



WHAT TOM CORBETT'S BAD WEEK SAYS ABOUT THE GOVERNOR'S RACE

PITTSBURGH - One week ago today, Tom Corbett said the following:

“People don’t want to come back to work while they still have unemployment. They’re literally telling - I’ll come back to work when the unemployment runs out. That’s becoming a problem. The jobs are there, but if we keep extending unemployment the people are just gonna sit there and...I’ve literally had construction companies tell me, I can’t get people to come back to work, until - we’ll come back when unemployment runs out.”

That statement says more about Tom Corbett and his campaign for governor than it says about jobless Pennsylvanians. It confirms long-held suspicions about Tom Corbett as a candidate and prospective governor.

Corbett Lacks Any Experienced Knowledge on the Economy

Tom Corbett has no experience balancing a budget or handling economic issues.

“When you make a political gaffe and seem uncaring about unemployed workers, it is bad. When you do based on a clearly incorrect reading of the state’s job picture and workforce, it is a lot worse.... That is the key point here: The Republican nominee for governor is wrong, according to even the most anti-government, anti-tax think tank around, about whether the jobs are there. And that is an awfully important thing to be wrong about when running for governor.” [Capitolwire, 7/10/10]

Corbett is Out-of-Touch

Corbett is out of touch with Pennsylvania families, so he is not prepared to offer solutions to the challenges they face.

“It’s hard for anyone to spin Corbett’s gaffe as anything less than a clueless statement that demonstrates a severe disconnect between economic harsh realities and the leadership skills it takes to deal with them.” [Patriot-News, 7/13/10]

Corbett Makes It Up as He Goes Along

When Corbett was first challenged to identify the companies to which he was referring, he initially said it was a candy company, then his spokesperson said it was a plumbing company. He later returned to anonymous companies that numbered from 3 to 4 all the way up to 7 or 8.

“Corbett is still taking heat from his remarks last week that several companies had told him they couldn’t find workers because they were happier on the dole. When asked, the campaign refused to divulge the names of the companies, but did offer Capitolwire a clue: one was a Camp Hill candy company. Reporter Laura Olson tracked down the candy maker: Warrell Corporation, makers of Pennsylvania Dutch Candies. An official there said Corbett didn’t quite have it right.” [Philly.com/Philadelphia Inquirer, 7/15/10]

Corbett Is Not Ready for Prime-Time

Corbett is not prepared to run for governor, much less be elected to the office.

“It’s entirely possible that Tom Corbett is simply not ready for prime time. The big question about Corbett during the primary season was how he would handle the focus of being in a competitive, high-profile race,” said Mark Nevins, a Democratic campaign strategist. [Patriot News, 7/13/10]

Onorato Understands the Issues and Connects with Voters

Dan Onorato has run Pennsylvania’s second-largest county for six years, revitalizing its economy, creating jobs and reforming government. He appreciates the struggles of working people and has spent his career fighting on their behalf.

“Onorato visited Scranton on Thursday, outlining a plan for economic recovery that includes overhauling the corporate tax structure, creating a better-trained workforce and making regulatory agencies more accommodating to businesses... Before Onorato left for college, his father lost his longtime job as machinist, and Onorato said he can still see the ‘pain’ and ‘fear’ in his father’s eyes. ‘I remember watching that and seeing that and what it meant to him,’ Onorato said. ‘So when I hear somebody make a comment like the unemployed should blame themselves because they’re not looking, that’s outrageous.’” [Citizens-Voice, 7/16/10]

Attached is a document with an overview of the week’s coverage.

OPINION LEADERS CRITICIZING CORBETT

“Bad job on jobs” (Philadelphia Daily News, 7/13/10)

“Those unfilled jobs” (Intelligencer Journal, 7/13/10)

“Unemployed, not Lazy” (Philadelphia Inquirer, 7/14/10)

“Politicians shouldn’t point finger at the unemployed – they are missing real issues” (Patriot News, 7/15/10)

“Corbett’s gaffe a sign of a bigger problem” (Public Opinion, 7/15/10)

“Corbett, AG, lacks evidence” (Times-Tribune, 7/15/10)

“Corbett’s clueless” (Herald Standard, 7/15/10)

“In unemployment debate, just the facts will do” (Citizens Voice, 7/15/10)

“Ignoring Reality” (Beaver County Times, 7/16/10)

OVERVIEW OF COVERAGE

Corbett: The Jobs Are There but Unemployed Not Taking Them

By John Micek, MORNING CALL, July 9, 2010

Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Tom Corbett seems to have dropped a bombshell during an otherwise run-of-the-mill visit to Elizabethtown, Lancaster County this afternoon... The two-term attorney general told reporters that “the jobs are there,” but that many people are purposely remaining unemployed to collect benefits. According to Detrow’s report, Corbett said he’s heard a similar message from business owners across the state.

http://blogs.mcall.com/capitol_ideas/2010/07/corbett-the-jobs-are-there-but-unemployed-not-taking-them.html

