

RE: ROMNEY'S "47%" SPEECH

BELOW IS AN INCREDIBLY INSIGHTFUL, ARTICULATE 'COMMENTARY' BY NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST **DAVID BROOKS** - REGARDING THE RECENT DISCLOSURE OF ROMNEY'S INCREDIBLE "47%" SPEECH AND OPINION THAT NEARLY HALF OF ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE DEADBEAT, WORTHLESS, FREELOADING BUMS - LAZY LOSERS LOOKING FOR A FREE RIDE. **BROOKS IS A RIGHT-WING CONSERVATIVE COMMENTATOR.**

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO READ BROOK'S COMMENTARY - HERE IT IS.

WORTHY OF NOTE: ROMNEY NEVER HAS A DISPARAGING REMARK TO MAKE ABOUT THE CORPORATE WELFARE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN IN PLACE FOR AS LONG AS ANYONE CAN REMEMBER - CORPORATE WELFARE PROGRAMS VIA GOV'T SUBSIDIES (E.G., OIL INDUSTRY SUBSIDIES) AND VIA BACK-DOOR TAX BREAKS, LOOPHOLES, EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS.

MSNBC STORY: "Conservative reaction mixed to Romney 47 percent video"



CONSERVATIVE CRITICISM:

David Brooks, The New York Times.

Headline: **"Thurston Howell Romney."**

"This comment suggests a few things. First, it suggests that he really doesn't know much about the country he inhabits. Who are these freeloaders? Is it the Iraq war veteran who goes to the V.A.? Is it the student getting a loan to go to college? Is it the retiree on Social Security or Medicare? It suggests that Romney doesn't know much about the culture of America. ... The people who receive the disproportionate share of government spending are not big-government lovers. They are Republicans. They are senior citizens. They are white men with high school degrees. ...

"The Republican Party, and apparently Mitt Romney, too, has shifted over toward a much more hyperindividualistic and atomistic social view - from the Reaganesque language of common citizenship to the libertarian language of makers and takers. There's no way the country will trust the Republican Party to reform the welfare state

if that party doesn't have a basic commitment to provide a safety net for those who suffer for no fault of their own. ...

“[A]s a description of America today, Romney's comment is a country-club fantasy. It's what self-satisfied millionaires say to each other. It reinforces every negative view people have about Romney. Personally, I think he's a kind, decent man who says stupid things because he is pretending to be something he is not - some sort of cartoonish government-hater. But it scarcely matters. He's running a depressingly inept presidential campaign.”



Romney's remarks DO accurately represent the views of the Tea Potty Republican GOP establishment. And those denigrating views are so sweeping that they disparage 85% of the U.S. population.

Every state and every person who accepts FEMA help after a horrific natural disaster is a lazy low-life freeloader looking for a handout, by their reckoning.

What a decrepit, deplorable way to characterize the vast majority of Americans.

But the Romney Tea Potty Republican GOP establishment has nothing but kind words of support to offer for the back-door welfare handouts given to the wealthy and the corporations via 'subsidies' and stealth tax deductions, exemptions, exclusions and write-offs which only the wealthy ever qualify for.

This malevolent Tea Potty Republican GOP establishment platform is at least consistent when you consider the fact that in the midst of the BP Gulf Oil Spill Disaster Republicans and Tea Potty members of Congress flat-out defeated a bill in Congress that would have increased Oil Spill Liability from the current preposterous joke Maximum (ceiling) of \$75 million to a more realistic \$10 billion, while Republican \ Tea Party zealots complained that Obama was "unAmerican" for being "too harsh" and "too hard" on the BP corporate mentality that caused the disaster.

Make no mistake about it. The Romney Tea Potty Republican establishment is NOT opposed to ALL 'Government Handouts!' They only oppose handouts to “**those in need**” -- as distinguished from those who are so wealthy they have no need. For the latter, Tea Potty Republicans will fight to last bullet to protect the “**Corporate Welfare State.**”





What Romney really thinks of you.

