

2015, Jan 2

FRIDAY NIGHT HARD NEWS CALL

INFORMATION REGARDING CALLS PRESENTED AND/OR SUPPORTED BY 2013 RAINBOW ROUND TABLE

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A **BBS RADIO** Go To www.bbsradio.com ; click on Talk Radio Station #2; click on "64K Listen"

Thursday: 9 pm – 12:00 pm EST **Stargate Round Table** **Host:** Marietta Robert

Friday: 9 pm – 2 am EST **Friday Night Hard News** **Hosts:** T & R

Saturday: 4:30 pm – 2 am EST **History of our Galactic World & NESARA** **Hosts:** T & R

Friday, Saturday: From **10 – 11 pm EST**, for one hour, the call moves to the Conference Call Line [PIN below] and then returns to BBS Radio.

- Use the following phone numbers to ask questions or make comments during the radio show.

530 – 227-7602 [line 1]

530 – 413-4522 [line 2]

530 – 530-413-5011 [line 3 & 4]

- **BBS Toll Free # in Canada, US** 1 – 888-429-5471 This number picks up whichever line is available.

B Conference Call: 1-860-970-0300

Thursday PIN #	87 87 87#
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C Skype: **BBSradio2**

D **Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:**

- To access the **FREE BBS archives** for any of these programs:
 - Go to [BBSRadio.com/ Station 2](http://BBSRadio.com/Station2); scroll down; click on **Live Talk Radio Shows**
 - Scroll down to **Hard News on Friday with Tara and Rama**, and click on "**Library Archives**"
 - Click on those words and you will be taken to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
 - Right hand click on "direct MP3 Link" and then you can download the program to your own computer, or click on "Listen" without downloading the archived program.

- The **2013 website also has an archive section:**

<http://2013rainbowroundtable.ning.com/> look under the "Archives" tab for written notes.

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable

A **Sunday, Mondays:** 9 – 10:30 EST **Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls**
By telephone only: 1 – 213 - 342- 3000; PIN 9467441#

B **Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month:** **Ashtar on the Road**
9:30 – 11:00 pm EST Host is Fran; Susan Leland channels Ashtar & Mother Sekhmet
www.Ashtarontheroad.com

- Phone Number: 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 163731#
- Call is free [except for long distance charges]
- Can also listen to the call via Skype

C **Wednesdays:** 7:00 – 9:00 EST **The Friends of The Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call**
By telephone only: 1– 712-432-0900 PIN 666238#
Replay # [good for 1 week] 1-712- 432-0990 PIN 666238#

Opening Meditation: Rainbird

Housekeeping: Rainbird Thank you!

- BBS:**
- A listener-supported radio program; we can access program archives on BBS
 - **We need \$ 347 to cover this week! Many, many thanks** for all contributions and blessings!
 - Needs everyone of us to donate something, would like to hear from all on the call.
 - What we hear and learn feeds our minds and our souls!
 - Go to BBS.com/Radio 2; find the listing for Friday Night Hard News; find the **Paypal** button
 - BBS appreciates getting checks through the mail – no fees taken off by Paypal
 - **NO COST TO ACCESS THE ARCHIVES** for any of the T & R PROGRAMS, or the one for Thursday night: Stargate Round Table, hosted by MariettaRobert
 - Re: archives of the other programs on BBS: the money we pay to listen to someone else's archives is put towards our BBS bill!
 - The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:
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 - A check to BBS means all of the money you send is received; using Paypal incurs a fee.

• **CUSTOMER SERVICE # - IN CASE YOU CANNOT HEAR – DON'T WAIT: CALL!! 1- 888-710-8061**

- T & R:**
- **The Rent \$ for Dec is in place; thanks to all.**
 - There is also a **need for food and gas money**, and for **outstanding bills [\$250]**
 - The website costs \$75 / mo, paid for by Debbie duBois for 4 years – now it is going to be our responsibility – there is donate button on the website, on the Home Page on the right – the button says “Subscribe” - **15 people at \$5 / mo would cover this.**
 - Can donate via the Paypal button on the website: www.2013RainbowRoundTable.ning.com
 - **Please notify them if you're sending something:** koran999@comcast.net
 - Rama's mailing address for cheques, Money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
1704 B Llano St, # 249
Santa Fe, NM 87505
 - **phone contact** is via MariettaRobert: 317-773-0061
or by e-mail: stargatemarietta@gmail.com
 - **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**

MR: • Please remember to support MariettaRobert's show, too

HARD NEWS

T: grateful for our times together, and for energy of cooperative input from the new people coming to the call to learn about what is happening

- As with all change, there is resistance! This time, the assimilation will be into love
- L M Nada has been in charge of the USA since 2007, and she is the head of the Solar Tribunal on Saturn and none of us have an understanding of what that really means

R: has sat in the gallery and watched the Solar Tribunal; all kinds of wonderful life forms living and working under the banner of love

- The health workers working with ebola as on the front cover of Time this month as Person of the Year
 - the other viruses are inequality, greed and vying for money, power and control, sex
 - we are all volunteers to eradicate that virus at this time.

LM Nada, Lady Diana: both called Rama today

- the shift is really hitting the fan! [Drop the “F”!]
- As of Dec 30, 4 more legal documents were filed against Prince Andrew for raping an underage young woman, 17 years; happened at an elite party in Florida, 2011 on a yacht –
- Rick Scott and a Bush were present – all disgustingly drunk as per Lady Di
- royal family trying to hide it as a hoax and sweep it under the table
- the young lady appeared on BBC & other TV networks to declare it true and other witnesses have come forward & made statements
- Even though this sounds like a tabloid story, it is connected to the Queen of England who has shut the doors to the palace – no visitors or tours allowed; the City of London is riled!

- **LM Nada said, in regard to her better half & in response to** people who called T & R today being shocked at some of the past history of KOS connected to and being one with LM Nada, so she responded for herself,
 - On behalf of my better half [KOS who is 7th Incarnation and initiation of Sananda Kurmara & LM Nada is his twin flame in this life as well as in the last]: here is my 2nd worth:
 - she was Magdalene in her life with Jeshu; she was taught the Dakini path as written in the teachings in the Kama Sutra; it was also taught by the Ascended Masters to her and the other female disciples [12 of them] in the Giza Pyramids – how to raise their kundalini to embrace the shiva / shakti energy, the highest level of love-making

Note from T: During the Egyptian times, the temples of Isis, Osiris, Horus, Set were the teaching centres for how to raise the kundalini and embracing the shiva / Shakti energy as the highest level of love-making.

- this is the energy of **the High Priestess in the Tarot** cards [this is ISIS]
- this is what makes the world go round when you really understand the nature of awakening of the kundalini

LM Nada: for those who may have issue with the KOS and myself in our earthly path, and our spiritual path, let it be known as each of all of us goes deeper into our own akashic records, recognition of the divine plan of all us will be revealed

- Let him or her who has not sinned cast the first stone

T: LM Nada as Magdalene, she was a Dakini, a “lady of the night” as she was called at the time, she taught everyone she was with how to raise their kundalini energy in the process

- we may not comprehend this in these modern days, and there is much in organized religions that needs to be undone before we can fully grasp this: to be in entire resonance with love at all levels and we will have no reservations about this.

R: When we understand this, we will not have wars

LM Nada and L Di: we are in the midst of such wild energies pouring in at the moment; we may see our galactic friends suddenly swooping into plain sight, and an awakening with great love will open all hearts and all eyes to the truth at its highest level.

Other News

- Emperor and Empress of Japan planning to visit an island called Palau to pay respect to the war dead.
 - April 8th and 9th – will meet the President and his wife, and leaders of Micronesia & the Marshall Islands. These countries witnessed fierce battles during WW 2 – will visit another island where more fighting took place
- all war will cease; and all US bases will come back to US

Audio: the Lost Scale – but cannot complete it due to technical issues

Audio: Maya Angelou

[Two very moving poems]

- 2 poems, with background information about the subjects
 - If every person was complaint free
 - the woman who laughed on the bus

Conference Call

So many beings have left this past year

Maya Angelou: Tells of all of Maya Angelou's accomplishments

Amy Goodman talked about 2 people who left:

- **Dr Theo Colborne** , died at 87, an expert on the health and environmental impacts of the chemicals used in fracking; set up an association about endocrine disrupters [Dec 14, 2014]
- **Rabbi Leonard Beerman**, at 93 [on Dec 14, 2014] , a voice for social justice, and the Palestinians
 - a life-long pacifist – against the Viet Nam war and was against Israel's effort [Los Angeles, congestive heart failure]
- **Elly May** of the Beverly Hillbillies died today

Egypt: the Al Jazeera reporters to be granted another trial – president says he “may” pardon them – and others are reminding us they should never have been arrested in the first place.

Veterans Today Gordon Duff, Stu Webb, John Dean, Larry Nichols did a 2.5 hour youtube -

- the info in the video is all mixed up [some true, some not]
- Gordon Duff did admit that the 13 families, not Obama, were responsible for what was going on
- the video is a compilation of what has gone down since Bill and Hillary were in the White House
- These folks know we have taken our power back and they are scared of the next step as they fear we will do worse to them than they have done to us – but love takes over
[Larry Nichols was running drugs in Arkansas for Bill and Hillary while working for the State office in Arkansas, Arkansas; this was a cover so he could run drugs
- members of the original 13 families have been killed and cloned; the clones are the placeholders
 - the members of the 13 families were not present at the world tribunal courts – all done in absentia, with football fields of evidence to back it up
 - they have been convicted of war crimes.

Q: how come this happened without them being present?

- It was done with the law

Q: it seems they are still wielding power as if they are still alive

- Yes, but the people still give them the power because people were taught lies in school about religion, mathematics, history, philosophy – none of the subjects have told the real truth

Q: is cloning lawful? why was it permitted to be done?

- Cloning was obtained by Black Ops who took the ships out of the skies & incarcerated the E T s like the one called EBE who was tortured and forced to tell about the technologies his people had – then they used reverse engineering to get their hands on the technologies
- the ship which crashed in Roswell was taken down by them because they were playing with radar beams

Q: so cloning started by the Black Ops after 1947?

- The Egyptians knew how to do it; learned it from Enki and Enlil – this has been going on for 65 million years!

Q: do we have identical replicas?

- The cloning process requires DNA from the original beings

Q: can they grow bodies in liquids like in movies?

- Yes, used to take 9 months; now can be done in 3 days – and then programming them as well – they have done this with the 34 clones of Bush Sr

Q: Is Bush Sr a clone or a hologram – a hologram?

- Barb Bush is not – but they are all reptilians – and they are still Mother Sekhmet's children

- this has been going on for a long time – since the Fortunate Fall

Q: curious: as you can't clone a soul, how to . .

- 450 billion years ago, the Luciferian rebellious ones knew how to create life, as we did, but we remained neutral and they used their powers to work against life's programming
- This is called **evil**: actions taken out of their space time continuum, meaning they are using their energies for their own egos and to take over others and go against life.
- The Prime Directive said no intervention in a civilization's development as there are always consequences; the karma has been building up for some time and, so far, they have felt no results of what they have done
- They literally cut out the 12th strand of DNA from their own DNA, the thing that creates love – cutting this strand was/is extremely hard on them; the only thing that seems to satiate them is power and control -
 - T tells about a 4 minute clip she saw about 2 US soldiers walking down a street in Iraq and shooting a dog, then a taxi driver – this is the programming by the reptilians who have been taught to kill because they might not know who had weapons to kill them.
 - Same thing happened in Columbine when the kids were drugged and programmed.
 - Egypt has been so dark – yet the real Egypt is in the US

Q: To get back to the law: Earlier tonight, discussed the judgments taking place on some of the perpetrators, and that some have already been executed – please address this

- the first T & R heard of it was Oct 31, 2008 –
 - 10,000 banksters were loaded on large planes and taken to The Hague & put in prison, also Hillary Clinton who had been arrested in June 2007 and put in solitary in The Hague
 - from June 2007 to Aug, 2008, these 10,000 were arrested, put in military bases then taken to The Hague
 - On Nov 4, at 11:11 am John McCain stepped down, conceded that Obama had won
 - For 6 hours, Obama was briefed by the good CIA
- On Nov 9th, King of Egypt called and told T & R they have all been executed by the World Court International Law inside NESARA law
- Bill Clinton, on Oct 10, 2000 before he stepped down, signed the NESARA bill into law

Q: thinks about apartheid ending in South Africa and the reconciliation instead of execution – can we do the same thing?

- the Court of Reconciliation was put in there for the bad boys; it was all done inside a kangaroo court
- since 1933, we went outside the original Constitution and Declaration of Independence of the US
 - the original one is based on the Iroquois Confederacy 1774
 - the 1776 edition was done **inside** a corporate structure and has been a fraud
- the Bush / Clinton crime family granted themselves amnesty to the beginning of 2017 as they think they can rig the elections in 2016 & take over the US
- NESARA law comes in and negates the idea of humans as property as is allowed for by the fraudulent one

Q: is it lawful?

- Yes – all of these things disappear inside NESARA law – authority to take people out, to do the kinds of things we are seeing happening now which is all done inside the fraudulent system which goes back past 1933 to 1871 and the Organic Columbia Act
- This means it has been an invasion, a galactic invasion and occupation of an entire planet, and this is why Ashtar issued KOS a star ship and there are 16 million galactics as part of the World Militia force of 20 million beings.
- T uses the word “overstand” , as “understand” is about putting people under the reptilians, and the Vatican has ruled this way
- Long, long ago we all lived in peace on Nibiru before it was destroyed; there were no issues in spite of the variety of lifeforms

Q: what happened to Nibiru and the black matter?

