
Project Name: Opinions Today
Location: NYC
Date: 10/10/2021
Time: 6:00pm ET

Can we have a consensus on what we do with the economy? What's the first step you want Joe Biden and Congress to do addressing the economy? It can be anybody.

Resign.

Open up the economy.

[LAUGHTER]

Can we go one at a time, please?

Get control of the virus.

Enforce the borders.

I'm asking for economic responses.

I think Spencer's right. I think he -

Infrastructure.

He got to get hold of COVID first. I mean, that's making - Trump blew off COVID for months. And Biden's been talking about COVID a lot, that's why I give him a lot of respect. That's all he's been talking about. And Trump, that's why I kind of left Trump because he kind of just blew off COVID. He thought it was a big joke. I ended up having it for my mother.

It is a joke.

My mother died. Well, it's not a joke, my mother died from it.

My uncle died from COVID.

Who said it was a joke?

[INAUDIBLE] priority.

My mother died from it, so don't tell me it's a joke.

Right.

From complications of it.

[INAUDIBLE]

I think that Biden needs to seriously consider not reinstating a lot of the regulations that were choking the economy before. I think that our economy is a great engine. I'm a stock trader. I'm making money right now. I plan to make money through whatever president there is. I think our people and our economy is strong but we really need to be careful with the regulations and the economy-killing things, and we've got to get open. We've got to get our small businesses. They're the engine of our economy. We've got to safely open our businesses.

Meredith, I 100% agree. Biden needs to take control of COVID and get small businesses, get main street open, get our lives back to a new normal but as close to the old normal as possible.

Then we need to end corporate [INAUDIBLE]. Stop giving money to the corporates that have money.

And then he needs to run an economy correctly and not falsely, not take out trillions of dollars in debt. He needs to start rebalancing the budget correctly. He needs to start righting the economy. The economy is propped up right now falsely and it's precipitously -

That's never going to happen.

It's precipitously on a cliff and could fall at any moment if the ship is not righted. I think Biden's going to do just fine keeping it up there, but he's got to make sure. It's a tough balancing act. He was left with a really bad hand.

Who is hoping that they would put some serious regulations and limits on Wall Street? Anybody.

It needs to be something.

Oh, me? Absolutely.

Of course.

Alec, Ryan, Jamie, Michael. Alec, what do you want to see the administration and Congress do with Wall Street?

Well, one I'd like no one in Wall Street to work in the administration. I think two revolving doors in it.

Too late for that.

I mean, does no one having a retirement account?

Too late for that.

Yes, too late. He's already appointed everybody.

Why not?

And all from Wall Street.

Yes.

Alec, why do you not want anyone from Wall Street working in the administration?

Because I don't think that their values line up with the American people. I think they just want to enrich the corporations that they worked for. I don't think they care about everyday working people.

No, work for corporations.

I take personal offence at that because I was a stock broker for 26 years, and I can tell you I cared very deeply about my clients. All 800 of them.

Ryan, what do you want them to do with Wall Street?

I'd like to see some regulations. I'd like to see something done with all the off-the-book trading that happens. I'd like to see banks, big banks broken up. We've allowed banks to pretty much do everything whereas they used to be segregated. You had a silo here and silo there.

Jamie, what would you like to see Wall Street policy be?

I'd like to see more or any regulation of hedge funds. I would like to see things like wealth taxes. Just actual prosecution of securities fraud would be a great thing to see.

Tax policy. Is there any consensus and, Phoebe, I'll start with you. Phoebe. What would you like to see tax policy be going forward?

I feel like our tax policy should be more towards the people who have money. There's a lot of people that don't have money that were born here, raised here generations and generations, but I see the big corporations like, hello, Amazon, and some of these people that don't even pay taxes. That's crazy to me. Are we allowed to swear?

Yes.

Oh, yeah.

That is crazy to me. How can they get away with shit like that? It's like getting away with murder. And if you have money, you do get away with murder. And I would like to see the playing field being more equal. You know what I mean? I don't know. I'm getting emotional already being here for five minutes

Ben, sir. What would you like to see tax policy be?

Well, there has to be major reform. If a purported billionaire can pay \$750 in tax returns, then the whole system is flawed from probably top to bottom. It's got to be massive reform. It's got to be fairness injected into the system.

Fairness.

Yeah, I mean, you've got to be able to expect that those who've received the greatest benefits from the economic system would also then have the highest responsibility to contribute.

Lisa, what would you say for tax policy?

[Transcribed by EA]