



Economic Renewal Talking Points

- I. The economy is in serious trouble.
 - a. We currently have the largest gap between the rich and the poor since the 1920s
 - b. 1 in 4 homeowners owe more on their mortgage than the home is worth
 - c. For most our employers it is getting harder and harder to get financing – while they used to be able to borrow money at 8 percent, it now cost 22 percent (if they can get it at all)
 - d. In November alone, we lost 533,000 jobs and the real unemployment rate was 12 percent (includes those working involuntary part-time and those that have given up.) We would need to create 16 million jobs so that everyone that wants to work full-time could have a position

- II. The policies of the last 30 years have gotten us in this mess. Even Alan Greenspan, former Chair of the Federal Reserve, has admitted that trusting the financial market to regulate itself was a mistake. Clearly, their plan to deregulate, de-unionize and globalize the economy has not worked for working Americans.

- III. The “Toyota Republicans” are more than happy to give tax breaks and subsidies to foreign-owned companies, but won’t help the center of American manufacturing – the Big Three.
 - a. If the Big Three are allowed to go under, we could lose 3 million manufacturing jobs
 - b. Estimates are that if the Big Three fail, it could cost the government between \$200 and \$300 billion in government benefits.
 - c. USW has at least as many workers whose jobs are tied to the auto industry as does the UAW

- IV. You don’t rebuild America buy destroying the Middle Class.
 - a. You can’t have an economy based on just exchanging money; we need to build things
 - b. If working families do well, we can buy products which leads to more jobs being created
 - c. The solution to many of the problems in the economy is to rebuild the Middle Class.

- V. Our Plan:

- a. A stimulus package that is structured to grow the economy and to build for the future. **This is not a bail out for any industry – it is a plan to get the entire economy working again.**
 - i. Invest a minimum of 3 percent of Gross Domestic Product per year for next two years, or \$900 billion.
 - ii. Focus on infrastructure and green technology
 - iii. Must make sure that taxpayer money is spent here –Buy America program
- b. Employee Free Choice Act
 - i. We need to rebuild the Middle Class
 - ii. Unions are the best way to do that; so that workers get their fair share of the wealth they create
 - iii. Act ensures that Americans have the same rights as workers in 70 other industrialized countries:
 - 1. Right to choose how to form a union
 - 2. Real penalties for employers who break the law
 - 3. Provisions to help parties negotiate the first contract.

VI. Summary:

- a. We all do better when we all do better.
- b. They need to help those of us who shower after work as much as they seem willing to help those that shower before work
- c. We have a plan that will not only get us out of this crisis but will help build America for the future.
- d. Our plan will “Make our Future Work.”