- In the anti - matter universe, Jehovah, Lillith and Lucifer decided they wanted to be masters of the universe, & destroyed a 23 sun system [Aurora], each sun having 12 -14 planets orbiting it!
- These are **inter universal as well as intergalactic war crimes!**
- It has come full circle where we understand that we the people have the power and the global elite, the 13 families do not:
- we are all in a giant role-playing game that encompasses the universe, and it is now time for us to play our roles and for them to take off their black hats.
- When Bill Clinton signed NESARA into law, it gave them the impetus . . .
- they had the authority to follow St Germain's orders -
- this country Egypt / Altea America which is what St G wrote about
 - he said he'd be back and we'd finish the story and evict the interlopers who thought they could destroy us and take over the planet
- the **question about lawful** – it is lawful as this is in Mother Sekhmet's hands:
 - they are **not human, they are shape shifters** which is a difficult concept for us to grasp

Q: mention about how the nazis spliced out their 12th strand

- just the one strand having to do with heart energy

Q2: has heard another view point: cannot see these beings with such high IQ s wiping anything out of themselves

- that is only intelligence – without love, cannot understand/overstand

Q2: what he heard is they became a bored culture; they welded the wrong kind of metal in their bodies which drained energy out of them

- this is the next level of experience: they were so angry at Sekhmet they said would ignore her

Q2: this is what is going on our lives: the metal in our houses, the re-bar in concrete, the metal roof on our house – drains our capacity so the aura cannot breathe so you cannot have a bliss experience; the matrix is set up to hijack our own say-so

- yes this is all true but with the heart energy,

Q2: he knows what she is saying

- Yet even under all of that – their insurance policy to make us dead or keep us alive until they are done with us – there are beings around the planet who can walk in the snow without clothing, food, water; the Yeti / Eva people are like that

Q3: here we are because the illuminati are messing with the weather so people have to pay electric bills

R: there are miracles popping up out of the poppy fields – over 50, 000 new technologies will be brought forth

- Heard recently that these ancient Chinese families: a movie about fighting, ninga-like beings and they had to use their spiritual powers; the point is they had to follow the sacred path which was the energies of the Buddha. At this time, everything has come full circle and they know the gig is up and they have to surrender to the Office of the Christ

Q1: last week they said there was no “event” - what about getting rid of these ones,

- has nothing to do with “the event” on Nesara Blogs and Forums; the Black ops created the idea of that “event”

BBS RADIO

Audio: The Lost Scale, Extended Version

www.vimeo.com/109009542

The Lost Scale Extended Version on Vimeo

15 Oct 2014 ... This is an extension of David Sereda's **The Lost Scale** youtube version. The 360 tones of the 3 scales x 12 Octaves as numbers for musician ...

[still not able to make the video work]

Mother Sekhmet

In the Light of the Most Radiant One, in the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame

LM Nada, Lady Di said our judgments have been absorbed into the 5th dimension perspective and that there is a learning curve going on at the deepest level; and they are here to help us go past the limitations of the 3D

Greetings, Children of Ra

- what is happening to all of us is we are waking to our humanity for all time, all space! It is the Divine Complement that is coming into focus here with the energies.
 - you ask about the story being spoken about: it is only about joy, wisdom, love, the creation of universes upon universes: we don't need super colliders to create life; it is the magic within you, me and the rock over there;
 - as Fellow Master Yoda said: the rocks, the trees, the grass, you, me it is all the Force flows through us
- the mitichlorians, the divine spark of who and what we are, the particles within particles at the level of which she speaks, there are vast stretches of space time – yet this universe is so crowded, you have to understand: a trillion grand central stations, & then some; all kinds of life ready to meet with us: yet not how we meet on the battle field but about a cup of tea and how we get over our issues
 - No one is over standing us: we are equal with Creator God/ Goddess / All That Is; we are creator gods who have woken up, and now the fun really begins:
 - 100,000 years of peace called Sat Yuga - whatever we wish to create, we make manifest in this space/time whatever it is, it is instant creation.
 - We already have these abilities like the X Men – we are all the Guardians of the Galaxies; let's have some respect for ourselves & act our age –
 - her whiney children, she will deal with; they have committed inter universal war crimes as well as intergalactic war crimes –
 - it is how she deals with her people from her culture, yet we are part of that culture as we are part of the story and we all have the same DNA: it matters not; we are all spiralling in the same way

T: the DNA is different when you are a full blooded reptilian than a human. [to a degree] – has to do with Ana's question is it lawful to clone? Is it lawful to kill?

Mo: Now you are stepping into the realm of the 42 Laws of Lady Master Ma'at

T: asks for some explanations so the question can be answered.

Mo: It is as has been said: when life forms act out of their time space continuum, not according to a mutual agreement by all parties involved within that contained space, **it is evil**; it may take some time for evil to take itself out; may be 1 billion years or maybe one second.

- Yet what has happened is - all that has happened has come full circle & is in our midst NOW
- She deals with her children how she deals with them

T: not just talking about Mother, as the White Knights have had authority to take them out: how is the intergalactic crime that has been done by non-humans posing as humans who were not invited onto the planet, intergalactic interlopers that have committed inter galactic, inter universal war crimes

against many species, not just humans. [That is correct.]

- She understands / overstands Mother's rights, but how does that extend into the rights of KOS and the White Knights?

Mo: these life forms when they have the wisdom that they have, the power is called “ the wisdom of the sun and the moon” and the frequencies of how to use the particles in a way which is not according to the way the universes spin; therefore, she steps in because they would use the gourd of ashes in an inappropriate way: in other words, no nukes - and She Means It.

T: but they have been doing it in very sneaky ways – not by dropping a bomb from the sky to the surface

Mo: yet they would wish to play with the ideas of the atoms

T: but what is the difference: they put 2 nukes under the point in the floor of the ocean half way between southern most tip of Australia and northern most tip of Antarctica which created a tsunami that killed 10 million people; and then they put 2 nukes in the floor of the ocean in the Fukushima area millions of people dying of radiation poison

Mo Yet she is here and helping to restore the planet to its pristine state; so even though it looks like Mordor . . .

T: her question is they are sneaky: we did not see them drop a nuclear bomb from the sky, but they did it sneakily anyways.

Mo: therefore she comes in this time and how they are removed: their frequency - they go through 2nd death

T: that is after they are not here in a form; they have to meet with her & she gives them to the last very moment to say they are sorry or whatever

Mo: it is coming to that place where you know you are a divine spark of all that is, equal to her, whether it is at the last split second or when it is now: “Time's Up”

T: question was: is cloning lawful? T's reasoning is that it is from an intergalactic, inter universal perspective because they are destroying all of creation

Mo: it is a crude form of creation; it is not in a sense true creation

T: she was saying the reptiles are destroying divine creation

Mo: Yes, they are the abominations of desolation

T: And they have no standing on this planet?

Mo: these life forms they have created out of frequencies that are not in the divine spiral of All That Is – therefore, they cease to exist – it's that simple~

- we can go round and round: yet what she has said still stands: they are being removed: end of discussion

T: T is not talking about the same thing Mother is: the White Knights have been cloning these reptilians for a lot longer than Clinton signed the NESARA bill

Mo: it has been going on for 65 million years!

T: In this time / space continuum, the White Knights have been doing it, not just the dark side by what authority have they been doing this cloning for so long? Did Ashtar give them authority?

Mo: the authority came from Solar Tribunal Councils and the Councils of 24 Elders

T: Oh: because LM Nada is the head of that

Yet the White Knights have been cloning since before Nada was born;

Mo: Yes, that is so

T: So how does this work?

Mo: at this time, all the stories come to a conclusion: you are in Sat Yuga, so we are talking about old, dried, , spilt milk– don't need to worry about it

T: but people do need to understand how it has been done lawfully; we have to hold everything accountable to the higher law.

Mo: It is about the fact that the life forms who came here without divine permission or guidance, therefore actions that were reactions to a process where Gaia and Vywamus are not without their defence mechanisms, however that plays itself out

- Yes, the White Knights did what they needed to do to complete the circle of the story – now it ends
- It is what she can say . . .

T: So the lawfulness of taking out Hillary and the 10,000 banksters was within the NESARA signature into

law and they had the authority to do this

Mo: the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few

T: how can they indict, prosecute, try and indict these reptiles in absentia, all ½ million of them; they refused to show up

Mo: decisions were made where the defence of the planet was priority #1;

- the safety of the people and the planet itself took priority over a small rebel band of life forms that were so bitter against their own creations which they were part of
- it is a form of insanity; in a sense, it is more merciful than it is just to put this insanity or this virus out of its - to put it down.

T: with human beings, usually done with their own permission; she gets that they are not human

Mo: this decision is not just by earth-life forms; it was taken up by the whole galaxy – as one of the 4 musketeers – this steps into diplomatic immunity, where they make an executive decision: the needs of planet earth and their people take precedence over ½ million reptilian, sub-humanoid scum -

T: the jury is out on Bill Clinton who is half human

Mo: Now it comes full circle; fat chance Hillary will even - why are we having this discussion?

T: because there are huge numbers of people who have no understanding of any this

Mo: and that is the place where instant wake up call, honey!

- What she can best say is that earth and her people are receiving an instantaneous upgrade –
- It happens because we are already in your skies, in your midst; we are your neighbours. You rang the bell: class is now in session.
- We are all neighbours and we have no issues with the people of earth; only ones having issues with the people of earth are the small rebel band of lifeforms that are so bitter and are filthy rich, as they think
- In the realm where she comes from, money is obsolete, does not exist. It is about the fact that you have a mission that lasts 400 billion years and all you need for that mission is in the budget!

T: we understand / over stand that part; yet with all the dysfunctionality as an art form that has been imposed on this planet, all the structures, all the ignorance that has existed for so long - it is necessary to have something to work with, with a better system of how that interplays with us

Mo: it is at the place as we get the Reformation Act done: already completed from her vantage point!

- She came back in time to let us know that it is done
- the **HOW** of it is these moments now & how we awaken to the vast universal power and wisdom within love is how we move it forward. Pay it forward to get 'er done
- The ones who are, in a sense, taking it to the next level is some of your own who have had to sit in utter darkness, reeking with the energies of that which is not human;
 - in the context of these lifeforms of her children, it gets pretty hairy
- It is about the fact that we all come from the same original place: 23 sun systems in the anti-matter universe called Aurora. Aurora was the first sun, Nibiru was the last sun
- Since this story has come full circle, her wayward children - Jehovah, Lillith, Luciferia - are on the couch; the popcorn is half gone; we are watching the last few nano seconds of the story, how it gets played out. It is finished!
 - The last moments we have right now are about remembering who and what we are, and giving thanks, gratitude and being "lord, make me an instrument of thy peace; where there is such hatred, let me sow love!"
- It is a paradox: what would the Admiral, the Master, do with these lifeforms? He would sit with them, love them; he would also send them to the Dark Rift. As Co-Tegent, as Planetary Prince of this Universe of Nebadon, he sits with Michael of Nebadon: they both hold a seat of power; it is in the interest of.

T: Thought that Lucifer came back to love

Mo: yes, he has come back to love, yet Michael of Nebadon never gave up that position! So in a sense he holds it

T: How can Lucifer hold it too then?

Mo: it is that aspect of Michael that is a reflection; it is the crystal that has myriads of fractals within it

T: Are you saying that Luciferia, the original light being that fell from grace & then came back, is an aspect

of Michael?

Mo: Yes in a sense; that reflection of that – yes. In a polar universe, the games are created for a reflection of, let us just say - it is an inter-play as we are role-playing

- how we play those roles is a reflection in the vast scheme of things; the fractals of that crystal where Michael as Co-regent with Sananda Kumara / Jesus of that Christ frequency – they hold that co-regent seat of power for the Universe of Nebadon.

- At the same time, Lucifer / Luciferia, the Bright and Morning Star – it is, in that sense, the reflections within the crystal remind us all what path we choose as we are in a polar universe remembering we work with The Laws of One. There there is still Free Will choice for those who want to play with Free Will choice.

- Yet they are the Laws of the One, It is such a dichotomy that you don't know which end is up

T: thinks the first order of the day with the arrests of these ones and moving out of this dimension, with all the change that that brings - there has to be and she knows there is - an infusion of higher light

AND a release of the afflictions that are being held by the people – like the affliction of dis-information. By the time you are 7, you are formed; by the time you are 12, it's all over.

- So if you were raised as a child of the 13 families, you were beaten, raped, tortured, programmed and it is unreasonable to think there will be a change in outlook over the short lifetime with all the other things that are in place

- as Tommy said, the radiation from the wires that cuts us off from the god beingness that we are.

- there are technologies that are far more advanced: they literally free up the wired-up connections of the lower energies, completely remove them from affecting the body

Mo: in this momentn now, we have moved to the place where we are closing the story: we are in Sat Yuga , 100,000 years of bliss – how we do that with each other is what is being downloaded into our cells

- therefore, we are moving into a realm where, of what you speak holds not more power- that's all.

T: she knows it is removed and they have no power: that is not the end of the story – have to go back to the innocent child state; they have to be completely re-educated & this means going back to the child state and this requires therapeutic education, light centres, spherical structures

Mo: already manifesting on the planet

T: what about that off the grid Atlantean grid technology?

Mo: suspend your disbelief

T: not talking about disbelief: does not need to as she has no disbelief; what's she's talking about is that even the spherical structures . . .

- She learned about the thousand and thousands of reflective panels in the deserts in the SW states that cause the wings of birds to burn up when they fly over those panels; the wind machines kill birds too – that is, solar and wind is not the answer either

- it is all based on the old money thing – how much more can we produce, pay you as little as possible and we can make a lot and look like we doing great things.

- there is the Atlantean grid where the planet can be totally off the grid, and the new grid has been here all along and would do no harm to birds - when will it come into use?

- She is looking for a way for people to feel it is speeding up; it will not really be felt until after the arrests, at least and then the announcement of NESARA – to actually feel it and know it!

Mo: It is already speeding up; there are ones who do feel it and know it now; what T is saying is moot:

- what's happening, what people are experiencing here, is the frequencies coming in and miracles are happening;

- people are walking on water, on air; there are folks peeking out between the dimensions – it ain't like it used to be, honey; get over it! Let's get on with declaring peace.

- How we get on in this space time continuum; there are beings walking the west wing; some are reptilians of the highest order of the Ashtar Command and guard the commander-in-chief.

- Not for one nano second would they think of anything other than the Law of the One

- At the same time, there are lifeforms in the military playing with dangerous toys across the planet
 - she has contained the technologies like the gourd of ashes [nukes]; the rest of the story

gets completed here and now, as they come out of the woodwork

- full disclosure already going on, whether there is a conference in DC or not
 - we are getting introduced to our neighbours with or without a conference. It is about how we learn to love each other, including our differences because they are not so dissimilar

T: as Maya Angelou said: what if 1% were completely non-complainers? Not one complaint!

