

## Full Employment, an American Dream *by Kay Mauser*

A job with a decent salary for every American willing and able to work is still a dream in 2011. With a 13.9 million unemployed workers and an additional 6.2 million discouraged workers (workers who no longer look for work). We can see that this dream is a long way from reality.

Through the years the government has tried many ways to help the unemployed.

1930 we had the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration Act (WPA).

Then there was the Employment Act of 1946.

1960 brought us the Public Works Acclamation Act, The Manpower Act, and the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

The Emergency Employment Act and the Compressive Employment Act was in 1970.

And in 1980 we tried The Job Training Partnership Act.

In the 1990's we had food stamps and free breakfast and lunch programs for the needy.

It is difficult to imagine a country that was able to put a man on the moon unable to think of creative ways to solve the unemployment of this country.

Few of us can grasp the significance of unemployment. The numbers in the millions numb the mind and we tend to lose track that the numbers represent people and their families.

The John Hopkins University had a study in the early '90's that showed for every 1 % of sustained unemployment we had 5.4% more murders, 4% more suicides, prison admission was up 4%, mental Hospital admissions were up 3.5% and deaths due to drug and alcohol abuse was up 1.9%..

And the revenue lost because of unemployment for every 1% is 25 billion dollars not collected in taxes, 5 billion to general welfare costs which includes, unemployment compensation, food stamps, etc.

Can we afford to keep losing billions of dollars in lost productivity for goods and services, not to mention the cost in human suffering. And this study was if we had sustained unemployment of 1%. Ours is over 9%.

We have a cash crop in California that right now is costing the Government to futilely try to enforce laws governing it: marijuana. Make it legal. Sin tax it. We would have additional revenue, not to mention the workers who would package and market the product.

Isn't it time that management and the unions negotiate a 32 hour work week, for every 4 workers who would accept a 32 hr. work week one unemployed person could be given a job.

How about a National Lottery, State Lotteries work. Did you know that lotteries were the first form of taxes in this country?

I know my ideas are bazaar but it is time we wake up from the nightmare of unemployment. Realize the "Dream of full Employment." NOW.