

Okay, so I got this email from a right-winger that I've communicated with in the past:

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: Nicholas ODell

>>> Sent: Feb 3, 2014 3:14 PM

>>> Subject: GOP crafts plan to wreck country, lose voters

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>>> By: Ann Coulter

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>>> As House Republicans prepare to sell out the country on immigration this week, Phyllis Schlafly has produced a stunning report on how immigration is changing the country. The report is still embargoed, but someone slipped me a copy, and it's too important to wait. Leave aside the harm cheap labor being dumped on the country does to the millions of unemployed Americans. What does it mean for the Republican Party? Citing surveys from the Pew Research Center, the Pew Hispanic Center, Gallup, NBC News, Harris polling, the Annenberg Policy Center, Latino Decisions, the Center for Immigration Studies and the Hudson Institute, Schlafly's report overwhelmingly demonstrates that merely continuing our current immigration policies spells doom for the Republican Party.

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You can read the rest at:

<http://www.anncoulter.com/columns/2014-01-29.html>

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I noticed something interesting about the article and responded:

>>> On Monday, February 3, 2014 5:22 PM, Rich Gardner

>>>

>>> Yep, let's have the Republican Party remain the party of old white men! Just because old white guys are dying out faster than immigrants are coming in, hey, that's no big deal!

>>> Kind of interesting to see Coulter play the class warfare card. As Republican finances are heavily dependent on sugar-daddies like the Koch brothers and many other deca-millionaires, centi-millionaires and billionaires, I'd be interested to see where they'd get their campaign money from if that source of funds dries up.

>>> Rich

Well, this got the guy really irritable and he sent me a really long post with a lengthy article appended.

-----Original Message-----

>>> From: Nicholas ODell

>>> Sent: Feb 3, 2014 6:36 PM

>>> To: Rich Gardner

>>> Subject: Re: GOP crafts plan to wreck country, lose voters

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I had hoped that, just perhaps, you might be different than the majority of liberals, but no; the same old

"party of white men" mantra. As if the Democrats had done ANYTHING for blacks in their entire existence - except, hmm, forming the KKK, standing in the school doorway or turning dogs and fire-hoses on blacks, attempting to defeat the 1964 Civil Rights and 1965 Voting Rights acts by filibusters (led by such worthies as Al Gore Sr. and Robert Byrd, the only KKK member and recruiter serving in Congress in the end of the 20th century), which acts only passed because more Republicans voted YES than Democrats voted NO.

Hmm, the first black Senator was a Republican. Remember, the Republican party was founded to end slavery, and Martin Luther King Jr. was a Republican because he had experienced the terrible things done by Democrats. Lester Maddox, George Wallace and the rest of the segregationists were Democrats to a man. A large number of Democrat congress members even tried to stop the anti-lynching law from passing.

I've only scratched the surface of the total difference in the records of the two parties to blacks (and other minorities.) The fact that the Democrats have managed in one generation to reverse the votes of blacks, so that in the 2008 and 2012 election 96% and 93%, respectively, of blacks voted for Obama, and over 85% for Democrats in general, is one of the most ruthless, expertly done, and successful cons in political history. Even faced with the fact, in 2012, that the fate of black Americans - employment, poverty, etc. - had grown much worse during Obama's first term, like sheep they turned out again for him, and the rest of the Dems.

As for who funds which party; many billionaires and big businesses fund the Dems more than the Republicans. And union money, extorted from members usually directly from their pay checks without their having any say where it goes (in many states by law, as is union membership mandatory), despite in many unions 40% of the members being Republicans, goes 90% to the Democrats (see table below.) And state and local government unions have enjoyed an incestuous relationship with legislatures for decades: The unions get out their members and spend millions campaigning for union-friendly legislators, and in return get sweetheart benefits, union-only contracts and pay scales, packages that private company employees can only dream about. Who cares if it bankrupts the city or state? Obama will bail them out with his "stimulus" package - almost a trillion dollars sold to the American people under the guise of "shovel-ready" projects that he, sniggeringly, later said didn't exist. The money, most of it, went to bail out the aforementioned cities and states, and but GM for the auto workers (and to hell with the stock holders. Van you say Socialist?)

