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Opening: Angelsu

Resolution: praying for ourselves and one another is one of the way we resolve things.

Life is like a puzzle; we put the pieces together in a way that fits for us; until now, the pieces do not seem to have gone together very well. What is out of harmony will soon be in balance - things will start to fall into place and things will fit together perfectly

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- Need **some gas money, food money**
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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 have a session with Mother, as well!

Hard News:

R: Resolution: we are at the last minute now; Rama can also speak on that idea, as well

- His detox of lungs etc has been ongoing; has not been not easy physically, spiritually, energetically

KOS - told KOS he was at a crossroads - need to move forward, yet still it's "hurry up and wait"
• Out of the blue today, after the Dec 21st opening, wasn't expecting the reaction he experienced: he is grateful to be alive; it's a challenge to be in 3D while also in 5D or 6D - drives through Santa Fe and sees bright colours, as well as fairies and hobbits waving at him, while others still wait for change!

KOS - his hands are tied - what would happen if he helped R & T? So the question is how do we do this as a family unit?

- We are watching the most tremendous changes on the planet right now - Dennis K spoke on Democracy Now about why do we still have the Dep't of Defence and the issues doing with 9/11 and the aftermath?
- Congress is at rock bottom: we are going over the cliff, though Obama did not say so exactly.
- 1/16th or 1/32nd of 1% do not have to worry about buying gas, food or rent; they don't need gov't at all and even have their own private airports with their own guards.
- The big test is to praise, respect, thank and love those in Congress who care little for others -
 - KOS said Dennis K and some from Congress are coming together with whistleblowers - there will be a press conference and issues of inequality, etc will come up - at National Press Club will be a landmark event - to do with disclosure

KOS - Sheriff Apayo has been hiring sovereign militia in AZ to guard the schools - unconscionable to get to the police state.

- KOS sleeps with the First Family every single night so they stay alive to tell the story of 9/11

T: wants Rama to tell KOS what Annie Rose said about necessity for BO to look after his health

R: he takes his transporter portal with him in the car; asked them what they had to say: the message is "Let there be peace on earth; let it begin with me. Do random acts of kindness"

- KOS also asked us to pray for the people in NJ and those in that area of the US -

T: and also for the people who have bought out all the gun supply [NC, Iowa, ?]

- What about the jaw-dropping info that Annie Rose raised?

R: KOS said Mr Schirff may be leaving in the next few days - Schwartzkoff has just left the planet

T: Thom Hartman: Bernie Sanders was asked about an audit - there is so much fraud, so much waste

- we have more than tripled the military budget than all other countries combined. Do not need that much money Lockheed, Boeing, General - virtually every one of these companies is [corrupt]

KOS - in the 50s when Val Valerian showed up to Eisenhower and said if you do not stop your nukes, we will stop them. Also in Pentagon, want to slash the pensions of the old timers and turn them into 401Ks - trashing those who have served the country!

Audio: Obama's news conference of Dec 28th + comments following

Caller: Was N Schwartzkoff death a natural death? Yes, bronchitis that went into pneumonia

R: Schwartzkoff knew everything that has gone on since 9/11

- put the bullet in JFK Sr; tried to stop the Farm Claims

T: Bush Sr has been on heroin since 1988; this is the 34th clone - real person taken out in 1981 by KOS and some White Knights after he signed the Exec order to hear the Farm Claims in this country -

- this happened in 1993 after Colorado voted to be sovereign - the judgement from the Colorado court was made in Common Law and the gov't [Fed] etc declared illegal

Caller: episode with Hillary - really faking the illness?

T: a minimum of 15 clones running around: this is bull pucky - does not want to show up in front of a committee and say she was responsible and that it's about the 800 metric tonnes of gold that she wanted to pay China with

- \$35 Trillion dollars is what US corporation owes China - this is not the Common Law - and both China and US are equally guilty
- On Jan 2, we go back to the gold standard

Caller: signing of Bank charter mentioned in the past

T: it's a fake charter: IRS, Fed Reserve have been gone since ??? - rest is NWO playing games

Audio: back to Obama's presentation & follow-up conversation on the Al Sharpton show

- discussion of the significance of Obama pushing the story to the Senate, as opposed to Congress

Caller: Paolo Soleri, architect of Nayer, Arizona - around 93, and has just had a stroke

Nayer is on the way to Sedona, an hour or so north of Phoenix - Arcosanti - place where futuristic design is being used

- Biospheres are in Tuscon, AZ
- Designs look like something out of marvel comics! Has designs for Mohave Desert - caller went there on Winter Solstice

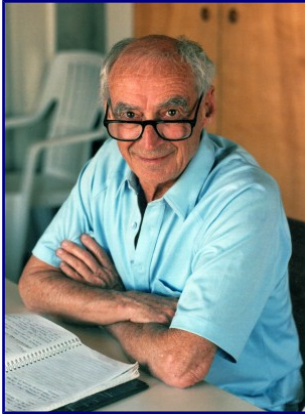
ARCOSANTI TODAY



Arcosanti's intensive [workshop program](#) teaches students from around the world about [Arcology](#) while they participate in on-going construction. [Concerts and other events](#) in the Colly Soleri Music Center also allow visitors to experience Arcosanti. We host 35,000 tourists each year in our guest facilities, gallery, bakery, and cafe. [Guided tours](#) introduce visitors to the philosophy, history, planning and ongoing construction of Arcosanti.

A diverse group of Arcosanti residents work in planning, design, construction, agriculture, landscaping, carpentry, metal work, maintenance, archives, teaching, hospitality, and communications. Residents also produce the world-famous Bronze and Ceramic [Solieri Windbells](#) through [Cosanti Originals](#).

ABOUT PAOLO SOLERI



Paolo Soleri, the founder of Arcosanti, recently retired from the Cosanti Foundation on his 92nd birthday in 2011. He is devoting his time to writing.

Through his work as an architect, urban designer, artist, craftsman, and philosopher, Paolo Soleri has been exploring the countless possibilities of human aspiration. One outstanding endeavor is Arcosanti, an urban laboratory, constructed in the Arizona high desert. It attempts to test and demonstrate an alternative human habitat which is greatly needed in this increasingly perplexing world. This project also exemplifies his steadfast devotion to creating an experiential space to "prototype" an environment in harmony with man.

In his philosophy "[arcology](#)" ([architecture + ecology](#)), Soleri formulates a path that may aid us on our evolutionary journey toward a state of aesthetic, equity, and compassion. For more than a half century, his work, marked by a broad-ranging and coherent intellect (so scarce in the age of specialization), has influenced many in search of a new paradigm for our built environment.

If the act of living includes the pioneering of reality through imagination and sweat, Soleri has given us more than enough food for thought in the examples he has left on paper and in the desert wind.

Caller: what about the gold standard on Jan 2nd? What happened?

T: the charter of Jan 2007 goes for 5 years and is fake; on Dec 31st, it is cancelled.

- Since 2007, there has been NO Fed Res, no IRS, no Fed Corp gov't

Caller: are we back in no gov't at all? Or what?

T: have been in a state of no gov't since 2007 - nothing new; indications are that charter will not be renewed - will go back on gold standard. In 2008, Oct, the entire economy was zeroed out - nothing new, just getting rid of the fake stuff - on Jan 2, on gold standard and no petro dollar

- All the business since 1972 on the petro dollar has been fraudulently done - a crime against humanity; economic treason - getting ready to arrest the treasonists

Caller: Mother alluded to the new rainbow currency

T: has been in the bank for many years: Jennifer Lee who did the updates since 1999 would go into bank in LA and the bills were there then. In 2008, some rainbow bills were distributed in various places and accepted as legitimate money

- March 31st, 2008 - Paul Andrew Mitchell did 19 years of work: Federal reserve, IRS, Fed Corporation declared insolvent

Caller: will money collected since then be returned to people?

T: All the way back to 1933; since that time, money that has been taken from the people, will be returned

- we have that money with the 40 zeros to pay back the people and start anew in a galactic society

- this is St Germain's project and under his leadership/ say so

Caller: so the deadline to the fiscal cliff had to happen?

