

American Jobs Act? George Has a Better Idea

By George Cunningham

I have spent most of my life as a writer, but there is one thing that I have never written and that's a manifesto. Radicals during the Great Depression were always writing manifestoes about how to correct the ills of society, but then World War II intervened, the economy improved, and suddenly manifestoes were no longer in vogue.

But I have a feeling that manifestoes may be coming back. I mean here we are once again in the deep economic poo that some call the Great Recession – but which lots of folks are beginning to feel is really turning into the big D No. 2. Sure, the president went on television to announce his American Jobs Act, but he knows, and we all know that it's never going to work. The Democrats and the Republicans and the Red States and the Blue States, and business and labor are never going to agree on anything and even if they did, it would be such a conglomeration of ideas and directions that it would fall apart as soon as it was implemented.

If we can just give it a few more months, America will have sunk even deeper in the economic muck and be ready once again for some manifestoes. I'm getting mine ready.

My manifesto is going to be called George's Manifesto and it's going to deal with my plan for restoring the American economy and giving everybody jobs.

Here is the plan in a nutshell. We all have to work less. Even though we are in the middle of a recession and there are millions of people without jobs, there are also many people I know who are working 40, 50, and even 60 hours per week.

That has to stop.

George's Manifesto calls for reducing the standard work week from 40 hours over five days to 28 hours over three-and-a-half days. That's 30 percent less work per person, which translates to 30 percent more jobs.

And since we will all be on a three-and-a-half day week, we could extend the work week to seven days, two people each working 28 hours, which means there will be no more work days and weekend days. Every day will be a work day for some people and a day off for others, so if you need to pay your bills or go to the doctor, you will not have to take a day off work because those services will be available every day.

George's Manifesto predicts benefits beyond just the economic. Much of the work week is consumed not by working, but by commuting to work. Now with 30 percent fewer commuters going to work or coming home each day, the freeways will no longer be congested. Instead of creeping along at 15 miles an hour five days a week, commuters will sail to work at 60 or 70 miles an hour four days per week, reducing not only their stress but also pollution.

It will not be without hardship – especially for our workaholic friends – but they will have to make the sacrifice. And if they can't stand all that time off, they can always get a second job – there should be plenty available.

It's not perfect. There are still details to be hammered out. But don't worry. I will explain it all in my manifesto.

Due out soon.

You can contact George Cunningham at george@readerpublishing.com be his friend on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=747454750> and read his tweets at <http://twitter.com/#!/GeoCunham> His novel, The Big Story, is due out this fall.

To be added to the Reader Publication list for new articles and pictures, email george@readerpublishing.com and say "sign me up." It's free!