

demned Governor Perry for taking his friends to hunt at a place with a racially offensive name.

Republicans protect their own from charges of racism and the press doesn't vigorously pursue the issue because Herman Cain says, "it's time to move on," and if he, as an African American, isn't upset, why should others be perturbed. And Democrats don't want to discuss it because it's a distraction from their jobs message.

Democrats have done in the past - to defeat America's first African American President? If Herman Cain was not in the race, could the press really ignore Gov. Perry's hunting site with no apology for its name or use?

Why is the word so offensive? Historically, the use of the "N" word by whites often preceded an act of violence by the perpetrator(s) (e.g., hanging) or by the victim responding. Viola Liuzzo and Rev. James Reeb were called N-

word lovers before they were murdered. Most recently James Anderson was murdered in Mississippi and the young white perpetrator reportedly said, "I ran that n****r over."

If the American people were to conclude that white Republicans - not just conservative Republicans - were actively working to defeat Barack Obama because of his race, they would overwhelmingly reject the Republican Party, its candidates and proposals, and understand more clearly a Republican strategy of blockage and obstinacy.

The heart and soul of "conservatism" is the South. When race was rampant, it was the solid Democratic South. In today's "post-racial" society it's the solid Republican South - minus the African and Hispanic American congressional districts. But why would the poorest, least educated, most ill-housed and most unhealthy region of the country be solidly conservative? Conserving such poverty seems unnatural. So what are the people of the South conserving?

Clearly, historically, the rich - be they slave-owners or possessors of other wealth or power - were conserving their privilege. They used the fear of blacks to manipulate whites and blacks politically to keep them separated, and from

rebelling and joining forces to fight their mutual state of unemployment, poverty, lack of health care, housing and education.

Poor whites were not told the truth about the Civil War - that they were fighting to protect the slave-owners' economic self-interest. Instead they were told they were fighting for states' rights. Rather than join the civil rights movement for social, economic and political equality for all in the '60s, poor whites were told to stay away because African Americans were being manipulated by "communists" and "socialists" like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and now Obama.

So when the first 15 Presidents avoided resolving the race issue the result was an explosion, the American Civil War. And when white politicians know the American weakness on race, and exploit it politically, we can never really get to the jobs discussion.

Dealing with and getting beyond "Niggerhead" may actually be the key to addressing the needs of the American people and unlocking a real discussion on jobs.

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. represents Illinois' 2nd Congressional District: the people of the South Side and southeast suburbs of Chicago.

Week on the Web

Social Security to Hand Out First Raises Since '09
retirement accounts dwindled and home values dropped ...
in Latest News



Rapper L PRO Releases His Vertigo CD
"I haven't been compared to a lot of people because I have my own sound and my own thing" ...
in Music Reviews

Iceland's Katla Volcano Is Getting Restless and could spew an ash cloud dwarfing the 2010 eruption that cost billions ..
in World News

Lawmakers Probe Banks' New Debit Card Fees that sparked public outrage and helped fuel anti-Wall Street protests ...
in Business News

www.**THE SKANNER**.com

The Skanner.com has the latest news from Portland and beyond, on your mobile or your desktop, it's your go-to place for the news you won't see in mainstream publications. It's your community. It's **The Skanner**.

ROWAN ATKINSON
JOHNNY ENGLISH REBORN

A LITTLE INTELLIGENCE GOES A LONG WAY

PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN
MILD ACTION VIOLENCE, DRUG USE, LANGUAGE, SOME LANGUAGE AND BREF SEXUALITY

WORKING TITLE www.johnny-english.com © 2011 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

STARTS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

Take Time to Read.
www.theskanner.com