

The Plutocracy

Transcript of a Commentary By Ambrose I. Lane, Sr.

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This is We Ourselves, I'm Ambrose I. Lane Sr. and that, of course is Ray Charles.

In this Points of View section, I'm going to begin today with my point of view. It's always interesting how money usually brings members of the plutocracy, and near-plutocracy together to protect their perceived class of interest against all of the rest of us. In terms of the leadership of America only Franklin Deleano Roosevelt remains an anomaly. His policies during our great depression, policies that in the short and long run served the best interests of most non-plutocracy Americans, but in the long run also served the best interest of the capitalist class that brought us the great depression, earned him the title of traitor to his class. And if his class did not fear the imagined violent, destructive reaction of the masses, 25% of whom were unemployed, had no prospect of ever getting a job, and many more close to starvation we might have witnessed the overthrow of Franklin D. Roosevelt's government.

But, like all plutocracies these wanted others to do their dirty work while they stayed largely hidden from public view. What they did was to hire a young man to travel to Italy to make a quick study of how that country became a fascist state; what they wanted so passionately to produce in America. And then had him to offer money and power to our then most decorated general to organize and lead 50,000 soldiers to topple Roosevelt's government, if Roosevelt refused to create a special White House position for the general to occupy and take orders from the general. Of course the plan was for the plutocracy to tell the general what orders to give President Roosevelt. Of course Roosevelt was to be assassinated if he refused to go along.

Fortunately, for America's non-plutocracy masses the general these folks chose, General Smedley Darlington Butler no longer thought like a general. "War", he then concluded was "nothing but a sorted racket whose only purpose was to line the pockets of America's capitalists" So General Butler exposed the plot to Congress and the President. Unfortunately, the young man hired by members of the plutocracy died at the age of 37 of pneumonia shortly after lying under oath before a Congressional committee. I was recently reminded of the unity of members of the plutocracy or near-plutocracy as I watched Senator Ted Kennedy and President George W. Bush come together in support of the immigration legislation now before the U.S. Senate.

Each comes from presumably opposite political and philosophical polls. One, a right wing fascist Republican and one a liberal Democrat, one a staunch defender of most programs that serve the best interests of America's poor and so-called middle class and one a consistent attacker of programs serving the best interests of the poor and so-called middle class. So why would these two so called 'opposites' passionately come together to support immigration legislation that is a gross disservice to all of America's poor and middle class. Each is protecting the perceived best interests of corporations, certain religious folks, and his own class the only groups that benefit from this immigration legislation that drives a divisive wedge between most other groups and economic classes. Why would any person

elected to Congress to protect the best interests of American citizens and as their oath dictates the constitution vote for legislation that does neither? And if such a vote protects neither the best interests of those who elected them nor the Constitution whose interests are protected?

My answer is clear, the interests of the Plutocracy. George W. Bush has become so obnoxious to the public that much of the blame will fall on him if this legislation passes, but equally to blame and equally obnoxious will be the actions of Senator Ted Kennedy and those Democrats who support it. And I will never forget the politically sordid actions of Bill Clinton a few years ago. When immigration legislation came to him as President, legislation that would bring into the country 300,000 natives of India and other Asian countries under 1B of the immigration law at the urgings of Microsoft and other corporations, he signed it into law then immediately got on his plane and flew out to California to a fund raiser that had been arranged by Microsoft and these others. Microsoft and these others had lied that there was a shortage of such talent, when the truth was they simply wanted to pay Americans less and they got a prostitute Congress and a prostitute President to give them the weapons to use against our own people.

We live in this country at a most dangerous economic time. Our Plutocracy has declared war on all non-plutocracy Americans. And they have created economic conditions that could lead to a crash more colossal than the 1930s. They no longer feel the need to provide us with the propaganda that we are a great middle-class society. They have used the lie that a corporation is a person under the 14th amendment to enable corporations to use their wealth to reduce elected officials to prostitutes and to give corporations international powers to overrule laws passed by governments including our own government. These latter powers are contained in the World Trade Organization and N.A.F.T.A; North American Free Trade Agreement. Led by such CEOs of corporations as General Electric's Jack Welch, more than 6 million manufacturing jobs have been outsourced. Welch led the way by telling every supplier that G.E. would refuse to buy their product, unless their company relocated out of America.