Union Political Campaign Contributors 1990-2010		
	Democrats	Republicans
American Fed. of State, County, & Municipal Employees	\$40,281,900	\$547,700
Intel Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	29,705,600	679,000
National Education Association	27,679,300	2,005,200
Service Employees International Union	26,368,470	98,700
Communication Workers of America	26,305,500	125,300
Service Employees International Union	26,252,000	1,086,200
Laborers Union	25,734,000	2,138,000
American Federation of Teachers	25,682,800	200,000
United Auto Workers	25,082,200	182,700
Teamsters Union	24,926,400	1,822,000
Carpenters and Joiners Union	24,094,100	2,658,000
Machinists & Aerospace Workers Union	23,875,600	226,300
United Food and Commercial Workers Union	23,182,000	334,200

AFL-CIO	17,124,300	713,500
Sheet Metal Workers Union	16,347,200	342,800
Plumbers & Pipefitters Union	14,790,000	818,500
Operating Engineers Union	13,840,000	2,309,500
Airline Pilots Association	12,806,600	2,398,300
International Association of Firefighters	12,421,700	2,685,400
United Transportation Workers	11,807,000	1,459,300
Ironworkers Union	11,638,900	936,000
American Postal Workers Union	11,633,100	544,300
Nat'l Active & Retired Fed. Employees Association	8,135,400	2,294,600
Seafarers International Union	6,726,800	1,281,300
Source: Center for Responsive Politics, Washington, D.C.		

Finally, if you are really interested in the facts, as opposed to Dem slogans, here is a poignant piece "Democrats Owe Blacks an Apology, by a leading black. (It's lengthy. Bet you won't read it.)

The Democratic Party Owes Blacks An Apology

By Frances Rice

Rice is a (black) retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, a lawyer and chairman of the National Black Republican Association.

...

The rest at:

<http://images.nbna.info/docs/library/NationalBlackRepublicanAssociation2009/The%20Democratic%20Party%20Owes%20Blacks%20An%20Apology.pdf>

I skimmed over this piece partly because it was so poorly formatted. Now that I've seen the properly-formatted piece, wow, is it a sorry-ass piece of junk! The author completely fail to identify the very real and serious distinctions between the pre- and post-Nixon's Souther Strategy Republican Party. The author does mention the strategy, but doesn't focus on the actual impact that the strategy had on Republicans and their relationship with African-Americans. Also, I disagree with the section on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., King was neither a Republican nor a Democrat. He was on the side of his people and cheerfully joined in with whichever party would advance the cause of equality. Sometimes that meant the Rs and sometimes that meant the Ds.

I responded:

>>> On Monday, February 3, 2014 7:22 PM, Rich Gardner

>>> Nick,

>>> Very interesting to see that you and Frances Rice share the same historical blind spot. Between the

beginning of Nixon's term in office and the beginning of Reagan's, there was a sea change. The Republican Party became the party of the Confederacy and the Democrats became the party of equality. Senator Rand Paul spoke to a black college a few months ago and argued that that sea change was all in our imaginations. You can find liberals patiently explaining the change to conservatives by Googling liberal descriptions of the event.

>>> Here's a quickie explanation of how union membership and broad prosperity are linked. No need to worry too much about getting liberal cooties from watching it. It's only a little over a minute long.

>>> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSYOedwIjMU>

>>> Rich

>>> On Feb 3, 2014, at 9:20 PM, Nicholas ODell

>>>

>>> OMG. The same "Racist Democrats in the South became Republicans" crap. Maddox, Wallace et al all migrated north and became Republicans. And forced through the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts, laws banning lynching, forcing Southern schools to admit black students, etc? Must be something in the water up here. I don't mind people disagreeing with me; I do mind mindless parroting of the Dems' excuses for their racist history.

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>>> I try, I really do, to give you facts, but, inevitably, in common with the vast majority of Liberals/Democrats, you respond with some liberal crap. Anything to excuse their heinous past.