Mo: caring for the children instead of this Gulf of Anger where they are wanting more airplane porn, as Thom Hartmann calls it! So sad: all the images going on are not of a divine nature!

T: About the putting out of misery: using a phaser is not painful:

Mo: it is instantaneous

T: when they are gone, all the pain they inflicted for thousands of years is gone

- could mean massive miracles as people may get up and walk again because these ones who inflicted things on people in terms of pharmaceutical grade medicine, prehistoric surgery, poison in the food and so on

Mo: there are life forms on the planet right out of the X-Files who are abominations of desolation and have been mutated beyond recognition

T: and they have been mutated by others that are worse than that, and put them in that condition – all of this falls away

Mo: all of that story about wizards is:

we are 144,000 avatars x 10 100 thousand x 10 100 thousand and then some!

T: all of the mutants that we sent back to Mars & what other planets?

Mo: All of this is about the fact that we are all one throughout this solar system, this universe

T: do all the dead children and the mutants manifest again in a form?

Mo: As they so choose because this is about the Laws ...

T: and the underground bases that are still operating are gone now?

Mo: Correct. We can use the word “events” for this because it is event-ful

T: the other one used by the Black Ops was a miscreation – and a lot of Light workers are not aware of this

Mo: that other “Event” is an F-ing lie!

T: we'll get our awareness and our complete reflection of who we really are back quite quickly, too

Mo: YES! There is an anomaly that has formed at the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy

- the anomaly is Mother releasing the energies of creation out of the black hole which is called the centre of the MWG – anything not of the Office of the Christ that meets that energy ceases to exist;
- the Cosmic Vacuum Cleaner removes anything that is not of the Office of the Christ.

• Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One – Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish

• Happy New Year!

T: so the reptilians that have resisted joining this darkness: do they get their soul matrix back and their 12th strand reappears?

Mo: Yes

T: so all those who were cloned unfairly can get their life back like Jimmy Carter **Mo: YES!**

And can the beings who are still here reverse their aging process?

Mo: Indeed!

• Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One – Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish

• Happy New Year!

R: has been sitting with a few folks at the Solar Tribunal on Saturn, cussing and discussing the same story as has been going on here: how do we get to the place, how do we weigh the feather against the soul? What does each weigh?

- He does not have the words; he surrenders the divine talking stick to All That Is – Lady Master Ma'at knows fully well how to weigh the feather and the souls.
- Maybe 100 folks sitting there, discussing the cosmic legal issues for the solar system; not a bunch of old men with gray, silver hair & beards:

- they are Ascended Masters and Ascended Lady Masters of the highest order: being with them is like ecstasy; they are so magical & joyful; it is only about love.

T: we'll have some disencumbering going on here

R: when you are in the auro of these folks, you feel giggly – OMG! Pour the champagne!

Audio: Democracy Now

2015, Jan 2 **Russell Brand on Revolution, Fighting Inequality, Addiction, Militarized Police & Noam Chomsky**

http://www.democracynow.org/2015/1/2/russell_brand_on_revolution_fighting_inequality

2014, Ap 15 **Who Goes to Jail? Matt Taibbi on American Injustice Gap from Wall Street to Main Street**

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/4/15/who_goes_to_jail_matt_taibbi

Audio: Max Keiser Episode 700 2015, Jan 01

<http://img.rt.com/files/episode/35/74/30/00/kr0101.mp4?event=download>

Max Keiser and Stacy Herbert celebrate the first day of 2015 with some regular guests who attempt to predict the big themes of the New Year. First, they talk to Dominic Frisby of Moneyweek.com about where it all might kick off this year - perhaps Japan? Next, Professor Steve Keen talks Minsky moments, debt deflation and the Bancor. Last, but not least, they speak to Liam Halligan of BNE.eu for his predictions on Europe, China, Russia and dividend yields in 2015.

Audio: Democracy Now

[SEE BELOW]

2014, Dec 31 **At End of Warmest Year on Record, "Alternative Nobel" Winner Bill McKibben Urges Action on Climate**

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/12/31/at_end_of_warmest_year_on

Closing: Rainbird

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2015, Jan 2 **Russell Brand on Revolution, Fighting Inequality, Addiction, Militarized Police & Noam Chomsky**

http://www.democracynow.org/2015/1/2/russell_brand_on_revolution_fighting_inequality

<http://publish.dvlabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2015-0102.mp4>

<http://traffic.libsyn.com/democracynow/dn2015-0102.mp3>



In a holiday special, we feature our interview with Russell Brand. For years he has been one of Britain's most popular comedians, but in 2014, he also emerged as a leading voice of Britain's political left. He has taken part in anti-austerity protests, spoken at Occupy Wall Street protests and marched with the hacker collective Anonymous. A recovering addict himself, Brand has also become a leading critic of Britain's drug laws. He has just come out with a new book expanding on his critique of the political system. It is simply titled, "Revolution."

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: Today, we're broadcasting from London, and we're joined by Russell Brand. Up until last year, Russell Brand was best known for being one of the most popular comedians here in Britain. His résumé includes hosting the reality TV show *Big Brother's Big Mouth*, a stint as a BBC radio host and starring roles in the films *St. Trinian's*, *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* and *Get Him to the Greek*. He also hosted the MTV Movie Awards.

But in recent years, Russell Brand has emerged as one of the most prominent voices of the British left. He has taken part in anti-austerity protests, spoken at Occupy Wall Street and marched with the hacker collective Anonymous. A recovering addict himself, Russell Brand has also become a leading critic of Britain's drug laws.

Last year, he guest-edited *The New Statesman*, a political and current affairs magazine here in Britain. The issue included cover art by Shepard Fairey and articles by Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, among many others.

He then appeared on BBC Newsnight in an interview with the well-known BBC host Jeremy Paxman. The video became a YouTube sensation.

JEREMY PAXMAN: Is it true you don't even vote?

RUSSELL BRAND: Yeah, no, I don't vote.

JEREMY PAXMAN: Well, how do you have any authority to talk about politics then?

RUSSELL BRAND: Well, I don't get my authority from this pre-existing paradigm which is quite narrow and only serves a few people. I look elsewhere for alternatives that might be of service to humanity. Alternative means alternative political systems.

JEREMY PAXMAN: They being?

RUSSELL BRAND: Well, I've not invented it yet, Jeremy. I had to do a magazine last week. I've had a lot on my plate. But I say—but here's the thing that you shouldn't do: shouldn't destroy the planet, shouldn't create massive economic disparity, shouldn't ignore the needs of the people. The burden of proof is on the people with the power, not people who like doing a magazine for a novelty.

JEREMY PAXMAN: How do you imagine that people get power?

RUSSELL BRAND: Well, I imagine there are sort of hierarchical systems that have been preserved through generations—

JEREMY PAXMAN: They get power by being voted in. That's how they get it.

RUSSELL BRAND: Well, you say that, Jeremy, but like—

JEREMY PAXMAN: You can't even be asked to vote.

RUSSELL BRAND: It's quite narrow—quite a narrow prescriptive parameter that changes within the—

JEREMY PAXMAN: In a democracy, that's how it works.

RUSSELL BRAND: Well, I don't think it's working very well, Jeremy, given that the planet is being destroyed, given that there is economic disparity of a huge degree. What you're saying, there's no alternative. There's no alternative, just this system.

JEREMY PAXMAN: No, I'm not saying that. I'm saying—

RUSSELL BRAND: Brilliant.

JEREMY PAXMAN: —if you can't be asked to vote, why should we be asked to listen to your political point of view?

RUSSELL BRAND: You don't have to listen to my political point of view. But it's not that I'm not voting out of apathy. I'm not voting out of absolute indifference and weariness and exhaustion from the lies, treachery, deceit of the political class that has been going on for generations now and which has now reached fever pitch, where we have a disenfranchised, disillusioned, despondent underclass that are not being represented by that political system. So, voting for it is tacit complicity with that system, and that's not something I'm offering up.

JEREMY PAXMAN: Why don't you change it then?

RUSSELL BRAND: I'm trying to.

JEREMY PAXMAN: Well, why don't you start by voting?

RUSSELL BRAND: I don't think it works. People have voted already, and that's what's created the current paradigm.

JEREMY PAXMAN: Well, when did you last vote?

RUSSELL BRAND: Never.

JEREMY PAXMAN: You've never, ever voted?

RUSSELL BRAND: No. Do you think that's really bad?

JEREMY PAXMAN: So, you've struck an attitude, what? Before the age of 18?

RUSSELL BRAND: Well, I was busy being a drug addict at that point, because I come from the kind of social conditions that are exacerbated by an indifferent system that really just administrates for large corporations and ignores the population that it was voted in to serve.

JEREMY PAXMAN: But you're veiling the—you're blaming the political class for the fact that you had a drug problem?

RUSSELL BRAND: No, no, no. I'm saying I was part of a social and economic class that is underserved by the current political system, and drug addiction is one of the problems it creates. When you have huge underserved, impoverished populations, people get drug problems and also don't feel like they want to engage with the current political system, because they see that it doesn't work for them. They see that it makes no difference. They see that they're not served. I say that the apathy—

JEREMY PAXMAN: But of course it doesn't work for them if they don't bother to vote.

RUSSELL BRAND: Jeremy, my darling, I'm not saying that—the apathy doesn't come from us, the people. The apathy comes from the politicians. They are apathetic to our needs. They're only interested in servicing the needs of corporations. Look at where—ain't the Tories going to court, taking the EU to court? It's because they're trying to curtail bank bonuses. Is that what's happening at the moment in our country?

AMY GOODMAN: That was Russell Brand being interviewed on BBC Newsnight by host Jeremy Paxman last year. Since it was posted online, more than 10 million people have watched the video. Well, Russell Brand has come out with a new book expanding on his critique of the political system. It's called Revolution. We're just in front of Big Ben and also MI5, the British domestic intelligence service. And our guest has now turned around to look out the window to say, "Which one is MI5?" It's the low building, Russell.

RUSSELL BRAND: It's a secret. You're not supposed to know that.

AMY GOODMAN: Russell Brand is our guest, Russell Brand who's well known as a comedian and an actor, and also become a leading figure on the British left and has a new book out. It's called, simply, Revolution.

Russell, welcome to Democracy Now! It's great to have you with us. And even though there are a lot of obscenities in the world, please don't use them on Democracy Now! today, or our stations will be taken off the air.

RUSSELL BRAND: You're really concerned about that. Did they say, "Just say it to him on air"? Honestly, I don't swear very often. This evening, I'm performing at the Royal Albert Hall, London, before an audience of children. I won't swear, I promise. You're perfectly safe.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, there are children who are listening and watching right now. There are adults. There are senior citizens.

RUSSELL BRAND: Stop worrying about it. I won't swear. What do you need to know, Amy? There won't be any swearing.

AMY GOODMAN: I need to know where you were born.

RUSSELL BRAND: Grays, Essex, where people do use obscenities a lot, as would anyone suffering under such dreadful conditions. If continue down the Thames in that direction, you will end up at Grays, and you'll swim back rather than stay there. You'd rather live in the MI5 building.

AMY GOODMAN: So, talk about Grays. Talk about where you were born, Russell.

RUSSELL BRAND: Where I'm from is a suburban town with low expectations. So people in America understand, it's a bit like Camden, New Jersey—low expectations, really, really cool people, fantastic people, but a kind of place where it's difficult to engage with hope, where it's easy to imagine that your life can just sort of trundle out like this low, grey River Thames.

AMY GOODMAN: Camden is one of the poorest places in the United States.

RUSSELL BRAND: Oh, it might be a bit better than that, then. It's not one of the poorest places; it's just not that nice. And growing up there, I think it sort of—I've had cause to reflect. I wondered why it was that I was so attracted to the idea of being so famous and living a sort of glamorous life and going to sequin-covered events and being in sparkly places with superficially attractive things. I think I put a lot of it down to the sort of mundanity

of my early life. What was surprising when I went back there recently is, even though it was kind of ordinary to begin with and somewhat economically deprived, when I went back there recently, it had become much, much worse—like the sort of dodgy shops, payday loans, people living on welfare. And it really was the inspiration in the writing of the book to see how the place where I come from had deteriorated and where that money has gone, where those resources have gone, and why people don't seem to think that they have any political purchase or any ability to change the situation.

AMY GOODMAN: So, you were talking about this with Jeremy Paxman, the clip we just played that went totally viral, from BBC Newsnight, where you talked about why you don't vote. Now, that was a few years ago. Have you started voting?

RUSSELL BRAND: One year, I think.

AMY GOODMAN: Have you voted since then?

RUSSELL BRAND: No.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you think the system is changing at all?

RUSSELL BRAND: Do you?

AMY GOODMAN: Well, I don't live here.

RUSSELL BRAND: I think this is an international problem. You've just had the American midterm elections, in which \$4 billion was spent on the campaigning, when we're told there's not enough money to deal with what would seem to me to be more—like, you know, it was interesting recently, you know, like that FEMA, that U.S. agency that lent out money to people who were victims of Katrina and Sandy. They wanted their money back that they lent to people that had suffered in those hurricanes. And this is simultaneously, \$4 billion has been spent on campaigning in midterm elections. And, like, we live in a system where tax breaks and tax avoidance are easy if you understand the law. So, the degree of systemic change required is so significant, I don't see any point in voting for it. But no one's saying, "We will do something about that."

AMY GOODMAN: Russell, this gives me a chance to go to your show, called The Trews. And—

RUSSELL BRAND: Yeah, The Trews is my TV show that I made with Gareth. It's not on the television; it's on the Internet.

AMY GOODMAN: So it's a combo between "truth" and "the news"?

RUSSELL BRAND: It's one of the cleverest puns in human history.

AMY GOODMAN: So, you talk about this issue of disabled and elderly residents in a assisted living center in Rockaway, New York—this is after Sandy, after Superstorm Sandy—being asked to return aid to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Let's go to that clip from The Trews.

RUSSELL BRAND: "Can we have our money back?" "But the hurricane, disabled." "Money back."

FEMA AID RECIPIENT: I asked them, "Do we have to pay this back?" And they said, "No, it's a gift from the president."

