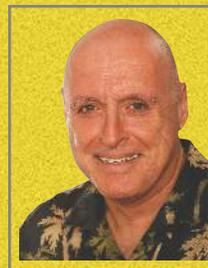


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1138 Is the U.S. Incompetent and Lazy?

The Chinese Communist Party says the U.S. has become incompetent and lazy." I'm Jerry Roberts and we'll talk about this, next, on The Extra Point.

The CEO of JP Morgan Chase, Jamie Dimon, says he believes there is some truth to the words coming out of China, that the US is incompetent and lazy.

According to Dimon, "We have screwed up infrastructure, screwed up Inner-city schools."

Dimon is joined by Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who said earlier this year that Americans try "to avoid going to work at all," as opposed to Chinese workers, who "won't just be burning the midnight oil" but "will be burning the 3 a.m. oil."

So, do you agree, do you think Americans are lazy?

Mike Rowe, host of the series *Dirty Jobs* on the Discovery Channel, said that even if it's true, he doesn't want to hear it from China. He would counter that the Chinese have their own problems.

Rowe said that Americans, like the Chinese, are human. When you give humans a choice, when you give humans an "easy button," they will push that button.

He said: "We are all born with this idea, that we are like rivers trying to get to the ocean. When you come upon a mountain, you don't do that hard thing to go over it, you do the easy thing and go around it."

Rowe has a foundation that gives work ethic scholarships, because he believes the fault in people is inaction. He said: "We need to be encouraged to do the hard thing, and we need to be suspicious of the easy thing."

In the US, since March, 400,000 people have walked away from the workforce. In many cases, these are people who were given the "easy button" and they went for it.

There's more. Rowe's opinion, and he's not alone, is that a lot of people choose not to work because they firmly believe that work has become the primary cause of unhappiness.

People have been force-fed a continual line that if you are unhappy in life, it is probably because you are unhappy in your work.

Then we have the growing trend that has the name "quiet quitting," where a worker does enough not to get fired, but no more. They do not step up to take on additional responsibility. In essence, they've dialed out of what is called the "hustle culture."

I follow online workplace conversations, I read a wide variety of opinion on where we are as a workforce and where people feel we're headed, and I gauge how work is viewed locally. It's clear that the problems happening elsewhere in America are also happening here. It's also clear that there are no simple answers.

Is it incompetence and laziness? Sure, there's some of that involved. Is it because people have become conditioned to blame work for their problems?

Is it that people have worked hard and delivered value, but a lot of local employers haven't paid them a reasonable wage? Is it that over the last three generations, we've become a society that looks first to the government to support us in full or in part, where self-reliance is no longer the key driver in taking care of ourselves and our families?

Is it that national and local politicians, looking to be elected or re-elected, have contributed to all of this for their own benefit? (Con't.)

I suspect it's a combination of all of it. The question for employers moving forward is what will it take to reverse the trend, for tens of millions of Americans to recapture their strong work ethic...their working mojo, if you will?

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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