

Kentucky Association of Counties Conference
November 19, 2009

Thank you for inviting me to speak with you today. I am an economic troubleshooter. I develop economic plans that will create more jobs and reduce the cost of living to help those who struggle to make ends meet.

I am a registered professional engineer in Kentucky with an MBA and a Master's degree in economics, both from the University of Kentucky.

I am a Jefferson Republican. A Jefferson Republican will put the people first ahead of self and party; stand up for individual liberty and economic freedom; and live up to the Constitution of the United States.

“Putting the people first” means promoting policies that will lead to creating more jobs and reducing the cost of living to help those who struggle to make ends meet.

I would like to use my time today to make a few points aimed at helping to restore economic growth and helping state, county, and city governments balance their budgets.

First, the fundamental purpose of economic activity is to distribute the basic necessities of life among a population of people. Jobs are the mechanism by which this distribution works. Poverty results from unemployment and the cost of living being too high and is a sign that the economy is not working efficiently.

Second, the government and the private sector are part of the same economy. Inefficiency in government will result in higher unemployment, higher prices, and poverty as will government actions that make the private sector more inefficient, such as taxation, regulation, and litigation.

All of us are in the same boat together. If the federal government shoots a hole in the bottom of the boat, then all of us will sink.

Third, one of the two major mistakes made by the Hoover Administration leading into the Great Depression was to raise taxes to balance a budget. Raising taxes on businesses will cause more layoffs, further shrinking the tax base.

The best way for government leaders to balance their budgets is to help create more jobs to expand the tax base and increase efficiency and reduce spending until the tax base expands. Job creation increases revenue and reduces spending on social programs.

Fourth, “net job growth” is the relevant economic measure, not “jobs created or saved.” A jobless recovery will not help balance state, county, and city budgets.

We can achieve “net job growth” by reducing the cost of doing business – by reducing the cost of government taxation, regulation, and litigation. This includes eliminating the taxes on business profit and capital gain to stimulate investment.

Fifth, we must re-examine our attitudes and beliefs. Why do we demonize businesses and profit? Is it because we are blindly following the political philosophy of Karl Marx? Do hate-driven policies really benefit those who struggle to make ends meet or do they keep them trapped in misery?

Businesses are our allies, not our enemies. They create the jobs that people need to pay their bills; and they expand the tax base for governments. It is time to relegate Karl Marx and his hate-filled, destructive ideas to the ash heap of history where they belong.

My name is Roger Thoney. My Web site is www.rogerthoney.com. I am a Jefferson Republican and stand squarely with Thomas Jefferson, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan.

I have dedicated our campaign to organizing a movement to “Put the People first” in Washington, to restore America’s strength in the world, and to restore individual liberty and economic freedom.

I invite you to join us and ask for your support. America’s brightest days still lie ahead of us.