



The Bulls And Bears

BY ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune Media Services

Last Friday, the Labor Department reported that 236,000 new jobs were created in February. That's good news — but not nearly good enough. Even if this rate were to continue, which seems unlikely, the United States would-n't be back to pre-recession levels of unemployment for another four years.

American workers remain in a bear market. More than 12 million Americans are still without work. Another 8 million are working part time but would rather be working full time. Many have given up looking. The percent of working-age Americans holding jobs is the lowest it's been in decades.

Wages, meanwhile, continue to fall behind inflation. The real median wage is about 8 percent below where it was in 2000.

Yet investors are experiencing one of the most bullish markets in recent memory. The Dow Jones Industrial Average has hit a record high. Corporate earnings have doubled since 2000.

Why is the stock market doing so well while most Americans are doing so poorly? Four reasons.

First, corporations have been investing in new technologies rather than in their workers. As a result, corporations can now do more with fewer people on their payrolls. That means higher profits, but it also means lower wages and fewer jobs.

Washington is partly responsible. Corporations get tax credits and deductions for investments in new technology and machines. They don't get tax benefits for improving the skills of their employees.

Second, high unemployment has all but eliminated the bargaining power of most workers — thereby allowing corporations to keep wages low. This also means higher profits.

Washington is partly responsible for this, too. Initiatives that might reduce unemployment — such as investments in the nation's crumbling infrastructure, and a new Works Projects Administration or Civilian Conservation Corps to hire the long-term unemployed — have been rejected in favor of austerity economics.

Third, globalization has brought profits to big corporations but not to average Americans. U.S.-based global corporations have been expanding and hiring in Asia and Latin America where markets are growing fastest — even while cutting back on jobs and wages at home.

Washington has abetted this as well. Tax rules and trade policies have favored outsourcing abroad, and encouraged



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companies to park their profits outside the United States.

Finally, the Fed's easy-money policies have pushed investors into the stock market because bond yields are so low. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note is still around 2 percent. This has also fueled the bull market.

All of this spells widening inequality in America. People who invest the most in the stock market have high incomes. Those who rely most on wages have lower incomes.

Corporate profits are claiming a larger share of national income than at any time in 60 years, while the portion of total income going to employees is near its lowest since 1966.

As my colleague Emmanuel Saez recently found, all the economic gains between 2009 and 2011 (the last year for which data were available) went to the richest 1 percent of Americans. The bottom 99 percent has continued to lose ground.

And yet the tax code continues to give preference to capital gains over ordinary income — a major advantage to investors but not to people who rely on paychecks for their living.

In coming months, the sequestration is likely to make all this worse, since it will slow the U.S. economy and keep unemployment higher than otherwise.

It's also hurting the most vulnerable among us — eliminating low-income rental subsidies and emergency homeless shelters, reducing unemployment benefits, squeezing federal aid for poor schools, and cutting nutrition assistance for poor women and infants.

The health of an economy is not measured by the profits of corporations headquartered within it or the value of its stock market. It depends on how many of the people have jobs, whether those jobs pay decent wages, and what happens to those who don't have jobs or whose wages don't lift them out of poverty.

By this measure, America remains a long way from economic health.

The role of government, meanwhile, should be to level the playing field so hardworking people have a fair chance.

Yet not for a century have public policies so blatantly helped the most fortunate among us, so cruelly harmed the least fortunate, and exposed so many average working Americans to such widespread insecurity.

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Live Venues And Fun Memories

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Lester Bangs was an American music journalist, author, and musician who wrote for Creem and Rolling Stone magazines in the late 1970s and early '80s. He once wrote: "The ultimate sin of any performer is contempt for the audience." He no doubt knows whereof he speaks. Being an entertainer for more than four decades now, I tend to agree with his sentiment.

But what happens if the reverse may be the truth, as well? Suppose the ultimate sin of any audience is contempt for performer?

What do I mean? What happened to the dances that we (The Vanishing Americans) and other musicians used to play for at such happening places such as Groveland Park Ball Room in Tyndall, the old City Hall in Yankton, the City Hall in Fairfax, the City Hall in Mission, the Billy Mills Hall in Pine Ridge, not to mention the countless smaller venues like Dimock or my favorite place to entertain: Rest Haven?

Did people stop wanting to dance all of a sudden? Did bands stop playing the dance tunes that kept these places rocking? Did the music business suddenly stop producing the popular songs we used to cover weekend after weekend as we visited these locally famous places with our guitars and amps in tow? We sure gave U-Haul a lot of business in those days. So, what happened I sometimes wonder?

A few years back, the S.D. Rock and Roll Music Association did a "Feature of the Month" entitled "Rest Haven — Lake Andes, S.D." I happen to run across this piece and thought it would be of interest to those of you who remember the fun we used to have at such places:

"In 1914 some small cabins were built on the shore of Lake Andes. They were rented out to families for weekends and other times during the summer months. A short time later a dance hall was built on pilings in the water and was reached by taking a walk on a 700 foot long bridge, which must have been both an adventure and a challenge. This was called Rest Haven.

