



Today in Liberty: February jobs report, Rand Paul to speak at CPAC today, House passes \$1 billion Ukraine aid package

Fri, 03/07/2014, [Jason Pye](#)

“There can be no liberty unless there is economic liberty.” — Margaret Thatcher

— **February jobs numbers above expectations:** The Bureau of Labor Statistics [reports that 175,000 jobs were added in February](#), which [is above expectations](#). The unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 6.7%. The labor force participation rate [remained steady an anemic 63%](#). The December and January numbers were revised upward by a total of 25,000 jobs.

— **CPAC Day 2:** Everything we heard yesterday was what we heard last year and the year before that and so on. No one is really saying anything new. Highlights from yesterday were speeches by [Sen. Ted Cruz \(R-TX\)](#), [Gov. Chris Christie \(R-NJ\)](#), [Dan Bongino](#), and [Sen. Mike Lee \(R-UT\)](#). Friday is apparently “social conservative day” at CPAC. Speakers include Gov. Rick Perry (R-TX), former Gov. Mike Huckabee (R-AR), Ralph Reed, and former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA). Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) is slated to speak today at 2:51 pm. There will also be a panel on criminal justice reform on the main stage, featuring Perry and ATR President Grover Norquist, and another on libertarians and social conservatives. The full schedule is [here](#). It looks like [C-SPAN](#) will be airing much of today’s events if you want to tune in. In case you miss a speech or panel, the American Conservative Union is posting most, if not all, of the weekend’s events on [YouTube](#).

— **CPAC Bingo:** Our friends at [Ron Paul Problems](#) — and seriously, reading RPP is how we pass the time on a slow day — have come up with a game for CPAC attendees — [CPAC Bingo](#). There is a prize for the winner. You’ll need pictures for proof and a Tumblr account to participate. The deadline to submit entries is March 13.

CPAC BINGO

B	I	N	G	O
Hipster Republican	Crying Eagle T-Shirt	Emotionally Distressed Press Staffer	Santorum Supporter in Sweater Vest	"USA!! USA!!"
Homeschool Moms & Daughters w/ matching hair	Birther Lit	Slightly Gay Traditional Marriage Advocate	Uncomfortable Muslim Man	Ron Paul 2012 Swag
"THESE COLORS DON'T RUN"	Family with 7+ Kids	FREEDOM ISN'T FREE SPACE	American Flag Bowtie	Couple Engaged before 21st Birthday
Wall Street Guys Taking Shots	Pink Bedazzled Firearms	Man Dressed as 1776 Soldier	Ridiculously Cliche Texan Man	Gadsen Flag Lapel Pin
Reagan 1980 Campaign Button	Obviously Liberal Reporter	Old Man Falling Asleep	College Republicans in Clubbing Dresses	Frat Bro Drunk in Hotel Lobby before 3pm

— **House passes Ukraine aid package:** The House of Representatives [overwhelmingly passed](#), in a [385 to 23 vote](#), a \$1 billion aid package yesterday for the Ukraine. Opponents were mostly fiscal conservatives and critics of the foreign policy establishment, including Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI), Paul Broun (R-GA), Thomas Massie (R-KY), Mick Mulvaney (R-SC), and Mark Sanford (R-SC).

— **Issa apologizes to Cummings:** House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) [apologized to Ranking Member Elijah Cummings \(D-MD\)](#) for the [way Wednesday's IRS hearing ended](#). "As chairman," Issa told a local paper, "I should have been much more sensitive to the mood of what was going on, and I take responsibility." Cummings accepted the apology.

— **Lerner cooperated with DOJ probe into IRS scandal:** Though she won't talk or testify before the House Oversight Committee, disgraced IRS official Lois Lerner did talk to Justice Department investigators about the agency's targeting of conservative groups, and she did so without immunity. Her lawyer said she did so because the DOJ is more interested in a fair investigation. Or, [as one legal expert told the Wall Street Journal](#), "she and her lawyer think the DOJ is not interested in a serious investigation of the IRS treatment of these tax exempt groups." Yeah, we're more willing to buy the latter explanation. The DOJ/FBI investigation [is being led by a DNC and Obama donor](#), which intimates that the administration is less interested in fact-finding and objectivity, and more interested in sweeping this under the table.

— **Millennials are independents:** They may have helped put President Obama in office and win reelection, but a new Pew Research poll finds that 50% of Millennials, those between the ages of 18 and 33, [consider themselves to be politically independent](#). One reason Republicans have a hard time connecting with this important segment the population is because they're overwhelmingly liberal on social issues, including gay marriage and marijuana legalization. But, as Pew explains, they face a more difficult economic climate than previous generations.

— **Remember that time the White House promoted Keystone XL?:** Apparently, the an American Petroleum Institute ad in support of the Keystone XL pipeline showed up on WhiteHouse.gov yesterday on the live-stream of a townhall event. "To give visitors a way to watch, the White House embedded a live stream from the Fusion network on its own website. Fusion's live stream first shows users an advertisement, known as a 'pre-roll,'" [the Washington Post notes](#). "Some users tuning in... were shown an ad from the American Petroleum Institute. The ad urges viewers to tell Obama to approve the pipeline." The White House has final approval of the oil pipeline and has diddled on the decision.

