

Monday, October 9, 2006

The good news: the Bush economy

With all the problems President Bush and the Republicans face, this is as good a time as any to focus on one of their biggest success stories — the American economy.

The economy's performance isn't getting the respect it deserves, but just five weeks before the election, it is winning rave notices on Wall Street and from ordinary investors on Main Street.

Consider what's been happening lately:

— The Dow Jones industrial average has hit an all-time high, lifting other major stock indexes, as well as stock markets around the world. Markets react to fundamentals in the economy and future trends, and those trends point to continued growth and expansion here at home and around the globe.

— Manufacturing shipments have been “solid,” says David Malpass, chief economist at Bear Stearns. Yes, factory orders were unchanged in August from July, but factory shipments rose a healthy 1.1 percent in August. In fact, shipments of goods produced by American factories have increased 5.8 percent since the second quarter. The annual rate of non-defense goods shipments were up by 8.6 percent in July-August.

— The housing market has sagged this year, but there are signs that it is bouncing back. Homes sales increased by 4.3 percent in August. At the same time, home mortgage rates have been falling and Malpass points to “demographic support for more housing, which should begin to soften the housing slowdown.”

— America, of course, is still building at a healthy pace in the commercial construction sector. In a year-over-year comparison of August's data, nonresidential construction increased by 23.8 percent (\$312 billion)

— Consumer confidence surveys continue to show Americans are still bullish about their own economic future and have been shopping and spending accordingly. Notably, retail sales have been decent and real consumption growth is forecast to run between 3.2 percent and 3.5 percent in the third quarter.

— The economy has grown by over 4 percent so far this year, though there are forecasts of slower growth in the third quarter. Nevertheless, we're still looking at an annual growth rate of better than 3 percent for 2006 which is healthy by any economic standard.

— All of this growth is producing higher tax revenues, both for the feds and the states, and that is driving down the budget deficit much faster than anyone has predicted. The deficit fell to \$250 billion for the fiscal year that just ended — that's still way too high, but it is much lower than the nearly \$300 billion the administration forecast in July.

More importantly, it is way, way below the \$424 billion deficit that the White House predicted in its February budget.

At this pace, Bush will be way ahead of his promise to slash the deficit in half by the end of his second term. The reason for the deficit's speedier decline: lower tax rates that led to much stronger economic growth, higher employment, and a modest brake on discretionary spending increases.

These have been rough times for our country, what with the war on terror, disastrous hurricanes, sky-high oil prices, wars in Afghanistan and Iraq against terrorist forces. But the American economy has proven to be resilient, relentless and fundamentally on healthy ground.

With gasoline prices falling to near \$2 a gallon, unemployment dropping to 4.6 percent, jobless benefit claims declining, and with U.S. automakers reporting nearly 13 million autos and light trucks were produced in North America in the month of September, Bush and the Republicans deserve a lot more credit for helping to bring all this about.

— *Donald Lambro, chief political correspondent, The Washington Times*

45 Responses to “The good news: the Bush economy”

joe mcCullough Says:

Do not expect the talking heads on network TV to mention the economy. God forbid. That would require them to say something positive about President Bush, which would either cost them their job, or relegate them to anchoring the 3 a.m. news.

posted at [9:43 AM](#)

Brian D. Lawlor Says:

The DOW has hit an all-time high, but another September 11, in one form or another, changes that high. If we lived in a secure world we would watch that DOW climb and all would benefit, but let's try and stay with the real world, please. September 11 showed us all with a physical example how fragile our system is to begin with.

posted at [11:23 AM](#)

Wyld Rogue Says:

This is a lot of Republican hoopla before the elections and it's shameful to even start this stuff. Sure, it looks good now that gas prices are down but this should have been done months ago instead of right on the fringes of elections. Just another Republican ploy.

posted at [1:00 PM](#)

Antonio Says:

Wow, you make it sound like our leaders had anything to do about this. I am first and foremost a financial analyst so I think I can say we the American people are responsible for the economy not the leaders. We are the ones who buy things we are the ones who sell things. Not our leaders so just remember when you say our government does things it is the other way around. For the record our leaders are really not that great at business they just think they are. I mean look they went to Washington because they probably couldn't find a job else where.

posted at [1:10 PM](#)

Mark B Says:

