



The Solari Report

JUNE 25, 2015

Unpacking Baltimore with Junious Ricardo Stanton





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C. AUSTIN FITTS: Ladies and Gentlemen, it's my privilege to welcome back to The Solari Report a man who needs no introduction, Junious Ricardo Stanton. He was just with us not that long ago. When I kept watching events unfold in Baltimore I said, "Okay, we're going to get Junious back." The Divide and Conquer' is getting to me again.

So Junious, you're coming in from Philadelphia. Welcome back to The Solari Report.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Well thank you. Thank you for the invitation.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Before we dive in and talk about what's been going on in Baltimore, I wanted to go back and revisit the history of the inner city. The more I looked at it and emailed with you about what I wanted to include, I realized that for you and me this is a very personal story.

I grew up at 48th and Larchwood, Philadelphia. Where exactly did you grow up?

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: I grew up in the Germantown section, the West Mount Airy section on Sharpnack Street, and it was a working class neighborhood. Back then it was the remnants of apartheid segregation, so our community contained just about anything. We had ministers, we had a police detective, blue collar workers, and we had a doctor on our block. There was a doctor around the corner.

Prior to the Civil Rights struggle and prior to the open Fair Housing Act and the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act everybody was lumped together. The community was stable.

I tell young people now that the one thing that separates the community



from my time to the communities in the inner city now is that every house had a man in it.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: My dad left when I was three, but I had a great uncle, and we had other relatives. My great aunt and great uncle's son lived there. We had another cousin whose father lived in New York but the son came to Philly and he stayed with us. So there was always a man in the house – in every house on my block.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. I remember it that way. It was funny because I grew up in a neighborhood of stoops, and every night everyone was out on the stoop just talking to each other. A lot of the games that the kids played revolved around the stoops, like stoop ball or black jacks.

What was amazing was it was before anything was politically correct, and we used to always be really very blunt. The Catholics and the Jews and the Protestants were always fighting, and the Italians and the blacks, and we'd call each other all these names. Everybody was friends. There wasn't these divides, but we were very blunt and honest. There was a lot of connection between people and between households.

I was always telling everybody that the neighborhood was run by the 'high performance' people, and they knew who each other were. They were the people who took responsibility and got things done, but it was always like an 85-year-old black grandmother and some intern from the local university school. It was the people who took responsibility. They controlled the neighborhood because if somebody misbehaved they could cut off their money.

So the slugs weren't in charge. We had great slug management back then, and it was when all the government money came in and the drugs that, of course, the slugs got control of the neighborhood, and it went down from there.

I don't know. It was a different time. The 'Popsicle Index' was 100%.



JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: But in our neighborhood, the so-called criminal element, the only criminal element that we saw was that numbers runner. He was the guy whose sister lived up the street from me and his brother lived down the street on the next block. Later on his youngest sister lived around the corner. He lived on the block, but it wasn't the violence and the thuggery that is depicted now. He was just a guy and people gave him a quarter or a nickel or whatever and he came around to pay when you hit.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: And he gave better returns than the lottery does today.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yeah, probably.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: No, he did. That's been studied and proven. The numbers guys gave you a better yield.

Let's talk about what's happened, and let's go back even further because the history of Baltimore – and this is true particularly of the East Coast ports – takes us back to slave trafficking. One of the realities is if you look at the problems in the inner city, and if you follow the money, the money always goes back to pools of capital that were built during slave trafficking. It's almost as though the slave trafficking – whether it's the pools of capital or the people who believe in slave trafficking – they never completely gave up on the philosophy.

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JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: No.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: So let's start there.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Well, really, to me, when I was thinking about this, it's karma, it's the boomerang effect. Baltimore, commercially, started off as a port to export tobacco in the beginning. As we know, tobacco is a highly addictive and unhealthy substance.



Now the boomerang is coming back, and we'll get to this part of it later with the heroine traffic, only it's not being exported; it's being imported into Baltimore.

So you have the slave traffic. Primarily it was a drop-off point – Annapolis and Baltimore. In the 1800's Baltimore was a port that brought in a lot of Africans and then shipped them to New Orleans through the shipping or over land and into the Deep South, and later with the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

So when you talk about Baltimore and you talk about the history of Baltimore, one of the things that you have to look at is the slave pens or the slave trade jails. They were there, and you can see the modern-day replica of that with the central booking and the Baltimore City detention and the skyrocketing incarceration – not the prison incarceration, but the jail incarceration – for people who were just waiting to go to trial. It is very reminiscent to the slave pens.

The immigrant population that came in - the original Irish who came in had some capital and they had skills. With the potato blight, you have people who were traumatized. They're trying to get away from not only not being able to eat but the political implications of how it happened and how the British were treating them in Ireland.

They come this way, and they have no skills, so they're competing with the free blacks who are there who by the 1840's and on were fairly numerous. Some accounts say that they were just as numerous as the free blacks in Charleston as they were caulkers and ship building, and they did a lot of things around the port.

So you had that tension – people who were coming who were traumatized. You had the traumatized Africans and you had the traumatized Irish and you had the traumatized Germans who were coming in escape from the political situation that was going on in Germany in the 1840's on. So you have these people coming into that area, and they're bringing this trauma – emotional trauma and psychological trauma – with them, and they're also coming into an



environment that they are unfamiliar with, and they have to make their way, and often they have to state their claim and take out their property and locale.

Of course, the capital people could care less.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: They're there to make money; they're there to use the port. They're there to use the railroads to ship commodities. Many of them were human beings – whether they were black or white.

That is the tone and tenor that is the foundation of the city of Baltimore.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: We're just seeing generations of this cauldron bubbling now, so you see somebody in custody who gets killed and you think, "Wow! That's a shame," or, "He deserved it; he had it coming," or whatever your perspective is. But it goes deeper than that.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right, because you're talking about not just decades but centuries of a particular kind of lawlessness going on in this place.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: You're talking about generations. How would you feel if your people were starving and you had to relocate and you didn't know where you were going? It's not like you were going to see Grandma and they're going to take you in. You're going to a brand new place, and they're not necessarily welcoming or accommodating. It's really rough for you.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.



JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: That was the Germans and the Irish. Of course, the African situation was far worse in terms of how they were treated.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: So let's move up into the post-World War II period because it was then that the drugs started to come in. On top of this situation, you start to bring in narcotics. Of course, the first place they start coming in is the ports. So it's the end of World War II and the black budget is beginning to really kick in. The drugs are coming in. What happens? What happens in these places?

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Well, the drugs come in, and at that point they're controlled by the CIA and the Cosa Nostra. They were in partnership for the most part for drug running in this country.

