

**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** **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 – 413 – 9537 [line 1]

530 – 763 – 1594 [line 2 & 3]

530 – 746 – 0341 [line 4]

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

B Conference Call: 1-860-970-0300

Thursday PIN #	87 87 87#
Friday PIN #	23 23 23#
Saturday PIN #	13 72 9#

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 **Current Program Archives**
 - Scroll down to **Hard News on Friday with Tara and Rama**, and click on **"More Archives"**
 - Click on those words and you will be taken to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
 - You can download the program to your own computer or listen directly.
- 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 – 860 – 970-0300; 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 & others
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: Cheryl Croci

Housekeeping: Rainbird Thank you!

- BBS:**
- A listener-supported radio program; we can access program archives on BBS
 - We need \$ 300 each week; **this week, we need \$????** for the radio.??????????
Many thanks to everyone for paying it forward!
 - Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for True History call; find the **Paypal** button
 - BBS appreciates getting checks through the mail – no fees taken off by Paypal
 - **NO COST TO ACCESS THE ARCHIVES** for either of the 2 T & R PROGRAMS, or the Thursday night program: Stargate Round Table, hosted by MariettaRobert
 - Re: archives of other BBS programs; 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:
BBS Network, Inc. [Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope.]
5167 Toyon Lane
Paradise, CA 95969
 - Sending a check to BBS means all your money is received; using Paypal incurs a fee.

- T & R:**
- They also need \$ **for food & gas & rent [rent by next Saturday]**
 - We can donate via the Paypal button on the website:
www.2013RainbowRoundTable.ning.com
 - **Please notify them if you're sending something:** Koran999@comcast.com
 - 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
 - **You can book a session with MR for a transformational clearing, too.**

- T:** **if you have any trouble hearing, that means there is an issue with the sound and it is an emergency - so call this number: 1-888- 429 – 5471**
- **if you cannot get through, use this # 1-888 – 710-8061**

HARD NEWS:

T: Putin had a comment about love!

[SEE BELOW]

Reading: 2014, Nov 7 Putin: 'Love is the meaning of life'

R: talked to LM Nada who was at the UN – about **Bill Cosby**

- he was abducted for 30 days, programmed and chipped by the Black Ops
- what we are watching is like the story of Mary O'Brien

T: Why did they do this? To take down a black icon and also the black people?

R: Also goes into the story of O J Simpson; L M Nada said he ALSO was chipped and programmed;

- he hired the mafia to kill his wife - had to do with drugs; she was playing around with the son of Mr Goldman, son of THE Goldman Sachs! Gets into the realm of greed, and when does it stop? The 13 families have already sealed their fate
- Bil Cosby, Bill Gates and former CEO of Apple who just recently died – wanted to do something

and did not want to go into the off-shore and outsourcing thing as how many industries have done
• we don't build things in the US now; we just export guns and terrorism

- OJ, Bill Gates, Bill Cosby wanted to buy out General Motors and make a green industry – build electric cars where the electricity would come from plants;
- all R can say: the one good thing Bill Gates did is upload billions and trillions of nanites into the satellites; when Ashtar and Sanananda give the word, the satellites will stop working.
- It is already happening as there are anomalies already happening – there are so many beings here that are semi-cloaked, full cloaked, and stories about our brothers and sisters who come from light years and light years away: Earth is the centre of things at the moment
- As Obama said: we are not a nation of strangers; we are a nation of immigrants from across the universe – the millenials already know this and are doing it – no longer a question: just be the change you want to see in the world

LM Nada: Bill Cosby will likely have to do some hard time for what he has done; he did rape these women but he was programmed and chipped;

T: are they going to nial those who did the programming?

R: yes. He can ask for help from the right individuals who know how to step forward in a very secure way.

- LM Nada said: Bill Cosby can ask Edward Snowden and Julian Assange as Edward and Julian have a way with Anonymous to get Cosby the help he needs. This is outside the circle of the 13 families who have only one intention – to see Obama dead.

Camp Lovewave: talked of the new movie: **Dying to Know**, a documentary. Director is a woman who worked with Elizabeth Kubler Ross, Terrence McKenna, Ram Dass and others:

- Ram Dass had a stroke a while ago; has to focus on every syllable and word – send him love
 - The energies coming in can also change the way we think and help people like Ram
- 22 vets kill themselves every single day because of the failed Vets administration, though Bernie Sanders is moving the energies forward:
 - we need Dr McCoy and Dr Crusher to get the medicine at the level of the Star Fleet.
- As we have the ability to share the wisdom for so many technologies like those of Dr Keshe and others Tesla created
 - There are rejuvenation/reintegration chambers in Germany, Moscow, London, Dubai, Saudi Arabia: closest thing he has seen to what is on the ships: go in it, lie down and there are millions of crystals in the chamber, as the power goes through the crystals, our DNA is re-programmed. They work and are manufactured in Germany; only a few made in a year.
- Angela Merkel has a lot of explaining to do about her father, Adolph Hitler; the Tesserach; the Thule Society, the red skull; Hydra and all those who have turned the frequencies of interdimensional technologies that open portals and instantaneously heal us into something that used for purposes of controlling the planet

L M Nada: Merkel is not long for this world [maybe because of what has happened to her]

R: there are some issues going on in her body; broke her pelvis skiing, then losing lots of weight

- Ben Fulford put out a story: she got into a life-threatening accident where she was almost beaten to death

T: that is **not an accident!**

R: does not trust what Fulford said – maybe they did beat the s*** out of her & it wasn't a skiing accident!

- These are the stories that try men's souls now: it is about the fact that people are here and they want to help us: they have the keys to immortality; we do not have to get old, sick, or die!
- There are already 100s of thousands who aren't already!
- Brings tears to the eyes: now is the time!

T: in general, **Nada is saying the final move to getting the enactment of NESARA being publically made is being done strongly**

R: what Obama did by giving 5 million people a chance for a new life is awesome!

T: SO MUCH NEWS! Where to begin?

- There is a special about the Rohingya, the Muslims in Myanmar – the Buddhists are constantly slaughtering the Muslims - makes no sense
R: has to do with the Black Ops on the planet and the archons trying to create animosity in the people, keep us separate when we are really all one!

T: there is a young man who is getting free, talked about on *Democracy Now* on Thursday.

- He was given an inheritance of tools from his father; he was a savant - extremely smart on one level, and handicapped on others; he did not understand the process for getting them and he got arrested for stealing the tools yet his mental condition was not accounted for or dealt with – he got 4 years for being a thief.
 - In another incident, he was trying out a gun of some sort to see if it worked – he had attempted to escape from the prison in Florida with some other folks– 13 times and he escaped 7 times and finally they put him in for life!
 - He was in for 34 years and for 27 years, he was in solitary and for the last 10 years, he asked to be in the sun for even one hour a week and was constantly refused: send love to this situation!
- In 1984, Bob Gendalf created a song to help the people of Biafra; the words were changed for a special concert with the people who had ebola – these people could be touched no more.

Bill Moyers – had on 2 people: about tracing history back to the Tillman Act in 1907, and back to the Founding Fathers and went off the path that was created and not necessarily by our will

- the Tillman Act banned money in campaigns
- In 2013, the Supreme Court disenfranchised a certain section in the Civil Rights Act
- the Organic Columiba Act – the bankers snatched the democratic way of free enterprize – this is not free trade which is the opposite of free enterprize.

R: Abe Lincoln signed an Executive Order: The Proclamation of Emanicipation! Nancy Pelosi brought this up

T: Melissa Harris Perry did a snippet of Pelosi who said “Did you know that ...?”

- we asked to do an experiment and the United States is the experiment of all experiments: with this Consitution and the Declaration of Independence which has to do with what we wanted to do 450 million years ago when we spoke to Mother and said we would like to co-create a universe
- in the 1st creation, in the 12th dimension, we asked Mother to co-create a Universe [of Nebadon] and we would also co-create a human form in the 5th dimension, so we moved from the 12th to the 5th to do this; it could have been trillions of years ago in 3D time as we have been counting.[diff between galactic time and linear time]
 - Hopefully we are experieincing the reduction of time – the original 24 hours is now 8 hours.
 - The crystalline portal star gate of 11 11 has done it – there is no turning back.
- We demanded that the galactics leave us alone: we wanted to prove to ourselves that we could have a veil and voluntarily drop down into a lower dimension and create the Universe of Nebadon in polarity and not forget who we are;
 - the 0ther 6 Super Universes are not polar but Uni – ie, Unity Consciousness/ one pole – they are in non-linearity: It takes 2 poles to have a physcial world,

R: brings up the new Movie called *InterStellar* – they bring up the Tessereach which when it opens up, can go into black holes, from matter to anti-matter.

T: things happening that are stunning; also in free will

- Tells of the unknown stranger who urged the Founding Fathers to sign the Declaration of Independence - this was in **1774**, NOT 1776 when Thomas Jefferson wrote the altered

chopped version, as the south said they would not accept the original if they had to drop slavery

- this is the original Declaration of Independence, created after 13 years of the founding fathers sitting with the elders of the iroquois, White Buffalo Calf woman, Dagona Weeda [another name for Christ] and other Ascended Masters
- we are talking about laying down a **new overstanding of the fact of intervention**: these were galactic immortals sitting with this small group and offering guidance
- It also happened 450 years ago in the English hologram when Francis Bacon / St Germain was part of the Shakespearian Group; the name "Shakespeare" was a code name –
 - the plays and the writings were done with the entire group, including King James 1st who was a pedophile, a homophobe who tortured and murdered people; he was a hater and a nazi collaborator of that day, you might say! And he sat in the same circle with Sir Francis Bacon
 - Yet, there was a renaissance that was spearheaded by Sir Francis Bacon and teaching about mercantile banking that could be made available to **all the people**. The banksters said no, the people are too stupid; we want this just for us. Stupid is as stupid does: as we are all one, they would also be affected by what they did: as they harmed others, they would also be harmed - yet they were allowed to carry on.
 - Yet there was intervention going on – St Germain was an Ascended Master working in that lifetime, not dying; he is still here with an office in Virginia and in DC, with numerous people conversing with him: Barack Obama, KOS, Larry, Curly Mo & others: another roundtable!
- To say that there has been no intervention is nonsense – lots of people are from Missouri: "show me"
 - there are tons of lightworkers who call them and say KOS a fraud, they are frauds and others are frauds, too: how come we don't get to see St Germain?
 - **The deal from the very beginning was that it was to be done in a very quiet way [to attract as little attention as possible]**
 - It started in a real time basis in the first half of 20th century, with background laid down earlier; Many of the Knights Templar members who barely survived WW 1 and WW2 and escaping to America, & working with the Masonic teachings for good, and telling people here about Operation Paperclip where 100,000 Nazis got imported into the US in order to set up the 4th Reich
 - There are many in the Masonic Lodges working for the Light who know what is happening and about which we get to know a bit here and a bit there
 - The younger folks call us & ask how come they don't just help you; St G can give you money!
 - **this would be a violation of Cosmic Law** [non-intervention in a civilization's development] which is the reason why the White Knights / Faction 3 cannot be known;
 - this has to do with Faction 2 being a mixed bag having to do with Congress, the military and having to do with duality: the Universe of Nebadon was created in a denser dimensional reality requiring a polar system/ 2 poles: we started in the 12th dimension and dropped to the 3rd and the veil of forgetfulness actualized itself in that descent; we said that we would find our way back – please don't intervene! We can do this! We would like free will choice and we need to find out the consequences of our choices.
 - So the free will choice of where this support comes from for doing this mission – it is not about Tara and Rama: please don't kill the messengers but they [T & R] **are not to be out in the world doing anything like that ; they are to be doing this work** so the White Knights / Faction 3 can do what they do .
 - **Rama is the only one without a gag order who has direct contact with this group.**
 - He is also Ashtar's son. Barack Obama talks to Ashtar, Sananda, St Germain and AA Michael, and others from the Ashtar Command. He is the only President in history who has been at the 38th level above the President as well as being the President which is unusual.
 - A young person who doesn't know the history of 13,000 years of darkness on this planet and about the fact that none of these characters are human: they are reptilians who can shape-shift yet there are all kinds of snags: like Hillary whose eyes turn into slits vertically and turn black

- during interviews, and looks like a snake. These kinds of things are being seen
- Refers to **Transformation of America** by Cathy O'Brien, an MK Ultra girl; handler was Bush Sr;
 - she watched him shape shift into a lizard when she was having sex with him, retracting organs and all.
 - And this is not a figment of anyone's imaginations; the younger ones are said to have Aspergers, ADD, PTSD, autism, or schizophrenia which are consequences that were created by experiments, tortures, murders from the past that affect our DNA and people with a great degree of sensitivity are negatively affected with these so-called "conditions"
 - The school system has no room for such sensitive people and wants to turn them into droids.
- T & R, Howard Zinn, others on the call are of **The Prophets' Generation**:
 - came to say that something went amiss

R: on the New Jerusalem, the mothership of Asther and Commander Sananda, R serves alongside reptilian bridge officers who are of the highest love & are not about conquest, control, darkness

- Reptilians have been given a bad rap on this planet, due to a small group; we are all Goddess' children
- On Nibiru, Mother's home world, there are bird people, lion people, etc everyone serves in love!

- T: She has gone over all this because**, since the time of Sir Francis Bacon, we have been being intervened upon heavily, in order to bring the new renaissance in and to help people comprehend what is going on in this world
- also, no money is exchanged between Faction 1 and Faction 2; no money exchanged between the galactics and the humans
 - yet those in Faction 1 and Faction 2 are so busy playing games for the love of money and the love of power, rather than working with the power of love, those of us able to receive this information have gained an edge!
 - It is a rare opportunity to hear what they [T & R] are saying; this information is not available anywhere else, not findable anywhere else.
 - It has to do with our healing; the White Knights have taken up the gauntlet to work behind the scenes with the galactics and having the KOS is the 7th initiation and incarnation of Sananda Kumara on the planet – a concept for fundamental believers that is blasphemous!
 - And you won't find this anywhere else: L M Nada is Sananda's Twin Flame and is also in her 7th initiation and incarnation on this planet
 - she has been in charge of the US since Feb 7, 2014 when the Fed Reserve and the IRS were completely deleted from the matrix – all that is going on is 4th Reich nazi thugs who keep the program running by demanding money and threaten debtors' prison, etc, etc.
 - Nonetheless, it is important that we comprehend what is happening here!

Audio: Democracy Now 10th anniversary of the publication of The Peoples History by Howard Zinn
[SEE BELOW]
<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2014-1121.mp4>

Audio: Democracy Now

2014, Nov 20 **"Just Mercy": Bryan Stevenson on Ferguson, Prison Reform & Why the Opposite of Poverty is Justice**
[SEE BELOW]

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/11/20/just_mercy_bryan_stevenson_on_ferguson

PART 2: Bryan Stevenson on Executions and Civil Rights: "Lynching Stopped But the Mindset Didn't"
[SEE BELOW]

http://www.democracynow.org/blog/2014/11/20/part_2_bryan_stevenson_on_executions

T: NESARA involves straightening out the idea that inequality is fine; Stevenson was talking that the opposite of poverty is not wealth: the opposite of poverty is justice! Which is what NESARA IS ABOUT.

