

"FLORIDA THIS WEEK"

APRIL 18, 2008

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>> THE FOLLOWING IS A SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF WEDU, TAMPA, ST. PETERSBURG, SARASOTA.

>>> COMING UP NEXT, HOSPITALS AND CHILDREN ARE IN THE CROSSHAIRS FOR STATE BUDGET CUTTERS.

SOME ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED NEW BASEBALL STADIUM.

A STATE LEGISLATOR SAYS IT'S TOO EASY FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES TO GET ON THE BALLOT.

AND A LOCAL COMPANY IS LAYING OFF WORKERS DESPITE RECEIVING A HEFTY PUBLIC SUBSIDY.

POLITICAL INSIGHTS NEXT ON "FLORIDA THIS WEEK."

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>> FROM THE WEDU STUDIOS, THIS IS "FLORIDA THIS WEEK."

AND NOW, MODERATOR ROB LOREI.

>> WELCOME BACK.

THIS WEEK, OUR PANELISTS ARE: JOE BROWN IS A COLUMNIST AND EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER AT THE "THE TAMPA TRIBUNE."

MITCH PERRY IS ASSISTANT NEWS DIRECTOR AT WMNF 88.5 FM.

JULIA RETTIG IS A BUSINESSWOMAN AND A REPUBLICAN, AND C.J.

CZAIA IS CHAIR OF THE MANATEE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

THANK YOU FOR COMING.

GOOD TO SEE YOU.

WELL, THE NEW BUDGET BEING DEBATED IN TALLAHASSEE WILL CUT FUNDING FOR EDUCATION, PROSECUTORS, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES, IN-HOME CARE FOR THE ELDERLY AND MANY OTHER SOCIAL PROGRAMS.

THE FIVE BILLION DOLLARS IN CUTS HAVE BEEN WIDELY PANNED BY NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL BOARDS ACROSS THE STATE.

THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP IN TALLAHASSEE, THOUGH, SAYS IT'S ALL ABOUT BALANCING THE BUDGET WITHOUT RAISING TAXES.

SARASOTA BUDGET CUTS FORCED CITY JOB LOSSES THIS WEEK.

>> YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT PEOPLE IN THE EYE AND TELL THEM THAT THEY ARE GOING TO LOSE THEIR JOB, THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN THAT.

I'VE CERTAINLY EXPERIENCED CUTBACKS.

THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS IS PRETTY DRASTIC.

>> JOE, THESE CUTS ARE TRICKLING DOWN TO THE LOCAL LEVEL.

IS THIS SUSTAINABLE FOR THE STATE?

>> NO.

THEY GO IN CYCLES.

TWO, THREE YEARS, AND IT WILL BE BACK UP.

AND SO -- BUT, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE

WHO ARE GOING TO SUFFER, AS A MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE TRIBUNE, WE HAVE BEEN BESIEGED, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, BY GROUPS COMING IN TELLING US, OH, IF THIS GETS CUT, ALL THE SUFFERING, ALL THE DEATH, DEPRESSION, DESPERATION, DEPRAVATION THAT WILL HAPPEN.

I'M SURE THEY HAVE A POINT, BUT AT SOME POINT WE HAVE TO CUT SOMEWHERE.

THE MONEY IS NOT THERE.

AND IF YOU MAKE THE -- MAKE THE CASE THAT WE'RE GOING TO BALANCE THIS BUDGET WITHOUT RAISING TAXES, YOU'LL HAVE TO CUT SOMEWHERE.

AND THE SKILL OF A GOOD LAWMAKER OR GOOD LEGISLATOR, FOR THAT MATTER, IS KNOWING WHERE TO CUT.

YOU KNOW, DOING THE LEAST AMOUNT OF HARM.

AND APPARENTLY THAT'S WHAT THEY THINK.

I MEAN, MEDICARE -- MEDICAID, IF LEFT UNCHECKED AND OTHER HEALTH RELATED PROGRAMS COULD TAKE UP 60% OF THE BUDGET EASILY I WAS TOLD A FEW YEARS AGO BY A STATE OFFICIAL.

>> BUT THAT IS THE QUESTION.

WE'RE IN THIS TOUGH BUDGET TIME.

SIX OR EIGHT YEARS AGO, WE WEREN'T IN A TOUGH BUDGET TIME.

WE WERE STILL CUTTING TAXES BACK THEN UNDER JEB BUSH, BUT IS NOW THE TIME TO LOOK AT SOMETHING LIKE A CIGARETTE TAX OR REMOVING SOME OF THOSE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS?

>> I'D REMOVE SOME OF THE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS.

SOME OF THEM ARE RIDICULOUS, AND THEY HAVE NO REASON TO BE THERE.

>> BUT THE LEGISLATURE ISN'T DOING THAT.

>> I KNOW, AND THAT'S WHAT BOTHERS ME.

>> THE OTHER THING THEY ARE NOT DOING, YOU JUST MENTIONED THE CIGARETTE TAX.

BOCA RATON DEMOCRAT TED DEUTSCH HAS MENTIONED THIS.

RIGHT NOW IT'S 34 CENTS, AND HE WANTS TO RAISE IT TO \$1.34.

RIGHT NOW WE'RE THE SIX LOWEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY IN TERMS OF OUR CIGARETTE TAXES.

THIS IS A POPULAR TAX THAT A LOT OF STATES DO BECAUSE YOU CAN ALSO PUT IT IN A WAY THAT IT PROVIDES DEFINITELY FOR HEALTH CARE, WHICH IS WHAT YOU WOULD DO BY HAVING LESS PEOPLE WHO SMOKE.

GET THIS, THE GOVERNOR DOESN'T WANT TO DO THAT, THOUGH, AND THE LEGISLATURE SAYS THEY DON'T WANT TO DO IT.

THIS WOULD RAISE A BILLION DOLLARS ALONE.