So the drugs come in, and they filter them into the black community. For the most part they're totally controlled by the Cosa Nostras. It's not until later – in the late 1950's and the 1960's – that blacks start to get a little piece of the action.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: So when we look at what's happening in Baltimore now, with the heroine epidemic that was not discussed at all during the riots or this whole piece, but is shown bigger than life in the HBO series, *The Wire*, you're talking about multi generations of heroin use coupled with the deindustrialization of the city of Baltimore.

So you're going from a port town and you're going from an industrial town and you're going from a railroad hub to the point where unemployment is skyrocketing, poverty is on the rise, and what I call 'maladaptive pathologies' are the norm. So this is the social milieu for a lot of people in Baltimore – black and white.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. I don't know if you remember when I brought Paul Atkinson to meet you.



JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Paul had been the president of the biggest shipyard, Sun Shipbuilding in Philadelphia. At the end of World War II I think that outside of the government they were the largest employer in Philadelphia. You had a huge, thriving shipyard in Chester, Pennsylvania that created not just an enormous number of jobs in Sun Shipbuilding, but you can imagine all the retail and other businesses that spun out of that.

He was part of a qui tam action because it was really taken apart by black budget fraud, and the whole shipbuilding business essentially moved abroad. It was Paul who taught me it wasn't economic; it didn't go abroad for economic reasons. It went abroad for political reasons, but as a result you see the entire devastation of the community.

One of the reasons we're going to talk about *The Wire* – I don't know how Simon managed to get it on TV, but thank God he did – is what you see is what happens when you deindustrialize a city and the devastation that it brings.

I think that's very important and very powerful, and I don't think that the industrialization was just an economic phenomena. I think there was a very intentional political decision, and that's what Paul's experience at Sun Shipbuilding really taught me.

“I think there was a very intentional political decision, and that's what Paul's experience at Sun Shipbuilding really taught me.”

A decision was made to move the jobs and the businesses out, but that had enormous repercussions. Then you move the businesses out and you move the drugs in, and when you kill people's income and then overwhelm them with drugs you get quite a mess.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right. Remember he talked about Chester, but the same thing that happened in Chester happened in Camden, it



happened in Philadelphia, and to a lesser extent Trenton because it was all part of that Delaware River corridor – that navigation corridor – so that’s what happened in Baltimore.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. The other thing that happened with the drugs is it brought the mortgage fraud in. I’ve written and studied a lot about what happened with the mortgage fraud, but Baltimore was hit particularly hard. I saw that when I worked at the FHA and then when we worked as their investment advisor. The amount of foreclosure and churning of the FHA portfolio in Baltimore was extraordinary, and – of course – that was a very big business. It went hand in glove with the narcotics trafficking.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes, and even today as we speak, Baltimore is one of the top cities in terms of foreclosures in the country. So it’s still rippling out.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Okay, so the other thing I have to bring up is prisons because, of course, what happened in the 1990’s was that a decision was made that if we’re going to be a global empire then we need a global prison system, and we need private prisons. Of course, it all started with a dramatic increase in mandatory sentencing and other things that exploded the private prison population.

There’s no doubt that Baltimore was one of the targeted cities for that, particularly in the early years. I don’t know what the incarceration rates are, but I know they’re high.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: They’re astronomical. But even before that, I wanted to remind you about the whole COINTELPRO in the 1960’s and 1970’s.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. How could we forget COINTELPRO?

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: The reason why that is important is because they went after any dissidence no matter what color they were, but also primarily in the black community any type of aggressive leadership was



either coopted or eliminated.

The resistance or the resilience in leadership wars – as I heard someone use the term ‘consequential leadership’ – you don’t have that in Baltimore. I mean, you have leaders, but you don’t have the type of leaders that you had in the 1950’s and the 1960’s that were taking on American apartheid and American political oppression.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: It’s more accomodatiuous-like leadership now.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: I went back and studied the COINTELPRO process, and I came to the conclusion in terms of poisonings, assassinations, legal and financial targeting, and basically leaders were targeted in many, many ways in a way that was never really identified and understood.

Part of it was you had a whole series of leaders in the 1960’s assassinated in broad daylight.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Or intimidation. For example, I was not raised in Baltimore so I can’t use any experiences there, but the experiences in Philadelphia – say what the police did to the Black Panther party when they raided their office on Ridge Avenue, brought them out, stripped them naked, and allowed the media to see that, in addition to what happened to move because that was all part of that.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: So you’re talking about poison, you’re talking about destroying people’s reputations, you’re talking about frame-ups, you’re talking about the police brutality, you’re talking about the judicial system running amuck, and just this sheer intimidation. Then, on top of that, you bring in the drugs.

Those leaders who would stand up and say, “No,” or who would galvanize the community and work to find some way to stop some of this



situation, they're gone.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Part of it, at least looking at my neighborhood, was black folks who had more economic need had an opportunity to leave that neighborhood – and like I said, it was a working class neighborhood – they did. Dr. Harris and his family left. Mr. Alexander and his family left. They didn't move that far, but they left. He was a police detective.

You had the people that you talked about who were the movers and shakers in the community. They may not have had a title, but they asserted themselves. A lot of them left. In that vacuum came some other people who did not have the best interest of the community at heart.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: What happened to us was if you looked at the people who controlled the neighborhood, they had 100% intelligence of what was going on, and they had the ability to informally enforce against somebody who was behaving badly. They had authority and control.

Once all the government money came in and the drugs, you had all these what I call 'slugs' – the nano energy minus people – they could get either police or government protection, and they could get money, and there was nothing the good guys could do to enforce it against them.

The problem was that most of the people are busy. They don't want to be inconvenienced, so they start following the slugs around because they're afraid of them, and then you get the wrong people controlling the neighborhood.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Another thing is it goes back to what I talked about where you have a male presence – and I mean a real male presence, the stand-up kind of guys who would support their wives and support the older people who kept watch of the community during the day.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.



JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: You had a change in the laws. Divorce laws became more lenient. The Catholic Church backed down on its staunch anti-divorce policy. And then you had the welfare which said that in order to get aid to dependent children you cannot have a man in the home. All of that conspired to drive away the male presence.

Then you take away the employment, you take away the industrial base of a town or a community, and then you bring in the drugs and the unsavory characters, and then you begin to promote the antithesis of the type of community that you had.

I mean, to a large extent television and the films in the 1950's was unrealistic, and we all know that. But at least they had censors and they had a focus that kept the myth of America going. Then in the 1960's and 1970's you had the anti-hero. Once that came and they built on it generation after generation, now you have what we have – the so-called 'reality' shows and the shows with crime, uncivility, disrespect. They're the norm and they're glorified and rewarded. People get those shows and they get paid.

“To a large extent television and the films in the 1950's was unrealistic, and we all know that. But at least they had censors and they had a focus that kept the myth of America going.”