T: Yes, KOS said that 30 years ago: they still have a chance up to the last second as that is the story in a free will universe

T: Obama is following Universal Law - was part of the Pegasus Project

- connected with Montauk experiment and the jump chair project - thousands of people have been going to Mars since the 50s and 60s

Caller: what will it look like in our local banks?

T: have rainbow bills with gold backing: still need enactment, meaning announcement to the public

T: we need to remain patient and send love to all. There have been many many attempts to sabotage this project; the public announcement will include 19 people on the stage, including KOS

BIG EVENT: EARTH'S CRYSTAL POWER GRID TURNED ON!!!!

[SEE BELOW]

Caller: heard a webinar from the Radiant Rose Academy, a 3 hour channel - this was in it

- at 3 pm, Akasha was sending energy to those who requested it: she would activate you with the first 7 year download of the Golden Age

Angelsu: Diane has a Facebook page with this information + the links

Music: from **Lord of the Rings**

Audio: completion of segment from Al Sharpton with guests Melissa Harris-Perry, Keith Ellison

Audio: Democracy Now ALL DISCUSSIONS FROM FRIDAY, DEC 28th

[SEE BELOW]

Dennis Kucinich on the "Fiscal Cliff": Why Are We Sacrificing American Jobs for Corporate Profits?

As President Obama meets with congressional leaders at the White House in a last-ditch effort to reach a budget deal, we speak to outgoing Democratic Rep. Dennis Kucinich about the so-called fiscal cliff. If an agreement is not reached in time, \$600 billion in automatic spending cuts and tax increases will go into effect on January 1. But the tax increases would not necessarily be permanent — the new Congress could pass legislation to cancel them retroactively after it begins its work next year. "We've been going in the wrong direction," Kucinich says. "Why haven't we been talking about stimulating the economy through the creation of jobs? We've seemed to accept a certain amount of unemployment as being necessary for the proper functioning of the economy, so that for corporations it will keep wages low. That is baloney. We're creating our own economic vice here that is entrapping tens of millions of Americans." [includes rush transcript]

Outgoing Rep. Dennis Kucinich: With 2 Parties Failing U.S., It's on Us to Build a "Culture of Peace"

Democratic Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio is serving his last week in Congress after eight terms in office. Since 1997, Kucinich has been a leading progressive voice on Capitol Hill, known for actions including the bringing of articles of impeachment against George W. Bush for the invasion and occupation of Iraq, voting against the USA PATRIOT Act, advocating for ending the war on drugs, challenging U.S. warfare from Afghanistan to Libya, and pushing for single-payer healthcare to replace the patchwork, privatized U.S. system. Kucinich ran for president in 2004 and 2008 with a vow to create a Department of Peace. "The two-party system itself is failing the American people," Kucinich says. "We have to look at the culture of violence that we have in America and ... build a culture of peace." [includes rush transcript]

The Wilmington 10: North Carolina Urged to Pardon Civil Rights Activists Falsely Jailed 40 Years Ago

As the new year approaches, North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue is being urged to pardon a group of civil rights activists

who were falsely convicted and imprisoned 40 years ago for the firebombing of a white-owned grocery store. Their conviction was overturned in 1980, but the state has never pardoned them. We're joined by one of the "Wilmington Ten," longtime civil rights activist Benjamin Chavis, who served eight years behind bars before later becoming head of the NAACP. We also speak to James Ferguson, a lead defense attorney for the Wilmington Ten; and to Cash Michaels, coordinator for the Wilmington Ten Pardons of Innocence Project and a reporter for The Wilmington Journal, where he has been covering the activists' case. [includes rush transcript]

Audio: Thom Hartman about happiness & selflessness: helping others

Thursday, Dec 27 *Geeky Science - Want to know how to be "Happy?"*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=d-cSWu87H2Y

[<http://www.thomhartmann.com/bigpicture/geeky-science-want-know-how-be-happy>]

Thom reads from a letter of Thomas Jefferson - we must make a choice between economy or liberty; or profusion and servitude [billionaires and workers] - otherwise, as the people of England are, our people like them must labour for 16 hours a day and live on oatmeal and potatoes -

2012, Dec 27 [A labor strike is looming on the East Coast](#)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6C5GI-ZqfnM&feature=player_embedded

Submitted by Thom Hartmann A... on 27. December 2012 - 7:37

The International Longshoremen's Association, which represents dockworkers from 14 ports on the East Coast in New York and New Jersey, is threatening to strike this weekend, unless management abandons its plans to cut wages for future workers. Currently, in addition to their salary, dockworkers receive royalty payments for every ton of cargo that's shipped. Management wants to freeze royalty payments for current workers, and end them altogether for future workers.

He interviews economist Richard Wolfe - capitalism is imploding on itself

Audio: Max Keiser from Christmas Day - Called "**Who stole Bongo's Trousers?**"

Episode 384 <http://rt.com/programs/keiser-report/episode-384-max-keiser/>

John Cooper Clark is the guest: Bongo = Bono!!!

In this episode, Max Keiser talks to punk poet John Cooper Clarke about Who Stole Bongo's Trousers, private equity rock stars, the music business and onesies as the next big thing in fashion. In the second half of the show, Max is joined by Stacy to talk about the 'poverty barons' financed by the British taxpayer.

T: Ezra Klein - in for Rachel Maddow on Dec 27th

[SEE BELOW]

The **Affordable Care Act** is really happening: 2014 is the big year for insuring millions of Americans, yet **2013 is also year when much happens: Wonkblog**. Ezra Klein and Sarah Kliff have created a list that shows the changes & how ACA will change health care

1. Jan: families making more than \$250,000 / year will pay higher taxes - this will add up to \$200 billion dollars in next decade to pay for it - **this fact is often missed!** It does raise taxes on the rich to pay for health insurance for the poorer. Medicare tax goes up by 0.9% on income tax, and 3.5% on

investment income

T: All this is moot after N - as income taxes were never ratified - 16th Amendment - **after NESARA, all debt is neutralized**; this Act is a bridge, & Obama has been creating these bridges until Nesara

2. **Primary Care Providers of Medicaid will get a 73% raise.** Health care for the poor will actually improve this year: Medicaid is making program for poor, children - it is cheap, and also cheaper than insurance: it pays the doctors a lot less than other programs - which means many doctors do not want to take part in this program. Primary Care doctors who accept medicare coverage will see a 73% raise in 2013, which means people have trouble getting Medicaid will have more ability to get doctors
3. Your insurance plan will not be an impenetrable document that is full of legalese: will probably look more like this - still words on a page yet your **insurance plan will be in English**, not legalese - straight forward so insurer cannot fool you
4. Oct, 2013 the **on line insurance market will be there so you can compare plans and buy on line** - it's like Amazon.com for health care -

2012, Dec 28 ~ **Earth's Crystal Power Grid Turned On!**



Courtesy of Diane Robbins
www.DianneRobbins.com

Deep inside the Himalayan Valley, are 33 great chambers configured with sacred tunnels and passageways that connect each chamber. These chambers are composed of sacred geometry using lightening rods of electronic and magnetic force.

The walls and ceilings are made of platinum, gold and lapis lazuli and lined with crystalline pods 4 1/2 inches in diameter. There are 144 million crystalline pods in rows and columns.

This is the UNIVERSAL BREAKER ROOM for our planet. These 144 million crystalline pods in 33 chambers are all connected to form a sacred geometry. This is the **Universal Power Grid** that connects with the Powers of Nature, Forces of the Elements, Great Forest Kingdom, Great Ocean Kingdom, Prairies where food is grown, the Atmosphere of Earth and the Inner Structure of Earth that uses the Universal Flower of Life blueprint in which electronic and electro-magnetic lines of force pass through every crystalline pod.

The Gods of Earth had to turn off 63% of these crystal pods because of wars and destructive technology on the planet.

THIS GREAT UNIVERSAL POWER GRID IN THE 33 CRYSTAL CHAMBERS DEEP WITHIN THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS WILL BE TURNED BACK ON AND FULLY ACTIVATED ON DECEMBER 28, 2012 BY 3 PM GREENWICH TIME.

