

**PRESIDENT DONALD JOHN TRUMP:
HE IS NOT A SLOUCH –
ONE SHOULD NOT COUNT HIM OUT
BEFORE THE REFEREE COUNTS TO TEN**

There has been a great deal of brouhaha in respect of President Donald John Trump's Address to the Joint Session of The Congress of The United States of America on March 1, 2017.

There are those who may well think that the President makes a great deal of sense with regard to a number of his observations and proposals and, naturally, there are dissenters who believe that he is much more than a little, fat numbskull.

Be that it may, quite a number of economists and academics feel that, for the most part, President Donald John Trump is on the right track.

Even those people, who are disinclined to embrace the President and his modus operandi, grudgingly admit that much of that which he has stated does make sense.

Some of it, of course, may be considered a little over the top – which is the wont of the 45th President of The United States of America.

In brief, the President has outlined his proposed plan for a much-tougher stand on immigration, a vastly different stand on international trade, compared to that of the former President, Mr Barack Hussein Obama, very material modifications to the taxation system of the country, including an historic reduction to corporate taxation and, of course, the repealment of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, known more popularly as Obamacare.

Cutting Taxes

Perhaps, the most-controversial aspect of the President's short address to the Joint Session of The Congress, in terms of the country's finances, was the matter of cutting taxes to the proverbial bone.

He has gone on record as stating that he would like to see taxes, with regard to corporations and their employees, cut back to 15 percent.

This is an old chestnut, resurrected from the days of Mr Milton Friedman, the late, great American economist who propagated the virtues of the free-market economy.

He died on November 16, 2016, at the age of 94 years.

During his lifetime, Mr Milton Friedman was awarded:

- The John Bates Clark Medal in 1951;
- The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics in 1976; and,
- The Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1988.

Mr Milton Friedman visited Hongkong, during the time that the territory was a British Crown Colony, and he went on record as stating that the territory was one of the last bastions in the world, significant of the success of a free-market economy.

At that time, corporation tax in Hongkong was at the level of 15 percent.

Mr Milton Friedman strongly believed that the best controller of a market was the market, itself.

He oft-times stated that if The United States of America wanted to raise more income from taxing corporations and wage earners, all that the Government had to do was to reduce all taxes to a flat 15 percent, across the board.

By so doing, Mr Milton Friedman explained that the tax system in the country would become so simple that even an uneducated person could file his/her annual return with ease and, in addition, such a system would save tens of millions of dollars at the **Inland Revenue Service (IRS)**, which is a bureau of The Department of The Treasury, since the IRS could operate more efficiently and with much fewer staff.

President Donald John Trump appears, obviously, to be an adherent of many of the proposals of the late, great economist, Mr Milton Friedman.

If The United States of America was to cut taxation on corporations to 15 percent, one may expect many a company to pick up sticks, presently located in other parts of the world, in order to get established in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave – post-haste.

The quality of workmanship in The United States of America is, after all, by and large, far superior to that of most of the workers of many Asian countries; and, the '*Made in America*' label has an enormous value with regard to discriminating consumers on the world stage.

A great many people, shopping for consumer goods in North America and Europe, prefer to purchase their requirements from manufacturing countries, other than the People's Republic of China (PRC), because, inter alia, there is, still, the matter of trust: The PRC is known to be a country where fraudulent copies of well-known, international brand-named goods are manufactured.

Recently, Thailand, Bangladesh and Vietnam have joined the ranks of the questionable PRC factories that are in the habit of producing fraudulent, consumer products for export to North America and Europe.

The governments of those countries, where fake copies of international, brand-named consumer goods are being churned out, tend to turn a blind eye to such practices, much to the consternation of the many managements of companies that own the intellectual property rights that are being blatantly copied.

Should The United States of America slash the corporation tax rate to a flat 15 percent, managements of American-owned corporate entities, along with many managements of other countries' corporations, those corporations, producing consumer goods on foreign soil, are quite likely to consider relocating operations to The United States of America.

To be sure, such a material movement of companies to The United States of America, the managements of which have made the determination to relocate operations to the country where the corporate taxation rate is a flat 15 percent, would have a very positive, knock-on effect, right across the economy.

President Donald John Trump has, for many years, been a successful businessman and, without question, he knows how to do his sums.

The Much-Tougher Stand On Immigration

For many a decade, The United States of America has, constructively, refused to tackle the matter of the so-called, undocumented residents of the country.

These illegal immigrants are, today, counted in the many millions of men, women and children.

This situation is akin to that which transpired at The Battle of Copenhagen, a battle that took place on April 2, 1801, the events of which are well documented.

When Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson (of Great Britain) was said to have received the signal to recall from The Battle, he put his telescope to his blind eye, claiming that he did not see the instruction of his immediate superior: Admiral Sir Hyde Parker.

President Donald John Trump has inherited that which he has termed in words that amount to being a very messy situation.

The situation that he has inherited, however, has been the result by successive Administrations that, for one reason or another, with regard to the many millions of illegal immigrants, living in the country, determined not to take definitive action.

The actions, outlined by the President, today, are, in the opinion of many people, reasonable.

These people maintain: What other recourse, has he?

In respect of this thorny situation, the bleeding hearts of the country, however, feel that the President has no sense of decency; and, that it was cruel wind that caused him to become the leader of the most-powerful country of the world.

These bleeding hearts, however, seem to fail to realise that the illegals are, first, living in the country, contrary to the law; and, secondly, they are obtaining the benefits that are supposed to be destined for needy American citizens and legal immigrants.

Ergo, the illegals are being obliquely subsidised by the American taxpayer.

Down the road, just a short distance away, with regard to the matter of the millions of illegals, living in The United States of America, today, it will raise a number of difficult questions for the existing Government of Mexico.

This is because, inter alia, not all of the illegal immigrants, living in The United States of America, today, those about to be ejected summarily via the US-Mexican border, are of Mexican descent.

But, since the illegal immigrants of The United States of America, those who are not of Mexican descent, that is, obtained entrance via the Mexican-US border, some time ago, it seems only fitting and proper that they should be repatriated to the country that, knowingly, permitted their legal exit from Mexico and their illegal entrance into The United States of America.

In days of yore, it seems quite likely that Mexico did not feel inclined to continue feeding, clothing and housing the country's illegal, human population; and, the past governments of that country were only too happy to assist in encouraging these people to go to The United States of America via the 'open' Mexico-US border.

The actions – or the lack, thereof – in respect of the past governments of Mexico, are among the reasons for the situation that exists in The United States of America, today.

If Mexico had taken decisive action to prevent their resident, illegal immigrants from passing across the Mexico-US border, it would have alleviated (or nullified, to a great extent), some of today's problems that are being addressed by President Donald John Trump.

As far as President Donald John Trump is concerned, his attitude has to be:

'OK, you (Mexico), are responsible for your mess

*that you have heaped upon us.
Now clean it up!*

Although, this very vocal leader of the largest, single economy of the world might have put it in other terms, such as:

‘You wanted to shit on your doorstep, now wipe your own arse!’

In interviews with a number of these illegal immigrants, living in The United States of America, interviews that were videotaped, openly, for television, they unashamedly thumbed their noses at the Trump Administration and claimed that they fully intended to stay put – on American soil.

This is hardly the way make friends and to influence people.

What is very apparent – and President Donald John Trump intends to take definitive action to right the wrongs of past Administrations – is that immigration laws need some meat on the bone, to coin an American idiom.

He fully intends to put meat on the bone of the country’s existing immigration laws.=

The Obamacare Debacle

With the best intentions in the world, no doubt, President Barack Hussein Obama did not fully appreciate how his Administration would fall foul of unforeseen anomalies that, in due course, had had a dastardly effect on his well-meaning ambitions: To assist the people of The United States of America, those who desperately required a well-organised and affordable system of healthcare.

This is another inheritance that President Donald John Trump has, now, to tackle.

The once-considered, affordable Obamacare is, today, no longer affordable.

It is as simple as that.

Again, President Donald John Trump cannot be held responsible for the actions – or lack of actions – of the Administration of the former President of the country, but, nevertheless, he inherited them and so, today, he must deal with the situations as he sees fit.

As with the immigration problems, besetting the country, today’s President has to find the solutions to the constructive liability problems, left behind by the Obama Administration.

Trying to fix the problems of the past, with special reference to an unaffordable healthcare system, previously designed for the benefit of the 340 million-plus citizens of the country, would be more difficult than just scrapping it and replacing it with a system that will take effect, immediately, one that is within reach of everybody’s pocket.

And that is the road that the President has determined to take.

Defence Spending

Once again, President Donald John Trump is, without question, correct: The best defence is, always, an effective offence.

This strategy is, also, known as The Strategic Offensive Principle of War.

One can never tell when that 33 year-old madman, running the show in North Korea, will threaten The United States of America with an aggressive, jingoistic act.

Further, it, obviously, is correct that North Korea should never be permitted to have the ability to rain down intercontinental ballistic missiles with nuclear weaponry, installed on/in them, on any part of The United States of America or, for that matter, on any of the many allies and friends of the most-powerful nation on earth.