SO, YES, IT'S A TAX, BUT IT'S A WAY OF PROVIDING SOME FUNDS RIGHT NOW BY DOING THIS.

>> HOW CAN YOU THEY THAT?

THEY SAY, IF WE DO THIS, A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL STOP SMOKING.

>> HOPE SO.

>> PROJECTED MONEY FROM THE TAX AT THE SAME TIME GETTING PEOPLE TO STOP SMOKING.

[ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

>> WE'RE DEBATING THE WRONG ISSUE THERE.

THE ISSUE IS THAT WE'VE HAD EIGHT YEARS OF REPUBLICAN DOMINATION IN THE SENATE, IN THE HOUSE, AND I'M TALKING FLORIDA AND THE GOVERNORSHIP.

THEY HAVE TAKEN AWAY PUBLIC EDUCATION.

YOU KNOW, THE CORNERSTONE OF DEMOCRACY IS A GREAT PUBLIC EDUCATION WITH LASTING SPENDING.

WE ARE CUTTING AND CUTTING AND CUTTING WHERE THERE IS NOTHING TO CUT AND THEN THERE'S NO SERVICE TO GIVE.

IT'S A SHAME.

IT'S SOMETHING THAT THEY SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF.

YES, IF YOU'RE GOING TO CUT TAXES CUT SPENDING, BUT WHEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO CUT, WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS 5% IN MANATEE COUNTY, TEACHERS TAKING A 5% COST-OF-LIVING CUT.

THIS IS HORRENDOUS.

POLICE CARE, SERVICES.

I SAW AN OLD MAN PUSHING A LADY IN A WHEELCHAIR ON U.S. 41, SIX-LANE ROAD.

I SAID WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?!

YOU KNOW WHAT?

THERE WAS NO SIDEWALK.

THIS IS A TIME FOR REAL LEADERSHIP IN TALLAHASSEE, NOT THE BUFFOONS THAT CLAIM THEY KNOW WHAT IS GOOD FOR OUR STATE.

>> WAS THERE SNIPER FIRE ON THAT SIDEWALK?

HERE IS THE THING.

IT'S A DOWN ECONOMY.

EVERYONE IS PULLING BACK INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

I DON'T SEE HOW YOU LOOK AT OUR POPULATION TODAY AND SAY
GIVE ME MORE MONEY.

EVEN SMOKERS, WHY SHOULD THEY BE PENALIZED?

CUT THE BUDGET, YEAH, EVERYBODY WILL GET HURT.

MY COMPANY HAD LAYOFFS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

EVERYONE IS PULLING BACK.

THE CYCLE WAS OUT OF CONTROL, EVERYBODY WAS LIVING -- I'VE
SEEN, I DON'T KNOW, FIVE NEW SCHOOLS BEING BUILT IN
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ALONE, BRAND-SPANKING NEW.

I MIGHT LOOK INTO THE CONSTRUCTION COSTS OF HOW THEY
DEVELOPED IT.

THERE ARE A LOT OF QUESTIONABLE WAYS, YOU KNOW, THINGS THAT
WENT ON WHEN WE WERE FAT AND HAPPY AND NOW EVERYBODY IS
SCALING BACK.

IT'S NOT A PRETTY PICTURE, BUT IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GO TO THIS POPULATION AND SAY GIVE ME
MORE MONEY.

>> BUT JULIA, SOME OF THESE CUTS LIKE CHILD PROTECTIVE
SERVICES, THE SHERIFFS ARE SAYING THEY DON'T HAVE THE MONEY
TO INVESTIGATE CHILD ABUSE CASES.

NURSING HOMES ARE GETTING CUT.

>> WHAT DO WE DO?

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

THE SALES EXEMPTIONS, I AGREE, SOME OF THEM SHOULD BE LOOKED AT.

SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN GRANDFATHERED IN.

IT'S RIDICULOUS.

>> I DON'T THINK THEY'LL DO THAT, UNFORTUNATELY.

BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMISSION TO DO.

I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL DO THAT.

THERE IS A WAY TO RAISE MONEY.

YOU CAN GO INTO SOME OF THE TRUST FUNDS, WHICH I KNOW SOME PEOPLE SAY, OH, NO, YOU CAN'T DO THAT.

WELL, IN FACT, THE SENATE IS TALKING ABOUT IT, ACTUALLY, THESE, UM, D.O.T. TRUST FUNDS, THEY ARE TALKING RIGHT NOW FOR HEALTH CARE, TAKING MONEY OUT FOR THAT.

ANOTHER ONE THE DEMOCRATS WANT TO DO, WHICH THEY DON'T WANT TO TOUCH, IS THE LAWTON CHILES ENDOWMENT FOR HEALTH CARE. PEOPLE SAY THIS IS FOR EMERGENCIES.

OTHERS WOULD SAY THIS IS AN EMERGENCY RIGHT NOW.

>> I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT PEOPLE FORGET ONE THING.

THERE'S DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RS AND THE DS.

RS ARE YOU'RE ALONE.

THIS IS THE RESULT OF THAT.

THE DEMOCRATS BELIEVE GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD PEOPLE.

GREAT EDUCATION, ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE, EIGHT YEARS OF THIS.

>> CJ, LET ME ASK YOU.

JULIA'S POINT, THOUGH, IS THAT THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS IN A DOWNTURN ECONOMICALLY.

I MEAN, IS FLORIDA CAPABLE -- ARE THERE FUNDING SOURCES OUT THERE THAT YOU THINK ARE ON TAP THAT THEY COULD TAP INTO WITHOUT HURTING, LET'S SAY, REGULAR PEOPLE?

>> WELL, THEY NEED TO START CLOSING THE LOOPHOLES.

THEY NEED TO DO JUSTICE.

REMEMBER, THE PROBLEM IN GOVERNMENT TODAY, R OR D, IS SPECIAL INTEREST.