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>>> The only "sea change" is that - as I said before - the Dems used their almost total control of the media, Hollywood and college faculties, the three key avenues where the message of Republicans hating blacks/Hispanics/women can be pumped, continually, into young impressionable minds and the almost half of America composed of uninformed voters. (Hollywood? Sure. Be a Republican in Hollywood and you'll be blacklisted. And can you imagine any Hollywood or TV film or series with a Republican as the star? The West Wing? The Candidate? No, Democrats are kindly, clever, imaginative and honest progressives while Republicans are knuckle-dragging, greedy, criminal Neanderthals.)

>>>

>>> They've played the racism/victimism theme like a finely-tuned Stradivarius. Although it goes back many more years than this, the vicious campaign to demonize George Bush during the 2000 campaign is typical. As Texas governor, because of his race-neutral and inclusive policies, Bush won one third of black votes and some 40% of Hispanics. Fearful of this aberration, the Dem machine swung into action. It started with a radio spot intoning "every time you vote Republican, another black church burns." An NAACP TV advertisement repeatedly shown, depicted a chain being dragged behind a pickup, implying that Bush was somehow responsible for the dragging death of James Byrd. They even paraded Byrd's daughter in front of the TV cameras to read the prepared script that when Bush refused sign another hate crime bill (there were already three on the Texas books) "My father was killed all over again." (Hello. Bush signed the death warrant for Byrd's murderers, calling them vicious killers deserving of no clemency.) Contrast this with Clinton, who hurried back from a vacation to confirm the execution of a guy so mentally-deficient that when they led him from his cell to the execution chamber, he carefully wrapped a piece of his dessert to eat when he came back, and in the dying hours of his second term signed pardons for killers (and the biggest tax cheat in history. That he received millions in campaign funds in return was, of course, coincidental.)

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>>> Jesse Jackson said that if Bush won, it would be "because of Nazi tactics." Al Gore told a black audience that Republicans "don't even want to count you in the census, either forgetting, not knowing or - more likely - depending on the audience's ignorance of Democrats pressing a majority Democrat

Supreme Court to count blacks as only a fraction Americans. The despicable Donna Brazile, Gore's campaign manager, said she would not allow "the white boys to win this time" (sounds just like your "white Republican" comment) and accused (black) Republican Congressman J.C. Watts and Gen. Colin Powell of being Republican pawns: "they'd rather have pictures taken of them with black children than feed them." Powell wrote to Gore about this offensive statement, reminding him that Powell chaired several organizations dedicated to helping young blacks. "I do so help to feed, educate and spiritually nourish all of America's children, black and white, and not just for a photo op. Let's not start the new century by playing the polarizing race card." Gore's response? To praise Brazile.

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>>> Neither Gore nor the Democrat party disassociated themselves from even the most extreme parts of this vicious campaign, and it almost worked. In the general election, Bush won just 9% of the black vote, a figure that has now grown smaller with subsequent Republican candidates. Obama has continued the theme, sometimes in subtle speech ("they don't support people who don't look like the figures on our bank notes"), other times unashamedly. And the Dems, aided by the media, Hollywood, academia etc., have continued to carry the Dems' water, with so-called journalists on the Networks, CNN and MSNBC constantly reminding viewers that any criticism of Obama's policies is because Republicans can't stand the sight of a black man in the White House. The theme they all put out about Romney echoed yours - he was a rich white man (lie, um, George Washington? Thomas Jefferson? FDR!?) Obama and the Dems will take care of you; while unemployment stayed high for a record time since the Depression, some states have more people on welfare than working, food a quarter of the country s on food stamps, and black youth unemployment is over 25%. Way to go. And, of course, it worked. Even when Obozo didn't deliver on all the free stuff he promised.

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>>> Please don't bother to reply. We're done. Take me off your email list, please.

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Gotta love how people want to send a really lengthy reply and then expect you to remain quiet. I made a last reply to him, or, hmm, I'm certain I did, but can't find it now. It was a quickie reply, a few sentences.