Yes, Antonio, the politicians did not grow the economy. However, we should recognize and applaud when the political class avoids policies that would actually discourage growth. Clinton deserves credit for having done so and the media gave it to him in large and healthy doses. Fairness and truthful reporting demands that they do so for Bush as well.

posted at [8:21 PM](#)

James Pelham Says:

The economy is booming, more people are employed than ever before, unemployment is at the lowest in quite a long time, stocks are up, more people own their on homes than ever before, taxes are down, which means more money in my pocket and I like it. No way will I vote for the Democrats, they won't even recognize that the economy is booming and give the president the praise he deserves for pulling us out of Clinton's mess and the fallout from 9/11. No way will I vote for Democrats, the first thing they want to do is raise taxes, that's reason enough for me.

posted at [10:38 AM](#)

Antonio Says:

First of all I would like to make my statement clear. Clinton shut down the government and that is why he was made out to be a hero on the economy. The truth is, he really, like all presidents, didn't do anything. They take credit for what we honest business people do. Of course they support the dishonest business people (Enron). I have been a financial analyst for years and one thing I know for sure is that if we want to mess up our economy then let our government try to fix it. We now have out-of-control debt, spending and no way to pay our debt. I feel sorry for the next group who have to come in and increase taxes because of the mess that was left by the last group.

posted at [3:42 PM](#)

Mary J. Slayton Says:

Mark B., thank you for acknowledging the fact that President Bush deserves some credit for something. However, don't hold your breath waiting for "fairness and truthful reporting" to compel the media to report anything positive about anything the president does. The media doesn't know the meaning of fairness or truthful reporting.

posted at [11:33 PM](#)

Peter Roach Says:

If the current economy is so great, then why are wages the lowest percent of GDP since the calculation began after WWII?

For most Americans, about 75%, the purchasing power of the hourly wage has been declining since 1973. People are working, but most of the young are forced to take more than one job. Most jobs today are part-

time, often with no benefits. We are the largest debtor nation in the world. In the last month, we again broke a record for the highest trade deficit. Many parts of the country people are house poor. That is, 50% or more of their disposable income goes to housing.

The Bush and Reagan tax cuts have helped, but we have run away with government spending. Household debt continues to rise to new, alarming levels.

Companies are increasingly absconding their pension obligations.

Our tax laws favor economic concentration and punish small business people with that awful self employment tax. Even worse, our labor laws are not being enforced, resulting in the non-payment of overtime, not paying wages at all or giving bad checks to workers. All these things I have observed from personal experience.

Gold is over \$500 per ounce.

And then we have Wal-Mart.

posted at [2:02 PM](#)

Gary Jackson Says:

Nice try Lambro, but look. You're an intelligent guy. Do you really believe that a phenomenon as complex and dynamic as the economy can be influenced in any positive way by the tinkering of one ideology over another?

You and others insist that the robustness of the economy has to do with the Bush tax cuts. In 1993, the GOP grimly predicted disaster in the face of Clinton's tax increases, yet that didn't happen. Tax cuts or tax increases can be beneficial or harmful given the economic conditions that exist at the time they are implemented. Just as credible a case can be made that Bush's tax cuts were completely misdirected to the one sector of the economy—at that time in 2001—where they would do the most damage: the investment sector, which was already heavily over-capitalized. These were the precise conditions in 2000—the so called bubble—that debilitated the market substantially.

You people blame Clinton for that, but that wasn't his fault any more than some of the structural problems our economy still faces are Bush's fault. In fact, my own personal belief is that the entire tax, spending and appropriation system in Congress needs to be overhauled. I think many of you on the right believe that as well.

Anyone with an ounce of intelligence knows that this economy could just as easily turn on a dime at any moment and start to contract. Of course then the left would lay it at Bush's feet just as you are now touting the good economic news as being due only to the competent management of the economy by George W. Bush.

Preposterous. Presidents have very little control over something as vast as complex as the global economy and can only tinker around the edges at best.

When are we ever going to get an honest conversation about issues in this country?

posted at [10:55 AM](#)

Gary Jackson Says:

I sense that a good many of you out there are desperately looking for something — anything — that you can latch onto to salvage some sort of positive legacy for George W. Bush.

Quite candidly, this mystifies me. Why do so many of you invest all of this emotion in this man? He is not a particularly effective president. He is not what I would call particularly inspiring. In fact, even though the 9-11 attack handed him a marvelous opportunity to demonstrate vision and greatness, he has exhibited a lack of competency and imagination that fundamentally puts him in the class of uninspiring Presidents we had in the final quarter of the 19th Century.

