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RANDOLPH SAYS DEMS SHOULD NOT PUT CRIST ON BALLOT

Answering a question in an appearance last Monday at the Tiger Bay Club of Polk County in Bartow, State Representative Scott Randolph said that his fellow Democrats would be "*embarrassing themselves*" if they put former Governor Charlie Crist on the 2014 Ballot for governor. Said Randolph, "*I think it's an embarrassment to say you're going to pick up somebody that's just sort of drifted along and then suddenly he decides that this election cycle instead of it...I mean think about that. You would have a man that had been on the ballot in 2006 as a Republican, in 2010 as an Independent and then in 2014 as a Democrat. Now, I've seen some shifts in the political bad weather, but that's a pretty amazing thing in an 8-year time span.*" The Orlando representative is a leading Democratic voice in the State House. You may recall that, after daring the use the word "uterus" during the last session's debate over Republican led restrictions on women's reproductive rights, he was severely chastised by the Republican leadership. He is entering his sixth legislative session, making him a veteran of the Florida House. His wife, Susannah, is the Executive Director of *Florida Watch Action*, an organization dedicated to strengthening the progressive movement in Florida.

You can ask Representative Randolph about this and any other political subjects personally since he is the featured speaker at the next meeting of the South Shore Democratic Club on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 6:30 PM (please note the special date and time). The meeting will be held at the South Shore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin. Refreshments will be available at 6:00 p.m.

DON'T GET SICK. DON'T PLAN TO RETIRE EITHER

During the congressional debate over President Obama's health care reform plan, Rep. Alan Grayson, D-Fla., drew cheers and jeers for quipping that "the Republican health care plan for America" boils down to "don't get sick."

"*Unfortunately,*" says the Pensacola News Journal, "*it is less funny by the day.*" In a recent editorial, the newspaper notes that Florida, where Republicans have become vocal leaders in the opposition to government-run health care — ignoring, of course, that the Medicare program they claim to value so highly is, in fact, government-run health care — has the third-highest rate of uninsured residents in the country. Worse, the rate is rising, with more than 1 in 5 Florida residents already without health insurance. "*Meanwhile,*" the editors wrote, "*Republican Gov. Rick Scott continues rejecting grants tied to federal health care initiatives, grants that would also inject some badly needed money into the*

state's slumbering economy." Scott, who says that Obama's plan — designed to provide insurance coverage to all Americans — will be '[bad for patients](#)' might want to ask the opinion of the growing number of his constituents going without insurance."

"THANK GOODNESS FOR TEXAS"

The editors also said, "*Meanwhile, thank goodness for Texas! As **one of the only two states doing worse than Florida**, Texas helps keep us off the bottom of the rankings. But Texas, whose Gov. Rick Perry is the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination and another critic of federal health care programs, also stands out as being tied — with Mississippi — for having the highest percentage of its hourly workforce holding jobs that pay the minimum wage ... or less.*

*In fact, according to the Texas Workforce Commission, **51 percent of all Texas workers make less than \$33,000 a year**. That makes it hard to afford health insurance even if your employer offers it, which helps explain why 1 in 4 Texas residents lacks it. As for Perry, given his stated views on Social Security, his recommendation for Americans planning for retirement might be: **Don't bother.**"*

¿SE HABLA ESPAÑOL?

The South Shore Democratic Club wants to extend its 2012 Get-Out-The-Vote initiative into the Hispanic Community. We are seeking Spanish speaking individuals to assist in this endeavour.

On Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6, our Club will have a booth at the Seafood Festival in Simmons Park where we will distribute information and promote voter registration. We are asking Spanish speaking persons to participate in our efforts at the Park. Anyone willing and available should contact George Stokes at gstokes@tampabay.rr.com for more information. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

KNOW THEM BY THE COMPANY THEY KEEP

The agenda for this year's **Tea Party Florida Convention** lists Gov. Rick Scott and Attorney General Pat Bondi as slated to appear at a dinner event with a "life member" of the radical John Birch Society. The event, to be held in Daytona Beach Nov. 4-6, [will feature](#) G. Edward Griffin, billed as the "author of The Creature from Jekyll Island." Griffin is an anti-Federal Reserve, anti-United Nations and anti-communist conspiracy theorist who describes himself as a "[life member](#)" of the John Birch Society.