So then Tom returns

From: Tom Winton

>> Sent: Feb 4, 2014 7:41 AM

>> To: Nicholas ODell

>> Cc: Rich Gardner

>> Subject: Re: GOP crafts plan to wreck country, lose voters

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>> My comment:

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>> My goodness Rich, are you honestly influenced by some little contrived video devoid of any shred of rigorous economic analysis that purportedly proves your point? Seriously?

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>> Do yourself a favor and get an education. Goodness gracious, that was an embarrassing presentation of evidence to support your point.

>>

>> Sent from my iPad

Now, just because I use what seems like a simple and straightforward bit of evidence does not mean that that evidence is all that I know of the subject. One would think that would be obvious, but I tried to be patient with him:

>> On Feb 4, 2014, at 9:56 AM, Rich Gardner

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>> Tom,

>> I used the video because it summarized evidence I was already quite aware of. If you feel the conclusions that it draws are wrong, please don't waste my time saying it must be wrong in one way or another. Tell me WHY you think it's wrong and what evidence you have that unions and middle-class prosperity are not linked with each other.

>> Rich

From: Tom Winton

> Sent: Feb 4, 2014 3:57 PM

> To: Rich Gardner

> Subject: Re: GOP crafts plan to wreck country, lose voters

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> Rich,

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> Honestly, I think you are tethered to your liberal/socialist (or as you describe it "hippie") ideology, and nothing any of us say, or factual information we present to refute your ideology, will make a difference. Example: you still look at free trade as a "loss of manufacturing jobs" while ignoring the other knowledge-based (higher paying, higher quality) jobs that free trade creates for the nation.

> My prescription would be for one to increase their education level or learn a trade. Progress eliminates jobs like blacksmiths, but knowledge-based workers can be easily retrained. Why are liberals against economic progress and want to go back a century to an era of blue-collar unionism, but then view, say, gay marriage as progress for a society? Unionism, like the blacksmith, is dead and unnecessary in a modern society.

>

> Sent from my iPad

> On Feb 4, 2014, at 8:30 PM, Rich Gardner

>

> Tom,

> Heh! I notice you couldn't come up with any answer as to why the middle class has declined except to suggest that liberalism must be part of it.

> "Free" trade (There are areas, such as intellectual property, where NAFTA and other agreements actually tighten rules to make them *less* free) is all very fine and well for people who are equipped and ready to pursue higher-skilled, higher-paying jobs, but most people (90% of working people do not own their own companies, which is why the Romney-Ryan appeal of "You didn't build that" got the ol' "dead cat bounce") don't get any benefit from it.

> It's not that "free" trade does not result in a higher GDP. It does. The US is richer because of NAFTA, et al. The problem is that the riches go to the very top, most-skilled, most-educated people. What concerns us liberals is that everybody else gets left further and further behind.

> So, I presume from your message that you haven't seen fit to expand your reading habits to include anything to the left of the Inky?

> Rich

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Winton

Sent: Feb 5, 2014 9:17 PM

To: Rich Gardner

Subject: Re: GOP crafts plan to wreck country, lose voters

Rich,

I just don't think you understand the economics of free trade among nations, as well as you understand the liberal talking points around free trade. Interesting, today's Wall Street Journal had a piece on why Clinton rebuked the politicization of NAFTA and instead of demagoguing for votes (as Obama would surely do), but by surrounding himself with economic titans (e.g.: Greenspan and Rubin) he lobbied for it's becoming policy.

And Rich, the "riches" are going to the most productive workers. The unskilled, uneducated workers will always be at a disadvantage in a knowledge-based economy. Those union jobs you want to talk about went the way of black smithing - it was "creatively destroyed" by something you liberals purport to be all about: "progress". You can't be a "progressive" Rich, but be against "progress", can you? Isn't that the very definition of hypocrisy?

Of course we know liberal Democrat's - who are only the wealthiest of all Americans (Buffett, all the Wall Streeters - Dimon, Blankfein, Soros, Gates etc) are the biggest hypocrites in the land!