This has been decreed by the Goddess of Venus. The Lords of the Flames of Venus will stand around the Himalayan Valley so that destructive forces can never gain access.

All lines of force on our planet will be reconnected and all sacred geometries and sacred sites will be activated to release the Divine Plan of the 7th Golden Crystal Age to turn the Light back on to this planet.

The above information is taken from a transmission given by the Goddess Himalaya (who has been

protecting these crystal chambers) to the Radiant Rose Academy on November 9th 2012 through Usa, their Accredited Messenger.

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(Summarized and transcribed by Dianne Robbins, student of the Radiant Rose Academy)

Dianne Robbins
www.DianneRobbins.com

Friday, December 28, 2012 [Full Show](#) Dennis Kucinich on the "Fiscal Cliff": Why Are We Sacrificing American Jobs for Corporate Profits?

As President Obama meets with congressional leaders at the White House in a last-ditch effort to reach a budget deal, we speak to outgoing Democratic Rep. Dennis Kucinich about the so-called fiscal cliff. If an agreement is not reached in time, \$600 billion in automatic spending cuts and tax increases will go into effect on January 1. But the tax increases would not necessarily be permanent — the new Congress could pass legislation to cancel them retroactively after it begins its work next year. "We've been going in the wrong direction," Kucinich says. "Why haven't we been talking about stimulating the economy through the creation of jobs? We've seemed to accept a certain amount of unemployment as being necessary for the proper functioning of the economy, so that for corporations it will keep wages low. That is baloney. We're creating our own economic vice here that is entrapping tens of millions of Americans." [includes rush transcript]

Transcript

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: President Obama is set to meet today with congressional leaders at the White House just three days before a year-end deadline to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff. Obama and congressional Republicans remain at an impasse over the Republicans' refusal to allow tax hikes, even for the wealthiest Americans. If an agreement is not reached in time, \$600 billion in automatic spending cuts and tax increases will go into effect on January 1. But the tax increases would not necessarily be permanent. The new Congress could pass legislation to cancel them retroactively after it begins its work next year.

AMY GOODMAN: While the so-called fiscal cliff has dominated the news headlines, the Senate is also preparing to vote today to continue a controversial domestic surveillance program. In a blow to civil liberties advocates, the Senate rejected three attempts Thursday to add oversight and privacy safeguards to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA.

Joining us from Washington is Democratic Congressman Dennis Kucinich. This is his last week in Congress after serving eight terms. Since 1997, Kucinich has been a leading progressive voice on Capitol Hill, introduced articles of impeachment against George W. Bush for the invasion and occupation of Iraq. He voted against the PATRIOT Act and advocated for ending the war on drugs. Dennis Kucinich ran for president in 2004 and 2008, vowing to create a Department of Peace. He's also former mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

Congressman Kucinich, welcome back to *Democracy Now!*

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Thank you, Amy.

AMY GOODMAN: Your term would be over, except you've been called back on Sunday, is that right, the House, to deal with the so-called fiscal cliff?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, I've been in Washington waiting to see if Congress would be called back into session, as it should be. And there really is no reason, no legitimate reason, why the country should be facing serious tax increases for middle class and also spending cuts that will further slow down the economy. You know, Amy, all the—we've made all the wrong choices. We should be talking about jobs, having more people involved in paying taxes. We should be talking about rebuilding America's infrastructure. China has gone ahead with high-speed trains and massive investment in their infrastructure. Instead, we're back to the same old arguments about taxes and spending without really looking at what we're spending. We just passed the National Defense Authorization Act the other day, another \$560 billion just for one year for the war machine. And so, we're focused on whether or not we're going to cut domestic programs now? Are you kidding me?

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Well, Congressman, the recent election was seen by many as a mandate from the electorate to finally begin to tax the wealthiest Americans to deal with some of the deficit. Your sense of whether President Obama and your fellow Democrats in the Senate and the House will stay the course on this or will eventually compromise in a way that many progressives would regret?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, first of all, we have a divided government. President Obama's election sends one message; the election of a Republican House of Representatives sends another. The—actually, you know, working at odds here. You have Republicans who will not raise taxes for anyone who's making more than a quarter million a year, and they're looking at entitlement cuts. You have Democrats who say, let's have any tax cuts that come up for those who make under \$250,000 and no cuts to entitlements. You have a force here that isn't movable right now.

Again, I want to say that we've been going in the wrong direction here. Why haven't we been talking about stimulating the economy through the creation of jobs? We've seemed to accept a certain amount of unemployment as being necessary for the proper functioning of the economy, so that for corporations it will keep wages low. That is baloney. We're creating our own economic vice here that is entrapping tens of millions of Americans, and I just find it unacceptable. It's like this whole fiscal cliff thing is a creation of people who are unimaginative and locked in by special interests.

AMY GOODMAN: Congressman Kucinich, the issue of Medicare and Social Security, what it means for President Obama to so-called compromise on these issues, can you talk about this?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, there's no reason whatsoever to bring Social Security into this discussion. And the fact that the White House has done it on numerous occasions should give everyone pause for concern. If Social Security has a problem down the road—we've already talked about this—you raise the caps on the income that's accessible to Social Security. But you don't talk about cutting benefits. You don't talk about cutting cost-of-living increases through this chained CPI, which is just a way to force seniors into a lower standard of living over the long haul. We need the White House to stand up for Social Security and Medicare. And, you know, unfortunately, we're looking at a situation where, because Republicans want entitlements, you know, as they like to call it, in the mix on any budget discussions, the White House has yielded. Now, that may not happen in these negotiations in the next couple days, but you have to watch what's happening in the 113th Congress.

So, you know, this is—we really have to decide who we are as a nation. We're spending more and more money for wars. We're spending more and more money for interventions abroad. We're spending more and more money for military buildups. And we seem to be prepared to spend less and less on domestic programs and on job creation. This whole idea of a debt-based economic system is linked to a war machine. And it's linked to Wall Street's concerns rather than Main Street's concerns. We need to shift that. We need to get government—give government back the ability to create jobs. Private sector is not doing it.

AMY GOODMAN: Let me ask you about [Dean Baker](#), the economist's comments, we had on a few weeks ago. He said this whole fiscal cliff issue is way overblown, that come January 1st, yes, we'll be subject to higher tax withholding rates, but not a lot of people are paid on January 1st. "If there's a deal worked out somewhere in the first, second week of January," he said, "we'll probably never [see anything] extra deducted from our paycheck, and even if we do, [we'll] get it back in the second paycheck." What's your response to that, Congressman Kucinich?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, Dean Baker is right, as he often is about these things, you know, but let's be clear about one thing. You know, if the White House understands one thing, it's behavioral economics. They've basically cut their teeth on behavioral economics in coming in and trying to induce people to believe that things are better than they are when they're not. Well, this whole fiscal cliff discussion, as—while it might have its imaginary dimensions, does have a real effect. You're already seeing a decline in consumer confidence, in investor confidence, that there is going to be a slowdown in the economy. Now, it is true that we can—that the country can cobble together a deal in the new year, but in the meantime, there will be a lag in which you'll see an economy that's already weak further weaken.

But I just want to go back to something, Amy. We have to start creating jobs. This debt-based economic system, where we're having the—the next discussion is, we're at \$16.4 trillion, and so are we going to go not only over the cliff, but are we going to go into default? Wrong discussion. Why aren't we creating jobs using the government's inherent power under Article 1, Section 8, of the Constitution, so that we spend money to rebuild

the infrastructure, put millions of people back to work. You create new taxpayers. You don't have to worry so much then about unemployment benefits, which are due to expire, that we have to worry about if you're not creating jobs. It's the wrong discussion we're having.

And so, I think that as we look into the new year, we've got a couple things going here. There's a decreasing confidence in government. This isn't about Democrats or Republicans anymore. It's about the failure of the government to respond to the practical aspirations of people for jobs, for housing, for healthcare, for retirement security, and for the education of their children. And we're still there. Yet we still are pursuing wars abroad. We still are doing military buildups. And this is the direction America is going in, and it's the wrong direction.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Well, Congressman, I want to ask you, your colleagues, your Republican colleagues in the House, obviously have a different perspective. Speaking on Fox News, Republican Congressman Mike Mulvaney of South Carolina blamed the Democratic-led Senate for the impasse in the negotiations on the so-called fiscal cliff. This is what he had to say.

