

Be careful what you ask for:

Congress is stifling free trade with Colombia, enactment of which would enhance the U.S. economy, create U.S. jobs, and enhance relationships with a strong, U.S. democratic ally in South America, where we really need one. The rest of the world is amazed to see us sticking our protectionist head in the sand after our presidents of both parties have pressed endlessly for free trade. Yes, outsourcing has cost jobs, but the country-even with two income families-has a lower unemployment rate than ever. The global economy has been good to us and to millions elsewhere. When I studied for my MBA in the mid-60s I was instructed that unemployment below 7% was dangerous to the economy and would unleash great inflation. When Henry Ford cranked up his assembly line he put crowds of buggy whip makers out of work. Where did THEY go for jobs? Why are we complaining now?

Congress is screaming about oil prices, but for years has been stifling all attempts at environmentally-friendly drilling, nuclear power expansion, new clean coal power sources, and new refinery construction. Ted Kennedy even killed the idea of wind-power off Martha's Vineyard. Meanwhile, China is drilling for oil on OUR continental shelf, 90 miles off the Florida coast. Ethanol, hybrid cars, tapping the strategic oil reserves, and gas-tax holidays all are palliative measures that accomplish next to nothing in net energy usage-although ethanol has driven up the price of food staples consumed by the poor. There are no instant solutions to this mess. We should have started fixing these problems decades ago. Incidentally, the recent hike in minimum wage applied to all U.S. territories except American Samoa, where Madam Speaker just happens to have business interests.

Meanwhile, what is going on with alternatives to highways in surface transportation? What has happened to our once vibrant passenger rail and public mass transit systems? Why are we not doing more to develop our inland waterways for freight movement? Can't our leaders see the benefits in reduced energy consumption and pollution? Both parties have to answer for this one. And which of our leaders are actively promoting measure to encourage population movement from our sprawl areas back to our cities, with potential for gargantuan savings in transportation and other energy costs and pollution. We do know, don't we, that transportation costs have substantial effect on the price of EVERYTHING?

Congress is holding up funds for military operations in South Asia. Don't they want us to conclude this war? Sure, the war could have been handled better. Every war we've ever fought could have been handled better. But the situation in Iraq, if you look behind the curtains of the sensationalist media, is improving and can be concluded in a manner beneficial to our future and the future of democracy. We're in it. We need to support it to a finish, not a bail-out.

Historically, for either party, the presidential administration is the primary leader of foreign and defense policy. Conversely, the Congress traditionally plays the strongest hand in domestic policy. Republicans share some of the bad ideas with Democrats, but Democrats are now in charge of the Congress. When will their leadership begin to make sense? Killing useful legislation for the sole purpose of embarrassing the President is childish public leadership. We have replaced what once was effective bipartisanship with simple mud-slinging. A pox on both parties!!

Oh. And then there's the matter of border control. Read on.

Stan Virden

Pretty interesting stats:

- 1) Consumer confidence stood at a 2 1/2 year high;
- 2) Regular gasoline sold for \$2.19 a gallon;
- 3) The unemployment rate was 4.5%.

Since voting in a Democratic Congress in 2006 we have seen:

- 1) Consumer confidence plummet;
- 2) The cost of regular gasoline soar to over \$3.50 a gallon;
- 3) Unemployment is up to 5% (a 10% increase);
- 4) American households have seen \$2.3 trillion in equity value evaporate (stock and mutual fund losses);
- 5) Americans have seen their home equity drop by \$1.2 trillion dollars;
- 6) 1% of American homes are in foreclosure.

America voted for change in 2006, and we got it!

Remember it's Congress that makes law not the President. He has to work with what's handed to him.

Quote of the Day.....'My friends, we live in the greatest nation in the history of the world. I hope you'll join with me as we try to change it.' -- Barack Obama

Part 2: Taxes...Whether Democrat or a Republican you will find these statistics enlightening and amazing.

www.taxfoundation.org/publications/show/151.html

Tax tables at this URL clearly show that Bush tax cuts benefit everyone, but leave the richest of us paying higher percentages of taxes than before.