THEY CONTROL GOVERNMENT.

THE PROBLEM IS, OUR OWN PEOPLE, WE DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS.

IN MANATEE COUNTY AND I THINK THE LAST ELECTIONS, 20.58% OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE REGISTERED TO VOTE VOTED.

DON'T LOOK AT THE LEADERS.

LOOK AT YOURSELVES.

IT'S PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

GET ACTIVE.

DEMAND A CHANGE.

>> MAKE A GOOD POINT, BUT THE REPUBLICAN -- WELL, CRITICIZE REPUBLICANS BECAUSE THEY RUN ON REAGAN AND THEN YOU KNOW, GOVERN LIKE SOMEBODY ELSE.

BUT, UH, AT LEAST -- THIS IS WHAT -- THIS WAS THE REAGAN

PHILOSOPHY.

YOU KNOW, UH, LESS TAXES, SMALLER GOVERNMENT, MORE FREEDOM.

OKAY.

AND THEY ARE SO FAR STICKING WITH THE SMALLER GOVERNMENT AND LESS TAXES OR TRYING TO ANYWAY.

IF THAT'S IT, IF THEY DON'T LIKE IT, YOU'RE RIGHT, THE VOTERS HAVE TO CHANGE.

>> LOOK WHO IS IN POWER, BLAME THEM FOR ONCE.

QUIT BLAMING CLINTON AND ALL THE DEMOCRATS.

>> JULIA, LET ME ASK YOU THIS.

THE GOVERNOR PROPOSED THIS IDEA OF POSSIBLY PUTTING IN A TAX HOLIDAY ON GAS TAXES THIS SUMMER BECAUSE THE PRICE OF GASOLINE IS SO HIGH.

GOOD IDEA OR BAD IDEA?

>> EITHER WAY, IT'S SOMETHING THAT WHEN YOU TAKE IT AWAY AND THEN YOU GET USED TO IT, HOW DO YOU GO BACK AND TELL PEOPLE, OKAY, IT WILL BE 20 CENTS HIGHER?

THIS PROBLEM WITH GAS WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN TO US.

AS LONG AS GAS PRICES KEEP DOING WHAT THEY ARE DOING -- AND THIS STATE, BY THE WAY, HAS NO MASS TRANSIT.

IT MAKES IT EVEN HARDER ON US.

I THINK IF YOU TAKE THAT AWAY FROM US AND WE GET USED TO BEING THAT WAY AND BRING IT BACK, IT WILL BE HARMFUL LATER.

I WOULD RATHER LEAVE IT ALONE AND LET THE REVENUES FLOW.

SPECIAL INTERESTS ARE ON BOTH SIDES.

I'M SORRY BUT YOUR SIERRA CLUB AND ALL YOUR TREE HUGGER CLUBS, THEY ARE COSTING AS MUCH TO THIS STATE ON THIS WHOLE GREEN INITIATIVE AND ALL THOSE THINGS THEY ARE MAKING EVERYBODY DO.

>> SO YOU THINK THE GREEN INITIATIVE IS BAD.

>> I DON'T THINK IT'S BAD.

I THINK IT'S CRAZY.

I THINK IT'S HIJACKED AN INDUSTRY THAT DOESN'T NEED TO BE HIJACKED.

>> ON THE GAS TAX, A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD LIKE THE RELIEF AT THE PUMPS, BUT ACTUALLY COST THE STATE \$423 MILLION TO DO THAT, AT LEAST THAT'S THE PROJECTIONS.

THE STATE CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE OUT ANY MORE MONEY.

THE FEDS ARE TALKING ABOUT, TOO, MCCAIN, MEL MARTINEZ, THEY CAN RUN A DEFICIT, BUT THE STATE CAN'T.

SO I THINK -- I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE WISEST THING TO DO TO DO THIS.

>> JUST REMEMBER THAT IT GOES BACK TO THE LEADERSHIP OF WHAT WE HAVE HERE.

AND THIS GOVERNOR CAN'T BE GOVERNOR FOR EVERYBODY.

HE'S -- YOU CAN'T CUT TAXES AND INCREASE SPENDING.

YOU CAN'T DO IT.

SO YOU GOT TO BE RESPONSIBLE.

YOU GOT TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

HE NEEDS TO GET UP --

>> DEMOCRATIC GOVERNOR IN POWER RIGHT NOW, WHY ARE WE
COMPLAINING?

[LAUGHTER]

>> SPOKEN FROM A REPUBLICAN.

O000H.

OKAY.

WELL, ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN JAMIE BENNETT IS
ASKING WHETHER THE PROPOSED NEW WATERFRONT RAYS BASEBALL
STADIUM IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY.

BENNETT SAID IT'S A HORRIBLE TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT
SELLING REAL ESTATE AND TALKING ABOUT TAXES.

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ALSO HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STADIUM.
THE COUNCIL MUST SOON DECIDE ON NEGOTIATING A SALE OF THE
CURRENT STADIUM SITE TO A DEVELOPER AND IF A STADIUM
REFERENDUM WILL BE SCHEDULED LATER THIS YEAR.

MITCH, WHERE IS THIS HEADED?

>> UH, DOESN'T LOOK GOOD FOR STEWART STERNBERG AND THE RAYS
MANAGEMENT I WOULD SAY RIGHT NOW.

INTERESTING, THE ST. PETE TIMES EDITORIALIZED THIS WEEK
AFTER HEARING COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBER BENNETT AND OTHER
COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO FOR THE FIRST TIME REALLY ARE STEPPING
BACK AND GOING THIS MAY NOT WORK OUT RIGHT NOW.

AND THE ST. PETE TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD SAID, HEY, WAIT A
SECOND, DON'T THROW IT OUT YET.

WE'VE GOT UNTIL JUNE TO GET ALL THE INFORMATION FROM THE

RAYS, AND THEY DO.

SO WE'LL WAIT AND SEE.

