

December 31, 2007

Bill [Bouton]

I didn't know about Glenn, but I'm not surprised. I'll remove him from my list.

I do think it would be OK to lower auto worker wages to the market rate, and I don't think it would be as low as wages in Sri Lanka or Viet Nam. Only 7.4% of U.S. workers in private industry belong to unions, and I don't think they all work for minimum wage. At \$27 per hour, the average unskilled UAW worker earns \$56,160 a year, not including overtime, bonuses and benefits. Actual average earnings are more like \$70,000 a year.

I do agree with you that CEO salaries are way out of line, especially when they often turn out to be idiots. But the fact that executives are overpaid and make lousy marketing decisions does not mean that employees should be overpaid. We have 370,500 people here in Michigan who are unemployed and who would be happy to work at GM for half the wage current employees are getting.

I don't know what earning level is considered middle class, but \$70,000 is a considerable contribution to the family income. And shouldn't the people in the middle and upper classes be the ones who took the trouble to get an education? Why would you think unskilled workers should be middle class? What do you have to do to deserve to be lower class?

And why do you believe Bush is trying to destroy the middle class? I think you are buying into union propaganda. Bush is certainly a disaster, but what would be the point of destroying the middle class? And I don't think unions can take credit for creating the middle class. They'd like us to believe that, but I don't think so.

Anyway, thanks for your input. You've made some arguments that I'm sure I'll hear again.

Steve