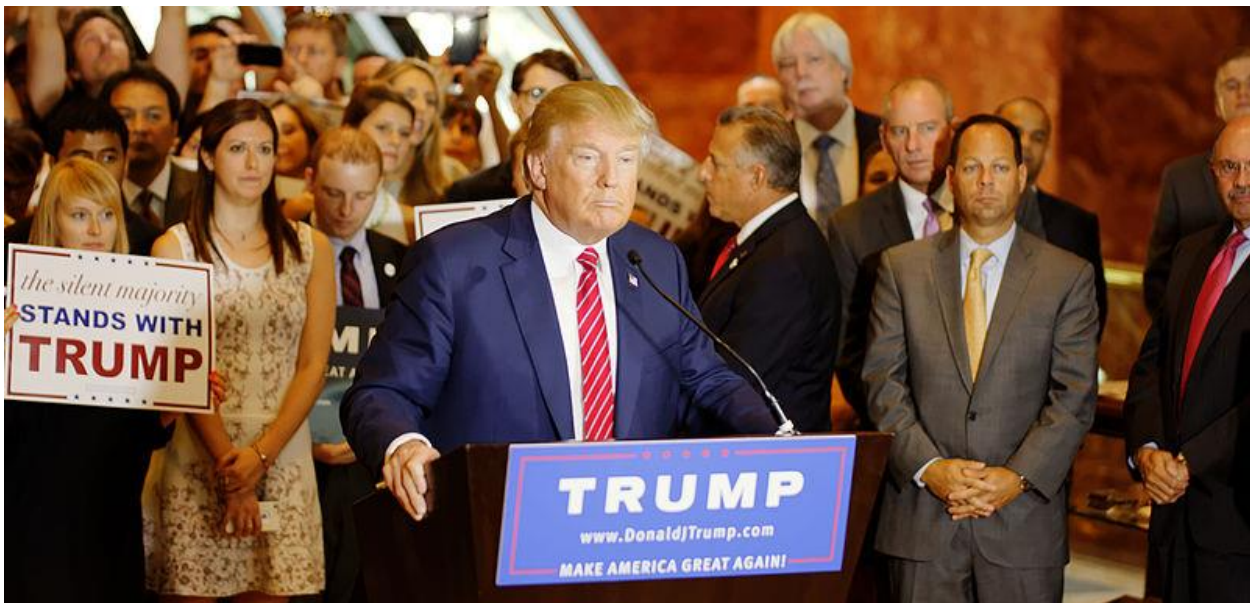




February 2, 2016

Trump Shows You That Things Are Starting to Get Even More Crazy – Mike Swanson



(Photo Credit: MichaelVadon.com)

You may notice that this newsletter has a totally different look than all of the other monthly newsletters that I have been sending out to you for the past few years. That's because I want to try something a little different this month. Things are getting crazy in the markets and in our country and when things change you got to change with the times.

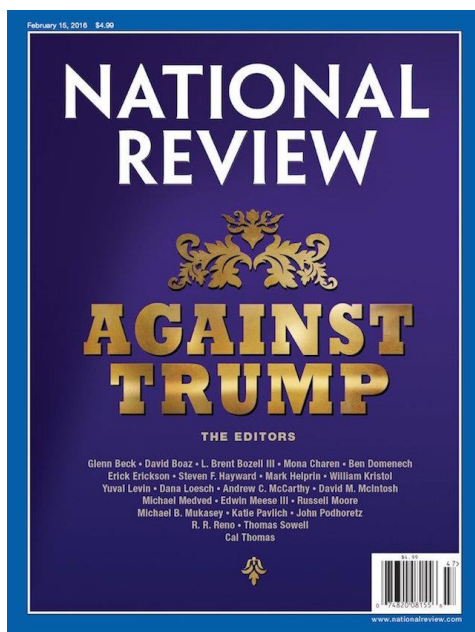
Yesterday Donald Trump came in second in the Iowa Republican Primary and is ahead in the polls to win in New Hampshire next week and then in South Carolina, and then in other states. Unless something surprising happens it looks like this going to be a competitive Republican Primary until the end.