— **Bad Journalism 101:** It seems that *Politico* didn't disclose the lobbying efforts of three sources in a recent story about former Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC) and the Heritage Foundation. "Steve LaTourette, John Feehery and Brian Walsh toiled in the halls of Congress for years before cashing in for lucrative jobs in Washington's burgeoning public affairs and lobbying industry," [wrote Rob Bluey at The Foundry](#), Heritage's blog. "The 2,500-word story by Pema Levy, a Washington correspondent for Newsweek, described these critics in connection to their former jobs. The story failed to acknowledge that they often are paid to argue against Heritage's positions on policy issues." *Politico*'s response to the charge was "[t]he story made clear these folks had major political and policy disagreements with Heritage and disclosed that." Yeah, that's not good enough.

— **Tea Party lost its focus:** Michael Tanner, a senior fellow at the [Cato Institute](#), argues that the Tea Party's deviation to social issues has caused its support to wane. "The motto of the Tea Party Patriots, one of the largest and most influential groups, was 'fiscal responsibility, limited government, and free markets.' The Tea Party's core issues were the skyrocketing national debt and opposition to Obamacare," [wrote Cannon](#). "Social issues were not part of the platform." But things changed in five years. "As a result, economic conservatives, libertarians, and anti-tax moderates are leaving the movement. Fewer than a quarter of tea partiers now describe themselves as libertarian-leaning," Cannon explained, adding, "The Tea Party has begun to look not like a broad-based coalition of economic conservatives but simply the most conservative wing of the Republican Party."

— **GenOp working to reach millennials:** Vice's Motherboard takes note of [Generation Opportunity](#)'s effort to reach young voters via its new platform, [Free the Future](#). The group gave Motherboard a first look at its newly launched advocacy website [Free the Future](#), an action-oriented platform boasting all the webby, supposedly Gen Y-friendly functionality that helped carry the president to the White House," [wrote Meghan Neal](#). "What's unique about the site, as [GenOpp's Evan] Feinberg tells it, is that it brings the kind of interactive tools now humdrum in Silicon Valley into the traditionally Luddite political advocacy space. The group's betting that

social media, the native language of that 18-34 age bucket, will help get the much-coveted attention of information-swamped millennials.”

— **Time for the GOP establishment to go back to the drawing board:** Because former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-FL) performs poorly when matched up against Hillary Clinton. “The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that if the 2016 presidential election were held today, 47% of Likely U.S. Voters would choose Clinton, while 33% would opt for Bush,” [the polling firm found](#). “Fourteen percent (14%) prefer some other candidate, while six percent (6%) are undecided.” Sorry, [Romney donors](#), we’re not sorry.

— **Obama loves the rich — if they’re Democrats:** Despite the populist rhetoric against the rich, President Obama is totes fine with them as long as they’re giving money to Democrats’ campaign coffers. “President Obama has been spending a lot of time with the 1 percent lately, trying to get them to pony up to keep Democrats from losing control of Congress in November,” [wrote Charles Hoskinson at the Washington Examiner](#). “In the process, he’s shown just how much the Democrats have become the party of crony capitalists and paternalistic rich liberals who would rather throw coins to the poor and middle class than give them real opportunities,” pointing to recent fundraisers with President Obama that cost thousands to attend.

— **And the award for “Best CPAC Booth” goes to...:** The [National Taxpayers Union](#). It’s not that there’s a lot to it, but we’re totally digging the “Cards Against Humanity” theme they’ve got going on here.



— **EconStories launches EconPop:** [EconStories](#), the guys who brought us the Hayek-Keynes raps (“[Fear the Boom and Bust](#)” and “[The Fight of the Century](#)”), have launched a new project, [EconPop](#), which offers a look at the economic themes in films and television shows. The [first episode in the series](#) tackles the film, *Dallas Buyers Club*. “*Dallas Buyers Club* makes a killer point: government bureaucracy can cost lives. The FDA is actively preventing reasonable adults from making informed decisions about their health,” said Executive Producer John Papola in a release. “Audiences cheered Woodruff as he fought for patients’ rights, and came away questioning the power of the state.”

— **CPAC Blogger of the Year:** Mary Katharine Ham, editor-at-large at Hot Air and University of Georgia grad (Go Dawgs!), [was given the honor yesterday](#). Congrats, Mary Katharine!

— **Breakout the cigars:** Congrats to United Liberty contributor [Matthew DesOrmeaux](#) and his wife, Alie, on the birth of their son, Hollin Michael Dudley DesOrmeaux. Hollin was born on Tuesday at 2:51 pm.

If you work for a liberty-minded organization, think tank, or candidate, please send tips, news, or event information to [jason-at-unitedliberty\(dot\)org](mailto:jason-at-unitedliberty(dot)org).