A BIG MOVE THIS WEEK, I THINK, WITH THE COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, CONA, MAINSTREAM GROUP, A LOT OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION GROUPS IN THAT BIG GROUP, WHO CAME OUT AGAINST THE PLAN.

THAT I THINK THE RAYS WERE REALLY KIND OF WORKING WITH THEM AND HOPING THEY WOULD COME ALONG WITH IT.

RIGHT NOW, YOU HAVE THIS ONE GROUP, ACTIVIST GROUP, P.O.W.W., THEY ARE MAKING A LOT OF NOISE DOWN THERE.

IT DOESN'T -- THIS PLAN, A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK, AGAIN, GOING BACK FROM THE GET-GO, SECRETIVE AND IT'S REALLY BEEN PUSHED REALLY, REALLY QUICKLY.

AS WE MENTIONED ABOUT THE BAD BUDGET TIMES, WHICH IS A FACT RIGHT NOW, ROB, I DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL MAKE IT THIS YEAR. DOES THAT MEAN IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN?

A LOT OF STADIUM PROPOSALS NEVER MADE IT THE FIRST TIME AROUND IN THE COUNTRY.

>> JOE, IS THE STADIUM PLAN IN TROUBLE?

>> I THINK MOST OF THEM SHOULD BE.

THIS ONE IS.

WE LIVE IN AN ERA OF THROW-AWAY STADIUMS AND ARENAS.

20 YEARS IS ABOUT IT.

INDIANAPOLIS, THE HOOSIER DOME, NOT EVEN PAID FOR AND YET THEY'LL BUILD A NEW STADIUM FOR THE COLTS.

HERE, THIS BALLPARK ISN'T PAID FOR.

I THINK 120 MILLION MORE STILL OWED ON IT.

AND YET THEY WANT TO BUILD A NEW ONE.

I MEAN, SOMETHING HAS TO GIVE.

THE ONLY WAY I CAN SEE IT WORKING IS THE RAYS PAY OFF THE BONDS ON THAT -- ON THE TROP.

AND THEN LET'S START TALKING.

>> I WANT TO THANK THE COMMUNITY OF PINELLAS COUNTY FOR CORPORATE WELFARE TO BUILD A STADIUM SO US FOLKS IN MANATEE CAN COME SEE A PRODUCT THERE.

BECAUSE, I MEAN, HECK WE TALK ABOUT THIS --

>> HEY, LOOK FORWARD TO HILLSBOROUGH, WE BUILD A FOOTBALL STADIUM FOR YOU TO COME OVER TO SEE.

>> AND THAT GUY HAS IT --

>> -- AND THAT GUY HAS A 500-MILLION-DOLLAR FOOTBALL TEAM AND A BILLION-DOLLAR SOCCER TEAM, BUT THE PEOPLE HAVE TO FUND IT?

SOMEBODY HAS TO EXPLAIN THAT TO ME.

I NEED SOME HELP THERE.

THEY SHOULD INVEST IN SOME BALL PLAYERS SO I CAN HAVE A HAPPIER TIME.

>> I THINK THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE HERE IS -- AND IT MAY NOT MAKE IT ON THIS AMENDMENT THIS TIME, BUT I THINK THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE IS THAT YOU HAVE A DEVELOPER COMING IN, AND IF IT'S FEASIBLE -- I MEAN, I LIKE THE SCRUTINY.

I LIKE THE COMMUNITY SCRUTINIZING THIS.

THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE.

WE PAID FOR THE STADIUM IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, OUR TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

BUT THERE WAS A LOT OF GOOD THAT CAME OUT OF IT AS WELL IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM AND FUNDED --

>> BUT YOU'RE REPUBLICAN.

HOW CAN YOU HAVE CORPORATE WELFARE?

>> BUT, BUT, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, IT IS COMPLICATED.

I WENT THROUGH ALL THE RFP RESPONSES.

IT'S WHAT I DO FOR A LIVING.

IT IS COMPLICATED FOR ME TO ESTABLISH, AFTER I READ THEM, HOW IT WAS GOING TO BE FUNDED.

IF YOU GET THE RIGHT FUNDING AND IT WORKS, THEN WE SHOULD BE PATIENT.

IT'S A CHAMPIONSHIP CITY.

DOWNTOWN --

>> BOILING DOWN THE TERMS, THE RAYS ARE WILLING TO PUT UP 150 MILLION, AND THEY ARE HOPING TO GET SOMEWHERE AROUND 300 BILLION THROUGH A VARIETY OF MEANS, THROUGH THE EXISTING TROPICANA SITE.

IS THAT FEASIBLE?

>> YEAH, THE REALITY -- IT'S FEASIBLE.

IN A DOWN ECONOMY, IS IT GOING TO BE BUILT ALL AT ONCE, ARE YOU GOING TO SEE THE MONEY COME IN ALL AT ONCE?

NO, BECAUSE THEY'LL HAVE TO PHASE THE PRODUCT IN.

THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING, THE SCRUTINY IS GOOD.

BUT DON'T KICK IT OFF THE TABLE QUITE YET.

>> WE HAVE A MONTH BEFORE THEY HAVE TO DO THAT, ACTUALLY.

>> THE WAY YOU SAID THAT, "THEY ARE WILLING TO PUT IN 150 MILLION," WELL, GOODIE FOR YOU GUYS.

>> I WANT THAT DEAL.

>> HOW THAT WORKS?

I'VE SAID FOR YEARS, YOU KNOW, TALKING ABOUT THE BALL PLAYERS BEING ON STEROIDS.

>> YEAH.

>> THE MOST JUICED PEOPLE IN SPORTS ARE OWNERS.

AND TAXPAYERS HAVE JUICED THEM TO THE TUNE OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

>> THANK YOU.

>> YOU ARE RIGHT, JOE, THEY COULD DO THAT AND MIGHT DO THAT, PUT UP MORE MONEY RIGHT NOW.

