



**“Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now”**

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## Retooling Obama's Jobs Bill

Earlier this month, the President's jobs bill failed in the Senate. Now the White House intends to break up the bill and gin up sufficient Republican support to pass key pieces. "We will now work with Senator Reid to make sure that the individual proposals in this jobs bill get a vote as soon as possible," said President Obama in a statement released shortly after the Senate vote.

This piecemeal approach might be politically expedient, but the provisions the White House is pushing are still a whiff policy-wise. They're just too superficial. Extending unemployment benefits and cutting the payroll tax aren't going to fuel the sustained, robust job growth Americans are so desperate for.

What the President can and should do is immediately rework his bill to pursue a structural realignment of the tax and regulatory burden facing American business.

Mr. Obama should focus his attention on reducing the tax burden faced by consumers and businesses. The proposed legislation takes some steps in this direction. It cuts the payroll tax in half to 3.1 percent in 2012 and institutes a temporary tax credit for businesses that hire new workers or buy new equipment.

But these cuts have already been tried and they don't go far enough. Temporary cuts are no substitute for comprehensive tax reform, and they mean even less without commensurate spending reductions. Washington should be taking steps to simplify the tax code, broaden the base, and lower rates on corporations and individuals.

### AMERICA'S FUTURE

Kmele Foster

It's time to stop tinkering around the edges of our Byzantine tax system and fundamentally reform it — it's no longer controversial to admit that America's tax code is impeding our ability to compete in

the philosophy of previously failed efforts to stimulate the economy. At best, short-term spending by government will produce short-term employment opportunities. And these temporary jobs often come at the expense of sustainable new employment in other parts of the economy.

Rather than focusing on short-term solutions, the administration

high-paying jobs is domestic energy production. Research suggests that opening up known offshore resources would generate 144,700 new positions and expanding access to federal lands for energy exploration would create 500,000 more.

The President could immediately encourage investment and job creation in the energy industry by simplifying permitting and reducing the number of new regulations.

Private companies should be allowed to explore and develop domestic energy resources without undo interference or assistance. The Solyndra scandal and the lackluster jobs numbers posted by other federally backed "green jobs" initiatives illustrate the governments inability to engineer a solution to the country's employment crisis. Opening new domestic frontiers for traditional energy production would generate the jobs that other politically popular programs have manifestly failed to produce.

Obama's jobs strategy is more of the same. Even if this new piecemeal strategy works, the results will be just as underwhelming as the White House's previous efforts to stoke employment. A truly effective jobs initiative would permanently cut, taxes, and reduce spending, while curtailing unnecessary regulations, and empower industries that are proven to create jobs.

*Kmele Foster is the co-founder and vice president of TelcoIQ, a telecommunications consultancy. He is also the chairman of America's Future Foundation.*

Extending unemployment benefits and cutting the payroll tax aren't going to fuel the sustained, robust job growth Americans are so desperate for

the global economy and create jobs.

The half trillion-dollar jobs bill also contains billions in new spending. The president's bill calls for public investments direct-

should be empowering executives and entrepreneurs to create viable patterns of employment. If more government spending could turn around our desperate economic situation, then surely the first \$1.5

At best, short-term spending by government will produce short-term employment opportunities

ed at sectors that are politically popular among Democrats. For example, it earmarks \$25 billion for investment in school infrastructure and \$35 billion to state and city governments to prevent public teacher layoffs. But these "investments" reflect

trillion stimulus would have solved the problem already.

Finally, a recalibrated jobs bill must eliminate regulatory impediments to industries that are proven job generators.

One sector that could generate hundreds of thousands of new,

## Electrified Fences and Herman Cain

I don't know about you but I have about had it with Herman Cain. I never agreed with his politics but the more that I see him perform in front of white audiences the more it feels like a political minstrel show. His sense of so-called humor, including his bizarre ad that ends with cigarette smoke being blown into the camera, has reached the level of insulting.

The particular "joke" that sticks in my craw, however, is his comment concerning the putting up of an electrified fence across our southern border in order to stop immigrants from crossing illegally into the USA. When pushed about this comment—that not a few people took quite seriously—he claimed that it was a joke. A joke? It starts to remind me of action on the streets where someone talks about someone else's mother but keeps a smile on their face. A joke, Mr. Cain?

What is so funny about people attempting to escape desperate and oppressive situations? Nearly a century ago, many of the ancestors of today's African American population took dramatic and dangerous steps to escape the vicious oppression and lawlessness we faced in the Jim Crow South. Hundreds of thousands



TRANS AFRICA

Bill Fletcher Jr.

began the trek north, facing death and torture along the way. The rul-

ing elite in the South wanted African Americans to remain in the South serving a subordinate

role. As World War I hit, industry their jobs and undermine their liv-

ing standards. Rather than focusing on the way that big business was playing off white workers against blacks, these whites did everything they could to chase our ancestors out. The bloody Red Summer of 1919 with the race riots that mirrored a mini-civil war was one example.

I keep wondering whether Mr. Cain thinks that, perhaps, an electrified fence should have been put around the South to keep migrants penned in like animals? I keep wondering whether Mr. Cain is ignorant enough to not understand that the migration from Latin America and the Caribbean is directly related to the domineering policies of the USA towards these countries and the resulting underdevelopment?

A joke, Mr. Cain? Perhaps he would do better reading a little history. Sometimes, as my father would say, it is better to remain silent and to be thought a fool than open your mouth and prove it.

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African American migrants to people who had arrived to steal

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