He is not a true conservative. He has expanded government, and the presidency in particular, beyond anything you people would have tolerated with a Democrat. He has lavished big spending programs for the benefit of corporate donors. I cannot imagine that a true conservative would be proud of that.

If he had been willing to take lessons from these failures and change his policies, he would not be nearly the irrelevant squawk that he has become. He really did squander a lot of good will from the electorate and he can never get that back.

posted at [11:11 AM](#)

Karl K. Says:

What “Clinton’s mess”?

Clinton had a budget surplus. We were well on the way to having a debt-free government. Bond traders were crying in their beer, “How can we make our 7- or 8-figure incomes if the government doesn’t have to borrow money?”

Georgie sure fixed that!

By the way, when it comes to cooking the books, this administration makes Enron, Tyco and Worldcom look like a bunch of amateurs.

posted at [10:18 AM](#)

Todd Fink Says:

Earnings are down. Health, housing and transportation are way up. Dow is up, but other market indicators like S&P have still not recovered.

When we talk about a robust economy we should try to represent the effects of the economy on all members and stake holders.

posted at [11:06 AM](#)

[beenthere](#) Says:

Antonio: Your premise is that government fiscal policies, such as lowering taxes, have absolutely nothing to do with the recent increase in revenues that have correspondingly reduced the deficit. In fact, your basic assumption is that this country is doomed to face mounting deficits, out-of-control spending, and with no fiscal alternatives to counter this, you may be a financial analyst (which certainly covers a lot of ground, so I won't make any presumptions about your experience concerning fiscal policy, both past and present).

But your position is just flat-out wrong.

During every past presidential administration when federal taxes have been reduced, federal revenues have increased exponentially (Kennedy, Reagan, Bush, etc.) with a corresponding reduction in the federal deficit. Nuff said.

posted at [11:27 AM](#)

Dave K. Says:

Opinions on economics all depend on which horse you ride. If you are poor to middle class, which the majority of working Americans are, the economy appears unstable at best. If you are from the upper income range your view is far different.

I think Bush deserves Kudos from the rich and boos from the poor.

posted at [11:39 AM](#)

[Diane Truth](#) Says:

The economy getting better. What a bunch of crap. There are thousands of U.S. citizens who are unemployed and are losing their homes. My husband and I are two of them. What is the government doing about it? Nothing. The middle class is slowly disappearing and people in Washington don't have a clue. If it isn't being outsourced, it's people coming here from other countries getting the jobs.

Wake up, America.

posted at [12:15 PM](#)

Doug Rasmussen Says:

Referring to the current rosy state of the economy is much like pointing out the beautiful mountain home on the slope of Mt. St. Helens—just before it blew up.

OK, if you have to give Bush credit for the economy, then he also must face the condemnation of a crushing debt that he not only has failed to intervene in, he has actively promoted folly after folly that threatens a financial eruption.

When Clinton got his credit, the U.S. had trillions in the black. Bush has trillions in the red. It's not too hard to see why one would be reluctant to praise his leadership.

posted at [12:33 PM](#)

Priscilla C Says:

The government certainly does influence the economy through its policies. Yes, I do believe that some of the positive aspects have been manipulated before the election. For instance, Goldman Sachs had a massive sell-off of gasoline futures, which depressed the prices at the pump. But to list the so-called positive points of the economy as justification for support for the Bush government is missing the bigger picture. There are more Americans who have no health insurance, job insecurity, environmental degradation, present/future monies being paid for the Bush war that can't be used for reinvestment in our infrastructure, education, real economy security, and there is erosion of our civil liberties. There's a tragic, mean-spirited, divisiveness that pervades in our culture supported by this administration. Another real lost item is our prestige and influence in the world. So if the economy was enough, then why is there so much discontent among the American people with this government. When Clinton said "It's the economy, stupid," he was correct, but that was a different time. Don't forget context. The economy is not enough.

posted at [1:03 PM](#)

Magus Says:

With all the Bush-bashing in the last couple of years, I, as an American—and not even as a Republican, say it's about time for some good news from our government. Of course the war has driven the world apart. I feel we have been used for corporate betterment, but the fact of the matter is, that's how it's been done for centuries. In some form or another, governments and businessmen alike will always use the people to get what they want. We cannot start taking this personally if we as a society wish to progress into a new era of social, cultural, economic, and spiritual prosperity. Despite all the hooha, it is a fact that the economy has been doing great as of recently and this is because of our current system.