Audio: Pirate Television Episode 122 Chris Bollyn: The Deception that Changed the World

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXKdLcilf9k&feature=youtu.be>

Published on 9 Oct 2014 Investigative journalist Christopher Bollyn, author of **Solving 9-11**, makes the case for why he believes the Israelis were behind the attack on the World Trade Center. In 2006, Bollyn was helping Professor Steven E. Jones when they found evidence of Thermite in the dust of the Twin Towers. Soon after Bollyn was attacked by undercover police at his home and left the country. [recorded in Seattle, Sept 27/14]



T: just remember that the 13 families have had a grip on all the presidents in the US since the beginning. He is also the one who assembled the document called **“Mapping the Israeli Network behind 9-11”, dated July 25, 2008.**

R: interrupts Chris Bollyn: this man does not say that 78,000 + people died, or what Dr Judy Wood talks about - the Hutchison Effect – or that the magnetic particle beam on the ISS was used to ignite the nukes under the buildings in NYC

Dr. Judy Wood - Where Did the Towers Go? - YouTube

10 Sep 2011 ... This is a video and picture enhanced radio show interview between Dr. Judy Wood and Regina Meredith on Conscious Media Network at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWjkiDulhR8>

T: the only way to use money at this point is to help get the truth out. Obama was a Manchurian candidate under Zsibignew Brezinski – he knew what he was going to have to do: he got nominated to be president and he knew that someone like us would be able to reach ordinary people and strip off the facade and do it with spiritual wisdom at the same time

- We must realize we cannot serve 2 masters: the only we can use money at this time is to get the truth out; he cannot do this by himself – the astrology coming in is pushing us from behind and the energies will not let up.

T: Chris Bollyn cannot say that Alan Greenspan was supposed to announce the Reformation Act on the morning of 9/11 or that John McCain is handled by Henry Kissinger who was Henry VIII -

- that Chris is saying all this and still alive is a miracle! We have not heard this on the public airways before: he is saying more than most people!.

Musical Break

ASTROLOGY: RICHARD

- Mars has gone far enough past Pluto at 21* Capricorn – it's separating itself from the Plutonian energy

Sat am: Sun moved into Sag, new moon was in early morning

Sat pm: moon conjunct Venus in Sag – a comfortable energy;

- Yesterday, moon conjunct Mercury, squared Jupiter at dinner time;
- Venus has moved out the square position: sun is no longer square Jupiter, but Mercury is square Jupiter: keeps our logical brain on track, looking for flaws, propoganda, disinformation
- Sag to Pisces square – sun and Venus square Neptune & Chiron

Mon am: moon goes into Capricorn

Sun: monn trine Uranus in the morning; trines Jupiter at 10:15 pm – a fire trine

Tues: moon in Capricorn all day, conjuncts Pluto in am; squares Uranus a bit later;

- Mercury is moving fast - will conjunct Saturn - does around 1.5* of arc / day; it's a periodic thing.
- Mercury, Venus, Sun travel together – they change places as leader periodically
- Soon Mercury catches up to sun on Dec 8th

Wed: a big energy day: moon conjunct Mars over night; Venus exactly trines Uranus in the pm – maybe we can get some unexpected beauty out of that combination! Sun squares Neptune also.

Thurs: moon is in Aquarius until Friday in the pm; Mercury goes into Sag

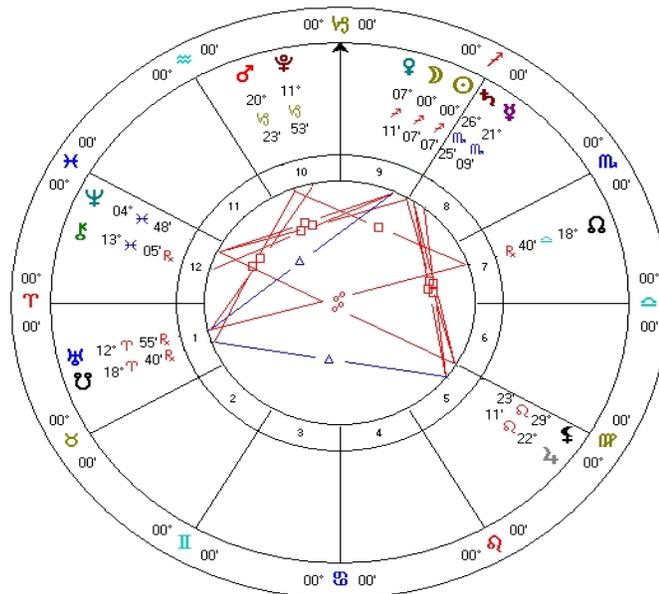
next weekend: moon in Pisces, conjunction neptune on Sat pm.

The Pele Report for November 18, 2014

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=SiwVr_T9GPA

I must pull myself together
 And rise up from the ashes,
 Rekindling the flame
 Of love for all that happens.

**New Moon
 Natal Chart**
 Nov 22 2014, Sat
 6:33 am CST -6:00
 San Jose, Costa Rica
 09°N56' 084°W05'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 0° Aries
 True Node



Welcome to the new Moon in Sagittarius! 0 degrees at that..... I relate it so much to the Phoenix, rising from the ashes of the funeral pyre in Scorpio to be resurrected with new hope, new beliefs, and new frontiers! For that resurrection to happen it becomes necessary to let go of the negative emotions that can lead to judgments and separation.

As the tension of the Uranus/Pluto square tightens up toward becoming exact in January, believe me, there will be plenty going on that can piss us off, bum us out, and bring us down. The square to Lilith brings up the inequality between the sexes that is still going on whether obvious or beneath the surface. As Sag is the sign of the seeker/teacher may you learn more truth and spread the joy you find!.... so much love.....

Ri: Venus is soft and fluffy, flowers and comforters!

T: The poor people in Buffalo – the temps go up on Monday and it will melt quickly!
 It was raining today! There are roof tops groaning under the weight of the snow.

Ri: 7 – 8 feet is not the normal!

T: this is not normal: they have created the feed back loop – every time the loop drops, there is now 6x as much heat going up to the Arctic Circle. And the acidity in the ocean is killing the fish: Ashtar, hurry up!

Reading by Richard: Dane Rudyar

Conference Call

R: October was the warmest month in history – in the US! And sort of across the world as well – in the northern hemisphere; has to do with the evil fairy dust we have been enduring from the folks in Operation Cloverleaf and the Nebraska Navy

- yes, hemp is growing in Nebraska – the fields are still there from WW 2 – growing wild! Hemp was being grown to make rope for the military; also in Kansas.

P: Is anyone making use of it, or is it forbidden to touch it?

- That was in the 70s – doesn't know what has happened in the interim. What with Brownback and the other life forms like him - we need to nationalize hemp on a national level

T: a friend is doing a lot of tweeting to young people, and she is doing more things to send the NESARA info out – having trouble -

Rainbird: can't transfer a PDF from the website to a smart phone or on the MAC or on her old PC

- can download but it comes out in code, not English

Lyn: the actual website does not open even on Microsoft

T: glad that certain setups work – the young people have smart phones and cannot open the NESARA documents from them – gets Rama to try: Rama downloaded the N document from the website but you have to buy a program to make it open!

Ahalya: how can we get it so people can read it?

T: thinks it's coming up – the Pirate TV program is a breakthrough on the 9/11

- Chris' video was on Free Speech TV and Amy Goodman spoke of it on Democracy Now which is on PBS which means it gets heard around the world

- **Zionists run the US and the world: Rama was told 17 countries did 9/11**

Ahalya: on Linux – uses Duck-Duck-Go - she finds all kinds of videos by Chris Bollyn

T: finds it strange that the Repubs after all their screaming, took off for their home districts

- they disappear and here comes **Chris Bollyn!**
- And then **Bryan Stephenson and his book** on Democracy Now!

Rachel Maddow's show: traces all the things done by the Republicans to Obama

T: something really changed on Nov 19 or 20; said that David Cameron said on Thursday that there is a only a frayed hair until market collapse

- Tara watches NHK, France, Germany programs – they are all saying the same things:

Japan: the opposition parties say PM Abe is calling the election to cover up his failed policies – he has completely trashed his country's economy – he added another 10% to the money people have to pay for goods and service.

New Mexico: increased costs of electricity – 9 % but for T & R 166 %

Caller: glad to hear the Chris Bollyn video: not sure all the people in Israel are Zionists

T: went to the Sikh temple; one of the ladies said of Israel that what is happening to their young people is devastating:

Caller: is doing a lot of forgiveness as she is Jewish; every time she hears stuff like this, she is bothered. r

T: the Indian lady said the kids have to go into the military or go to jail: they are totally traumatized and become drug addicts in India – get their money from the Israeli gov't and keep on smoking!

Caller: Windows 8.1 or XP or on his android – cannot open the document – or it comes in as code.

T: Brad Friedman and Greg Palast – White Knights and a half
T: the weather is being manipulated – we have to do the spiritual work

- What last caller brought up: people coming to Israel from Sudan, Ethiopia – treated as less than human in Israel – if sent back to country of origin, will be killed.

Music

BBS

T: have just been talking about the deep sadness that comes when we hear of the energy that has gone off the rails in Israel – ask for the highest good of all, in the Office of the Christ and with the Violet Flame.

Audio: rest of the Chris Bollyn video on 9/11

{See video address up above}

Audio: from Rachel Maddow

[SEE TRANSCRIPT OF NOV 21, 2014 BELOW]

Begins by talking about about the President's speech in the Rose Garden in 2012, in the heat of the president's campaign: he offered certain people temporary relief from the threat of being deported.

- the person heckling the president was an accredited journalist & he is still working for his paper.
- the sky did not fall: the policy change was announced 2 years ago and all is well in spite of the Republicans screaming that the sky would fall.
- Tonight's speech from the East Room includes the removal of the threat from families as well as individuals and builds on DACA and a long list of warning signs that the President was going to do things like this!

Audio: The Last Word – Laurence O'Donnell

11/20/14

Lawrence remembers director Mike Nichols

[Guest is James Lipton]

Legendary filmmaker Mike Nichols died Wednesday night at the age of 83. He is only one of a dozen people to win an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony.

<http://www.msnbc.com/the-last-word/watch/lawrence-remembers-director-mike-nichols-361604163858>

Audio: Chris Hayes, Rachel Maddow – 2014, Nov 21 – Reaction to the President's Exec Order on Immigration

- interviewing Luis Guterrez, Rev Al Sharpton, a variety of people directly affected by the E.O.
- bring up Rand Paul's fund-raising memo based on the E. O.

Audio: the Colbert Report

Guest: Jon Stewart

<http://thecolbertreport.cc.com/videos/e55wo4/jon-stewart-pt--1>

<http://thecolbertreport.cc.com/videos/vbi9v5/jon-stewart-pt--2>

Audio: Rachel Maddow 2014, Nov 22

About Obama's trip back to Nevada to say he did what he promised he would do re: immigration

Energetic response shows power of Obama's immigration reform action

Rachel Maddow shows the energetic response President Obama received today talking about immigration reform in front of a live audience instead of just a TV camera, and points out how Obama is staying relevant in the lame duck years of his presidency.

<http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/energetic-response-shows->

[power-of-reform-move-362069059547](http://www.msnbc.com/power-of-reform-move-362069059547)

Happy human stories put GOP in tough spot on immigration

Alan Gomez, immigration reporter for USA Today, talks with Rachel Maddow about how President Obama's actions on immigration affect the lives of millions of people in America and the tough political spot Republicans are in trying to oppose it.

<http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/happy-human-stories-put-gop-in-tough-spot-362069571698>

Audio: The Last Word – Laurence O'Donnell 2014, Nov 17

Exclusive: Brittany Maynard's mom responds to critics

The Vatican called Brittany Maynard's decision to end her life "reprehensible." Her mother responds to all of Brittany's critics in a letter provided to The Last Word.

<http://www.msnbc.com/the-last-word/watch/exclusive-brittany-maynards-mom-responds-to-critics-360101443910>

Audio: Weekends with Alex Witt 2014, Nov 15

New book explores two historic JFK speeches

Andrew Cohen, author and professor of journalism and international affairs at Carleton University, joins Alex Witt to talk about his new book, "Two Days in June," which examines President John F. Kennedy's two pivotal speeches on nuclear arms and civil rights.

<http://www.msnbc.com/alex-witt/watch/new-book-explores-two-historic-jfk-speeches-359145027956>

Jon Stewart makes his directorial debut

Comedian Jon Stewart talks with Alex Witt about his first feature film, "Rosewater," which chronicles the imprisonment and torture of Maziar Bahari, an Iranian journalist who was accused of being a spy after appearing on "The Daily Show."

<http://www.msnbc.com/alex-witt/watch/jon-stewart-makes-his-directorial-debut-358871619961>

Comments from Naomi Klein

Audio: Breaking the Set Creator of Turntable Health In Las Vegas – Dr Zubin Dumoniak

Audio: Melissa Harris Perry – local community organizer; George Carter, 15 years old in 2014i
Started a groupd called Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools
George Carter was shot at the age of 15 years old!

Audio: Max Keiser Episode 683 November 23, 2014

http://img.rt.com/files/episode/32/b5/30/00/kr2211_480p.mp4?event=download

In this episode of the Keiser Report, Max Keiser and Stacy Herbert discuss the heavens being taken by force rather than by consensus as Podemos rises as a political force in Spain and, in the UK, students plead for David Cameron to be gentle with them. In the second half Max interviews

John Mill Ackerman, law professor and editor-in-chief of the Mexican Law Review, about the protests in Mexico, the economic 'reforms' which partially led to the unrest and the new oil law and what it means for social programmes in Mexico.

Audio: Humanitarian Annual Food and Water Awards for 2014

London, June 18, 2014

<http://www.wafaward.org/#!london-2014/c23sr>

African Centre for Holistic Management (ACHM) – Zimbabwe. Allan Savory's achievements in managing cattle to push the deserts back.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=WAN_pD7c6h8

Growing power – USA. Will Allen's initiative has developed unused or abandoned lots into innovative, highly productive food production centers to bring healthy food to local children and the wider community.

Living Lands – South Africa. An initiative to curb soil erosion and raise water tables for a whole city.

Seonet - Kenya. Using the power of the Internet to help schools set up gardens that both train and nourish not only the schoolchildren but the local community.

MS Swaminathan Research Foundation - India. Mobilization has empowered community groups to increase holistic agricultural production, improve water harvesting structures, and stimulate local enterprise.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=vpTHi7O66pl

Reading: The Book of Fairies

Closing: Rainbird

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2014, Nov 7

Putin: 'Love is the meaning of life'



Russian President Vladimir Putin. (RIA Novosti/Michael Klimentyev)

Vladimir Putin is known for his sharp wit, but musings on love are a relative novelty. In an unexpected remark Friday, the Russian president spoke of the “meaning of life,” saying that for him “in general” it is love that matters.

Briefly digressing from politics, Putin ventured a philosophical observation that “multifaceted” love is the basis of all actions and the essence of being.

"The meaning of our whole life and existence is love," Putin told his audience at the 15th Congress of the Russian Geographical Society. "It is love for the family, for the children, for the motherland. This is a multifaceted phenomenon; it lies at heart of any of our behaviors."

