

## More must and can be done to create jobs

This is a wake-up call to all the "job creators" out there – public, private, self-proclaimed or otherwise.

Whether you work for the government, a corporation, Uncle Bob or yourself is irrelevant. Americans need jobs and we need them now.

As Jim Clifton, chairman of Gallup, noted recently, "The coming world war is an all-out global war for good jobs."

Clifton defines "good jobs" as those averaging 30 or more hours per week and yielding a steady paycheck.

This is an important distinction, especially for the clueless among us who still naively maintain that "there are jobs out there if people are just willing to work."

Pay attention.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, poverty officially begins for a family of four in the 48 lower states when annual family income is at or below \$22,350. In Alaska and Hawaii, the threshold

is slightly higher.

This means that 46.2 million Americans are living in poverty; 2.6 million joined their ranks in the past year.

Put another way, over 15 percent of our neighbors live in conditions that most of us would consider humiliating and deplorable.

And the current political charade in Washington is only making the situation arguably worse.

While our legislators spew ideological rhetoric and draw meaningless lines in the sand, the rest of the world is not wavering in its resolve to take full advantage of the opportunity we are foolishly handing them.

America truly is at a crossroads. The decisions we make in the near future could determine our quality of life for decades and generations to come.

Still don't get it?

Pick up a copy of "The Coming Jobs War" by Jim Clifton. If you aren't alarmed about our prospects after reading what he has to say, you are probably in a coma.

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