

NEGATIVE OR POSITIVE?

By Jim Hughes

I received an e-mail last week telling me a joke. It was funny but the reason it was funny is not funny. It has to do with negative reporting:

This rough and tough Biker was riding in the zoo when he saw a Lion grab a small child through the bars and try to pull it into the cage. The kid was screaming, the parents were screaming, and the Lion was winning the Tug-O-War. The Biker jumped off his motorcycle, ran up to the cage and delivered a terrific blow with his fist to the Lions nose. The Lion dropped his hold on the kid and ran to the back of his cage to lick a very sore nose. A reporter for the local newspaper saw the whole thing and rushed up to the Biker. "That was the bravest thing I have ever seen, I want to write a story for tomorrows paper about this incident. What is your name, what kind of motorcycle are you riding, and what is your political persuasion". "Aw' it wasn't anything great. The Lion was behind bars. I was not in any danger". He told the reporter his name, that he was a republican and the bike was a Harley-Davidson. The next day the article appears in the paper. "Bush sends Harley-Davidson gang member to attack African immigrant and steal his lunch".

This negative reporting is what sells papers and magazines. Nobody is much interested in any good stuff. Like Blue Ribbon Kennels, USDA licensed and operated by really good breeders. That is boring! Oprah wants only sensationalism.

Well, I think I will bore you with some positive facts that you can take pride in your country. I would rather live in the good old USA than anywhere else in the world.

Did you know that in the last 25 year history we;

Increased total economic output from \$5.1 trillion dollars to \$11.3 trillion dollars;

Increased per capita economic output from \$22,400 dollars to \$37,807 dollars;

Dropped the unemployment rate from 7 percent to below 5 percent;

Increased the service sector of our economy from \$1 trillion dollars to \$5.5 trillion dollars;

Did you know that in spite of sending all of our jobs to foreign shores, our total manufacturing output peaked in 2007. Yes, our factories produced more product last year than any year in our history.

The Dow Jones average increased from 825 to, despite recent declines, it stays in the 12,000 range. That is a 1400 percent increase.

Increased stock investors from 19 percent of all households to 50 percent;

Increased the median family net worth from \$69,000 to \$93,000;

For families living below the official poverty line we have increased ; car ownership from 40 percent to 75 percent; color television from zero to 97 percent; air conditioning from almost nothing to 67 percent;

The poor in the U.S. have an average of 721 square feet of living space per person. In Sweden it is 430 square feet and in Mexico it is 92 square feet.
Increased cable TV subscribers from 9.8 million to 65 million;
Increased personal computers from 2.1 million to 243 million;
Increased cell phone users from 340 individuals to 243 million users today;
Dropped infant mortality rates from 20 deaths per 1000 to 7 deaths per 1000;
Increased life expectancy from 74 years to 78 years of age;

This fabulous rate of growth, unheard of in any other country or any other period of time in the world history, did not happen by accident. These are the results of three most important reasons, a dramatic reduction in the marginal tax rates, a series of major deregulations, and a broad expansion of trade. President Reagan signed the Economic Recovery Act of 1981, reducing top corporate tax rates from 70 percent to today's 28 percent. President Carter signed the Airline Deregulation Act, lowering fares in the last 25 years by 18 percent. He also signed the Motor Carriers Act, reducing some freight cost by 25 percent.

In summation, I think this is a pretty good record. It has been achieved with a republican in the White House for 20 years and a democrat for 8 years. I do not know what our future holds. Both Obama and McCain tell us we live in the greatest nation on earth. I resist change. I hate to change the furniture, I hate to change the color of the walls. I do not feel I want to change to much of the above record for our country either.