This was not supposed to happen. A year ago I would turn on FOX News and they were telling me on there that Jeb Bush was the front runner and would be the sure winner. Right as

Trump announced that he was running they said he would fade away really fast. People on CNBC were telling me the same thing. And just the other week the National Review devoted an entire issue to bashing the Donald and telling its readers that he was not a real conservative.

That might be true, but the problem I have with the National Review making that argument is that they are not real conservatives either. I just think it's a word they use to justify the policies that they like to promote and then just call them conservative policies to fool the masses. The National Review has fully supported endless winless wars that have sent our nation on the path to bankruptcy. I do not consider the idea of invading other nations and then trying to force nation building schemes on to people as a conservative policy. In fact there is nothing as "big government" as doing just that. And don't get me started on bank bailouts. The National Review and the Republican establishment do not like Trump, because they do not know if they can control him or not. And he has expressed doubts about the wisdom of invading Iraq. He even called Dick Cheney a dummy and Jeb Bush a "low energy" guy!

Here is the anti-Trump issue of the National Review below. Notice that the authors are people like Bill Kristol who claimed that the US invasion of Iraq would turn that country into a democracy and make it a paradise. Instead over 200,000 people have died there and the social order has collapsed. And so we now have ISIS. Instead of making the United States more safe from terrorists it has done the opposite. Kristol was part of the so called Project for the 20th Century that has put our nation on the path of imperial overstretch and bankruptcy. Kristol was also for giving weapons to "rebels" in Syria that work with ISIS. He just doesn't know what he is doing, but is considered an expert on Fox News, because he pushes for endless wars. This is why FOX hates Trump too. The real problem with the Democrat and Republican establishments is that their policies have failed. The Republican Party made the size of the federal government under Bush much larger than it was when they got in office. Obama just carried most of his policies forward. Even his health care bill was essentially a Mitt Romney program repackaged. This is why the voters are angry, but they do not get that.



I am not here saying this though to tell you that Donald Trump is the best candidate. I am just trying to understand what is happening and share with you my thoughts. Vote for who you want and I do not know who I will vote for. I may not even vote in November. I do not know what Trump would do if he became President. What I do want to know though is how he has done so well so far, because this was not supposed to happen. Jeb spent over \$15 million in Iowa and was able to get only 3% of the votes yesterday.

Obviously there is an outrage among voters against the Republican establishment and its failures. There also seems to be a similar outrage against the Democrat Party that is being directed against Hillary Clinton and in support of Bernie Sanders. So we have a strong man who got a lot of votes yesterday and a pure socialist too. Things are getting crazy!

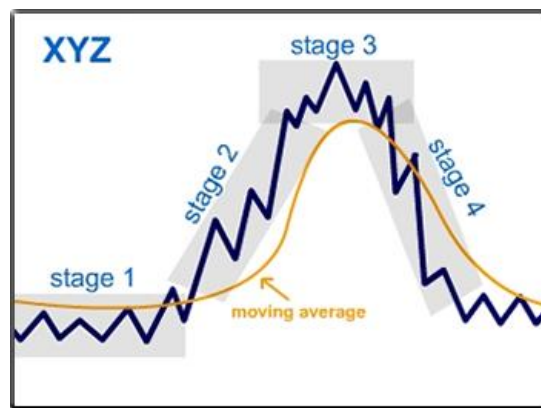
In fact Sanders may even have won. We do not know yet. They are saying on MSNBC right now that Clinton “probably” won. It makes you wonder if Sanders really won they do not want to say that. They hate him too on there. My response to Trump though is not to bash or support Trump, but to understand how he has done so well. And it is almost like he is using some sort of magic to get voters. What is he doing?

Well I am going to show you. I advertise on a great podcast/radio program called The Scott Horton Show. You can find it at scotthorton.org. Scott interviews some of the best writers and experts on foreign policy and sometimes political commentators. He did an interview with Scott Adams who created the Dilbert Cartoon about Trump and Adams revealed some fascinating stuff about Trump’s tactics. I’ve included a transcript of that interview for you to read and enjoy.

You'll find it after my article here. I am considering in future monthly issues to include more guest articles like this that I think you can get a lot out of and have fun reading too. That's what this new format this month is about. You see the craziness is just beginning and this is how I am responding to it.