REP. MICHAEL MULVANEY: The House has actually extended these tax rates for everybody in the entire country, which is exactly the correct policy, as we see it. We sent it to the Senate; the Senate has simply refused to take it up. The Senate could fix this today, if they wanted to. I understand that while Harry Reid is in the well today in the Senate complaining about Mr. Boehner, he has not scheduled a debate today on the fiscal cliff, which is just absurd. So, if there's one message to go out there, it's that the House has actually done its job, and the Senate could fix this today if they wanted to.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Mike Mulvaney of South Carolina. Your response, Congressman Kucinich?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, it has to be translated. You know, what the Republicans want to advocate is a continuation of the Bush tax cuts, which, as everyone knows, added a trillion dollars to the deficit by helping to accelerate—and helped to accelerate the wealth of America upwards. We can't do that anymore, although we're seeing that some elements of the Bush tax cuts are remaining, you know, depending on the income distribution, for those who are in the middle class. But, you know, how is it we can be talking about tax cuts at the same time we have this massive deficit? You know, we're getting the American people to believe that we can cut taxes, increase military spending, and balance the budget. That's kind of what they talked about during the Reagan administration and ended up with a huge hidden deficits, beginning to balloon once new administrations came in.

We have to change our economy here. We have to emphasize job creation, and then investors can come back in, and then you can start to see consumer confidence building. But right now we're limping as a nation. And, you know, our politics are being translated into some kind of Punch and Judy show between Democrats and Republicans. We don't need that; it's irrelevant. We've got to solve the real problems of people. We've got to help keep people in their homes. We have to do everything we can to get not only the unemployment benefits passed, but get the people back to work. Why aren't we emphasizing that? And, you know, this is why this whole debate about a fiscal cliff, as Dean Baker said, has elements of it that are chimerical.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Congressman, in your prior response, you linked the whole issue of the continuation of the war machine to the battles at home over domestic spending. You—could you talk about your efforts, together with Congressman Ron Paul, to demand an inquiry into the justification for drone attacks?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, absolutely. You know, this whole idea of drone wars being proliferated across the world, without Congress having anything to say about it, without any accountability whatsoever, is against the Constitution of the United States, and it's against international law. If any other nation sent a drone over the United States, they would have hell to pay, because we'd see it as an act of war. Yet we're increasingly committing acts of war against other nations—Yemen most recently—and we are—we're not seeing any accountability at all. And Congress does have a role to play here, both on the budget side and constitutionally. So we're just trying to get the administration involved in giving information to Congress so we can see the extent of the exposure that the American people have to this proliferation of war.

And as news articles have written, and Glenn Greenwald wrote about this yesterday, we're actually strengthening al-Qaeda's hand with these attacks. We're making it more difficult to meet the challenge of terrorism by creating more terrorists. I mean, what is this about? We're increasingly dysfunctional as a nation because of our unwillingness to challenge the military-industrial complex, which Dwight Eisenhower warned about generations ago. And so, we really have to look at America's role in the world. We have a right to defend ourselves, but we have no right to aggress. And we're continuing to aggress. And that's coming at a cost to our domestic priorities here, this idea of guns and butter. We are now thoroughly mired in an economy that's based on guns. We are not providing for the practical needs of the American people. And this budget and this fiscal cliff does in no way get into that debate.

AMY GOODMAN: We want to ask you about another bill, the FISA bill, but we're going to go to break and then come back to Democratic Congressman Dennis Kucinich, who served eight terms in Congress. This is his last week as a member of Congress. This is *Democracy Now!* Back in a moment.

Outgoing Rep. Dennis Kucinich: With 2 Parties Failing U.S., It's on Us to Build a "Culture of Peace"

Democratic Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio is serving his last week in Congress after eight terms in office. Since 1997, Kucinich has been a leading progressive voice on Capitol Hill, known for actions including the bringing of articles of impeachment against George W. Bush for the invasion and occupation of Iraq, voting against the USA PATRIOT Act, advocating for ending the war on drugs, challenging U.S. warfare from Afghanistan to Libya, and pushing for single-payer healthcare to replace the patchwork, privatized U.S. system. Kucinich ran for president in 2004 and 2008 with a vow to create a Department of Peace. "The two-party system itself is failing the American people," Kucinich says. "We have to look at the culture of violence that we have in America and ... build a culture of peace." [includes rush transcript]

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: While the so-called fiscal cliff has dominated the news headlines, the Senate is also preparing to vote today to continue a controversial domestic surveillance program. In a blow to civil liberties advocates, the Senate rejected three attempts Thursday to add oversight and privacy safeguards to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

AMY GOODMAN: Dennis Kucinich is still with us, outgoing Democratic congressman. This will be his last week in Congress—at least for this term of his political life. Congressman Kucinich, the issue of FISA—what is this bill? What does it mean?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, what it reflects is a breakdown in trust in this country. The attempt is to give the government even more powers to spy, and that is really being translated into domestic, quote-unquote, "intelligence," even though it's called the foreign intelligence bill.

We have to ask questions. You know, why, for example, was—did you have the Occupy Wall Street movement being spied upon? What is this? What's going on in our country, where we don't have oversight of the activities of the government when it comes to domestic spying? And what are we doing in America, where the privacy concerns of Americans are swept aside?

We're entering into a brave new world, which involves not only the government apparatus being able to look in massive databases and extract information to try to profile people who might be considered threats to the prevailing—to the status quo. But we also are looking at drones, which are increasingly miniaturized, that will give the governments, at every level, more of an ability to look into people's private conduct. This is a nightmare. And the FISA bill is just one example of how America is going in a direction that undermines the expectations of not just the right to privacy, but the right to be free of unreasonable search and seizure, the demand that any action that's taken to get information about people should be subject to a warrant, that it not be subject to just any FBI agent determining that this is information they want on that person. This is bad news.

AMY GOODMAN: Congressman Kucinich, not just what do you say to your natural opponents, the

Republicans in Congress, but to your allies, Democratic congressmembers, who you almost, in many of these cases, from drones to FISA, oppose as much as the Republicans? What message do you have for them as you leave Congress?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, actually, you know, we've seen a bridge here created between Democrats and Republicans on the issue of liberty and being free from the all-seeing eye of Big Brother. Congressman Paul and I worked together on many of these issues relating to the government seeking increased powers to surveil the American people. You know, it's really no longer a Democrat or Republican issue. It goes much deeper than that. And in a way, Amy, these debates that we're having right now in Washington show the limitations of our two-party system, that the two-party system itself is failing the American people, that there really aren't enough choices, of not just individuals, but of policies reflecting the direction America should go in.

When we find in a post-9/11 America that we are mired in a condition of fear; when we see the massive amounts of spending that's gone for war and increased military buildups and for expansion of spy agencies like the Domestic Intelligence Agency, which is just adding another 1,600 spies so that the Pentagon can have their own spy agency to compete with, what, the CIA abroad; when you see the interventions that have fallen flat and have been disastrous, such as Libya and Benghazi; when you see al-Qaeda growing in strength because of our own misapplication of force, you have to ask, if this is about Democrat and Republican, this system is failing. And we're seeing an evidence of it on fiscally, but we're seeing another evidence of it in foreign policy, and we're seeing an evidence of it domestically, when you can see a surveillance state arising under the noses of both political parties.

AMY GOODMAN: You talk about your alliance with Ron Paul. Both of you are leaving. This is your last days in Congress, at least this time. So who are your successors, who you see in Congress right now, who will carry on these struggles for privacy, against drones?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, you know, I would hope that people who I've worked with in the past, like Barbara Lee, Alan Grayson and others, would continue the efforts. You know, there are people on both sides of the aisle who have expressed concerns. You have to remember that we put together a very powerful coalition in challenging the war in Libya that was a coalition between Democrats and Republicans, that reflects a new concern about where is America going. Why are we letting the president or the White House determine that we should expand war? We don't even involve Congress anymore.