Corbett to unemployed: Get a job

By Amy Worden, Philly.com/Philadelphia Inquirer, July 9, 2010

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett has a message for the unemployed: “get off your duff and go to work.” Corbett, speaking at a campaign appearance in Elizabethtown, told reporters that “the jobs are there,” but that many people are purposely remaining unemployed to to collect benefits, according to a [report](#) from Pennsylvania Public Radio’s Scott Detrow.

http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/harrisburg_politics/Corbett_to_unemployed_Get_a_job.html

Corbett: Some would rather collect

By John Micek, MORNING CALL, July 9, 2010

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett came under fire Friday when he said some jobless Pennsylvanians would rather collect unemployment than return to work.

http://articles.mcall.com/2010-07-09/news/mc-pennsylvania-corbett-unemployment-20100709-12_1_unemployment-rate-tom-corbett-business-owners

Corbett says some would rather get unemployment checks than work

By Amy Worden, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, July 10, 2010

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett on Friday accused some jobless Pennsylvanians of choosing to collect unemployment checks rather than going back to work, prompting swift criticism from his Democratic opponent and one of the state's top labor leaders.

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/20100710_Corbett_says_some_would_rather_get_unemployment_checks_than_work.html#ixzzotHr5eMiQ

GOP candidate says some in Pa. prefer joblessness

By Peter Jackson, TIMES LEADER – AP, July 10, 2010

Republican gubernatorial candidate and state Attorney General Tom Corbett charged Friday that some Pennsylvanians would rather stay home and collect unemployment checks than go back to work _ provoking angry responses from his opponent and the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

<http://www.timesleader.com/news/ap?articleID=4900522>

Onorato rebukes Corbett on Jobless remarks

By Tom Barnes, POST-GAZETTE, July 13, 2010

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dan Onorato, down by 10 points in a recent poll, is hoping to gain some yardage against Republican Tom Corbett over a comment the current attorney general made concerning unemployment last week.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10194/1072392-178.stm#ixzzotZOBww15>

Onorato: Jobs, not workers, at fault

By Brad Bumsted, TRIBUNE-REVIEW, July 13, 2010

Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato of Brighton Heights, the Democratic nominee, defended unemployment compensation as a vital, temporary lifeline for the jobless and criticized his Republican opponent, state Attorney General Tom Corbett of Shaler, for “insulting hard-working men and women of Pennsylvania” by suggesting people claim unemployment benefits when jobs are available.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_690106.html

Too few jobs, or unwilling workers?

By Kari Andren, PATRIOT NEWS, July 13, 2010

Gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett's campaign backpedaled Monday from remarks he made last week about the cause of unemployment in the state...Kevin Harley, a spokesman for Corbett's campaign, said Monday that Corbett was

merely repeating anecdotal information he has heard from employers throughout Pennsylvania and that he “understands that the vast majority of the people who are unemployed are diligently looking for a job.”

<http://www.pennlive.com/news/patriotnews/index.ssf?/base/news/127897531497200.xml&coll=1>

Corbett says he meant no slight to jobless

By John Micek, MORNING CALL , July 13, 2010

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett said Monday he didn't mean to be “insensitive” when he suggested that jobless Pennsylvanians would rather continue to collect unemployment benefits than take a job.

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-pennsylvania-onorato-unemployment-20100712,0,3355121.story>

Corbett's comments draws fire from jobless

By Amy Worden, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, July 13, 2010

Since West Philadelphia resident David Pride lost his job selling cable service 18 months ago, he hasn't exactly been loafing...Which is why comments by Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett last week about jobs going unfilled and the jobless preferring the government dole over work really stung - so much so that Pride called Corbett on Monday to ask one question: Just where are those jobs?

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/pa/20100713_Corbett_s_comments_draws_fire_from_jobless.html#ixzz0YziA2ar

Corbett's gaffe illustrates disconnect with unemployed constituents

By Laura Vecsey, PATRIOT NEWS, July 13, 2010

Attorney General and Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett is on the witness stand and, boy, is his testimony pretty damning. To paraphrase, Corbett said the state's 9.1 percent unemployment rate is the fault of unemployed people.

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2010/07/commentary_corbetts_gaffe_illu.html

Gubernatorial candidate Corbett has criticized jobless before

By John Micek

MORNING CALL

July 14, 2010

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett has said that he didn't mean to be “insensitive” when he made comments last week suggesting that some jobless Pennsylvanians prefer collecting benefits to getting back to work. But it wasn't the first time he'd given voice to such sentiments. Speaking to reporters after a primary season visit to a Lancaster County unemployment office in March, Corbett said he'd seen people there who were looking for work, but they were only a small percentage of the jobless.