Rich, give up drinking the liberal Democrat Kool-Aid and get that nose to the grindstone earning yourself an education or a great life through the financial rewards of hard work! I have confidence you can do it buddy!

I finally got tired of pretending I was a young student:

On Feb 6, 2014, at 11:58 AM, Rich Gardner <rlg3526@ix.netcom.com> wrote:

Tom,

As I see you and Nick have been trading emails with each other, I'm sure he's told you by now that I'm actually in my early 50s. I actually have quite a bit of life experience as well as a BA (History). No, I'm not the slightest bit impressed by the "wisdom" of Rupert Murdoch sources like the WSJ, Fox News, etc. Our economy is in the horrible shape because of deliberate, conscious decisions taken with malice and forethought by such "good," "humanitarian" folks like Greenspan and Rubin. Groups like Occupy Wall Street are the inevitable result. There are good and hopeful signs that people in the corporate suites are beginning to recognize that they can't keep an economy afloat that's based on consumer spending if consumers don't have any money to spend.

I see that your answer to my question is "No, thank you, Rich. I'm perfectly happy in my right-wing bubble that supplies me with all the information that my corporate supervisors see fit to give me. The last thing I want is to be exposed to the outside world."

Rich

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Winton

Sent: Feb 6, 2014 2:38 PM

To: Rich Gardner

Subject: Re: GOP crafts plan to wreck country, lose voters

No Rich, I wouldn't agree with your comment at all. And actually, I'm shocked that you're in your 50's, I had you pegged for a runny-nosed college kid majoring in Sociology who really has no basic understanding of economics (of course I'm right about the second statement).

Enjoy the cocoon-like life in your left-wing MSNBC bubble, being spoon-fed the left wing talking points of the day, drinking that blue Kool-Aid with a joint in your hand! Hippie nirvana, except for the "work" "earn" and "personal responsibility" part, huh Rich?

Are you a History teacher?

The complete lack of respect for people Tom disagrees with is why I just can't take him at all seriously as any sort of grown-up or intellectual.

On Feb 7, 2014, at 7:30 AM, Rich Gardner

Tch, tch, tch. Well, we certainly do live in different worlds and you clearly have zero clues about how the other world thinks and lives.

I worked in a private school, did ten years in the Navy (PN3) and did several years with a Jewish charitable foundation and am starting a healthcare insurance job on Monday.

Rich

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Winton

Sent: Feb 7, 2014 8:41 AM

To: Rich Gardner

Subject: Re: GOP crafts plan to wreck country, lose voters

Rich,

Honestly, it does sound like you're complaining only because you were out of work. I just went through a reorganization myself, I know how that feels. It's not fun, I understand your frustration. But you gotta get back on the horse and get riding!

My motto is still: "The only easy day was yesterday." I'm sure you know that one!

And I agree that corporate executives are overpaid - because unlike entrepreneurs - they didn't take any risk to earn millions per year. But the notion of a struggling middle class vs "the rich" is a left wing/Democrat Party contrived story purely for political gain.

Obama's been great at dividing people - and that's the opposite of leadership!

Everyone in America - minorities, women, gays, even Jews etc has the same opportunity to educate themselves and earn their way through life. America is still a meritocracy (well except for institutions where liberals have installed the Affirmative Action quota system - such as: our universities, corporate America (through regulation), government etc).

If you worked in corporate America, or were a kid applying to a college these days, you would understand how the minorities I listed above get a hand out on promotions, college acceptance etc., by virtue of their "class" or "group", not their talent. Of course that's called "progress" and being "fair" to the far left progressives that dominate our media, Hollywood, universities, and government. Meanwhile, I guess the over-qualified white males can pay for their ancestors "past sins", huh? Forward, progress, huh! I just don't see it.

On Feb 7, 2014, at 3:29 PM, Rich Gardner <rlg3526@ix.netcom.com> wrote:

Tom,

Y'know, I realize you're not trying to be insulting, but it's pretty arrogant to presume that I get my politics strictly from my life circumstances. My circumstances have changed many times over the years, but I went to the left a long time ago and never changed back to the right.

