

NOTE: The names of the moderator and participants have all been changed to protect their privacy. The opening discussion where participants introduce themselves has been removed.

Yes, too many projects. Let's talk about issues that really matter to you. Things you're really focused on. What are the most important issues that you're paying attention to right now?

Immigration.

Immigration.

Taxes.

Taxes.

Tariffs.

Tariffs.

Yes, I think I agree with that. I think that's one of the biggest ones right now.

Tariffs.

The trade-war.

Trade-war. When you say "trade-war" who are you thinking of? Trade war with?

China.

China.

Everybody. All of them. Mexico right now too. Anybody overseas or foreign countries.

Eric, issues you're thinking about right now.

Between like Google, Apple and the trade-wars. What they are doing with what we just mindlessly will put into a phone. Any information. You sign up for a website and it's just, yes. What they're doing with all of it and who they're selling it to.

Like our information? Privacy kind of issues?

Yes. Privacy issues and stuff like that.

Carl, how about you? What are the big issues that you're focused on?

Just all the issues as a country with everybody picking sides and being so far one way and the other way. Everyone battling. It just drives me nuts.

OK.

Medical marijuana or recreational.

John, issues?

Just echoing what everyone says. I think marijuana is a big one. The privacy, I think the cell phone and how all our information is out there. Politics too. With the trades and Mexico and everything else. There's just a lot going on.

What else? Kenny?

I'm getting, hopefully, retire in five years. I'm really watching the trades. The stock Market is just all over the place. Now is when I really want to get ready to cash in. That's what I've been watching.

Get some crypto.

Bob, what was yours?

Taxes.

Taxes. Frank, did I get yours?

Yes, the immigration.

Immigration. You started me off, yes. All right, good. A lot of things going on. Let me do a fill in the blank sentence for you. Get a word or a phrase that, for you, finishes this sentence. "I feel blank about the way things are going in the country these days." I feel –

Irritated.

Discouraged.

Irritated, discouraged.

Nervous.

Frustrated.

Nervous, frustrated.

Unsure.

Unsure.

Yes, uneasy.

Uneasy.

Scared.

Scared.

Uneasy.

Uneasy. What was yours, John?

The same, unsure.

Unsure. What drives that? Why unsure, scared, irritated?

Uncertain.

Uncertain. Like what uncertain?

No stability. Everything you said. Trade-wars, tariffs.

The media doesn't do any justice.

Exactly.

Yes, just the way it's hyped up. I mean, every news cast is –

If it bleeds, it leads.

Yes.

OK.

Yes, they just blow it out. They throw it in you.

Just keep providing.

That's half of why I'm irritated.

What?

Just the media. It always seems like there's an agenda. There's important news out there that we're not told about. Then, we're just throwing these, you know. What was the expression again?

Throwing, yes.

What's the thing that makes you feel most uncertain or uneasy?

It's either, with both sides, it's either this or that. There's no common ground or consensus. It's one side says this and then the other says that's wrong and then vice versa.

Kind of that tension between the two sides.

Yes, absolutely. You can't just have a conversation and understand each other. It's either I'm right and you're wrong or vice versa and everybody is mad at each other.

It's both now. It's not republican it's –

Or you automatically, if you find out someone's the opposite of what you are, you automatically – I'm guilty of it too. I put up a wall. Like, oh, wow. They don't believe what I believe. I don't like that I feel that way.

You don't even open yourself up to anybody?

Hopefully, more and more that people are getting further to the outsides. They are either at the extreme left or the extreme right and everybody that's in the middle, I mean, you might as well just keep your mouth shut because you're going to be judged to be one or the other.

I think we're all more alike than people would like to admit though.

Yes, there's more in the middle. It's just the loudest voices on the outside are the one's screaming. That's what gets the attention. Everybody else in the middle is just like, hey, I'm human.

Yes. Listening to what everybody's hobbies were, I was very, not afraid, but I didn't want to say that shooting is my hobby because all of the sudden, I'm a right-wing, crazy, Flippin' – Because, oh my God, instead of being down the middle, it's like, oh, you like to fish and you like to crypto stuff. I have no idea about crypto currency and I really don't care but hey, rock on man. That's what you do.

I was just going to wonder what you, with the gun, was is it a handgun, long-range? What do you shoot? Anything?

Anything.

I teach kids. I maintain for law enforcement. Whatever.

I can't believe that people get physical over politics. To me, both sides are so crooked. If you're a politician, you're crooked. Period. That's my opinion. I don't care if it's republican, democrat. They're both into it monetarily benefiting their own party.

I would say they should wear suits like Nascar drivers do so we can see –

Who's sponsoring them?

Who's sponsoring them, right.

It isn't about the voice and we the people anymore. It's who's got the most money.

That's true because Wisconsin just had a referendum for medical marijuana. To legalize it. But then you see the law makers still saying, well, we need more research, or we need more insight. It's like, no.

You're elected by the people. The people want it. It's probably not going to happen. At least Illinois going to have it. Michigan is going to have it. Like, legal for anyone not even the medical. But Wisconsin, we could get so much more money taxing it. I don't know. I'm a big proponent of it because I lost my leg in a car accident so I kind of need it for phantom pain. It's just how you were scared to say "guns," I don't want to say I'm for pot because I'll be known as a pothead.

Toke it up, man.

Let me ask you this, what's going well in the country? What do you point to as something good?

Long-term economy. It's up 15 percent. If you're a 401K patron, you should be jumping for joy.

I'd say jobs.

Jobs.

A lot of jobs.

Yes. I don't focus on the good stuff.

What's the good stuff?

The jobs, the economy.

Jobs, economy, stock Market.

People hate Trump because he says what he says and he's kind of –

No, it's because he's Trump.

But what he says, he does. He made the good economy going because he's the president. If it's bad, it's the president. It matter doesn't who's the president, the economy is blamed on the leader.

Kenny, what do you see as something good in the country? What's going well?

Same thing. I'm keeping an eye on my 401K because it's getting close. Like he said, it's never been better. If it can stay like this, I'll be extremely happy.

Bob, how about for you? What do you see as going well?

I don't know. I'm kind of a negative person right now. I had shoulder surgery and I've been in a lot of pain because of that.

You need the marijuana too.

Yes. I did back when I was younger and stuff. Now, to me, the marijuana is so potent it's crazy how potent they got it now compared to back when I was in high school.

Anything else going well besides economy, jobs, stock Market?

With economy, jobs you take a drive anywhere. From residential, commercial, industrial, there's new buildings, new houses going up in just about every community and every location of every city.

What else points to the economy is going well? Construction? Housing construction, stock Market.

New business growth.

New business growth.

Just on the job Market. Within a week, I had a week full of interviews. I'm getting calls back left and right. I had to decide between jobs. You know what I mean? Whereas five, six years ago, it was just hoping to get a call back.

Lots of jobs out there. When you think about your kids or if you don't have kids just the next generation. Do you feel more hopeful or more doubtful about the way things are going or the future of the country?

Doubtful.

Doubtful? How come?

I just think that – I look at my parents. My parents are leaving me a better county than I think I'm going to leave my kids.

Pointing to what though?

I can't put my finger on it. Just like everyone is saying how we're so split as a nation.

The tension. What else?

I want to be hopeful but I'm doubtful because I think the family values have really went down. The teaching of responsibility for your actions. Everybody wants something now and they want it for free. Instead of you must work for what you get in life. I was brought up and I'm sure many people were, I didn't get where I was by just holding out my hand and saying, hey, here I am. If that doesn't change, we're in a bunch of trouble.

I mean, some of the securities we give up for convenience. If it's easy, it happens. People are like, no, it's fine. I can get it now. I'm free but you give up your information. You don't have to work for anything.

John? Are you more hopeful or more doubtful about the next generation?

I don't know. I'm torn. You know? I don't know.

I like to think I'm hopeful. I think Frank hit it on the head there. At least me, I can't blame the way my kids are raised on something else other than what I'm doing. Sure, you get curve balls thrown at you but it's all the way you teach your kids and the time you spend with your kids and how you raise your kids to

succeed. I think a big negative right now is the technology for the younger ones. I don't think I had a cell phone until I was almost out of college and into my twenties almost. Now, they're five, six, seven, all got iPads and this and that. It's good and bad at the same time. It's all how you regulate it with your own children.

I think we're just losing the value of our country entirely. I mean, they take the pledge of allegiance out of the schools. Really? What a disgrace to our armed forces. You're kneeling at football games? What a disgrace. You're in this country for somebody fought for you to be free in this country and you're going to slap somebody in the face for what they sacrificed their life, their family life, their everything so that we could have the convenience, the freedom that we have. The values are just, to me, are lost in society of convenience have it now and entitlement.

