I. Social problems

A. Starting point

1. Vital needs to enjoy a decent life

a. Good job

i. decent wages

ii. reasonable hours

iii. security in job

iv. retirement/social security

v. vacation/leisure time

vi. benefits

b. housing

c. food security and safety

d. Accessible, affordable and quality education

e. Physical environment

f. Health and health care

2. Vital needs as shared social problems

B. Solving Social Problems: First Step

1. Understanding power: Who Rules America?

2. Power in American

a. largest corporations and wealthiest investors (upper class)

b. corporatism or plutocracy (plutonomy)

Citigroup’s Equity Strategy

“Revisiting Plutonomy: The Rich Get Richer”

“These economies (U.S, UK, Canada and Australia) have seen the rich take an increasing share of income and wealth over the last 20 years, to the extent that the rich now dominate income, wealth and spending in these countries . . . favorable treatment by market friendly governments have allowed the rich to prosper and become a greater share of the economy in the plutonomy countries . . .[much of this increase] at the expense of labor.”

Warren Buffet, multibillionaire:

“There is a class war in America and my class is winning.”

Milton Friedman, free market ideologue

“deregulation, privatization, cutback in social services”

C. Second Step: How are they Waging the War

1. take over political system

a. campaign financing

b. lobbying

c. consequence: legislation

2. control or eliminate regulatory agencies

a. revolving door

b. funding

c. enforcement

d. consequence: little or no regulation

3. control economy

a. concentration of ownership

b. eliminate labor unions

c. consequence: control over jobs, production

d. Citizens United and your employer

4. control mass media

1. information
2. entertainment

c. consequence: mass distraction and stupification

5. shape education

a. high cost

b. vocational institution

c. consequence: ignorance, lack critical thinking, exclusion

6. health care for profit

D. Third Step

American Casualties of War

Iraq

Deaths 4,450

Wounded Est 100,000 +

Afghanistan

Deaths 1,562

Wounded

PTSD 300, 000 + (50% receive care)

TBI 320,000

Suicide