



THE FINE POLITICAL ART OF JOBS FORECASTING - VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO

If people feel like the economy is getting better even slowly, that certainly helps the incumbent, but if the trends are decelerating, I'm sure that doesn't help him," says Jared Bernstein, former chief economist for Vice President Joe Biden. If the jobs numbers continue to disappoint, Romney has the easier task. As long as he doesn't sound like a sourpuss, talking down the economy, Romney can argue that times are tough because Obama's policies have failed. "The consequence is that we are now enduring the most tepid recovery in modern history. The consequence is that half the kids who are graduating from college can't find a job that uses their skills. Half," Romney said earlier this month in Des Moines, Iowa. The president has a harder balancing act. He has to be positive without being a cheerleader for good news voters don't necessarily feel.

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