I have pretty much focused solely on the stock market in this monthly newsletter since I started to write it. In 2014 I began to warn of the dangers of investing in an overvalued stock market and in July of 2015 I said the top was in. I then started to do videos with my friend David Skarica warning of the market. I was telling people to sell and get out!

I even put out a book in September in which I detailed the reasons why I think the stock market is so dangerous. And of course this past month we saw a very nasty market dump and then a bounce around the August low of last year begin the other week. But if this current



bounce ends this month and we go through that low we will likely see a very devastating drop.

In my premium private Power Investor group I give out trading recommendations and go into detail about the markets every week. This monthly newsletter goes out to my free email list of 50,000 some people and there really isn't much new I can tell them right now. Most people do not want to take a lot of time to study and trade the markets. They just want to hold and have things go up forever. I understand that most people do not want to put in a lot of work and time when it comes to their investing. It is only a small minority of people who want to do that and they are the people that get into my Power Investor group.

The people who do not want to take a lot of time with their investing should simply do a lot of selling and raise a cash reserve and put some of their money in gold in my opinion. All they need to do is read my books and then spend some time looking into things for themselves and decide what they want to do.

So grab my books Strategic Stock Trading and The Stock Market Bubble Bust of 2015. You can find links to them on the front page of my website here:

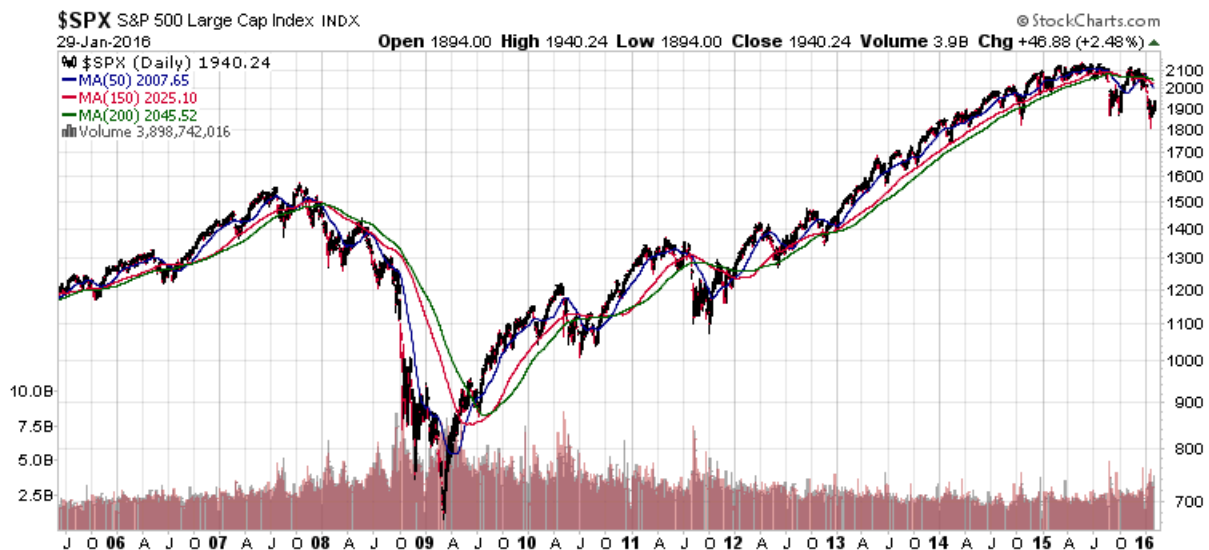
<http://www.wallstreetwindow.com>

Now I use simple stage analysis to determine what the trend of the stock market is in. When the market is above its 200-day moving average and that moving average is trending up then you are in a bull market. You see the 200-day moving average acts as support in a bull market. In a bear market the opposite happens and that is exactly what is happening now. I explain this concept in more detail in my books, but you can see what I mean in this chart:

The 200-day moving average on the S&P is now sloping down and the S&P 500 is still over 100 points away from it despite last week's bounce. When a market spends several weeks below the moving average that means it's in a bear market. When you are in a bear market if you hold on to stocks you can expect to lose money. If you want to make money then you need to bet against stocks and the best way to do that is to bet against stocks that are total junk. That's exactly what we are now doing in the Power Investor group. I also put out an entire course on how to find junk stocks right at the start of the year. You can get it here:

<http://wallstreetwindow.com/beta/posstocksprogram.htm>

Beyond that there is not much more specific information about trading and investing I



can say at this point, because we are now in a bear market. The average person just wants picks and I will not give out any picks to people in a bear market and this bear market could last for years.