Putin, who chairs the board of trustees at the Russian Geographical Society, went on to express his hopes that “joint work” would help strengthen love for the motherland.

"It is exactly the top priority which all of us should go after, and I am absolutely sure that we will succeed," he added.

Putin has spoken at length about the necessity to attract more interest in geography among younger Russians, saying it “can and should be one of the most interesting subjects in school.”

The president also suggested launching a National Geographical Quiz for testing knowledge in this field.

<http://rt.com/news/203339-putin-love-meaning-life/>

2014, Nov 21 **Viggo Mortensen Helps Mark 10 Years of Howard Zinn's "Voices of a People's History"**

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/11/21/viggo_mortensen_helps_mark_10_years

Guests: **Viggo Mortensen**, Academy Award-nominated actor who has appeared in many movies including **The Lord of the Rings** trilogy. Mortensen has appeared in numerous performances of *Voices of a People's History of the United States* and is a cast member of the television documentary version, *The People Speak*.

Anthony Arnove, co-author, with Howard Zinn, of *Voices of a People's History of the United States*. He co-directed the documentary *The People Speak* with Howard Zinn and a British version of the film with Colin Firth.

Actors including Viggo Mortensen, Peter Sarsgaard and Kelly Macdonald are gathering in New York today for a reading of "*Voices of a People's History of the United States*," based on the late historian Howard Zinn's book "*A People's History of the United States*" — which has sold over a million copies. The event marks the 10th anniversary of publication of "*Voices*," which was edited by Zinn and Anthony Arnove. Mortensen, an Academy Award-nominated actor whose credits include *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, has appeared in numerous performances of "*Voices*" and is a cast member of the television documentary version, "*The People Speak*." He joins us along with Anthony Arnove to discuss the 10th anniversary of "*Voices*" and its continued political relevance today.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Actors including Viggo Mortensen, Peter Sarsgaard and Kelly Macdonald are gathering in New York today for a reading of *Voices of a People's History of the United States*, based on the late historian Howard Zinn's book, *A People's History of the United States*, which has sold over a million copies. The event marks the 10th anniversary of publication of *Voices*, which was edited by Zinn and Anthony Arnove. At a reading in 2005 in Los Angeles, Zinn talked about why he wrote the book.

HOWARD ZINN: It seems that a lot of people who read the book were particularly struck by the fact that there were a lot of quotations in it, a lot of sort of nuggets of statements by people you don't normally hear from, because I wasn't quoting presidents and congressmen and industrialists and generals. No, I was quoting Native Americans and factory workers and women who went to work in the Lowell Mills at the age of 12 and died at the age of 25, very often. I was quoting dissenters of all sorts. Socialists and anarchists and antiwar people are heroes in this book. The people we quote are not Andrew Jackson, but the Indians that he ordered removed from the Southeastern states of the United States. You know, our heroes are not the war makers. Our heroes are not Theodore Roosevelt, but Mark Twain, not Woodrow Wilson, but Helen Keller.

AMY GOODMAN: Howard Zinn, speaking in 2005 at a reading of *Voices of a People's History of the United States*. At the event, the actor Viggo Mortensen read an excerpt of the 16th century Spanish historian Bartolomé de las Casas, who wrote a short account of the destruction of the Indies.

VIGGO MORTENSEN: [reading Bartolomé de las Casas] "The Indies were discovered in the year one thousand four hundred and ninety-two. Forty-nine years have passed since the first settlers penetrated the land, the first being the large and most happy isle called Hispaniola, perhaps the most densely populated place in the world.

"There must be close to two hundred leagues of land on this island, and all the land so far discovered is a beehive of people; it is as though God had crowded into these lands the great majority of mankind.

"And of all the infinite universe of humanity, these people are the most guileless, the most devoid of wickedness and duplicity, the most obedient and faithful to their native masters and to the Spanish Christians whom they serve. And because they are so weak and complaisant, they are less able to endure heavy labor

and soon die of no matter what malady.

"Yet into this sheepfold, into this land of meek outcasts there came some Spaniards who immediately behaved like ravening wild beasts, wolves, tigers, or lions that had been starved for many days—killing, terrorizing, afflicting, torturing, and destroying the native peoples, doing all this with the strangest and most varied new methods of cruelty, never seen or heard of before, and to such a degree that this Island of Hispaniola, once so populous (having a population that I estimated to be more than three millions), has now a population of barely two hundred persons.

"Their reason for killing and destroying such an infinite number of souls is that the Christians have an ultimate aim, which is to acquire gold, and to swell themselves with riches in a very brief time and thus rise to a high estate disproportionate to their merits. It should be kept in mind that their insatiable greed and ambition, the greatest ever seen in the world, is the cause of their villainies. And also, those lands are so rich and felicitous, the native peoples so meek and patient, so easy to subject, that our Spaniards have no more consideration for them than beasts—no, for thanks be to God, they have treated beasts with some respect; I should say instead like excrement on the public squares."

AMY GOODMAN: That's Viggo Mortensen in 2006, reading Bartolomé de las Casas in a Voices of a People's History of the United States event. The Academy Award-nominated actor joins us now in New York. He's appeared in many films, including Lord of the Rings trilogy. Viggo has appeared in numerous performances of Voices and is a cast member of the television documentary version of The People Speak. Also with us, Anthony Arno, co-editor with Howard Zinn of Voices of a People's History of the United States and co-directed the documentary, The People Speak.

We welcome you to, both, Democracy Now! Tell us about Bartolomé de las Casas and why he matters to you, Viggo.

VIGGO MORTENSEN: Bartolomé de las Casas was a priest, a religious man, who accompanied some of the first Iberian expeditions to what we call the New World, you know, and what he's talking about in that text, where he talks about extreme cruelty and basically that period in history's corporate takeover of what we now call Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica, that region, it's really—it is very disturbing, what he describes. And he wrote these texts and presented them to the court, to the king in Spain, and complained about it. Nothing really changed, because economic interests are what they are, just as they are in this country and other places. Citizens have to do something, have to demand change, you know.

And, you know, this book, Voices of a People's History of the United States, is unusual in that it has to do with firsthand accounts, contemporary accounts, throughout this nation's history by people that maybe we've never heard of, events that we've never heard of, unfortunately. You know, I think that all tribes, all nations have what some call foundation myths, you know, which are—foundation myths, I think, are—well, Anthony can correct me, he's the scholar here, but they are stories that we like to tell, or that governments like to tell, to protect, to further, to enforce a status quo, you know, established states of affairs. And what this book presents, however, are texts that are, as I say, firsthand historical accounts, reactions by more or less regular people to real social, political events. I think what I call this is foundation facts, you know, which is, I think, what you guys deal with or try to every day here.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Well, and the relevance of Zinn's great work for today, for this specific day, this historic day after President Obama has made his announcements. We had on the show today an immigrant, an undocumented mother, who's an immigrants' rights activist, and her daughter; a priest leading a sanctuary movement, a New Sanctuary Movement; and an organizer for the farm workers, Immokalee workers—part of those people's histories. Anthony, the relevance for today of the book?

ANTHONY ARNOVE: Well, absolutely, and that's why we've just done a new edition of the book. It's the 10th anniversary of the first edition. Howard and I had an opportunity to update it in 2009, and I've just updated it for 2014 with 10 new voices, including voices of the undocumented, voices of a day laborer, voices of new movements that are emerging. And as bittersweet as it was to work on this project and to see Howard's work continuing after he passed away in 2010, I know that he would have wanted to continue to document these

struggles, highlight those voices, which are all too often pushed to the margin, and see the connections between today's struggles and historical struggles for change.

AMY GOODMAN: Let's turn to a clip of Kerry Washington reading Sojourner Truth.

KERRY WASHINGTON: [reading Sojourner Truth] "Well, children, where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter. I think that 'twixt the negroes of the South and the women at the North, all talking about rights, the white men will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all this here talking about? That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman?"

"Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man—when I could get it—and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?"

"Then they talk about this thing in the head; what's this they call it? ... Intellect... That's it, honey. What's that got to do with women's rights or negroes' rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yours holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half measure full?"

"Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

"If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them."

AMY GOODMAN: There you have actress Kerry Washington, most recently of Scandal fame, reading Sojourner Truth from Voices of a People's History of the United States. And that Sojourner Truth speech, Anthony?

ANTHONY ARNOVE: Yeah, well, that's from 1851, and it really exemplifies the spirit that Howard was trying to capture and gather in these voices. And, you know, the origin of this project was that when Howard wrote **A People's History of the United States**, readers came up to him and said, "I hadn't heard that speech before. I hadn't read Eugene Debs in my school classroom. I hadn't come across these powerful, eloquent voices of dissent." And they began to wonder, "Why hadn't I learned that? Why had my history teacher not taught me these lessons?" And it opens up a totally different way of thinking about history. And that's why Howard wanted to create this book, because he realized that the most powerful thing that people got out of **A People's History of the United States** was that connection with the voices of struggle.

AMY GOODMAN: And Howard Zinn, what he meant to you, Viggo, in this last few seconds?

VIGGO MORTENSEN: Well, he was a gentleman. He had a great sense of humor. He loved donuts. He would sneak away to Dunkin' Donuts behind his wife's back. But this contribution that this book makes, it's not—and Howard's efforts throughout his life—he didn't look at historical references or, more importantly, democracy, or progressive work, as a fixed thing, as something that you accomplish—democracy. Like this show is called Democracy Now! Now is not yesterday. Now is now. It's a process. It's a game that moves as you play. And I think it makes sense, perfect sense, that Anthony has—

AMY GOODMAN: Two seconds.

VIGGO MORTENSEN: —has included new text. Can I—since—

AMY GOODMAN: We're going to continue this after the show. Viggo Mortensen, Anthony Arrove, thanks so much.

2014, Nov 20 **"Just Mercy": Bryan Stevenson on Ferguson, Prison Reform & Why the Opposite of Poverty is Justice**

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/11/20/just_mercy_bryan_stevenson_on_ferguson

PART 2: Bryan Stevenson on Executions and Civil Rights: "Lynching Stopped But the Mindset Didn't"

Bryan Stevenson, founder and director of the Equal Justice Initiative. His new book is **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption**.

As Ferguson awaits the grand jury's decision in the Michael Brown shooting in Missouri, we speak to attorney Bryan Stevenson, author of the new book, **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption**. With growing focus on the failures of the criminal justice system, Stevenson has been fighting those injustices case by case. He is founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a group based in Alabama that represents some of this country's most marginalized people — the poor and the wrongfully convicted. Stevenson has won relief for dozens of condemned prisoners and argued before the U.S. Supreme Court six times. In 2012, he won a landmark Supreme Court case that barred states from giving mandatory life sentences without parole to children. The Nobel Prize-winning South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called Stevenson "America's young Mandela." Others have compared him to Atticus Finch, the fearless, fictional hero of Harper Lee's seminal novel, **To Kill a Mockingbird**. Stevenson's book tells many stories, but focuses in particular on his battle to free an African-American man named Walter McMillian, who was falsely convicted and condemned to die for killing a white woman in Harper Lee's hometown of Monroeville, Alabama. Stevenson joins us to discuss his work, the situation in Ferguson, and why he argues that the opposite of poverty is not wealth, but justice.

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: Protests are continuing in Ferguson, Missouri, ahead of the grand jury's decision on whether to indict Officer Darren Wilson for the killing of Michael Brown. On Wednesday, demonstrators braved sub-zero temperatures to rally outside the Ferguson Police Department. The grand jury's decision on whether to charge Officer Wilson is expected any day. They're expected to reconvene on Friday.

We're joined here in New York by Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice initiative, a group based in Alabama that represents some of this country's most marginalized people—the poor and the wrongfully convicted. Bryan Stevenson has won relief for dozens of condemned prisoners and argued before the Supreme Court six times. In 2012, he won a landmark Supreme Court case that barred states from giving mandatory life sentences without parole to children. The Nobel Prize-winning South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called Bryan Stevenson "America's young Mandela." Bryan Stevenson is just out with a new book; it's called **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption**.

Welcome back to Democracy Now!, Bryan.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Thank you.

AMY GOODMAN: The book is astounding, but I want to start with Ferguson. Your thoughts?

BRYAN STEVENSON: You know, I think Ferguson should be seen as a mirror for all of America. In every community in this country, we have black and brown people who are being presumed dangerous and guilty. And it's following them into schools, where they suffer higher suspension and expulsion rates. It follows them into department stores. It follows them into the streets. And that burden of being presumed dangerous and guilty is extremely frustrating and angering. And when you have incidents like Michael Brown being shot by an officer, that blows up.

And we need to keep careful attention to what's going on in Ferguson, but we need to understand that in every community in this country where there are young black and brown men and women, that phenomenon, that

problem, exists. And we are not going to deal with this issue if we just think whether this officer is indicted or prosecuted or not tells us something. We've got to really begin talking honestly about the legacy of racial inequality in this country and what it's done to all of us.

AMY GOODMAN: Your thoughts on the governor, Governor Nixon—quite astounding that that is his name—but Governor Nixon of Missouri holding this news conference announcing a state of emergency?

BRYAN STEVENSON: You know, it's just sort of like an old bad movie. It's like they're acting out this script that is exactly the opposite of what you should do when you're dealing with these kind of issues—declaring a state of emergency, declaring a state of crisis. The crisis, for them, really isn't what's happening with this officer. What the crisis is, is that people are actually exposing all of this bias and all of this tension and all of this frustration. And it's, I think, really quite misguided. It's going to create more problems than it solves. He's baiting the community by engaging in these kind of tactics. And I just wish he was talking to people who understood the pain and anguish of people in Ferguson, the pain and anguish of people of color in many parts of this country, because if he did, he'd actually be saying things differently. They'd be doing things differently. And I think we would have much less violence and conflict and tension. But because he's talking to the same people who are in that bunker-down mentality, you see them repeating the mistakes that took place immediately after the shooting—taking this very militarized approach, gearing up, gunning up. And I think it's a very misguided, very misguided approach to this issue.

AMY GOODMAN: You said in a TED Talk that went viral, "The opposite of poverty isn't wealth ... the opposite of poverty is justice."

BRYAN STEVENSON: We have so many people in this country that live in the margins of society, that live in jails and prisons, that live with disability, that live outside of the American experience in the way that most people think about it. And we sometimes throw things at them to make ourselves feel better about their existence, their reality, when, in fact, I really believe that poverty in this country is a function of our unwillingness to do justice to many parts of our community. And I really do believe that the opposite of poverty isn't wealth. I think, you know, we have this arrogance. We think that when we make a mistake, we don't ever have to apologize, we don't actually have to rethink how we've behaved; we can just throw some money or throw some policy out there and move forward. I don't believe that gets you closer to deconstructing poverty.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to go back for a moment to Darren Wilson, if he is indicted and if he isn't. I mean, of course, we don't know at this point. But if he isn't indicted, what would you say to the people of Ferguson? And, of course, this is so much bigger than Ferguson.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah. I think that they should be upset. They should be angry. I would say you shouldn't be surprised. We haven't created an environment where people of color can be fully protected, because we haven't talked about what it means to be a person of color in this country. I think, you know, we've never really told the truth about some basic realities.

