

Gallup CEO Fears He Might "Suddenly Disappear" for Questioning U.S. Jobs Data

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Years of unending news stories on U.S. government programs of <u>surveillance,rendition</u> and <u>torture</u> have apparently chilled the speech of even top business executives in the United States.

Yesterday, Jim Clifton, the Chairman and CEO of Gallup, an iconic U.S. company dating back to 1935, told CNBC that he was worried he might "suddenly disappear" and not make it home that evening if he disputed the accuracy of what the U.S. government is reporting as unemployed Americans.

The <u>CNBC interview</u> came one day after Clifton had penned a gutsy opinion piece on Gallup's web site, defiantly calling the government's 5.6 percent unemployment figure "The Big Lie" in the article's headline. His appearance on CNBC was apparently to walk back the "lie" part of the title and reframe the jobs data as just hopelessly deceptive.

Clifton stated the following on CNBC:

"I think that the number that comes out of BLS [Bureau of Labor Statistics] and the Department of Labor is very, very accurate. I need to make that very, very clear so that I don't suddenly disappear. I need to make it home tonight."

After getting that out of the way, Clifton went on to eviscerate the legitimacy of the cheerful spin given to the unemployment data, telling CNBC viewers that the percent of full time jobs in this country as a percent of the adult population "is the worst it's been in 30 years."

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