I went to a well-attended Democratic primary discussion between three candidates who are competing for Rep. Allyson Schwartz's seat (She's running to replace Governor Corbett) and I think you'd be pretty disheartened at how popular my viewpoints were there. I didn't feel out-of-place at all. Politicians aren't stupid, these candidates knew full well that their messages would be broadly accepted and they'll clearly run on the ideas that they expressed at the meeting.

I'm a lefty because I find lefty explanations more convincing. In the late 80s, they were publishing a whole series of deep-think books about the Vietnam War. A question I had was why did South Vietnam collapse so quickly and completely in 1975? Several books, conservative, middle-of-the-road and liberal, looked at the explanation that was offered up right afterward, that the South simply ran out of supplies and ammunition and that their air force couldn't bomb as much as it wanted to. I and many of the books found that explanation unconvincing. After reading all three varieties of books, I concluded that the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese were motivated by anger over the Mandarins of the South owning all of the land, charging too much rent and not delivering enough benefits to the people who worked on the land.

A few years later, the Soviet Union collapsed. The reasons were similar, but not the same. The nomenklatura was indeed a thieving group that kept all the advantages for themselves, but mostly, they just couldn't deliver the standard of living that the people felt was possible for them to have. And the people were right, their standard of living is much better today.

The point is, when people go into revolt against their government, there's usually a pretty good reason for them to do so. Do people have similar motivations today? As a matter of fact:

The six members of the Walton family of Walmart own more wealth than the bottom 41% of Americans (127,000,000+ people).

The bottom half of the world's population (about 3.5 billion people) owns the same as the richest 85 people in the world.

Almost half of the world's wealth is now owned by just one percent of the population.

In the US, the wealthiest one percent captured 95% of post-financial crisis growth since 2009, while the bottom 90% became poorer.

The blogger quotes a fellow from Slate, who says that Obama emphasized "opportunity" as opposed to "income inequality" because:

The distinction is important. Most people think income inequality is fine—in fact, it's proper—when one person works harder than another. Obama's argument isn't just that the economy has left incomes unequal. It's that the economy is failing to honor work.

It's not that people are being bamboozled or lied to, it's that there are real and serious grievances that aren't being addressed. Yes, individual initiative is important, but no, that's not the entire answer.

As to bringing in blacks, women and Hispanics into what were previously all-male and white jobs, I cheerfully agree that the armed services are specifically designed to take in people from all backgrounds, see to it that they all share the same culture and then trains them to fill a specific slot. The Marine Corps Commandant was amazed a year after gays and lesbians were officially declared good Marines. He toured various bases and declared that acceptance was complete. It was the mission of the Marines to accept gay Marines as their brothers-in-arms and they did.

I can fully understand that accepting new genders and ethnicities was difficult in the first decade or two, but if groups are determined to take in new people that don't look just like the old people, it can be done. Yes, it helps to be brought up with education and advantages, which is why the working-class Joe Sixpack Jr. is simply not as well-positioned as Tagg Romney is for a financial analyst job and never will be. Yes, your birth does make a

difference for a lot of jobs. I've done time in big corporations and know people who have spent lifetimes in them. Yes, to a degree, you have to start young, but there are many positions where education plus on-the-job training can make someone just as good as a white guy.

Rich

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Winton

Sent: Feb 8, 2014 4:45 PM

To: Rich Gardner

Subject: Re: GOP crafts plan to wreck country, lose voters

Rich,

You wrote six paragraphs or so, but failed to tell me:

1) why Sam Walton founding a great, great business like Walmart - where all the middle and lower-middle class American people shop - due to the tremendous cost savings to the consumer, isn't entitled to become a billionaire. By the way - Sam was so frugal he drove a beat-up Ford pickup truck until the day he died! Some horrible "1%er" huh?