Therefore I'm going to focus on more things than just the financial markets and investing in this monthly newsletter. And it's appropriate to do that, because times are about to get even crazier than they are now. And there is more to our lives than just investing in the stock market. I am thinking of adding more guest articles to future issues.

In 2000 we saw a bear market that brought with it a crash in internet stocks and then a real estate bubble. In 2001 we had 9/11 and then the wars in the Middle East followed. The economy didn't really go into a sustainable recovery and the national debt shot up. In 2008 the

stock market crashed and Wall Street got bailed out. Then we had Obama and it goes on and on.

And so things are getting crazy and people are hoping that Trump will step in and save them. It's clear that no one else in these two political parties can do it so Trump is now their last and only hope.

The thing about the litany of past events is that if we go into another bear market collapse as I think we will do there is no telling what will happen afterwards. I really have no idea. I cannot predict the future. So we have to keep our eyes open to what is going on. This is actually a part of being a successful investor too, but it's also the right thing to be doing or else you'll just be following people on TV and doing what they tell you to do and thinking what they tell you to think. And it hasn't worked out too well for us as a people or for the stock market investors who watched CNBC in 2000 and 2008 and just keep believing stocks will go back up, because the talking heads told them they would. Actually anger at the television media is another reason why people like Trump and even Cruz.

There has definitely been a failure of leadership in our country in both parties. There is no doubt about that. And Trump is the only candidate besides Bernie Sanders who has had the guts to call out Wall Street bankers and even the Federal Reserve. When he began his campaign he said that the Fed had created another bubble and that the stock market was likely to fall. And he was right and people know he was the only one saying this running for office.

But Trump used some psychological tricks through the medium of television to "beat" the other candidates in the debates and make the other candidates look small. How did he do that?



the SCOTT HORTON show libertarian foreign policy, mostly...

Scott Adams, creator of the Dilbert comic strip, discusses how Donald Trump's "master persuader" skills are helping him dominate the other Republican presidential candidates and confound the media's attempts to knock him down.

<http://scotthorton.org/interviews/2015/12/15/121515-scott-adams/>

TANSCRIPT:

00:31 SCOTT HORTON: Alright, you guys, welcome back. I'm Scott Horton. It's my show, the Scott Horton Show. Up next, it's Scott Adams, the author of the Dilbert cartoon, and also turns out a very interesting political analyst other than in cartoon form. Welcome to the show! How are you doing, Scott?

00:53 SCOTT ADAMS: I'm doing great, thanks for having me.

00:55 SCOTT HORTON: Very happy to have you here. I saw you on CNN saying some very interesting things. We talked about it here on the show a little bit. I've been reading your blog a little bit more and learning a little bit more about what you have to say about this Donald Trump phenomenon, and thought I'd like to give people a chance to hear it. If you could, first of all as you explain on your blog, could you explain the moist robot hypothesis? Which I think I agree with just from hearing the title. And then from there, what exactly is a master wizard, if you could?

01:27 SCOTT ADAMS: Well, the moist robot hypothesis, I wrote about it in my latest book 'How To Fail At Almost Everything And Still Win Big,' but the idea is that we're essentially programmed computers, that free will is an illusion, and that if we take care of our bodies, our minds generally go to a good place. So, the ideas that we can be easily influenced by a master persuader, someone who has the talent to know how to program that user interface that is human beings. That set of skills is very well-known. Science has tested it. There's lots of studies about what influences people. I'm a trained hypnotist by background, so I recognize in Donald Trump a number of these skills of persuasion that he himself says he has. He wrote a book called The Art of the Deal where he talks about negotiating, and that field of negotiating, hypnosis, persuasion, influence, it's all kind of the same thing. It's the same set of skills.

