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The jobs bill is working

October 19, 2011 by Don Surber

Sam Youngman of the Hill may be on to something that the rest of us are simply unaware of: President Obama's strategy on jobs is working — even if Americans aren't. Oh sure, this is the slowest economic recovery in history, thanks to the \$787 billion stimulus that was dumped on it in 2009 and this year's \$120 billion unmentioned stimulus (the temporary drop in the Social Security tax). But the president's jobs bill is a non-starter that was designed to get him re-elected. That part may be working.

From [Sam Youngman](#):

President Obama's newfound message discipline on jobs and his two-pronged attack on the GOP are providing the beleaguered president with new signs of life not long after many were wondering if he had anything left. No, it hasn't produced a single job, and it might not for a long time, if ever, but this is what winning campaigns look like when a candidate is running against strong economic headwinds in an election likely to be defined by the economy.

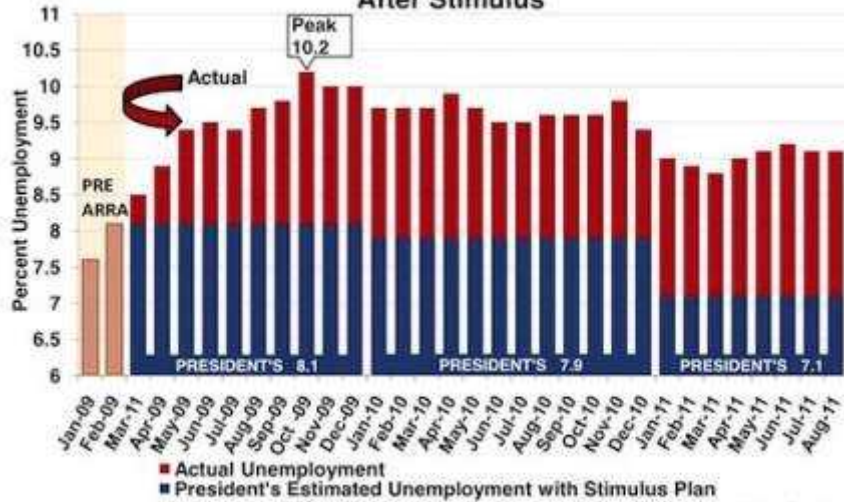
It seems shocking that Obama the underdog is putting Republicans on defense, but that is exactly what's happening. In a role reversal from the beginning of the year, it is now Republicans in Congress who are clamoring for bipartisan cooperation. And if we learned anything from Obama this summer, it's that appeals for bipartisanship are the clarion call of the party that's back-pedaling.

Well, it may be a role reversal but it is also a return to normalcy, as Warren Harding might put it. There was no reason for Republicans to be in charge on January. Sure, they had just taken the House but Democrats still controlled the Senate and the White House. But in terms of the president's jobs bill doing what it was designed to do — re-elect Obama — it may be working.

From Sam Youngman: "Of course, not all the numbers are good for the White House. Unemployment is still at 9.1 percent, Obama's approval numbers are still hovering around 42 percent and the president's jobs bill is far from passing. But when you're a presidential campaign bailing out a sinking ship, success is about finding a message when the numbers are impossible to sell."

The problem for Obama is this chart from Veronique de Rugy of the Cato Institute:

President's Estimates Versus Actual Unemployment After Stimulus



Source: Office of Management and Budget, Recovery Gov, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Produced by: Veronique de Rugy, Mercatus Center at George Mason University