I think that you're going to see, you know, a continued effort. The question is the strength of it. And the question is, as a function of the work of political parties, why political parties have essentially been outside of this debate over civil liberties. Why have the parties watched as there's skirmishes that go inside Congress that really are not emboldened by the support of either side of the aisle in some official party structure? That's what I'm saying.

You know, as we look towards a new year, we may be looking at two things. Number one, within each party, you may see more primaries. So, you know, we may see people decide that instead of being independents, they want to be party animals and bring the challenge right inside the Republican and Democratic parties. Or, on the alternative, you may see a third political wave movement that arises from disgust with the inability of parties to address the economic aspirations of the American people. So, we'll see.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Congressman, I'm wondering now, as this is 16 years now in the House, prior to that as the mayor of Cleveland, any misgivings about things that you were not able to accomplish, or, in the same way, pride in things that you were able to accomplish, especially in the House, all these years that you've been seen as the conscience of the House?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, I will say that it's really unfortunate that the—that the Democratic leadership in the House did not support an impeachment effort to challenge the Bush administration, and Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney, on the lies that took us into war in Iraq. That was a pivotal moment for this country. And instead of choosing the Constitution, our leaders chose politics. Bad choice. The fact is that today, after a decade of war, we are looking at an eventual bill for that Iraq war of \$5 trillion. We're looking at perhaps as many as a million innocent civilians perishing—for war that was based on lies. People have to remember this. This isn't

just because it's, you know, forget about the past. No, you cannot forget about the past. We went to war based on lies.

And so, you know, I did my part, which was to alert the Congress back in October 2002: Look, we're headed into a war, and there's no proof that Iraq has anything to do with 9/11 or had weapons of mass destruction; what are we doing here? But we were pulled into that by the Bush administration, driven by neocons and the Project for the New American Century. All of us who were following it know exactly what happened. And, you know, that set the stage for where we are today. We're at the—you know, if there is such a thing as a fiscal cliff, we're at the edge of it because of trillions of dollars that will be spent for wars based on lies. And there was never any accountability.

If there's one thing we have to do, we have—America needs a period of truth and reconciliation, if we're ever going to get—put the country back together again and achieve a level of national unity that we're capable of. But right now we're living on a lie. And the lie is that—that this whole national security infrastructure is necessary and that it's necessary for us to keep expanding war around the world, it's necessary for us to have these big spy agencies, which also interact domestically. All of this stuff shouldn't have happened. And we made the wrong choices. And this is a problem for both political parties to resolve. You can always try to fix things, but you have to look at the severe impact that our inability to act, to challenge the lies that took us into war—you have to look at where it's left us.

AMY GOODMAN: Congressman Kucinich, why is it that it seems like so few tea party Republicans can control the Republican Party in Congress, and yet the largest caucus of the Democratic Party in Congress, the Progressive Caucus, has so little effect or say?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Well, I think, first of all, for those who are doing the daily work inside the Progressive Caucus, they should be appreciated. Raúl Grijalva and Congressman Ellison, you know, they've done a decent job of keeping a progressive agenda out front. However, you know, some members will choose affiliation with the Progressive Caucus as kind of a social function more than a political function. So the membership of the caucus belies the fact that once Democrats are voting on the floor of the House, you know, it doesn't matter what caucuses they're involved in. It's like a social thing. What matters is they're responding to the aspirations of their—of their constituents.

And that's why—you know, I go back to what I said a moment ago. You know, it may be that instead of people going outside the party and saying, you know, "A curse on both your houses," that you come—that we get people coming back inside the party and start to bring primary challenges forward on both sides of the aisle to shake up the political equation so that parties really do reflect a little bit more of the involvement and the aspirations of people at a local level. I mean, the tea party knew what they were out to do. But the Democratic Party hasn't shown the same kind of discipline or willingness to take a stand on some of these basic issues that ought to describe who we are, like Social Security, like single-payer healthcare, like keeping people in their homes, like a full-employment economy, like ending the military buildups and the war machine. I mean, you know, there's still plenty of room for us within the party to negotiate that, if people feel there's still a chance to do that.

AMY GOODMAN: Congressman Kucinich, very quickly, news just in of another shooting, this in Camden County, New Jersey, three police officers shot. It looks like there are no deaths at this point. The shooting happened around 5:45 this morning, Eastern time. The power of the NRA? And also, do you see yourself getting involved with third-party politics; as you leave, what your plans are?

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: You know, I'd love to be involved in two-party politics, but we don't really have that right now.

I think that this ubiquity, ubiquitousness of violence in our society isn't just about guns. We have to look at the culture of violence that we have in America and deal with it in a way that isn't about beating ourselves up, but we have to look at the spectrum of violence—domestic violence, spousal abuse, child abuse, violence in the school, gang violence, gun violence, racial violence, violence against gays, and the police community challenges that come up. And in doing that, that's why I called for, years ago, a Department of Peace, not to simply create

another federal department, but to have an organized approach nationally to deal with the violence in a society, to help families deal with the tensions that they have at home, to deal with some of the fundamental attitudes people have, boys might have about girls, and, you know, through education. We need to take a new approach.

And frankly, you know, we can get rid of all guns; we're still going to have violence. Now, I have never supported the NRA. I probably have, you know, a zero rating with them. But the fact of the matter is that we have to take a much broader view. Again, the debate is too narrow here. It's—we need to look at the cultural issues, that are real. And when you talk about gun control here in America, and at the same time you're talking about gun expansion across the world, about not only the United States exporting arms to the world and engendering wars everywhere, but our own efforts proliferating wars, that's kind of a mixed message that inevitably is not easily reconciled.

So we need to build a culture of peace in America. Is it possible? Of course it is. You know, violence is a learned response. So is nonviolence. And so, through education and through creating a social health safety net, I think that we can meet the challenge. And that's one of the things I'm certainly going to be involved in as I leave the Congress, to try to broaden the debate, to look at this in a way that's compassionate and at the same time not blaming ourselves, but recognizing that we have a culture that is very violent and that affects Americans at every level. And if we address that in a systematic way through an organized approach, using the resources and assets of government at all levels, I think that we could find a way to change from where we are today with this dismal record of one shooting after another and all the, you know, innocent people and public servants constantly being under attack.

AMY GOODMAN: Congressman Kucinich, we want thank you very much for being with us. Dennis Kucinich, eight-term congressman from Ohio, serving his last week as a member of Congress. We will look forward to talking to you in your new capacity, whatever that will be.

REP. DENNIS KUCINICH: Thank you.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. When we come back, we look at the Wilmington 10. Why are so many calling on the North Carolina governor to pardon them. We urge you to listen. Stay with us.

2012, Dec 28 **The Wilmington 10: North Carolina Urged to Pardon Civil Rights Activists Falsely Jailed 40 Years Ago**

As the new year approaches, North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue is being urged to pardon a group of civil rights activists who were falsely convicted and imprisoned 40 years ago for the firebombing of a white-owned grocery store. Their conviction was overturned in 1980, but the state has never pardoned them. We're joined by one of the "Wilmington Ten," longtime civil rights activist Benjamin Chavis, who served eight years behind bars before later becoming head of the NAACP. We also speak to James Ferguson, a lead defense attorney for the Wilmington Ten; and to Cash Michaels, coordinator for the Wilmington Ten Pardons of Innocence Project and a reporter for *The Wilmington Journal*, where he has been covering the activists' case. [includes rush transcript]

Guests:

Benjamin Chavis, member of the Wilmington Ten, former assistant to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and former executive director of the NAACP.

James Ferguson, lead defense attorney for the Wilmington Ten who is currently advocating for their pardon.

Cash Michaels, coordinator for the Wilmington Ten Pardons of Innocence Project and a reporter for *The Wilmington Journal*, where he has been covering the activists' case.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: We turn now to the case of the Wilmington Ten. As the new year approaches, civil rights activists are making a last-ditch push for North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue to pardon a group of civil rights activists who were falsely convicted and imprisoned in the city of Wilmington over 40 years ago. On Thursday, supporters delivered more than 130,000 petition signatures to the governor's representative. At the press conference, state NAACP president, Reverend William Barber, said it's not too late to right a wrong.

