

"If You Were President ... What Would You Do?": Solutions to Save Our Nation

By <u>Philip A Farruggio</u> Global Research, April 07, 2019 Region: <u>USA</u> Theme: <u>History</u>

I actually wrote an earlier text on this issue in 2012 when Obama was running for reelection. Sadly, ALL of the issues and ideas below were those that neither of the Two Party/One Party system would dare to agree with.

Now we are in the Age of Trump and the pirates have really been let loose on us. All the Democrats seem to focus on is Russia Russia Russia. If I hear the phrase 'The Mueller Report' anymore I think I will be committed! The 'skinny' of all this is that the Democrats focus on the absurdities of Trump's tweets and misinformation, along with a ridiculous border wall.

Meanwhile, while the Dow breaks records and "reported" unemployment figures are low, few from either party seem to grasp the 'Why' of this. Well, the late and great Naval Air Colonel Bob Bowman, who had his epiphany after serving in Vietnam, explained it all to me many years ago. I asked him about Wall Street and the Dow, and about our labor figures. "Philip", he said, "It's all very simple to understand. Unemployment figures will be lower when either many of the low wage earners will have to get two and even three part time jobs to survive, or have given up even looking for work. As far as the Dow index, when wages are going up the Dow will be low. When wages are going or staying down the Dow will go up. Period!"

I don't intend to list countless measures that, as President, I would take. No, rather, in this world of one minute sound bites and *KISS (Keep it Simple Stupid)* I have a streamlined platform that covers the really pertinent and key issues of our day:

- Cut the military spending drastically to save our states, their cities and our prestige as a nation. The 25% Solution Movement has a simple and novel approach to this: Congress cuts military spending 25% by an 'Up and Down 'vote, since this spending is considered Discretionary ... As President I will use my bully pulpit to go directly to the American public, urging everyone to A) get out and continually demonstrate for this, and B) let their congressional representatives know that they will not vote for anyone who refuses to support this! Period!
- Use the added revenues from the above action (\$ 170 billion a year) to send to all 50 states to help with their budget deficits. This would then allow the states to send money to the cities for the same purpose. No need to lay off police, firefighters, teachers etc or to close libraries and schools. You get my drift?
- End the occupations of Iraq & Afghanistan and send the troops home... ASAP! This would save us over \$ 100 billion a year and stop the killing of our troops and the innocent civilians that they kill. It would also allow the UN, along with the

Middle Eastern nations, to help stabilize those two countries.

- Flat Surtax of 50% on all personal income over and above one million dollars per year. Let's leave the federal tax rates as is and begin taxing the millionaires and mega millionaires. If we are truly a nation entrenched in the Judeo- Christian traditions and precepts, are we not supposed to be 'Our brother's keeper'? Cannot a person who earns millions in income, whether it is from salary, bonus, interest, commissions, or inheritance, afford to live quite well on 50% of those millions? Did you know that 50% of working Americans earn less than \$ 27,000 a year? How can a single mother or father raise a child or two on that meager amount? Do the math and see how taking half from a very wealthy person is perhaps the most spiritual thing we can do as a nation.
- Return the corporate tax rates to what they were in our recent past. Honor small business by instituting payroll *tax forgiveness* for up to the first \$ 20,000 of wages, for both the employee and employer. This would return close to \$ 1500 a year to each worker, tax free. The small business owner would have saved up to \$ 1500 for each employee. I would cap this plan at a maximum of 100 employees., though ALL employees anywhere still get their forgiveness. This plan would discourage 'off the books 'hiring and give small businesses more capital to stay competitive, if they choose.
- Jumpstart a movement to get private money *out* of electoral politics... federal, state and local. Not an easy thing to accomplish, due to the 1976 Supreme Court ruling of *Buckley vs. Valeo.* That ruling stated that 'Money is free speech'. How do we get around such an unfair interpretation without going insane and waiting 20 years for constitutional amendments? Well, as President, I would challenge you, the voters, who elect the moneyed interests time and time again. I would urge that you only support candidates who agree to limit acceptance of campaign donations up to \$ 100 per person. On top of that, we must not support any candidate who accepts PAC money at all. Period!
- I would push for Congress to open up Medicare for any American who wishes to buy in. It should be 100% government run with no room for private insurers. By some of the aforementioned actions, there would be plenty of money to jumpstart it etc. The buy in would still cost less than currently under our Medicare system, which relies on private insurers too much. Having such a system would be easier to manage, with one claim form for all.
- Why not have our federal government jumpstart community nonprofit mortgage banks? Imagine if your city, town or county opened, with federal loan guarantees, a nonprofit mortgage bank, charging only overhead costs? Translated: a current mortgage of let us say 5% from a for profit bank would now be perhaps 2% from a nonprofit community one. More home ownership, fewer renters and economic stimulus for many such peripheral industries.
- Windfall profits tax on Big Oil and Big Pharma. How can it be that the prices at the pumps and on medicines spiral upwards while the majority of working stiffs experience depression, both financially and psychologically? We would use the added revenue to create more solar energy use and wind farms. Portugal is getting more dependent upon wind for energy use. Why can't we? As far as medicines, let's use the revenue increases from a windfall tax on Big Pharma to jumpstart an alternative care movement. We need more Americans to be able to get acupuncture and chiropractic treatment, massage therapy, psychological counseling to name a few such alternatives to established Western Medicine. Let's be blunt: For too long our nation leads the world in the 'drug and cut

'mindset of medicine.

I could go on and on. For now, this is my platform. If you agree with even 2/3 of it, then voice your support. You know and I know that I cannot win election, but... the word will get out that we have viable options to what this current Two Party / One Party has been offering.

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