

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 241 What's Up With Today's Capitalism?

How do you feel about the way capitalism has evolved in America? Is it working for you? Should there be changes? What should those changes be? I'm Jerry Roberts and today we bring the words of a couple of the planet's wealthiest people, who say — well, I'll tell you that — next, on The Extra Point.

There's a lot of noise in media these days and sometimes you don't know who to listen to. That said, I've adopted a strategy that might work for you. When a multi-billionaire starts talking about the economy, I tend to listen.

One such person is a man I introduced you to yesterday, Bridgewater Associates founder, Ray Dalio, who checks in with about \$18 billion to his name. Dalio has built his fortune thanks to capitalism, but he's not shy about saying it is a deeply flawed system, one that needs fixing.

"Capitalism basically is not working for the majority of people. That's just the reality," Dalio said at the 2018 Summit conference in Los Angeles this past November. What he said next created some real buzz. "Today, the top one-tenth of 1 percent of the population's net worth is equal to the bottom 90 percent combined." That's a pretty big gap. I've also heard it expressed in a different equation, but one that is equally shocking. That the 26 wealthiest people on Earth have assets that are equal to those of the next 50% of the planet's population. That's 26 people having as much as roughly the next four billion.

Then he dropped the other shoe, saying the last time this happened was in the 1930s. You don't have to be a history major to know that something else that took place in the 30s was The Great Depression.

Dalio wants Donald Trump to declare the current wealth gap a national emergency, and then to

take action to change those numbers. Further, he's not the only billionaire to feel this way. Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett, worth \$80 billion-plus, has said the problem with the economy is the extreme wealth of people like him.

Buffet was interviewed by PBS and said the economy is great for the extremely wealthy, but isn't working for the average person and is, in fact, getting worse. The question becomes, what is the answer? It's not more entitlement programs and giveaways. The only way out at this point is to create more opportunity and to grow the economy. That means new businesses and new and decent jobs.

Guam has gone through periods of a stagnant economy that stretched for years on end. We've also seen our youth leave the island in search of opportunity elsewhere. We can't afford that happening again.

I think we would all be encouraged if Governor Leon Guerrero, Congressman San Nicolas, along with administration new hires Carl Gutierrez and Madeleine Bordallo, could come together and form an economic "dream team," whose stated purpose was to deliver 1,000 good jobs for Guam in the next four years; or maybe 5,000, or 10,000. Add some tax cuts and build a climate where that new opportunity can thrive.

Ten years from now, and maybe a lot sooner, if we're still talking about the military and tourism being Guam's only serious economic drivers, we may be in big, big trouble.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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