2) how the government can fix income inequality (any other way than the Democrat's "tax everyone with incomes >\$100,000 and give it to the rest"). Personally, I think the government is a big part of the problem, and education is the answer. I told my kids from the time they could walk, that the statistics on college-educated vs non college-educated were vastly different in regards to income. The Democrats and government in general, never fix a problem - they only EXPLOIT a problem for political gain.

3) the collapse of the Soviet Union - wouldn't an educated person consider that the seminal moment when the debate ended about which economic system is better for any country. A government-interfered "centrally planned" economy will never do for people what a "free market-based" economy will.

As much as you lefties want government interference - just look at what the government interference did to cause the 2009 financial collapse. The GSE's (Fannie & Freddie), the Community Reinvestment Act, etc are what caused the real estate bubble that led to the financial collapse.

4) Affirmative Action - is it still right in America to have quota's for race, gender, sexual "orientation" etc or should we allow the white male to be hired and promoted again - even if he is the better candidate for the job - but happens to be white and male. Affirmative Action's time is long past. Keeping it around sounds like another "government control" Democrat plan!

5) while you're at it - tell me why the Democrat Party can only run campaigns by smearing their opponents (as that scumbag Obama did to a very intelligent and decent man in Mitt Romney). And Mrs Schwartz is exactly the type of swarmy, scummy politician America needs less of! What have all those Democrats done for the city of Philadelphia - except get the sheep and lemmings to vote for them every year?

On Feb 9, 2014, at 7:04 AM, Rich Gardner

Tom,

1) Nothing wrong with being a billionaire, but Walmart is opposing a strong movement to unionize its stores. Not surprised that your sources haven't covered this movement or their stated motivations. <http://forrespect.org/> has details.

2) Taxation is PART of the solution and education is part of the answer, but policies in place today affirmatively support moving jobs overseas. Democrats proposed a bill to reverse that and Republicans blocked it. <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/house-bill/2740>

3) The GSEs were part of a much larger problem that also included financing for commercial construction (Office buildings, apartment complexes, sports stadiums, stores, etc.) as well.

4) Depends on how much discrimination there still is. My impression is that there's not as much as before and so yes, you're right, the need for it should accordingly diminish.

5) It would have done you some good to have attended the meeting with me and to have heard the Democratic candidates first-hand. All I can suggest is that you check out the original source, the Democratic Party. You're never going to learn anything useful from second-hand sources. Listening to conservative sources who bad-mouth their opponents is simply going to tell you how much conservatives dislike their opponents. Also, I find the "objective," middle-of-the-road people to be quite useless in helping people to understand anything other than middle-of-the-road opinions.

Rich

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Winton

Sent: Feb 9, 2014 8:05 AM

To: Rich Gardner

Subject: Re: GOP crafts plan to wreck country, lose voters

Rich,

1) unions aren't needed for part-time jobs at Walmart. Plus, increased wages for those part-time workers will only hurt the consumers who shop there. Look at how teacher's unions have ruined any innovation or reform in public schools. Unions are part of the problem.

2) moving low-wage, non knowledge-based jobs overseas isn't a problem in a global economy. That's where an understanding of economics will help your thought process.

3) Democrat's and their party are all about demagoguing, scaring people, and mischaracterizing their opponents. They exploit real and perceived problems for political gain, they never fix a problem. Gee, Rich, who contrived the "War on Women", the "1% vs the 99%", "tax cuts for the rich" or any other bs the left wing-controlled media, Hollywood, etc will trumpet for their allies in the Democrat Party until the election ends. C'mon man, you're smarter than THAT....Stop drinking the Kool-Aid!

4) and what you attended was called a "focus group". Where they "test market" messages that will be used in campaigning to sell the "sheep" or "lemmings" who vote for the Democrats. You've been hood-winked again. Did they at least provide a free meal for you for the test marketing of their messages???

5) so you know history, which is great, but need to brush up on Economics and Marketing 101.