Both democratic candidates will return to the higher tax rates It is amazing how many people that fall into the categories above think Bush is screwing them and Bill Clinton was the greatest President ever. If Obama or Hillary are elected, they both say they will repeal the Bush tax cuts and a good portion of the people that fall into the categories above can't wait for it to happen. This is like the movie The Sting with Paul Newman; you scam somebody out of some money and they don't even know what happened.

PART 3: You think the war in Iraq is costing us too much? Read this: Boy, am I confused. I have been hammered with the propaganda that it is the Iraq war and the war on terror that is bankrupting us. I now find that to be RIDICULOUS. I hope the following 14 reasons are forwarded over and over again until they are read so many times that the reader gets sick of reading them. I have included the URL's for verification of all the following facts.

1. \$11 Billion to \$22 billion is spent on welfare to illegal aliens each year by state governments. Verify at: <http://tinyurl.com/zob77>
2. \$2.2 Billion dollars a year is spent on food assistance programs such as food stamps, WIC, and free school lunches for illegal aliens. Verify at: <http://www.cis.org/articles/2004/fiscalexec.html>
3. \$2.5 Billion dollars a year is spent on Medicaid for illegal aliens. Verify at: <http://www.cis.org/articles/2004/fiscalexec.html>
4. \$12 Billion dollars a year is spent on primary and secondary school education for children here illegally and they cannot speak a word of English! Verify at: <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0604/01/ldt.0.html>
5. \$17 Billion dollars a year is spent for education for the American-born children of illegal aliens, known as anchor babies. Verify at <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0604/01/ldt.01.html>
6. \$3 Million Dollars a DAY is spent to incarcerate illegal aliens. Verify at: <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0604/01/ldt.01.html>
7. 30% percent of all Federal Prison inmates are illegal aliens. Verify at: <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0604/01/ldt.01.html>
8. \$90 Billion Dollars a year is spent on illegal aliens for Welfare & social services by the American taxpayers. Verify at: <http://premium.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0610/29/ldt.01.html>
9. \$200 Billion Dollars a year in suppressed American wages are caused by the illegal aliens. Verify at: <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0604/01/ldt.01.html>
10. The illegal aliens in the United States have a crime rate that's two and a half times that of white non-illegal aliens. In particular, their children, are going to make a huge additional crime problem in the US Verify at: <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0606/12/ldt.01.html>
11. During the year of 2005 there were 4 to 10 MILLION illegal aliens that

crossed our Southern Border also, as many as 19,500 illegal aliens from Terrorist Countries. Millions of pounds of drugs, cocaine, meth, heroin and

marijuana, crossed into the U. S from the Southern border. Verify at:
Homeland Security Report: <http://tinyurl.com/t9sht>

12. The National Policy Institute, 'estimated that the total cost of mass deportation would be between \$206 and \$230 billion or an average cost of between \$41 and \$46 billion annually over a five year period.' Verify at:
<http://www.nationalpolicyinstitute.org/pdf/deportation.pdf>

13. In 2006 illegal aliens sent home \$45 BILLION in remittances back to their countries of origin. Verify at: <http://www.rense.com/general75/niht.htm>

14. 'The Dark Side of Illegal Immigration: Nearly One Million Sex Crimes Committed by Illegal Immigrants In The United States .' Verify at:
<http://www.drdsk.com/articleshtml>

The total cost is a whopping \$ 338.3 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.

Are we THAT stupid? If this doesn't bother you then just delete the message.

If, on the other hand, it does raise the hair on the back of your neck, I hope you forward it to every legal resident in the country including every representative in Washington, D.C. - five times a week for as long as it takes to restore some semblance of intelligence in our policies and enforcement thereof

Donald Lupone