



Louisiana Congressman John Fleming Characterizes BP Oil Spill As A Disaster of Biblical Proportions.



Kicking off his nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Truth for America Show" on WZAB-AM, Neal Asbury opened the show by suggesting that the unfortunate families in the Gulf got no comfort listening to the President's energy address this week. Even as President Obama was preparing his speech, Asbury noted that the government released a new estimate of the amount of oil flowing from the well. It was estimated that as much as 60,000 barrels could be spewing into the Gulf of Mexico each day, a sharp increase over the estimate last week of 25,000 to 30,000 barrels a day.

Meanwhile, Asbury was incredulous that the Obama administration was talking about climate control, when it was not going to help a single Gulf family or clean up the spill.

And he thought that Obama's pledge to accelerate the energy program to create millions of jobs was hard to believe since the Obama administration has not accelerated any program it proposed—other than the disastrous "cap-and-trade" package, which Asbury hoped would "sink under its own weight and oil tar in the Gulf, thereby saving millions of tax payers."

Making a return appearance on Truth for America was Congressman John C. Fleming M.D. (R-LA), a family physician from Minden, LA, who was elected to Congress in December 2008. Fleming represents Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District, and is focused on sound economic policy to grow and create jobs, reducing the tax burden for all Americans, sensible health care reforms, a sound energy policy and representing Northwest Louisiana's traditional values. In this capacity, he was able to provide an informed, eye-witness account of the undertaking to control the BP oil spill.

Congressman Fleming described the BP events in Louisiana as "surreal" comparing the administration's inactivity and late response to the oil spill to Jimmy Carter's response to the Iranian crisis, where the perception was that Carter "sat impatiently, counting off the days for some kind of response." He also described the administration's response to the disaster like that of the "Keystone Kops" of silent picture fame.

The one hero of the BP disaster, according to Congressman Fleming, is Louisiana

Governor Bobby Jindal, who is "the one bright strong man of action" when it comes to dealing with the oil spill. Congressman Fleming noted that Jindal has marshaled the resources to deal with the oil spill despite Federal red tape and barriers put in his way to take action.

"There is simply a lack of leadership in the White House. President Obama took nine days to acknowledge that the oil spill was a problem. And when he did, he turned down offers of assistance from other countries. He should have been bringing all the forces to bear to stop the damage," said Congressman Fleming.

The Congressman described the oil spill as a "disaster of biblical proportions," brought about in part because "the Obama administration is mostly made up of academics with no practical experience in real world jobs. But we need real world solutions—NOW!" The Congressman predicted that as a result of the oil spill, Louisiana will lose 30,000 jobs – at a time when jobs are already scarce.

Congressman Fleming agreed that the U.S. needed a comprehensive energy bill, but



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acknowledged that fossil fuels will be the energy source for the U.S. through our lifetime. What he does not want to see is the reemergence of the cap and trade energy tax, which he describes as another example of the Obama administration "playing politics at the expense of the people in the Gulf."

While Congressman Fleming likes the \$30 billion BP has put into an escrow account, he is skeptical that it will reach the people that need it. Part of his skepticism stems from the slow pace that the payments are being made to local fishermen, and warns that some of this money could wind up in a "slush fund" to pay for other programs.

"The liberals in Washington are saying that the government can solve all of your problems. But we see that it can not solve problems. The healthcare bill and BP oil spill response are examples. What we need are jobs," said Congressman Fleming.

Neal Asbury's second guest was Francisco J. Sánchez, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, who directs the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA). Sanchez will be on the front line as the Commerce Department spearheads the implementation of the President's National Export Initiative, which works to expand exports of American-made goods and services, creating new jobs.

"My priority is to implement the President's goal to double U.S. exports in five years, which will create two million new jobs," said Sanchez, who laid out a four point program

to spur exports:

- 1) focus on emerging markets, such as China, Brazil, India, Viet Nam, South Africa and Saudi Arabia; 2) focus on energy technologies that the US can export to other countries spurred by America's world leadership in devoting resources to R&D; 3) exporting U.S. expertise in infrastructure building; 4) capacity building – sending experts to other countries to help them maximize their capacity for economic growth.

For this agenda to work, Sanchez acknowledged that the U.S. must be able to lower trade barriers that prevent American products from competing in foreign markets. This must be balanced by transparency on trade issues and controlling theft of intellectual property.

Sanchez is particularly excited about the new Trans Pacific Partnership, which seeks to open new Asian markets to American goods. He has been assigned a tight timeline of 24 months to launch this important trade initiative.

Echoing past guests on Truth for America, Sanchez is anxious to see the long stalled free trade agreements with Colombia, South Korea and Panama get ratified. But he is doubtful that with the full agenda of Congress, that trade will rise to the forefront, despite the fact that support for trade from Congress is growing as they recognize the need for a "robust export sector."

Not surprising, mutually beneficial trade agreements with China will continue to be problematic, as Sanchez describes relations

with China as "very, very challenging, even as we work with Europe and Japan, who are experiencing similar trade problems. The big issues continue to be intellectual property and indigenous innovations."

Sanchez noted that NAFTA has had an overall positive impact on the US economy and trade with Mexico has increased dramatically.

As for the future of U.S. trade, Sanchez would like to see the President assume more trade authority and fast track the Trans Pacific Partnership. He also wants to see America pass more free trade agreements, which create a trade surplus in every foreign market in which the US has a free trade agreement.

Neal Asbury Truth for America tackles free trade and enterprise issues every Friday from 5:00 PM until 6:00 PM on WZAB-AM 880 and is co-hosted by Richard Roffman, a veteran 30-year publisher with extensive domestic and international experience. The show is streamed live on line at WWW.880THEBIZ.COM, which is affiliated with Bloomberg Radio and CNBC, and can be heard nationally on 920-WGKA (Atlanta); KSEV (Houston); 1500 AM (Washington D.C.); 1220-KDOW (San Francisco); and 1300-KKOL (Seattle).



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