Griffin defended his membership in the group in a 2007 post featured on the website of an organization called [Freedom Force International](#). According to the site, Freedom Force is "a network of men and women from all parts of the world who are concerned over loss of personal liberty and expansion of government power."

Griffin wrote, "*The general impression among many is that the Society is an extremist organization made up of kooks, McCarthyites, and racists. So let me jump to the bottom line. I am a life member of The John Birch Society and, for several years in the 1960s, served on the Society's staff as a Major Coordinator and official spokesman. From over forty years of personal contact with its members and leadership, I can say with authority that the Society is an excellent educational organization promoting limited government and opposing collectivism in all of its forms. There is nothing about it that is*

contrary to the highest standards of morality and ethical conduct. Continuing on, "...the John Birch Society is composed of some of the finest men and women you will ever hope to meet."

Also On the agenda for later in the convention are [Franz Kebreau](#) and "Sherriff Mack." [Mack](#) is a former sheriff of [Graham County, Arizona](#) and [Libertarian](#) candidate for [United States Senate in 2006](#). He is also a member of the [Oath Keepers](#) and believes the government push to require people to wear [seat belts](#) is not because the government "wants us to be safe." *"We have seat belt laws simply because people with money wanted us to have seat belt laws,"* he writes, adding that he is "proud" to say he never issued a seat belt citation as a sheriff. Kebreau is the National Director of the **National Association for the Advancement of Conservative People of All Colors (NAACPC)**. According to the right-wing WEB site "Freedom's Wings, "This organization was founded by Tea Party superstar Lloyd Marcus *"as an answer to the corrupt and race baiting NAACP."* [From the American Independent - Florida](#).

EVEN A BROKEN CLOCK...

It took this long (and it hurts to type this), but we finally found something on which we agree with Sarah Palin! Appearing on Fox News' "On The Record" with Greta Van Susteren Tuesday night, the former Half-Governor of Alaska describes Herman Cain as the "**flavor of the week.**" Of course, in typical Palin fashion, she did manage to flub Cain's name, calling him "Herb Cain," apparently confusing him with the late Herb Caen, a Pulitzer Prize - winning columnist from San Francisco. Caen loved his home town, often praising it's history of tolerance and diversity. We can only imagine how much he would have "enjoyed" being confused with the Tea Party pizza guy.

Cain won the Tea Party dominated Florida Republican Straw Poll last week primarily because he is not Rick Perry or Mitt Romney.

Palin also discussed the speculation surrounding her own possible candidacy. *"I'm going to keep repeating though, Greta, through my process of decision-making with my family and with my close friends as to whether I should throw my name in the hat for the GOP nomination for 2012: Is a title worth it?"* she said, *"Does a title shackle a person? Are they -- someone like me, maverick, you know, I do go rogue, and I call it like I see it, and I don't mind stirring it up.... is a title and is a campaign too shackling? Does that prohibit me from being out there, out of the box, not allowing handlers to shape me?"*

The mind boggles.

ARE THINGS BETTER IN "RIGHT TO WORK" (UNION HATING) STATES?

One of the favored conservative talking points during this prolonged recession has been that employment in mostly Southern, so-called "right to work" states has been stronger, while unemployment in more progressive states has been higher. These talking points, of course, have totally ignored the myriad factors involved in creating those statistics, including that most of those jobs tend to be near minimum wage; that low real estate prices, not business-friendly and jobs-friendly policies, are often driving growth in those areas; that many of the gains in these states are due to energy-related booms rather than core economic successes; and that the comparative lack of social safety nets in many of those states often makes life more difficult even for those who have been lucky enough to get one of those low-wage jobs.

As for the employment situation in Right-To-Work states it turns out things are not so rosy after all. Of the 10 states with the highest unemployment rate, 6 are in the South, the leading anti-union section of the country. Several Southern states — including South Carolina, whose 11.1 percent unemployment rate is the fourth highest in the nation — have higher unemployment rates than they did a year ago. Unemployment in the South is now higher than it is in the Northeast and the Midwest, which include Rust Belt states that were struggling even before the recession. Florida fares little better, with a rate of 10.7 percent.

