



# Remarks

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edly sought to reframe his remarks as a philosophical difference of opinion between himself and Obama.

“I’m not going to get votes from Americans who believe government’s job is to redistribute wealth,” he said, adding that was something Obama believes in.

He also said he wants to be president so he can help hard-pressed Americans find work and earn enough so they become income taxpayers.

Romney didn’t say so, but the U.S. income tax is designed to be progressive, so those who earn the most theoretically pay the most. Through programs as diverse as Social Security, Medicare, health care and food stamps, the government collects tax revenue and pays it out in the form of benefits for those who qualify.

Obama responded during an appearance on the David Letterman show.

“One thing I’ve learned as president is that you represent the entire country,” he said. As for Romney’s statement about the 47 percent, he said, “There are not a lot of people out there who think they are victims” or simply entitled.

At the same time, his campaign released a new ad saying that if Romney wins the White House, he might seek the elimination of a series of tax breaks used by millions of middle class Americans. “Mitt Romney, he’s so focused on big business and tax cuts for the wealthy, it seems like his answers to middle class America are just tough luck,” says a woman in the commercial.

For his part, Romney referred to videotaped comments Obama made in 1998 as evidence he favored government redistribution of wealth. As an Illinois state senator at the time, Obama said he believes in it “at least to a certain level to make sure everybody’s got a shot.”

Privately, some Republicans were harshly critical of Romney’s most recent comments and his overall campaign to date, saying he had frittered away opportunities. They also noted that with early voting already under way in some states, the time to recover was smaller than might appear.

Linda McMahon, the Republican candidate for a Senate seat in Connecticut, was open with her criticism. “I disagree with

Governor Romney’s insinuation that 47% of Americans believe they are victims who must depend on the government for their care,” she said in a statement posted to her website.

Sen. Scott Brown, in a tough race for re-election in heavily Democratic Massachusetts, said of Romney’s comments: “That’s not the way I view the world.”

Still, with high-profile presidential debates and seven weeks of campaigning yet ahead, others said those concerns were overstated.

“I don’t expect the negative headlines of this week will be what we’re talking about a week from now,” said Fergus Cullen, the former Republican state chairman in New Hampshire and a close ally of Romney. Like other Republicans, he said, “It’s incumbent on the Romney campaign to make it (the election) about Obama’s handling of the economy.”

In recent days, Republicans have grumbled that Romney needed to sharpen his appeal to struggling middle class Americans by stating more clearly what he would do as president to help them. That effort began overnight with a new ad designed to appeal to female voters.

The new controversy blazed as opinion polls suggested that a narrow lead Obama gained nationally and in some key battleground states in the wake of the Democratic National Convention might be ebbing.

The sluggish economy and lingering high unemployment are by far the overriding issues of the election, and Romney’s case for the presidency is based on his claim that his success as a businessman has left him the skills needed to create jobs in a nation where unemployment is 8.1 percent.

Obama and the Democrats have tried to counter by depicting the president’s challenger as a multimillionaire who has some of his wealth invested in the Cayman Islands and elsewhere overseas, and is out of touch with the needs of middle class Americans.

In his original reaction to the video, posted by the left-leaning magazine Mother Jones, Romney told reporters Monday night that his fundraising remarks were “not elegantly stated.” But he offered no apologies and did not answer directly when asked if he felt he had offended anyone.

He also called for the release of the entire video, rather than selected clips, and Mother Jones did so Tuesday afternoon.

# Fiddle

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worked out.”

This year’s event, held at the Yankton County 4-H Grounds at 901 Whiting, kicks off at 7 p.m. Friday with a special 40th-year celebration that will showcase the history of old-time fiddling in the region, with performances by family members of past legends.

“This program promises to be our most memorable presentation in years, reminding our early fans of our rich history, and exposing new friends to our beginnings,” said Daun Gregg Regehr, SDOTF program coordinator, in a news release.

The contest’s main event, the national invitational fiddle competition, begins Saturday evening and continues Sunday afternoon, with fiddle champions from across the country competing for the South Dakota contest title.

