

The Minimum Wage, Unemployment and The Simple Life

by Rick Rossi Sr.

Previously, in the essay Government, Taxation and Humanity, we had established the interdependence of all people in a given society. Such a society, we said, should prepare its people to be of use as labor to business, science and the arts. To do so, we established the paramount importance of health and education. Through progressive taxation, these two most important items will be supplied to the individual by the state. In other words, we the people are going to keep you healthy and give you the skills you need to be a productive member of our society. These two gifts are without any strings attached. You are to become all that you can or want to be if you have a mind to do so.

And so we now have a healthy and skilled citizen. The basic element of any strong society. As a citizen, naturally one will need to eat, find shelter, find meaning. Food and shelter should not be supplied by the state except in an emergency, as all citizens should work at something to help create a wealthy populace and therefore state. Finding meaning is totally the individual's responsibility and I think it is obvious why that would be so.

We now have a pool of healthy and skilled people that should compete so that those with the most talent, skill, and motivation are able to create wealth. No special preferences here regardless of birth or class. Even those with disabilities can be very helpful.

If you choose not to work at anything, you will be healthy and educated but without food or shelter. This is a most natural situation for those that are lazy. I am not envisioning that all our basic needs, including food and shelter, will be met in the near future through technology, but who knows.

By far the largest supplier of work is business, as science and art come only with the once established wealthy state. So, we must make it easy for business to compete not only within our society's borders but also with other nations. Given that the singular goal of business is to make a profit, we, the people, represented by the state, should seek to make business expenses low and therefore margins as high as possible. Since we have already dealt with the issue of health and education through the state, we will have lifted the current weight of doing so off business and thus lessened some cost of doing business. Why such was ever placed there is a wonderment. Business should free of as many shackles to profitability as possible.

Therefore, there should be no minimum wage so that the one major expense of a business is lowered to the market value of our healthy and educated citizens. Do not worry, remember, we the people, will be capturing some business profit later via progressive taxation so let us not hobble our businesses from making as much money as possible from the outset of their struggle to compete. Also, understand that by reducing costs, our businesses can bring food and goods to our populace and the world at a highly competitive rate, that is, at a considerably lower cost to the consumer. I see no issue of food, shelter and all sorts of goods being amply supplied by business to the populace if our businesses are allowed to reduce their costs to a minimum.

The question of unemployment is quite simple. If you work as a productive member of society for a period of time and find yourself unemployed, with qualifications, you will be kept in food and shelter until you can re-enter the workforce within a reasonable amount of time. Your health and skill set has already been guaranteed by the state so you will be well kept while you search for new work. We should also set a reproductive limit of a family to only replacing oneself due to the planet's ability to sustain itself, but that is another matter for consideration elsewhere.

This brings us to the concept of the simple life. How we continually mess things up throughout history due to the greed and material wants of people! Ask yourself what is it that you really need? Certainly, the answer will vary by individual as we each are so unique. I think though, there are some clear thoughts on what one really needs. Clean air to breath? Absolutely. Clean water, land, and sea? Of course. Food? Yes yes...but not too much...and good quality because we all know what happens when you eat the wrong food and too much of it. Surprisingly, you really don't need so much. Shelter, naturally, but I really don't need a six bedroom, four bath three car garage home, do you? No, not really. Transportation I need but I don't need a gas guzzling bling vehicle and neither do you. You may want these things to show you are better than everyone else or to attract friends but in reality, you are just a slave to your own greed and weaknesses. In all likelihood you are attractive enough, athletic enough and intelligent enough to be happy with a simple, low-stress life.. so don't be a slave to your baser instincts. Don't fall prey to the entertainment and advertising propoganda that tells you to buy more or that you are not good enough. Or to the wealthy that proselytize that greed is good to justify their position in life. Read history, people have been warning you about all these things since the dawn of oral tradition and writing. And we have been wrestling with how to handle wanting too much for whatever reason for much too long. Try to remember that simplicity and fraternity win the day, not self-indulgence and greed.