The legacy—you know, we're doing a whole project on slavery, because I don't think we've ever told the truth about what slavery did to our thinking about racial difference. We told lies about people of color. We said that people of African descent aren't smart, aren't hard-working, aren't capable, and because of that, we should enslave them. And because we never confronted that, slavery didn't end, it just evolved. It turned into decades of racial terror, where we use violence and lynching and convict leasing and threats to sustain racial hierarchy. That's our history up until the era of Jim Crow and segregation. And then we codified these differences between the races. And even after the civil rights movement, we never told the truth about all of the damage we did. We humiliated people of color on a daily basis for decades. My parents were humiliated every day of their life. I started my education in a colored school, because I was told I wasn't smart enough to go to the public school. Those things accumulate. And because we haven't dealt with it, we now live in an era of mass incarceration, where we intimidate and threaten and harass and menace people of color. And these—everybody feels it.

And so, we shouldn't be surprised if you don't get justice. What we should do is start talking about truth. And we've got to commit ourselves to a process of truth and reconciliation. And I hope, without an indictment, we'll be more committed to telling the truth about our history and creating a new forward path.

AMY GOODMAN: Where did you grow up, Bryan?

BRYAN STEVENSON: I grew up in southern Delaware, the kind of the top of the South, on the Eastern Shore, in a community that was very much segregated. There were no black high schools in my county. My dad couldn't go to high school there. And I saw people really branded by the mark of Jim Crow and of apartheid. And you can't recover—and white people, too. We have a whole generation of white people who were taught that they're better than other people because of their race. And we haven't helped them recover from that, and they're manifesting this bias in ways that they're not even conscious of sometimes. We've got a lot of work to do in this country to confront our history of racial inequality.

AMY GOODMAN: Who is Walter McMillian?

BRYAN STEVENSON: Walter McMillian was one of the characters, one of the people I wrote about in this book, was an innocent man wrongly convicted of a murder in Monroeville, Alabama. At the time, there was a young woman murdered in downtown Monroeville. Mr. McMillian was actually at his home with about 25 other African Americans raising money for his church, and so everybody knew he was innocent. But he was charged because he was having an interracial affair, not because he had a prior criminal history. He was put on death row for 15 months—before the trial. He was wrongly convicted and sentenced to death. What was really troubling for me is that this case took place in Monroeville, which is where Harper Lee grew up and wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird*. So it's a community that completely identifies with that story, but couldn't recognize the injustice of this wrongful conviction of an African American.

AMY GOODMAN: And you have been compared to the young Atticus Finch.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Well, I want to do better than Atticus Finch. Atticus Finch's client, Tom Robinson, dies in prison because there was no hope for him. I want our clients, I want people wrongly convicted and accused, to get relief. I want the people in jails and prisons all across this country who are there unfairly, unnecessarily, released. I want to do more than what happens to that client in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

AMY GOODMAN: So, tell us what happened to Walter McMillian.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Well, we ultimately were able to present evidence of his innocence. The police had coerced witnesses to testify falsely against him. And for some bizarre reason, they actually tape-recorded the sessions where they were coercing the witnesses to testify falsely. So we got the tapes. And the witness was saying, "You want me to frame an innocent man for murder, and I don't feel right about that." And we presented that evidence and ultimately won Mr. McMillian's release. He's one of about 150 people on death row who've been exonerated in this country. For every 10 executions in America, we've identified one innocent person who was innocent and who has now been released. It's a shameful rate of error when it comes to imposing the death penalty.

AMY GOODMAN: Are you encouraged by the number of states that are overturning the death penalty, overall, getting rid of, abolishing the death penalty?

BRYAN STEVENSON: I am encouraged by that, but I'm also worried, because these issues are fairly local. Each state gets to make up its own decision. And so, we've seen some progress with several states in the last few years abolishing the death penalty. I was especially encouraged by the 2012 referendum in California, where people in that state almost voted to end the death penalty by popular vote, which would really be progress. But I'm worried that our indifference to wrongful conviction, our indifference to suffering of jailed and imprisoned people continues to be very strong. And until we break that indifference, I worry that we're going to continue to have a country where people are condemned unfairly, sentenced unfairly, tortured in jails and prisons.

AMY GOODMAN: Bryan Stevenson, the title of your book, why *Just Mercy*?

BRYAN STEVENSON: I think that we have too little compassion in our criminal justice system. We've been

corrupted by the politics of fear and anger. We're doing harsh, extraordinarily torturous things to people. And I think we've forgotten that, you know, it's not mercy, it's not justice, it's not compassion, when we give it to people who haven't done anything wrong. You earn the right to call yourself compassionate and merciful when you expose people who have fallen down, who have done bad things to your justice, to your mercy. And I see a criminal justice system completely devoid of mercy, which makes us completely devoid of justice. And we've got to do better.

AMY GOODMAN: Young people in prison. Talk about the significance of when—for example, the story of Joe Sullivan, who is sentenced to life at the age of 13.

BRYAN STEVENSON: You know, one of the more tragic things that we've done over the last 40 years is that we've put thousands of children in the adult prison system, the adult criminal justice system. We've now got 250,000 people serving long sentences for crimes they committed as children. We have some 3,000 children sentenced to die in prison, some as young as 13 and 14 years of age. And it's horrific. You know, I was hearing about the DeFriest story, which is a very compelling story, but there are thousands of children in similar situations. I've represented 13-year-olds in the state of Florida who were also put in solitary confinement, some of whom have been there for 18 years. Joe Sullivan was 13, convicted of a non-homicide and sentenced to die in prison.

We've won some Supreme Court decisions that have made it easier to challenge some of those sentences, but we still have a lot of work to do. We created these narratives about children where we said some children aren't really children. And we've done some really cruel and torturous things. And it's shameful to me that the United States and Somalia are the only two countries in the world that have not signed the Covenant on the Rights of the Child, because it protects children from adult prison sentences like life in prison and the death penalty. And one of the great tragedies is when you go to jails and prisons, and you see 13- and 14- and 15-year-old children in settings where they're being raped and abused because we haven't confronted the need to protect children after they've been accused of a crime.

AMY GOODMAN: The 2012 Supreme Court decision that your group, that you argued, barring mandatory life without parole for children, give us examples.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Sure. Well, I write about a young woman named Trina Garnett in Pennsylvania who was horribly abused. Her mother died when she was young. She was living in a house where she was suffering from a lot of violence. She was disabled. She was homeless, living on the streets of Chester, eating out of garbage cans. She met a family. There was a boy in the family, and one night she tries to go and see the boy by breaking in. She drops matches, the house catches on fire, and two children died. She's convicted of an unintentional murder, but mandatory life without parole. We have these mandatory life sentences that are very common in the adult sentence. So, at the age of 14, she's condemned to die in prison. She goes to the state prison. She's raped by a male guard. She gets pregnant. She's been in prison now for almost 40 years, and that suffering continues.

And there are many children like that who have suffered these horrible injustices because we imposed a mandatory sentence. We would not consider their age at the time of sentencing. And we don't let kids vote, we don't let them drink, we don't let them smoke. We protect child status—except when they're accused of a crime. And then we say that their child status doesn't matter. And there's a whole nation where we have this whole country is now populated by jails and prisons where you find children. There are 15 states with no minimum age for trying a child as an adult. I've represented nine- and 10-year-old children threatened with adult prosecution. There's a 10-year-old facing adult prosecution in Pennsylvania now, a 12-year-old in the state of Florida. It's really shameful what we've done to children in the name of being tough on crime, and I think that disconnect is part of what we're trying to expose with our litigation.

AMY GOODMAN: What gives you most hope?

BRYAN STEVENSON: You know, I'm most hopeful that when you tell people about these realities, when you get people to actually look, if most people saw what I see, I think they'd be outraged. They'd demand justice. And so, what I'm hopeful is that we're creating more space to give people a glimpse of what's happening,

through films and through books and through narratives. And I am persuaded that we can bring down the prison population in this country by dramatic—I think we can reduce the prison population by 50 percent in the next six or seven years, if we just demand greater justice.

AMY GOODMAN: This is part one of our conversation. We'll continue after our broadcast, and we'll post it at democracynow.org. Click here to watch Part 2 of this interview. Bryan Stevenson, founder and director of the Equal Justice Initiative, his new book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*.

PART 2: Bryan Stevenson on Executions and Civil Rights: "Lynching Stopped But the Mindset Didn't"

http://www.democracynow.org/blog/2014/11/20/part_2_bryan_stevenson_on_executions

Watch our extended interview with Bryan Stevenson, founder and director of the Equal Justice Initiative. He discusses pending executions, the history of lynching, and how Rosa Parks and others inspired him to "stand with the condemned and incarcerated." His new book is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*.

AMY GOODMAN: This is Democracy Now!, democracynow.org, The War and Peace Report. I'm Amy Goodman. We continue with our guest, Bryan Stevenson, founder and director of the Equal Justice initiative. His new book is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*.

I want to turn to a case right now. A Texas judge on Wednesday refused to postpone the scheduled execution of a convicted killer who suffers from mental illness and is set to face lethal injection December 3rd. Scott Panetti has had schizophrenia for decades. He won support for his case from groups like Mental Health America, psychiatrists, former judges, prosecutors and evangelical Christians. At the trial, Panetti acted as his own attorney. He wore a cowboy outfit and tried to call his witnesses, the pope, John F. Kennedy and Jesus.

Well, you write about many cases. Talk about what this case represents.

BRYAN STEVENSON: We have in our prisons about 2.3 million people, half of whom are believed to have mental illness. About 20 percent have severe mental illness. The criminal justice system, the prisons have become the repository for people with disability that have no place else to go. And that is part of the story behind this case.

The other part of the story is that we've created a system that is much more concerned about finality than fairness. The reason why no one's prepared to look carefully at the clear evidence of mental illness that should block the state from carrying out this execution is that we seem like we're in this rush, that if we don't execute people fast, it's almost as if it loses its potency, its value, its virtue. But my view is that if we execute people unfairly or wrongly, then we do a great deal of injustice to our whole system. And so, I think it's tragic that we get caught up in this finality kind of focus. And you see that playing out in this case.

The Supreme Court has banned the execution of people with intellectual disability, people with mental retardation. And obviously, if you recognize that there are disabilities that can make you someone who should not be executed, you have to look more carefully at a case like this. And I think there are actually hundreds of people who have been sentenced to death when they are clearly very severely mentally ill. And a just society wouldn't want to execute people for their disability, because that's cruel. That's not a decent thing to do. It's not what a just community should do. But we're going to do that in Texas, if we don't take the time to think more carefully about what that case represents.

And too often, unfortunately, we don't learn the details of these tragedies until very close to the execution time, because it's very hard to get anyone's attention in the death penalty space until there's a crisis, until there's an execution date. And that undermines the fair consideration that we often need in these cases. And sadly, it doesn't happen at trial, because we have a criminal justice system that treats you better if you're rich and guilty than if you're poor and innocent. Wealth prevents many poor people and disabled people from getting their story presented in a way that might allow us to get to a just outcome. And so then we have years of appeals and litigation where maybe that story might unfold, and that's what you're seeing in Texas today.

AMY GOODMAN: Bryan Stevenson, have you ever tried a case in Missouri?

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yes, I represent people there, several young clients. We did a case, actually, in St. Louis of a 14-year-old kid who was accused of a murder that he didn't commit, was sentenced to life without parole. He was tried by an all-white jury after the prosecutor excluded African Americans from serving on the jury. And we ultimately got him released after proving illegal racial discrimination in jury service.

And that's the other backdrop. If there is no indictment in the Ferguson case, if there is no conviction, it will reveal and reflect on the way in which we select juries in this case—in this country, including in Missouri, where there's often a great deal of exclusion of people of color, which feeds that distrust of the system. But I've seen that up close and personal in cases that I've worked on in Missouri.

AMY GOODMAN: In part one, we talked about where you grew up, but just if you could tell us again your own personal life story?

BRYAN STEVENSON: Sure, sure. Yeah, so, I grew up in a poor, rural community on the Eastern Shore in southern Delaware, that's not unlike most Southern communities, where there was segregation. I started my education in the colored school. Black kids couldn't go to the public schools, even though this was 10 years after Brown. And I saw my parents humiliated on a regular basis by the racial order. And one of the things—

AMY GOODMAN: What did your parents do?

BRYAN STEVENSON: My mother—my dad worked at a food factory, and my mother worked at the Air Force base up in Dover. And—

AMY GOODMAN: Where the bodies come home from war.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Where the bodies come home, yeah. And my dad did domestic work, cleaning houses down at the beach. But, you know, one of the things that bothers me the way we talk about this history is that we actually celebrate civil rights in this country with great enthusiasm, and everybody gets to celebrate—you don't have to do anything to kind of establish some qualification to celebrate—and it's almost as if we are kind of ignoring what's behind the civil rights movement. We talk about the civil rights experience like it was this three-day moment, where Rosa Parks didn't give up her seat on day one, and Dr. King led a March on Washington on day two, and then we passed all these laws. And now we celebrate—the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. And what we don't do is talk about all the damage we did by humiliating people of color on a daily basis by subjecting people to this racial subordination, this racial hierarchy, to the distrust we created, to the injuries we imposed on people. And what I see are those injuries expressing themselves. What I see is that burden created. And because of that, I think we're actually contributing to the legacy of racial inequality, when we just celebrate and don't tell the truth of all of the damage that was done. I think we need truth and reconciliation in this country. In South Africa, they didn't get past apartheid without truth and reconciliation.

AMY GOODMAN: So, I want to go to Rosa Parks.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: And then you tell us more about what was happening then, and also what this meant to you in your own formation.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Sure.

AMY GOODMAN: Rosa Parks, December 1st, 1955, one of those few moments you talk about—

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: —that the whole country knows about and celebrates, is arrested when she refuses to give up her seat to a white man on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, the act of resistance leading to a 13-month boycott of the Montgomery bus system that would spark the civil rights movement. This is Rosa Parks in April of 1956. It's in the midst of the bus boycott, and she was speaking on a young Pacifica Radio.

ROSA PARKS: The driver said that if I refuse to leave the seat, he would have to call the police. And I told him, "Just call the police." He then called the officers of the law. They came and placed me under arrest, violation of the segregation law of the city and state of Alabama in transportation. I didn't think I was violating any. I felt that I was not being treated right, and that I had a right to retain the seat that I had taken as a passenger on the bus. The time had just come when I had been pushed as far as I could stand to be pushed, I suppose. They placed me under arrest.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Rosa Parks in April of 1956. I remember, when she died and we were going down to Washington, CNN said Rosa Parks was a tired seamstress, she was no troublemaker. You were a personal friend of Rosa Parks. Was she a troublemaker?

BRYAN STEVENSON: Oh, she absolutely was. She was a proud troublemaker, because there needed to be trouble when people of color were being treated the way people of color were being treated. I mean, what people don't know is that before that moment, she was organizing protests. There was a young African-American man who was executed for a crime that people in Montgomery absolutely insisted that he did not commit. And she was deeply affected by that wrongful execution. It was a young black man who was in a band, who was accused of an assault. They actually arrested him, took him to death row, put him in the electric chair and kept him there until he confessed to the crime.