"A storm demolished Rest Haven in July of 1922 but a man named Henry Miller purchased some land on the lake

in an area about three and one half miles east of Lake Andes. He built some cabins and later added a hotel with a dance hall complete with a concrete veranda. A swimming pool was added at a later date. This proved to be a very popular destination as people came from all over the Midwest. There was fishing, boating, swimming, camping, hunting and of course some of the best entertainment in the state [including the Vanishing Americans and] including Lawrence Welk.

"Dances were held at Rest Haven every Friday night as well as at other times. As its popularity grew it was not uncommon to see a long line of people at the door. In the early years it was the orchestras and big bands that provided the entertainment but in the late fifties rock and roll arrived on the scene and was the new rage. Residents claim the crowds were sometimes so large and so rowdy that as many as eight cops were on the grounds.

"In 1984 Barney Kelly was the owner of Rest Haven. Although it was past its glory days there were still dances, roller skating and hotel guests. Unfortunately Rest Haven was a victim of a fire that destroyed this historic icon on Lake Andes."

What a loss to the local community as well as to the region. It obviously heralded in the end of a great era in our collective history. I remember the large crowds, the "rowdiness" and the local following we enjoyed as a top 40 band in those days. I especially remember one year we were booked and one of South Dakota's famous no-warning blizzards hit (must have been in February) snowed us in for the night. Since there were a few local fans who were stranded as well, we went ahead and played for them anyway (at no charge, of course). Every now and then, I hear from one of those loyal fans or run into them on the street. They always remember and appreciated our playing for them in spite of the foul weather and the small numbers.

Being an elder in our tribe make me susceptible, I suppose, to bouts of nostalgia and for those who were there. It is a good memory shared, I hope, and for those who were not there, I apologize for this blatant bout of nostalgia.

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...



Vince TWO EAGLES

YOUR LETTERS

Pipelines And Safety

Jeremy Dangel, Omaha, Neb.
Emergency Response Manager,
TransCanada/Keystone Projects

I must respond to several incorrect statements made by Gail Johnson (*Press & Dakotan*, March 6) and provide the facts about TransCanada's Keystone Pipeline and the proposed Keystone XL project.

Pipelines are the safest way of transporting petroleum products, and TransCanada has an industry-leading safety record when it comes

to building and operating pipelines across North America. Our existing Keystone Pipeline has safely delivered more than 350 million barrels of crude oil to U.S. refineries since 2010. The small number of spills that have occurred have all been related to small fittings and seals at our above-ground pump stations, all of which were repaired and cleaned up with no environmental impact.

Keystone XL will be the newest, safest pipeline built in the U.S. to date. TransCanada has agreed to meet 57 special safety conditions laid out by the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Ma-

terials Safety Administration. These conditions include a higher number of remotely controlled shut-off valves, increased pipeline inspections and pipe that is buried deeper in the ground. Also, major river crossings will incorporate directional drilling technology that will see the pipeline placed a minimum of 25 feet under riverbeds.

Keystone XL will transport crude oil from Canada and the U.S. Bakken region that must meet strict specifications covered by the U.S. pipeline regulations. This crude oil is the same as the millions of barrels of crude oil already

being transported across the United States and poses no additional risk to the public.

The oil provided by Keystone XL will replace up to 40 percent of the higher-priced oil currently being imported from Venezuela and the Middle East. Building the pipeline will create an estimated 9,000 jobs for American workers and is expected to inject \$470 million into the South Dakota economy alone.

No one has a greater interest than we do in making sure our pipelines are built to the highest standard and that they operate safely and reliably every day.

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

It's Low Tide For City's Water Issue

A sobering statement was uttered during Monday night's meeting of the Yankton City Commission.

"The Missouri River as a source (of water) has become unreliable," declared Steven Quail of HDR, Inc., a firm hired by the city to assess Yankton's current water treatment system and to develop a strategy for meeting the community's projected long-term needs.

Those unlikely but essential words help describe the challenge this city faces as it works to find new, reliable sources of water that will meet its growing needs for decades to come.

The second most sobering statement was never declared Monday in so many words, but it amounted to this: The answers to Yankton's water issues won't be easy and they won't be cheap.

But they will be necessary, and local residents have to prepare themselves for that.

Yankton faces a complex issue marred by aging water treatment facilities and a fickle river that was devastated by the historic flooding of 2011. Indeed, the channel that once was nestled along the north bank of the river has shifted to the south side and away from Yankton's water intake points. And that poses new problems for the city's water plants, which are archaic at worst and inadequate at best.

Water Treatment Plant No. 1, located near the north edge of the Discovery Bridge, is an old and outmoded facility, so much so that HDR is recommending it be decommissioned.

Plant No. 2, located near the Meridian Bridge, is 41 years old and is in need of improvements.

Together, these two plants are keeping up with current water demand in normal periods, but last summer the city faced the specter of water restrictions due to increased use caused by the drought. In other words, the capacity simply wasn't there to keep up with spiking demand.