“A lot of these people have been in country or bluegrass bands, and they’re really amazing to see,” said Kathryn Henning, SDOTF public relations representative. “The first year I showed up, I had never seen anything like it, and my mouth was just wide open. I was shocked. I would say

if you come and see one of the invitational performances, you’ll want to come back year after year.”

Additional contests include the South Dakota fiddle competition, out-of-state fiddler competitions, harmonica competition, and button and keyboard accordion competitions.

“If you’re a fan of country music or bluegrass or traditional music, this is going to be really fun for you,” Henning said.

Along with the preservation of the old-time style of music, Foss said the camaraderie displayed at the event has played a large role for the event’s success over the years.

“Fiddlers enjoy the fellowship as much as the music,” he said. “They become lifelong friends, and they all have their own special story.”

As for his own fiddling story, Foss said he originally thought it came to end when he was just 3 years old.

“I went out into the grain field and laid down and went to sleep, and the binder ran over me and cut off four of my fingers,” he said. “I was so disappointed because my great-grandfather was a fiddler, my grandfather was a fiddler and my dad was fiddler. And I wanted to be one, too. But I never even tried.”

# Tower

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The call to report the fire came off the Coleridge cell tower, indicating it was the tower providing the strongest signal to that area at the time, Garvin said.

“So thanks to that cell tower, the fire was reported promptly and firefighters were able to contain it before it was able to get into the CRP ground and take off,” he added.

As for E911 testing, the cell phone company sends a technician to the tower site in the late evening hours, placing multiple test calls from the site, Garvin said. The technician places calls from each side of the tower to test the three directional antennas.

The series of tests include a call from a subscriber, two roaming calls from other carriers, a call from outside the area code and a phone that is uninitialized

or shut off and not belonging to any carrier. The technician repeats each of those tests on every sector. The testing takes around 12 calls and about 45 minutes.

The dispatcher reads back the information to the 911 screen to the technician for accuracy. The process is repeated if any errors are found.

The new cell tower ties in well with the installation of Cedar County’s E911 system, which started Monday, Garvin said. The training and going on-line with the new system are set for next month, he said.

Neighboring Knox and Dixon counties are going through the same process with their new E911 systems, he added.

The new Coleridge cell site was approved for construction by Cedar County, Wolfe said. The

It wasn’t until 52 years later that Foss made an attempt to play the fiddle, inspired by a one-armed performer he saw at a national contest in Idaho who played by holding the bow between his knees.

“I told my wife, ‘If he can do that, then I can learn to play left handed.’ And it changed my life,” Foss said.

Foss, 91, still plays the fiddle to this day, continuing the effort to promote old time music he and his wife Elizabeth started in 1969.

“We’re trying to preserve the old-time style, the type of music pioneers in South Dakota danced to and listened to,” Foss said. “We want everyone to be able to enjoy it.”

Approximately 400 people are expected to attend this weekend’s event, Henning said. Admission is charged per session, or spectators can purchase a weekend pass. Camping is available for a fee, and spectators are advised to bring their own chairs.

“We’re excited to be coming to Yankton again, and we just want to remind people that even if they don’t know anything about fiddling, they are welcome to come and enjoy something new and different,” Henning said. The schedule of events in-

cludes the following:

- Friday, starting at 7 p.m.: Performance: Celebrating 40 Years — A Family Tradition; Music jamming in multiple locations.
  - Saturday, starting at 9 a.m.: Fiddle contests (multiple age divisions); Harmonica contests; Accordion contests — button and keyboard.
  - Saturday evening: South Dakota Open Fiddle Contest;
  - South Dakota Open Fiddle Championship;
  - Invitational Fiddle Competition — Part 1; Music jamming in multiple locations.
  - Sunday, starting at 9 a.m.: Gospel sing.
  - Sunday afternoon: Invitational Fiddle Contest — Part 2; Twin fiddling competition.
- For more information or to register as a participant, contact George Mallory at 605-357-9357. Additional information can also found by visiting [www.sdoldtimefiddlers.com](http://www.sdoldtimefiddlers.com) or by emailing [sdoldtimefiddlers@gmail.com](mailto:sdoldtimefiddlers@gmail.com).

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