Then American steel manufacturers, instead of modernizing their plants and operations in this country, began buying and using foreign manufactured steel. Go up to Pittsburgh and Baltimore and look at those places that used to be thriving steel mills. They're all shut down, most of them. In 1992, President Bush issued an Executive Order, allowing for the privatization of American products and infrastructure such as highways and bridges, products and infrastructures paid for by the American people's taxes and supposedly owned by local and state governments, the people's institutions. And America's largest automobile manufacturer built a \$3 billion plant in China, as Coke and Pepsi chose China and Russia, one in each country. While the Plutocracy was spreading their control deeper internationally they used their political prostitutes in America, as well as, religious prostitutes to propagandize and stimulate antagonisms between American groups in order to divert our collective attention from what they were doing to all of us.

And one of the biggest prostitutes has been the public corporate press. As jobs began to increasingly disappear overseas, the propaganda attacked affirmative action, because the propaganda said blacks were taking jobs away from whites. Then women were attacked because they were taking jobs away from white men. Then all so-called minorities were attacked for also taking jobs from white men. Then publications like Newsweek and Time magazine began to search for America's model

minority with some Asians being given the temporary honorific status of honorary whites. And as our prisons became part of a corrections' industry with corporations on the stock exchange, prison beds had to be filled to satisfy corrections' corporation's stockholders.

In no time at all, America soon had the world's largest prison population filled mostly with Blacks and Hispanics. Why Blacks and Hispanics? Well, for the forty years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the unemployment rates in black communities across the country never fell below 10%, double-digit unemployment, until a brief period during the last year of the Clinton presidency when it fell to 9.7%. But within less than nine months into the Bush presidency that double-digit unemployment rate was back. And we're told that the unemployment for young blacks has gone as high as 64% and in early 2002 when the American population's poverty rate had increased to 11.7% from 11.3%.

In 2000, the black poverty rate was 22.7% and the Hispanic poverty rate was 21.4%, almost twice the rates for the American population at large. And into that mix came 20 million people at least 20 million across our borders with Mexico. Not just Mexicans, but folks from all over the world especially from Central and South America because our corporations pay no penalties for illegally hiring aliens. Propaganda justification had to be found a wa-la, the American people were told and are still told daily that these immigrants have no impact on unemployment and poverty because they do jobs that Americans will not do. And for a long time, most Americans believed that lie. But as more and more Americans see immigrants doing jobs that they have done and will do if given the opportunity, the members of the Plutocracy and their prostitutes must do something else, they must pass a law to protect their class interests.

That is what the immigration law mess is all about, the Plutocracy doesn't give a good hoot about immigrants nor about non-plutocracy American citizens whether you're black, white, brown or yellow. So called middle class, or poor, or no-class their only concern is about getting and retaining more money and more power for themselves and their fellow plutocracy members. And all of us who call ourselves middle class you outta think about what you're saying.

I've lived long enough, that when I was in college they lied to us and said we had six classes; upper-upper, lower-upper, upper-middle, lower-middle, upper-lower, and lower-lower those are the classes. And I used to ask my students and their parents, if you were able to choose your own lifestyle and you were able to support that lifestyle through a salary, how long could you do so if you no longer got a salary? How long could you maintain that chosen lifestyle?

Think about it and I urge all of you who're listening to think about it. How long would you be able to maintain your chosen lifestyle if there was no paycheck coming in? No salary check coming in. You see that's the difference between the two classes in this country and I say they're only two and that's the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'. And most of us are 'have-nots', the 'haves' don't have to worry about a salary check, they get theirs from dividends.

During the last years of the Carter administration, the prime interest rate in this country went up 20%, and you saw so many businesses go out of business because they had to borrow money at 2% above the prime interest rate. But, our government was selling bonds to all of those rich enough to afford them at

17% interest. So, if you had the money you could've bought a whole lot of bonds at 17% interest, never touch the principal and just live on that 17% per year interest. Those were the bonds that the Clinton administration had begun to payoff. That's one of the reasons that we faced a surplus in this country when George Bush was elected, now we face deficits as far as the eye can see. And what you have to understand is that our prostitute politicians will do as most prostitutes will do and that is whatever their "johns" order them to do. Whatever those who are paying for it will order them to do.

Or if you are a politician and a plutocracy class member you'll do what Ted Kennedy and George W. Bush are now doing, looking out for your plutocracy interests, if we don't understand that, we don't understand what this whole immigration mess is all about. And I urge you to study and understand what it's all about. It's about reducing the middle class in this country and it's about leveling the amount of income that all Americans except members of the plutocracy are able to have. Take a hard look at what corporations are doing to our government in this country and throughout the world.

This has been my commentary and I welcome your comments, we'll be right back. And we'll take your calls at 866-801-8255.