REV. WILLIAM BARBER: We come here, and right after Advent and Christmas and entering into the season of Epiphany, believing that North Carolina can turn this tragic history into a triumphant time of redemption and repentance.

AMY GOODMAN: The case of the Wilmington Ten goes back to 1971, when the city of Wilmington was in the midst of a civil rights struggle. After a white-owned grocery store in a black neighborhood was firebombed, police officers and firefighters arrived to extinguish the flames but came under gunfire. An African-American teen was killed by police that night, and a white man was shot and killed the next day. The National Guard moved in. Nine black men and one white woman were rounded up and hustled off to jail for their alleged involvement. The young defendants, the majority just high school age, were collectively sentenced to a total of more than 280 years in prison.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Then, in December 1980, the Federal 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a new trial and overturned the original conviction. In an unequivocal ruling, the court found the prosecutor had reason to know his chief witness had repeatedly perjured himself on the stand. The court also found the prosecutor had obfuscated evidence and bribed witnesses. Amnesty International has called the Wilmington Ten "American political prisoners."

The case of the Wilmington Ten recently regained public attention in light of newly discovered notes attributed to the prosecutor, Jay Stroud. The notes indicate Stroud used racial profiling and other unethical tactics to disqualify black jurors in favor of racist jurors who would almost certainly find the defendants guilty. For example, Stroud wrote next to the name of a prospective juror the words "KKK good," and next to another juror "sensible; Uncle Tom type."

AMY GOODMAN: Of the Wilmington Ten, four have already died. Others are battling illness. Their supporters are now asking Governor Perdue to once and for all clear their names and restore their dignity.

For more, we're joined now by three guests. On the phone, Ben Chavis is with us, one of the Wilmington Ten,

civil rights leader, former assistant to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., former executive director of the NAACP. By *Democracy Now!* video stream, we're joined by James Ferguson, lead defense attorney for the Wilmington Ten. And from Raleigh, North Carolina, we're joined by Cash Michaels. He is the coordinator for the Wilmington Ten Pardons of Innocence Project and a reporter for *The Wilmington Journal*, where he's been covering the case of the Wilmington Ten.

We welcome you all to *Democracy Now!* Ben Chavis, you served how many years in prison for your conviction in the Wilmington Ten case?

BENJAMIN CHAVIS: It was about five years in prison.

AMY GOODMAN: Five years.

BENJAMIN CHAVIS: During the 1970s, yes.

AMY GOODMAN: What would a pardon mean?

BENJAMIN CHAVIS: Well, a pardon of innocence would mean that the state of North Carolina finally realizes that the trial, the unjust arrest charges, were all racially motivated, politically motivated. And now it's time, 40 years later, for the state to remove this pain from the members of the Wilmington Ten, from the community of Wilmington, and from the state itself. It's been an albatross around the state's neck for over 40 years. And I think that in the spirit of moving forward, to clean—the court—the federal court overturned the convictions on December the 4th, 1980. So, there's no question about our convictions already have been overturned. But now the state should remove the legacy of injustice, the legacy of inequality. You know, we were trying to get the schools desegregated in Wilmington. That's what the whole issue was about. The Wilmington Ten was scapegoated. And all of the information that's come out shows that we were completely innocent of these charges, and therefore a pardon of innocence is more than justified for Governor Perdue to issue.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And Ben Chavis, in terms of this new evidence that's come out of the notes of the prosecutor, were you surprised at the extent to which there was this effort to frame you?

BENJAMIN CHAVIS: Well, we were not surprised that the prosecutor did everything he could to frame us up, even though we were innocent of the charges. But what was surprising, that he documented the frame-up, in his own handwriting, in his own words. So there's irrefutable evidence in the prosecutor's own words and handwriting of the frame-up of the Wilmington Ten. And when people are framed up, it means that you put innocent people in jail who should never have been charged and never been prosecuted, never been in prison, and never should have taken 44 years for us to—you know, people are supposed to be innocent 'til proven guilty. But for 40 years, the Wilmington Ten have had to prove their innocence.

AMY GOODMAN: Cash Michaels, you're a reporter for *The Wilmington Journal*, a coordinator for the Wilmington Ten Pardons of Innocence Project. Talk about the significance of these latest notes, "KKK good" next to a prospective juror, and what the prosecutor is saying even today.

CASH MICHAELS: Well, you know, it's funny. I've never covered a case where we have more evidence against the prosecutor than we do against those who have been tried, convicted and sentenced to prison. Indeed, Jay Stroud—and the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeal pretty much said this in December of 1980. One of the reasons why all of the convictions, all of the convictions of the Wilmington Ten were overturned is because the 4th Circuit pretty much said there were gross prosecutorial misconduct. They didn't see the information that we came up with 32 years later. They based their judgment on the fact that the three witnesses for the state against the Wilmington Ten all recanted their testimony, all admitted that they were lying; the fact that the star witness, Allen Hall, who is now deceased, actually not only lied, but actually had a mental problem, a mental disorder, that was never disclosed to the defense—I'm sure Attorney Ferguson can speak more about that; and that indeed the witnesses were paid. One witness was given a motorbike. Allen Hall was put up at the beach cottage, and his girlfriend was brought there, and they were under guard. So, I mean, we're talking about an incredible malfeasance here.

And to see this and to realize that 10 human beings, 10 American citizens in our nation, four of them now

deceased, have lost the last 40 years of their lives because of what one man did, not because they're guilty of anything—the Wilmington Ten are innocent, they are innocent of any and all charges put against them—but because they took a political stance at a very racially charged period of time. Don't forget this was just three years after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.. The South was still going through a transition in terms of tension. The white power structure did not want to give or cede any power to the African-American community at all in terms of civil rights. And this is what we end up with.

Governor Perdue yesterday, in an interview with WRAL television here, said it is clear that what the prosecutor did was wrong, but that did not mean that they were innocent. And we're here to say to Governor Perdue now: "Look at all the facts, Ma'am. Look at this case and realize that the facts are in front of you. The Wilmington Ten are innocent of any and all charges in this regard."

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Now, also, the prosecutor, Jay Stroud, has not denied that these notes were his. And could you talk a little bit about how he justifies them, and also what's happened to him in terms of his run-ins with the law after he left the prosecutor's office?

CASH MICHAELS: In terms of the notes, unbeknownst to us, in October of this year, Jay Stroud had called the *Star-News* of Wilmington. He had heard about—the black press, by the way, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, of which *The Wilmington Journal* is a part of, they initiated in 2011 to indeed try to get pardons of innocence for the Wilmington Ten. So the black press had been all over this story for the better part of a year before the mainstream picked up on it. As a result of our efforts, Jay Stroud called the *Star-News*, the mainstream paper in Wilmington, asking, well, could he see what the Stroud file business is all about. When he came up there, they showed them to him. And he admitted, "This is all my handwriting. These are all my records."

What he says, though, is that the jury selection papers that you see, the "KKK good" did not mean KKK good, it just was an indication that these people may be members of the KKK, and I may not want them on the jury. I don't understand why he would put "good" next to their names, but that's what he did. In terms of looking for "Uncle Tom type" black jurors, he said he was looking for, quote, "conservative blacks, blacks who could be fair," end-quote. So he clearly had some kind of notion that there were certain types of jurors he wanted on the case.

And when you show the back of that legal pad, that I believe you may have an image of, where he didn't get the jury that he wanted, he didn't get the KKK, "Uncle Tom type" jury that he wanted, on the back of a legal pad he draws two lines, and then he writes "advantages and disadvantages of mistrial" and actually calculates as to whether or not he should throw the first trial in June of 1972 for the express purpose of getting both the judge and jury that he feels that he needs in the second trial in September 1972.

And you're correct. In the last couple of years, Jay Stroud, former prosecutor, has been disbarred. He has been picked up on various charges, from assault to disorderly conduct. And he says, in the interview that he had with the *Star-News*, that he's completely innocent of any and every time that he's been arrested on these charges.