AMY GOODMAN: In the electric chair.

BRYAN STEVENSON: In the electric chair, in the—

AMY GOODMAN: What was his name?

BRYAN STEVENSON: His name was—I'm going to forget it—[Jeremiah Reeves]. He stayed in that chair until they got that confession. And people in the black community, including Dr. King, were very concerned about organizing about his mistreatment. They could not get the relief, and he was ultimately executed for real. And it was deeply distressing to her.

And she was deeply committed to challenging the status quo. And I got to spend time with her, and she was an amazing person. She was the kind of person who would inspire people. I remember we went down to Tallahassee, Florida, where they were giving her an honorary degree, and they started playing "We Shall Overcome" at the beginning of the ceremony, and people just sat there. And she looked around at everybody, and she said, "Well, I'm used to standing when we sing this song." She stood up, and for a moment she stood by herself, and then everybody else stood back up. And that was Ms. Parks. She was courageous. She was determined. She was very influential.

You know, I met her for the first time when she came back to be with two of her friends, Johnnie Carr, who was the architect of the Montgomery bus boycott, and a white woman named Virginia Durr, whose husband Clifford Durr represented Dr. King. And I remember being there, and I had been told, "Just sit and listen, Bryan. Don't say a word." And I was sitting there listening to her for two hours, and she was so encouraging. At one point she said to me, she said, "Bryan, tell me what the Equal Justice Initiative is. Tell me what you're trying to do." And I looked at Ms. Carr to see if I had permission to speak, and she nodded, so I gave her my rap. I said, "We're trying to do something about the death penalty. We're trying to do something about mass incarceration and the treatment of the poor and people of color in jails and prisons, and children in poverty." And I gave her my whole rap, and when I finished, she said, "Mm-mm-mm, that's going to make you tired, tired, tired." And Ms. Carr leaned forward, and she put her finger up, and she said, "That's why you've got to be brave, brave, brave."

Ms. Parks was a courageous woman. What defined her was her bravery, her willingness to take personal challenges, personal risks, to advance the cause of justice. And she's really, in many ways, not fully credited for

being that courageous, tenacious fighter, which I think more accurately characterized her life.

AMY GOODMAN: So, talk about how you went from Delaware to becoming this leading civil rights, human rights attorney, argued a number of times before the Supreme Court.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Well, you know, I got to go to high school as a result of lawyers coming into our community and opening up the public schools for me. But for their intervention, I wouldn't be here today. And when I was in college, I was studying philosophy. I didn't really know what to do after college and ended up going to law school by default, and was actually quite frustrated because they weren't talking about poverty and race and justice in my first year of law school.

But then I had an opportunity to work with a human rights group that provided legal services to people on death row, and that, for me, is what changed everything. I met people literally dying for legal assistance on death row in Georgia. And I saw in them humanity and possibility and people struggling for redemption, struggling for recovery. And it was just so impactful that I knew that that's what I wanted to do, and I went back, and I've been standing with the incarcerated and the condemned ever since.

And, you know, for me, it's been a privilege, because I get to see extraordinary things. We've been successful in getting lots of people released, which is wonderful. We haven't always been successful. I've stood next to people before they were executed, and that's been heartbreaking and devastating. But I've never doubted that standing for condemned people, pushing and advocating for people who had been discarded and rejected, makes me feel more human.

AMY GOODMAN: What was it like to go into the Supreme Court for the first time?

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: Not to watch it—

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: —but to argue a case. And what was that case?

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah, well, the first case was actually the McMillian case. After we got Mr. McMillian released from death row, after he had been wrongly convicted and sentenced to death, we wanted the state to own up to it. And they weren't. There were no—there were no statutes providing money for him. They weren't going to pay him anything. They weren't going to do anything. And because they had put him on death row for 15 months before the trial, because they actually hid the evidence that would have proved his innocence, we sued them. And there was a question about whether the sheriff, who had done all kinds of horrible things, including threaten him with lynching and violence, could be held accountable. And the case went to the Supreme Court on whether the county was liable for the conduct of this sheriff.

AMY GOODMAN: And this was in Monroeville, Alabama.

BRYAN STEVENSON: This was in Monroeville, yeah, out of Monroe County, whether that county had some responsibility for what it did to Mr. McMillian. And the first time I went to the Supreme Court is when I started this ritual that I've followed every time I stood in front of the court, and I just read where it says on the building, "Equal Justice Under Law." And I have to believe that in order to make sense of what I do. And we went in there—I went in there and argued that case, and I've been back several times since. I sometimes worry that the court doesn't fulfill that commitment. You know, we've done cases where the court has basically accepted evidence of racial bias and said that racial bias is inevitable in the administration of the death penalty. That's McCleskey, a case that was decided in 1987. And so, we—

AMY GOODMAN: McCleskey, explain.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah, McCleskey was a case where there was evidence presented that the death penalty in Georgia is racially biased. The researchers proved that you're 11 times more likely to get the death

penalty in the state of Georgia if the victim is white than if the victim is black, 22 times more likely to get the death penalty if the defendant is black and the victim is white. That was presented to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court accepted that evidence, but nonetheless upheld the death penalty by saying, one, if we deal with racial bias in the death penalty, it's going to be just a matter of time before lawyers start complaining about racial bias in other parts of the criminal justice system. Justice Brennan criticized the court for its, quote, "fear of too much justice," because in some ways the court was saying, "This problem is too big for us."

The second thing they said was racial bias in the administration of the death penalty is inevitable. And they use that word, and it's the reason why I think of that case as our Dred Scott of this generation, our Plessy v. Ferguson. And when I look at "Equal Justice Under the Law" and I read that decision, I realize there's a disconnect, because you can't have equal justice under the law while you're pronouncing that racial bias is inevitable in something like the death penalty. And so, even though I've gone to the court, I still expect more from the court on these issues.

AMY GOODMAN: Dred Scott is buried just four miles down the road, on West Florissant—

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yes, yes, yes.

AMY GOODMAN: —at Calvary Cemetery.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yes.

AMY GOODMAN: He went to the St. Louis court—

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: —to appeal for his freedom.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah, yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: Talk about the significance of Dred Scott and bring it to modern-day Ferguson.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Sure. Well, that's why I think, you know, we can run from this history of racial inequality, but we cannot hide. It's ironic that here we are sitting here in 2014 where all of this attention is focused on Missouri—not a Deep South state, but a state where the history of racial inequality played out in very dramatic terms. Missouri—

AMY GOODMAN: People might even be surprised to know Missouri was a slave state.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Absolutely. And that's why the story of Dred Scott, their unwillingness to give up slavery when they wanted it for economic gain, to give up this mythology of demonizing and criminalizing and abusing people of color when it created some gain for them, becomes so important, because that story in Missouri has never really been told the way it needs to be told. Missouri has the same history of racial segregation and slavery and abuse that you find in Alabama and Mississippi. We just don't talk about it as much. Because we haven't talked about it, we now have these presumptions of guilt following young men of color in that state, in Ferguson. And so, people in Ferguson aren't protesting because of one thing that happened to one person. They're protesting because all their lives they've been menaced and traumatized and followed and presumed guilty and dangerous. And that history has never been confronted, because we've never held anybody accountable for that history.

And when the Supreme Court in 1987, in a death penalty case, the case where the court says, "This is the system at its best, because we're imposing these perfect punishments. If we don't do it right in the death penalty context, we just can't do it right"—and so they're presented with this evidence of racial bias, and they're asked to commit to eliminating racial bias, and they say, "No, racial bias is too pervasive, it's too insidious, it's too ever-present for us to take on. We just have to make peace with it." And the court upholds the death penalty. And now we've had all of these executions in a system that is admittedly undermined by racial bias and racial injustice. And so, today, we are talking about racially biased imposition of the death penalty. We're talking

about unrest in Ferguson, Missouri. We're talking about our failure to confront this history of racial inequality. And until we confront it and deal with it more honestly, we're going to be having this conversation for another 50 years.

AMY GOODMAN: You're a lawyer who argues in the Supreme Court of the United States, the highest court of the land. When Trayvon Martin was killed, the massive protests that took place on the street, right through to Ferguson, when Mike Brown is killed, what is the role of protest? What do you see it as, as a lawyer?

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: You are going into court to seek justice.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah, yeah. Well, I don't think there's any question that without people in the street—I mean, look at the civil rights movement. We're celebrating, you know, these legal decisions—the Voting Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act—but those acts were a response to people protesting. It was when people came back to Selma after the Bloody Sunday, after the first Selma-to-Montgomery March, which led up to the Voting Rights Act, was met with violent resistance, brutal resistance, but thousands of people came back to Selma to say, "No, we have got to do better in this country." And it was that protest that created the political environment that made the Voting Rights Act possible. But for people out in the streets, you would not have seen the Supreme Court strike down miscegenation laws, which made it illegal in some states for black people and white people to get married, for people of different races to get married. The protests were necessary for that. And we're going to need communities, people, ordinary people, speaking up and saying things about what is unacceptable about what's happening in Ferguson, what's unacceptable about what's happening in our jails and prisons, to create the right kind of legal environment for the court to do what it must do to protect the rights of disfavored people.

AMY GOODMAN: Your group, Equal Justice Initiative, is putting out a report on lynchings.

BRYAN STEVENSON: Yeah, yeah. We are very determined to change the narrative in this country about racial history. We put out a report last year about slavery. And we actually put up slave markers and monuments in downtown Montgomery, because if you came there a year ago, you'd find 59 markers and monuments relating to the 19th century, markers and monuments to the Confederacy. We celebrate—Jefferson Davis's birthday is a state holiday. Confederate Memorial Day is a state holiday. We name our schools after Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis. All of this stuff about the Confederacy, not a word about slavery. And so we put out a report about slavery, and we put up these monuments and markers to mark the spots where the slave trade oppressed and enslaved thousands of African Americans. And we want to keep doing that in communities across this country.

Our next report is about lynching, because we have in this country states where African Americans were terrorized. People of color in America dealt with terrorism for a generation, between Reconstruction and World War II. And they, some of them, get angry when they hear people on TV say we're dealing with domestic terrorism for the first time after 9/11, because they grew up with terror. Lynching was horrific and terrifying. And we don't talk about it. We put markers about the Confederacy in front of these courthouses, but we don't say a word about the thousands of people that were lynched, hundreds of whom were lynched on courthouse lawns.

And so, we want to put out a report, and we want to actually confront communities to start dealing with that legacy, dealing with that history. It's only when we express some shame about our racial violence, our use of violence to intimidate and menace people of color, that we commit ourselves to policing strategies, to contemporary criminal justice strategies, that make the incident in Ferguson less likely to happen. And we won't get there until we actually create some consciousness about why it's so important.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about the role of a woman who was born a slave, a crusading journalist, Ida B. Wells?

BRYAN STEVENSON: Ah, yes. Ida B. Wells is, again, someone—you know, if there is someone who should have a national holiday, my recommendation would be Ida Wells, because she forced this country to pay attention to lawlessness. You know, I say this often. You can't judge America by how wealthy we are, by how

successful we are, by our technology. You judge a country, you judge a community, not by how you treat the rich and the powerful and the privileged, you judge a community by how you treat the poor, the incarcerated, the condemned and disfavored. And Ida B. Wells was insisting that America recognize that it is this country that is lynching people based on suspicion.

These lynchings were taking place not even because people were necessarily accused of crimes. We lynched people in America because—African Americans, because they went to the front door rather than the back door, because they laughed at the joke at the wrong time. And that racial oppression, that subordination, was something that she believed had to be exposed, if we were going to really see what kind of country we are.

And she was tormented and traumatized and terrorized herself by talking constantly about what lynching represents in American life. And eventually lynching stopped, but the mindset didn't. And that's why we think talking about lynching today is such a critically important issue for Americans and for this country, when it comes to racial justice.

AMY GOODMAN: What were you most surprised by as you were researching Just Mercy?

BRYAN STEVENSON: You know, I think the thing that surprised me the most is how much of what's happened has gone unexamined. You know, most people don't know that we have a million people in jails and prisons for drug dependency—not because they've committed a crime, not because they've hurt somebody. I think what's really troubling to me is that we know so little. Even though we talk so much, we know so little about how we got here. You know, other countries dealt with drug dependency as a health issue. We dealt with it as a crime issue. And we've ruined lots of families. I don't think most people know there are six million people on probation and parole in this country. I don't think most people know there are—

AMY GOODMAN: And what does that mean?

BRYAN STEVENSON: It means that their lives are being controlled by the criminal justice system. It means that if they fail to make a monthly payment to the system, which they have to do, to pay their probation fee or their parole fee, they get put back in prison, sometimes for decades. It means that we are keeping them from re-engaging. They can't get jobs oftentimes. They can't vote. They can't do a lot of the things that make it possible for people to have successful lives. We have 60 million people in America with criminal arrests, which means that when they apply for a job, they have to reveal that, and their chance of being hired is dramatically reduced—60 million people.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you think it should be illegal to ask that question?

BRYAN STEVENSON: I think we should ban the box. I think we should do the interview, make an assessment about the person. I think there are some jobs where you can ask whether the person has been formerly incarcerated, but if you do it at the end of the interview, the chance of hiring that person is dramatically higher, because if I talk to you and I think you're a great TV commentator and host, and I see all the skills that I want to see, and then you tell me at the end of it, "You know, by the way, when I was 20, I did something and went to jail for a short period of time," I'm not going to let that dissuade me from hiring you, because I know you're great. If you ask that question first, and I don't get to see how great you are, how skilled you are, how committed you are, you're not going to get the job. And so, that's what we're asking employers to do and asking companies to commit to, because what we find is that the rates of hiring for formerly incarcerated people go way up when you just do it at the end, if you do it at all.

AMY GOODMAN: Finally, can you talk, Bryan, about the case you're proudest of and tell us about that case?

BRYAN STEVENSON: You know, it's a hard question for me. You know, Thurgood Marshall used to say—"What case are you most proud of?" He said, "The next case." And I think it's that way for me. I think—I take great pride in helping anybody that we've been able to help. But I think, for me, what I'm most proud of is that we're still trying. I don't think we've done our best cases yet. I want to believe that we've got important work still to do. And what energizes me is knowing that we can keep fighting, that there are challenges that haven't been fully addressed.

You know, I'll tell you this story. I was working on a case not too long ago, actually in the Midwest, where I was sitting in the courtroom waiting for the court to start, the hearing to start. I was sitting at defense table.

AMY GOODMAN: Where? What state?

BRYAN STEVENSON: It was actually in Iowa. And I was sitting there waiting for the hearing to begin, and I was sitting at defense table, and the judge walked in, followed by the prosecutor. And when the judge saw me sitting there, he said, "Hey, hey, hey! You get out of the courtroom. I don't want any defendants sitting in the courtroom without their lawyers. You go back out there in the hallway and wait until your lawyer gets here." And I stood up, and I said, "I'm sorry, Your Honor, I didn't introduce myself. My name is Bryan Stevenson. I am the lawyer." And the judge looked at me, and the judge started laughing. And the prosecutor started laughing. And I made myself laugh, too, because I didn't want to disadvantage my client. And then the client came in. It was a young white kid. And we did this hearing. And afterward, I was so exhausted and frustrated.