RUSSELL BRAND: "You know that gift I gave you?" "Yes, we all appreciated it." "Mmm, that makes it a little bit harder to say what I'm about to say." "Oh, what is it?" "Give it back."

AMY GOODMAN: There it is.

RUSSELL BRAND: I'm proud of The Trews because what it does is it gives us an opportunity to provide an

alternative news narrative. What I've noticed since I've come in this sphere of public debate talking about politics, which I do in my book with, like, input from insightful and brilliant figures such as Naomi Klein, Noam Chomsky, that, like, it's sort of like people are having a go at me, like I'm not allowed to participate. You know, "Shut up! Look at your hair! Listen to your accent! Be quiet!" It's like a really sort of fiercely guarded, like, realm—not just from the right, but from the left, as well. If you sort of go, "Hey, I'm actually from a background where people are affected by stuff like this. This is what we think. Can we talk about this in a different way?" people are so fiercely territorial and protective, it's interesting. And it's not difficult to see why there is such political stasis and such immobility, because people don't welcome new debate. Not ordinary people. Ordinary people like it. Ordinary people are engaged and excited. But I would say there's a kind of circuitous establishment that's interested in a kind of peculiar circle jerk of exchanging opinions.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain what you did at Occupy Democracy and what it is, what it is here in Britain.

RUSSELL BRAND: Well, Occupy—the Occupy movement is a leaderless, decentralized campaign movement, so it's the same in the U.K. as it is in America. There were a group of protesters occupying Parliament Square, a coalition of groups interested in issues such as, like, you know, fracking, animal rights, but primarily our inability to have any political purchase through democratic process, like that voting doesn't make any difference. No one's interested in presenting alternatives to draconian, restrictive trade agreements, whether they be European or TransAtlantic. And we have no—and these are the rules and regulations that affect people's ordinary life. And so, I suppose something like Occupy Democracy is people venting that frustration and demonstrating their belief that there's a need for change.

So I support that, because what I reckon is important, and what I talk about in my book, Amy, is that creative, local direct action is the answer, that we shouldn't be looking for sort of glamorous new figures to lead us. We shouldn't be looking to conventional politics. It's not going to provide any answers to people, like the women of the New Era Estate in Great Britain, who were being evicted from their homes because their areas got trendy now, so all of the rents have gone up. These people were going to be evicted from their homes. They organized themselves. They campaigned. And now Richard Benyon, MP, the wealthiest politician in the houses of Parliament there, has packed his bags and run from the confrontation. But still, the Westbrook group, the developers that own 90 percent of the estate, still have to be confronted. Still, Boris Johnson, the mayor of London, has to be confronted, because, you know, it's difficult to get any political purchase. There are no political figures that are interested in representing ordinary people.

AMY GOODMAN: Might you run for mayor of London?

RUSSELL BRAND: I don't think I would really want to be part of that political system. What I'm interested in is ordinary people being engaged, whether it's for union activity in their workplaces, new coalitions or people that are taking control of the places that they live, Amy.

AMY GOODMAN: You have talked a lot about the power of corporations and also materialism.

RUSSELL BRAND: How come you're allowed a glass, and mine's plastic? Why am I not trusted?

AMY GOODMAN: You can have mine.

RUSSELL BRAND: Why am I having so many warnings about swearing? You get glass; I get plastic. This is America versus England, isn't it? You've nicked our language. You've thrown our flag away, rejected our queen. And now you're taking all the glassware. Come on!

AMY GOODMAN: Thank you, Russell.

RUSSELL BRAND: Cheers! To freedom.

AMY GOODMAN: Corporate culture and materialism—I mean, I want to talk about your book, because you talk about the kind of revolution you want to see. Talk about the revolutions in your own life, how you've changed over time.

RUSSELL BRAND: Well, the reason I have such faith in the capacity for change, for people to change their lives, is because my own life has changed radically. All a revolution is, really, is to create structures outside of the existing structures, to create change without using the sanctioned means for change. And me, I've gone from a life of being impoverished and drug-addicted to a life where I'm sort of affluent and free from drugs. So, that's what gives me this belief that change is possible on an individual level.

AMY GOODMAN: Talk about how you beat addiction.

RUSSELL BRAND: I don't know that I beat addiction. One day at a time, I surrender to the fact that I am a drug addict. And with the help and support of other drug addicts and the belief in a higher power, I'm able to get daily reprieve from drugs, that is contingent on me being available to help other people with the disease of addiction, taking advice from people that have got more time than me, offering help to those that have got less.

And I think it's an important issue, because I think that actually drug addiction is people—like, the reason people are addicted to drugs is because there's sort of a deficit of happiness, a deficit of community, a deficit of connection. Joseph Campbell talked about our problems being due the lack of a communal myth. I think all of us feel a little bit—or a lot of us feel a little adrift, that we don't know how we're supposed to live, we don't know what we're supposed to do. And in the end, some kind of anesthetic becomes attractive. Certainly that's my personal experience. I recognize now that the thing that I was chasing after in my years of addiction was probably some sort of sense of communal connection or a connection to a higher thing.

AMY GOODMAN: You write very movingly about Philip Seymour Hoffman and also about Robin Williams, both dealing with addiction. Both died in the last year.

RUSSELL BRAND: Yes, well, I suppose those high-profile and sad deaths provide an opportunity to highlight how many lives are affected by addiction and the need to address it by different means. I think criminalizing and penalizing people that are ill, like Philip Seymour Hoffman or Robin Williams, is sort of pointless. It doesn't work. People are using more progressive means to tackle the issue of addiction, places like Canada and in Portugal and Switzerland. I think that the only way for drug addiction to be correctly addressed is for it to be regulated, regulated properly, not left in the hands of criminals—decriminalized and regulated.

AMY GOODMAN: And overall, the drug war, overall, how this fits into that larger story?

RUSSELL BRAND: It's even just as a piece of language, Amy. It's a bit of an odd thing to say, isn't it? We're doing a drug war. Bill Hicks, the American comedian, said, "If there is a drug war, and we're losing it, that means drug addicts are winning." That's really bad to lose a drug war to people that are high. So, like, it's the wrong attitude to have wars on terror, wars on drugs. Stop making things worse.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, the amount of money, for example, that goes into—in the name of fighting against drugs. Like yesterday, our big special was on Mexico—

RUSSELL BRAND: Was it?

AMY GOODMAN: —and these 43 students who disappeared in the state of Guerrero. And it turns out that the mayor and the police turned them over to drug gangs. And the question is—

RUSSELL BRAND: Good, good.

AMY GOODMAN: —going right up to the president, the billions of dollars, for example, the United States has given the Mexican military and Mexican police, in the name of the so-called drug war, where has it really gone? And is it in fact a real war, but a war against people, particularly poor people and indigenous people?

RUSSELL BRAND: Some people would argue, like in that brilliant film by Eugene Jarecki, *The House I Live In*, he argues that what's actually happening is that the bottom 15 percent of society are no longer needed because of the collapse of the manufacturing industry, so it's a lot better to just criminalize them and put them in prison. So, yeah, it's like it's a proxy war on poverty. It's a proxy race war. I certainly think that argument holds. I mean, I

think addiction can affect people from any economic or social background, but those who tend to suffer most are those without money. And there's no doubt that social conditions have a huge impact on people's tendency to get addicted to substances. I think if people live in communal environments where they've got access to support and—forgive me for using the word—love, then they're less likely to get addicted to drugs.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to go to an amazing moment you had in the U.S. media on Morning Joe.

RUSSELL BRAND: Do you?

AMY GOODMAN: But before I do that, I want to go to the Parliament right here.

RUSSELL BRAND: Do whatever you want.

AMY GOODMAN: This is the Parliament building, where you recently testified. You offered testimony on the issue of drugs?

RUSSELL BRAND: Didn't offer it. They drag you in there, to go, "Will you talk to a committee?" And I think the reason they got me in there was to draw attention to the fact that they were having a committee to debate drug laws. Since then, of course, drug laws have radically changed in the country. They haven't. They've done nothing. So, it was like a sort of a circus, you know, kangaroo court thing, when they just bring people in, have a little chat.

AMY GOODMAN: So let's go to Russell Brand in the British Parliament.

RUSSELL BRAND: It's more important that we regard people suffering from addiction with compassion and that there's a pragmatic, rather than symbolic, approach to treating it. And I think the legislative status of addiction and the criminalization of addicts is kind of symbolic, not really functional. I don't see how it especially helps. I'm not saying let's have a wacky free-for-all with people going around taking drugs. Didn't do me—didn't help me much.

KEITH VAZ: You're a former heroin addict.

RUSSELL BRAND: Yeah.

KEITH VAZ: Briefly, could you tell us how you got onto drugs and then how you managed to come off it, and how many years you were on hard drugs?

RUSSELL BRAND: I see you've incorporated the word "briefly" now into the question. As you already know, it's my propensity for verbosity.

I became a drug addict, I think, because of emotional difficulties, psychological difficulties, and perhaps a spiritual malady. For me, taking drugs and excessive drinking were the result of a psychological, spiritual or mental condition, so they're symptomatic. I was like sad, lonely, unhappy, detached, and drugs and alcohol, for me, seemed like a solution to that problem. Once I dealt with the emotional, spiritual, mental impetus, I no longer felt the need to take drugs or use drugs.

AMY GOODMAN: So that is Russell Brand testifying before the Parliament. And we're going to go to break—

RUSSELL BRAND: Why?

AMY GOODMAN: —to a music break for a minute. But you said something right as we were going into this.

RUSSELL BRAND: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: When I said, "Let's go to Russell Brand in Parliament," you said, "Get used to it"?

RUSSELL BRAND: "Get used to saying that." I was being silly.

AMY GOODMAN: No, but are you?

RUSSELL BRAND: What do you mean? Go to Parliament?

AMY GOODMAN: Would you consider running as a member of Parliament? Would you consider running?

RUSSELL BRAND: No, I want to help the ordinary people of America and Britain dismantle their corrupt political structures and replace them with directly responsible, directly democratic organizations. I don't want to help them lot continue to tyrannize people.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you think you could ever do that within the system, or do you think it's much more effective to be outside?

RUSSELL BRAND: Well, I would take the advice of people that know a lot more than me—Lawrence Lessig and Naomi Klein, Noam Chomsky. Most of those people say that change within the system is prevented, impossible, futile, that we need significant systemic change.

AMY GOODMAN: We're talking to Russell Brand. We're going to go to break, and then we're back right here in London, as we sit in front of Big Ben and MI5. Stay with us.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: That was Russell Brand, who is the well-known British comedian, actor and now really leading member of the British left. Last year—

RUSSELL BRAND: Am I?

AMY GOODMAN: —he edited a issue of the New Statesman. He spoke at Occupy Democracy—that's what an Occupy movement here in Britain is called, in London. Tell us about that music.

RUSSELL BRAND: Oh, well, what happened was, is that a thing started in our country where people were like saying—in my book, they said I'm loquacious and verbose, because I use long words. I love long words. In fact, I love all sorts of different words. I like specificity of language. I like hip-hop. I like Shakespeare. I like things where people use language well. So people, I think, to try and exclude me from the debate, posh people went, "Well, when you hear someone with that accent talking and using long words, one can imagine 'Parklife' being shouted"—in a reference to a 1994 Britpop anthem called "Parklife." So I thought, ah, all right, I'll do this song. So, me and these lads, The Rubberbandits, these Irish lads, the hip-hop group, did a version of "Parklife" where we refocused on the issues, issues such as austerity, decline of public services and the ineffectiveness of our current leaders and system.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, your book is getting a lot of positive reviews. The New York Times Book Review—

RUSSELL BRAND: And at times being savaged!

AMY GOODMAN: New York Times Book Review said "a relentless ride"—well, no, this was actually about My Booky Wook, your previous book.

RUSSELL BRAND: Yeah, this one, people can't wade into it hard enough.

AMY GOODMAN: "A relentless ride...The bloke can write." And Dwight Garner of The New York Times said, "I laughed out loud at least a dozen times."

RUSSELL BRAND: "Before I opened it."

AMY GOODMAN: That was—

RUSSELL BRAND: That's a Groucho Marx joke.

AMY GOODMAN: But I want to go to your moment in American media—you've had many, but this one was your appearance on MSNBC's Morning Joe last year, with co-host Mika Brzezinski introducing you by saying, quote, "He's a really big deal, I'm told. I'm not very pop-cultured, I'm sorry," and another co-host—well, that was Katty Kay, your countrywoman here from Britain—she does BBC in the United States—Katty Kay continually referring to you as Willy or Willy Brandt, right, the former German chancellor. About six minutes into the interview, the bottom of the screen reads, quote, "Russell Brand Takes Over, Dominating the MJ Set." This is a clip.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: OK, Russell Brand—

RUSSELL BRAND: This is what you all do for a living?

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Yes, yes.

RUSSELL BRAND: OK. But I'm here to—

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: I'm a professional.

RUSSELL BRAND: OK, well, let me help you. I'm here to—

KATTY KAY: Russell.

RUSSELL BRAND: —promote a tour called "Messiah Complex." It's here for the people of America. I want the people of America to come and see me do stand-up. Go to RussellBrand.tv, where you can purchase tickets to see me. These people, I'm sure, are typically very, very good at their jobs. What are you? You're conveying news to the people of America?

BRIAN SHACTMAN: Yes.

RUSSELL BRAND: People of America, we're going to be OK. Everything's all right. These are your trusted anchors.

KATTY KAY: [inaudible]

RUSSELL BRAND: Is that news lingo? Here's your papers. I'll shuffle them for you.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Oh, shuffle, shuffle the [inaudible].

RUSSELL BRAND: Give us that.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: That's good.

KATTY KAY: Pen. You need a pen, Russell, definitely.

RUSSELL BRAND: OK, coming up later. Thank you very much, Kat. OK, we're going to be talking about the situation with Edward Snowden, this whistleblower. Is it good what he's done for America? Or are our secrets being jeopardized by his intentions? We're going to be talking about that.

AMY GOODMAN: And there you have just a moment on Morning Joe. What happened?

RUSSELL BRAND: Well, what happened was, I went onto the television, and I was trying my hardest to be nice, and everyone was rude to me. So I defended myself, under the protocols of Britain, by just saying, "Stop bullying me, you lot. And also be more professional. If you're going to condescend to someone, don't condescend from

the gutter."

