

Whitney Ellard

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### Middle-Aged Economic Crisis

Former beautician Lenora Ellard has found herself back living in the home and bedroom she grew up in at the age of 46. Due to a 9.7% national unemployment rate not only college students but middle-aged Americans are finding the only chance of survival and getting back on their feet is moving back in with their parents

The Fresno California native's city unemployment rate to date is at a staggering 16.8% according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. February 17<sup>th</sup> marked the one year anniversary of President Obama's \$862 billion stimulus package signing. Statistics show that his \$862 billion package has created and saved millions of jobs. The President said that the bill has "Kept America out of a deeper depression" and that the program is running "cleanly, smoothly and transparently." On the contrary, the bill has yet to do anything for the former beautician who does not receive unemployment and is desperately searching for a job in the medical field. When asked why she stopped doing hair after 22 plus years, she simply stated "I was tired of doing hair and it doesn't offer health benefits, I need benefits."

According to the White House's release, the Recovery Act Bill has helped the economy grow 5.7 percent as of the end of 2009 and according to FOX News that is the highest growth in six years. Republican's on the other hand think differently immediately releasing a video on CNN expressing their displeasure with the stimulus package "The American people are tired of politicians who don't admit when their policies don't work. The president and the Democrat Party can either admit their policies failed and change course now or continue their binge spending agenda and face certain defeat at the polls in November."

So what are some of the statistics? The bill has funded over 12,500 transportation projects and the work for over 8,500 has begun. What about the middle class? Over 110 million working middle class families have already received increases in their paychecks and more than 18 million unemployed Americans have received benefits since the bill went into

act. For other figures Americans can visit the FOX News online site. But what do these figures mean to Ms. Ellard? They mean absolutely nothing.

For the past two and a half years Lenora Ellard, 46 has been living with her father and impatiently checking her yahoo mail account and browsing craigslist for lab technician job postings. In June, Lenora will have been unemployed for 3 years. She states that the hardest thing throughout her unemployment is being "Totally dependent on my parents." After quitting hair, the 46 year old moved to Las Vegas to attend a ninth month course to become a lab technician. Since graduating she has come across difficulties getting a job due to a lack of experience. Graduating from the course and receiving a certificate and license is simply not enough. "Through everything I am still hopeful" she adds and has been volunteering at Verteran's and St. Agnes Hospital two days a week in Fresno California for the past 10 months to increase her experience.

9.7 percent of the nation is impatiently waiting for a knight in shining armor like former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to come and rescue our struggling workforce. Many middle-aged Americans like Lenora Ellard are being forced to succumb to the last resort which is moving back in and becoming totally dependent on their parents. "People are out of work. They are hurting. They need our help," said President Obama. Americans are hurting but how long must they continue to hurt? How long is it until the former beautician can get a job that includes benefits and help get her back on her feet? "Many projects are just now getting under way, and will be creating jobs throughout 2010 and beyond," states Vice President Joe Biden. This may be true but the question is how long will it truly take before all of the 9.7% of Americans can be employed and receive benefits?