C. AUSTIN FITTS: My experience was the media, as the drugs came in and more and more of the mortgage fraud came in, the media's job was to persuade people that everything going wrong in that neighborhood was caused by the people who lived in that neighborhood.

So I'm a hardworking homeowner. I've got a small business. I've got this guy dealing drugs and trying to entrap my children with drugs, and I've got the local government steering contracts to large companies that are coming in and putting me out of business. I've got mortgage fraud going on next door, which is destroying the value of my house – which is being promoted by HUD and the intelligence agencies, and then I turn on the TV and I'm told that this is because I have bad morals.



In other words, the drugs, the mortgage defaults, those are all my fault and my bad behavior.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: I'm inferior. In a funny kind of way, the media was the worst part of the hit.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes, because they began to say that not only is it your fault, but they began to criminalize the effects – not the causes or the collusion between the police and the drug dealers, but the flight of the responsible people from the community, the efforts on their part just to make it day to day. They became the scapegoats, and we saw that in 2008 when they blamed poor people essentially, or people who were trying to live the American dream, for the housing collapse.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right, and it gets even worse. So we make money on the mortgage fraud, and we make money on the drugs. We take a small percentage of that, and we invest it in foundations that do good works in the community.

I take a little bit of the money I made destroying your business and selling drugs to your kids and I bring it back in and make an investment in low-income housing and have a photo op where I get one of your kids standing up and sucking up to me and thanking me for everything I'm doing for the community, and I'm the good guy.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right. And behind the scenes you're also working on ways to acquire more property in the neighborhood. So it's not just the bogus photo op; it's a business deal where you're scheming on some of the properties in that area.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. So it's a leveraged buyout. I'm using the profits I make destroying the neighborhood to buy it up cheap because I've got the prices low now.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right, and then you'll turn around and



develop it. You've seen that and you've heard that in Baltimore where the people complained about re-gentrification. They're upset because they don't have the funds to fix their homes up. Their homes are decreasing in value, and then the speculators are coming in and buying up the property or holding it so that no development takes place. There are massive spots of abandoned homes which are depicted in *The Wire*. If you go to Baltimore, you see it. This is not some Hollywood lot that they constructed; that's the reality on the ground.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. There's a story I have to tell you. In 1998 we were working on Reeds Inventor Funds for communities so that they could circulate capital and build the equivalent of internal stock markets for places. I got asked out to lunch by the council to one of the authorizing committees in Congress. They said, "Look, we just want to let you know that no equity capital will be allowed to circulate in these communities except those which come through the low income housing tax credits, through enterprise and LISC. It's the only equity that will be allowed to flow into real estate in these communities. It will not be permitted."

I said, "Oh, so the only guys who can do development other than private investors who are making money on the drugs is not-for-profits." So the only participation that anybody in that community will be able to have is with a not-for-profit developer. No one will be allowed to build equity. Period.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: But even with that, if Baltimore was like Philadelphia, the paperwork was massive. When I was at Penn at the planning school, I was working in the model cities area, Zoar United African Methodist Church wanted to build a senior citizen housing development. It took years for them to get that done.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Even the people who have the best intentions, because they couldn't get the credit, they couldn't get the funding, it took years. I think they probably hoped that they would become discouraged and give up.



C. AUSTIN FITTS: Oh, that was always the plan. You know my Heritage Foundation story. Do you remember that?

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: No.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: I was Assistant Secretary of Housing. Kemp went up to New York with Charlie Rangel and made some promise in Harlem. He came back, and every time they would come back they would list what they promised to do, and then it was our job to implement.

So he promised 202 housing, the same type of housing you're talking about, up in Harlem. So I'm implementing a way. Somebody called me up and said, "You know, you've got a problem with the Heritage Foundation."

I said, "Really? Why is that?"

They said, "Well, you've got a big problem."

I said, "Well, let's have them over to dinner." I had a little dinner party, and a group of them came over.

They said, "You've got a problem. You're implementing this to housing in Harlem."

I said, "Well, the Secretary went up with Charlie Rangel at a press conference and promised that. I'm just doing what I'm told. I'm just implementing what he promised."

They said, "Well, no. He promises that, but you're supposed to bollix it up in the bureaucracy and make sure it never happens."

I said, "Wait a minute. He promised it."

They said, "No, no. That's so that white women in Westchester who see the clip on TV think that we're caring, but we don't want to waste any real money on that. You're supposed to bollix it up."



I said, “Unless I get an order from the Secretary I’m going to go ahead and implement it.” So I was in big trouble with the Heritage Foundation.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: I can see why they did to you what they did to you.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Well, here’s the interesting thing. Complexity and bureaucracy and gridlock was the plan. I’ll tell you how it worked. If you had \$25 million of insurance that you could do for multi-family insurance, or let’s say you were going to do \$5 billion a year. Because you were charging a price that was below the market price because it was government guaranteed and government subsidized you’d get \$25 billion of demand for \$5 billion.

So you had three options. One is you could very clearly state your policy goals and then the \$5 billion would get the ones that fit the policy goal. The second was you could just give it to your pals. But then, of course, it’s just too obvious. The third is you can just gridlock everything and then make sure that the right lawyers know how to process the \$5 billion for your friends, the ones who donate for the campaign.

Number three was the policy you used, and gridlock was necessary to slow down and stop the \$20 billion that you weren’t going to fund. Then you could just say, “Oh, the stupid bureaucrats!”

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: That’s the game that they play. There’s a saying, “By the time the fool learns the rules of the game, the game is over.” So many of the grassroots people who really had the best interest of the community at heart never really got through the legalese or the red tape. That kept them at bay.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. You know something? They wanted to feel included, and if they were included in the process, they felt included. That’s what they got. They got a feeling of inclusion. They never got any money.

“Here’s the interesting thing. Complexity and bureaucracy and gridlock was the plan.”



JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right, and they could go back and tell their constituents, “We are meeting. This is what is happening. This is what is promised, and we’re working on it.”

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right, and it’s really very complicated.

I had one friend who used to call it the ‘beat-down’. What we’re seeing in these places, we’re seeing a beat-down from so many different directions. Of course, if you lived in Greenwich, Connecticut and didn’t grow up in it, it was very hard to understand what it was like and what it was like to live inside of that.

When *The Wire* came along, I couldn’t get over it because *The Wire* was – for those who haven’t seen it – a TV show that ran for five seasons. *The Wire* really took you from the street level all the way up through the police, and you really saw how the whole ecosystem worked down on the ground.

I don’t know if you saw it, but there was a Canadian production called *Intelligence* that took you from the police level up to the intelligence agency level. Finally in the third season they started to mess with the Carlow Group and they shut them down in the middle of the season.