AMY GOODMAN: And you took over the notes?

RUSSELL BRAND: Yeah, oh, yeah, and then sort of just hosted the show.

AMY GOODMAN: Became a news reader.

RUSSELL BRAND: Yeah, in, I thought, a professional way.

AMY GOODMAN: What do you think of the U.S. media? I mean, you're there a lot.

RUSSELL BRAND: Some of it's good, because this is U.S. media, isn't it? So this is going well. I'm enjoying this. I don't even think that there's a national distinction. I think that what there is is media that's dominated by corporate interests, whether it's in Britain or France or America. So, like, when I've been there, I went on like—and I've been on some media, and everyone's really lovely and friendly and open-minded. But I think that—I think it's a commonly held view, and that is true, that debate is held within very narrow parameters, and if you try to stray outside them, you get into trouble. And that's why I think it's good to do it comedically and lightheartedly, not to respect the parameters of debate and not to stay—not to accept the frame of, "Oh, well, you can vote for this person, or you can vote for that person, but you can't take money out of politics and have ordinary people represented." Look, we can't just say aloud that we live under a feudal system, we live under an oligarchy, and we have no political purchase. We have no purchase. We have no impact on power. America and Great Britain are not run for ordinary people; it's run for corporations. But this time is coming to an end, so that's a good thing.

Is it true your dad went to summer camp with Chomsky? And if it is true, I bet Chomsky was boring on summer camp: "OK, I'm not doing that. That's childish. No, come on, sit down. This summer camp is corrupt. I refuse to abide by this system, while it's quite clear that this summer camp is run by the interests of the leaders there, and we, the children, are not given any time to be free." What about spring break with Chomsky? "Spring break!" "No, well, that's—you've revealed there the truth there, the manufacture of the nipple consent."

AMY GOODMAN: I actually think Chomsky was pretty playful at camp.

RUSSELL BRAND: Was he? Playful Chomsky?

AMY GOODMAN: Well, let's go for a moment to Noam Chomsky. Let's go to Noam Chomsky—

RUSSELL BRAND: Segue.

AMY GOODMAN: —just a couple weeks ago. I had this interesting experience of being able to do a public interview with him at the U.N. General Assembly.

RUSSELL BRAND: Was it good?

AMY GOODMAN: Eight hundred people packed in—ambassadors, people from the public all over the world. And I want to get your comment on what he has to say.

AMY GOODMAN: What do you think is the most—the single most important action the United States can take? And what about its role over the years? What is its interest here?

NOAM CHOMSKY: Well, one important action that the United States could take is to live up to its own laws. Of course, it would be nice if it lived up to international law, but maybe that's too much to ask, but live up to its own laws. And there are several. And here, incidentally, I have in mind advice to activists also, who I think ought to be organizing and educating in this direction. There are two crucial cases.

One of them is what's called the Leahy Law. Patrick Leahy, Senator Leahy, introduced legislation called the Leahy Law, which bars sending weapons to any military units which are involved in consistent human rights

violations. There isn't the slightest doubt that the Israeli army is involved in massive human rights violations, which means that all dispatch of U.S. arms to Israel is in violation of U.S. law. I think that's significant. The U.S. should be called upon by its own citizens to—and by others, to adhere to U.S. law, which also happens to conform to international law in this case, as Amnesty International, for example, for years has been calling for an arms embargo against Israel for this reason. These are all steps that can be taken.

The second is the tax-exempt status that is given to organizations in the United States which are directly involved in the occupation and in significant attacks on human and civil rights within Israel itself, like the Jewish National Fund. Take a look at its charter with the state of Israel, which commits it to acting for the benefit of people of Jewish race, religion and origin within Israel. One of the consequences of that is that by a complex array of laws and administrative practices, the fund pretty much administers about 90 percent of the land of the country, with real consequences.

AMY GOODMAN: You've been listening to Noam Chomsky. He was speaking at the U.N. General Assembly before 800 people—ambassadors from around the world. It wasn't the actual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, but there were so many people who came out to see him that they had to move it into the largest chamber of the U.N. Our guest today is Russell Brand, who is a huge fan of Noam Chomsky.

RUSSELL BRAND: And as good as him at doing political analysis, I think.

AMY GOODMAN: And you bring him up in Revolution.

RUSSELL BRAND: Yeah, I do. But what's more important, Amy, is you just admitted while that was on that Noam Chomsky bit your father.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, this is an ongoing debate—

RUSSELL BRAND: That's a good quote. That should be on the New York Post front page.

AMY GOODMAN: —that we are having.

RUSSELL BRAND: "Chomsky bit my father!"

AMY GOODMAN: I'm not clear if it was—we should say—

RUSSELL BRAND: Especially if it's called "Chompsky." "Chompsky!"

AMY GOODMAN: They were bunkmates.

RUSSELL BRAND: "Well, there you go."

AMY GOODMAN: I might have confused—

RUSSELL BRAND: Bunkmates? This is getting worse.

AMY GOODMAN: I might have confused—

RUSSELL BRAND: In my country, that means—

AMY GOODMAN: —him biting my father with simply Chomsky's biting wit. I might have gotten confused.

RUSSELL BRAND: Which is exactly how the manufacture of consent and media manipulation of information happens, Amy. A real event concerning Noam Chomsky happens, and you manipulate it. All of his theories are right. This is a bit where I wrote about Noam Chomsky in my book.

AMY GOODMAN: So, read from your chapter—

RUSSELL BRAND: This is the Noam Chomsky bit.

AMY GOODMAN: Yes.

RUSSELL BRAND: Because I love Noam Chomsky. "Chomsky—who must have one of the most satisfying names to say in the world, which is apposite for a linguist—explains how [the Monroe Doctrine] has been used to validate U.S. terror"—no offense, Americans, I don't mean you, mean your government, and our government, too—" domestically and abroad, since 1823. This is when the Monroe Doctrine was established. Because you are childish, you think that the Monroe Doctrine is a pledge to act all sexy and emphysemic, lifting up yer frock, going 'poo-poo-pee-doo.' It ain't. It was a diplomatic commitment from a century and a half ago when the Americans decided that they intended to 'dominate the hemisphere,' which is an outlandish objective. It sounds like the sort of devilish intention that kept the British ... establishment occupied: 'I'd like to dominate your hemisphere,'"— people say over there, and I'm using it as a sexual pun, and I had to drop a bit there, because you made me promise not to swear—"they hollered into hospital wards and children's homes.

"The United States have achieved this domination primarily by scaring us all witless and starting wars either explicitly or by proxy, primarily in countries where they were really confident they would win.

"I'm not saying I'm as clever as Chomsky—that would be mad [...]—but, as is always the case with a prefix of this nature, here is something that makes it seem like [I am trying to say that]."

So there's a bit of it. Like, I use this brilliant essay from Noam Chomsky. I analyze it and try and put it in simple language so that people that wouldn't normally listen to Chomsky go, "Oh, yeah, that was a laugh." But now I know that he savaged your father with his fangs, I think I might scribble it out with a crayon.

AMY GOODMAN: I'm sorry, Noam. I'm really sorry—

RUSSELL BRAND: He's a cannibal!

AMY GOODMAN: —that this got a little out of hand. But, Russell, in the headlines today, we talked about the Wal-Mart protesters around the United States, people in the Capitol who feed the senators, who just came back from break, calling for a \$15 minimum wage, and this interesting study that found the six heirs to the Wal-Mart fortune make as much as the bottom 79 percent of black families in the United States combined.

RUSSELL BRAND: That's a worrying statistic and an indication that you can't claim to be the land of the free when that's happening, not when people have got money just because they emerged from the correct vagina and having as much money as 70 percent of—well, what is it?—185 million Americans, but you've framed it racially, as well. It's really, really quite worrying. I think there is sort of room for some kind of wealth distribution.

AMY GOODMAN: And this week has also been historic in Mike Brown's parents going to Geneva and testifying around the issue of torture, a whole issue of police brutality. At any moment now, a decision is going to be made by a grand jury over whether the police officer who killed Mike Brown, Darren Wilson, will be indicted.

RUSSELL BRAND: It's unfortunate. It's a really scary, terrible incident, and what's happening in Ferguson more broadly is frightening. But what I heard was that \$4.2 billion worth of military equipment have been transferred to local police authorities across the United States. So the militarization of police forces in your country and in our country is terrifying. It's almost like they're anticipating further public unrest, and instead of placating members of the population through fairness, redistribution of wealth, not beating them up and shooting them, they've decided to just arm the police. "Well, we're going to have to shoot them a bit, then shoot them some more." It's really sort of frightening. I think what's happening in Ferguson, we'll be seeing a lot more of that in countries all over the world, as this growing disparity between rich and poor, this gulf of inequality, continues.

AMY GOODMAN: You know, we have a law, Posse Comitatus, that says troops can't—

RUSSELL BRAND: What? Hakuna matata? That's from The Lion King. That's not a law. What is it called?

AMY GOODMAN: Troops can't—Posse Comitatus, that says—

RUSSELL BRAND: Why is it called that in America?

AMY GOODMAN: —troops can't march through the streets of the United States.

RUSSELL BRAND: Hakuna matata?

AMY GOODMAN: And I wonder if the arming of police is a way of getting around that.

RUSSELL BRAND: Probably.

AMY GOODMAN: Because you then have police with military weapons, with tanks, rolling down the streets of the United States.

RUSSELL BRAND: That's really worrying. That's sort of—you know those people, survivalists, that live in a mountain with a rifle and say, "We want to set up our own society based on camo and eating squirrels." Makes you think that they've got a point, doesn't it? You know, if the government are trying to find proxy ways to militarize the police force and march them through the streets. But my hope comes from the fact that members of the police force that I know, in our country and in your country, they're ordinary people from ordinary backgrounds that, somewhere in them, know that they're there to protect and to serve the public, not to be the henchmen of the establishment.

AMY GOODMAN: I wanted to get your take, since you go back and forth between the United States and Britain, on—you talked about the U.S. midterm elections. So, now the Republicans are in charge in Senate, and so, when you look at the different committees, the new head of the Environment Committee is James Inhofe, who is the leading climate change denier. He's the head of the Environment Committee of the Senate. Naomi Klein speaks a lot about him and also, of course, in her book, *This Changes Everything*, about the issue of climate change and what we can do—*This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*. You talk about Naomi Klein in *Revolution*. You actually just recently interviewed her, right?

RUSSELL BRAND: Yes.

AMY GOODMAN: Was it in *The Trews*?

RUSSELL BRAND: It was in *The Trews*, yeah. She was kind enough to come on, and I read some of her book, she read a little bit of mine. And from Naomi Klein, I learned that capitalism isn't going to voluntarily change. Exxon, who have recorded record profits and can only \$48 billion a year using the practices they currently do, are not going to change without a fight. They're not going to start saying, "Oh, well, let's go into renewable energy. Let's have a windmill farm." They are happy with the things the way they are. It's only with creative direct action, it's only with the application of pressure from ordinary people, that there will be any kind of change.

AMY GOODMAN: Russell, we just have a minute. What gives you hope?

RUSSELL BRAND: Everything gives me hope, because every—my hope comes from the fact that I know that everybody wants change. I know that people are not apathetic. I know that people are ready for change. I know that alternatives are possible and that you constantly see how hard the establishment has to work to maintain order. Look at all these institutions, the banks of the Thames lined with institutions to hold ordinary people down. Constantly through the media, they try to prevent different arguments emerging. That is because they know change is inevitable. Change is just a different story. We, people in the media, have an obligation to reframe this argument, to tell people that they can change the world, that we are connected to one another. We have more in common with each other. We have more in common with the people we're bombing than the people we're bombing them for. People that say the system works work for the system. We can change the world. The revolution can begin as soon as you decide it does in yourself, Amy.

AMY GOODMAN: So, there you have it. Russell Brand, his new book is called *Revolution*.

RUSSELL BRAND: And Noam Chomsky is a cannibal.

AMY GOODMAN: That does it for our show, and I want to thank all the folks who have made this broadcast possible. Special thanks to Mike Burke and Renée Feltz and Nermeen Shaikh and Aaron Maté and Steve Martinez, Sam Alcott, Hany Massoud, Robby Karran, Deena Guzder, Amy Littlefield, Julie Crosby, Becca Staley, Denis Moynihan.

RUSSELL BRAND: No, he was terrible.

AMY GOODMAN: This is Democracy Now!, democracynow.org, The War and Peace Report.

RUSSELL BRAND: Denis was useless.

AMY GOODMAN: I'm Amy Goodman. Thanks so much for joining us.

RUSSELL BRAND: Denis should be ashamed.

http://www.democracynow.org/2015/1/2/russell_brand_on_revolution_fighting_inequality

2014, Ap 15 **Who Goes to Jail? Matt Taibbi on American Injustice Gap from Wall Street to Main Street**

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/4/15/who_goes_to_jail_matt_taibbi

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2014-0415.mp4>

<http://traffic.libsyn.com/democracynow/dn2014-0415-1.mp3>

Guests: Matt Taibbi, award-winning journalist formerly with Rolling Stone magazine, now with First Look Media. His book, **The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap**, has just been released.



Award-winning journalist Matt Taibbi is out with an explosive new book that asks why the vast majority of white-collar criminals have avoided prison since the financial crisis began, while an unequal justice system imprisons the poor and people of color on a mass scale. In "The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap," Taibbi explores how the Depression-level income gap between the wealthy and the poor is mirrored by a "justice" gap in who is targeted for prosecution and imprisonment. "It is much more grotesque to consider the non-enforcement of white-collar criminals when you do consider how incredibly aggressive law enforcement is with regard to everybody else," Taibbi says.

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AARON MATÉ: Today we dedicate much of the hour to a conversation with award-winning journalist Matt Taibbi, who you may know from his reporting on financial crimes. Well, now Taibbi is back with an explosive new book that asks why these crimes have gone unpunished as an unequal justice system targets the most vulnerable. The gap between what the poorest make and what the wealthiest bring home has reached levels not seen since the Great Depression, and the drug war has fueled the mass incarceration of the poor and people of color.

