

*“Truman Republicans”
& GOP Purpose*



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**Prepared by the Republican House Policy Committee
United States Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter, Chair
110th Congress**



Overture



*I come from down in the valley
where mister when you're young
They bring you up to do like your daddy done
Me and Mary we met in high school
when she was just seventeen
We'd ride out of that valley down to where the fields were green*

*We'd go down to the river
And into the river we'd dive
Oh down to the river we'd ride*

*Then I got Mary pregnant
and man that was all she wrote
And for my nineteenth birthday I got a union card and a wedding coat
We went down to the courthouse
and the judge put it all to rest
No wedding day smiles no walk down the aisle
No flowers no wedding dress*

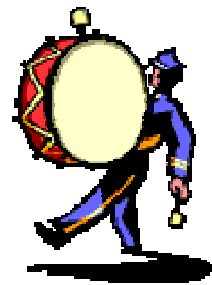
*That night we went down to the river
And into the river we'd dive
Oh down to the river we did ride*

*I got a job working construction for the Johnstown Company
But lately there ain't been much work on account of the economy
Now all them things that seemed so important
Well mister they vanished right into the air
Now I just act like I don't remember
Mary acts like she don't care*

*But I remember us riding in my brother's car
Her body tan and wet down at the reservoir
At night on them banks I'd lie awake
And pull her close just to feel each breath she'd take
Now those memories come back to haunt me
they haunt me like a curse*

*Is a dream a lie if it don't come true
Or is it something worse
that sends me down to the river
though I know the river is dry
That sends me down to the river tonight
Down to the river
my baby and I
Oh down to the river we ride*

**“The River”
Bruce Springsteen**



Executive Summary



Republicans are estranged from independent-minded, culturally conservative, working Americans – “Truman Republicans” – the heirs of “Reagan Democrats.”

Devoted to faith, family, community and country, Truman Republicans know **Americans have been bequeathed an unparalleled legacy of liberty from our parents that we have the moral duty to improve and pass on to our children.**

Today, however, the economic, social, and political turmoil of **amoral Globalization is gutting Truman Republicans’ American dream**; and they believe this current course spells disaster for their families and our nation. **Thus, Americans want big issues and ideas discussed and addressed!**

These economic pressures are tempting them back to the Left’s redistributionist economic policies and causing the Republican Party’s electoral erosion. To redeem itself in the eyes of Truman Republicans, **the GOP must reaffirm our purpose of keeping America the greatest nation on earth** by advancing liberty; preserving tradition, and channeling constructive change for Americans.

But Republicans cannot do so in a vacuum devoid of public support. Thus, we must place our purpose firmly within the contemporary context by informing Truman Republicans of **our nation's four transformational challenges born of Globalization:**

1. Economic, social and political upheavals
2. A world war against abject evil
3. Communist China as a strategic threat and rival model of governance
4. Moral relativism's erosion of our nation's foundational, self-evident truths.

Having provided the "big picture", **Republicans must also reaffirm the core principles instructing our policies** to personally empower Truman Republicans and all Americans to transcend these challenges. Specifically:

1. Our liberty is from God not the government; thus,
2. Our sovereignty rests is in our souls not the soil;
3. Our security is through strength not surrender;
4. Our prosperity is from the private sector not the public sector; and
5. Our truths are self-evident not relative.

In these transformational times, **if Republicans reassert our purpose and principles, and craft humane policies that empower the American people, we will perpetuate and improve our free republic's revolutionary experiment in human freedom and self-government for the sake of our children and generations yet named.**

America's Challenge



In the past, Republicans have strayed from our purpose and principles, and become estranged from the independent-minded, culturally conservative, working Americans – “Truman Republicans” – the heirs to the former “Reagan Democrats.” Like Reagan Democrats, Truman Republicans are not partisan or consistently behavioral Republicans; they are independents and nominal Democrats who might or, in the past, have voted Republican. (Think of President Harry S. Truman’s view of communism or a unionized, blue collar worker’s contemporary view of illegal immigration.)

Truman Republicans are the salt of America’s earth – reverent, honest, hard-working folk of modest means who bound their humble dreams by the hearth of home. Their devotion to faith, family, community, and country is woven into the fabric of their existence to form a resplendent tapestry of patriotic hope, dignity and, above all, love. Like all mortal souls in God’s unfathomable plan, they are perfected by their imperfections, for by knowingly striving to transcend their frailties and situations they are fully human – flesh and blood, friends and family, Americans.

Long ago, Truman Republicans and/or their parents became culturally disgusted with the Democrat Left-wing’s dovish internationalism, economic stagnation, confiscatory taxation, ideological idiocies, overt elitism, aggressive secularism, and moral relativism.