AMY GOODMAN: You're talking about the prosecutor.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: The former prosecutor. Well, James Ferguson, talk about the—your efforts now to try to get the governor to have—issue a pardon of innocence in this case and the importance of getting that pardon in terms of the—setting the record straight and righting wrongs that occurred in North Carolina during that period of time.

JAMES FERGUSON: ... governor and set the record straight. She has the power, and she alone has the power to issue pardons of innocence to every one of the Wilmington Ten. And I emphasize pardon of innocence, in contrast to a pardon of forgiveness. There's been some talk about the governor considering a pardon of forgiveness. A pardon of forgiveness would be nothing more than a reaffirmation of the guilt of the Wilmington Ten, in the face of this outrageous prosecution that has now come to light.

So we're calling upon the governor at this time, before she leaves office, to act, to give some relief, and to restore some dignity and the reputation of these young people who were convicted in 1972 for no reason other than they were protesting the desegregation process, the way it was being carried out, which was unjust to black

students. They were protesting that, and because they were gathered in a church protesting that, they wound up being charged with these heinous offenses and having to live with that for the last 40 years. So we're asking the governor simply to do the right thing, not to be governed by politics, not to be swayed by those who simply want to see this injustice continue, but to look at the evidence in front of her, all of which says that the Wilmington Ten are innocent and that the evidence upon which they were convicted was perjured evidence, was participated in by both the prosecution and even the court in getting this perjured testimony.

So the 4th Circuit has done all it can do by declaring these convictions unfair, unjust, and overturning them. But the state had, and still has, the right to try them again. Now, over the 32 years since the court spoke, the state has not lifted a finger to try them again, and they haven't lifted a finger because they can't. They have only the perjured testimony of those three witnesses. But there is no other testimony and no other evidence in this case to link the Wilmington Ten to the crime that was committed. They are innocent. They are completely innocent. And we simply call upon the governor to declare that and set the record straight so that we can begin now, 40 years later, the healing process of a racial division that has plagued this community in Wilmington since 1898.

AMY GOODMAN: James Ferguson, have you any indication of what the governor will do? And can the president of the United States, President Obama, weigh in here?

JAMES FERGUSON: It's not a federal conviction, even though the federal circuit court declared the conviction unjust and overturned it. The president of the United States doesn't have direct authority to do that. The governor of North Carolina is given that power by the Constitution of the United States. We have no indication of what the governor will do, other than what she said in her interview yesterday, which is that anybody looking at this prosecution knows that it was unfair and that it was unjust. She needs to take the next up and say anybody looking at this prosecution can see that there were innocent people convicted on the basis of perjured testimony by an unfair jury, the fourth person of which stated, before she served, that she believed Reverend Chavis and others of the Wilmington Ten to be guilty. She is the only one who can correct this wrong.

AMY GOODMAN: Ben Chavis, you're—the sentences have already been overturned. Why is this so important to you?

BENJAMIN CHAVIS: Well, it's very important now, even though—everyone should be innocent 'til proven guilty. And the record now shows that the Wilmington Ten were not treated fairly, were not treated constitutionally. We were framed up. And so, it's very important not just for the members of the Wilmington Ten, for all Americans. No one—black, white—no one should be framed up and sent to prison if you're innocent. And that's—and so, this is a case—I think Attorney Ferguson is correct. The governor of North Carolina has the authority to right this wrong. And until the wrong is righted, the members of the Wilmington Ten, we will not rest. We will continue to raise this issue, not only for ourselves, but for all people who live in the United States of America.

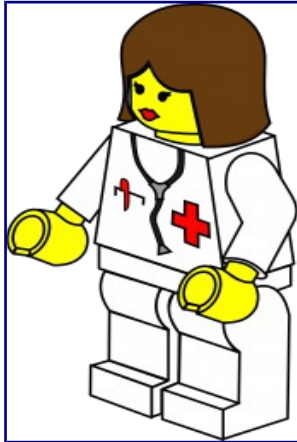
AMY GOODMAN: Ben Chavis, we want to thank you for being with us, attorney James Ferguson and Cash Michaels, reporter for *The Wilmington Journal*. We'll link to all your reports at *The Wilmington Journal* at democracynow.org.

As we wrap up today's show, we encourage you to tune in Monday and Tuesday for our year-end specials. On Monday, culture and resistance, as we look back at our cultural coverage from the past year, featuring the voices of everyone from Alice Walker to Randy Weston, Steve Earle, Randall Robinson and many others. On New Year's Day, we'll look back at the events of 2012, a year of extreme weather, big guns and big money. That's Monday and Tuesday. Tune into democracynow.org.

2012, Dec 29 **Five ways your health care will change in 2013**

Posted by [Sarah Kliff](#)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/12/26/five-ways-your-health-care-will-change-in-2013/>

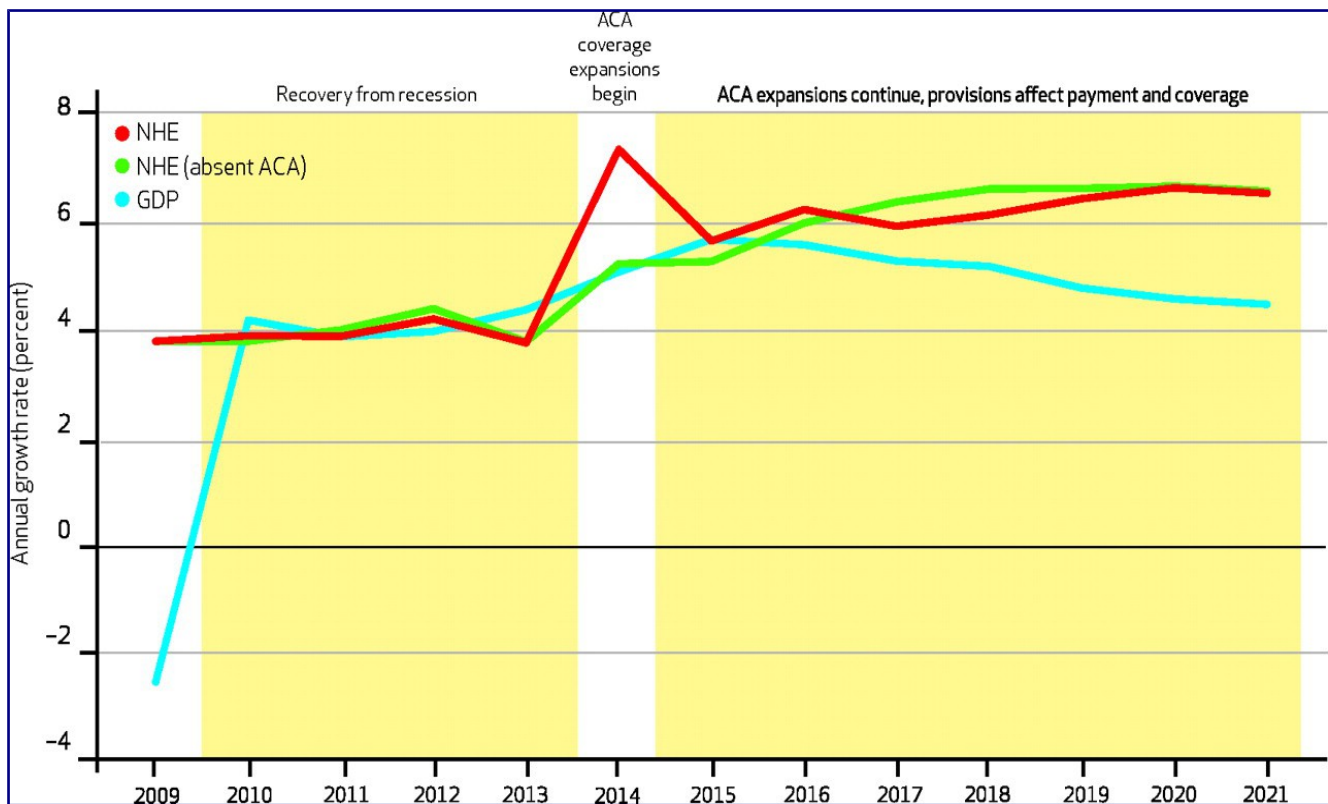


Doctors will not be built out of Lego in 2013. But there are plenty of other changes!