02:31 SCOTT HORTON: That's interesting. I told this story before, I took psychology and social psychology in junior college just to try to protect myself from this kind of thing so I could try to be reasonable and make my decisions based on information and not in an emotional way or some looking glass self way, or some victim of advertising or political spin kind of way. I want the truth, damn it. And yet, I recognized that everybody else in class were going into advertising or government for a living and that's why they were there was to learn how to manipulate people. I don't know if any of them will ever attain the rank of master wizard, but basically, I guess you're right. At the end of the day, what's reason got to do with it? It's all about how you make people feel, and if you feed 'em jelly beans while you tell 'em your argument they'll be 75% more likely to agree with you at the end kind of thing. It is like that.

03:23 SCOTT ADAMS: Yes, and with Donald Trump it goes way beyond just saying things that people wanna hear him say, although that actually is a method of persuasion. If you say something that someone is thinking before they've said it, then that's a hugely persuasive thing to do. They'll end up agreeing with everything else you say after that. So when Trump did that about blocking Muslim immigration temporarily, he accurately guessed that a large percentage of the general population was thinking that, but wouldn't say it out loud. And polls have backed him up, so that was not just a good guess and not just a politically expedient thing, which is the way it's being reported, but it's a deep persuasive technique. I'll give you another one. When Trump talks about whether Hillary Clinton was the worst Secretary of State of all-time or not, that's a trick called selling past the close. If he makes you think about the question of who else is as bad as she was, you've already accepted the premise that she was bad and all you're talking about is whether she was the worst. So, when you see somebody set up a question in that form it's a car salesman trick.

04:39 SCOTT HORTON: Mm-hmm.

04:40 SCOTT ADAMS: When the car salesman says, "Do you think you would like the blue one in your driveway better or the red one?" He's making you think past the decision of buying it.

04:50 SCOTT HORTON: But that's a pretty cheap trick, isn't it? That doesn't sound like a wizard technique as much as kind of a hack technique there, no?

04:57 SCOTT ADAMS: Well, first of all if you saw only one of the techniques in isolation of course it wouldn't mean much.

05:02 SCOTT HORTON: Oh, I see.

05:02 SCOTT ADAMS: But you have to understand that you're getting a blizzard of associations and influence every time Trump opens his mouth. But the other thing that's interesting about influence is that you can tell somebody what you're doing while you're doing it to them, and it won't affect the fact that it works. So the fact that I told you just how that works, the selling past the close, that doesn't change its effectiveness. It still works.

05:33 SCOTT ADAMS: The other big trick that Trump does is he directs energy to where he wants it. My best example was during the first debate when he got the gotcha question about his comments about women in general, and he quickly brought up Rosie O'Donnell because that just absorbed all the headlines and turned it into sort of a focus on a character that he knew would not be popular with his Republican base. So he basically just owned the conversation simply by moving it to someplace irresistible that would keep the energy there, and you'll see the same trick over and over.

06:12 SCOTT ADAMS: For example, when Chris Cuomo was interviewing on CNN, this was a while ago, a few months ago, and said, "The Pope had some bad things to say about capitalism." The question was to set up to get Trump to disagree with the Pope. Alright. That's what the question was designed to do. But what Trump did was he didn't fall for it. He said instead some version of, "The Pope should be worried that ISIS is coming to take over the Vatican." Now, as soon as you get that in your head, you forget what the question was. Because as you imagine ISIS coming into the Vatican and taking over, which by the way always has a at least one pinky in truth, because ISIS would love to do that. They would love to do that if they could. So nothing he says is 100% crazy, but it's just provocative enough that it takes all the energy to a place where he's strong, which is his opinions about immigration, defense, economics, and away from anything that would be a weakness for him.

07:16 SCOTT HORTON: And now, but I see he's saying, Scott, on CNN that what this amounts to is the others have no chance whatsoever. And Jeb Bush can basically do nothing but cry because, as you put it, on CNN they're bringing sticks to a flame thrower fight. And he is just a giant, stomping and crushing them, and I can see your point there that there's really nothing that they can do about this at this point. He's light years ahead.

07:41 SCOTT ADAMS: Couple of clarifications. First of all, I don't support Trump. I'm not endorsing him. I'm rather just analysing his methods, and in my blog for entertainment, I predict that he's definitely gonna win. And I use what I call the master persuader filter to make those predictions. Now, that doesn't mean it's true. I'm just saying that if you predict things based on this filter, see how it does. So I used that filter to predict if Carly Fiorina would hit a top in the polls after she'd mentioned the dead, squirming, aborted baby image. Because what she did was pair that image with her in people's minds,

and that really is the master persuader suicide. So that's something that Trump would never do, and it killed her. That was the end of Fiorina after that association.