Unfortunately, I mean, I agree with what you say but they fought so you had the freedom to choose to kneel if that's what you believe in. But it's also my choice and I haven't watched an NFL game since it's started because that's not my belief. If you want to carry on like a child because that's your belief, it's your right, your choice. But I'm out now.

I've seen soldier stand up and say that. This NFL player, I gave him that choice. I fought for that choice for him to kneel. Exactly what he was saying. To me, I don't even understand it. To me, you're just spitting in a soldier's face by doing it.

It's disrespectful.

Total disrespect.

I want to say something though, I'm a veteran. Spent 12 years in the military. I don't see it that way.

OK. I don't have military – that's just the way I feel about it.

I think, not that I was in any wars or anything like that. It was all during peace time. I think it really goes in, for the most part, don't do it for that. I mean, yes, stand up for what you believe in the country. I don't think most soldiers or airmen, or navy or marine corps takes it personal when someone does it. I know I don't. Do I agree with you burning the flag? Absolutely not. I'll kick your ass, I see you do it. But, with, the course is the same thing. If you do it, I don't think it's right, but it is.

Right.

We could do probably a whole focus group of that.

That's the one thing we talked about that just gets me going.

No, I hear you. I want to go back to the economy for a second. We were saying it's one of the good things. It's going well. Is it going well for you personally? Do you feel like the economy is going well for you personally?

I do.

You do.

I got a lot more back in taxes this year. I was surprised. Because I heard on the news that it was going – That's the thing I heard the same story. I heard I wasn't going to get more on the left. On the right I heard I was going to get more.

For you personally, you did.

I got a lot more. Like four thousand.

Do you feel like the economy is – You're doing well? Better than you have been?

Yes.

I'm got just the opposite of what he was saying. When I started, I got eleven thousand dollars back in taxes. This year, I owed four hundred.

Oh wow.

OK.

Do you have kids?

No.

Who are the winners in this economy? Who's doing well?

Business owners.

Business owners. Who else? Who's doing well?

The rich.

The rich.

Rich always do good. No matter what.

Amazon.

Amazon.

The employees too. If you're doing well, you can give the bonus's and everything. Not everybody is going to but if you're going to complain that you're only making eight dollars an hour at McDonalds, maybe you need to get an education, so you can go make more money.

Did anybody get a bonus this year? Yes. Or a raise?

I got a raise.

Raises. Lots of raises. Who's losing out in this economy? Are there people that are struggling or falling behind? If so, who are they?

In my job, I interview hires. PPG. I could tell you, up until 2008 with the recession. Everybody came in off the street the same way. 25, 26, 27 bucks an hour. The recession we went to 13 bucks an hour. Two-tier pay system. We're now paying them 19 dollars an hour to 27 bucks an hour. You're making 19, I'm making 27 for the same exact job. We have a revolving door. Because with the economy like it is, it's like this all the time. The ones that are led are the ones that have an education. I hate to say it that way but like you said, the people are never going to get anywhere.

I completely disagree with you.

Yes.

Yes, because I dropped out when I was 14 years old, went back got my GED when I was 20. My most current job, I'm a maintenance tech. It was just all through on the job training. I worked for a bunch of companies that if they didn't appreciate me and I didn't get the raises and this and that. I'd move on and I found another thing. I think that education is important but there's definitely other avenues that you can go down.

I would say, with a two-tier pay system, my reactor operators and our mechanics are exempt from that. Those people could go right into that job at full scale but the average production guy, yes, they're capped.

You were going to say something Frank?

Yes, I don't know how everyone else is looking at education, but everything is not a four year degree. My education came in skilled trades. I got a technical diploma. That's all I got but I know more about that than the next guys do. That's what makes me valuable with you and everybody else. You have your niche and that's where you make your money.

That's like now, I graduated high school in 2005. My high school, I went to Charlotte and Kenosha. No wood shops. No basic engines.

Budget cuts, right?

Well, it's a small school but they never really had anything like that. Now, they have wood working, engine rebuilding. They have a nice wood shop. They're really getting into –

Pushing for all that.

Pushing the trades.

Now, the younger generations want to do the hands-on labor.

Right. It's that and their stem program. Where they're building robots and programming and stuff like that. It's pretty much one or the other. There's no one who's going out there and going, wow, I want a simple job.

All right. I'm going to move on. Very interesting. Thank you all so much. What I want to do now is throw out some things. Some things that have been in the news. Just tell me whatever comes to mind. Kind of word association sort of thing. Some of them we'll do quicker than others, but we've got a pretty long list. Here's the first one, wages keeping up with costs. Wages keeping up with cost. What do you think when you hear that? Bob says?

Absolutely not.

No.

Maybe a little bit now but it's only about the last 15 years.

Yes. Employers are hiring but they are hiring at, I call a rummage sale price. If you want to work for them for, like he was saying, they tiered their PayScale way down. Well, why do you think you have a revolving door?

But it's starting to come back up though. You were saying right?

They've raised their rates several times. They get 19 bucks an hour because their tired of watching people go in and walk out.

Kenny? What were you going to say?

The raises that we've been getting lately, it doesn't cover the increase in our medical costs. We're not gaining anything. It's still, I'm not complaining. It's still a good wage but we're paying more and more.

Yes, the cost they say, we'll you've got your cost of living increase rate. You're like, well. That minimal percent that you just got.

Right. You're still not even, even.

Here's another one. Top one percent. Top one percent. What do you think of?

Probably start paying your employees. I don't think there's any reason that a CEO or president should be making a billion dollars a year after they get their bonuses and this and that. Nobody needs that kind of money. Nobody on the face of this planet needs that kind of money.

John? Top one percent. What do you think of?

The rich.

Good for them.

Good for them?

Yes, because if you put the effort in. You're lucky enough. You stuck your neck out and that's where it ended up, fantastic. Do you owe anybody else anything for your work? Absolutely not.

AI?

Maybe greed. It seems like companies up until maybe three years ago. When the whole minimum wage really started to take shape. That's when they all started talking about raising the minimum wages. Maybe if that wasn't brought up, they're still paying their employees seven, eight, nine buck an hour and they're making billion upon billions. Not necessarily keeping a happy work force.

Henry?

I think it's kind of a myth that if you give business, or the top one percent, more tax breaks and more money. That they'll automatically create more jobs. I think they will, some. But I think a lot of it just goes in their pocket. What did you say again? Your word? For the one percent.

Good for them .

Good for them, yes. I was going to say too. I don't know if it's true or not the statistic, but a lot of the one percent is old money. Where there just money coming from the family. It's harder for someone like me to break into the one percent. Verses someone that had a rich family and a lot more advantages.

This next one, you guys already touched on. Healthcare costs. Healthcare costs.

Too high.

Too high.

It's crazy.

Crazy.

The city of Little Creek, they tried this new program. I guess it's popular down south, so they brought it up here. Basically, Wheaton and Aurora. They go through your bills and they look, and they say, listen, you're getting a profit but we're only going to pay you this much. We'll give you this much profit but we're not paying past that. Then the lawyers had to constantly fight it out. We basically said, no, you're paying this price and that's it. The city of Little Creek and a lot of other places had so much trouble because they were actually going into collections. Because Wheaton and Aurora and all those, they said, you're paying what we're telling you to pay and that's it. We're not going to negotiate.

People were really –

Half-way – A couple months through, they had to shut the system down and go back to the old system where, yes, we'll pay whatever.

Gene? Healthcare costs?

I'm not [inaudible 00:31:55] medicines so I don't think I've been involved in that kind of stuff.

What about healthcare costs?

We've got no Market. Not a Market healthcare. I think the Market must dictate it. You got the power to check your prices. You have the power to go for in-network or out of network. You have the power to decide to go to the emergency room, urgent care or make an appointment for three days.

But you know what gets me is that my daughter was in the E.R. They charged me 800 dollars just for the room. For one hour. They charged me another 400 dollars for the doctor to come in for probably less than three minutes to examine her lungs. Then, thank God, I declined the X-ray. Thank God I declined the breathing treatment because that would have cost me hundreds of dollars more. On top of that, I get an 800-dollar room charge. I get a 400-dollar charge for the doctor. I get another charge for – Oh, I can't remember. There were three charges.

Any healthcare.

80 dollars.

I mean, you understand more than most.

I do, and I hate it because someone needs to monitor these costs. It's raping the customer. No wonder no one goes to the hospital.

They were saying when they were checking. If you are asking for an extra pillow or something while you're staying there –

You're being charged.

You're being charged and they're not saying it's a pillow. It's a lumbar support. Thousand dollars. What?