- 47% of you are dead-weight BUMS
- Corp Freeloaders are cherished entities
- We need de-regulation for Corp BUMS
- Corp Welfare Must Continue!

10:50 PM ET

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Controversial private fund-raiser video shows candid Romney

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Posted by
CNN Political Unit

(CNN) – Mitt Romney on Monday said his controversial statements caught on tape were "off the cuff" and "not elegantly stated," but he defended the main message of his remarks.

Romney took three questions in a brief press conference with pool reporters late Monday night in California, scheduled at the last minute in response to the release of secretly recorded video of the candidate speaking at a private fund-raiser in May.

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The video quickly caught fire as potentially damaging material to the Republican presidential nominee.

In the footage, taped with a hidden camera, Romney argued nearly half of Americans will vote for President Barack Obama because they rely on government support, made apparent jokes about wishing he had Latino heritage, and talks about a Chinese factory his former firm purchased.

"There are 47 percent of the people who will vote for the president no matter what," Romney says in one clip. "There are 47 percent who are with

REPUBLICAN-TEA POTTY PLATFORM & AGENDA

- ANTI-GOVERNMENT
- ANTI-CONSUMER
- ANTI-MIDDLE CLASS
- ANTI-ENVIRONMENT
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- ANTI-SCIENCE & ARTS
- ANTI-EDUCATION
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- ANTI-GUN-CONTROL
- ANTI-REGULATION
- ANTI-MEDIA

DO THESE NEGATIVE OBSTRUCTIONIST MISANTHROPES STAND "FOR" ANYTHING?

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him, who are dependent on government, who believe that, that they are victims, who believe that government has the responsibility to care for them. Who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing."

The non-partisan Tax Policy Center [estimates](#) that for tax year 2011, 46% of households will end up owing nothing in federal income taxes. But if payroll taxes are counted, the number of non-payer households drops precipitously - to an estimated 18% in 2011.

Adding to his argument about entitlement, Romney said his "job is not to worry about those people."

"I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives," he added. "What I have to do is convince the 5 percent to 10 percent in the center that are independents, that are thoughtful."

The videos were posted Monday afternoon on the left-leaning news websites [The Huffington Post](#) and [Mother Jones](#). The person responsible for the footage said he or she wishes to remain anonymous for "professional reasons and to avoid a lawsuit," according to the Huffington Post. Furthermore, the video was altered dramatically - but retains the audio from the event - to mask the location and date of the fund-raiser with high-dollar donors.

Appearing on MSNBC late Monday night, the author of the Mother Jones article, David Corn, said the event took place May 17 in Boca Raton, Florida, at the home of Sun Capital executive Marc Leder.

Romney, in his press conference Monday night, said he could have stated his original comments "more clearly" but said he was trying to point out the differences between the two campaigns.

"We have a very different approach - the president and I - between a government-dominated society and a society driven by free people pursuing their dreams," Romney said.

As for why he spoke more candidly with the group of donors, Romney said he was addressing some concerns at the fund-raiser.

"At a fundraiser you have people say, 'Governor how are you going to win this?' And so I respond 'Well, the president has his group, I have my group. I want to keep my team strong and motivated and I want to get those people in the middle.' That's something which fund-raising people who are parting with their monies are very interested in," Romney said.

He also called on the unidentified individual to release the entire video, rather than "snippets."

WHAT THE ROMNEY TEA POTTY GOP REPUBLICAN AGENDA WILL LOOK LIKE

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Shortly after reports began to surface about the video, campaign spokesman Rick Gorka said the campaign will allow pool reporters to film fund-raisers

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in private homes beginning Tuesday. Previously, reporters were allowed into some of the events but were not permitted to use cameras.

When the campaign released a statement in response to the issue later Monday, it did not directly mention the videos.