08:34 SCOTT ADAMS: If you look at the closing statements of the last debate, each of the other candidates said something terrible was happening, the world was coming to an end. Trump made maybe a quick statement about, "Things are bad. I'm gonna make this place great, great, great. It's gonna be terrific. Look at all the things I can do. I'll find trillions of dollars of free money that's overseas and bring it back." So what he does is he says things that make you simply feel good. At least in that example, none of it is a lie. He just focused on things that make you feel good. Now, you don't have a choice about feeling good when people say things that are images you like. That's just an automatic association. But if, let's say, Rand Paul has a good intellectual idea of how we should approach taxes or anything else, that's an intellectual reason. Your brain can look at that. It can reject it. It can begin to accept it. Usually, it rejects it because we don't like to change our minds, but Trump doesn't work on that level. He's not working on the rational level. He's going for automatic connections.

09:42 SCOTT HORTON: And he's winning. It's terrific. No. I'm just kidding. Alright. Hold it right there everybody. We'll be right back after this break with Scott Adams, the author of the Dilbert cartoon, and a master wizard hypothesis about Donald Trump and his control of the masses' minds. It's a lot of fun. Go read his blog. It's a lot of great stuff on there. We'll be right back.

<COMMERCIAL BREAK>

11:01 SCOTT HORTON: Well, that was kind of a fitting intro for this interview with Scott Adams, author of the Dilbert cartoon. Hello, is that even the right way to say that? Author of a cartoon?

11:13 SCOTT ADAMS: Sure. I think creator, but author works too.

11:16 SCOTT HORTON: Yeah. There you go. Yeah. Boy, I've been reading your stuff for years, and years, and years.

11:20 SCOTT ADAMS: I'd like to think I'm not that old, but okay.

11:23 SCOTT HORTON: Sorry about that. Me too, if it makes you feel any better. Alright. Hey listen, so everybody, Scott has this theory about the master persuader, and he says that Donald Trump is one. And boy oh boy does he know all the tricks for getting people to give him his way, and he uses them unapologetically. And boy is it working in the head-to-head polls with Hillary. And of course, he's just way ahead of everybody else. He's by far the frontrunner of this campaign, and he doesn't seem... In the last couple election cycles, the Republicans all had their little Herman Cain, Rick Perry moment, but it never lasted. But this is nothing like that. This is just... Man, is he way out ahead and staying there?

12:05 SCOTT HORTON: But so here's the thing though, to a lot of us, this guy is a freaking maniac. He doesn't seem to have any principles whatsoever, he believes only in himself, some of his solutions are things like, "I will find the most ruthless murderer in the entire Pentagon to kill every last Sunni until their Islamic State is gone." Or some madness. "The free exercise clause of the first amendment, well, a lot of the privileges that we've had are gonna have to go." And things like this. Maybe he can master persuade some people, but some of the rest of us are thinking, "Boy, I sure don't support any other candidates I'll say, but can I say I support him the least when he's talking outright about violating

people's right to pick what church they go to and this kinda thing?" This is madness. How can he get away with it? That's the real question I guess.

13:00 SCOTT ADAMS: Where did he say anything about limiting the rights of legal Americans? I don't think he said anything along the lines of that.

13:07 SCOTT HORTON: Yeah, no, he did. Well, I don't exactly the frame of the question, but it was a legit newspaper reporter, Yahoo! News or AP or Reuters or one of them. They were asking him about closing down Mosques, and then he referred to the Bill of Rights as a privilege. He said, "Well, we're gonna have to get used to the idea that we're gonna have to get rid of some of these privileges that we have had up until now."

13:32 SCOTT ADAMS: Was he talking about specific Mosques? I don't think he was talking about banning Mosques in general.

13:39 SCOTT HORTON: No, I don't mean to imply in general, but it didn't seem like he was gonna be discriminating that carefully. You know what I mean. It was a pretty threatening statement the way I heard it.

13:51 SCOTT ADAMS: But let me check it. This is fun for me because I've actually never talked to anybody with the opinion that you've just expressed. And I've been waiting because I just want to ask you a few questions, if you don't mind.