It's going to – [crosstalk 00:33:14]

Lumbar support device?

Two Tylenol will cost you eight bucks.

Right.

All right, let me move on. Unions.

Good.

Good?

Yes, I'm a believer.

They're protecting crappy workers.

It gave me my education and it gave me a career with them.

It gave you your career?

Absolutely. I didn't go to college.

Carl?

I think it's hit or miss.

Hit or miss.

I think depending on where you're at. What union you're in. Some unions, I mean, they do, they protect crappy workers. That's it. You have a few guys that want to bust their ass and they must take the work load from everybody else.

But then you got the laborers and things like that where these guys bust their ass and they are taken care of.

Everybody comes down on unions.

Obviously, being a firefighter, unions are a strong thing within our profession. I was on the union board and union president for most of my career. I always took the approach of, not necessarily we're here to protect a shitty employee or, excuse me, a bad employee. It's to work with the city to make this a better atmosphere for not only the workers but for the city as well. Where we can come and collectively sit down and come to some common ground on everything. Our benefit packages. On safety, wellness, everything. If you take that approach, I think a union can be very positive. If you take the other approach where it's us and you, then you're going to struggle and it's going to be a tough fight. I don't think anybody wins on that.

Immigration?

Do it the legal way and everything is fine.

From Poland and from Germany. I could follow grandma Verm out of Germany into Austria into France. Her name getting changed, Ellis Island paperwork. I have all that. That's the way it was set up to be, come on. Do it that way.

Bob?

I agree. Do it legally or don't do it at all.

Broken. You can make it as legal as you want but someone is always going to find a way to get here without the legal way. It's just a cycle. Back and forth, back and forth. They get thrown back they come back.

It's the handouts once you got it. Once you're here, they talk about, if you're here legally, we'll still give you a driver's license. Why? Why are you giving them that? If you know they're here legally. I worked on a foundry with plenty of guys who would go away for six months, they'd come back with a different name. It was just filling out paperwork. That didn't matter.

That would go right back to the health care. If we must take care of all the illegal immigrants that come in and get free health care. Who's paying for that?

We are. All of us.

All right, next one. Climate change.

I think it's something we should be concerned about.

We should be concerned about it.

I don't know. Mankind's only really been studying this for what? Less than a hundred years? I don't know. I think a lot of times people jump to conclusions on things. How much is the stuff that we learned in school is completely wrong today. It's treated like doctrine just because people came to a consensus. Well science is constantly changing. I think people need to be a little more flexible on their belief system.

You can hear so much – depending on which one, you can hear the ice caps are shrinking by so much every day. The water is going to be so high. then somebody said it grew three inches last year. Well, what's – [crosstalk 00:37:25]

Kenny?

I was just going to say it's a change, but I think it's just kind of shifting. Other parts of the country are getting what we used to get. The colder temperatures. It seems like it's shifting. It's changing but it's not –

Gene, what do you think? Climate change.

I think there are certain things you can't ignore. If you just read the paper yesterday, they measured CO₂, hydrogen chloride history. Why did we know how to do this? It's been like this for a hundred years. That's a step change. Something is coming. They know the carbon and fossil fuels is doing something, right? We all remember a big hole with the ozone and all that stuff. I happen to think we're going to be the means to our own end. That's just me. It says in the paper right now and CNN that it's a big thing. They're testing. Everybody here has plastic in them.

Henry? Climate change.

I just think I'm going to leave it up to the scientist because I'm not saying there's problems. They're saying there's a problem so –

Whatever the scientist says. Next one, affordable care act or Obama care.

Illegal.

Illegal?

Yes. The government is forcing you – or did force you to buy something. It's just a sham.

I kind of thought that it was just renaming welfare. The way I looked at it.

I think it was a good idea but a completely miserable failure of execution.

I think even Obama said that too.

AI?

I think it has its place. I think it has a target specific audience but then it got morphed into a bigger picture. That's kind of what it felt but I personally know someone who didn't have any health insurance and got on a very affordable plan. It worked great for them. Now a family that maybe makes a decent income but still needs health insurance, they go onto the exchange and it's not an affordable plan what-so-ever. It has a place but –

Medicaid. Medicaid.

I hope it's around when I need it.

I've given up on it.

When you're hearing Medicaid, I think you're thinking Medicare. Do you know what the difference is?

Yes. Medicaid is more for individuals that can't afford it, disability, that kind of stuff. Not necessarily I'm retired, I don't qualify for my plan anymore. Maybe single parents, children, families that don't meet income requirements.

Thoughts on Medicaid?

Is that the one for people with a disability?

Yes.

A little quick story. When my accident, the first ten days at Freighter, my hospitals are a million dollars. I have insurance from my job, but I wasn't there long enough to qualify. Luckily, because we had Medicaid, Medicare, whatever we were talking about. I was able to get all that retroactive. I would never have been able to have been credited or anything. Because of that. That saved my butt.

Any thoughts on Medicaid?

I think it's a safety net for most people.

I think there's an under sight when it comes to any of these programs. I feel like way too many people take advantage of them but I definitely almost all of them are necessary, it's just making sure that people aren't abusing them.

Right, good point.

The next one is the tax cuts that passed last year. We kind of touched on this all ready but the tax cuts that passed last year.

Fine.

Fine?

I don't know, it didn't really change.

It simplified everything.

Simplified?

The return wasn't as big, but I didn't pay as much during the year.

I thought it was the most horrible thing that I ever had happen to me.

Because you went the other direction?

Yes, exactly.

Big corporations?

Greed. Top heavy.

Yes, they own a lot of power. Amazon is pretty quiet. They build and everyone's happy because the package comes to the door.

Two days, by the way.

Yes. But Foxconn, that turned into just –

A cluster.

A cluster so fast. All the sudden they're like, well, we don't have the same problems. Well, we're going to change it up. We're going to do this and that. Now, I live out the way and it's kind of standard. They're building this, building that but it's not what they thought. All those people around them got screwed.

I was one of those people.

Oh, yes?

I got – I was in zone one. I was renting from my mom. She got screwed and I got – They said they were going to pay me my relocation benefits, which, by law, they had to. They waited until I was moved out of the house and then said, oh, sorry. We're not giving it to you. That was a big –

Let me keep going. Pharmaceutical companies.

Assholes.

Scam.

Taking advantage of people that have it hard enough.

White collar crime. It's ridiculous.

Purdue family.

How about outsourcing? Outsourcing, what do you think of?

Not a fan.

Not a fan? What's it looks like? What's that mean to you when you hear that word?

We can build so much stuff here. There's always a lot of work, I think. People don't want to do those jobs for minimum wage. They don't want to be that guy who just sits on the line and does whatever. They just want the guy, but we could build so much stuff here. I mean, look at Detroit. That's trash. People there trying to bring a little bit of this and that back, but it will never be what it was.

It's history.

Yes. Nobody wants to sit on the line and put in eight hours or whatever and be dirty.

Outsourcing? Gene?

Where I work, we outsource a lot. We can make it – we send our materials, chemicals to tool manufacturers. They do it cheaper. We do play into it. Do I see anything wrong with it? No. I'll tell you why, from my perspective, they're bringing the different products. Reactors and make more money for my company.

Thoughts? Reactions?

Giving jobs away. I moved, my first 10 years in my career, I moved. Harley Davidson, Miller, Briggs and Stratton, JI Case, all them companies moved out of Wisconsin to basically, outsource their jobs to where ever. Most of them were foreign country. Some of them were other states. They were not a job they were careers that we moved out. Guys that come up to me completely with just hatred in their voice that I was taking their job and moving this press or that crane or whatever we were moving out of the plant. That it was my fault that I was moving it out of there.

I think that goes right back to the union thing too. Personally, I think the unions killed a lot of jobs. When I was a machinist, Harlow was laying off. They come to my shop and they had zero skill. I'm a machinist, I know how to press a button and I need 38 dollars an hour. I'll get a kid out of school and pay him 15 and press that same button.

That's the same thing with the auto industry. The unions bankrupt the auto industry.

That's why I don't like unions.

Next, student loan debt. Student loan debt.

You took the loan out, pay it.

Bingo.

Yes.

Exactly.

I'm not paying your student loans.

You're 18, read the paperwork. I don't think debt should be forgiven. I had the option to go to school, I decided I didn't want to go that route. I didn't want to get set back 80 to 100 grands.

Personal responsibility.

Personal responsibility?

It all seems like, at these high schools we're talking about going into the trades. I don't know if guidance counselors they're getting a cut back but they're telling all this kid, oh, you've got to go to college. You've got to go to college. They don't all have to go.

20 years, 30 years.