IT WOULD BE A GOODWILL MEASURE, MAY NOT GET EVERYBODY TO SIGN ON WITH THE THING.

BUT THEY COULD DO IT, BASICALLY.

IT'S UP TO THEM.

BY THE WAY, YOU KNOW, I COME FROM SAN FRANCISCO WHERE THEY HAVE THE BEAUTIFUL AT&T PARK, FORMERLY PAC BELL, THAT WAS DONE ALL EXCEPT FOR THE 55 MILLION INITIALLY FROM THE PAC BELL COMPANY, ALL PRIVATELY FINANCED.

SO THE GIANTS ARE STILL PAYING FOR THAT.

THEY HAVE A HUGE DEBT SERVICE ON THAT, BUT IT CAN HAPPEN.

ALL THE SPORTS OWNERS HATED IT WHEN IT HAPPENED, OH, GOSH,
WE HAVE TO DO IT NOW, WHEN NOBODY FOLLOWED SUIT.

THEY STILL KEEP ON GOING TO THE COMMUNITY ASKING FOR
SUBSIDIES.

>> ARE PEOPLE SHOWING UP AT THE STADIUM?

>> TREMENDOUSLY, UP UNTIL THE BARRY BONDS ERA THE END OF
LAST YEAR.

>> AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT MAKES THIS ONE SO DIFFICULT.

THERE IS NOT GOOD PRODUCT ON THE FIELD.

THE ATTENDANCE IS NOTHING WHAT THEY EXPECTED IT TO BE.

I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT WILL GET BETTER.

AT LEAST THE GLAZERS STARTED INVESTING IN THE PRODUCT ON THE
FIELD.

THEY STARTED INVESTING IN RECRUITING.

WE KIND OF HAD A LITTLE MOMENTUM.

THAT'S WHY IT GOT SOLD, OF COURSE, A COUPLE OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS --

>> SMALLER BALLPARK WOULD LESS EMPTY.

>> INCREASE THE PAYROLL TREMENDOUSLY THIS YEAR TO BE FAIR.

>> 34,000 SEATS, THAT'S TINY.

>>> STATE REPRESENTATIVE DARRYL ROUSON WAS FINALLY ELECTED
THIS WEEK TO THE LEGISLATURE.

HE HANDILY BEAT A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE ON TUESDAY.

VOTER TURNOUT WAS DISMAL, LESS THAN 4%.

ROUSON WANTS REFORM OF THE STATE LAW THAT ALLOWS WRITE-IN CANDIDATES.

ROUSON SAYS THE PROCESS IS BEING ABUSED AND WRITE-IN CANDIDATES SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET STRICTER QUALIFICATIONS TO ENSURE THEY ARE SERIOUS.

THE PRESENCE OF A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE ON THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT CLOSES THE PRIMARY AND FORCES THE PUBLIC TO PAY FOR A COSTLY GENERAL ELECTION.

TUESDAY'S ELECTION COST TAXPAYERS \$165,000.

C.J., SHOULD THERE BE LIMITS ON WRITE-IN CANDIDATES?

>> THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE.

LET ME TELL YOU, THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE.

WHAT'S HERE, IS DARRYL HAS A TOUGH OPPONENT IN AUGUST.

ANOTHER DEMOCRAT WILL TAKE HIM ON.

AND WHAT HAPPENS --

>> WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

>> I THINK MCKENZIE FOR SURE.

>> CHARLES MCKENZIE.

>> BUT I THINK WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE -- PLEASE UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL GAMES.

YOU HAVE A DEMOCRATIC SEAT THAT'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN, GERRYMANDERED, AND YOU NEED A REPUBLICAN TO HAVE SOME LOVE FROM THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

WELL, YOU GET A REPUBLICAN, DARRYL ROUSON IS A REPUBLICAN, A

WEEK BEFORE HE DECIDED TO RUN, MOST OF HIS MONEY CAME FROM
REPUBLICANS.

WHAT THE IDEA IS, HE RUNS.

NOW, BECAUSE NO DEMOCRAT -- OR REPUBLICAN IS RUNNING,
REPUBLICANS GET TO VOTE IN THE WHAT?

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY.

BY HAVING A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE, IT STOPS THAT FROM
HAPPENING.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED HERE.

NOW, WHAT WILL HAPPEN, HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT SPENDING,
BECAUSE THEY'LL ASK WHY DID PETERMAN TAKE THE JOB FROM
CHARLIE CRIST, THE GOVERNOR, AND FORCE THIS ELECTION EARLIER
ON THESE TWO CANDIDATES, WILLIAMS AND MCKENZIE?

SO MY QUESTION IS, IT'S NOT ABOUT SAVING MONEY.

IT'S ABOUT SAVING DARRYL'S JOB.

AND THAT'S WHERE THE HYPOCRISY IS, AND THAT'S WHERE IT'S
WRONG, AND THAT'S WHAT IS WRONG WITH POLITICS HERE.

THE REALITY IS, IF YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY GOES ON, IT'S ABOUT
GETTING MORE SYMPATHIZERS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

>> MCKENZIE IS NOT GOING TO BE A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE.

IF HE RUNS, HE'LL QUALIFY FOR THE BALLOT, RIGHT?

>> PLEASE UNDERSTAND, IF THERE'S NO REPUBLICAN RUNNING, IT
OPENS THE PRIMARY FOR REPUBLICANS TO VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC
PRIMARY.

IF YOU GET RID OF -- IF YOU GET RID OF WRITE-IN CANDIDATE,

THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MANAGE THE REPUBLICANS RUNNING,
AND YOU GO TO THEM AND SAY DON'T RUN BECAUSE WE HAVE
SOMETHING IN PLACE.

THIS HAPPENS EVERY DAY IN FLORIDA.