But No system is ever perfect or going to be because we as humans are inherently flawed. But we can do our best to work with these flaws to get past the current bad state we are experiencing to find the positive effects of our society and come together under one roof to move into a good state as human brothers and sisters. This is not the time to take sides. This is the time to break down barriers and unify as a single people to put into effect a revised and more effective strategy to help rebuild our world so that we may experience a new renaissance, so to speak. I'm glad that our that our current President has strengthened our economy. I'm also heart-broken that we are in a pointless war and approaching a neo-fascist society. However, that is neither here nor there, and we must concentrate on the future so that our children and those to come have a better world to live in. We, as a society, must balance out the good and bad of what is happening in our world, take what is for what it is, and move into the next phase of progression. The future is up to us, not selfish politicians up on Capitol Hill. The sooner we the people realize that and unite under that principle, I believe we will see a turn for the better in our country, and possibly the world.

posted at [1:10 PM](#)

Magus Says:

And just as a side-note for all you Republicans out there, Democrats want to raise taxes on the citizens who are in the higher percentile of income earnings, not the middle or lower class. That is definately something that we can benefit from.

posted at [1:17 PM](#)

Motor City Madman Says:

The economy may be fine throughout the rest of the country, but it is at an all-time low in Detroit.

posted at [1:41 PM](#)

Mike C Says:

OK, let's give our president credit for the state of the economy. Having a deficit at all just means that the stupid GOP don't realize that in order for a budget to work it must be balanced. Only in republicanomics is there a magic money tree in the sky (foreign banks). Having a \$250 billion deficit means add that to the national debt, which has increased almost 40 percent while Bush has been in office to over \$8 trillion ("conservative" estimate). The dollar has continued to be devalued to try to inflate away our over \$50 billion trade deficit (yeah, a lot of that's from China).

The idea was Bush cut taxes for big business and higher income brackets to boost economic numbers and Greenspan lowered interest rates to combat inflation. It worked. Having lower tax responsibilities and a devalued dollar made it easier for businesses not just to sell overseas but to outsource entire business operations.

Then there are the consumer indices. We all know that 10 percent of Americans control 90 percent of the wealth. Of course they (10 percent) are happy and spending, they just got a big tax break. Gas price instability hasn't even affected them.

The 30+ million Americans below the poverty index have to choose between paying to put gas in their car to go to work and paying for food. If the economy is so great why can't they raise the minimum wage? Inflation had devalued the current \$5.15 to almost 1996 levels of \$4.25. Of course that would only affect the six percent of the population that includes a majority of minorities and women (who cares about them?).

Twelve states have raised their minimum wage above the federal level without any gradient in job losses.

I could go on about the billions of dollars we are spending on Iraq but I am in enough pain plus I'm on my way to go to the dentist.

(Oh my biggest problem with this article is all these indices that are up since August way to look at the big picture)

posted at [3:08 PM](#)

Douglas L. Hall Says:

The economy has been driven by Greenspan and cheap money. This is his success, not Bush's. When the next president has to deal with the fallout of massive deficits, then we'll know the full extent of Bush's wasteful spending. Can we have an economy that thrives and produce surpluses at the same time? Sure, if Bill Clinton is president.

posted at [4:00 PM](#)

Douglas L. Hall Says:

James Pelham and Antonio need a course in history. Clinton did not shut the government down, Antonio. The Republicans shut the government down because Clinton wouldn't approve their wasteful budget. The result is that we got mostly Clinton's budget instead of deficits. Surpluses ... what a mess. Pelham says more people are employed than ever before. WRONG. The unemployment rate reached its lowest level in 1999, under the Clinton administration. James, taxes will be raised by the next president, for the same reason that George HW Bush had to raise taxes ... the incredibly wasteful spending of the prior administration. Entitlements and expenses for the government are going to almost double over the next 10 years. Revenues will not come close to doubling. You're going to see tax increases and government cost cutting like you can't believe. The results of wasteful deficit spending will catch up to this government, just like it catches up to any entity that continuously lives beyond its means.

posted at [4:08 PM](#)

boston5862 Says:

