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INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

Why Does Hillary Clinton Have A Problem With Americans Having Jobs?

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Clintonomics: Over the weekend, Hillary Clinton promised that as president she would put coal miners out of work and close down coal companies. As outrageous as that is, it's consistent with her history.

Speaking Sunday night at CNN's Democratic town hall in Columbus, Ohio, Clinton said, "we're going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business." She tried to wiggle out of the statement by saying these unfortunate Americans won't be forgotten. But people remember that candidate Barack Obama said that "if somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant" under his regime, they would be able to, but his policies "will bankrupt them because they're going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted." So they know that Obama's war on coal will become Clinton's war on coal if she is elected.

Backing policies that kill jobs is nothing new for Clinton. She wants to raise the federal minimum wage and is in favor of state and local governments hiking minimums even higher. The former secretary of state "has also called for paid sick leave and some type of paid family leave," the Cato Institute's Michael Tanner wrote last month in National Review, and supports "the Obama administration's push to expand the number of workers who would qualify for overtime pay."

"Maybe all this is a secret plan to support the robot industry," Tanner quipped to make his point that the policies Clinton favors will kick people out of their jobs and force employers to choose alternatives to flesh-and-blood workers.

Almost a year ago, Clinton accused Republicans of putting American jobs at risk. But shortly thereafter, she proposed her "growth and fairness" plan, which includes tax increases, a higher minimum wage, rules on businesses that will force them to cut jobs, and infrastructure spending, which has been shown to be an impotent job creator.

As we said just after she unveiled the proposal, it “would be a job-destroying disaster for both the middle class and the poor she pretends to care about.”

Going back a bit further, Clinton voted to extend unemployment benefits from 39 weeks to 59 while she was a U.S. senator. This seems humanitarian, but extending benefits actually causes higher unemployment. It eliminates the incentive to find a job.

While senator, Clinton voted for the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, as well. The provisions of the law make it easier for employees to sue over phony fair-pay claims, which legal scholar Ted Frank says “raises the expected litigation expense of hiring or retaining employees — which in turn reduces hiring and wages” and kills jobs.

Clinton also has a history of supporting unions. The AFL-CIO gave her an 85% rating for her pro-union voting. Organized labor, however, does nothing to create jobs. It, in fact, suppresses job creation. It’s in unions’ interest to restrict the labor supply so they can drive up wages.

Clinton likely regrets being so open with her comments. She tried to qualify them, but it was too late. They’re out there, and now voters can put them together with her 2004 warning that “we’re going to take things away from you on behalf of the common good,” as well as her history of getting behind proposals that choke job growth.

The result is a candidate who appears — and in fact, is — out of touch with average Americans. She would gladly put 80,000 or so coal miners and another 40,000 Americans employed in coal-fired plants out of work to please the environmentalist constituency that monolithically votes Democratic. And she wouldn’t stop there. She’ll say and do whatever will get her elected and then re-elected, even if the predictable consequences are fewer Americans with jobs.