THIS IS POLITICS, AND THIS IS BEHIND-THE-SCENES, HARD --
THIS IS WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

AND WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO HAVE A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE, WE CAN
MAKE DEMOCRATS VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS AND NOT HAVE REPUBLICANS
VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY.

THIS IS WHAT IT'S ABOUT.

>> IT CAN'T SEEMINGLY HAPPEN.

I MEAN, IT CAN ONLY BE A STATE LAW, RIGHT?

THEY ONLY HAVE A COUPLE OF WEEKS LEFT IN THE LEGISLATURE.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT CAN HAPPEN BY AUGUST.

>> IT'S A BIG MISTAKE BY DARRYL TO DO THIS BECAUSE I THINK
HE DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

ALL HE DOES IS OPEN A CAN OF WORMS FOR HIMSELF, AS YOU CAN
SEE.

>> THERE ARE TWO PROBLEMS HERE.

THE WRITE-IN MESS, YOU'RE RIGHT THAT SHOULD BE REFORMED.

WE SHOULD ALSO REFORM IT SO THAT IF A GOVERNOR NAMES AN
ACTIVE LAWMAKER TO A JOB, THEN THAT LAWMAKER HAS TO FINISH
HIS TERM OR --

>> PETERMAN WAS TAKEN OUT OF THAT SEAT, AND FOR A WHILE, THE
PEOPLE OF MANATEE, PINELLAS, HILLSBOROUGH WERE LEFT WITHOUT

A REPRESENTATIVE.

>> TALKING TWO MONTHS.

>> BUT REPUBLICANS' FAULT AND DURING THIS TAX CRISIS.

>> I KNOW, THEY COULD HAVE APPOINTED AN INTERIM DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE, I MEAN, FOR TWO MONTHS.

>> WELL, THAT'S MY POINT.

CHARLIE CRIST --

>> THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

>> -- INTO THAT POSITION.

THEY FORCED THIS ELECTION TO COST OVER HALF A MILLION DOLLARS.

>> ARE YOU HINTING AT A CONSPIRACY HERE?

>> NO, IT'S ALL GOOD POLITICS.

I ENVY THE REPUBLICANS THE WAY THEY RUN THINGS.

THE REASON WE HAVE -- WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TAX CRUNCH.

THEY FORCE ON GOVERNMENT TO SPEND HALF A MILLION DOLLARS BECAUSE PETERMAN CAN'T WAIT UNTIL AUGUST.

>> I AGREE. I AGREE.

HE SHOULD HAVE WAITED.

>> THAT'S THE PROBLEM IS CHARLIE CRIST AND PETERMAN --

>> HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN WAITING.

HE SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL HIS TERM WAS OUT AND THEN TAKE OVER THE JOB.

>> THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE 165,000.

IT'S THE REPUBLICANS' FAULT.

IT'S CHARLIE CRIST.

>> JULIA, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE IDEA THAT YOU CAN SIGN IN AS A
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE AND THAT WAY IT FORCES THE ELECTION
SUPERVISOR TO HOLD A GENERAL ELECTION?

OTHERWISE, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN SOLVED IN THE PRIMARY AND
WOULD HAVE BEEN OPEN PRIMARY WHERE THE REPUBLICANS AND
DEMOCRATS COULD HAVE VOTED.

>> MY PARTY MIGHT HATE ME, BUT I AGREE WITH C.J.

I JUST THINK IT'S ALL POLITICAL, AND YOU FOLLOW THE MONEY,
AND YOU COULD FIGURE THE WHOLE THING OUT.

>> FOLLOW THE MONEY.

I LIKE THAT.

>> OKAY.

WELL, PINELLAS COMPANY -- SPEAKING OF MONEY -- THAT HAS
RECEIVED MORE THAN \$3 MILLION IN GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES IS
LAYING OFF HUNDREDS OF BAY AREA EMPLOYEES, MUCH OF THE TAX
INCENTIVE MONEY WAS TO CREATE HIGH-PAYING JOBS.

NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH, WHICH CUT 240 AREA JOBS LAST YEAR,
IS OUTSOURCING 110 MORE JOBS TO A COMPANY WITH HEADQUARTERS
IN INDIA.

JULIA, TAXPAYERS GET A GOOD DEAL?

[LAUGHTER]

>> LOOKING AT C.J., CORPORATE WELFARE.

NO, AND I'LL TELL YOU, I LIKE THE QTI INCENTIVE IF IT'S
MANAGED PROPERLY.

IT'S A WAY TO BRING HIGH-PAYING JOBS TO THE COMMUNITY, BUT I
ALSO THINK THESE CORPORATIONS NEED TO BE ACCOUNTABLE.

IT'S LIKE A LOT OF THE THINGS THAT I FIND WRONG WITH
CORPORATE SPENDING -- I MEAN, GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

THIS IS THE SAME THING, AND WE'RE SUBSIDIZING IT, TOO.

THEY SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE.

AND IF THEY DO SEND SOME OF THE JOBS OVERSEAS, THEY SHOULD
PAY US BACK FOR THOSE TAX DOLLARS AND THE INCENTIVES WE GAVE
THEM.

>> QTI IS THE NAME OF THE SUBSIDY.

>> QUALIFIED TAX INDUSTRY.

>> EXCUSE ME, I UNDERSTAND THAT.

I TALKED WITH THE STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT TODAY.
IT'S GOING TO BE -- IF IT'S LESS THAN 80% OF THE NUMBER OF
EMPLOYEES THEY SAID THEY WOULD HIRE, THEN THEY DON'T GET ANY
OF THE TAX BREAK BECAUSE THEY GET IT LATER.

>> ARE THEY IN TROUBLE -- POTENTIALLY IN TROUBLE OF LOSING
IT?