AMY GOODMAN: Earlier this month, attorney James Kidney, who was retiring from the Securities and Exchange Commission, gave a widely reported speech at his retirement party. He said that his bosses were too, quote, "tentative and fearful" to hold Wall Street accountable for the 2008 economic meltdown. Kidney, who joined the SEC in 1986, had tried and failed to bring charges against more executives in the agency's 2010 case against Goldman Sachs. He said the SEC has become, quote, "an agency that polices the broken windows on the street level and rarely goes to the penthouse floors. ... Tough enforcement, risky enforcement, is subject to extensive negotiation and weakening," he said.

Well, for more, we turn to our guest, Matt Taibbi, award-winning journalist, formerly with Rolling Stone magazine, now with First Look Media. His new book is called *The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap*.

Matt, we welcome you back to Democracy Now! It's a remarkable, important, certainly needed book—

MATT TAIBBI: Oh, thank you.

AMY GOODMAN: —in this day and age. Talk about the thesis. What is the divide?

MATT TAIBBI: Well, this book grew out of my experience covering Wall Street. I've obviously been doing it since the crash in 2008. And over and over again, I would cover these very complex and often very socially destructive capers committed by white-collar criminals. And the punchline to all of the stories were basically the same: Nobody would get indicted; nobody went to jail. And after a while, I started to become interested specifically in that phenomenon. Why was there no enforcement of any of this? And around the time of the Occupy protest, I decided to write this book, and then I shifted my focus to try to learn a lot more for myself about who does go to

jail in this country, because I thought you really can't make this comparison accurately until you learn about both sides of the equation, because it's actually much more grotesque to consider the non-enforcement of white-collar criminals when you do consider how incredibly aggressive law enforcement is with regard to everybody else.

AARON MATÉ: Now, you spent time with the—with the poor and vulnerable and people of color, who have been targeted by this system. There was one case of a man in New York, who lives in Bed-Stuy, standing outside of his home—

MATT TAIBBI: Right.

AARON MATÉ: —who was arrested. Can you take it from there?

MATT TAIBBI: Yeah, sure. I was actually in a—I was in a law office in Brooklyn, and I was actually waiting to speak to a lawyer about another case, when I met this 35-year-old African-American man, a bus driver. And I asked him what he was there for, and he told me that he had been arrested for, quote-unquote, "obstructing pedestrian traffic." And I thought he was kidding. You know, I didn't know what that meant. And I asked him to show me his summons, and he pulled out a little—little piece of pink paper, and there it was. It was written, you know, "obstructing pedestrian traffic," which it turns out it meant that he was standing in front of his own house at 1:00 in the morning, and the police just didn't like the way he looked and arrested him.

And this is part of the disorderly conduct statute here in New York, but this is one of these offenses that people get roped in for. It's part of what a city councilman in another city called an "epidemic of false arrests," basically these new stats-based police strategies. The whole idea is to rope in as many people as you can, see how many of them have guns or warrants, and then basically throw back the innocent ones. But the problem is they don't throw back everybody. They end up sweeping up a lot of innocent people and charging them with really pointless crimes.

AARON MATÉ: There's a very comic scene where then he goes to court, and he has a hard time convincing his public defender why he doesn't want to pay a fine for standing in front of his home.

MATT TAIBBI: Yeah, and this is something that I encountered over and over and over again, is that people who were charged with these minor sort of harassing offenses, they—when the state discovers that the case against them is not very good, they start offering deals to the accused. And when people protest that "I'm not going to plead, because I didn't do anything wrong," they keep offering better and better and better deals. And no one can understand why they won't plead guilty, because, in reality, most people do. They will end up taking—

AMY GOODMAN: Like all the bankers plead guilty.

MATT TAIBBI: Right, yeah, exactly. Of course, it's completely the opposite situation on the other side of the coin. But in the case of Andrew, the guy who was arrested for obstructing pedestrian traffic, he literally could not convince his own lawyer that he was innocent. And it took a long, long time before they got the judge to ask the policeman on duty if there was actually anybody else on the street to obstruct. And it wasn't until that moment that they dismissed the case, and it just took that long.

AMY GOODMAN: So let's talk about the other side. And I want to go to Attorney General Eric Holder, his remarks before the Senate Judiciary Committee last May in which he suggests that some banks are just too big to jail.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER: I am concerned that the size of some of these institutions becomes so large that it does become difficult for us to—to prosecute them when we are hit with indications that if you do prosecute, if you do bring a criminal charge, it will have a negative impact on the national economy, perhaps even the world economy. And I think that is a function of the fact that some of these institutions have become too large. Again, I'm not talking about HSBC; this is just a more general comment. I think it has an inhibiting influence, impact, on our ability to bring resolutions that I think would be more appropriate.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Attorney General Eric Holder testifying before Congress. His remarks were widely

criticized. This is Federal Judge Jed Rakoff speaking last November at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

JUDGE JED RAKOFF: To a federal judge, who takes an oath to apply the law equally to rich and poor, this excuse, sometimes labeled the too-big-to-jail excuse, is, frankly, disturbing for what it says about the department's apparent disregard for equality under the law.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Federal Judge Jed Rakoff. Matt Taibbi, if you could respond? And then talk about the history of Eric Holder, where he came from.

MATT TAIBBI: Well, first of all, this idea that some companies are too big to jail, it makes some sense in the abstract. In a vacuum, of course it makes sense. If you have a company, a storied company that may have existed for a hundred, 150 years, that employs tens or maybe even 100,000 people, you may not want to criminally charge that company willy-nilly and wreck the company and cause lots of people to lose their jobs.

But there are two problems with that line of thinking if you use it over and over and over again. One is that there's no reason you can't proceed against individuals in those companies. It's understandable to maybe not charge the company, but in the case of a company like HSBC, which admitted to laundering \$850 million for a pair of Central and South American drug cartels, somebody has to go to jail in that case. If you're going to put people in jail for having a joint in their pocket or for slinging dime bags on the corner in a city street, you cannot let people who laundered \$800 million for the worst drug offenders in the world walk.

AMY GOODMAN: Wait, this can't be a parenthetical. Explain what you're talking about with HSBC.

MATT TAIBBI: So, HSBC, again, this is one of the world's largest banks. It's Europe's largest bank. And a few years ago, they got caught, swept up for a variety of offenses, money-laundering offenses. But one of them involved admitting that they had laundered \$850 million for a pair—for two drug cartels, one in Mexico and one in South America, and including the notorious Sinaloa drug cartel in Mexico that is suspected in thousands of murders.

And in that case, they paid a fine; they paid a \$1.9 billion fine. And some of the executives had to defer their bonuses for a period of five years—not give them up, defer them. But there were no individual consequences for any of the executives. Nobody had to pull money out of their own pockets for permanently. And nobody did a single day in jail in that case.

And that, to me, was an incredibly striking case. I ran that very day to the courthouse here in New York, and I asked around to the public defenders, you know, "What's the dumbest drug case you had today?" And I found somebody who had been thrown in Rikers for 47 days for having a joint in his pocket. So—

AMY GOODMAN: And that's—is that even illegal?

MATT TAIBBI: No, in New York City, actually, it's not illegal to carry a joint around in your pocket. It was decriminalized way back in the late '70s. But with part of the now past stop-and-frisk, what they do is they would stop you, and then they would search you and force you to empty your pockets. When you empty your pockets, now it's no longer concealed, and now it's illegal again. So they had—in that year, they had 50,000 marijuana arrests, even though marijuana—having marijuana was technically decriminalized at the time.

So, my point was: Here's somebody at the bottom, he's a consumer of the illegal narcotics business, and he's going to jail, and then you have these people who are at the very top of the illegal narcotics business, and they're getting a complete walk. And that's just totally unacceptable.

AARON MATÉ: But back to this doctrine that you can't punish an entire company for the misdeeds of a few because you might hurt the economy, you might hurt shareholders, you know, some of which are pension holders and—pension funds and so forth, how do you get from hurting a—how do you equate hurting an entire company to just not jailing a couple of executives?

MATT TAIBBI: Well, that's the whole point. They've conflated the two things. Originally—so, this—to answer the second part of your original question, "Where does this come from? Where does this doctrine come from?" way back in 1999, when Eric Holder was a deputy attorney general in the—in Clinton's administration, he wrote a memo that has now come to be known as "the Holder Memo." And in it, he outlined a number of things. Actually, it was originally considered a get-tough-on-corporate-crime memo, because it gave prosecutors a number of new tools with which they could go after corporate criminals. But at the bottom of it, there was this thing that he laid out called the "collateral consequences doctrine." And what "collateral consequences" meant was that if you're a prosecutor and you're targeting one of these big corporate offenders and you're worried that you may affect innocent victims, that shareholders or innocent executives may lose their jobs, you may consider other alternatives, other remedies besides criminal prosecutions—in other words, fines, nonprosecution agreements, deferred prosecution agreements. And again, at the time, it was a completely sensible thing to lay out. Of course it makes sense to not always destroy a company if you can avoid it. But what they've done is they've conflated that sometimes-sensible policy with a policy of not going after any individuals for any crimes. And that's just totally unacceptable.

AARON MATÉ: Is it not the case that some of these cases are just too complex to explain to a jury?

MATT TAIBBI: Yes. And that—well, they are complex, and juries do have a difficult time with them, but they're not impossible to explain to a jury. I mean, I attended a trial involving bid rigging in the municipal bond markets where they obtained convictions. Now, that case couldn't have been more complicated. That was as hard as a case gets. And I actually watched some of the jurors fighting off sleep in the early days of the trial. That's how difficult it was. And in that case, amusingly, one of the attorneys for the banks got up initially, and he tried to defend his client's behavior by saying, you know, "When you call up a—if your washing machine breaks and you call the repairman and he tells you how much it costs, you just have to trust him what the price is because you don't understand how to fix your washing machine, and we do." In other words, this stuff is so complex, you just have to take our word for it that we didn't commit a crime. And—but that excuse, I think that's a weak excuse that prosecutors give out. It's a cop-out for not taking on, you know, difficult cases. Rich or poor, black or white, if somebody has broken the law, you should want to go after wrongdoers no matter who they are, and the fact that it's a difficult crime to prove should just be more of a challenge for you.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to turn to remarks by Lanny Breuer in 2012 about prosecuting large companies. At the time, he was the assistant attorney general. He spoke before the New York City Bar Association.

LANNY BREUER: I personally feel that it's my duty to consider whether individual employees, with no responsibility for or knowledge of misconduct committed by others in the same company, are going to lose their livelihood if we indict the corporation. In large multinational companies, the jobs of tens of thousands of employees can literally be at stake. And in some cases, the health of an industry or the markets are a very real factor. Those are the kinds of considerations in white-collar cases that literally keep me up at night, and which must, must play a role in responsible enforcement.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Lanny Breuer in 2012, who was like number two in the Justice Department.

MATT TAIBBI: He was the head of the Criminal Division, so he's basically the top cop in America at the time.

AMY GOODMAN: He was at the Justice Department; of course, Eric Holder is the attorney general—both from the same company. Respond to what he said, and then talk about Covington & Burling.

MATT TAIBBI: Well, first of all, his—that whole thing about the innocent white-collar employees perhaps losing their livelihoods keeping him up at night, I want to know what his response is to, you know, the idea that maybe a single mother on welfare is going to lose her kids because she's going to lose custody in an \$800 welfare fraud case. You know, I saw so many of these cases that it was—that is was just overwhelming to me. Those are the kinds of things that would keep me up at night if I were the attorney general, thinking about the consequences that ordinary people feel—suffer when they are caught up in the criminal justice system.

People—for instance, again, going back to welfare fraud, your relatives can lose their Section 8 housing. So, you know, if you're—again, if you're on welfare and you get caught in a fraud case, that may just involve checking the

wrong box or having somebody, one of your neighbors, say that you have a boyfriend living in your house, when you really don't, your mother or your grandmother can lose their housing because of something like that. That would be the stuff that would keep me up at night. I mean, I wouldn't be worried about millionaire and billionaire executives, you know, who are working at these banks, if I were Lanny Breuer. So that tells you a lot about the priorities of somebody like him.

AMY GOODMAN: And talk about Lanny Breuer, Eric Holder, where they come from, where they go back to.

MATT TAIBBI: So they both came from a law firm called Covington & Burling, which in the 2000s represented basically every single one of the too-big-to-fail banks. They were also involved in the setting up of the electronic mortgage registry, so they played an enormous role in the subprime mortgage crisis.

But here's the key thing about the presence of these two people at the head of the attorney—of the Justice Department. Prosecutors, by and large—and I interviewed a lot of prosecutors for this book—they basically all have the same personality, the old-school prosecutors. They're just—if you think of somebody like Eliot Spitzer, they're all like bulldogs. They just want to get their—you know, get their target; by hook or crook, it doesn't really matter. They have this ferocious aspect to their personalities. And it's an admirable quality in a prosecutor. They're all kind of the same, in a certain way. Cops are the same way. But in the 2000s, that kind of person started to be replaced in the regulatory system by a new kind of figure who tended to come from the corporate defense community. And their attitude was not, you know, get their target at all costs; it was more: "Let's bring a bunch of people in a room and hammer out a solution where all the sides are going to end up walking out happy." And that's why we end up with settlements, like the \$13 billion Chase settlement last year or the \$1.9 billion HSBC settlement, instead of prosecutions.

AMY GOODMAN: Covington & Burling represented JPMorgan Chase.

MATT TAIBBI: They did, yeah, and a host of other banks that also were involved in nonprosecutions during this time. So, I mean, it's—you have a whole bunch of people sort of at the top of the regulatory agencies, whether it's Justice, the SEC, the CFTC, maybe the Enforcement Division of the SEC, who all came from these big banks or from law firms that represented these big banks. And it's a very incestuous community. And just like you talked about with James Kidney, the SEC official who left, as a result of this kind of merry-go-round of people who all work for the same companies—and they're going to go to government for a while, then they're going to go back to the corporate defense community after they leave and make millions of dollars—they're very, very reluctant to be aggressive against these companies, because it's their—culturally, they're the same people as their targets, whereas there isn't that same simpatico with the very poor. And I think that's a very—it's an important distinction to make, and people don't understand it.