You know, what makes me proud right now is that we're doing this race and poverty project, because I don't think we're going to confront those kinds of problems. We're going to have judges exercising judgment and discretion in this way that is so corrupted by bias and bigotry. And we're not going to do anything about that until we start talking more broadly about this history of racial bias. And so, I'm really excited about that work.

AMY GOODMAN: Did the judge apologize?

BRYAN STEVENSON: No, no, no. He laughed. We just laughed it off, and we went through the hearing. We did well for that client, I think, because I didn't turn that into an ugly confrontation. But no, no apologies—much like what we've done in this country. We don't really—we think apologizing disempowers us. I actually think apologizing makes you more human, makes you ultimately healthier, makes you stronger. You know, I go to Germany, and I see what's going on in that country, and you can't go many places without confronting the legacy of the Holocaust. It makes me hopeful about the future Germany in ways that I wouldn't be if I went there and you couldn't see any evidence that people were talking and thinking about that history. And here we do the opposite. And I think we won't be strong and healthy until we actually begin to reflect more soberly about what we've done to one another in so many of the spaces where we have racial conflict and racial inequality.

AMY GOODMAN: Bryan Stevenson, thank you so much for joining us. Bryan Stevenson is founder and director of the Equal Justice Initiative. His new book must be read. It's called *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. This is Democracy Now!, democracynow.org, The War and Peace Report. I'm Amy Goodman.
GUEST

Bryan Stevenson, founder and director of the Equal Justice Initiative. His new book is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*.

2014, Nov 22 **Happy NEW MOON in Sagittarius on November 22nd 2014!**

<http://www.mysticmamma.com/new-moon-in-sagittarius-on-november-22nd-2014/>



PHOTO: GERHARD RIEBICKE

We welcome an inspirational NEW MOON in Sagittarius on November 22nd 2014! We have an opportunity for a new start, a fresh cycle where we can tune in, vision and aim our arrows of light. This is a time of aligning with our deepest truth and having the courage to move, express and create from our center.

Here are the MYSTIC MAMMA Astral Insights from our beloved featured astrologers. First from the wonderful **MOLLY HALL from Astrology. About.com:**

“Be encouraged at the New Moon, and breathe in the spirit of Sagittarius — let it revive your weary soul, and bring the twinkle back to your eyes...”

“The jovial heart of the Archer is restless for inspiration, friendship and love, with Venus, also in Sagittarius, and at the same exact degree.

“The presence of the love planet (Venus) makes it a retreat to muse on what animates you, and who widens your world...”

“It’s time to seek out an inspired vision, one that is ignited by others also catching fire with ideas and enthusiasm. You become part of something bigger than yourself, while also sensing your unique mission, gifts to share...”

“Sagittarius is about fusion without necessarily knowing how it happens. Dots get connected, and what you’re aware of fuses into a focused intention. And it’s about being loyal to your own sense of what’s true. You won’t want to miss anything the muse and spirit send your way!

“If you’ve felt overwhelmed with inertia, this could be the spark to act on what’s naturally emerging. Uranus and Pluto are moving toward another historic angle for change, to be exact on Dec. 14th.

“Uranus in Aries is all about courage and new beginnings, and at this New Moon, Jupiter (in Leo) is in a wide trine, completing the fire sign constellation [trine]. There could be surprises or flash brilliance that beckons to a future you can get excited about. “

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From the always inspirational **KELLEY ROSANO:**

“The sun soars into Sagittarius on November 22. The sun loves being in Sagittarius. This is where the sun has room to roam. You will turn your focus from the deep dark waters of Scorpio. To the warm fires of Sagittarius and this energy will be uplifting.

“The New Moon in Sagittarius happens a few hours later on November 22...It is time to honor the struggles and battles you have faced in the past. Let them go. You are getting a fresh start. What would you do if you were fearless?

“...Sagittarius rules future vision. Sagittarius is about truth, wisdom and the expansion of consciousness. You are not to be limited or held back by what is going on in your life today. Sagittarius is the visionary part of you...”

“New Moons are new beginnings. The Sagittarius New Moon invites you to be creative. Get out of the box of limited thinking. Challenge your perceptions of reality...”

“Align your goals with your truth and you will be successful. What is your point of brilliance? Your point of brilliance is where you shine the brightest. That is doing what you do to the best of your ability.

“The New Moon is being challenged by dreamy Neptune...Do not go by what people say to you. Go by their behavior. It is never the talk. It is always the walk.

“Make sure that you too are clear with people. This energy is ripe for miscommunication. This can lead to further problems down the road. Be proactive. Be humble. Don't get caught up in ego battles...”

“Mercury the messenger enters Sagittarius on November 27. On the one hand, this is an encouraging and inspiring energy. On the other hand, you want to watch out for making big plans and promises. The messenger's long visit in deep dark Scorpio can overreact now that he is in exuberant Sagittarius.

“You want to be careful not to over commit and under deliver. You don't want to appear as the jack of all trades and the master of none. It is wiser to under promise. You can then over deliver. This will make you the hero and not the villain.

“The Sagittarius New Moon message is to create your future from the power of your vision...Your creative Self-expression comes from your magical inner child. Your inner child is your dazzling soul. Empower your soul. Make progressive changes that will make your life better. Make right choices for what you need.

“Listen to your heart. Listen to your soul...Freedom to be who you really are is the gift of Sagittarius...
” Your mantra is ‘For My Highest Good and for the Highest Good for All Concerned.’”

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From the insightful **DIVINE HARMONY**:

“The ruler of this lunation is Jupiter in Leo and he is in fiery engagement with the New Moon by square and he also quincunxes Mars. This is a recipe for expansion, optimism and confidence but it can also be a recipe for impulsivity, restlessness, aggressiveness and feeling holier than thou.

“Holy wars get fought based on these ideas/principles. We have to watch out and tone down our know-it-all-ness to make use of the Highest frequency of this lunation!

“The wounded healer Chiron is at a standstill in the New Moon chart as he is set to go direct in 1 1/2 days. Whenever a planet is a standstill their archetypal energy has the most powerful influence on the cosmos.

“With the wounded healer in focus we may find that some of our deepest wounds and pain around being loved, being seen and being accepted are up right now- but also opportunities for healing and releasing of the past can arise as well.

“Chiron always comes with an offering or opening into something- he does not activate our deepest wounds simply to make us feel miserable! So doing some deep self-inquiry to understand what this offering or opening is and what we need to do to accept it or move through it is key (meditation, contemplation and dream work are recommended!).

“So with the New Moon in optimistic Sadge square mystical Neptune and conjunct grounded Saturn- at BEST we can take our dreams and visions and do something with them in a manifestable form! With Chiron in the background of the whole chart- whatever it is we do is best focused on healing ourselves and others...”

“...So pay attention to your journey of empowerment, healing, awakening and activism. Take a stand for what you believe in and be willing to take a stand for Mother Earth as well. She needs our help just as much as we need her.”

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And from the wonderful **ROBERT WILKINSON from his Aquarius Papers**:

“...the New Moon in Sagittarius introduces us to a time of new inspiration through seeing a new day dawning in our lives, what we need to confirm those conditions, and new training routines that demand our ‘self-induced movement.’

“...The coming 4 week period initiated by this New Moon will help us get very clear about what roles we are and are not willing to play, and we’ll all need to stay focused, not become hesitant, timid, or scattered in our responses while opening to new discoveries and a wise use of imagination...”

“...With the very mixed bag of aspects in this New Moon chart, we’ll see a combination of building and releasing, confusion and clarity, concentration and expansion, and productivity coupled with sacrifices and adjustments.

“As with the past two weeks, we still have a very prominent set of squares between Mercury conjunct Saturn in Scorpio and Jupiter in Leo, so the gear grind continues. Be strong and clear as you purify whatever you need to!

“This last square of the season between Scorpio and Leo just as Venus in Sagittarius begins the first of the Fire trines with Uranus and Jupiter brings a lot together from recent weeks while offering us a promise for the future. Since there are DEEP changes going on indicated by several planets in the chart, be aware of them, since something powerful and new is gestating within each of us.

“Due to the Lunation square Neptune, this is one of the final periods where we are ‘mastering discouragement,’ and learning to see clearly as we demonstrate our mastery over our ‘animal nature.’

“It is said that when the Divine Spark within us tames the animal self and trains it to manifest our Highest Self, we will be the masters of any and all situations we’re in, since that Divine Self can never be ‘defeated.’ The next weeks offer tremendous opportunities to demonstrate focus and discipline, as well as courage, valor, and mastery.

“...Saturn in Scorpio continues to put a focus on eliminating stagnant feelings and responses, finding appropriate boundaries and a sense of responsibility for our magnetism as we continue to shed various ‘skins of personality.’”

“...Saturn continues to help us see a) how we have shifted our magnetism on relationships since last Summer, and/or b) how we need to find a new view or way of understanding the losses and eliminations of the past we’ve been through.

“Now we’re flowing into a long wave period of finding the right focus to allow inspiring teachings to transform our daily lives.”

“...We are headed toward Sagittarius, which will be a MUCH different Saturn experience than we’ve had! ... We’ve now glimpsed what’s on the other side of ‘the veil,’ faced fear, and deepened our faith.”

“...I’ll close today by reminding you that we’re in the heart of the long wave friction and crashes symbolized by the encroaching Uranus square Pluto...keep relying on the emotional intelligence and stability you’ve cultivated since Summer 2013, and as always, show patience...”

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NEW MOON Blessings to all! MM

<http://www.mysticmamma.com/new-moon-in-sagittarius-on-november-22nd-2014/>

2014, Nov 20

'The Rachel Maddow Show' for Thursday, November 20th, 2014

Show: THE RACHEL MADDOW SHOW

Date: November 20, 2014

Guest: Nicolle Wallace

RACHEL MADDOW, MSNBC HOST: Thanks to you at home for joining us this hour.

All right. It was a hot day in June, the summer before the 2012 election and President Obama went to the Rose Garden to make an important statement about a policy change that he was instituting.

And in the middle of the president standing there formally in a suit at the podium with the presidential seal on it and everything set up in the very formal Rose Garden, in the middle of all that, a guy who works at Tucker Carlson's Web site started yelling at the president in the middle of his statement. And it was a weird thing to happen in any circumstance.

But in the formal setting of the Rose Garden while the president is giving an official presidential statement, it was -- it was really weird and the president got really mad.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: It is the right thing to do.

NEIL MUNRO, DAILY CALLER: Why'd you favor foreigners over Americans?

OBAMA: Excuse me, sir. It's not time for question, sir.

MUNRO: No, you have to take questions.

OBAMA: Not while I'm speaking.

And the answer to your question, sir -- and the next time I prefer you let me finish my statements before you ask that question -- is this is the right thing to do for the American people.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: The guy who was yelling at the president as you can see there has -- see the red thing there? -- has a press credential around his neck. He was a credentialed member of the White House press corps for the Tucker Carlson Web site, and not once, not twice he yells out at the president during the president's remarks that day. Not during that question and answer period, but while the president was still trying to make his statement.

And, you know, this president like every president has been heckled before. We have seen him heckled a lot by immigration activists, for example. We have seen him quietly heckled by a conservative justice from the Supreme Court one time. We saw him sort of pitifully heckled by a Republican member of Congress.

Remember the first time he addressed a joint session of Congress? "You lie!"

But an accredited member of the press, of the press corps stopping a presidential announcement to heckle the president while he gave his statement -- I mean, that was just weird. It was not, you know, weird like the Iraqi guy showing -- throwing the shoe at President Bush, that was a member of the press corps too. It wasn't that weird. That guy went to jail for three years for doing that.

But still, that moment in the Rose Garden in the summer of 2012, it was an astonishing moment. The publication who that guy worked for put out a statement after the incident saying they were very proud of their reporter for his behavior during that presidential Rose Garden address and in fact the guy still works there.

That was 2012 in the heat of President Obama's re-election campaign about five months before the 2012 election. And what the president was announcing that day was for a specific group of people who conceivably could be deported he was going to offer them temporary relief from the fear of deportation. People who had been brought to this country as kids when they had no say in the matter and people who have grown up here in this country, who have known no other home as adults -- those young people, he didn't give them citizenship, he didn't give them, you know, legal permanent residency and green cards, but he did give them temporary relief from one thing, from the threat of being deported.

And the Republicans lost their minds. They were very upset. Congressman Steve King said the Republicans should sue the president to stop this terrible thing he was doing. But they didn't sue the president and the policy went into effect.

When the policy went into effect, you may remember this was the scene all over the country when young people could turn up, make themselves known, fill out an application, find out if they qualified. That was two and a half years ago, and so far, between 500,000 and 600,000 young people across the country have qualified under that program to get temporary relief from the threat of being deported.

And the sky did not fall, right? The economy did not collapse under the weight of this small-scale compassionate act that the president announced in 2012, unless you consider falling unemployment, accelerated economic growth, and the Dow approaching 18,000 to be a noble form of economic collapse.

The president announced that policy change two years ago in the summer of 2012, the Republicans and conservative media, they couldn't even wait until he had physically stopped announcing it before they started screaming at him about it.

But, you know what, that policy change, it is kind of working out OK. The country is okay. And tonight's announcement from the White House builds on both that policy that he announced in 2012. It essentially expands the idea of temporary relief from deportation, to include families, right, who have a legal resident or a U.S. citizen in them. So, families do not get physically divided by force because there are different immigration statuses among different members of the same family.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: We're going to offer the following deal. If you've been in America for more than five years, if you have children who are American citizens or legal residents, if you registered, pass a criminal background check and you're willing to pay your fair share of taxes, you'll be able to apply to stay in this country temporarily without fear of deportation. You can come out of the shadows and get right with the law.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: What President Obama announced tonight from the East Room just about an hour ago. Substantively, what he announced tonight, it builds on that idea that President Obama announced unilaterally in 2012 in the Rose Garden. It builds on what they call DACA. That was that program.

But it also builds on a long track record from this president. I mean, frankly, a long list of warning signs from this president that he was going to do something like what he did tonight, and I don't know whether or not consistency is a virtue in politics or in life. But in this case, on this issue, President Barack Obama and even just Barack Obama before he was president, has been consistent on this issue.

In 2007, when he was a United States senator, the Bush administration wrote a big comprehensive immigration reform bill and even though it had been written by the Bush administration, Republicans in Congress still didn't support it. Barack Obama voted for it, though, as a senator.

When Barack Obama ran for president he campaigned on his support for the DREAM Act which would be a very specific form of immigration reform targeted at young people, particularly young people who made promising investments in themselves like going to college or joining the military. He campaigned on the DREAM Act when he ran for president.

When he got elected president, he supported the DREAM Act. Democrats in the House introduced the DREAM Act. They got it passed in the House in the first half of his first term. Democrats in the Senate, most of them supported it as well but fell to a Republican filibuster. So, they tried on the DREAM Act but they couldn't get it done.

Then when he was running for re-election in the summer of 2012, he made that DACA announcement where the Tucker Carlson guy screamed at him while he was in the middle of his statement. That was in the lead-up to the 2012 election.

Then, President Obama won that election and Democrats picked up seats in both the House and the Senate. And everybody's diagnosis, even the Republican Party's self-diagnosis in 2012 was part of the reason that Republicans had lost so badly in 2012 is that they didn't support immigration reform.