They pushed so hard like where you going to go. Are you going to choose a four year? I'm like I don't know. I took a one year vocational and ended up working at the factory that my dad worked at as a mechanic for nine years.

They say the trades are fighting over just 10 percent of high school graduates. There's brick layers and electricians, whatever. 90 percent of these kids that are going to college, they don't even know what they're going for.

They're going for jobs that aren't there.

Yes, I think that's reality. [crosstalk 00:47:03]

They've got predator lenders out there that will present the loan one way and if you don't read the 45-page document, fine print. You're in trouble from the day you sign it. If you default, your upside down.

AI, any thoughts on student loan debt?

It's a lot. It's hard to come out of a job, I don't call it entry level but, like you said, 80, 90, 100 thousand dollars. That's a lot to pay off.

All right, retirement. Retirement.

That's a word I don't know yet.

Well, I'm not even planning on being able to.

Yes, me either.

I'm only going to be able to go part time once I get older, you know.

You don't even see retirement as something that will be obtainable for you?

No, I highly doubt it.

John, what do you think?

I agree with him. I think I'll be working until I can't anymore. I feel like.

I look at it very simply. People don't plan to fail, they fail to plan. That's where retirement, I mean, if you don't start early. Don't put some money aside or figure it out early, you're screwed.

You're on the verge Kenny. You're going to in five years.

What's going to slow me down is going to be back to the health care cost again. I've got to see what it's like when I get there.

Yes. All right just a few more. We've touched on most of these I think. Tariffs. Tariffs. What do you think of? What comes to mind?

If it brings the jobs back because it equals the playing field, I think it's great. I don't want to see the tariffs because it could hurt the economy, but we've been getting screwed by China and these other countries because of not a level playing field.

China is not paying the tariffs, we are. I mean, I don't understand.

Don't buy the Chinese goods.

Yes, that's a good point. I didn't understand, I thought China – I was all for it until I found we pay the tariffs. I didn't understand how it works so I read about it. But after I read about it, I thought it was not good.

Way too one sided.

One sided from who, Kenny?

Not for us, I mean we're the one on the losing end of it.

Right.

What about China? What do you think of?

Ruining our country. Our natural enemy, environmentally.

That and India.

They could bankrupt us if they wanted to because they could just ask to get all their debt paid back and we don't have it.

I think we under estimate them. I think they're a power house.

We under estimate them. Last one, trade agreements with other countries.

I think we've gotten screwed for the last like 30 years and now we're finally starting to make some steps in the right direction.

We were such a powerhouse for so long. We were able to go, yes, we'll take a little bit here and there. But no one ever renegotiated it to be like, well, we're slowing down a bit or we're losing here or there. We've got to renegotiate things instead business as usual, let's continue.

Don't want to offend anybody else.

Don't want to offend anybody else.

But it's our own fault. Consumer based society. If I can buy American made for 10 bucks but I can get this cheaper for eight bucks, I'm buying it. Thank you, Walmart, or whoever because we're cheap.

Yes.

Yes, because we're not getting raises. It's a big circle.

It connects to something else, you know.

All right. I'm going to pass out those papers that I promised. We're going to do just the first page. Please don't flip ahead until I tell you. On the first page, at the top, you're going to put your first name, last initial. Then we're going to do, like I said, this first page. Take one and pass it and I'll explain. First name, last initial and there's two sections here. The first set of lines, you're going to write any good things about Donald Trump. Second set of lines, any doubts or concerns about Donald Trump. You do not have to write full sentences. It can be bullet points or words and phrases. Good things about Donald Trump and biggest doubts or concerns about Donald Trump. Make sure you put your first name, last initial at the top. [pause] Keep writing. If you need more time, feel free to keep on going. For those of you who are done, I want to start talking about these. Let's start with the good things, good things that come to mind when you think about President Trump.

Economy.

Economy.

Yes.

Not afraid.

Not afraid.

Does what he says.

Does what he says.

He's making changes.

Making changes.

Not a politician.

Not a politician.

Yes.

I said outsider.

Outsider.

I said pushing back against the political system.

Immigration reform, the wall.

What else?

I feel like everything is country first with a lot of stuff that he does.

Country first.

He's not afraid to just put congress business that's usually kind of hush hush or people they deflect. Other presidents just kind of deflected it. He'll just be, you know, he'll go on Twitter and he'll say this is what –

Speaks his mind.

Yes.

Blunt.

Yes.

Bob, when you said, "he's making changes." What are you thinking of? What changes specifically?

With immigration. Like they were saying, he's not afraid to speak his mind and make the changes and come up with a plan and implement the plan.

Kenny, what were your good things?

I just wrote down, I mean, how good the economy is doing.

Anything else that I haven't heard or anything else that you thought of just now in terms of good things? That you either wrote or just now –

I think a business man, he can do those trade deals and everything. He reads the papers. He has forever, and he just says, we're getting screwed. he knows how to make money. Everyone else just goes don't screw up what I'm getting in here as my kickback.

Exactly, he's not in it for the money. He's got that all ready.

How about doubts or concerns? What doubts or concerns did you write down?

Easily offended.

Easily offended.

Yes.

Why is that a problem?

Because he causes issues where there really shouldn't be. He lets one person, say accountable and then it just flies off the handle when it's not necessary. But then real things that he should get upset about, he's able to brush them off.

I think it's sometimes he needs to be professional. Like when he's talking to other leaders of different countries, don't call them a "loser." I mean, show them some respect. I feel. Some of his Tweets too. He can lay off the Tweets some of the time. I think that's the biggest flaw I see.

He puts out a poor image, I think, for president.

Yes.

He's got potential.

Yes.

Not that he's a bad guy. He's not doing a good job at it. He could be a little more –

Conservative.

Thank you. Polished image a little bit.

Tone it down sometimes.

Tone it down a little bit.

I said the biggest doubt is he's not going to bring parties together to pass something. Even republicans, some of them say, I can't work with him because he's this or that. They're separated, they're divided. State of the union, the little bit that I watched it was –

That was one of the things that I liked about him though. Was that the fact that when he was running, both parties wanted nothing to do with him.

Right.

I'm like, that's probably good.

He came out of somewhere and just said, you know –

You must be a decisive personality.

Yes, we've mentioned that a few times here about how divided we are. We don't get along and we're not working together. How big a problem is that? We kind of like him for saying his mind but then –

Well, we're not politicians.

Right.

We're not needing to do that with our tax dollars. These people are.

How much do we care that people are fighting or we're divided?

I mean, everybody is going to have issues and fight and this and that. But it's when somebody is trying to pass a bill that will actually help, and they say well you can't pass this bill unless you put in this 130 page document that nobody's read and it's got to pass tomorrow or nobody's voting on it. People get screwed because you're pushing your own agenda. You're not saying, yes, let's pass this.

Things that can help us aren't getting passed because they're just fighting.

Yes.

All right. Let's get back to this, doubts about Donald Trump, concerns? What do we have?

I put ego.

Ego.

Social media, I think, is a problem. Then just the way he interacts with the media. I think just compiles hatred and puts the negatives into the forefront a little more. Preferably it should.

What else? Henry?

I just said kind of expanding on how he flies off the handle sometimes. I mean he's got the nuclear football. I need someone that's not going to freak out over some stupid stuff. A little bit more level headed.

That's the hard thing. A second term, it would be so tough for people to say, yes, let's do it again. The one percent of Americans polled at CNN are predoomed to win. Wall Street economists are predicting. They're could be a future to win again in 2020.

I just wanted to raise – It'd be tough, I think. My mom is like, I voted for him, but all this stuff is changing my mind. I just find it funny too that Britain, he goes over there and they just –

They had a blimp.

The balloon they had. It's like you guys are up in arms about this? You've got your own problems. You got a lot of problems.

Join the bandwagon of hating on Trump rather than worrying about anything else.

We'll worry about him; you guys worry about your own self.

Yes.

Yes.

Any other doubts or concerns? Any over here? Kenny? Do you have -?

Mine was just the same about how he goes about stuff is just not very professional sometimes.

Not professional. Bob, what was yours?

He doesn't pick his fights. He'll fight with anybody that wants to argue. He looks like a kid when he does it.

It kind of goes to that unprofessional. Like neat or polished.

Completely childish.

Maybe what we're playing his hand with his trade deals. In North Korea because that guys a lunatic. I don't believe he's a true believer in the second amendment because all the sudden we have this shooting and all the sudden buck stops are an executive order. Now, you've been asked about silencers. Well, now he doesn't like them even though they're suppressors. What's next? Next thing you can't Tweet because once you take one amendment and do it, you're going to just go onto the next. The due process with these red flag laws. I don't know if you're going to be on with that. There's another amendment that you've got. They're voiding your freedoms and that's a slippery slope.