Bush has created lotsa jobs; I should know, I have three of them. Seriously, corporate profits are up. But that is mostly b/c the fed has kept interest rates quite low for a long time. Plus the Bush deficits have had a stimulant effect (remember Keynes?). And now that the housing bubble has burst, cash is flowing into the stock market instead, driving up the Dow. But the average person's buying power has not improved, and our nation's long-term financial and economic prospects are much worse, due to the massive Bush deficits. No other nation in history has ever been foolish enough to cut taxes during a major war. Get this through your heads: Bush did not cut taxes, he raised them; he just raised them on our kids and grandkids. Oh, wait, I forgot — deficits don't matter!

posted at [4:22 PM](#)

Motor City Sane Man Says:

I, too, am from Michigan and I can tell you, Madman, why the economy in Detroit and in Michigan overall is in the toilet: UAW workers who have been obscenely overpaid for decades even though they are lazy and incompetent. Actually, incompetent is far too kind of a word — “so stupid they make my gums ache” more closely approaches the level of their quality as workers.

This problem in Michigan is symptomatic of the real problem with our economy and the reason (the only reason, really) to vote Republican: Democrats always favor punishing those who perform and excel to redistribute wealth and reward the mediocre or even the terribly inferior.

It's just a pity that our only alternative to the Democrats, who would completely kill all business if they could, is the Republican party.

Wanna really make a difference in this election? Vote for a THIRD party — ANY third party. It's time in this country for a new party that doesn't want to either take our economic freedoms to feed those who do no work (Democrats) or poke their noses into our bedrooms and elsewhere (Republicans).

I recommend the Libertarian party.

posted at [4:26 PM](#)

Janet Cottrell Says:

Maybe the Democrats had good reason to vote against these bills, such as what was added to these bills that do not pertain to the original bill.

I actually do not believe any politician about any bill when you read all the stuff that is added to them.

Nothing should be added to any bill. Vote one item at a time, period!

posted at [4:28 PM](#)

Rich Says:

The only thing that we've witnessed the Bush administration do during the past six years is put the U.S. deeper in debt than any prior administration. When Bush took office the dollar was valued at approximately a Euro and seven cents. However, during most of Bush's term the dollar has fluctuated between 70 and 80 cents on the Euro's value, approximately a 35-45% devaluation of the U.S. dollar.

Let's look at the facts, the U.S. was way better off without this administration. I don't believe they deserve credit for casual occurrences.

posted at [4:45 PM](#)

Douglas L. Hall Says:

Antonio also says that Clinton didn't do anything. Really? His 1994 economic bill gave the largest high-tech tax incentive ever. And what boomed in the late 1990s and continues to boom? What has driven our economy's productivity gains for the last 10 years? High tech...hmmmm, but don't draw any correlation to that and the tax incentives, no, that would only give Clinton credit.

I guess critical thinking is officially dead in America.

posted at [4:57 PM](#)

DVD Says:

The Republicans have got the economy "booming" for the rich but anyone in the middle or lower classes is getting the shaft. Republicans are doing this two ways: 1) by financing a war, which always artificially inflates a nation's economy and 2) by engaging in massive "deficit spending" which also artificially (and temporarily) pumps up the economy. The bad side is that eventually it comes time to pay the piper, and then the whole house of cards collapses. Reagan did the EXACT same thing in the 1980's — spent us into a record deficit and as a result, the 80's were a booming time. The stock market was sky-high and everyone was swimming in the good stuff because it was all being financed on credit, which is what the Bushies are doing now. Eventually, this cycle comes to an end and when it comes time to start paying back some of that deficit, things go bust which is what happened to poor George W. Bush in the early 90's: he suffered because the Reagan deficit balloon burst and the economy went in the tank Bush didn't get re-elected because of it.

The boom in the mid 90's when Clinton took over came as a result of a balanced budget, paid off deficit

and smarter spending.

Eventually we will all have to pay for this new round of Republican deficit spending, one way or the other, and the longer it goes on, the more painful it's going to be. Those of you who vote Republican because you want to "keep money in my pocket" are going to be paying much more very soon, I'm afraid.

posted at [5:41 PM](#)

Tom Falk Says:

He didn't do anything for the working middle class. I am one who lost my job because of outsourcing. Now that I can get my Social Security, I can only hope I can afford my medical coverage. Gas prices are lower and elections are near. I am really upset with everything and all incumbents are not getting my vote.

posted at [5:59 PM](#)

Ken B Says:

Bravo Karl K!