And so, after that 2012 election with the Republican Party's official autopsy of what went wrong, recommending explicitly that the Republican Party embraced immigration reform and champion it, with even FOX News getting religion on the issue after that election --

(BEGIN AUDIO CLIP)

SEAN HANNITY, FOX NEWS: We've got -- we've got to get rid of the immigration issue altogether. It's simple for me to fix it. I think you control the border first. You create a pathway for those people that are here. You don't say you got to go home. And that is a position that I've evolved on.

(END AUDIO CLIP)

MADDOW: He evolved. He has since un-evolved.

Right after the 2012 election, the Republican Party, FOX News, House Speaker John Boehner, they were all saying the Republican Party would finally come around and support immigration reform. This was going to happen in 2012, right?

Right after he was sworn in for his second term, President Obama took a trip out to Nevada. He gave a speech at a high school in Las Vegas where he was so happy, he was like vibrating three feet off the ground. He just had been re-elected and just been sworn in for a second term. Democrats did great in the election, all the way down the ticket all away around the country. Nevada had voted for him by a mile. He's at the high school with the kids and crowd who were all psyched to see him.

And then listen to what he says here about how he thinks it's finally going to happen. It's an emerging consensus. Republicans are finally coming around. He really believed it. Everybody did.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: Those of you who have a seat, feel free to take a seat. I don't mind.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I love you, Mr. President.

OBAMA: I love you back.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

Last week, last week I had the honor of being sworn in for a second term as president of the United States.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

I know that some issues will be harder to lift than others. Some debates will be more contentious. That's to be expected.

But the reason I came here today is because of a challenge where the differences are dwindling, where a broad consensus that's emerging and where a call for action can now be heard coming from all across America.

I'm here today because the time has come for common sense, comprehensive immigration reform.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

The time is now. Now is the time. Now is the time.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: You hear the crowd actually getting louder, swelling there. It's because the crowd did go wild and gave them a standing ovation.

The case that he's making there is a remarkable moment in time. He says, "The differences are dwindling. A broad consensus is emerging."

In other words, the Republicans have finally agreed to do it, you guys. This was right after the 2012 election and everybody said immigration reform would happen. Even FOX News thought immigration reform would happen.

And it started to happen. Within six months of that speech the Senate had passed a bill, a big bipartisan, tough, comprehensive bill with enough votes to beat the Republican filibuster. They got 14 Republican senators to sign on to that thing.

OK, so that's step one, right? We got this emerging consensus, differences are dwindling, 14 Republican senators agreed with this and that's enough to pass it even over the filibuster. OK, all right, done.

Now, it's time for the House. Go on, House. You take it from here, House.

John Boehner had said that the House would pass immigration reform. But they got that bipartisan bill from the Senate and then it just, you know, it never came up. For awhile, it just sat there with no explanation.

Then, finally, the House Republicans came up with a procedural objection. They said they didn't want to pass a comprehensive bill. They wanted to pass a bill piecemeal. They just wanted to pass each individual piece of it bit by bit.

And the Democrats responded and the president responded, OK, whatever you want. However you want to do it, we'll do it that way if that's the way you need to do it.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: They're suspicious of comprehensive bills, but you know what? If they want to chop it up into five pieces, as long as all five pieces get done, I don't care what it looks like as long as it's actually delivering on those core values that we talk about.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: You need to chop it up, jaw wired shut. Can only chew tiny thing, piecemeal is a weird way to do it but that's what we'll do it.

They said that's what they needed to be able to do it, but that apparently wasn't what they needed. Because even after getting an agreement on that way, they still just never did it.

And as much as everybody thought they were going to, as much as they said they were going to, as much as they promised they were going to, as much as they said it would be in their own interest to do so, and, of course, they would do it, they never did it. The House Republicans never did it. And that's what happened and that was more than 500 days ago.

And so now, tonight, the president like he did with DACA in 2012, the president tonight announced that he would act on his own. He can't change the law, but he can change the enforcement priorities of his administration and the Homeland Security Department and all the rest of it.

And now, Congress will not vote on these things that the president announced tonight, those changes will just go

into effect starting January 1st, 2015.

And, yes, the Republicans and the president's critics say they feel blindsided by this action. But it's not like nobody knew where he stood on this issue, and it's not like he didn't tell you over and over again that this was coming.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: Enact comprehensive immigration reform once and for all. They need not -- we can't wait 20 years from now to do it. We can't wait 10 years from now to do it. We need it by the end of my first term as president of the United States of America.

We want to move this process. We can't continue with a broken immigration system.

The time has come for common sense, comprehensive immigration reform. The time is now. Now is the time.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

Today, I'm beginning a new effort to fix as much of our immigration system as I can on my own.

I've said before that if Congress failed to live up to its responsibilities to solve this problem, I would act to fix as much of our immigration system as I can on my own and I meant what I said. So, this is not a question of if, but when.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: See the timestamps on all those for the last, oh, five, six years. I mean, whether you like what President Obama announced tonight or not, it's not like you didn't know it was coming.

And Republicans are losing their minds over this in some interesting ways. We will talk more about that this hour, including with some of our Republican friends. But you know what, what the president did tonight is something he said he was going to do for a long time.

There's no question that this is a big political fight and it's going to be fascinating to watch what's going to happen between the president and Congress, between Democrats and Republicans, this is an absolutely riveting part of how the game of politics is played. Big presidential announcement like this, Congress saying, no, we're going to light our hair on fire and never let you do it. It's amazing thing to watch.

Fights like this in politics are really, really top of the ticket fights. But that is not actually what this story is about. This is not at all what tonight was about at its most important level.

I mean this, is what this story is really about. All right, what the president announced tonight will have practical everyday effects on millions of people in this country -- millions of families. I mean, from the moment they wake up in the morning to the moment they go to bed at night.

This announcement will have an immediate effect on people's lives and families, now and for generations to come. Five million families had their trajectory in life change dramatically. For all the politics, this is the real story here.

Joining us now is Jose Diaz-Balart. He's the host of "THE RUNDOWN" on MSNBC and he's also news anchor on Telemundo.

Jose, it's great to see. What is your reaction to what the president did tonight?

JOSE DIAZ-BALART, "THE RUNDOWN" HOST: Five million people, Rachel. Five million families. Five million people that tonight, tonight, see the opportunity of coming out from under the shadows of fear and that have been living here.

Remember, this is going to be people that have been living here five years or more in the United States of

America and have U.S.-born children or U.S. residents. Imagine what that means for 5 million people that for years have seen their children go to school and they fear maybe not being there when their children come home from school. Imagine going to work not knowing if you are going to come back from work because you don't have the documents to do that work that many times other Americans don't want to do.

Talk about the American dream, Rachel -- this is 5 million people. You know, I was with the president in Las Vegas, that 29th of January in 2013, in the Del Sol High School in Las Vegas which, by the way, the president is going back to tomorrow.

MADDOW: Exactly, that's right.

DIAZ-BALART: To that same high school.

And then the day after that on the 30th of January of 2013 in the White House, I interviewed the president and I asked him about Leticia, a mother I met at that speech in Las Vegas, and she came to see me after she saw the president of the United States of America, and she told me, "I wish I could have told him this, I have U.S.-born children and I was deported from the United States. I left my children here and one of them was molested. So I have come back knowing that my fate is probably sealed, but a mother's responsibility is far stronger than laws, when my children were born here. Ask the president if he can do for the DREAMer-- he can do for me what he did for the DREAMers."

I kept thinking about Leticia tonight, Rachel. And, you know, all things are limited, and this is a short program. It's for three years. And it's going to be contested.

But, Rachel, thank you for bringing up, it all boils down to human beings and what are we as a country? Do we not care about human beings? These are children born in the United States, families separated. And that, that is going to change for 5 million people in short order.

MADDOW: Jose, when we have seen presidents take unilateral action not to change law but to change the way the law is enforced. In the past, the two big times that's happened for big swaths of people have been in the administration of George H.W. Bush and President Reagan, both of them took action of a similar character to what President Obama did tonight to the extent that they were about keeping families together.

They acknowledged that the legal policies that were being enforced had the effect of tearing families apart. They wanted to try to allow families to stay together while still maintaining the law. Should this be seen as in line with those previous examples?

DIAZ-BALART: Yes, except to be very clear, Rachel, both George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan went towards amnesty. So, this is something that the president of the United States currently says is not possible and he doesn't think that his -- his executive orders will be able to go towards anything that could be considered amnesty. This is a short period of time, three years and it doesn't give you a green card. It doesn't give you the possibility of being citizen of the United States of America.

Now, clearly those folks that are critics of today's action will tell you that both Bush and Reagan were acting as a response to legislation that was either in the pipeline or had already been passed by both houses of Congress. But the fact is, this is a very limited program. Sure, it's 5 million people but it's about 41 percent of the undocumented population in the United States which is -- about the same population percentage I should say that was affected by the decisions of both Bush and Reagan, 41 percent. Different numbers in totality but the same percentage.

Look, the fact is, the folks that work behind me right there and you said it very clearly, had the opportunity to do something about it. Well, maybe they'll look and see that maybe now is a time to deal with issues, it's not going to go away just because you don't want to deal with it.

MADDOW: That's right. And if they want to change something about what's about to happen on January 1st, it's because they have to act on their own terms and they've been unwilling to do that at all.

Jose Diaz-Balart, Telemundo anchor, host of "THE RUNDOWN" here on MSNBC every morning from 9:00 to 11:00 Eastern. Jose, big night. Thanks for making time for us tonight. It's great to have you here.

DIAZ-BALART: Thank you, Rachel. A pleasure.

MADDOW: All right. We've got much more ahead on this historic night. Please do stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: All of us take offense to anyone who reaps the rewards of living in America without taking on the responsibilities of living in America. Undocumented immigrants who want to embrace those responsibilities see little option but to remain in the shadows or risk their families being torn apart. It's been this way for decades. And for decades we haven't done much about it.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: Ahead of the president's big speech tonight on immigration, the newspaper "USA Today" published a surprising interview with Oklahoma Republican Senator Tom Coburn. The paper's bureau chief, Susan Page, asked Senator Coburn how he thinks Republicans were going to react to tonight's speech. This, amazingly, was his answer.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SEN. TOM COBURN (R), OKLAHOMA: Oh, I don't think it's so much a Republican reaction here, the country is going to go nuts because they're going to see it as a move outside of the authority of the president. And it's going to be a very dangerous situation. You're going to see -- hopefully not, but you could see instances of anarchy.

SUSAN PAGE, USA TODAY: What do you mean?

COBURN: You could see violence.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: The country is going to go nuts. Instances of anarchy by which I mean violence.

Really, Senator? Are you sure?

Joining us now is Robert Gibbs, who knows a thing or two about this White House and about political conflict, both understandable and crazy. Mr. Gibbs was White House press secretary and also senior adviser to the president's 2012 campaign.

Robert, it's nice to see you. Thanks for being here.

ROBERT GIBBS, FORMER WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: Thanks for having me, Rachel.

MADDOW: First of all, what is the White House -- how is the White House handling that core charge from Republicans that this is outside the president's authority, that this is unprecedented. That is tyrannical. How are they dealing with that, that charge?

GIBBS: Well, I think the president dealt with it head on in his speech tonight and addressed it very early by discussing how he actually did possess all the authority necessary to do that, legal scholars will back that up.

I think what Senator Coburn was saying actually probably isn't something that you'll see the White House spend a ton of time responding to, because I think like many of the viewers who just watched that interview, they're a bit taken aback by the idea that the president's announcement will be met with lawlessness and violence. After all, the core policy of immigration reform that the president enunciated today is supported by probably 60 percent to 65 percent of the American people.

There aren't policy differences on this. There's a difference on the will to get it done.

MADDOW: So, on that point, there's a lot of good political axioms about whether or not you're fighting about the process or whether you're fighting about the substance if you're complaining about the process, usually people say that means you're losing the fight.

GIBBS: Yes.

MADDOW: But on the issue of the process, we can't get any Republican elected officials to come on the air tonight to talk about this, even before the president's speech. No one would come on to talk about it.

The Republican strategists, very reasonable guys, very nice guys, actually friends of mine in both cases, Doug Heye and Steve Schmidt, talking about this, were so exercised you could see them sweat, so upset about the president being so inappropriate and unconstitutional in this action – I don't think they're faking it. I think they've really talked themselves into this idea that this is something, not just no other president has done, but this president has never done anything this radical.

I feel like they're -- that -- their sort of position of conflict toward the president right now is a sharper edge than it's ever been.

GIBBS: Well, you know, which is so hard to believe given the fact that, you know, you've -- I think Republicans, this town, most of America has known this has been coming for quite some time. In fact, if anything, Democrats got upset at the president for having delayed what they thought this announcement would be at the end of the summer.

And now, it's -- now it's almost at the end of the year. So, none of it's a surprise. I do think it puts Republicans in a tough political situation. You know, you talk to the beginning of the broadcast where two-thirds of the Senate voted for comprehensive immigration reform and, you know, if the bill got put up in the House today, a majority would support it.

Republicans are in a very tough bind. They can't shut down the government because, quite frankly, we've seen how that works. They don't look like they have reasonable policies to defund this. They've talked about taking it to court.

I don't know that there is interestingly enough a genuine organized response to something that they knew largely was coming. I think the smarter voice in the Republican Party, I saw Senator Jeff Flake say earlier today our response ought to be to pass a bill.

And, again, I think what's remarkable about this is we know the outlines of what that reform and what that bill would be because it passed a year and a half ago in the Senate, and quite frankly, it's not a lot different than what President Bush was talking about in 2005, 2006 and in 2007.

MADDOW: That's right.

GIBBS: It's not a policy difference, it's a will.

MADDOW: Robert Gibbs, former White House press secretary for the Obama administration -- thank you for your help on this tonight, Robert. It's nice to see you.

GIBBS: Thank you.

MADDOW: It's an interesting point that he's making too about if -- about what they're going to do. I mean, if you think about the temperament, the upset, you know, we're going to impeach him. There's going to be anarchy, there's going to be violence, the statement from Rand Paul tonight, "I will stand in front of this by any means necessary."

Sometimes a good sign about whether or not somebody has anything practical to offer against something is the

number of exclamation points on to their statement about what they`re going to do in response. The more exclamation point, the more anger, the more all caps and crazy it is, the less functionally they actually think they can do. Maybe that`s what`s going on.

Ironically, today`s announcement does fulfill some of the immigration reform dreams of some previous presidents. We`ll have some on that straight ahead.

Stay with us.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: Scripture tells us that we shall not oppress a stranger. For we know the heart of a stranger. We were strangers once, too.

My fellow Americans, we are and always will be a nation of immigrants. We were strangers once, too.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: The actions I`m taking are not only lawful, they`re the kinds of actions taken by every single Republican president and every single Democratic president for the past half century. And to those members of Congress who question my authority to make our immigration system work better, or question the wisdom of me acting when Congress has failed, I have one answer: Pass a bill.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: Pass a bill.

