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DAILY NEWS

Reader says raise in minimum wage would be best 'jobs bill'

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In a recent issue of Time magazine, Barbara Ehrenreich, best-selling author and a vociferous advocate for raising the minimum wage to at least \$10.10, was asked about businesses that claim they can't afford the increase.

"This is a moral issue," Ehrenreich noted. "If you have people working for you who cannot make enough money to live on, you don't have much of a business plan. Your business plan is really exploiting other people's pain and suffering."

I am not unsympathetic to the need, especially in a global economy, to keep expenses as low as possible. And labor costs are typically one of a company's most significant expenditures.

At the same time, however, many corporations are making obscene profits on the backs of people who are overworked and underpaid. When Wall Street is living the life and Main Street is suffering, we have a problem.

The anti-union sentiment articulated by many so-called "job creators" is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to keep the great unwashed in their appropriate place while they enjoy a decidedly higher standard of living – because they deserve it.

The best way to grow the economy would be to make sure everyone earns enough money to provide for themselves and their families. The increased take-home pay represented by a higher minimum wage would be better than any stimulus the government could provide.

There are those among us who are doing everything within their power to make sure their success is not available to their fellow citizens. The quaint notion that everyone has the ability to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps makes for a great sound bite, but ultimately it's a lie.

Slavery was outlawed in this country over 150 years ago. Apparently some folks have yet to get the memo. Raise the minimum wage.

Aaron W. Hughey
Bowling Green

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