Maybe if you could talk a little bit about *The Wire* and what it was and why it had such an amazing impact.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: David Simons was a lifelong newspaper reporter. I believe he worked for the *Baltimore Sun*. So he had an intimate view of the city of Baltimore on every level, and he became a screenwriter. I believe that he was associated with *Homicide: Life on the Streets*, and that’s another show I wanted to talk to you about. It was set in Baltimore, and it followed a homicide squad and their day to day work dealing with catching cases and working through them, whether they were serial killers or just the Saturday night fight in the bar or whatever.

His understanding of Baltimore, each season he looked at another aspect



of the puzzle. So he looked at the drug traffic because that is a significant reality in that city. That was the first season. You see the Barksdales, you see the police, you see the dysfunction in the police, and you see a group of misfits coming together to form a squad to take on the Barksdales and/or their competitors and that whole piece.

The next year they look at the poor. They look at the drugs coming in. The first season is primarily focusing on the African-American community. The squad is a mixed squad. It's almost real in terms of the characters who are in the squad.

The next year they focus on the poor. Like we talked about the poor, they brought all of this in – the drugs, the guys in later seasons call it the 'connect', the Greek guy that is running the drugs.

In the third season they go back to the Barksdales, and you see what happens to that family and that group or gang that gets supplanted by another gang.

The fourth season they talk about the schools, and they also talk about the politics. This was really a reflection that the guy who was a councilman who ran for mayor, and at the end of the series he becomes governor. I think his character was based on O'Malley who became the mayor of Baltimore and later became the governor.

This Simons was right on. It was gritty. It was shot in the city. It wasn't pretty, and it talked about corruption. It talked about gridlock. It talked about apathy. It talked about the malaise and the drug culture. It put the beat-down on the drug culture and the addiction. You see it through the eyes of the police, you see it through the eyes of the gangsters, and you see it through the eyes of the people who OD'd.

There was one guy, Bubbles, who was the one druggie who got his life together. You see it through the eyes of the reporters and the politicians. It was very real life. It was based on facts and it was based on Mr. Simon's experiences and his knowledge of the city.



It probably threw people for a loop because they probably couldn't believe that that's how a major metropolitan area works, and he didn't even cover the issues about incarceration. They did show the jail. One of the Barksdales went to prison, but they didn't even show the issues that we just saw in terms of the jails – the whole issue about the overcrowded jails.

Prior to *The Wire* he did a show called *The Corner* where he just looked at one neighborhood – one particular corner – the kids, the drugs, the drug addict mother, and the comings and goings on the corner. I couldn't watch it. I was still working then as a probation officer in Philly, and it just sent chills to watch that because I saw that in the badlands. It was almost the exact same thing that I was seeing on my job. I couldn't watch it.

The Wire was really a deep program, and I thought they were cheated. I thought they should have won more Emmys because I don't think they won any.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: It's hard when you're telling the truth. I think the hard part, for me, about watching *The Wire* or watching the whole situation is when you're living in a neighborhood like that – and I grew up in one of those neighborhoods – what you're watching and what you're dealing with is corruption on almost every front. There is nothing healthy to connect into. There is nothing healthy to be inspired by. There is nothing healthy to give you energy.

Every time you turn around, you're getting hit with something. When the police or the enforcement or the courthouse or the City Hall are all on the take, how do you navigate a system like that, particularly if you don't have any resources?

I had to navigate that system, and it took me eleven years and \$6 million. I'm alive because I had \$6 million to spend. How do you do it when you have nothing?

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: That becomes the challenge, and that's why I



said the psychological malaise. If you go to Baltimore, you see it.

Most people go to Baltimore and they will go to the inner harbor. That's where a lot of the private public resources were funneled to build that up. But those depictions that we saw a month ago in Baltimore, if you ran some of *The Wire* scenes right next to them, you couldn't tell the difference because it was so real. The only thing that was not there and that they couldn't replicate was the psychological depression and malaise that is in that town.

“The only thing that was not there and that they couldn't replicate was the psychological depression and malaise that is in that town.”

I thought to myself when I was in New Orleans in 2013 and then again last summer, you can still see the effects of Katrina in New Orleans – just the psychological beat-down. That's what you're talking about – the hopelessness, the feeling of powerlessness, the frustration. That's part of what we saw during the riot.

There were other forces at work there, and maybe we'll get a chance to talk about some of those, but the psychological beat-down is real.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: There are a couple of things I want to talk about, and then I want to come back to the beat-down. One is: My reading of American history is that most – if not all – of the riots, for example in the 1960's, were essentially triggered by covert ops.

What I was told was in the late 1960's they cut off the drugs, they cut off the money, and then they have covert ops sort-of instigate and inspire the riots. So what you're watching is not necessarily a spontaneous event by people who really live in that place.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: No. Some of it was the cutoff of the drugs, but some of it was just the day to day frustration, the hopelessness, the appearance that the system is so corrupt and so insular that no one listens to my plea.



The young man who was killed, Freddie Gray, was not the real cause of the riot in Baltimore.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: The situation with Michael Brown was not the cause of the situation in Ferguson. And you have to understand that both of those situations were brought on partially by outside agitation later, but initially because they live in a police state. They were doing what they call ‘aggressive policing’. They took on the Giuliani model – stop and frisk, stop and search.

In Ferguson the police were fundraisers, in other words, they were putting citations on people to raise money for that town. In Baltimore, because of the jail situation and because of the aggressive policing, a lot of kids were afraid of contact with the police. That’s why he ran.

Now he had a record. He might have, but if he did, he didn’t want to be frisked, stopped, and then who knows? He may have had an open warrant or a citation or whatever, but he did not want to go to central booking.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: I want to turn to the Baltimore riots, but before I do, there are two more things I want to bring up. Have you ever read *The Slaughter of Cities* by E. Michael Jones?

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: No.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: It’s a remarkable book about how the Protestant elites use the HUD programs to manipulate the populations, particularly in the inner cities, in a way that checkmated the growth of the Catholic Church. It’s quite interesting if you want to get into some of the history here in the nuts and bolts of how it was engineered. I just wanted to bring that up.

The other thing that I wanted to bring up in the beat-down is one of the reasons why I think it is so important for everyone listening to this call to



study what has been happening in terms of the beat-down of the psychological health and the spiritual health of the people in these neighborhoods. All of those techniques are now moving out to the general population.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes. I was going to say that when we talk about Baltimore as a hub for the drug trafficking, this drug trafficking has been going on for quite a while. Baltimore is the epicenter, but Maryland as a whole is still in the brunt of it. This heroin is coming in from South America. It's purer than and more potent than the drugs that are coming in from Mexico and Asia.

That's why it's having a devastating impact, and when you're looking at the statistics in Maryland, yes you see Baltimore, yes you see the beat-down, but what you are starting to see is the rise of heroin addiction because it's cheaper and most of the first-time users are white kids in their 20's.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: That doesn't surprise me.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: The demographic is not all trailer park. You're talking about students and young professionals because according to what is going on in looking at the research, the new heroin that's coming in is cheaper than the Oxycotton and some of the pharmaceuticals that are popular in the outlying community.

