

4. American Industry Restructuring (AIR)

Introduction

The AIR proposals address very complex, tedious and volatile national issues that all need to be approached based upon how the end results will *best insure* the Common Good of the nation, the American family, the worker, and in some urgent cases — *the environment*.

Critical components of the National System in our or any other country are the domestic-based businesses and industries. Simply put, small (80%) and large (20%) businesses provide Americans with employment opportunities. For better and for worse we have long since stopped being a nation where the economy is supported by family farms and agriculture.

The relationship between **business** (management) and the American **workforce** (labor) has always been a very difficult balancing act. Over the years both sides have abused the other as the nation has matured and the supporting economy has gone through its growing pains. However, business has had the best of the workforce most often – just as it does today. And while holding someone’s continued employment (their income) in their hands does give the employer certain rights and liberties with regard to treatment of staff, there is a point where an *unacceptable* level of *conduct* can be reached and cannot be tolerated by a civil society. It is government’s job to protect the workforce from abusive business practices.

At the same time however, it must cut both ways. While the government must always act whenever required to protect the American worker from abuse by employers, it must also allow employers to terminate *worthless* employees without the fear of baseless lawsuits. The U.S. Re-Employment proposal that facilitates the job counseling, re-training and/or placement of workers will provide the facility for “troublesome” employees to be literally recycled into another job opportunity – thus providing the employee with the opportunity to make a fresh and more productive start. Good employers deserve good employees, and none of us like to work around dead weight!

It is a responsibility of **government** to promote and respond to the needs of the American business community and to support them in creating and maintaining domestic-based jobs for the American worker. The virtual epidemic of out-sourcing of jobs and businesses must be brought to a controlled end. The companies that continue to do it will be made to pay a higher price than any savings they would realize in seeking out cheap labor and products. And, American companies need to employ American workers. Is that clear enough?

Businesses Hurting Other Businesses

Government must not as it is currently doing, to continue to allow any given business or industry to hurt or impede the operation, the growth, or even the creation of other businesses and industries — entities that may represent them with viable competition or even their elimination! This flatly means that American business and industry must be protected from the negative, self-serving actions of other such entities, e.g., the medical insurance and petroleum industries to name a couple prime examples.

The relatively small set of AIR related proposals addresses some hard and negative realities within our National System. They offer purely functional problem solutions that must be openly debated during the 2008 political campaign and well beyond it. Proposed solutions to be openly presented to the American electorate for their review of the practical benefits they provide to the economy, our society, and the quality of life in our communities.

The electorate must stand up and challenge the candidates for every elected office, from President to town council, to state their position on the various proposals in An American Agenda.

It is my firm belief that the vast majority of the American public, after some time for private consideration will see the practical necessity of these seemingly radical Changes that are being proposed *against* the Status Quo of the National System — for the Common Good of our citizens and the nation.

At the same time, We the People will all acknowledge from the start that certain businesses and entire industries will fiercely oppose their deliberate restructuring that such publicly practical (and non-negotiable) Changes will bring to bear upon them. But the pendulum has been allowed to swing too far to one side and in the name of the Common Good it is now time to pull it back. Their irresponsible reign over the lives of our people and the nation is over. They and others not mentioned herein have “had their way with” the National System for far too long and have not demonstrated Civil Responsibility toward nor practical Concern for American society and the American people.

These solution-oriented proposals represent nothing less than a prudent and altogether practical, *extreme makeover* of key parts of the National System. Such publicly oriented Changes will surely not be welcomed by some of the Few that have benefited for many years from the avoidable pain that has been placed upon Many. A rate of public Pain that has only increased since 2001...

Concept and Adequate Detail for Now

Some people will be a little disappointed by the general nature of these key proposals, meaning a detailed implementation plan is not laid for each. Be assured however, that there will be **no doubt** as to the approach being proposed and purposes to be served the American public, our society, and the future of our economy. Thomas Paine did not lay out a detailed plan for the Revolutionary War — he just made the logical case for it! And as I keep repeating much of this is simply not rocket science – the required details of implementation will not be that complicated or difficult to work out. We are talking in months, not years.

As a frame of reference, it would be prudent to point out that Thomas Paine did present the entire case for the American Revolution, as well as the *Origin and Design of Representative Government* in 46 paperback size pages. If the concepts presented herein are in sync with the Common Will and mutual desires of the American public (which I believe they certainly are), we will only need to work out the details as we go forward.

Please understand that these concepts and proposals, as well as the others in An American Agenda are intended to initiate a great and defining public debate over the form and future of the American society, and the building of a *viable and maintainable* economic system to support it. Not an economic system from the Golden Age of American Capitalism that ran from the end of World War II — the mid-1940s into the 1960s. Or that of the late 1990s economic bubble that was referred to as the “.com Boom and Bust,” but that in reality was more caused by the Year 2000 Date Conversion Crisis! News flash!

The AIR proposals challenge the U.S. Congress to act and begin to implement some of the proposed Changes over the course of the 2008 Presidential and Congressional campaign — to legislate as though a campaign was not even occurring! What a fantasy!

We the People are daring them with one last chance, to finally become “our” leaders — to take the control of domestic and foreign policy away from the Special Interests and over any veto from the very lame duck and truly dysfunctional (to the Common Good) current occupant of the White House. To begin implementing the National System improvements which are of benefit to *the People* and our society as a whole. Changes that could collectively be of equal or greater benefit than the New Deal.

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As has been mentioned before, we are talking about the prudent and deliberate Changes to the Status Quo of America’s National System — the way America really works on a day-to-day basis. Such Changes have and will always create

winners and losers – taking the form of individual businesses and American workers at all income levels. However, “if” the Changes are objectively determined to be in the best interest of American society and the American worker over the long-term, which they are designed to be — then said Changes will not be allowed to be diluted, delayed, or flatly killed in order to maintain a less than desirable and publicly dysfunctional Status Quo.

Therefore, let the legislative battle lines be drawn and the required intense national debates begin. These are the types of **real issues** that must shape and define the national discussion leading up to the 2008 Presidential Election – and well beyond it. Several of these proposals could (and should) be **confronted, decided, and the implementation begun prior** to that historic election. And the We the Voters will be watching very intently.

National Leadership is not wanted or wished for at this time. It is now required and will be demanded!

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