In sum, they viewed Left-wing Democrats as endangering everything they cherished and, so doing, America's position as the greatest nation on earth.

Today, however, the economic, social, and political turmoil of godless Globalization is gutting Truman Republicans' American dream; and they believe this current course spells disaster for their families and our nation.

These "bread and butter" pressures are luring them back to the Left's redistributionist social policies and causing the Republican Party's electoral erosion. Why? In the eyes of Truman Republicans, Republicans became the party of inept internationalism, economic Darwinism, ideological idiocies, overt elitism, and official and moral corruption. In sum, they view Republicans as endangering everything they cherish and, so doing, ending America's position as the greatest nation on earth.

This July, two separate studies revealed how, for these Americans, who play by the rules; expect others to do the same; ask little, demand nothing, and give so much, the economic, social, and political turmoil of Globalization is gutting Truman Republicans' American dream.

First, the Lindsey Group's analysis of the lower 50% of wage earners depicts Truman Republicans' dire straits as collateral damage amidst the "creative destruction" of Mr. Greenspan's post-industrial economy.

Specifically, the collective lower 50% of American wage earners are worth \$4.3 trillion.

This sum breaks down as follows:

- Real Estate and Durables – 83.5%
- Business, Pensions and Live Insurance – 10.50%
- Stocks and Bonds – 3%
- **Liquid Assets – 3%**
- **Total Debt – 82.1%**

Deluged with cultural and commercial demands to consume or risk recession, Truman Republicans are heavily in debt; barely liquid; and literally live a vicarious daily struggle for subsistence with little or no hope of saving for their children's futures or their own. Consequently, Truman Republicans foresee this consumptive rat race ends at a dead end for them, their children and America.

In their *Reflections on the York, PA, Focus Group (July 3, 2008)*, Peter Hart and Alex Horowitz studied five (5) men and seven (7) women between the ages of 26 and 66, all of whom were white; and had not yet voted for Senator Barack Obama in this Presidential cycle. Four years ago, seven (7) had voted for Bush and five (5) had voted for Kerry in this county, which Bush won by a margin of 64%-36%. In the authors' findings excerpted below (all emphasizes mine), we engage Truman Republicans' despair for tomorrow:

“This (focus group) was among *the most difficult and disturbing that I can remember*...I purposely wanted to get a sense of where Clinton voters are, as well as more conservative small-town Republicans...

“(There) was a sadness about the state of the country and people’s lives. *These people are hurting*, and they did not show the sense of optimism that one might expect about how people look at their own future or that of the United States...

“The group sees this election as being about big issues, not some of the small ones that have been at the forefront of politics in recent elections. They are concerned about the basics – the economy, health care, and particularly energy prices. *But what they also express is the recognition that America’s standing in the world has declined markedly.*

“The electorate is fluid...The America they see is facing major and serious issues, and it is in need of visionary and serious solutions to its problems...These participants do not speak in terms of policy details and do not focus on numbers or the candidates’ platforms. *The fault lines in this group are about a deeper and more personal sense of how the world is right now and what the country needs.*”

Yet, the authors’ dismay pales before the silent screams of two Truman Republicans staring into the abyss of the despicably christened “The Post-American World”:

Sheryl: “*I just don’t see (my children) being as successful, even as I was. And I’m not even as successful as my father was*...I’m a single mom, and I’m taking care of three kids. And, I just...want to make it better for them too. So I’m thinking we do need change. I’m not sure that either one of the candidates are going to bring the changes that we need, but we certainly need change to make it better for (my children)....”

Janell: “Well, I think that, for most of my life, my decisions have been made, based on morals and family values, and like that whole belief system that I’ve had instilled in me since birth. *And now, all of a sudden, our country is just like turned upside down with all these economic issues that we, I haven’t encountered in my lifetime.* And it’s really making me second-guess, you know, voting for those ideals, instead of voting for some of the other issues that need to be dealt with.”

Sheryl and Janell are *Republicans*.

Republican Purpose



From our parents we have inherited an unequalled legacy of liberty that we have the moral duty to improve and pass on to our children; thus, **the purpose of the Republican Party is to keep our America the greatest nation on earth.**

Republican Principles



Our liberty is from God not the government.



Our sovereignty is in our souls not the soil.



Our security is from strength not surrender.



Our prosperity is from the private sector not the public sector.



Our truths are self-evident not relative.