AARON MATÉ: You also suggest that Holder and Breuer are perhaps overly concerned with their conviction rate —

MATT TAIBBI: Oh, yeah.

AARON MATÉ: —and that's why they don't go after these banks.

MATT TAIBBI: Again, that's something I heard over and over again from people within the Justice Department, that once those two came in, the edict came down from above that we were only going to go after cases where we were absolutely sure we were going to win. Now, you can never guarantee a victory in any criminal case, and oftentimes the cases are difficult to prove or the evidence may not be 100 percent there, but the state has a moral obligation to proceed with investigations and, in many cases, criminal cases against people who are guilty. You know, the fact that it's difficult shouldn't be a limiting factor. And that's why you saw—instead of cases against these big banks, you saw ridiculously large amounts of resources devoted to things like prosecuting Barry Bonds or Roger Clemens, you know, cases where there are like only a couple of pieces of evidence and it was hard to screw up. And yet, you know, they didn't always succeed even in those cases. So, it was a terrible, terrible thing for the Justice Department during that period.

AMY GOODMAN: We're going to break, then come back to this conversation. The award-winning journalist Matt

Taibbi is with us, formerly with Rolling Stone magazine. His new book is called *The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap*. When the government does go after banks, what banks do they go after? We'll talk about that in a minute.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: This is Democracy Now!, democracynow.org, The War and Peace Report. I'm Amy Goodman, with Aaron Maté.

AARON MATÉ: Well, we are speaking with Matt Taibbi, the award-winning journalist formerly with Rolling Stone magazine, now with First Look Media. His book is *The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap*. Now, turning to the banks—or the bank that was prosecuted, Abacus Bank, last May it became the first bank to be indicted in Manhattan in over two decades. Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. announced the indictment.

CYRUS VANCE JR.: Today we are announcing the indictment or guilty pleas of 19 individuals on charges including mortgage fraud, securities fraud and conspiracy, as well as the indictment of Abacus Federal Savings Bank, a federally chartered bank that has been catering to the Chinese immigrant community since 1984. Now, these defendants—the bank and former employees and managers from its loan department—are charged with engaging in a systematic scheme to falsify and fabricate loan applications to the Federal National Mortgage Association, commonly known as Fannie Mae, so that borrowers who would otherwise not legally qualify for Fannie Mae's mortgages could obtain them unlawfully. This is a large-scale mortgage fraud case that we estimate to include hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of falsified loan applications. If we have learned anything from the recent mortgage crisis, it's that at some point these schemes unravel, and taxpayers can be left holding the bag. Financial institutions, in short, have to obey the law and follow the rules. Our financial system is predicated on this basic concept.

AARON MATÉ: That's Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance Jr. Matt Taibbi, you were at this trial. You heard Prosecutor Vance there suggesting some link here to the financial crisis, but that wasn't the case.

MATT TAIBBI: So, this is—I mean, it's almost humorous. It's not humorous for the bank involved, obviously. But here he is holding this grand press conference. They actually had a chain gang, where they chained 19 of the defendants together and hauled them into court for this—for this exercise.

AMY GOODMAN: All working for Abacus?

MATT TAIBBI: All working for Abacus. And these are working-class Chinese immigrants, basically. The highest-ranking official in this entire case made \$90,000 a year. Many of them didn't speak English. This is a small bank wedged between two noodle shops in Chinatown. And this was the target they chose to go against as a symbol of the financial crisis? In the chain gang incident, actually, three of the—three of the defendants had actually already been arraigned, but they asked them to volunteer to come down to the courthouse for the photo op that day, brought them in, chained them up to the rest of the defendants so they could be re-arraigned for the benefit of the cameras.

But the point of this whole thing is that Abacus Federal Savings Bank, which is a small, community, minority bank in Manhattan, this was the sole target of any reprisal by the federal—by the government in the wake of the financial crisis. And they're a stone's throw from all these gigantic skyscrapers, you know, housing all of these other major banks that committed crimes that were hundreds of times worse than Abacus was even accused of. And it was such a visually striking contrast for me that that's where I wanted to start the book, because here you have this bank being arraigned in downtown Manhattan, and they looked northward towards Chinatown for their target as opposed to, you know, a few blocks south, where they could have found—you know, walked in any direction and found an appropriate target.

AMY GOODMAN: Contrast that with Jamie Dimon testifying before—what was it—the Senate Judiciary Committee, the head of JPMorgan Chase. And talk about what his bank was fined for and what he ultimately—what happened to him.

MATT TAIBBI: So, Jamie Dimon is the CEO of JPMorgan Chase, and they—last year that bank paid \$20 billion in fines, which is an extraordinary number. Think about it. I think it beats by a factor of five the record for the largest amount of regulatory fines in a single year, which was previously held by BP for their Deepwater Horizon incident. They were accused of an extraordinary array of things, everything from being Bernie Madoff's banker and not raising red flags early enough, to manipulating energy prices in Michigan and California, to failing to disclose to investors the extent of losses in the London Whale episode, to abuses during the subprime mortgage period by some of their subsidiaries. The list of things goes on and on and on and on. And—

AMY GOODMAN: I mean, if this were translated into common criminal law—

MATT TAIBBI: Right.

AMY GOODMAN: —this is—this is sort of replacing hundreds of years in prison for many different people.

MATT TAIBBI: Oh, yeah, absolutely. I mean, I made the point in another case—there was another case involving a company called General Reinsurance where a bunch of executives were charged with a \$750 million stock fraud, that that amount of fraud that year was more than the total value of all the cars stolen in the American Northeast that same year. So you think about everybody who's doing time for a stolen car that year, and, you know, these guys ultimately got off on a technicality.

So, again, going back to Chase, they paid \$20 billion in fines. And what the government always says in response to the question of why aren't these guys in jail, they always say, "Well, we don't have enough evidence. These cases are hard to make." But my question is, over and over again, they somehow seem to have enough leverage to get billions of dollars of fines out of these companies, but not enough leverage to get even a day in jail for any of their executives? It doesn't add up. Logically, it's a total non sequitur. There's no way you can have a company paying that much money and not have somebody guilty of a crime. It's just—it's not possible.

AARON MATÉ: And Jamie Dimon, of course, gets a 74 percent raise.

MATT TAIBBI: Yeah, exactly. I mean, that's the punchline to this whole thing, right? I mean, if you were, you know, the head of any other business—Alex Pareene of Salon.com made this point, that if he were running a restaurant and he got the biggest fine in the history of restaurants, there is no way that he would be kept in, kept on the job as the head of the company. But he was not only not fired, not only not prosecuted, but he was kept in the job, and he got a 74 percent raise. And they essentially paid for \$20 billion fines by laying off 7,500 lower-level workers that year, and so that's where the pain came from.

AMY GOODMAN: Let's go to Richard Fuld, the final chair and chief executive officer of Lehman Brothers. In 2008, he spoke before the House of Representatives Oversight Committee and was grilled about his own exorbitant earnings as the bank went under. This is Committee Chair Henry Waxman questioning Fuld.

REP. HENRY WAXMAN: You've been able to pocket close to half-a-million dollars. And my question to you is, a lot of people ask: Is that fair for the CEO of a company that's now bankrupt to have made that kind of money? It's just unimaginable to so many people.

RICHARD FULD: I would say to you the 500 number is not accurate. I would say to you that although it's still a large number, I think, for the years that you're talking about here, I believe my cash compensation was close to \$60 million, which you have indicated here. And I believe the amount that I took out of the company over and above that was, I believe, a little bit less than \$250 million.

AMY GOODMAN: Your response to the last head of Lehman Brothers talking about his salary?

MATT TAIBBI: Well, first of all, there was a whistleblower within Lehman Brothers who wrote to the SEC before Lehman Brothers collapsed, talking about how Fuld had actually earned a significantly larger amount of money than he represented there in Congress. It's quite possible that if the SEC had followed up on some of those complaints by that whistleblower, that they might have uncovered some of the corruption at Lehman Brothers ahead of time and maybe, possibly even headed off that disaster.

But what's interesting—what's symbolic about Richard Fuld is that here's a guy who nearly blew up the planet by, you know, loading up his company with deadly leverage and making a string of irresponsible decisions to over-invest in subprime mortgages, and the collapse of the company resulted in all of us having to pay these enormous bailouts. But Fuld walked away with, by his count, \$300 million, maybe \$350 [million], but by the count of some others, more closer to half-a-billion dollars, and he kept the money. And that is a consistent theme of the financial crisis. Not only were these guys not prosecuted, they got to keep all of their money, all of the ill-gotten gains that they made during these periods.

AMY GOODMAN: You call that chapter "The Greatest Bank Robbery You Never Heard Of."

MATT TAIBBI: Right, yeah. No, there was something that happened at Lehman Brothers at the end of the—you know, when the company went out of business. It was—there was essentially a merger with the British bank, Barclays, and there was an incredibly interesting episode where a series of Lehman insiders agreed to take upwards of \$300 million in compensation—in future compensation from Barclays, before they did the process of valuating the company for sale to Barclays. I know that sounds complicated, but basically they took jobs at Barclays, and then they basically marked down the price of Barclays so that the Lehman creditors got less money in the end. So, if you were—if you lost money in the Lehman debacle, you can probably lay some of the blame at the feet of those executives.

AARON MATÉ: And it was so shady that didn't most of this happen in the middle of the night?

MATT TAIBBI: Yeah, actually, they made—they struck many of the deals with these Lehman insiders before dawn on the day of the last board meeting. Literally before dawn, you had emails going back and forth between some of these Lehman Brothers executives saying, "Well, how much did you get? You know, I got \$15 million," and, you know, etc., etc.

AMY GOODMAN: You know, the way the media covers, and the prosecutors go after or don't, these institutions, it's all from the perspective of those who would be or should be charged. When it comes to people on the street, it's always from the perspective of the victim.

MATT TAIBBI: Right.

AMY GOODMAN: Which, by the way, it should be.

MATT TAIBBI: Right.

AMY GOODMAN: I mean, if someone is raped or murdered, you should hear their story, their name—

MATT TAIBBI: Absolutely.

AMY GOODMAN: —and a person should be held responsible. But in this case, you never hear about the victims.

MATT TAIBBI: That's right.

AMY GOODMAN: Instead, you are identifying with those who are charged. They say they have families; they're really a wonderful person.

MATT TAIBBI: Right.

AMY GOODMAN: Talk about the victims of these crimes that JPMorgan Chase was fined for.

MATT TAIBBI: Well, I mean, we're all victims of these crimes. I mean, that's the difficult thing about this new era of financial corruption is that, you know, these crimes are executed on such a massive scale that we can all be victimized and basically not know it. If you think about something like the Libor scandal, right, where the world's biggest banks got together and colluded to monkey around with world interest rates, well, that crime affected

anybody who held a variable rate investment of any kind. So if you have a floating rate credit card or a floating mortgage, or if you're a town that has swaps, you may be paying more, you may be paying less. It doesn't know—you don't know, but they've been affecting the amounts of your holdings. There have recently been charges that some of the banks have been monkeying around with the prices of things like metals, like aluminum and tin and zinc and copper. So if you go to buy a can of soda, you may be paying more than you would have otherwise.

In the subprime mortgage crisis, typically the victims were people who held pensions, because what would happen often was the banks would create these gigantic masses of essentially phony subprime loans. They would disguise them as AAA-rated investments. Then they would sell them to an institutional investor like a pension fund. So you're some, you know, working stiff, a toll booth operator in Minnesota. You've got a state pension. And you wake up one morning, and 30 percent of your pension fund is gone. Well, you're a victim of this stuff.

But it's very hard to trace that back to these people. And it's hard—and journalists don't want to do the work of identifying who the victims are in these scandals, because it's too complicated. And that's why you often see these crimes described from the point of view of the perpetrator and not from the victim, because we're all the victims. These crimes are ethereal. They're existential. They're on such a gigantic scope that it's difficult for us to get a—wrap our heads around. And that's a—so that's a very good question to ask.

AARON MATÉ: You mentioned earlier people who are targeted for welfare fraud. In one case, you went to San Diego and profiled a woman who was targeted by this program P100—

MATT TAIBBI: Right.

AARON MATÉ: —a very invasive action in her home. Can you talk to us about that case?

MATT TAIBBI: Yeah, they have this program in San Diego where if you apply for welfare, the state gets to pre-emptively search your house to make sure that you're not lying about, for instance, having a boyfriend. You know, so you're a single mom. You go to the welfare office. You need financial assistance. You represent on the form that you're not cohabiting with anybody. And just to check, they tell you to go sit tight in your house. And I've heard stories of people who waited, literally sitting in their house for a week, not knowing when the inspector is going to come, because if you're not there when they come, you don't get your welfare.

So, the person comes finally. It's not a social worker. It's very often a law enforcement official. They go in, and they search your house. I talked to a number of women who have recounted the experience of having their underwear drawers rifled through. You know, one woman talked about an inspector sticking his pencil end into the underwear drawer and picking out a pair of sexy panties and saying, you know, "Who do you need these for? If you don't have a boyfriend, what's this for?" And this is the kind of thing that people have to go through.

And I understand that, to many middle Americans, you know, welfare recipients are not—are perhaps not the most sympathetic people. But it's very striking that, for instance, the recipients of bailouts, we don't have the right to go in and check their books, but somebody who applies for federal assistance to feed their kids, we have the right to go through their underwear drawer. And I thought that was a striking comparison.

AMY GOODMAN: Matt, the cover of *The Divide*, of your book, *American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap*, is very striking. And you have this artwork throughout your book. Explain who did this.

MATT TAIBBI: So this is Molly Crabapple. She's a great artist. I met her during the Occupy protests. We had—we have a mutual friend, and Molly had done these amazing posters for the Occupy protests that were—that were based—some of them were based on my work, because there was a vampire squid theme to some of them.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain vampire squid.

MATT TAIBBI: Well, I had referred to Goldman Sachs as a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity. So she had done these series of posters that were like, you know, "starve the vampire squid," "stop

the vampire squid." So we got together, and she was—she ended up becoming sort of famous as like the semi-official artist of Occupy. And we decided to work together on this project. And what's so perfect about her is that she really specializes in doing these kind of grotesque, horrifying, Boschian portraits of dysfunction, you know, like the cover. It actually looks quite beautiful from a distance, but if you look at it closely, it's this horrifying image of people being ground up in this mindless justice machine. So it's beautiful stuff, and Molly should get—she gets all the credit in the world, I think. They're incredible images.