The Affordable Care Act's biggest year is, without a doubt, 2014: That's when the federal subsidies to purchase health insurance roll out. It's also when penalties for not buying coverage kick in.

But many of the big changes will start gradually in 2013. They range from increasing payments to Medicaid doctors to upping Medicare taxes to the exchanges' very first open-enrollment period. Here's a quick guide to what will happen in health care in the next year.

Health-care cost growth will slow to a new low. The United States is expected to spend a \$2.9 trillion on health care in 2013, according to actuaries at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. That would be 3.8 percent more than the \$2.8 trillion that CMS estimates we spent in 2012.



That 3.8 percent growth rate, if it actually happens, would be the slowest health-care growth in decades. That has little to do with the Affordable Care Act, the CMS actuaries explain, and a lot more to do with slow income growth. “Consumers are expected to remain sensitive to rising health costs, particularly given continued low projected income growth,” they write. “In this environment, consumers are likely to continue to be judicious in their use of health-care services.”

2. Your Medicare taxes will increase. Some people mark the turning of the new year with champagne and kisses. The Affordable Care Act has something slightly different in mind: [Two new taxes](#) to finance Medicare. Both are meant to bring in additional revenue to continue funding the health-care program for seniors.

Employers already take out 7.65 percent of workers’ wages to support the elderly and disabled. Of that, 1.45 percent goes toward paying Medicare’s hospital bills. Obamacare increases the Medicare hospital tax by 0.9 percent, beginning in 2013, for anyone who earns more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 for joint filers). It also creates a new, 3.8 percent tax on investment income, setting income thresholds at the same \$200,000 and \$250,000 levels mentioned above. Taken together, those two provisions are expected to generate \$210.2 billion over the next decade.

3. Your insurance plan will be explained in plain English. Say goodbye to insurance forms with 8-point font that stretch on for dozens of pages. Starting in 2013, the Affordable Care Act requires insurance companies to send their subscribers a standardized, four-page summary of benefits and coverage that runs through the health plan in easy-to-understand terms. Think of this as a nutrition label for health insurance. Here’s what one page of the [sample summary](#) looks like.

Insurance Company 1: Plan Option 1

Coverage Period: 01/01/2013 – 12/31/2013

Summary of Benefits and Coverage: What this Plan Covers & What it Costs

Coverage for: Individual + Spouse | Plan Type: PPO



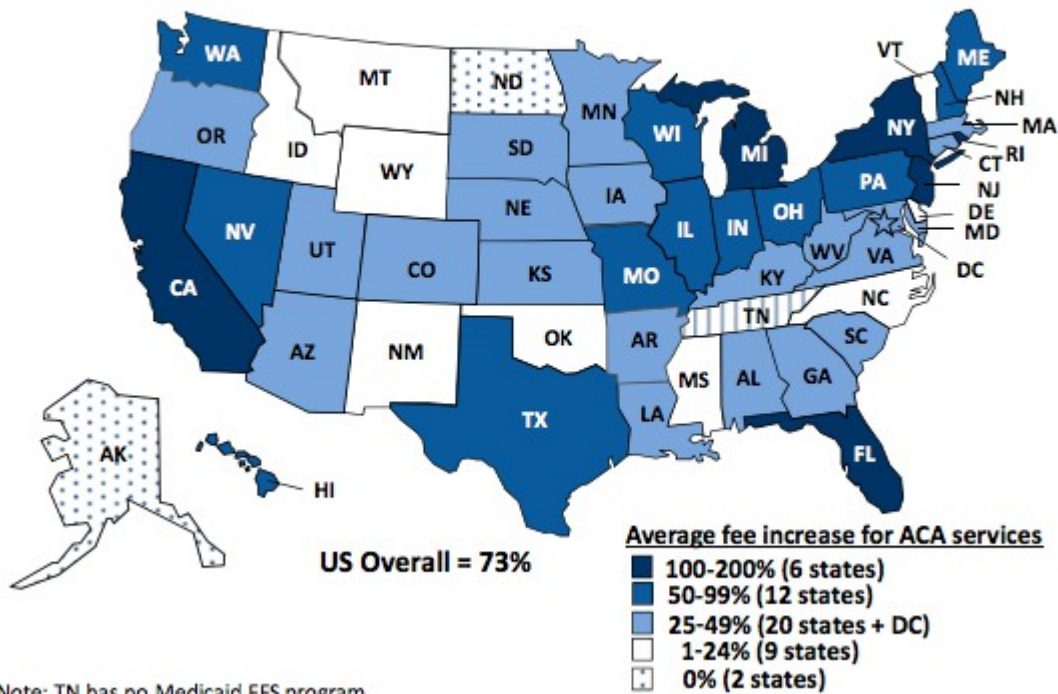
- **Copayments** are fixed dollar amounts (for example, \$15) you pay for covered health care, usually when you receive the service.
- **Coinsurance** is *your* share of the costs of a covered service, calculated as a percent of the **allowed amount** for the service. For example, if the plan's **allowed amount** for an overnight hospital stay is \$1,000, your **coinsurance** payment of 20% would be \$200. This may change if you haven't met your **deductible**.
- The amount the plan pays for covered services is based on the **allowed amount**. If an out-of-network **provider** charges more than the **allowed amount**, you may have to pay the difference. For example, if an out-of-network hospital charges \$1,500 for an overnight stay and the **allowed amount** is \$1,000, you may have to pay the \$500 difference. (This is called **balance billing**.)
- This plan may encourage you to use participating **providers** by charging you lower **deductibles**, **copayments** and **coinsurance** amounts.

Common Medical Event	Services You May Need	Your Cost if You Use a Participating Provider	Your Cost if You Use a Non-Participating Provider	Limitations & Exceptions
If you visit a health care <u>provider's</u> office or clinic	Primary care visit to treat an injury or illness	\$35 copay/visit	40% coinsurance	—————none—————
	Specialist visit	\$50 copay/visit	40% coinsurance	—————none—————
	Other practitioner office visit	20% coinsurance for chiropractor and acupuncture	40% coinsurance for chiropractor and acupuncture	—————none—————
	Preventive care/screening/immunization	No charge	40% coinsurance	—————none—————
If you have a test	Diagnostic test (x-ray, blood work)	\$10 copay/test	40% coinsurance	—————none—————
	Imaging (CT/PET scans, MRIs)	\$50 copay/test	40% coinsurance	—————none—————

This requirement actually kicked in a few months ago: Health insurance plans with open enrollment periods after Sept. 23, 2012, were required to offer this information. For anyone buying insurance from a plan with earlier open enrollment, these summaries will show up for the first time in 2013.

4. **Primary care providers in Medicaid will get a 73 percent raise.** The Congressional Budget Office estimates that Medicaid will gain 7 million new enrollees in 2014, as a result of the health law expanding the program up to 133 percent of the poverty line. The federal government wants to make sure that doctors keep serving that population, even though the Medicaid program tends to pay physicians less than private insurance. That's why the health-care law includes a provision that boosts primary care reimbursements in Medicaid to match those of Medicare for 2013 and 2014. On average, that will mean a [73 percent](#) raise for Medicaid doctors, according to researchers at the Urban Institute. As you can see in the map below, there's lots of variation between states in terms of the size of this pay raise.

Figure 3
**Average Medicaid Fee Increases for
 ACA Primary Care Services in 2013, by State**



Note: TN has no Medicaid FFS program.

SOURCE: 2012 KCMU/Urban Institute Medicaid Physician Fee Survey

5. The Obamacare exchanges will open for business. We often talk about January 1, 2014 as the date that states need to be ready for the health reform law. But when you talk to the states actually working to roll out the law, they often talk about October 1, 2013 as a much more significant deadline. That's the day when the health exchanges open for business, when any American can go online, compare plans and, if they want, purchase health insurance. This is true for state-operated health exchanges as well as those being run by the federal government.