Now you're getting young people who are not inner city dwellers hooked on heroin. Even in *The Wire* on the second season when they're talking about the port, you saw it, but the main people in that particular season were the white kids and the white union people who ran the Port of Baltimore. That's what you're seeing, but you're not seeing in today's reality the influence of the heroin on the outside of Baltimore into Maryland proper.

If your listeners want to glean what is going on, have them do some research on that. Yes, it's bad in Baltimore, but it's also bad in Berlin.



C. AUSTIN FITTS: I was talking to somebody who is a landlord in a town with a university that is very top notch not that long ago. He said that ten years ago when he talked to the kids, on graduation they had a job and they had a future and they had a plan and they were all excited about it. He said five years ago they were struggling to get the job, but they had a plan and they knew that they were going to get a job and they were going to do whatever it takes.

He said that now they're graduating – and remember, this is a first-rate university – they don't have a job, they don't have a plan, and they're just going to keep waitressing and live.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: And they're coming out in debt.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. Big debt.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: And they're not given the option to file bankruptcy because they can't file bankruptcy for student debt.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. So there's a kind of hopelessness and a lack of ambition that never existed before.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right. That's what we are seeing, but think in terms of two generations. We're talking about 40 years now.

A friend, Paul, who you introduced me to, he was talking about the mid 1960's when they did the beat-down on Chester, Sunset, and Camden. That was in the 1960's. Now here we are going past the middle of the second decade of the 21st century. We have all these generations of that in the inner cities like Chester, Baltimore, Camden, and Philadelphia. Now it's starting to ripple out into the suburbs.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: So now let's come to what just happened in Baltimore. So we come to Baltimore and we've got a situation where everybody who lives within the city limits knows that the White House, the State House, the courthouse, and the police are functioning within a system which is – if you will – the Sheriff of Nottingham.



JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: So the Sherriff of Nottingham is running the courts and the enforcement in Baltimore, and they're making money whether it's on the drugs, the mortgage fraud, or whatever, and everybody knows it. They're clear.

So let's start with what happened with Freddie Gray.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Well, Freddie Gray was on a corner that now is being told that Marilyn Mosby told the police to target the drug activity that was in that area and in that neighborhood. He was on that corner when he was spotted by the police.

He has an altercation with them – some kind of verbal conversation or whatever – and the two bicycle police come and they take him down. They handcuff him and put him in a wagon.

Now, the videos show that his legs are dangling, so he does not get into the wagon of his own mobility and his own power. By protocol, unless there is another call, the police are supposed to take the prisoner to central booking for processing. They don't do that.

When they make a stop or there's a meeting with some other police officers, people suspect that he took what they call a 'nickel ride' or he took a rough ride, and that's when they throw you in the paddy wagon, handcuffed. You sit there, you're not restrained, you're not secure, and the driver makes sharp turns, stops abruptly, and you get banged around in the back of the paddy wagon.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: I call that 'diesel therapy'.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes, or 'vehicle therapy', yes.

“Freddie Gray was on a corner that now is being told that Marilyn Mosby told the police to target the drug activity that was in that area and in that neighborhood.”



He's not responsive. They don't call the EMTs. When he goes, they see that he's injured so they take him to the hospital. He stays on life support and all that for about a week or so, and then he expires.

That kind of stuff happens all the time, so that wasn't the impetus for the riot. What we do know is that there was a call for a curfew that was supposed to take place on Monday at 3:00pm. It was directed at a lot of young people. From what I've seen from the community response, the young people weren't having any of it.

What happened was that at the mall, there's a subway stop there and there's a bus stop there. The school that is near there is a magnet school, so it draws young people from all over the city. It was not a neighborhood school where the kids could just walk home.

The police shut down the subway stop and they shut down the bus stop, and I don't think that there were any buses that they bused the kids throughout the city. From what I learned, the parents couldn't get there to pick the kids up. So the kids are milling around, walking. They're trying to get home the best way they can.

The police pushed them – not physically – in their front lines position, and they prevent them from going into the mall. They force them down to what would later become the epicenter of the riot.

So the people are upset about that. The police and the security people could never trace the source of the call for the purge to any person or any organization.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: You know there are a lot of rumors that there were a lot of social media accounts involved in Ferguson that were also involved in Baltimore, and that included the social media campaign to organize a purge at the mall.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: But supposedly they can't trace it to any individual account or any collective account. We don't know how true that is.



Like I said, if you look at any response by the residents of Baltimore, they weren't shocked by what happened to Freddie Gray. They were upset, but it wasn't like, "We're going to tear up the neighborhood."

There's the narrative that the mainstream media has, and that's the police versus the lawless thugs and savages. Well, the narrative for many of the people in the community is, "Well, why did the police do that to our children?"

The other thing is on a daily basis they view – because of the aggressive policing and because of the excessive force and because of the history of Baltimore paying out so much money in legal fees and payouts to citizens in the last couple of years – they view the police as a hostile force in their community.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: It has nothing to do with race because the Baltimore police leadership is over half people of color. The black make up a significant percentage – almost half – of the police department. Of the six officers, three of them were black. They weren't even white.

It's not strictly a color issue; it's a symptom issue and a consciousness issue. It's a priority issue.

The narrative is that these people just wanted to riot and they just wanted to take advantage of this situation. It wasn't like Freddie Gray was a national hero. Yes, people did go to his funeral, but it was not something that was that big of a deal.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: The police claim that they got intelligence about the gangs targeting police officers. You're talking about the three biggest, largest gangs: the Crips, the Bloods, and there is another group that tend to be older and they're in the prisons. I think they're called the Black Guerilla Family. That was the cause for the police to be alarmed.



They said it was a credible source, but they didn't say who said it or where they got it from.

The other side of the coin is that when the disturbances started, it was the Nation of Islam, some responsible people, some clergy folks, as well as some of these very gang members who tried to bring order and calm when things got out of hand. But that's not covered in the corporate media. That's not something that the people hear about.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Didn't the Bloods and the Crips have a press conference together, saying that they were trying to stop this? They weren't rioting; they were trying to stop the rioting.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: You almost feel like the local guys are now sufficiently hip to the game. It's like the local immune system was much stronger in Baltimore than traditionally.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes, and what we're seeing is that the additional 'leadership' was out to lunch. Just like the young people in Ferguson – and they didn't want to hear anything from the professional leaders like Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton – these young people and the 'responsible' on the ground people, some of the clergy and older folks, did not buy into what was going on just like the kids didn't buy into the call for the purge.