For decades, the nation's economic landscape consisted of a prospering Sun Belt and a struggling Rust Belt. Since the recession hit, though, that is no longer the case. Unemployment remains high across much of the country — the national rate is 9.1 percent — but the regions have recovered at different speeds. The reordering of the nation's economic fortunes can be seen in a Brookings Institute analysis, which found that many (highly unionized) auto-producing metropolitan areas in the Great Lakes states are seeing modest gains in manufacturing that are helping them recover from their deep slump, while Sun Belt and Western states with sharp drops in home values are still suffering. The areas that have been hurt the least since the recession, the study said, rely on government, education or energy production. Also, places that were less buoyed by the housing bubble were less harmed when it burst.

“For a long time we tended to outpace the national average with regard to economic performance, and a lot of that was driven by, for lack of a better word, development and in-migration,” said [Michael Chriszt](#), an assistant vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's research department. *“That came to an abrupt halt, and it has not picked up.”* [Read more in-depth coverage of this issue here](#)

COULD IT BE? MAYBE

Could it be that all of the protests by both newspaper editors and citizens testifying at redistricting hearings this summer may have had some effect on legislators? Perhaps. On Sept. 22, the state **Senate's** Reapportionment Committee announced an **accelerated timeline** for releasing drafts of new district maps, a **public comment period** and **potential** resolution by the Legislature early next year (key word - "potential"). The new timing announced by committee Chairman Don Gaetz is better than the unacceptable pace lawmakers initially proposed. Proposed maps could be ready for public review in November, and the public will be brought back into the process because December has been set aside for public comment on the proposed districts through "**virtual meetings**" to be conducted across the state (Virtual meetings?).

Voters approved two constitutional amendments last November calling for districts to be redrawn for competitiveness, not to protect those in the seats now. The electorate spoke clearly in ratifying both amendments by 63-percent majorities. Nonetheless, Tallahassee's pace on drawing new districts was disturbing, and maddening. At the rate lawmakers were going, new district maps wouldn't have been ready until almost the filing deadline for next year's elections cycle. Of course, there is no guarantee that the new district maps would really conform to the "Fair Districts" amendments. Failure to do so would produce litigation that could really muck up the election works, though the courts could expedite the process.

The committee's final recommendations should be ready for the full Senate as early as the first week of next year's legislative session, which starts in January. ([From the Orlando Sentinel](#))

December is not the ideal month, considering the distraction of the holidays, and since it's incumbent

on those of us who backed the amendments to make sure our voices are heard, let's not wait. Contact legislators now! Here is contact information for this areas' representatives:

Sen. Rhonda Storms - <http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/s010>

Dist 63, Rep Seth McKeel - <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/sections/representatives/details.aspx?MemberId=4368&SessionId=61>

Dist 67, Rep Greg Steube
- <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/details.aspx?MemberId=4509&SessionId=66>

Dist 56, Rep Rachel Burgin -
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/SECTIONS/Representatives/details.aspx?MemberId=4451&SessionId=61>

Dist 55, Rep Darryl Rouson -
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/SECTIONS/Representatives/details.aspx?MemberId=4428&SessionId=70>

The Redistricting subcommittees are scheduled to meet in Tallahassee on Monday, October 3 as follows:

Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee - 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

House Redistricting Subcommittee - 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Senate Redistricting Subcommittee - 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

[Click here for a redistricting "suggestion form" containing the committees' email address and fax number.](#)

I DID NOT SAY WHAT I SAID

Gov. [Rick Scott](#) said this week that Florida is making progress attracting new business but changed his arithmetic on how many jobs the state must create to meet his No. 1 campaign pledge.