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-pennsylvania-corbett-gaffe-20100714,0,1064790.story>

Onorato continues assault over Corbett's jobs claim

By James O'Toole, POST-GAZETTE, July 14, 2010

Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato, the Democratic candidate for governor, continued to pound Attorney General Tom Corbett on Tuesday, charging that the Republican's statement that jobless benefits lead some workers to choose unemployment shows that he "simply doesn't get it."

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10195/1072578-178.stm#ixzzoteeHBnZf>

Corbett retreats from comments about jobless

By Evan Trowbridge and Amy Worden, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, July 14, 2010

Stung by criticism, Attorney General Tom Corbett retreated Tuesday from controversial comments he made last week suggesting that some jobless Pennsylvanians do not want to return to work while they can still collect unemployment benefits. "I regret that in that one statement, I may not have been clear or complete as I possibly could," Corbett, the Republican gubernatorial nominee, told CBS3 in his first interview since making the comments on Friday.

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/home_region/20100714_Corbett_retreats_from_comments_about_jobless.html#ixzzotedpVOVs

Onorato says Corbett slammed jobless months ago

By Amy Worden and Vanessa Martinez, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRERS, July 15, 2010

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dan Onorato renewed his attacks on Republican rival Tom Corbett on Wednesday, contending Corbett had first impugned the motives of some jobless Pennsylvanians more than three months ago. "Tom Corbett has said since March that he thinks Pennsylvanians would rather be unemployed than earning money for their families," Onorato said at a rally in Philadelphia that featured labor leaders and job-seekers.

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/pa/20100715_Onorato_says_Corbett_slammed_jobless_months_ago.html#ixzzotkU8tSUy

Politicians shouldn't point finger at the unemployed – they are missing real issues

PATRIOT NEWS EDITORIAL, July 15, 2010

Then last week Republican gubernatorial nominee Tom Corbett said he has heard from business owners statewide that they can't find workers to fill open positions. "People don't want to come back to work while they still have unemployment," he said in Elizabethtown on Friday. "The jobs are there, but if we keep extending unemployment, the people are going to sit there." ... Just as important: Corbett, or his opponent Democrat Dan Onorato, will need to deal with what is essentially a bankrupt unemployment compensation fund in Pennsylvania.

http://www.pennlive.com/editorials/index.ssf/2010/07/will_work_for_paycheck_pols_sh.html

Corbett was wrong about summertime jobs hiring, Camp Hill candymaker Warrell says

By Laura Vecsey, PATRIOT NEWS, July 15, 2010

A Camp Hill-area candy manufacturing company said Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett was wrong to claim that the company could not fill skilled job openings with unemployed workers because they would rather collect unemployment compensation.

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2010/07/corbett_was_wrong_about_summer.html

Corbett's gaffe a sign of a bigger problem

By Matthew Major, PUBLIC OPINION, July 15, 2010

We can't quite figure out what Tom Corbett thinks is so great about being forced to subsist on unemployment benefits during a great recession... Democrat Dan Onorato -- jumped all over that apparent display of ignorance, prompting Corbett to state this week that he wasn't "clear and complete enough," according to Capitolwire. We disagree. His meaning was most clear. His real problem was that he said what he really thinks. For a gubernatorial candidate, that can be risky business. The real issue is that Corbett appears disconnected from job market realities. Even the Commonwealth Foundation -- a conservative think tank and natural Corbett ally -- disagrees with Corbett's assertion that "the jobs are there."

http://www.publicopiniononline.com/ci_15509525?source=most_email

Corbett, AG, lacks evidence

TIMES-TRIBUNE, July 15, 2010

Tom Corbett, the Republican candidate for governor, said this week that he had been "insensitive" when he asserted that many unemployed Pennsylvanians are evading work in order to continue collecting unemployment benefits. It's only insensitive, however, if it's inaccurate. Mr. Corbett, during a radio interview, cited only anecdotal evidence. He had spoken to some businesspeople, he said, who have not been able to fill open positions because workers prefer to collect unemployment benefits.

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/opinion/corbett-ag-lacks-evidence-1.890299>

Unions lash out at Corbett for remarks on jobless

By John Roman, DELAWARE COUNTY TIMES, July 15, 2010

Two city council members and the head of General Laborers' Union Local 413 Thursday rallied union members by blasting state Attorney General Tom Corbett, the Republican gubernatorial candidate for his recent comments regarding workers receiving unemployment benefits. "He must be talking to those contractors who pay \$5 an hour, \$6 an hour -- that's who he's talking to," Harper said.

<http://www.delcotimes.com/articles/2010/07/15/news/doc4c3f383c56abb796056861.txt>

Onorato blasts Corbett comment on unemployed

By Andrew Staub, CITIZENS VOICE, July 16, 2010

Republican Tom Corbett - long the frontrunner to succeed Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell - gave Democrats a "badly needed issue" with recent comments that

suggested the unemployed would rather collect a government check than find work, one political analyst said.

<http://citizensvoice.com/news/onorato-blasts-corbett-comment-on-unemployed-1.891953>