Anything else? Doubts or concerns?

I don't think the politicians, whoever it is, they don't listen to the people enough. They pass bills by who's going to give them the most money.

What about Donald Trump? Does he listen to the people?

Absolutely. You can buy any politician.

What's his greatest accomplishment so far?

He turned the economy around.

The economy.

Greed.

Yes?

Yes.

Anything else? Greatest accomplishments?

Crickets.

In a weird way, I kind of think all this fighting is good. It is starting to expose what the swamp really is. Because anything that had to do with Trump has to be investigated. Now, after how many billions of dollars and years, now the tables took a turn. Now who's against him? Where did that money come from? The Clintons and the Obama's and all that stuff. You look at the politicians that come in dirt poor and they leave multi-millionaires. Like you were saying, that's where the money comes. You have money, you have power. If you have power, you don't want to give it up. If somebody is going to change the way it works, you're going to attack, attack, attack. I don't think he's as bad as what the media and everyone make him to be because they are afraid of losing power.

His greatest disappointment. What would you consider the greatest disappointment of his presidency so far?

That Mexico didn't pay for the wall.

Childish behavior.

Hilary wasn't in jail at 100 days in office.

Yes.

Probably the wall. That was probably one of the biggest campaign promises.

The go funds me got more money than he was able to.

He said when he was campaigning or soon after he got into office that he would be "a voice for forgotten Americans." A voice for forgotten Americans. How is he doing on that?

Better than all his predecessors. I wouldn't say that he's the voice, but I think he is genuinely fighting out for working class people.

What tells you that?

Just the way he calls things out and the whole political atmosphere. The way that he'll call it out when nothing's getting done. When we have our senators and our congressman. They're just sitting there at stand still. They're being paid by us and they're not doing their job. He's calling that out. I think that's standing up for us more than any of his predecessors.

Voice for forgotten Americans. How's he doing on that?

The middle of the country is doing well. It's not just the west coast or east coast. It's the middle of the country has growth. The fly over states. Everyone forgets about those. We see it.

The rust belts.

The rust belt, yes.

The steel companies are starting to re-open and stuff.

The fact that the economy is getting stronger shows that he is the for the forgotten Americans.

In one point of view, yes.

Isn't the middle class going away though? That's what I hear, I mean, I don't know.

You don't think he's a voice for the forgotten Americans?

I don't know. I don't know what forgotten Americans technically means.

How about this one. He also said, you guys have been eluding to this, he would drain the swamp. How is he doing at draining the swamp.

He hired a lot of them.

He hired a lot of them.

How many people has he fired?

But that's not the swamp he's trying to drain.

Right, but it's just like I see – at first, I thought, OK, he's starting to clean stuff up and this and that. Then, all the sudden, now he's just fighting with little, petty fights. He's not exposing the politicians for what they are.

Draining the swamp hasn't been happening?

It was a good gimmick.

Gene?

– and failure.

Yes, how come? Tell me.

For those reasons. If the swamp is established by those politicians, I am not seen one go yet. If he had any say in the matter.

But they're fighting like hell.

Yes, they'll fight like hell [crosstalk 01:06:30].

Because they all know the spot light is pointing at them next.

I guess we'll have that call or watch it drain.

Yes.

Kenny, what do you think? Draining the swamp, how's he doing on that?

I don't know. I don't know.

Last one, President Trump said he's going to put America first. How's he doing on that? Yes?

Absolutely.

Doing that.

I'd have to agree.

Succeeding on that one? Yes? Tell me how. What shows that he is putting American first?

Calling out all the bad trade deals that are have been going on with other countries.

Yes, he's standing up to a lot of the other big powers.

Even the UN and stuff. He's saying they need to start doing their fair share. We can't be the world police all the time. Not when our country is hurting.

Immigration. Obviously, like some guys said here, do it the right way, the regular way. Absolutely.

A lot of ways he's putting America first.

Yes.

All right, we're going to watch a couple videos and look at some of his Tweets.

This ought to be good.

Welcome to the circus. [pause]

I'm just going to pause it there. It goes on for a little while. What did you think? What stood out? What'd you hear?

Big numbers.

What's it says about him?

If they're true, I mean, awesome, great.

How much of the – when a new president is elected, that the first year or two can be attributed to the previous administration no matter what it is. I would say the first couple years as much as the right doesn't want to admit it, it could have been some of Obama. I don't know how much everything is he's done. I could say now that the last couples' years is obviously, the economy is going good. I just don't know how much.

How much credit do you give the president for the economy?

I give him a lot.

Yes.

Like I said earlier, you know, a lot. Businesses aren't building new buildings. People aren't building new houses because they're not doing well, or they can't afford it. Businesses aren't putting infrastructure into their company because people aren't buying their products. Yes, it's improved greatly in the past. You see it out on the streets.

All right. Flip the page for me, if you would, to handout two. It's a tweak from on the same subject. Republicans have given the best economy in the history of our country and the hottest job Market on planet earth. The democratic agenda is a socialist nightmare. The republican agenda is the American dream. Vote GOP. Gene can barely contain himself down there. Why?

My mother was 92. She grew up during world war two. Her and I are opposite polar, dead set against. Their hard democrat. She will tell you post war, democrats all the way. Never was busier in America and her and I go like this on the subject. That's why I'm laughing.

But it's true.

I know, I'm just saying, I'm just reading this, but they've actually lived through it. Swear up or down, post war U.S. It was a housing boom and all the jobs coming back. It was the democratic president.

Yes, but it was also a war. [crosstalk 01:11:37]

Are we in the hottest job Market? Hottest job Market on planet earth right now?

Jobs maybe not careers.

That's a good point.

There're jobs everywhere. I don't know who was saying you can go to McDonalds and get a job. That's a job. To get a career that will plan your life out that you can come out of high school, go into, work at American Motors until you're ready to retire. Have a life of decent retirement. No, a lot of the people in here said, I'm going to be working until I don't know when. I would hate to have that thought in the back of my head off I'm going to work until I'm dead. That's what I see the government wants us to do is work until you die. We don't want to have to support you once you're retired.

Donald Trump. What do you think about what he says here?

Very dioicous.

Yes.

Pits right against left, I think.

Pitting right against left?

Absolutely. It's republicans or democrats, it's the middle of the road that makes things happen. It's the people with a solid head on their shoulder. Socialist is just as bad.

I hear this a lot. Socialist nightmare. What is that all about? Tell me what you think about that? How do you feel about that?

Venezuela.

What?

Venezuela.

Yes.

Years ago, number four, I think it was. Most powerful, richest country, socialists and they're at our border trying to get in because they got nothing.

Don't we have some socialist programs as Americans?

We have a little.

Security and allies. Certain parts of it, obviously, are terrible but there is some benefit to some aspects.

Thoughts, reactions? Socialist nightmare? What's he talking about? How do you feel about this?

I don't know what he's talking about. I try not to do any of Donald Trump's social media stuff. I know personally, it just annoys the hell out of me that the democratic party seems to be leaning towards that and pandering to people who are claiming, as a lot of younger kids are claiming, they want socialism and this and that. It just really irritates me. It's not the American way and it just bothers the hell out of me. They probably don't really mean it but they're just trying to get votes. But it just bothers the hell out of me that democrats are catering to that.

Any other thoughts about socialist?

Too many.

All right let's watch another video. [pause] That one is quick. What do you think about that?

It's campaign stuff.

Yes.

Very targeted audience.

What stood out for you of what he said?

Just the slogans, if you will. A lot of credit to himself. I don't think there was a lot of us. More the ego came on.

Which is what you put in your notes.

That's how I've seen Trump from day one is me. Look at me, not us.

Kenny, what do you think? What stood out for you?

He knows how to get a crowd rallying up around him. That's for sure. He's good at it.

The whole, we had a record, this record, that. We got so many people in the country. As we go forward, more and more people. We're going to have more stuff recognized for this and that. It's going to be – The numbers are going to grow so it's going to look better.

John, anything for you?

Just what everyone is echoing. It's campaign style. It's about him. It didn't really do anything for me. It's just Trump.

Catch phrase.

What is it?

Catch phrase.

Catch phrase.

Unfortunately, that's what it is. That's what politics are right now. It not Trump it will be the other side.

Yes, it doesn't matter.

Calling out Trump and the republicans.

Lift the page for me and read another Tweet. [pause] "Thanks to republican leadership, America is winning again. America is being respected again all over the world because we are finally putting America first."

I just wish it would say "thanks to leadership."

Yes.

Yes.

You're just drawing a line in the sand with republicans and democrats.

