

Major parties left opening for Trump to exploit

Michael Costello/Lewiston Tribune

Politics so abhors a vacuum that, when given no other option, it will fill the void with the abhorrent and the vacuous. Donald Trump is the worst presidential candidate since at least Ross Perot, but he currently stands as the frontrunner because he has portrayed himself as the man willing to address problems that the two major parties have chosen to ignore.

For example, most Americans know that illegal immigration is a problem. Millions of illegal aliens have swarmed across the southern border, taking jobs from U.S. citizens and committing crimes out of proportion to their number. But neither party has shown an interest in fixing the problem. And so the path was sprinkled with roses for the empty-headed Trump. He proposes finishing the border fence and forcing Mexico to pay for it.

It's idiotic to think that Trump or anyone else could force Mexico to pay for the fence. But Trump gets traction because he at least proposes a solution. Americans know full well that illegal aliens don't just take jobs from citizens. Most are on welfare as well.

Americans know that Democrats favor amnesty mostly as a means of adding millions of new Democrat voters to the rolls. And the very same Democrats who argue that the U.S. government is being forced to subsidize Walmart's low wages with welfare benefits expect the rest of America to underwrite their voter recruitment efforts with illegal aliens with welfare.

Trump's proposals are certainly impractical and childish, but Americans are not even hearing from either of the major parties that illegal immigration is a problem.

There's a mythology out there that claims that only the Republicans are the party of big business. In fact both parties serve big business. What distinguishes the Democrats is that they're also the party of big government and foresee a future where big government and big business are intertwined as one, each serving the other.

Benito Mussolini gave this a name. He called it "fascism."

But immigration is one issue in which both parties serve big business before the American people. Because big business profits from soft labor markets, both parties want the nation flooded with illegal immigrants.

For eight years now, Americans have been hearing from Barack Obama that the era of American dominance is over and should be over. Obama has gone around the world apologizing for American "arrogance."

And although he offers no real solutions, Americans like hearing from Trump that America can be great again.

During the Jimmy Carter horror show, Americans grew accustomed to hearing that the era of U.S. "hegemony" was over and that we were due for a decline. Ronald Reagan won the 1980 election in large part by repudiating that reasoning, and he did in fact restore America's greatness.

And as idiotic as Trump's proposals may be, they're no more idiotic than most Democrat solutions to seemingly intractable problems. Democrat policies have yielded a very soft labor market, especially for unskilled labor. Democrats proposed solving the downward pressure that generates by imposing a \$15-per-hour minimum wage. This is a profoundly foolish idea that will result in widespread job losses. External forces cannot force an employer to pay a person more than the value of their labor. If the government tries, the job will simply disappear.

Employers are already replacing fast food cashiers with kiosks. Machines already exist that make fresh hamburgers. A machine that lays brick three times faster than the fastest bricklayer is available. A New Zealand company made the news recently after it laid off 60 welders and replaced them with a single robot that could do their job.

If you complain that you can't raise a family on the wages that McDonalds pays you, perhaps the problem lies with your plans to make a career of McDonalds.

Trump possesses the maturity of a 5-year-old and the vocabulary of an 8-year-old. Here's what he recently had to say about one of his opponents for the Republican nomination, Carly Fiorina: "Look at that face! Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that, the face of our next president? I mean, she's a woman, and I'm not supposed to say bad things, but really folks, come on. Are we serious?"

If a 69-year-old juvenile delinquent can win Americans over with his childish remedies, imagine what an adult could accomplish with grown-up solutions to America's problems.

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