That is something that has to be examined further. Who put that call out? What happened with the police? The police claim they were told to stand down. They were told – and they even have a clip of the Mayor saying that she wanted to give people the space if they wanted to act crazy. I forgot what her exact terminology was, but what she really meant was that she did not want a repeat of what we saw in Ferguson which was a militarized overreaction.

She made some egregious mistakes, and her administration will probably have to pay for some of those, but there are other questions about it.



This is one of the things I want to talk about. You're talking about the absence of a righteous leadership.

A lot of the leaders in Baltimore, even though they're black, come from a history. They are long-time connects with the Democratic Party.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Yes, they're on the tank.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: That's what I saw in the 1990's. You had the leadership on the tank, and they were lining up to get the contracts and the goodies as they supported a private prison policy that was, as far as I was concerned, we were doing exactly what the Nazis were doing. It was slave labor. We were building and operating slave labor camps. We were dropping enforcement teams to round up some people. They pulled up some money on the public defender's office so the kids all had to cop a plea. It was a scam.

“You had the leadership on the tank, and they were lining up to get the contracts and the goodies as they supported a private prison policy that was, as far as I was concerned, we were doing exactly what the Nazis were doing.”

The black leadership was all there on the dole helping. It was bad.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: That's one of the reasons. You pointed out the on the ground folks are hip to that game.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: A lot of them don't have credibility. Even though mostly indicted or filed charges against the officers as we speak within their department, they're trying to sabotage that whole thing. I would be surprised if it goes to trial. If it does, they're going to have some procedural problems and the officers will get off, even if they don't get a change of venue.



C. AUSTIN FITTS: One of the reasons I bring this up is I saw a lot of very closeness in the shenanigans going on in Washington with what was going on in Maryland and Baltimore under the Clinton administration. Right after the riots you have Hillary Clinton come out with an announcement of a huge overhaul of crime policies as a big part of her campaign, so this is a big deal. She makes a big speech at Columbia, and it completely falls flat.

If you look at the video, there are a lot of empty seats. It looked to me like her speech and the policy she was promoting was all planned before the riots. It was part of the same plan is what I believe, but it didn't go. It didn't play. It didn't work.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: No because people are aware. Even though a lot of the black leadership is wedded to the Democratic Party, a lot of other people know that the Clintons were involved in the welfare reform that put a lot of people in a bad place. They were part of some of the crime laws that aggravated the war on crime situation during his administration with the sentencing disparity.

People are aware of that, so she is really going to have a credibility problem because they know that she is super-rich. How can she come and talk to people who have experienced the American beat-down and try to make a connect and empathize with them?

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Because she made her money engineering the beat-down.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right, and people know that. Their credibility is limited, but they have the money to just force it on people. Like you say, the policies will go along, and they'll buy into them because they get paid to.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: It was interesting. When the welfare reform bill happened, we had built very deep databases on the housing stock in the US and the HUD housing stock. What you saw when you really unpacked the data was that a very significant number of people in the HUD assisted housing were on welfare.



We were working on a couple of things. One was we were trying to get the laws passed that would allow somebody living in HUD housing to start a business because you weren't allowed to start a business if you lived in HUD housing in your home, which is if you're getting pulled off of welfare you're going to have to start a business. You know what I mean?

That was number one, but number two, if you looked at the laws for Section 8 housing, people were going to get thrown out of housing. You had to provide vouchers and take all sorts of steps to make sure they were okay.

If all those people were going to lose welfare while they were in your housing, there was a whole series of things you had to do – whether it was vouchers or other support services to make sure you address the situation honestly. One of the big fights in 1996 was we were ordered to rig the assumptions on the budget preparation, and we refused. We refused to do it because if you turned in a false budget to OMB and they said, “Hamilton Securities blessed these assumptions,” then it was going to sail through.

I had a big fight with the guy who ran the HUD account for us because he felt that we would be fired if we didn't do this. I'll never forget saying to him, “Carlton, how many kids should go homeless or starve to death so that we can keep our contract?”

It was one of the great examples of who you can kill with the pen, just with the assumption you've made. Sure enough we got fired, and they put together a budget that basically never provided for the vouchers and other services.

Hundreds of thousands of people found themselves out on the street with no welfare and no housing all at the same time.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: They got around that when they pushed for the asset forfeiture because if it sees your assets they can kick you out. It's very similar to what they did to you. The asset forfeiture, the way that



the government came at you was not directly; it was indirectly. That's what happens to these folks.

I'm sitting on your stoop. I walk away. The police stop me, and let's say that they find some drugs or a weapon on me. They say, "Where are you coming from?"

I say, "I'm coming from Catherine's house."

"Where does she live?"

"Right there." So now you're targeted and they can take your assets even though they don't charge you with a crime and you're not arrested. If I'm found not guilty, you have to file to have a hearing or go through the process to get your property back, and you may not get it.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: You may not get it. Yes, there are some very famous stories of the people they threw out of assisted housing or the people who lost their properties playing that game. It was very big money.

What was interesting is if you look at who was running the asset forfeiture programs, it was the same private interests who were doing the private prisons.

So let's go back to the policies. If you look at the policies that Clinton was proposing, my big concern here is that one of the greatest powers under the Constitution, Junious, is the power of the sheriff. The sheriff is all-powerful within a county area, and even the Federal Government's jurisdiction stops at the sheriff's jurisdiction line.

So the feds can't do something in an area unless the sheriff says okay. So the effort to nationalize and to control the police locally is a very serious and threatening power because if local enforcement ultimately loses control, we've certainly seen a lot of federal money come towards the police. The asset forfeiture was part of that. It was sort-of between the justice grants, and as a forfeiture trying to get the police financially, locally loyal to the feds.



If you ever break the tie of the mayor controlling local enforcement or the sheriff controlling that jurisdiction, and instead you give control to the feds, that is going to get very dangerous. That is my concern with all of this, that what you're looking at is an op to try to justify federal policies that give them local control of the police.

No matter how bad the police are, they are nowhere near as bad as they're going to be if the feds have direct control.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right, and what you're seeing, especially about a year ago, remember there were some sheriffs in the southwest part of the country who were in opposition to the gun grabbing laws. They came out and said that they were not going to enforce them.

“No matter how bad the police are, they are nowhere near as bad as they're going to be if the feds have direct control.”

I believe that what we're seeing is a response to that.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. It's another way to get in and get that control that you need to stop that.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right. It's no different here. It's just like if a country does not go along with their program, the leader becomes demonized. He becomes the new Hitler of the day, whether it's Putin or Gadhafi or whatever. That sets up for the takeover.