I don't think we're respected.

You don't think we're respected?

Well, by foreign countries. We were talking about the blimp. They just did it in the U.K. The German person that he got into it with. German –

Chancellor.

Yes, chancellor. Merkel? I don't know. It was the German zone. I noticed that and caps lock.

Caps lock, yes.

I think you must separate America. When he says "America," I think a lot of people are connecting that to Donald Trump and what Donald Trump is doing and not necessarily America as a whole. The things that have been done with corporations and the growth. That's the respected part. Where everybody says maybe we don't respect America. Well, they don't want to respect Donald Trump as a president and as a leader of this country. I think America, absolutely. It's better than it was five years ago.

John, do you think America is more respected now?

As we said, yes, about the growth but with the president. If he was more professional. More conservative on his way of think a lot more countries would be more respected to our leadership.

I think a lot of countries don't want to deal with him and that's part of it. Just because they know what it turns into. He's has these press conferences, then when the leaders come in and the media asks questions. It has nothing to do with what he just talked about or what they worked on. It's always something else.

Respected? Are we more respected?

I think it's hard. Now, with the world being so connected, you can go on a message board talking to people from all over the world. It just takes a few people to just be like well, Donald Trump isn't really doing this or that. It just kind of spreads. People go, oh, I talk to a Brit all the time and they say they have no respect for Donald Trump. With the world being so connected and so many people being against him. Saying well, what kind of president is this? It's spreads easy.

Who is the squeakiest wheel? Basically, what it is. If you're not happy with them, you know about it. If you're happy with them, you probably don't hear anything from them.

No one is going around telling them that they love Donald Trump.

Especially the way the media just wants to get people riled up to get the ratings.

Sure.

I don't trust anything that the media says. Who knows, the rest of the world might love the guy and we're just told, look what he's doing here. I don't think it's likely but –

All right, we're going to watch another one. [pause]

Well, he had me up until the last couple [crosstalk 01:22:09]

What do you think?

I think there's a lot of room in Wyoming.

It seems like everybody was buying into that. It seems like he just can't control himself and it goes to a different area. Everybody goes to a different place than the message, if you will.

He doesn't know when to stop.

He wants to hear himself talk so much that he just takes it too far.

Doesn't know how to leave on a high note.

Yes.

What was too far, Kenny?

Just that, I mean, "We're full. America is full." He didn't need to say that. If he would have turned it more like what you're saying about here's what we need to do. We need to make this all on the up and up. No one is going to sneak through the back door. If he would have been more up front about it instead of just how he does it. We're full, stop, that's it.

Any other thoughts?

It goes back to the target audience that he's going for. The people that are there, that's what they want to hear. The people that are at that –

White, middle age males are his target audience. We are his target audience.

Gene, how did he do appeal to you?

I work for the man.

What he said here, how did you feel?

It's half-truth. We're full, the problem is, most of the economist will tell you the social security will collapse. They knew it was coming. They get social security numbers no days. They have to, to verify. But they don't collect. Our system will collapse with all of them right now. The only people that will tell you that are people who are in economics. You can't just all the sudden pull the plug and kick them all out. You've got to have something to change that.

Like documentation.

Documentation, whatever.

Just coyotes pouring through. Now, they are in and next thing you know, he's been deported three times. Two bad. He got drunk, wrong way, he just killed his poor family and off we go again. Because he shouldn't have been here in the first damn place. You can't get into Canada if you've got a DWI but, yet you can come here and sell drugs and traffic women and whatever and nobody cares.

Read a Tweet for me. Flip the page. "State of emergency at our southern border. Border patrol and military and local law enforcement are doing a great job but without the wall which is now under major construction, you cannot have boarder security. Drugs, game and human trafficking must be stopped. What do you think?"

He must have missed the one Tweet from Canada, I guess. Must have missed the wall they were building near Canada.

Aren't most people that are illegal, don't they just come here legally – or not legally but they drive over the border and they just don't go back. Like 60 something percent is those people. What's a wall going to do for that?

Is the wall even going to work? What do you think about the wall?

I don't think it's necessary. I think if you talk to a lot of people that are down there, they'll tell you that people are actually living not by the boarder there. Because the ones that are coming over illegally like that, a lot of them are gang members. A lot of them are young and the people that their bringing with them might not necessarily have anything wrong with them but those people are screwed too.

Don't you think like the drug dealers and those people just take the tunnels though?

There're tunnels everywhere.

But if there's 10,000 people, why can't you be from Iraq and Afghanistan and everywhere else, come in through Cuba or wherever. Just join the parade.

I want everyone to be documented and all that. I just don't know if a wall is going to do much. When there's tunnels, there's ladders, there's rope.

It's a deterrent. It's better than nothing.

I see the news where the guys sitting at the wall and he's just showing like four different types. Four different companies who built walls. Then, all the sudden, they say, well, there's people right there. Just out of camera shot, they're just like moving across. They're like, there they are. Here comes border patrol on horseback and everything else. All the sudden they take off and the camera was like, look at that.

Is it a state of emergency?

I think so when it comes to all the drugs and the human trafficking and this and that. A lot of that stuff comes from that way.

That is an appropriate way to characterize it. A state of emergency down there?

I definitely think so. Especially for people who are living along the boarder there.

How about the rest of you? State of emergency?

Yes.

The wall? How do you feel about when Donald Trump talks about the wall?

Every country has the right to protect their boarders. You go to any other country. It's hard to get into any other country. Especially in Europe. You can't just walk in there and be like, oh, you know.

The walls a statement. I mean, it's like, hey, you know.

Other countries have walls, or they have mountains or whatever. Hell, 10 years ago the democratic. Joe Biden and all the other ones, we need a wall. We need to keep them out. We need a barrier.

Because the democrats were in charge.

Now it's the other guys. You can't do that because that's not fair. Who cares what side you're on. Either you're for it or against it. Just quit flip flopping and protect the damn country.

All right we're going to watch one more.

I've got one other thing I just want to say about that.

Yes, please.

When it comes to the wall, you have people that are so for it and people that are so against it. There're walls everywhere. There're gated communities that the super-rich live in. A lot of the super-rich are the people that are saying that they don't want a wall. Well how about we tear down your walls? You only build walls that are protecting your property and family.

Come on in, we'll cook dinner for you.

I say go after the employers that are hiring the illegals and slam them good. I'm for everybody having a table to feed their family and money to put on the table. It's these employers that are taking advantage. I mean, you go into Racine here and you look at some of these farms. That one farm, they just busted 70 some undocumented workers in there. You're telling me the guy didn't know that he was hiring undocumented workers? Put the guy out of business is what I say.

It would be like well in my hiring process I don't need – I pay them cash. They don't need all this information. You just need a name and whatever.

The employer is taking advantage of us by subbing those jobs out for pennies on the dollar to these people that come here that are desperate for work. They'll work for whatever somebody is willing to pay them. Who's losing on that? We're losing on it. The person who's working for them, is losing on it. Who's gaining from it? It's the employer.

I lived on Brown Road, right where the Foxconn was. There's cabbage all around there. I talked to the farmers though and they told me that my generation, unfortunately, is just lazy. They don't to work in picking cabbage. The farmer said, I would gladly hire Americans, but they don't want to work.

Right.

They have to hire anyone they can.

It's because they're hiring them for half the price that they're going to pay us.

That too but he said that the majority of his problem was he couldn't get anyone to work. He would do everything to try and get people to work. A lot of times, I think my generation needs to know how to go work.

All right let's watch one more. [pause] Thoughts? Feelings?

I think he's smart enough to know that you can't start something like that without possibly knowing where it might go and where you start. It's a game. You have to start somewhere. I think he knows that.

We've got a very difficult scenario if this goes very poorly for us and now what? I think he knows what he's doing. I think he's a very smart as far as the business end of it. There's a middle ground. I think that's what he's trying to get to.

He's a business man. He's a negotiator. He's trying to get the best deal he can for us.

Do you worry that it might go wrong?

Sure.

Or do you think he'll handle it?

He'll handle it.

Yes. This is America, we'll handle it.

This interest we have is not going down either. I mean, we owe them tons of money. The last thing they want is for our economy to collapse because then they're not getting their money. There're definitely some grey areas to work there. Like Al said, I think he's well aware of it. He's just trying to leverage that into a new position.

It's good that he's gone down this path with China. He's a good guy?

He's running the country like a business like he should be. I think give him props.

All right let's read another Tweet. The last one. "Our great, patriot farmers will be the great beneficiaries of what's happening now. Hopefully, China will do us the honor of continuing to buy our great farm product. The best. But if not, your country will be making up the difference based on a very high China buy."