AARON MATÉ: At sentencing hearings, you have sometimes family members and friends coming to plead to the judge for leniency. And you sort of contrast this in your book. You have one scene where you have executives bringing in hundreds of people.

MATT TAIBBI: Mm-hmm.

AARON MATÉ: Can you compare what happens there to what happens to people on the bottom?

MATT TAIBBI: So this is interesting. Again, this is that same Gen Re case I talked about, the \$750 million stock fraud where these guys all got off. And what was so interesting about that is—so, if you go to court, the judges almost never are from the same neighborhoods as the accused. But when you do have a case where it's, you know, somebody from the suburbs who lives in Connecticut and the judge is also somebody who's from the suburbs and lives in Connecticut, and he has members of the local PTA come out and say that, you know, "This guy is somebody who wouldn't even jaywalk. You know, he's a God-fearing person. Yes, maybe he might have committed a \$750 million stock fraud, but he's a very decent person," they will very frequently—like, bail is never an issue for this kind of defendant, which is very, very important. You know, these—and beyond that, in that particular case, after they were convicted, all of these defendants were allowed to remain free pending appeal, which removed all of the leverage the state might have had to roll up these defendants up into higher targets, whereas that's exactly the opposite of what happens to poor defendants, who are frequently thrown in jail. Their, you know, bail is set at a level that's higher than they can afford. And then, while you're in jail waiting for trial, you start to do the math, and you realize that you could stay in jail longer in bail than you would do if you were sentenced. And that's one of the reasons why people plead out, even when they're innocent, because the math just works in the state's favor. They have all these tricks they can use to keep you in jail longer than you're supposed to be.

AMY GOODMAN: Who was tougher on corporate America, President Obama or President Bush?

MATT TAIBBI: Oh, Bush, hands down. And this is an important point to make, because if you go back to the early 2000s, think about all these high-profile cases: Adelphia, Enron, Tyco, WorldCom, Arthur Andersen. All of these companies were swept up by the Bush Justice Department. And what's interesting about this is that you can see a progression. If you go back to the savings and loan crisis in the late '80s, which was an enormous fraud problem, but it paled in comparison to the subprime mortgage crisis, we put about 800 people in jail during—in the aftermath of that crisis. You fast-forward 10 or 15 years to the accounting scandals, like Enron and Adelphia and Tyco, we went after the heads of some of those companies. It wasn't as vigorous as the S&L prosecutions, but we at least did it. At least George Bush recognized the symbolic importance of showing ordinary Americans that justice is blind, right?

Fast-forward again to the next big crisis, and how many people have we got—have we actually put in jail? Zero. And this was a crisis that was much huger in scope than the S&L crisis or the accounting crisis. I mean, it wiped out 40 percent of the world's wealth, and nobody went to jail, so that we're now in a place where we don't even recognize the importance of keeping up appearances when it comes to making things look equal.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you end with the story of Patrick? And we just have a minute.

MATT TAIBBI: Sure, yeah. There was a saxophonist named Patrick Ocean Jewell who was assaulted by police here in New York City. They mistook a hand-rolled cigarette for a joint.

AMY GOODMAN: He had brought his girlfriend to the subway, liked to walk with her every morning.

MATT TAIBBI: Right.

AMY GOODMAN: He actually did not know who attacked him.

MATT TAIBBI: Right, yeah. No, the police can be anyone these days. That's another thing that most people don't know about. They don't always come in uniform, and they don't always come in those unmarked Plymouths that they used to drive. They can drive fancy cars. They can drive beaters. They can be dressed in plainclothes. They can be black, white. You don't even know who the cops are anymore. And this guy was just sitting there at a train station smoking a hand-rolled cigarette, and all of a sudden he's being beaten up by all these people, you know, and he only later figured out that they were cops.

AMY GOODMAN: When he called to a police officer, started crying for help.

MATT TAIBBI: Yeah, he's crying for help, and a uniformed police officer comes and tells him to shut up. And that's when he realizes that they were cops. But this is—this is sort of stop-and-frisk expanding its universe of targets. So, you know, now, even if you're white and middle-class, you know, now you, too, can be part of this whole process. And that's—

AMY GOODMAN: And your point in bringing—putting this in *The Divide*?

MATT TAIBBI: Is that—you know, is that this is now beginning to affect everybody. I think one of the problems that the increasing wealth gap is bringing to us is that there's a smaller and smaller group of untouchables, and then there's a sort of widening group of everybody else, and we all have the same lack of respect from the law enforcement.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Matt Taibbi, I want to thank you for being with us, award-winning journalist. His book is called **The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap**.

This is Democracy Now!, When we come back, it's Tax Day. What is one young medical student doing? Why isn't she paying her federal taxes? Stay with us.

http://www.democracynow.org/2015/1/2/russell_brand_on_revolution_fighting_inequality

2014, Dec 31 **At End of Warmest Year on Record, "Alternative Nobel" Winner Bill McKibben Urges Action on Climate**

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/12/31/at_end_of_warmest_year_on

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2014-1231.mp4>

<http://traffic.libsyn.com/democracynow/dn2014-1231-1.mp3>

As the warmest year on record comes to a close, we end the last show of 2014 with climate activist and author Bill McKibben. He recently announced he is stepping down from the daily leadership of the climate action group 350.org, which he co-founded in 2007 and where he has been a leading voice warning of the dangers of not confronting global warming. He says he will remain a senior adviser and active member of the board, keeping 90 percent of his daily work the same. We play an excerpt of McKibben's speech earlier this month in Stockholm, Sweden, where he received the Right Livelihood Award, known as the alternative Nobel Prize.

Image Credit: rightlivelihood.org

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: "Step by Step," Jesse Winchester, the sing-songwriter who played a major role in the '60s antiwar movement when he moved to Canada to avoid the draft, was later pardoned by President Carter. He's one of many musicians we lost this year. He died April 11th. He was 69 years old.

This is Democracy Now!, democracynow.org, The War and Peace Report, as we end today's show with author and activist Bill McKibben, who recently announced he's stepping down from the daily leadership of 350.org, which he co-founded, where he's been a leading voice against climate change for years. This group gets its name from a comment by climate scientist Jim Hansen, who said the world must cut carbon dioxide emissions to 350 parts per million to avoid dangerous alterations in the climate. Current emission levels exceed that.

McKibben wrote in a statement earlier this month, quote, "I'm stepping down as chair of the board at 350.org to become what we're calling a 'senior advisor.' ... I will stay on as an active member of the board, and 90 percent of my daily work will stay the same, since it's always involved the external work of campaigning, not the internal work of budgets and flow charts." He said, "I'm not standing down from that work, or stepping back, or walking away."

Well, earlier this month, Bill McKibben was in Stockholm, Sweden, where he received the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the "alternative Nobel Prize." This is an excerpt of his address.

BILL McKIBBEN: As we meet here today, the world is almost done with what will be the hottest calendar year in all the years that we have measured temperatures. 2014 saw the warmest temperatures, by far, ever recorded in the northern Pacific. It was also the year when we learned, tragically, that the melt of the West Antarctic ice sheet is now irreversible.

Twenty-five years ago, when I wrote the first book-length account of this crisis, none of these wounds could have been predicted. But that's because scientists are conservative—the damage has outpaced their forecasts. Every ocean, including the one outside these doors, is now 30 percent more acidic than a generation ago. Every continent now sees drought and flood on an unprecedented scale.

Every scientific body now urges upon us, with ever more desperate rhetoric, the need for action. You'll find in your packet, as one concise reminder of the relevant points, a recent publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science outlining, once more, the grim and by now very plain facts of climate change.

And yet, so little action has come. The world will meet again a year from today in Paris to try and reach a treaty, a replay of the meeting that five years ago ended in fiasco in Copenhagen. So far, the fossil fuel industry has been powerful enough to block substantial action in most nations, especially the United States, historically the biggest source of carbon now overheating the Earth.

We in the climate movement have long since concluded that the fountain of fossil fuel money, which buys politicians and spreads disinformation, can only be met if we coin our own currency—in this case, the currency of movements: passion, spirit, creativity. Sometimes we need to spend the currency of our own bodies and head to jail.

And so, here is the good news to temper that bleak weather forecast: All over the world that movement is finally rising. In late September, 400,000 people filled the streets of New York to demand that the U.N. take action on climate. That was the largest demonstration about anything in the U.S. for some years and the largest demonstration about climate change in history. Those people were joined that day by protesters in 2,600 other cities around the world. The world's first truly global problem is seeing the world's first truly global movement.

And it is beginning to have an effect. The same night of that march in New York, the heirs to the Rockefeller fortune announced that they were divesting their holdings in fossil fuel companies. The first family of fossil fuel was selling its oil stock. In so doing—in so doing, they joined institutions, from Stanford University to the Church of Sweden—and hopefully soon the city of Stockholm and many others in this green-minded country. Just as 30 years ago, when the question was apartheid in South Africa, the world's people are coming together to withdraw their money from the companies that simply refuse to change their practices.

Those companies—Exxon, Shell, Chevron, Gazprom, China Coal, BP, all the rest—have in their combined reserves five times more carbon than the world's scientists say we can safely burn. And yet those companies have told their shareholders and their banks that they will dig up that coal and oil and gas, and burn it. If they carry out those business plans, then there is no mystery about how this story ends: The planet will simply break.

And so we must fight—peacefully, but firmly. We must build green cities. And like so many others, I've gotten to visit Stockholm's green neighborhood, Hammarby Sjöstad. It's a model of what the future could look like, as congenial as it is ecological.

But beautiful as that vision is, we can't be taking one step forward and another back. This is the point at which I become the impolite dinner guest who criticizes the host. In this city, for instance, planning continues on a massive highway. Ask yourself whether in a decade or two that is the legacy this planet needs, or whether a sharp and dramatic move toward public transit and car sharing might not be better. My fellow—my fellow honorees last night had the rare privilege of getting to walk aboard the good ship Vasa, and it occurred to me that perhaps projects like that highway may represent the sort of grand and expensive ventures perhaps not perfectly suited for the world in which they must sail.

And ask yourself—ask yourself sharp questions about trying to make every possible penny off the current situation. If Vattenfall, for instance, simply sells its stake in German lignite mines, there is no question that the coal will eventually be dug up and burned. Is not the really responsible course, for a nation that grew wealthy in part by burning fossil fuel, to make the small economic sacrifice and keep that coal forever underground where it can do no harm? Is that any different than what, for instance, we've asked of the Brazilians when it comes to the Amazon, that they keep it standing?

And we very badly need Sweden's cities and governments to follow the lead of the Church of Sweden and divest those fossil fuel holdings. We simply must defeat those forces that want to delay large-scale change so they can have a decade or two more of profit. There's no ducking that fight. If you invest in fossil fuel companies, you profit from the destruction of the Earth. That's the definition of "dirty money." Those who invest in fossil fuel companies are making a wager that the world will do nothing to combat climate change. That's an immoral wager. And it's an unwise wager, as well, because civil society really is rising up.

I am reminded of the iconic scene earlier this autumn, when our 350.org colleagues in 12 Pacific Island nations, nations that will be underwater on the current trajectory by the end of this century, they took their traditional canoes and transported them to the largest coal port in the world, Newcastle in Australia, and for a day used those tiny canoes to block some of the largest ships in the world, to keep them in port. Their slogan, a good slogan for the whole world, would be: "We're not drowning. We're fighting."

I'm reminded of the scenes in North America earlier this year, where cattle ranchers and Native Americans

formed what they called the Cowboy-Indian Alliance, a CIA slightly different than the one Mr. Snowden used to work for, to block the Keystone Pipeline and its cargo of filthy oil from the tar sands of Canada.

We stand in solidarity with Andean activists losing the glaciers that supply their drinking water, and with Bangladeshi activists watching the seas rise in the Bay of Bengal. We learn from African leaders like Desmond Tutu, who recently called climate change the greatest human rights challenge of our time, and from Sámi leaders from the top of the world, who are watching berserk winter weather wreck time-honored ways of life. We struggle alongside residents of Delhi and Beijing and the other smog-choked metropolises of our planet, for we know that their children die from the same fossil fuel combustion that endangers the whole Earth. We look with great inspiration to the countries like Germany that are demonstrating daily that it is entirely possible to turn to renewable energy for the power that we need on this planet.

Global warming is a test for all of us, the test in our time on Earth. It's a test in a sense of whether the big brain was a good adaptation after all. Clearly, that brain can get us in a good deal of trouble, but maybe, just maybe, it is attached to a big enough heart to get us out of some of that trouble. I cannot promise you that we will win this struggle. We have waited a very long time to get started, and the science is quite dark. But I can promise you that in every corner of the world we will fight and fight hard. Thank you so much for helping spread word of that struggle with this great honor.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, accepting the Right Livelihood Award in the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm earlier this month.

That does it for this year's Democracy Now! By the way, a very special happy 70th birthday to our West Coast coordinator, Chuch Scurich. Tune in in 2015—that's the rest of the week—for our holiday specials. On Friday, we'll air our interview with comedian Russell Brand.

RUSSELL BRAND: I know that people are ready for change. I know that alternatives are possible and that you constantly see how hard the establishment has to work to maintain order. Look at all these institutions, the banks of the Thames lined with institutions to hold ordinary people down. Constantly through the media, they try to prevent different arguments emerging. That is because they know change is inevitable. Change is just a different story. We, people in the media, have an obligation to reframe this argument, to tell people that they can change the world, that we are connected to one another. We have more in common with each other. We have more in common with the people we're bombing than the people we're bombing them for. People that say the system works work for the system. We can change the world. The revolution can begin as soon as you decide it does in yourself, Amy.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Friday, Russell Brand on Democracy Now! We'll also air our interview with Julian Assange talking about When Google Met WikiLeaks. Now, Thursday, we'll speak with Rolling Stone reporter Matt Taibbi and JPMorgan Chase whistleblower Alayne Fleischmann, "The \$9 Billion Witness: Meet JPMorgan Chase's Worst Nightmare."