"Mitt Romney wants to help all Americans struggling in the Obama economy. As the governor has made clear all year, he is concerned about the growing number of people who are dependent on the federal government, including the record number of people who are on food stamps, nearly one in six Americans in poverty, and the 23 million Americans who are struggling to find work. Mitt Romney's plan creates 12 million new jobs in four years, grows the economy and moves Americans off of government dependency and into jobs," Gail Gitcho, Romney's communications director, said in the statement.

Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus defended Romney on Monday, saying the nominee was simply describing the "monstrosity" of government.

"The point of all of this is that the size of government is too big, and if we don't do something about it we're going to really lose the very idea of America," Priebus said on CNN's "The Situation Room."

He added: "I don't have the numbers in front of me but clearly what we do have, very clearly, is a government and a society here in this country that is becoming dependent."

Also at the event, Romney joked he would be more successful in his White House bid if his father were actually Latino, rather than having been born in Mexico to missionary parents from the United States.

"My dad, as you probably know was the governor of Michigan and was the head of a car company. But he was born in Mexico ... and, uh, had he been born of, uh, Mexican parents, I'd have a better shot at winning this," Romney said. "But he was unfortunately born to Americans living in Mexico.... I mean I say that jokingly, but it would be helpful to be Latino."

The tape came the same day as Romney addressed the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles as he continues to court Latino voters, which have largely signaled they would fall in Obama's column in November. According to a recent Gallup poll, Obama leads Romney among Latino registered voters 64%-27%.

Obama's campaign quickly seized on the reports Monday, calling Romney's comments "shocking."

"It's shocking that a candidate for President of the United States would go behind closed doors and declare to a group of wealthy donors that half the American people view themselves as 'victims,' entitled to handouts, and are unwilling to take 'personal responsibility' for their lives. It's hard to serve as president for all Americans when you've disdainfully written off half the nation," said Obama campaign manager Jim Messina in a statement.

In another part of the video, Romney says he was visiting a Chinese factory during his tenure as chief executive of Bain Capital, a private equity firm.

"When I was back in my private equity days, we went to China to buy a factory there," Romney is heard saying. "It employed about 20,000 people. And they were almost all young women between the ages of about 18 and 22 or 23. They were saving for potentially becoming married."

The GOP nominee goes on to detail the conditions he saw, including workers squeezed into dormitory-style housing, and a fence topped by barbed wire circling the factory.

Romney says when he asked the factory's bosses about the fence, they told him it was meant to keep people out, rather than in, as people were clamoring to come and work at the plant, which Romney said was manufacturing small appliances.

Romney concludes his story by recalling words from a fellow employee of Bain.

"The Bain partner I was with turned to me and said, you know, 95 percent of life is settled if you are born in America," Romney is heard saying on the tape.

A source familiar with Bain's investment history says the firm itself did not buy the factory referred in the video, but could not say whether the factory was owned by a company in which Bain later invested. The Boston Globe reported in 1998 that a Bain subsidiary, Brookside Capital Partners Fund, had invested in a Global Tech, a company with factories in China.

Obama's re-election campaign cited the video Monday while touting the president's newly filed trade complaint against China, which alleges China has illegally subsidized automotive exports and undercut American suppliers.

Romney, in a statement, called the trade complaint "too little, too late," asserting the president's "credibility on this issue has long since vanished."

Obama, himself, was caught in a secret camera moment in 2008, when he was recorded at a private fund-raiser saying that some voters "cling to their guns and religion." At the time, Republicans quickly pounced on the comment and now Romney's running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan, uses the quote against the president on the campaign trail.

"This Catholic deer hunter is guilty as charged and proud to say so," Ryan said Monday at a campaign event in Iowa. "That's just weird. Who says things like that? That's just strange."

– **CNN's Ashley Killough, Jim Acosta, Rachel Streitfeld, Kevin Liptak, and Jeanne Sahadi contributed to this report.**

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