I wish everyone would refer to your message, and if they don't fully understand what you are saying, they should read the book "Creature From Jekyll Island" to learn about the money system in America.

posted at [6:04 PM](#)

Nick Altobelli Says:

How can we really blame the Bush administration for the lack of jobs in this country? I see more and more of the big businesses moving plants and factories other places because they can pay lower wages. The left always trying to raise the minimum wage. I think that \$6 or whatever it is in your state is enough to be paying someone who flunked out of high school and is working at a fast food joint or on an assembly line. I suggest making your kid's life easier by making sure they get a good education.

posted at [6:27 PM](#)

My Nguyen Says:

The hands-off attitude of the Republicans toward the economy and their tax cut policies have created a BOOMING economy for CHINA and INDIA. I cannot see how jobs can be created here in the USA when everybody is using his or her money from tax cuts to buy Chinese-made products at Wal-Mart. It is no secret that IT companies are outsourcing work to India by laying off their white collar workers at home. Most of the jobs created under Bush are in the construction and retailing industries which rely on an illegal immigration work force. The tax revenue from these workers is not enough to decrease the federal budget deficit substantially. As for the future outlook of the U.S. economy, parents are already telling their children not to study English, Math, and Science in school. In today's economy, one cannot find work as an engineer or scientist as these jobs have gone overseas. Instead, one can find plenty of work in construction and in retail which does not require a long and expensive college education.

posted at [8:34 PM](#)

[Donald Cooper](#) Says:

So you think we have a strong economy and should praise Bush? Think again, the bulk of these so called jobs are in the service sector, \$5, \$6 and \$7 an hour jobs. No benefits or health insurance. These people are part of the 36 million people in the USA that are one visit to the ER from being bankrupt. For you elite Republicans, this means on the street/homeless. Sure the Democrats will need to take back some of tax breaks given to you wealthy cats, with this country being mortgaged to China and Japan by Bush. Just one more thing: With the housing market soft as a broken egg and the American auto industry (GM and Ford) in the tank, tell me again where the bright star of the Bush administration is.

posted at [8:44 PM](#)

American Citizen Says:

For those of you wanting a third choice in the next Presidential race, try this one on for size.

<http://www.walken2008.com/>

posted at [10:12 PM](#)

Doug Rasmussen Says:

Sane man incorrectly states that Democrats would kill all business if they could. If he were to review history; business and the economy have almost done better under Democratic administrations.

As for the workers being grossly and obscenely overpaid, it strikes me as ludicrous that CEOs make 500 and 600 times more than the average worker — even when those companies fail. Not much substantiation to his claim of rewarding hard work when such payments are automatic.

For the first time ever, salary and wages are NOT the biggest cost factors in the equation of the gross domestic product. So if the economy is booming, it is on the backs of workers who have been at or near the most productive in the world year after year.

posted at [10:49 PM](#)

Ricky Stephens Says:

I can not understand how it is said that the economy is doing so great. I run a auto repair shop and for the last 6 years it has been a battle to stay alive. I have seen so many jobs lost, wages decrease. Insurance rising out of reach. My 401 lost so much money and Bush wants companies to handle our retirement. Who will make them be honest? How can I be sure that they will still be here when I retire? No, the world is not better today. Only fools believe that.

posted at [11:35 PM](#)

Zeus Says:

If conservatives are consistent, they should not put too much stress on the economy. I clearly remember

previous elections, when conservative economists being interviewed on NPR and other media downplayed the Democrats' claims about the booming economy in Clinton's times by stating that "governments have no control over the economy" and that the "free enterprise" was responsible for the rosy economical landscape at the time. They held this as a fundamental axiom of economic theory that we, the uneducated mass should understand once and for all.

Well, those same conservative economists must be now shaking their heads in disappointment at Mr. Lambro's disregard of such a basic economic principle. They may think Mr. Lambro's misleading of the public on this issue is just as reprehensible as that same stunt pulled by those manipulating Democrats on election season not so long ago.

posted at [12:37 AM](#)

mike Says:

I hear good or great economy all the time, while in the paper there is a page and half of repossessed homes. I see more friends and family with degraded health insurance. I see my generation making 1/3 the money of the baby boomers, with no such thing as a pension anymore. Then, there is a Social Security system that will be drained and gone. Oh yes, there's a 401k sure to be gone in the next stock market crash because a suitcase nuke goes off in the free world somewhere. Here in Michigan, things have never been worse, with no jobs around and a governor bragging about being 89,000 jobs in the hole. I think I'll join the Army. After 20 years, get a full retirement and good health care. Don't even have to pay for a roof over your head.