Republican Renewal of American Exceptionalism



Prior to his first inauguration amidst the Great Depression's economic disruption and despair, Franklin Delano Roosevelt asserted great Presidents were "leaders of thought at times when certain historic ideas in the life of the nation had to be clarified."

Today, engaged in a critical Presidential contest held at a transformational crossroads for our free republic, the party of Franklin Roosevelt and the party of Ronald Reagan are both failing this leadership test by immersing Americans' ears with a deafening electoral *muzak* rather than intellectual clarity. This dereliction of duty, which cost our party one election, must end, lest it cost America even more dearly.

Thus, in this transformational age of Globalization, we Republicans cannot wish the world away or pretend it is perfect, as our opponents so blithely and dangerously do. We must cut to the core of what being an American means – namely, the truth Truman Republicans feel is eroding with American Exceptionalism beneath their feet: from our parents we have inherited an unequalled legacy of liberty that we have the duty to improve and pass on to our children.

To honor this sacred duty, Republicans must return to our roots of philosophical conservatism; affirm the truth America does not exist to emulate others, America exists to

inspire the world; and strive to honor our party's abiding purpose and the Truman Republicans' anguished hope of keeping our America the greatest nation on earth.

This can only be accomplished by:

1. Advancing liberty
2. Preserving tradition, and
3. Channeling constructive change

For those in stunned disbelief, I'll say it again: Republicans fight to channel constructive change, because we agree with the conservative philosopher Russell Kirk:

“The thinking conservative understands that permanence and change must be recognized and reconciled in a vigorous society...Just how much change a society requires, and what sort of change, depend upon the circumstances of an age and a nation.”

Consequently, Republicans and all Americans are compelled to vigilantly assess our nation's age and circumstances; and wisely channel constructive change to preserve and renew what we cherish on behalf of our children. With America experiencing Globalization's growing pains in an age of hope and peril, there is no more solemn duty. For in this trying time, four transformational challenges have converged to create the chaos Truman Republicans suffer. In turn, these Americans pine for public servants who

can both “make sense of it all” and re-establish order, justice and freedom to our great nation. In offering this explanation, Republicans must draw upon the parallels between the Greatest Generation and our Global Generation.

America’s Greatest Generation surmounted a quartet of transformational challenges born of industrialization:

1. Economic, social, and political upheavals
2. A world war against abject evil
3. The Soviet Union as a strategic threat and rival model of governance
4. The moral struggle to equally ensure the God-given and constitutionally recognized rights of all Americans, regardless of race

Today, America’s Global Generation must transcend a quartet of transformational challenges born of Globalization:

1. Economic, social and political upheavals
2. A world war against abject evil
3. Communist China as a strategic threat and rival model of governance
4. Moral relativism’s erosion of our nation’s foundational, self-evident truths.

The critical difference is this: America’s Greatest Generation faced their four challenges *consecutively*; America’s Global Generation faces our four challenges *simultaneously*.

Confronting these transformational challenges, we must next reaffirm the core principles we will honor and act upon to empower Truman Republicans to transcend these challenges.

Regarding these principles, we embark from a foundational devotion to liberty to the four cornerstones of sovereignty, security, prosperity and verities:

1. Our liberty is from God not the government
2. Our sovereignty rests is in our souls not the soil
3. Our security is through strength not surrender
4. Our prosperity is from the private sector not the public sector
5. Our truths are self-evident not relative

If, in these transformational times, Republicans assert our purpose and principles, and craft humane policies that empowerment the American people, we will both markedly – and necessarily – rebut the Left’s siren song of secularism, socialism, and surrender; and perpetuate our free republic’s revolutionary experiment in human freedom and self-government for the sake of our children and generations yet named.

Advancing American Exceptionalism

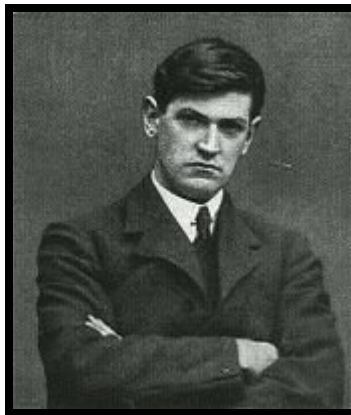


In this dawning millennium of hope and peril, the policies spawned by a Republican rebirth of principle will champion freedom; preserve tradition within the permanent realms of faith, family, community and country; and achieve constructive change for Truman Republicans and all Americans.

But most importantly, by so doing Republicans will ensure that, for Sheryl, Janell and all our citizens, America remain the world's greatest nation, inspired and guided by the virtuous genius of our free people and forever blessed by the unfathomable grace of God.



Contributing Republican House Policy Committee Members



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