>> IT ALL DEPENDS ON -- WE SAW HOW MANY WORKERS WERE LET GO
OR OUTSOURCED, AS IT WERE, AND HAVE BEEN LET GO THE LAST TWO
YEARS, I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY THEY ACTUALLY SAID THEY WERE
GOING TO DO WITH THE STATE, SO THEY COULD LOSE -- THEY COULD
BE HURT BY THIS.

>> WE'RE MISSING THE ISSUE HERE.

WE'RE MISSING THE ISSUE BY A WIDE MARK.

I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS, I DON'T BLAME THE CEO OF THIS COMPANY.

HIS JOB IS TO MAKE MONEY FOR HIS TAXPAYERS.

HE'S DOING WHAT EVERY CEO HAS TO DO.

THE BLAME GOES TO WASHINGTON AND THE POLITICIANS, BOTH PARTIES THAT DON'T -- THAT ALLOW THE OUTSOURCING.

IT WAS PRESIDENT BUSH, H. BUSH THAT WAS, IF YOU REMEMBER, AMBASSADOR TO CHINA UNDER NIXON, AND THAT BEGAN THE OUTSOURCING OF OUR JOBS, OUR INDUSTRY TO CHINA, LATIN AMERICA, AND EVERYWHERE ELSE.

I DON'T BLAME THE CEO HERE.

I BLAME OUR POLITICIANS WHO ARE WILLING TO TAKE OUR JOBS OVERSEAS.

>> THE CURIOUS THING ABOUT THIS, C.J., IS THAT THEY ARE BRINGING THESE WORKERS FROM INDIA HERE.

SO THE WORKERS ARE ON THE CAMPUS OF NIELSEN.

>> THEY ARE INSOURCING.

>> IT DOESN'T MATTER.

THE POLICY OR THE POINT IS THAT WASHINGTON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOWING THIS TO HAPPEN.

NOT THE CEO.

BECAUSE, THINK ABOUT IT, WE'RE DUMBIFYING OUR PEOPLE.

WE HAVE CHILDREN THAT GO TO A LOT OF SCHOOL -- BUT THEY ARE

NOT VERY EDUCATED.

NOW WE HAVE TO BRING PEOPLE FROM INDIA BECAUSE THEY HAVE HIGHER LEVELS OF EDUCATION?

AND WHAT?

SEE, THE PROBLEM IS, THE POLITICAL ASPECT OF IT.

THE CEO IS NOT RESPONSIBLE, THE POLITICIANS THAT WON'T SHORE UP, THAT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN.

THIS GUY IS JUST TRYING TO MAKE A BUCK.

THAT'S THE CAPITALIST AMERICAN WAY.

DON'T BLAME HIM.

>> WE ALSO NEED TO LOOK AT THE GOOD THINGS THAT NIELSEN MEDIA DOES BRING TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE NEW FACILITY.

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF GROWTH SURROUNDING THAT NEW CAMPUS.

A LOT OF GREAT PEOPLE ARE EMPLOYED.

IT IS A GREAT FACILITY.

THEY ARE GREAT CORPORATE CITIZENS.

THEY DO INVEST A LOT BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY.

I'D BE CURIOUS, LIKE YOU SAID EARLIER, TO SEE IF THEY ARE GOING TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOT ACTUALLY RECEIVING THAT TAX INCENTIVE.

AND THERE VERY WELL COULD BE A CHANCE THAT THEY DON'T GET THE INCENTIVE.

AND THEN IT'S GOOD.

>> WELL, THE OLDSMAR --

>> I WOULD BE CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT OUR RATINGS ARE AFTER THIS

SHOW BECAUSE WE'RE TALKING NIELSEN HERE.

[LAUGHTER]

>> BUT THE OLDSMAR CITY COUNCIL IS REALLY UPSET ABOUT THIS.

YOU KNOW, SOME OF THE CITY COUNCIL PEOPLE THERE --

>> THERE SHOULD BE SOME ACCOUNTABILITY.

>> THANK YOU.

>> YOU KNOW, OKAY, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE YOU THIS MUCH OF AN INCENTIVE, YOU HAVE TO GUARANTEE US THIS MUCH BACK.

>> IT'S A CONTRACT.

>> YES, BUT MOST OF THE TIME IT'S NOT.

YOU KNOW, IT'S JUST --

>> C.J -- C.J. SAID IT WAS THE CEO'S FAULT.

>> NO, HE SAID IT'S NOT --

>> WASHINGTON'S FAULT, I'M SORRY.

POLITICIANS FAULT.

BUT IS IT THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT GIVES THESE TAX SUBSIDIES --

>> IN THE LATE '80s, EARLY '90s, THERE WAS THIS ARMS RACE, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, BETWEEN STATES FOR AUTO PLANTS AND ALL THESE AUTO PLANTS, MERCEDES, BUILD ONE IN ALABAMA, BMW, SOMEWHERE ELSE, JOBS DIDN'T DO ANYTHING CLOSE TO WHAT THEY SAID.

BUT THAT'S THE KIND OF THING GOING ON THAT NEEDS TO STOP.

NOW, IT'S NOT BETWEEN STATES ANYMORE.

IT'S BETWEEN HERE AND OVERSEAS.

>> AND COUNTRIES, YEAH.

>> BUT THE QTI INCENTIVE IS DEvised TO CREATE OR KEEP HIGH-PAYING JOBS IN THIS COMMUNITY.

THAT IS NOT A BAD THING.

I WOULD, HOWEVER, SUGGEST WE SCRUTINIZE THE EXIT STRATEGY.

SO IT'S ALMOST LIKE A LEASE, IF YOU BUY OUT OF YOUR LEASE,

IF YOU SIGN A TEN-YEAR LEASE AND IN FIVE YEARS YOU CAN'T

KEEP THE TEN-YEAR COMMITMENT, THEN YOU BUY YOURSELF OUT.

THERE MAY BE LANGUAGE IN THERE THAT SAYS THAT.