I would say a lot of farmers would now disagree with that. From what I'm reading.

How come? What are you reading?

What we export to China right now, the farmers, whether it's the milk, the cheeses, soybeans that predominately go to China. And we say that we disagree they're there right now.

Thoughts? Reactions?

I don't have much experience, but I just look at, if you're at Oak Creek, Oak Creek was primarily farms coming up. One by one they're getting sold off and built up.

You've got to be a big farmer now to make it worth your while. You can't be the guy that has 100 acres and does soybeans and makes a little bit. You've got to be that guy that's got a couple thousand acres.

Corporate farmer.

Yes, corporate farmer.

[inaudible 01:34:56] we're losing a couple hundred farms a day, family farmers.

Yes, it's all of them.

What's happened to America that scares me the most is America grew so fast to corporate. Everything is, I mean, there is no room for small business anymore. You want to open a small business, you'll be out of business in time. The corporations will see that you're making a profit, undercut you and put you out of business.

How is Trump doing for farmers? How do you feel that president Trump is doing in terms of supporting farmers?

Not much because as far as EPA regulates a lot of the pesticides and stuff like that. You got a spray if you want, bug free anything. My dad was an apple farmer and there was just the cost of the pesticides grew so much because of government regulations that I was almost impossible to spray as often as you need to.

What is Trump doing for farmers? Do we know?

Not much in the way of –

No clue.

Don't really know.

Actually, this is the first I've ever really seen anything about a farmer.

What's a patriot farmer? Is that something different?

A lot of farmers, just farmers that's all it is.

American farmers.

American, yes.

I thought it was a different kind.

I want to move on and throw out some names and just get your reaction. Kind of like we did before but these are names. The first one's a little different but, "The house of representatives, with over 100 newly elected women," which is now controlled by democrats. The house of representatives, with over 100 newly elected women, which is now controlled by democrats. What do you think?

Nancy is crazy.

Nancy's crazy. What else?

I don't care if you're woman, man, whatever. If you can figure it out and you can meet someone halfway instead of bicker and argue. I don't care.

I'm happy there's some new people in there.

Not like who we had was doing that great anyway.

What about Nancy Pelosi?

She's having a hard time controlling her democrats.

She needs to go.

She needs to go. Carl, what did you say?

Argumentative.

Argumentative.

No matter what a republican says or whatever Trump says, nope, nope, nope. Can't do that. They're playing the politics.

She's very calculating.

She's calculating? Hang on, I want to hear what Gene says.

I think she's very calculating. It shows a lot of power. She's on the back right now of a democratic impeachment wave. I think she's a potential fool. But she has a lot of power.

She has a lot of power, all right. Kenny, what do you think about her?

I guess I'm not one way or the other. Do I like her? No, but I don't know that much about her.

Bob, what do you think?

I don't know enough about her, honestly.

Anyone else?

I was kind of surprised she got elected to that position. From losing it to then – I was surprised at that.

All right, another name. Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell.

He looks like a turtle.

What does he look like?

A turtle.

A turtle. Thoughts? What do you know about him? How would you describe him?

He's a republican. He's been there a long time.

Been there a long time.

Too long.

Too long.

The old boys club needs to go.

Old boys club. How about Joe Biden?

Trashed up.

[crosstalk 01:39:22] What else? Joe Biden?

We've been there. We've done that.

Been there, done that.

He can go away too.

He's kind of Trump. He's got some Trump ways. He says a lot of crazy stuff.

Bernie Sanders?

Old and out of touch.

Out of touch, energetic.

I liked him two years ago or whenever the election was but now, I don't know.

Hypocrite.

What's changed? Why not now?

I don't know. At first everything he was saying, oh that sounds great. Health care, school for everyone. Then the more you read about it you see that if it was that easy, it would have been done already.

Eric, what do you think about Bernie Sanders?

It sounds good to the younger generations who hasn't worked for anything. They see this, like you said, the whole free college. That's great. I don't need to pay 80,000 dollars anymore. I didn't go to college, I got a job and I'm making money. I don't have to pay. Who's paying for that? I'm paying for that working 40 hours a week.

Bob, Bernie Sanders? What do you think?

Giving away the farm. Hypocrite.

Hypocrite. Why?

Because everybody should share, redistribute all the wealth but yet how many million-dollar properties does he own? Probably gated.

All right, next name. Elizabeth Warren. Anybody?

Oh, wait. I take that back.

Elizabeth Warren?

I don't know her.

I just know career politician who's screwing America, basically.

She'll say whatever it takes to get her votes.

John, any thoughts about Elizabeth Warren?

No.

How about Pete Buttigieg's.

He's a gay leader out of –

San Francisco?

No. Somewhere in Ohio, if I'm right.

Close.

His partner is always on TV with him.

A gay mayor?

Yes.

It's about the art of polls. He's kind of going about now. He's a democratic contender.

But you're the only one who knows who he is, right? Nobody else has heard of him. How about Senator Tammy Baldwin?

Can't stand her.

Can't stand her, how come?

Because she tries to play like she's a moderate, but she's as far left as you can get.

Maybe not as far as you can get but pretty close.

Fair enough.

Any other thoughts? Tammy Baldwin. How about Senator Ron Johnson?

Another business man. Nothing negative at him. He's just there.

Just there. Kenny, anything?

He comes across as a good, honest guy.

Eric?

I saw him speak once and I was just kind of like he's saying the right things but what can he do? I don't know.

Governor Tony Eiburst.

Another one who wants to give away the farm.

If you're in trouble from day one, you don't win. The republicans didn't make it – if they would have handled it gracefully. If they weren't doing their whole banged up thing or whatever it was about. He's kind of well, I'm going to change everything. All the progress we have. You look down at Illinois you're like, look what's happened to them. We don't need that. Stick with progress.

I think he's in no position to even be running for governor giving the state of those Wisconsin schools when he was superintendent. I personally couldn't even fathom who told him it was a good idea for him to run. He couldn't do the job that he had.

AI?

He's in a tough position walking into what he's walking into. Like him or not, that's a difficult battle that he's going to have until – You still have the Scott Walker legislation. It's going to be tough for him.

He has a zero-marijuana policy too. That's one good thing about him.

I know that the whole school thing, the school choice. Private school is going to hurt. All these schools. The church I go to we're benefiting from school choice and having these kids come in and getting this money. But if he's capping it or gets rid of it, it's back to struggling with low classroom amounts and barely staying afloat.

Are you paying attention at all to the democratic presidential race? Anything interesting there?

A lot of people.

A lot of people. Anyone standing out for you?

Too many to tell.

I would say, I listen to Joe Rogan and stuff. He had Andrew Yang on and it was about giving everyone a thousand dollars a month. Just because AI is taking over and we're losing our jobs and this and that. His biggest thing is the truckers are going to lose out if we go to self-driving trucks. I'm like that's so far out, I think. To be a legit system. A thousand dollars a month's sounds good.

What are the democratic candidates? What are their priorities? What are they talking about?

Votes?

Votes. They don't have any other priorities.

I don't see it.

Don't think so.

No, I think that's one of the reasons they want to open borders are because their the proponents of social programs. They want to get all these people in there. They want to give them the right to vote so that they can maintain power and take over the country.

Then the middle class goes away because you'll have the poor and the elite.

Any priorities for the democrats? Anything they're talking about?

The healthcare.

Healthcare.

Let them run us. They want the government healthcare. Let the government tell you how to spend your money. Give us your money, we'll tell you how to spend it. We'll take care of it for you.

The whole socialism thing.

Yes.

They know it's good for you, but they don't accept it themselves. They're on a different tier verse here. This is what I'm going to serve you guys but I'm going to eat over here and have this for my own little click of people over there.

In my gated community.

Yes, with a wall built around it.

Do you see any differences among the democrats that are running for president? Are there any stark differences that you see?

Biden is the only one.

Biden is the only one what?

That's different and he's even starting to glom onto the new green deal. Anything that seems to be getting in the media, next thing the whole pack is for it. We got to get rid of all those porting' cows or whatever the next, new catch phrase of the day is.

Not a lot of differences? You see the all –

Biden's just, hey, I used to be Obama's buddy.

John, how about you? Do you see any differences amongst the democrats running?

No, not really. To be honest with you, I haven't really been paying attention. It's too early.

On a scale of one to 10, how much are you paying attention to the democratic front race so far?

10 being?

10 being all the way.

One, two.

One or two?

Three.

If you would go to handout six, please. These are some reasons why some people are concerned about Donald Trump. I want you to read through them and star two that you find most concerning. Star two that you find most concerning. Score how you feel about him. What of these concerns you the most? Star two of them. [pause]

At the end, will you tell us who is paying for the survey. Is it right or left?