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 9, 2014, at 11:16 AM, Rich Gardner

Tom,

Again, I've taken courses in economics, thank you very much. Our disagreement is not so much that one of us knows economics and the other doesn't, it's that your view appears to have stopped around 1890, when the Gilded Age ended and the Progressive Era began. The NY Times this morning pointed out that: "...most [minimum wage earners] do not fit the low-wage stereotype of a teenager with a summer job. Their average age is 35; most work full time; more than one-fourth are parents; and, on average, they earn half of their families' total income." <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/09/opinion/sunday/the-case-for-a-higher-minimum-wage.html>

Teacher's unions have stood in the way of the privatization of schools. Education is a very labor-intensive field where technology is not useless, but where paying staff well is by far the most important factor in getting the school as a whole to work well. Privatizers bring nothing useful to the table. All they do is drive salaries down and treat teachers and students like cogs in machines.

2. I prefer governments that work on behalf of ALL the people, not just the lucky and talented and educated few. Mitt Romney's vision of a government that ignores 47% of the population is not my idea of a moral and decent government.
3. My point was that yes, there are indeed laws on the books that encourage executives to move production overseas. Nothing you've said here contradicts that.
4. Are you suggesting that Republican meetings are any different? If I were curious as to Republican ideas, how else would you recommend I go about learning about them? Of course it was a meeting attended by Democrats. If you don't go to Democratic meetings and don't read left-wing blogs and you aren't going to learn anything meaningful from your usual right-wing sources, then I guess you're perfectly content to remain uninformed about what Democrats stand for and why.

Rich

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Winton
Sent: Feb 9, 2014 6:04 PM
To: Rich Gardner
Subject: Re: GOP crafts plan to wreck country, lose voters
Rich,

Let me cut to the chase:

1) it is you who only reads, listens, associates with, or watches left wing/liberal sources and people. You seem so very deluded myopic and parochial. I read liberal and conservative papers (NYT, PI, WSJ), and I can discern fact from fiction, and real issues from politically-trumped issues. Unlike some of the trash sources you have cited in previous posts, I am intelligent enough to ignore some of that obvious politically-motivated stupidity. Some folks, lacking an understanding of economics (sound familiar?), may be fooled.

2) you, and fellow "progressives", don't really understand the form of government our founding fathers set up for us. You don't really understand the constitution, which is why "progressives" either want to ignore it, or re-write it. What history did you study anyway Rich?

3) so if you "prefer governments to work for all" are you for a tax system where everyone pays - not only the top 50%, less quota-like Affirmative Action programs? Or are you too stupid to realize that the Democrats only want to divide people into voting blocs - then pander to each group? Gee, Rich, did Ms Schwartz tell you what she was "going to do for Israel" - the typical appeal to Jewish voters?

4) open your eyes Rich!

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 10, 2014, at 9:07 AM, Rich Gardner

Tom,

All of your answers boiled down to: "I'm in a bubble and don't wish to see anything outside of it. I can only understand what my corporate supervisors choose to tell me and I'm trained to ignore anything that doesn't fit into my comfortable world view."

You've demonstrated that you have no ability to assess a politics that you disagree with.

I focused on Medieval European history.

Rich

Date: Feb 10, 2014 10:26 AM

Rich,

Nothing could be further from the truth. I possess a depth and breadth of knowledge on what we've discussed, have a diverse group of individuals I consort with, publications I read etc, but am unable to have a dialogue with you due to your sheer ignorance of economics, politics etc. Anything that doesn't conform to the talking points MSNBC spoon-feeds liberals such as you, you just put your fingers in your ears and sing "la-la-la-la".

Good luck with the new job Rich! I hope it helps your lot in life and gets you over your present depressed state about the world.

If not, maybe you should consider living on a kibbutz.

Sent from my iPad

So which one of us lives in a safe, insulated bubble, far away from the world at large? My nomination is that they guy who has absolutely zero understanding of what the left stands for and who treats a person he disagrees with with so little respect would be the one that has a problem with reality. Obviously, my reading material is too far left for him, but there are many, many millions of us who consider the PI (Philadelphia Inquirer) and the NY Times to be centrist sources of news. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being Tea Party right-winger, I'd put the Inky at a 6 and the Times at 4.