14:01 SCOTT HORTON: Sure. Yeah. No, of course.

14:03 SCOTT ADAMS: What makes you think you know what's in his mind given that he says loudly and often that he negotiates and asks for outrageous things so he can negotiate back? Given that he states that and lives it, and demonstrates it in 100% of all he has done for decades, why do you think it's different this time?

14:24 SCOTT HORTON: Well, I don't necessarily, but I have a problem. To me it's criminal enough, almost, that he would normalize that kind of thing when it used to be, even under George W. Bush, that, "Hey man, don't be intolerant toward Muslims just for being Muslims." And Trump is saying, "Screw that, anybody who has a minority share of the power, feel free to pick on them one way or the other. That's the side I'm on," he seems to be proclaiming. This guy basically talking in ways that no other Republican would legitimize that level of bigotry. Like rounding up all the Mexicans and getting rid of them. That kind of deal or all the illegals, 12 million people.

15:28 SCOTT ADAMS: But keep in mind, the things you're angry at, are the things you believe he thinks. Not the things he's proposed.

15:34 SCOTT HORTON: No. I'm talking about the things that he's talked about. We'll round up all the illegal immigrants and get rid of them. I'm not saying I think he will actually do that, but I'm saying he's creating an atmosphere where the right is worse than they always are. And he's helping give a stamp of approval on that from on high.

15:52 SCOTT ADAMS: Well, that's true. But let me just drill down on any one of those claims because what happens is if you drill down on any one of them, individually you end up saying, "Okay. Well, he's just trying to do the job of the President which is get rid of the illegals and keep the legal people in, and

protect them." So really that's just his job description is what he described. I mean, there's no one who thinks the country should have 11 million illegals. There are just different ways that you deal with it. Either you're trying to work with him... And by the way, I would agree with working with people and trying to figure out a way to keep the people who've been good citizens if not legal Americans.

16:37 SCOTT HORTON: I certainly don't care if there are 12 million illegals in the country. What's illegal? The government said they can't come in? I don't care about that. And a lot of people don't. A lot of people would be happy to welcome them all wherever the...

[overlapping conversation]

16:53 SCOTT ADAMS: Let me ask you though... What's interesting is that Trump provides a plan, which you can hate, but it's not being compared to another plan. So if you have an opinion on his plan without an alternative, which I haven't heard yet, then you haven't quite created an informed opinion. So what would be the alternative to...

17:13 SCOTT HORTON: You're asking me for one? Repeal every immigration law. That's my solution, that's easy.

17:18 SCOTT ADAMS: Just open the borders?

17:19 SCOTT HORTON: Yeah, of course. Is this a free society or not?

17:22 SCOTT ADAMS: I accept that as a consistent opinion.

17:27 SCOTT HORTON: I'm a Libertarian. I'm very consistent.

17:30 SCOTT ADAMS: But Libertarian means just get rid of the governments in general, right?

17:34 SCOTT HORTON: Of course, yes, absolutely. Wars first. War and torture and mass rounding up and deportations are the first things to go. Mass imprisonments and mass murder.

17:45 SCOTT ADAMS: But if you follow that, don't you become Islamic eventually?

17:49 SCOTT HORTON: Huh?

17:50 SCOTT ADAMS: Wouldn't the Islamic forces take over wherever there wasn't a government to stop them?

17:57 SCOTT HORTON: Oh, come on man. Are you really saying that? One-seventh of the population of the world is all hell-bent on one Islamic empire to rule them all, is that what you think?

18:07 SCOTT ADAMS: That's what they say. I'm just reporting what they say.

18:11 SCOTT HORTON: Well, whatever. But if a five-year-old in kindergarten said the same thing, are you gonna go, "Oh, okay. I guess you represent all the five-year-olds and you're all coming to get me?" That's completely stupid. What are you talking about?

18:19 SCOTT ADAMS: Well, it is a group of people who have taken over most of several countries already and they're planning attacks on other shores.

18:30 SCOTT HORTON: Oh, no. They've taken over where America, by invading, has created ungoverned spaces. They have filled the vacuum in the smallest part of Iraq, and okay, the majority, at least half of Syria, but that's because America made it that way for them. And it's not because their religion mandated all of this stuff or...

18:48 SCOTT ADAMS: That's right, of course. Of course. Of course.