posted at [7:30 AM](#)

jana Says:

I'm just a middle class teacher, so financial analysis is not my expertise. All I know is that during the Clinton years we paid down the deficit, energy prices were cheaper, I had more money to spend on discretionary things, I was able to save more and afford insurance, we were working to protect our environment, education was a priority not a slogan, we were not in another Vietnam and had kids dying, our government didn't spy on us, press conferences weren't staged, the name United States stood for freedom and democracy for all plus we did not torture or kidnap in spite of what others did ... I could go on as I'm sure most of you realize the stark contrasts even if you won't admit it. Oh, and I as a working middle class citizen have yet to see any of those tax cuts put me in a better financial situation ... but as I said I'm just a regular teacher.

posted at [7:47 AM](#)

Yvette Shepard Says:

Magus said, "We the people." I don't think there is a truer statement. We the people have allowed ourselves to live in a fantasy that we can elect politicians to take care of us and think of our best interest first as a public servant. Boy, is that a joke.

We the people have allowed ourselves to believe that just because someone has fallen on hard times or to illness they are....how did you say it, Sane Man, "terribly inferior."

We the people are always looking for someone to blame or pat on the back. The person(s) truly responsible for the greed, corruption, deceit, tragedy, haves and have not syndrome, pollution, increase of disease and cancer plaguing our children, not to mention all the substance abuse, domestic violence, and pedophilia that is rampant in this society is we the people!

Many of us go through life wishing we had this and that or reading something in the paper and saying, "I'm glad that stuff doesn't happen here." Or worse, you want to wait until it happens to you or your loved ones before you get outraged by it.

We the people need a real wake up call. 9/11 lasted less time than Pearl Harbor. We have people justifying and rationalizing why people should not be burned at the stake for raping a child, individual, or senior citizen. The most lucrative business in this country is the sex industry, but some want to pat a politician on the back for anything.

We the people have contributed more to the degradation of the morals, values and principles of our society than 10 Hitlers. So continue to engage in pointless and fruitless discussions, that way you will continue to leave the back door open to those of us that have no problem profiting from our ignorance and lack of initiative.

We the people are the only ones who can improve our country, but we are too busy giving kudos and criticism.

Oh, and by the way, yes, I am just as guilty as anyone else, but I'm trying to change that every chance I get.

posted at [9:27 AM](#)

Persevering Student at CSUSB Says:

I'm 22 and I'm at a University because Bush has been increasing the funding to the community college and pell grant programs. I am Bush's success story. I came from rags into the middle-class, and will soon be in riches.

Work hard, abandon the victim mentality, take responsibility for your actions in every aspect of your life, including financial aspects, and you should do fine, no matter who is in the Oval Office.

posted at [1:07 AM](#)

JajaJeeJee Says:

The economy is doing great and has been for a long time despite the September 11 tragedy, numerous hurricanes, wild fires, draughts and storms.

If the Republicans keep their majority, there is no stopping it.

posted at [2:33 AM](#)

Brian D. Lawlor Says:

Jane mentions technology connected to a growing consciousness among people who see and live life contrary to the rosy picture leadership paints for us. Their words might apply to the few but are not

representative of the many when you look at the struggles facing the middle class today.

At the same time, we were born into a time of modernization. This is not the fault of leadership, but more the natural progression of a society. We produced newsprint in a mill I once worked for. We went from a 1400-man workforce down to 400. Union jobs were lost and replaced with minimum wage jobs at a time when people were having more come at them, each with a higher price tag attached.

The Dow hit a high today but the majority of people are hitting an all time low. Addressing education, health care and the general needs of the peoples should be the higher on the list. If you ensure the well being of all people, you ensure and secure the well being of the economy.

We see the words delivered to us do not match the actions of our lives and that is seen by our growing voice and ability to affect change as we come together. Regardless of ones position in life Jane it would be sad if we did not see something wrong and one must see and understand what is wrong before repairing.

If all were educated, housed and fed on a global basis with each applying their knowledge for the growth of each nation supply and demand would be on a level that would make the wealth of today look like a drop in the fullness to the bucket to follow. So the possibility of a robust economy is achievable and by the natural progression of a society already a work in progress.

posted at [11:12 AM](#)

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