Any of these individually or collectively, the sheriffs who say, “No, we're not going to do this and we want to put a halt to this bum-rush of our jurisdiction and our power,” they will be demonized. Either they will funnel money into their opponent's campaign or they will do it across the board collectively, which is what you're suggesting.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: It's funny Baltimore was one of the first times we went through a situation like this where I came out feeling optimistic. The immune system of both people in the community and people outside the community was much, much higher than I've ever seen.



It's funny. You saw the Bloods and the Crips come out and say, "Wait a minute. Here's what's happening." You could tell from the way they did it that they could understand exactly the nature of what was going down.

Then, of all things, you have Zero Hedge. I was in the process of writing why I thought the official story was hooey. Before I could even finish it, Zero Hedge popped out one that one of their contributors wrote that just nailed the questions of why the official story was hooey. This is in a national financial context.

Ten years ago, that would never have happened. The people who publish and run Zero Hedge would never have been able to see the game, but now they can.

Then Clinton comes out with her speech, and the whole thing was flat. The chairs were empty. It didn't go. I think her campaign manager said, "Next time let's be a little bit more careful."

It was kind of like they cooked up this whole thing and the whole thing fell flat.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: That happened for several reasons. Just like the country is war weary, the police community tension is wearing on people.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: We talk about the 'Divide and rule,' when you look at the figures, to date I think there are maybe 500+ murders by police around the country. The vast majority of them are police killing white people, but you don't get attraction when you're trying to stir up stuff. So it's the black victims that get the attraction.

Every victim is a tragedy. That's not my point. My point is that the police are out of control, and the blowback – because of what has happened in Cleveland and Ferguson, New York, and Baltimore, the police have to come back and justify what they're doing.



C. AUSTIN FITTS: Let me ask you: Are the police out of control? My impression is that you have policies in New York where I would describe it as totally out of control. And you have places where clearly those policies are out of control, but all of the police that I know personally or that I know of personally, they are hardworking and honest and they're scared to death. I mean, they're working in a possible wise between all the bureaucracy up the line above them and above them is corrupt, and they're working with a population who is suspicious and scared. It's getting more and more dangerous for all of them.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right. That's why that whole piece where they said that the Bloods and the Crips and the other gang were going to target police, they were on edge. That is a reality of the job. A lot of times because of the hostility and because of the tension there is distrust. The police have their view of it, and so does the community.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: The community doesn't know who to trust, like you said. They're reluctant to call the police because first of all, in Baltimore if you look at a couple of days ago last week, there was a drop in the arrests. So they did the same thing that they did in New York. They did a slowdown.

Now Baltimore, because of the high rate of drug addiction, a lot of the petty crime, and that is going to have an impact.

Imagine if the community – who is almost defenseless because if you carry a weapon to protect yourself, and I encourage you to listen to Gil Scot-Heron's song called *The Gun*. Get a copy of it and listen to it. It's really poignant about what's going on.

I say all that to say that the community can't depend on the police for whatever reason. They don't trust them. The over-aggressive policing has given rise to the criminalization of poor people, and if you're poor it means it's harder to make bail. You have that whole piece, and we haven't talked about the Baltimore jail, but that is a significant aspect of



the problem.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: You talked about the public defenders being underfunded and overwhelmed. We're talking about the payouts of Baltimore. We're talking about \$5.8 million in the last couple of years. So there are perceptions that neither has side has worked to overcome. That's one of the tragedies.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Well, let's talk about solutions. It's really easy when you look at how bad things are to think it's hopeless, but I don't think it's hopeless.

I used to have a pastor in Washington who would say, "If we can face it, God can fix it."

I keep wondering when it's going to get bad enough for everybody to face it. Certainly if you're listening to us on The Solari Report, you probably have faced it. I'm just wondering whether or not you think that in a place like Baltimore and coming out of Baltimore if there is a shift in consciousness shifting.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: There is a shift, but it hasn't gotten to the point where, say, the police can sit down with the community. Rawlings-Blake brought in a guy out of California, and he's made some substantive changes, particularly in complaints being brought in and accountability, bureau task force. It is making a slight difference, but these issues are systemic.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: You could take away the black leadership in Baltimore and put Koreans in there, and for the most part it would still be the same.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Well, you have a general economy that is dependent on



drugs and mortgage fraud.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right, and you have at least policy that says, “We’re not going to go after the people bringing the drugs in. We’re going to have to treat people.”

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. That’s why I always said, “Everybody is always saying, ‘I don’t want to deal with the black budget.’ I say, ‘Look, every neighborhood is being drained to finance it.’” So until we can have a healthy neighborhood where children are safe, there are no solutions. You’ve got to bring kinds up right, you’ve got to get them educated, and you’ve got to have a fundamentally lawful society where they can have basic trust.

One of the quotes up on the blog this week is from Steve Covey, “Trust is an essential ingredient to any economy.” Where you have the breakdown of trust, we’re seeing throughout the economy it’s just slowing the economy right down to a stop because nobody trusts the fundamental lawfulness of the system.

“Where you have the breakdown of trust, we’re seeing throughout the economy it’s just slowing the economy right down to a stop because nobody trusts the fundamental lawfulness of the system.”

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Right.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Michael Ventura had a great quote. He said, “The South Bronx is relevant to us all because it’s proof that the American civilization can stop.”

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes, and we’re seeing it. We’re seeing it grinding slowly to the point that if the figures that I’m seeming, a little bit of wealth being generated by the economy is going straight to the one percent. At some point, the folks at the bottom of the pyramid are going to have to say, “Wait a minute. This is not working.”

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.



JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Until we are willing to have that dialogue, again, look at what is happening in Maryland. These white kids are getting strung out on heroin.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: It's relatively one of the wealthiest states in the country because of its proximity to DC and some of the pharmaceuticals and the government and the contractors that work for the government – the NSA and Bose and all those people who you see when you're riding up and down 40 and 95.

There is money there, but it's not being made accessible to working folks.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right, and a lot of that money, Junious, is not produced by creating wealth. It's produced by debasing the currency and issuing more government bonds. So it's what I call the negative return on investment economy. To a certain extent, part of what we're watching in Baltimore is the accumulated negative karma of too many generations of negative return on investment economies.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes, and we're seeing it ripple out. It's not just Baltimore; it's most of the states, a lot of the counties, and a lot of the cities.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Everybody is trying to shuffle the chairs, hoping that they can find the chair when the music stops.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: It all comes back to basics, and it's never going to work unless you follow certain basic rules.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: That's what is happening. We're being led astray to what I call the consciousness of debasement where the top priority is the bottom line. That doesn't work in relationships. That



doesn't work if you're trying to build a solid economy. That doesn't work if you care about people, if you care about the planet.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: It doesn't even work in business. Your financial returns are a performance metric; they're not a goal. Nobody ever built a great car company to make money; they built a great car company to build a great car. The fact that it worked financially is proof that your customers think you are building a great car.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes, not only a great car but a great car that a significant percentage of the population can afford and are willing to buy.

