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Wordsmith's Idea Goes to Washington?



Most syndicated opinion columnists hope their words can influence the public debate. But rarely did this (potentially) happen as directly as it did today.

Ray Hanania tells *E&P* that U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-Ill.) was a guest on his radio show this morning. "We were talking about the \$700-billion bailout and mortgage crisis and foreclosure problem when I suggested an idea for helping homeowners," the columnist recalls. "I said we should take the adjustable-rate mortgage and convert it to a fixed-rate mortgage, lower the interest rate to what it was, and then use

that as a base to help the homeowner stay in the home."

The result? "Jackson immediately responded he was going to take that idea and introduce it to the floor of the U.S. House," says Hanania, whose show is on WJGG 1530 AM in the Chicago area. The audio of his Jackson interview can be heard [here](#) (the congressman comes on at about the 20-minute mark). [Hanania](#) -- who's also co-founder of the Arab Writers Group Syndicate, a cartoonist, and a stand-up comedian -- concludes wryly: "Columnists and radio-talk-show hosts can be part of the solution and not always a part of the 'problem.'" -- *Dave Astor*

Technorati Tags: [Jesse Jackson Jr.](#), [Ray Hanania](#)

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