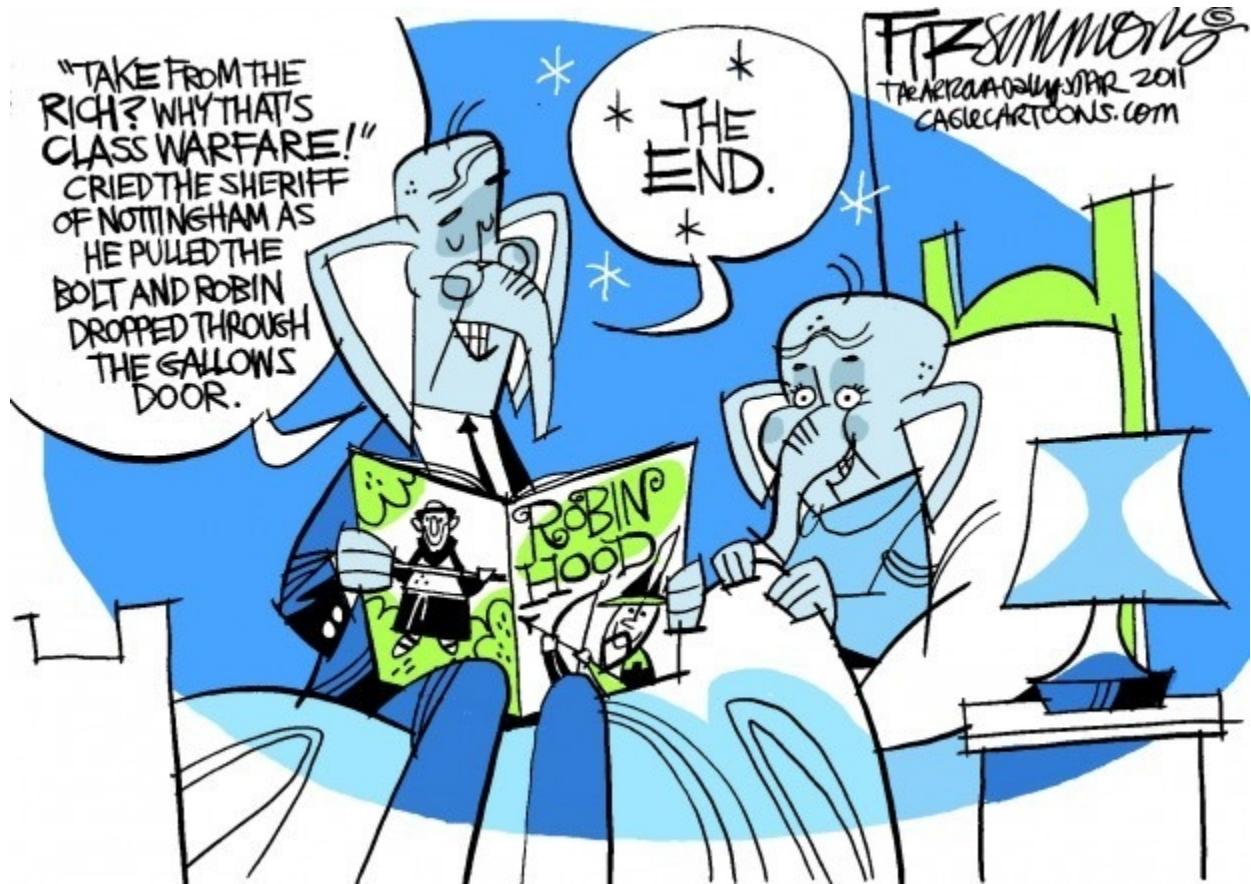
Scott made it clear as a candidate last year that his plan to create 700,000 jobs in seven years was **in addition to** the jobs Florida would generate by itself as it recovered from the recession. At the time, state economists predicted that would be about 1 million jobs. "***Our plan***," Scott said in an October 2010 debate, "***is on top of what normal growth would be.***" But this week, the governor gave a different answer. "Your pledge was for 700,000 in addition to normal growth, wasn't it?" Scott was asked during a meeting with the Sun Sentinel editorial board.

No, he replied, "700,000."

The governor's position hasn't changed, said spokesman Lane Wright. "The difference here is nobody knows what normal growth would be," he said. "What Gov. Scott is saying is no matter what happens around us, Florida will create 700,000 jobs in seven years."

Robert Jarvis, a constitutional law professor at [Nova Southeastern University](http://www.nova.edu), said the governor is "walking back the story." *I'm not surprised,"* he said. *"He's a politician. You make changes on the fly."*

IF REPUBLICANS WROTE THE STORY...



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