This reclusive dictatorship of North Korea aims, clearly, to obtain the ability to build weapons of mass destruction.

It is well known that a child, having received a new toy, will play with it until the child gets tired of it, at which time, the child may attempt to take it apart in order to see how it works and, by so doing, break it.

The Supreme Leader of North Korea, Mr Kim Jong Un, is acting in the manner of that proverbial child, having just been handed a new toy with which to play.

The world should never permit this evil, Asian dictatorship to possess weapons of mass destruction.

One recalls the date of September 1, 1939, when Germany, without the nicety of a declaration of war, attacked Poland.

That the Nazi war machine had been in place, openly, long before the order to attack Poland was given, was not a shock to most Western intelligence agencies that had advance warning of the designs of Germany's Chancellor of 1939, Mr Adolf Hitler.

But The United States of America took no action when, on the morning of September 1, 1939, German soldiers and German armament encroached upon Poland's sovereign territory.

The United States of America, on that fateful day, adopted the mistaken belief that Germany's attack on Polish soil was, after all, a European problem, only, and, probably, just a dispute over Poland's border with Germany.

'It is a European problem. Nothing to do with America', one heard from American isolationists.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who had opted to try to keep The United States of America out of the irritating European conflict, argued before The Congress that a Neutrality Act should be invoked.

He would, ultimately, live to regret that tragic mistake of miscalculation.

On November 4, 1939, The Neutrality Act of 1939 was passed by The Congress of The United States of America.

North Korea is, already, known to be a threat to world security and, possibly sooner rather than later, definitive action must be taken in order to put an end to the designs of this country's irascible dictatorship.

If diplomacy is found not to be sufficiently effective with regard to reining in North Korea's obvious intensions, then, the extension of diplomatic efforts must come to the fore.

Iran is another country that could never be considered a close friend of the West, taking into account, inter alia, the country's aggressive actions of late at sea, especially in the Strait of Hormuz, and the funding of terrorist cells in many parts of the world.

Both North Korea and Iran are spending heavily on constructing new weapons of war and it would be irresponsible of the present Administration of The United States of America to put a telescope to a blind eye.

In both cases, that of North Korea and Iran, time is of the essence: President Donald John Trump cannot wait too long to boost the ability of The United States of America to defend itself and to demonstrate to the world that it has the ability to take the initiative in respect of any aggressor that threatens the country and/or

its allies and friends in any part of the world.

Trade Matters

Nothing is forever.

No trade pact between partners can stand without necessary modifications, from time to time.

Once again, President Donald John Trump is not incorrect at targeting NAFTA – the North American Free Trade Agreement.

It may have served its purpose, yesterday, but, today, it appears that certain matters need to be addressed and clarified in order to ascertain whether or not modifications are required with, inter alia, Mexico.

The President has gone on record, stating that NAFTA was *‘the worst trade deal ever negotiated.’*

This is, probably, a little bit of an overstatement and more than a slight exaggeration, but nevertheless, with a little diplomatic juggling, NAFTA can continue to be useful to both The United States of America and Mexico.

The President maintains that Mexico has been *‘stealing’* American jobs.

This is true enough – sadly.

Could those *‘stolen’* jobs come back to American soil?

Perhaps some, but probably not as many as President Donald John Trump would like.

It is true that Mexico benefitted, vastly, from NAFTA.

But this was due to the fact that the Obama Administrative failed to put in place those necessary incentives that would have caused American manufacturers to make determinations not to look elsewhere, that is outside Continental America, in order to increase efficiency and profitability.

Mexico took advantage of its geographic and economic, advantageous situations by providing the legal means for, among others, American manufacturers to obtain the ability to increase their profits by moving part (or most, if not all) of their infrastructures across the border where land was plentiful and where it could be purchased at a much-lower price than comparable land could be obtained in The United States of America.

Also, of course, labour rates in Mexico have, historically, been materially lower than those of The United States of America.

In short, Mexico had been proactive in luring foreign investments into the country and, by so doing, from the point of view of President Donald John Trump, it constructively *‘stole’* American jobs.

Henceforth, it is likely to come to pass that any and all new trade pacts between The United States of America and its partners will be hard fought battles of wits.

As for existing trade pacts, such as NAFTA, modifications may well be to the benefit of all parties concerned.

There is little reason to fear change for it is a necessary and natural phenomenon of life.

Any government that does not see fit to fine-tune its existing administration will find itself, standing still, and, in the fullness of time, it will find itself in full retreat.

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