>> IT'S AMAZING HOW THEY ALLOW HIGH-TECH GUYS TO COME INTO

THE COUNTRY, BUT THE LABOR WE NEED TO WORK IN THE FIELDS WE

WON'T ALLOW.

>> NOT THAT WE WON'T ALLOW, WE DON'T HAVE THE POPULATION

THAT'S EDUCATED ENOUGH TO HAVE THESE JOBS.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

IT'S SAD.

>>> FINALLY EACH WEEK, WE ASK THE PANEL ABOUT ANOTHER STORY

FROM THE WEEK OR ON THE HORIZON WHICH AFFECTS PEOPLE HERE IN

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA.

JOE, YOUR OTHER BIG STORY OF THE WEEK?

>> MY OTHER BIG STORY IS THAT DOLLAR A PACK CIGARETTE TAX

THAT GOT VOTED DOWN THAT I THINK WAS A GOOD THING.

I NEVER SMOKED AND NEVER WILL.

A LOT OF THINGS I SAY NEVER, THAT'S ONE THING I KNOW I WILL

NEVER DO AT THIS POINT.

THIS BUCKS THE TREND OF A LOT OF OTHER STATES.

A LOT OF OTHER STATES SEE SMOKING AS AN EASY TARGET, LET'S TAX THEM AT BOTH ENDS, THE TAXES AND THE FOLKS, OH, AND WE'LL STOP PEOPLE FROM SMOKING.

WELL, THERE ARE A LOT OF FOLKS WHO HAVE BEEN SMOKING FOR YEARS WHO JUST CAN'T QUIT.

SO IT IS AN UNFAIR TAX, I FEEL, AND I THINK THEY DID THE RIGHT THING.

>> MITCH, YOUR OTHER STORY?

>> JOHN DINGFELDER, CITY COUNCILMAN IN TAMPA, TRIED TO GET CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ON THE BALLOT IN TAMPA, AT LEAST HAVE THE VOTERS HAVE THEIR SAY, IS THE WAY JOHN DINGFELDER PUT IT.

DIDN'T MAKE IT YESTERDAY.

IT ONLY GOT ONE OTHER VOTE IN THE COUNCIL.

BASICALLY WANTED TO MIRROR WHAT SARASOTA COUNTY HAS DONE, MAKE IT FROM \$500 MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION DOWN TO \$200.

HE GOT A LOT OF RESISTANCE FROM THE COUNCIL.

CITY COUNCILMAN SCOTT, TOM SCOTT, SAID IT WOULD BE DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST BLACKS.

>> IS IT A DEAD ISSUE?

IS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM DEAD IN THE CITY OF TAMPA?

>> I THINK IT IS.

THERE WAS A DISCUSSION AT THE VERY END OF THE MEETING ABOUT BRINGING IT BACK UP.

THE FACT IS, HE DOES NOT HAVE FOUR VOTES, SO I THINK IT IS DEAD.

>> C.J., YOUR OTHER BIG STORY?

>> ARTURO HUERTA-CRUZ DIED RECENTLY.

HE WAS A SOLDIER IN IRAQ, NONCITIZEN.

I FOUND OUT THAT -- I THINK 7% OF THE MILITARY ARE NOT UNITED STATES' CITIZENS.

THERE WAS ANOTHER GENTLEMAN BY THE NAME OF JOSE GUTIERREZ WHO CAME HER UNDOCUMENTED FROM GUATEMALA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST SOLDIERS TO DIE.

LATINOS AND IMMIGRANTS THAT COME AND PICK OUR TOMATOES, WORK IN OUR FIELDS, AND WORK IN OUR RESTAURANTS ALSO DIE IN IRAQ FOR THIS NATION.

IT'S ABOUT THIS TIME THAT THIS GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE HERE ACKNOWLEDGE THESE FOLKS.

REMEMBER, GOD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN.

HE'S A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD.

WE MUST BE TOLERANT AND INCLUSIVE OF ALL PEOPLE.

GOOD LUCK, AND I THANK HIS FAMILY.

I'M VERY SORRY FOR THE LOSS.

>> JULIA, YOUR OTHER BIG STORY?

>> IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE ABOUT THE LEGISLATION THAT'S UP IN TALLAHASSEE RIGHT NOW ON ABORTION AND OBLIGATING WOMEN TO HAVE SONOGRAMS BEFORE.

IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW CHARLIE CRIST HANDLES THAT

AND WHETHER OR NOT FOR THE SAKE OF BECOMING POTENTIALLY THE VP CANDIDATE FOR JOHN MCCAIN.

>> IS IT A GOOD IDEA TO REQUIRE WOMEN IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER?

>> WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GET INTO THAT CONVERSATION. NO, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO DEBATE THAT RIGHT NOW, I REALLY DON'T.

>> BUT THIS WILL BE A TEST OF WHERE CHARLIE IS ON THE RIGHT-TO-LIFE ISSUE.

JOHN MCCAIN HAS MOVED EVEN CLOSER TO THE RIGHT-TO-LIFE MOVEMENT THAN HE HAS PREVIOUSLY.

>> RIGHT.

>> SO CHARLIE COULDN'T REALLY -- HE DOESN'T DARE VETO IT IF HE WANTS TO KEEP HIS VP CHANCES ALIVE.

>> EXACTLY, AND AFTER PUSHING THROUGH THE LEGISLATION ON TAKE YOUR GUN TO WORK DAY OR KEEP YOUR GUN IN THE CAR -- I DON'T KNOW, IT'S JUST -- IT WAS FUNNY TO SEE HIM SIDE WITH THE NRA ON THAT.

IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW HE HANDLES THIS.

>> YES, IT WILL.

THANK YOU, MITCH PERRY, C.J. CZAIA.

THANK YOU, JULIA RETTIG AND JOE BROWN.

THANK YOU FOR WATCHING "FLORIDA THIS WEEK."

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS PROGRAM.

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