

TALKING POINTS ON WINNING AMERICAN WORKERS' VOTES

- The 2016 and 2018 elections made one thing very clear. The Republican Party is the majority party in most states, and in this century has twice won the Electoral College in spite of losing the popular vote, because it is winning the votes of a great many American workers. America's workers were once the backbone of the Democratic Party. Winning back a few percent of those voters will alter many election outcomes. Winning back most of the votes of American workers will create a different America.
- Following the November 2016 election President Obama said, "And the key for us -- when I say us, I mean Americans, but I think particularly for progressives, is to say, your concerns are real, your anxieties are real. ... Offering prescriptions that are actually going to help folks in communities that feel forgotten. That's going to be our most important strategy."
- The concerns and anxieties of white Americans with less than a college education are real. In this century their mortality rates have increased due to alcoholism, drug abuse, and suicide. No other group of workers in the USA or in the developed world has seen a similar increase in death rates. Their 'anxieties are real.' The growing wage gap is real.
- No special policies directed toward whites are needed. What is needed is for the Democratic Party to re-learn how to be the party of **all** workers.
- America's industrial workers are being hard hit by technology and globalization. Over 19 million Americans used to work in manufacturing; barely 12 million do today and that number is still fast decreasing. In 2016 in Indiana, a key state that went for Mr. Trump, workers who were forced to move from an average manufacturing job into an average paying service job lost about \$20,000 a year in income. The winning candidate in 2016 was the one who promised to do more to protect workers' jobs.
- In a December 2016 report, President Obama's top advisers concluded that over 80% of jobs paying less than \$20 per hour and nearly a third of all jobs paying between \$20 and \$40 per hour are susceptible to elimination due to automation. Mr. Trump won workers' votes largely because he promised to bring back jobs that had been moved to other countries. The fact is that far more manufacturing jobs have been lost to automation technology than to outsourcing to other countries.
- Jobs for Americans has been a core issue for Democrats for generations. Franklin Roosevelt's proposed Economic Bill of Rights emphasized the right to a "useful and remunerative job," and the "right to adequate medical care." But the last time that Democrats stood strongly for workers' right to be heard where they work was in 1935 when the National Labor Relations Act was passed. And Democrats have been complicit in allowing our de facto national policy to be that employers should use technology to replace workers as rapidly as technology can do so.
- The December 2016 White House report said that, "Policymakers should explore ways to empower worker voice in the workplace." One way to stand up for workers and fight the growing wage gap is to assure workers' right to participate as board members in their companies. Another way is to see that independent contractors, such as Uber and Lyft drivers and home health care aides, have the right to safely organize and bargain.

- President Obama's top advisers also said between 2.2 and 3.1 million vehicle operator jobs could be replaced by automated vehicle technology. There are no new jobs in sight for so many workers to move to. A sure way to signal to America's workers that the Democratic Party is on their side is to support a 20 year **moratorium on replacing vehicle operators' jobs** with self-driving vehicles. A Pew survey (October 2017) found that most Americans want operators to be in commercial vehicles and for technology to help, not replace, the drivers. Self-driving vehicles should only be for personal, not commercial, use.

- In the majority of states that have no fossil fuels underground, including swing states with lots of voters such as Florida, the **only** way to create good energy producing jobs is through renewable energy sources. We need to take the offensive by making it clear to voters that the only path to thousands of good sustainable energy-producing jobs where they live -- now and for generations to come -- is working for the environment, not against it.

- Workers do not support programs they think are 'giveaway' programs. Workers, like many other Americans, were excited when President John Kennedy said, "*Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.*" Programs with beneficiaries, like free college tuition for students, need to include expectations and opportunities for people to work together to give something back to their communities in return, through programs such as AmeriCorps.

- Look beyond a 'guaranteed minimum income.' As our nation looks ahead to the possibility of technology replacing far more good jobs, America will need to assure employment, not a welfare-type entitlement with no opportunity for people to give something back to their communities and country as best they can.

- The likelihood of crime increases when a society fails to instill "character and conscience" in its young people and when it fails to create enough good opportunities for young people to participate in the economy and in their communities. Jobs are essential for stable families. Jobs are essential in preventing social unrest and crime -- so is character and conscience and personal responsibility.

- **Standing up for workers' rights -- to be heard and to work, no matter what technology brings -- will clearly signal that the Democratic Party is the champion of America's workers and American values.**