I can't. Just like I can't tell them who you are.

You can tell them who I am.

Writing off your privacy.

What privacy? Google knows more about me than my mom.

Has everybody picked two? I know some people are still reading. If you're still reading that's OK. I'd like to go around and have you told me, by the letter, which two you picked. If you're not done, don't worry, I'll come back to you. Did you pick two, Carl?

Yes.

Which two?

A and E.

John, you're still working.

I'm still working yes.

I'll just come back. Frank?

A and B.

A and B. Kenny?

A and E.

A and E.

A and F.

A and F.

D and F.

D and F.

A and D.

A and D. You still working on it?

B and C.

B and C.

A and E.

A and E. John, you ready?

No, but I'll just go.

Well, I'll give you more time.

No.

Nothing's really standing out.

Yes, so A and D.

A and D. Seven on A. Two on B. One on C. Three on D. Three on E. Two on F. Pretty even except for A. A lot of you picked A. "He promised better and cheaper healthcare for everyone, but insurance rates have increased for everyone. Including a 50 percent increase in premiums in the individual Market and is planning to make older workers pay five times more than younger." Why did that one stand out of all on this list?

It's wrong.

Wrong. Tell me.

I don't know. We're a country. We're one country. If everyone is paying into the system, it should be fair. You don't hurt somebody because they're older than everyone else.

Why did someone else pick this one? Someone else who picked A?

I think it's wrong to make money off sick people. We're the only country that has people getting rich off people getting sick.

One more.

I think the key word for me was "everyone." There are some people that can't afford it, or they do have healthcare. They're coinsurance are high sometimes. If you're scared to use your health insurance because of cost. I see it sometimes on a daily basis with many people that don't want to go to the hospital because they don't want that bill. Sometimes they know they need to, and they don't. That's a problem. Unfortunately, I don't have fix for that.

How about E really quick. "He promised zero cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, but he supported healthcare plans to drastically cut medical. Now he and republicans are planning cuts to Medicare and social security to pay for the trillion dollars increase in the deficit from their tax cut." Three people picked that. Tell me who you were? Remind me. E? Carl, Al and who else?

I picked it too.

Kenny. Kenny, tell me about that.

I just picked it, again because I feel like it's something that I've been paying into forever and now when it's finally time to reap some of it back, it might not be there. They've been talking about that for years now. It seems like it might be getting closer than they even thought. It's starting to scare me a little bit.

One more really quick, D. "He pledged to drain the swamp, but his cabinet is full of million dollar donors and a record number of Wall Street bankers. Three people? D? Who was it? Gene, and Henry and John.

John, let me start with you. Why that one?

I just had to pick one. It goes on to this stuff. it is what it is. I don't care.

None of this really concerns you that much?

No.

Gene?

I can't remember the guy's name. The one's that's under right now in his cabinet that was multi-millionaires and mullers. All the ones that seem to be running with the groupies now. Wanting to be part of. To drain the swamp, I guess what he means are the ones that will be dated along with them. Those kind of million-dollar campaign owners.

He did drain the swamp. He got rid of everyone but then just replaced it with swap.

Turn the page for me. Don't be daunted. I know it's a lot. These are some statements for two of the democratic candidates who are running for president. Read through these two statements and underline anything that stands out to you in either one. Then I want you to pick either candidate one or candidate two who come close to your view. Read them both, underline throughout anything that stands out. Pick one or two that comes closest to your view. [pause] After you read it, you pick candidate one or candidate two. Whichever comes closest to your view.

Do we have to?

You're more attracted to. You lean one way or the other. Tell me which way you lean.

You have to pick one? You should have told me, you will get my vote.

Pick the one that's closest to your view. Even if you wouldn't vote for either one of them, which one comes closest to your view?

He said some good stuff.

All right, I'm going to start going around. Tell me if you haven't decided yet. AI?

Two.

Two. Eric?

Two.

One.

One. You're still working Gene?

Two.

Two.

One.

Two.

Two.

Two? Seven on two and only two on one. Let me hear first about candidate one. Henry, you said one.

Yes. I like the part "building an America that works for everyone." That's a good – pretty basic.

Building an America that works for everyone. Who was the other? Kenny?

Yes, I underlined about ending the lobbying as we know it.

Oh, yes.

All right. What about candidate two? Why did some of you like candidate two? Al?

I felt like he was more by experience. Personal experience. To me, candidate one felt more like just talking points. That a client would put up. Two I felt like it was more genuine. His beliefs or feelings personally verse a bigger dope. Sorry.

Eric, how about you? Why two?

I underlined about why, how and who built this country. The whole our system is broken. Everybody understands that. It's not just the Trump thing. It's a good speech. I thought candidate one, up until the point right after the whole lobbying thing. When they started talking about creating the tax on the millionaires and student loans, I'm like, it's our points before. You took on the debt. The whole millionaire tax credit and stuff like that. They went out and made their money. You can do the same.

John, why did you lead toward candidate two?

I felt like I could relate to it more. I feel that middle class feels like we're always the one struggling verse the rich or poor. It feels like we're the ones, we're the workforce. We're working every day and we're getting taxed. It's like why is there not more money in my pocket? Whereas the rich, I mean, they're already rich. The poor they have their assistance and stuff like that. It just feels like we're constantly trying to get ahead and there's tax. I just feel like it's always struggling. The middle class.

Frank, why two?

I kind of like the whole being referred as the middle class always meant as a compliment. To me it seems like if he's proud of being middle class and actually working for what he's accomplished. The pride parts. It kind of resonated with me that way.

Bob?

I agree with what Frank was saying with the compliment of the middle class. I kind of didn't like either one of them but out of the two, I picked the better of the two, I guess.

Why do you say you didn't like either one of them? What's missing there or what turned you off?

A core values.

What were you looking for?

It seems like their whole focus is more monetarily. That they're worried about everybody's money and not so much just a core value of a human being. People that have millions of dollars have problems. Just as much as somebody like us. They just have a totally set of problem. Win the lottery. You're going to have problem. They'll be totally different problems then you have today, but you'll have problems. We're on a different income level so we don't see those problems.

Gene, why two for you?

Because I had to. I was talking Bernie Sanders on one and a democrat on number two. Create a multi-millionaire tax and 75,000 families. Let's give them free health care. I'll put yourself a brand of witch craft. Class number two. Our political system says that Donald Trump is the only president who has decided not to represent the country solo. That goes against something I believe.

It was hard for you? Carl, what's with you and candidate two?

Pretty much the same as Gene. I just really didn't like any one.

All right. Go to the last page for me. Let me remind you, you do not have to write full sentences. Words and phrases or bullet points are fine. I'd like you to write a quick note to president Trump about what he is doing.

He is back there, huh?

What he's doing with the economy and anything you want him to know. The economy or otherwise, what do you want him to know. Words and phrases are fine. What would you say to President Trump? [pause] Keep writing if you need more time. For those of you that are done, give me a sense of what you wrote. You don't have to read it word for word. You can if you want. Gene, let me start with you.

Basically, the Tweets, tone it down and stopping thinking free speech. You're the president for God sakes. I got press on North Korea. Be the first thing the president's got that guy at the table. Keep going. Keep with the trend. Continue to program the positive granted, kindly and get rid of Sarkozy. Whatever her name it. They're too open with their mouths. I want to go – You should pity with those two. I'm sorry. I don't like those two women.

Bob, how about you?

Take care of our vets with their healthcare. American's healthcare is overpriced. The tax cuts you took away from traveling workers is un-American. That's it.

Henry? What'd you write?

Just basically what Gene said. Just embarrassing on some of the Tweets. That's about it.

Kenny?

I just said hello president Trump thank you for making America great again, but your job is not over yet. Please keep moving forward.

Frank?

Keep working on the wall. Keep making strides in trade and keep calm when attacked by people who disagree.

John?

I agree with what they're saying. Just get off your phone with the tweets.

Get off your phone with the tweets.

Yes, when you're speaking your mind, just keep it professional.

Keep it professional. Henry.

Yes, I mean, pretty much all the same stuff. Watch the temperament. Good job on the economy. Pick your battles wisely.

Respect other people's view and opinions if they're not the same as yours. Stop arguing with the media and always keep the country first.

Eric.

Just keep working for Americans that work. Make sure that we're staying a world power. We're not borrowing that power. We're not acting like we've got some sort of power around the world. We keep setting the tone for what the rest of the world does.

Thank you, guys, so much. Do me a favor, pass those papers in. You were wonderful. I really enjoyed speaking with you. Hope you'll come back and see us again. Thank you. [crosstalk 02:09:21]