

Mon, Mar 8, 2010

The following was sent to Glenn Beck, Bill O'Reilly, Fox News, and the Kokomo Tribune:

We live in a world full of corporate greed where nothing seems to surprise us anymore. There is never a day when the Bernie Madoffs of the world aren't smudging the front page of our paper. Then we wake up one day and reality sets in. It's no longer their town or someone else's job or retirement that is lost, but it's ours.

I've been working at our local General Motors plant for the last ten years. It's been called many things over the years, all of which seems to get lost in the minds of those who have worked there. Nevertheless, it has been a staple of our community for the last seventy-five years. I'm sure that there are those who can tell stories of the old Crosley Radio that existed all the way back to 1935. Oh, how times have changed.

I'm wondering what will be remembered in another twenty years. Will this place be another byword like Enron? Yes, corporate greed and scandal has crept its way into our small community. What was once a thriving industry, full of thousand of workers, has been systematically dwindled down to nothingness. We are facing the loss of one of Kokomo's most prized possessions.

The closure is eminent to everyone but those in public relations. Why is this topic of conversation being ignored? Why is there a cover up? Could it be the numerous tax abatements that this place has been given in order to secure employment? Maybe it's the 89 million dollar government grant that Delphi received just before the name changing paper shuffle where part of the facility was bought back by GM.

That money was given to secure employment at our current facility and yet we watch them change there name, pack up their bags, and move across town in order to keep the money. Am I the only one noticing this travesty or blatant abuse of tax dollars? Think about it: Your tax dollars were used in order to secure the decent paying jobs that we already had. Instead, they took that money in exchange for more minimum wage scale jobs with no benefits.

I have personally watched as management has downsized and outsourced our facility in order to gain competitive advantage. I've been forced to take a fifty percent reduction in pay in order for us to try and salvage our business and employment. I've often wanted to know when enough will be enough. I recognize that companies are constantly looking to improve profit margins, but sometimes this can go too far. Corporate greed has replaced the basic need for constant improvement in profit. Corporations no longer want their piece of the pie, but they want the whole pie. In the mean time, they have squeezed the American middle class until it no longer exists. I question the sincerity and motives behind many of the decisions that are being made under the guise of profit. Someone in management should have looked far enough down the road to ask one very important question: Who will buy the automobiles when we have squeezed the middle class until they can no longer afford our product?

"Everywhere there is the persistent and insane attempt to obtain pleasure without paying for it....'Let us have the pleasure of conquerors without the pains of soldiers; let us sit on sofas and be a hardy race.' ...All around us is the city of small sins, abounding in backways and retreats, but surely, sooner or later, the towering flame will rise from the harbor announcing that the reign of the cowards is over and a man is burning his ships." G. K. Chesterton

William Cory Stanley