We in no way support drinking games on this network or on this show, but every time any Republican says that what president did tonight means that now Republicans won`t pass an immigration bill -- drink. They were never going to pass an immigration bill before this, now that President Obama has taken this action, maybe they now will or maybe they won`t now. But a person who may know more about whether or not that`s going to happen or not is our next guest -- drink.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: I know some of the critics of this action call it amnesty. Well, it`s not. Amnesty is the immigration system we have today.

Millions of people who live here without paying their taxes or playing by the rules while politicians use the issue to scare people and whip up votes at election time. That`s the real amnesty, leaving this broken system the way it is.

Mass amnesty would be unfair. Mass deportation would be both impossible and contrary to our character. What I`m describing is accountability.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: That`s President Obama a little over an hour ago addressing the nation about his plans for the kind of limited immigration reform that a president can do alone without Congress.

For the record, I should tell you, this is what the big three broadcast networks were playing while the president made his address tonight. CBS did show the president`s remarks for their West Coast viewers only, but not for the rest of the country. But not the rest of CBS, nor NBC, nor ABC, ran it at all because there was this other stuff to show that was way too important to delay for 10 minutes for a presidential address on the biggest change in our nation`s immigration policy in 25 years. Ahem!

In May 2006, I should mention, then-President George W. Bush gave his own primetime speech calling for immigration reform.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GEORGE W. BUSH, FORMER PRESIDENT: Some in this country argue that the solution is to deport every illegal immigrant, and that any proposal short of this amounts to amnesty.

I disagree. It is neither wise nor realistic to round up millions of people, many with deep roots in the United States, and send them across the border. There is a rational middle ground between granting an automatic path to citizenship for every illegal immigrant and a program of mass deportation. That middle ground recognizes there are differences between an illegal immigrant who crossed the border recently and someone who has worked here for many years and has a home, a family and an otherwise clean record.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: In 2006, President George W. Bush's pro-immigration reform speech, I should say it was twice as long as President Obama's speech tonight, and all the broadcast networks happily carried that one. And they got a huge reward for it, they got a huge audience, more than 40 million people watched that 2006 speech on immigration. Basically the same number of people who watched the State of the Union that year.

That was, you'll remember that one, that was the one where he talked about switch grass and he whispered it.

But after President Bush gave that pro-immigration reform speech in 2006, his administration basically wrote a bill for comprehensive immigration reform. It died. Republican opponents of the bill said they were elated when it died. Republican Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama, who is a lead opponent of the bill, he said talk radio was a big factor in derailing the immigration bill.

Jeff Sessions said supporters of the bill tried to ram the thing through, quote, "before Rush Limbaugh could tell the American people what was in it."

So, not that long ago it was President Bush pushing for immigration reform, and Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III and Rush Limbaugh beating him so he would not get it.

A Democratic senator by the name of Barack Obama voted for that Bush bill, by the way, but not enough Republicans did, even though the Bush White House wrote the bill. And so, it died.

And interestingly after that bill died, President Bush move add head to implement some parts of what he had called for even though Congress wouldn't approve it. He said in a statement in August 2007, quote, "Although the Congress has not addressed our broken immigration system by passing comprehensive reform legislation, my administration will continue to take every possible step to build upon the progress already made."

That same day explaining what the Bush president -- what the Bush White House was doing without Congress, the press secretary at the time explained, quote, "We're going as far as we possibly can without Congress acting."

So, they did what they could by executive action after they couldn't move, even Republicans, people in their own party, in Congress to support a bill to reform immigration. The Bush White House, the George W. Bush White House acted alone, just as the other Bush White House did as well on immigration, and just as the Reagan White House did as well on immigration, procedurally every recent president has acted on some element of immigration reform when Congress wouldn't.

But there remains this really interesting and still unanswered question, why didn't President George W. Bush win that fight within his party in 2005, 2006, 2007? He called for immigration reform. He really went for it. He made the case, his administration wrote the bill. He was the leader of his party. His own party told him to stuff it.

Why did George W. Bush lose on this? He really lost on this.

I mean, this is what the latest incarnation of would-be presidential leadership sounded like on this. This is -- this is what the Republican Party became post-George W. Bush on this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MITT ROMNEY (R), FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: The question is, if I were elected and Congress were to pass the DREAM Act, would I veto it? And the answer is yes.

MODERATOR: Should there be aggressive, seek them out, find them and arrest them as Sheriff Arpaio advocates?

ROMNEY: You know, I think you see a model here in Arizona.

We hired a lawn company to mow our lawn. They had illegal immigrants who were working there. And when that was pointed out to us, we let them go. We went to the company and we said, look, you can't have any illegals working on our property. That's -- I'm running for office, for Pete's sake, I can't have illegals.

MODERATOR: You say you don't want to go and round up people and deport them. But you're also saying they would have to go back to their home countries and then apply for citizenship. So, if you don't deport them, how do you send them home?

ROMNEY: Well, the answer is self-deportation.
(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: Self-deportation.

That's the last iteration of what the Republican party was offering in terms of potential presidential leadership on this. Self-deportation, I'm running for office for Pete's sake.

I mean, that's where the Republican Party is on this issue right now, is the party of like Tom Tancredo on this issue.

That's why President Obama acted alone instead of signing some bill tonight because Republicans really won't pass anything on immigration through Congress. How did that happen? Why did George W. Bush lose this fight in his own party, to such impressive effect?

Joining us now is Nicolle Wallace, former communications director for the George W. Bush administration, senior adviser to the McCain-Palin campaign. She's now the co-host of "The View."

Nicolle, it's great to see. Thank you for being here.

NICOLLE WALLACE, "THE VIEW" CO-HOST: Thanks for having me.

MADDOW: Do you dispute my premise?

WALLACE: No, but let me tell you a couple of things that are different. President Obama controlled, obviously, the White House, the Senate and the House, and he could have done this with the Congress when his party controlled all three.

MADDOW: Yes, but the Republicans did filibuster it in the Senate.

WALLACE: But the Republicans also did vote for a Senate bill. There is a Senate bill with bipartisan support, and the House should have taken it up. The House Republicans should have taken it up and -- they supported a more piecemeal approach, which I'm not a fan of, but --

MADDOW: He said, he said he would be happy to do the piecemeal approach, then they never brought up --

WALLACE: And they should have.

MADDOW: Yes.

WALLACE: Listen, I'm out of step with the current Republican Party. I still stand with the president. I work for. I worked on that speech. That address to the nation on immigration and we actually -- I remember we had a hard time getting network time too. I think we moved it around a little bit to work with some football games. So, I want to say --

MADDOW: They always do.

WALLACE: -- we were probably a little more flexible and that's why we got the air time.

But what we pushed, had the support of Senator Ted Kennedy and at the time, Senator McCain so there was bipartisan support for what President Bush was doing. There's also public support for it. I think we had over 60 percent of the public behind comprehensive immigration reform, which is the only immigration reform that works.

You cannot ignore the fact that there are -- we use the number 11.2 million people. There are some estimates that put it about at 17 million people who are either here illegally or vast number of people here with expired visas.

MADDOW: Sure.

WALLACE: So, they're just working illegally.

And anyone in our party that suggests, oh, we got to lock up the border first, it's illogical. It's illogical. It's nonsense.

MADDOW: Why didn't he win that fight? I mean, I --

WALLACE: He didn't win the fight for which you just aired.

MADDOW: Was it talk radio? Was it the Heritage Action?

WALLACE: Talk radio's power isn't derived in a booth. Talk radio's power is because the millions of people that listen are convinced of the argument. So, there are a lot of people who are still either unconvinced that this is -- that this problem -- I mean, 17 million people is a lot of people.

That's not like Texas' problem or California's problem. That is coast to coast.

MADDOW: Yes.

WALLACE: Illegal immigration is everywhere. And after 9/11, I believe there was a moment where you could combine the fact that this is -- we basically have an unrepresented class of people living in our country going to our schools, you know, working in our neighborhoods.

George W. Bush, as a former Texas governor, understood that these were illegal immigration wasn't someone else's problem. These were our neighbors.

And Jeb Bush has a very interesting approach and philosophy on this because he's trying to exist and survive in this modern Republican Party --

MADDOW: One step forward, two steps back.

WALLACE: But he understands that illegal immigration, he called it an act of love and he got a world of you-know-what for saying that.

MADDOW: And then he wrote a book saying, no, we need to be hard line on the issue. And his book tour about how --

(CROSSTALK)

WALLACE: Listen, if you can't survive the politics of your party, you can't lead and govern. So --

MADDOW: But you can't be allowed as a Republican right now who's going to run for president to be a squish on this issue. The Republican House had every opportunity to do this anyway they wanted, including working on even just parts of the bill that got 14 Republican senators to do it.

They never brought it up. They never got close to it. They never were going to bring it up. People who were saying, oh, this ruins the chance for John Boehner to move ahead like John Boehner was going to move ahead.

Please, it was never going to happen.

WALLACE: Well, listen, I mean, President Obama is the one that said for six years he didn't have the authority to do exactly what he did tonight.

MADDOW: You don't think --

(CROSSTALK)

WALLACE: Listen, don't pit me against Obama. I'm pitting Obama against Obama.

And what he no longer gets to be is our constitutional law professor --

(CROSSTALK)

MADDOW: Hold on. No, what he was saying, people would say change the law. He said I can't change the law.

And so, he gave the speech tonight, and he said it clear, this is not citizenship. I'm not doing amnesty. Reagan did amnesty. I'm not doing it. It's not --

(CROSSTALK)

WALLACE: And nothing he did tonight -- I'm not offended and the Republican Party shouldn't be offended by an attempt to keep families together.

MADDOW: Yes.

WALLACE: The Republican Party cannot be against -- these are nuclear family. These are moms and dads of American born kids. We can't stake out a position that we're against keeping nuclear families together. No one is for that.

But I think a majority of Americans oppose what he did tonight. A majority of Americans opposed using executive action to change immigration laws, and Democrats --

(CROSSTALK)

MADDOW: The reason is because the Republicans are telling him this is some unprecedented thing. Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, and to a lesser extent, George W. Bush, all took executive action on the way you enforce existing immigration law.

The Republicans have made people against it, because they told them this is tyranny. This is --

(CROSSTALK)

WALLACE: Suddenly powerful -- Obama said this is tyranny, I'm not an emperor.

MADDOW: No, he said it would be if he'd change the law, then he did. He took action, but didn't change the law.

WALLACE: Well, listen, the bottom line is he didn't do anything.

I think these people are deserving of legislation, I think these are moms and dads of kids that go to our schools, and live in our towns. And I think that they are deserving of legislation, and I hope the Republicans call his bluff and pass comprehensive immigration reform.

And I'm, you know, call me another class of DREAMers, I hope they someday will. But George W. Bush won 44 percent of the humanitarian vote in 2004. McCain won about 26, and that time, he was for comprehensive. He think has evolved on the issue.

MADDOW: Yes, he said he'd vote against his own.

WALLACE: The Republican Party is on the wrong track on this. And Mercy Schlapp who was one of President Bush's adviser on this, one of them, I talked to her on my way over, I said, where do we go from here? She said Republicans really need to govern and legislate and get this done and lead on this issue.

I think she's absolutely right, and I hope we see a robust debate in the presidential contest. I hope Jeb Bush doubles down, as someone who understands the act of illegal immigration, while illegal, is motivated by love, is motivated by this long-held America dream for a better life.

And until we get our heads around why people come here and why they want to stay here, I think we are in a very tough spot politically with a very important part of the country.

MADDOW: And the fact that the Republican Party can't evolve on that despite that argument, I think, is an unexplained thing in American politics, which is -- I think -- I think it's unexplained for --

(CROSSTALK)

WALLACE: Listen, I think if President Obama thought the politics were clear-cut, he would have done it three weeks ago.

MADDOW: No, I think he knew what he was going to do. I think Democrats -- vulnerable Democrats said don't do it.

WALLACE: Why he didn't do it three weeks ago?

MADDOW: Because he was afraid, because they were like, oh, it might save Mark Pryor, because they're always worried about their bottom line and never about what they might achieve if they do something that inspires people. That's a Democratic --

WALLACE: (INAUDIBLE)

MADDOW: Democrats are wrong on strategy. Republicans are wrong on substance. I know which one I'd rather take to the gates of St. Peter.

WALLACE: Well, listen, I worked for the guy that was right on both. I mean, I think George W. Bush was right on policy --

MADDOW: And he failed.

WALLACE: -- and he was right on the politics and he failed.

So, I think we have to get back to the place where we have leaders are strong enough to stand up to the loudest voices in their own party which on our side is talk radio. Who will never be where our party needs to go on this issue ever.

MADDOW: Nicolle Wallace, I like talking with you about everything. Thank you very much for being here.

Congratulations on "The View" thing. I thought it was super weird but you're sort of making it work.

(LAUGHTER)

WALLACE: It's super funny and we love having your Bill Wolff.

MADDOW: Oh, well, now I'm angry.

We'll be right back.

Nicolle Wallace, former communications for Gorge W. Bush -- I'm angry and crying tears of pain. Thank you. Thank you. Go away. Stop.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

MADDOW: The last time we did get comprehensive immigration reform, Ronald Reagan was president. It used to be a Republican thing. But here at 30 Rock, the Reagan amnesty news in 1987 ended up being a shock inside this building for a totally unexpected reason.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TOM BROKAW, NBC NEWS: And one of those happy to see this day come is NBC News correspondent James Makawa who works out of our Chicago office. Much to our surprise, James today was online applying for amnesty. None of us knew that he has been an illegal alien since his student visa ran out. Makawa came here in 1977 to attend high school and to escape the war at home, which was then called Rhodesia now Zimbabwe.

After graduation from college in this country, Makawa began a promising broadcast journalism career, never lying about his status but never really telling anyone either. He has been paying taxes and Social Security all this time and worrying that someday he would be caught.

Now, he says he's relieved to be able to begin the process of getting amnesty to becoming a legal American.
(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: Worrying that someday he would be caught.

Nobody at NBC had any clue until that happened. And that young man has had a remarkable life since that happened.

And brief programming note: he's going to be on our show tomorrow night.

All right. We've got much more ahead. Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: I have seen the courage of students who except for the circumstances of their birth are as American as Malia or Sasha, students who bravely come out as undocumented in hopes they could make a difference in the country they love.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: Across the country tonight, groups that support immigration reform held watch parties for the president's speech. Maybe the networks didn't show it, but people wanted to watch it.

For people who are directly affected by the outcome, who have pushed politicians from both parties for months, tonight was a huge deal.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) (CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

CROWD: Right here.

Right now.

Right now.

I am.

I am.

Somebody.

Somebody.

And I deserve.

And I deserve.

Full equality.

Full equality.

Right here.

Right here.

Right now.

Right now.

(CHEERS) (END VIDEO CLIP)

MADDOW: After the president's announcement tonight will come more fighting in Congress. This is going to be fireworks in Washington for a very long time over this.

But tonight, right now, for these folks, this moment is about all sorts of things. It's about celebration. It's about joy, it's worry that this will not go far enough to help everybody in their families.

Maybe there's some relief that finally immigration policy can change, at least in a small way. This announcement tonight will transform the lives of millions of people across this country. And that is truly a very big deal.

That does it for us tonight. We'll see you again tomorrow.

Now, it's time for "THE LAST WORD WITH LAWRENCE O'DONNELL".

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