The recommended options for Yankton, besides turning Plant No. 1 into office space, include building a new treatment plant adjacent to Plant No. 2 that could handle 5 million gallons of water a day, plus adding a collector well near the Paddle Wheel Point area to the east that could deliver an additional 5.8 million gallons per day. This would be a large increase over Yankton's total current capacity of 8 million gallons a day.

(There is also the option of Yankton turning to B-Y Water to meet at least some of its needs. This proposal was not touched on Monday night, but remains a possibility, although it would cause the city to lose control over its water needs and its pricing.)

The total cost of the construction proposal is an estimated \$28 million. While the city can apply for a loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program, the project will almost certainly result in a boost of monthly water fees for Yankton water consumers.

This will probably not go down well with some people. But an old truth applies here: Doing nothing is not an option.

Whatever Yankton officials decide to do, there is going to be a cost hike. It's not an easy decision or a desirable one, but it is a necessary one. It's essential for the good of the people here and for whatever future we hope to have to be a growing, vibrant community. This process bears watching, and the stakes need to be understood for a river town that now cannot count on the river for a steady, endless water supply.

kmh

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2013. There are 293 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 13, 1933, banks in the U.S. began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

On this date: In 1639, New College was renamed Harvard College for clergyman John Harvard.

In 1781, the seventh planet of the solar system, Uranus, was discovered by Sir William Herschel.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure prohibiting Union military officers from returning fugitive slaves to their owners.

In 1901, the 23rd President of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, died in Indianapolis at age 67.

In 1925, the Tennessee General Assembly approved a bill prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution. (Gov. Austin Peay signed the measure on March 21.)

In 1938, famed attorney Clarence S. Darrow died in Chicago.

In 1943, author-poet Stephen Vincent Benet, 44, died in New York. Financier and philanthropist J.P. Morgan, Jr., 75, died in Boca Grande, Fla.

In 1964, bar manager Catherine "Kitty" Genovese, 28, was stabbed to death near her Queens, N.Y. home; the case generated controversy over the supposed failure of Genovese's neighbors to respond to her cries for help.

In 1969, the Apollo 9 astronauts splashed down, ending a mission that included the successful testing of the Lunar Module.

In 1980, Ford Motor Chairman Henry Ford II announced he was stepping down, the same day a jury in Winamac, Ind., found the company not guilty of reckless homicide in the fiery deaths of three young women in a Ford Pinto.

In 1988, yielding to student protests, the board of trustees of Gallaudet University in Washington D.C., a liberal arts college for the hearing-impaired, chose I. King Jordan to become the school's first deaf president.

In 1996, a gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire, killing 16 children and one teacher before killing himself.

Ten years ago: Forced into a diplomatic retreat, U.S. officials said President George W. Bush might delay a vote on his

troubled United Nations resolution or even drop it — and fight Iraq without the international body's backing. The Senate voted 64-33 to ban a procedure that critics called partial birth abortion. (The measure passed the House and was signed into law by President Bush in November 2003.) Norwegian Robert Sorlie won the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race in nine days, 15 hours, 47 minutes.

Five years ago: The body of Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho was found in a shallow grave in northern Iraq, two weeks after he was kidnapped by gunmen in one of the most dramatic attacks against the country's small Christian community. Gold hit a record, rising to \$1,000 an ounce for the first time (however, it fell sharply later in the year). Bode Miller clinched the men's overall World Cup ski title in Bormio, Italy.

One year ago: A resurgent Rick Santorum swept to victory in Republican presidential primaries in Alabama and Mississippi. Twenty-two students returning from a ski holiday and six adults died when their bus crashed inside a tunnel in southern Switzerland. A ferry carrying more than 200 people collided with a cargo boat and sank just short of Dhaka, Bangladesh; most on board died. Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc. said it would stop publishing print editions of its flagship encyclopedia. Dallas Seavey, at age 25, became the youngest winner ever of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Alaska.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Roy Haynes is 88. Country singer Jan Howard is 83. Songwriter Mike Stoller is 80. Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka is 74. Opera singer Julia Migenes is 64. Actor William H. Macy is 63. Comedian Robin Duke is 59. Actress Glenna Headly is 58. Actress Dana Delany is 57. Rock musician Adam Clayton (U2) is 53. Jazz musician Terence Blanchard is 51. Actor Christopher Collet is 45. Rock musician Matt McDonough (Mudvayne) is 44. Actress Annabeth Gish is 42. Actress Tracy Wells is 42. Rapper-actor Common is 41. Rapper Khujo (Goodie Mob, The Lumberjacks) is 41. Singer Glenn Lewis is 38. Actor Danny Masterson is 37. Actor Noel Fisher is 29. Actor Emile Hirsch is 28. Singers Natalie and Nicole Albino (Nina Sky) are 27.

Thought for Today: "Work is something you can count on, a trusted, lifelong friend who never deserts you." — Margaret Bourke-White, American photojournalist (1904-1971).

FROM THE BIBLE

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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