You can have an engineering marvel, but if it costs too much then folks can't buy it.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. And what we've got now – what we're all facing now – is we're in the process of rolling out robotics and a whole new wave of automation globalization, so who knows where that goes.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: And I think the other part of it is what we talked about the last time that we met. It's this transhumanism. That's part of the negative karma where if you pay attention to what they're showing us in their science fiction, that's where they want to go. That's their idea of futurism, where they have these cyber wars. Now it's getting eerie.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: What do you mean, 'It's getting eerie'? I think it's been eerie since they started rounding up innocent people and throwing them in prisons to make uniforms for the Department of Defense. I thought that was pretty eerie.

So one last question, Junious. How do white people and black people talk about this? One of the things I've found is that the divide – and let's go back to my old neighborhood in West Philadelphia. If you look at the hind-net energy plus leaders who are white and those who are black, back in those days we had no problem getting together and creating



conspiracies and getting things done.

Now I find the divide, getting white people and black people to talk honestly with each other is really hard.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: The thing is, we have to find common ground. The common ground for most of us are the ruling elite. Even though they're untouchable in the sense that we're not going to bump into David Rockefeller on the street or we're not going to have access to the Bilderberger Conference, when you know that we are all being manipulated by them and their minions and you can identify their minions, then you can say, "Okay, let's identify one thing that we can do together. You bring your resources. I'll bring my A-game and you bring your resources, and we'll see what we can do."

You have to understand that their playbook is limited. They keep running the same plays over and over and over again. Just look at the variations of the plays that they run, and let's be aware because when we come at them – and if you look at the history of this country, from colonial times when the poor whites and the indentured servants who were slaves themselves, the Africans, and the Native Americans together, the colonial elite were petrified. They had to do something to break that up. That's been their play ever since. Break it up, whether it was the cooperatives, the populace political party, the farmer's cooperative, the CIO where they were more open to black and white working together. Any time that happened, they either tried to co-opt it, but they definitely tried to break it up. So we have to be aware that that is their play – to break this up. That's what COINTELPRO was all about.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: And we have to have enough trust that we know that that is their play, so let's go and give each other the benefit of the doubt and see how it works out and prepare our people for that.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. I also think it's really important that we proceed to always try to do things that have a positive return on investment because



I think the spiral down is over in the negative return on investment side, and it behooves every one of us – whether it’s our time or money – to focus on those things that have a positive return on investment because if you look at the economy, the reason why it’s spiraling down is if something has a negative return on investment that I need to pump up with government money and government debt every year, but if it has a positive return on investment, it’s got increasing returns.

So you’re making the pie bigger. The reality is we’re all behaving in ways that cause the pie to shrink. What we need is the pie to expand.

“The reality is we’re all behaving in ways that cause the pie to shrink. What we need is the pie to expand.”

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes, but there is an incentive for us. They dangle the bait, and that is the incentive for us to make the pie shrink.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right. It was always really sad to see neighborhoods. You would win government grants if you could put together a more compelling case that everything was rotten. So neighborhoods would compete to prove how, “I’m more rotten than you are,” which was ridiculous because the spiral of the positive was to get stronger and stronger and stronger. It was a very negative incentive, which is why my good friend, Franklin Sanders, always says, “Government money comes with a sock in the jaw”, and the faster you can get away from government money, you get away from the negative return on investment.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: The thing is, people like you have to educate the rest of us on how to create our own equity so we don’t have to go to the government – or nowadays, corporations. If you look at what’s happening in the black community, a lot of the groups and organizations and people who want to do well and want to do good and being coopted because they’re being forced to go to foundations and corporations to get money.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Right.



JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: See, the people who were undermined by COINTELPRO were saying, “Do for self.” Those are the kinds of people who were run out of town or who were murdered, poisoned, or just laughed at, mocked, or scorned.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Okay. Well, I said about three questions ago that that was the last question, but before we finish, Junious, what I would love is if you could just brief us a little bit on your show and how to find you on the internet, and then if you could tell us any last thoughts you have, listening to this conversation, what you think each one of us should do to overcome.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: If you type in my name ‘Junious Ricardo Stanton’ you will see a lot of things that come up. The program is called *The Digital Underground*. It’s on Harambee Radio. I’m also on the Sound Cloud. The name of that program is called *Aquaben* and you’ll hear Catherine on there.

I don’t do it as often, but I’m sometimes on *Cyberspace Sanctuary*. There you’ll probably see some YouTube or Vimeo videos that I put up. And you can probably see me on my blog called *From the Ramparts*. There’s a portal called *Before It’s News*. If you go up there and put my name in, you’ll see some of the things that I’ve written. And that’s how you can get a hold of me.

You can also email me at JRSWriter@comcast.net.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Okay, and you’re going to run this show on *Cyberspace Sanctuary*?

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes, I’m going to run it on everything.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Okay. So maybe we get a conversation going.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Hopefully. You know what? I heard something that makes sense. I heard something where I can bring something to the table. It doesn’t have to be a Kumbaya moment; it can



be a deeper kind of thing. If we don't bring this together, they win. The other guys wins. That's the bottom line.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: I told you the famous comment I made here, because I live in a very segregated place. I said, "You know, if you guys would just collaborate about the money, you could hate each other rich instead of hating each other poor."

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Well, in the end, what you're talking about is my solution. The solution is metanoia, which is the Greek New Testament word for 'repent'. This means to change your mind, to change the way you think, change what you think about, change your perception, and change so that your imagination is positive and progressive as opposed to negative and defeated. Get down to the root of what the Buddhist said, "In this world, hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love shall hatred cease." And Yahshua said, "Love ye one another."

It sounds corny and hokey, but that is the only solution.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: And it works!

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes, because it works not just for the other person, but it works for you. You start loving yourself and other people, and your blood pressure is going to go down, and a lot of the aches and pains and the stresses in your life are going to go away.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: I don't know, Junious. I always get the inspiration drained out of me, and then when I talk with you I think, "I can do that."

That's one of the reasons why I love talking with you. I feel like, "Okay, I can go out and love those people again."

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Even if they don't love you back.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Well, if you come into Hickory Valley we've got a mural on the side of the building. It's a picture of a cotton field because



we're a cotton farming community, with a hunting dog in the field. Underneath is a quote from Corinthians, "Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God."

So, yes, you've got to do it whether they love you or not. Anyway, Junio Ricardo Stanton, can I tell you something? You're the best. So I can't thank you enough for joining me on The Solari Report. We're in cahoots, but keep me up to date on what you're doing, okay?

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Will do.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: And if we get a conversation going, let's have a webinar and let everybody talk.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Yes.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: You have a great night.

JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON: Alright. You, too. Thank you.

C. AUSTIN FITTS: Bye.

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