



## Politics: What is Wrong with Billionaires?

- Published on October 18, 2015

Billionaires, a minuscule one percent of the population, create employment and fund salaries with their investments and risk taking, multiplying the supply and demand for goods and services to the benefit of the entire population. If it weren't for the likes of Larry Ellison, Steve Wing, Larry Page and Abigail Johnson companies among a handful of billionaires within that one percent, scores of trades and professions would be jobless: engineers, secretaries, salespeople, cleaning crews, construction workers, security officers, cars salesmen, realtors, doctors, professors, craftsmen and more.

Presidential candidates, I implore you to reference Macroeconomics 101 for some much needed guidance. If that level of education is too challenging, refer to the Khan Academy basic course of economics for kids.

So what is the beef of Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton on the issue of scrutinizing wealthy folks within that one percent, especially when the later is filthy rich? What both have done for the country? Sanders' campaign is fueled by special interests of lobbyists on K street in D.C. such as Unions and billionaires like David Geffen and Ben & Jerry Homemade Holdings among others.

On the Clinton's side, never have I witnessed the magnitude of a couple so addicted to power, their political and personal lives always clouded with scandals dismissed as witch hunts. They are untouchable, the only first couple noted in the history books of this country that refuse to be passed by time. Constantly seeking the spotlight of power in every way, the Clintons exemplify the quintessential power junky.

The problem with political power is that it tangles with economic power. When in this country have we seen political power associated with poverty in the South of Chicago or the rural areas of Mississippi? Never. Rather, power associates with the almighty Wall Street, dominant lobbyists, advocate groups and very wealthy business people.

So why do Bernie Sanders and especially Hillary Clinton stigmatize the rich, that same one percent that fund their political campaigns with their own cash? The answer is always the same: because at the moment of truth at the voting kiosk that one percent in terms of votes means nothing. This is their tactic: gain the money of the rich but the vote of the masses.

At the time of voting, what counts is the individual vote, not money. So when Sanders and Clinton chastise the rich and talk about free rides of any type to the middle class, to minorities and immigrants, they are expecting this growing crowd of the population to make the numbers at the voting post.

After all is said and done, we will return to the same twilight zone with which we are so familiar. In the last thirty years, what has improved for the impoverished south side of Chicago? Okay, let's not get too out of hand. In the last ten years what strides have we made with regard to middle class income? Please, I don't want to congest this article with percentages and numbers. I invite the reader to peruse the internet to find his or her own statistics that most certainly will underscore my facts.

On another note, during these same past ten years, what has improved with the periodicity of massacres and innocent folks killed by guns in this country? How many people have died of drug overdoses and what is really being done to advance the war against drugs?

I do not wish to elaborate on the international arena, so I'll just throw a bone. What has been accomplished in the Middle East in the last fifteen years? Poverty, misery, extermination, refugee camps, hate toward Israel, terrorism, absence of democracy and a nuclear agenda comprise the same daily report. Sadly, conditions have worsened thanks to Isis and nuclear Islamic states.

Do not be misled by that one percent of rich people because we actually need them. What we do not need are incompetent and power junky politicians to continue running this country into the ground. Suitably stated by Francisco Quevedo the Spanish poet and writer, was "The outer hypocrisy, being sin morally, it's a great political virtue."

Luis E. Woolley