18:51 SCOTT HORTON: Aggression.

18:52 SCOTT ADAMS: I'm agreeing they're going into a vacuum, but...

18:54 SCOTT HORTON: I'm saying you might as well be frightening me with Khrushchev from the '50s is gonna come forward from the past to come and get me or some other ridiculous bogeyman. No. The American people have... There's no enemy state on this planet. The closest thing we have to an enemy are these Jihadist groups, and our government supports them right now in Syria, where they accidentally supported them before in Iraq and in Lib... Well, Libya was pretty deliberate. And anyway, no. All our government needs to do is stop intervening to protect us from terrorists. They're not protecting us from terrorists, they created these guys in the first place, Scott, come on.

19:29 SCOTT ADAMS: You don't want me talk, do you? 'Cause you're afraid of what I'm gonna say next. You know... Yeah?

19:33 SCOTT HORTON: No, no, no! No, I'm not. I'm just answering your question. Please go ahead, the floor is yours.

19:37 SCOTT ADAMS: Well, you just said that ISIS filled the vacuum that we created and you said, "Why don't we create a vacuum over here by getting rid of the government?" And I'm saying that vacuums get filled. That's all, I'm just agreeing with you, that...

19:50 SCOTT HORTON: Yeah, but you said it's...

19:50 SCOTT ADAMS: That bad people fill vacuums.

19:52 SCOTT HORTON: Yeah, but I'm saying you're really saying that the likelihood would be the vacuum would be filled in America. Not in Iraqi Sunnistan, but in America. It would be filled by the Islamic state, and the US government is the one holding them at bay? Come on.

20:06 SCOTT ADAMS: Well, it would be settled by bad actors, Pete.

20:08 SCOTT HORTON: Tell me more about Donald Trump's magic tricks.

[laughter]

20:15 SCOTT ADAMS: Okay. What would you like to hear?

20:18 SCOTT HORTON: Well, how is it that he gets these right populists to not mind all the completely ridiculous, inconsistent, and horrible things that he says, and only see him as their champion? He even says, "The problem is wages are too high in America and that's why the companies are leaving." At the same time, he says he's gonna make all their wages go higher, and they just don't care. Is it because he has a coin and waves it in front of their eyes, or what is it?

20:46 SCOTT ADAMS: Well, I think the game of getting elected is saying lots of bullshit that people will believe, and they think all the candidates do that. There's nobody out on the trail who's saying things that can actually happen. It's all a lot of magic tricks of cutting expenses and cutting taxes at the same time and a lot of magic. So his particular brand of baloney tastes different than other people's but it's not less ridiculous.

21:13 SCOTT HORTON: See now, here's a point where you and me are completely eye to eye is when Jeb and the rest of them cry that, "Oh, Donald Trump is illegitimate," or Karl Rove, "This guy is so far out of bounds," whatever. He's actually on some of these issues, he's just one click to the right, or maybe to the left of them, on this thing or another. And if he's completely illegitimate, they sort of have four fingers pointing back at themselves, it sure seems like in a big way.

21:40 SCOTT ADAMS: [chuckle] Right, he's had some interesting traps. Take for example his call for abandoning Muslim immigration. Well, you don't see until it develops, is what a trap that is. Because as soon as I asked you for an alternate plan, obviously, that's not your job to come up with alternate plans, and you had one I guess. But if he does that to a standard politician, they have two choices. They either say, "I don't have a plan," and then they can't get elected. Or it's worse, they say, "I do have a plan, we're going to let people in, we'll do it in some rigorous way," and then the odds of something blowing up after that is so high that nobody's gonna put their name on that plan.

22:19 SCOTT HORTON: Right.

22:20 SCOTT ADAMS: Hillary Clinton doesn't want to say, "I support Plan A," and then Plan A is what causes a building to get blown up in three years. She's never gonna put her name on that. So Trump has created a situation where there can only be one plan under discussion, and it's his. And you can hate that plan or you can love that plan, but there's only one plan because nobody else...

22:39 SCOTT HORTON: Alright now, Scott... I'm sorry, I just wanna apologize to you. I'm actually keeping you over time a little bit, but I'll like to ask you one more thing if that's okay.

22:47 SCOTT ADAMS: Sure.

22:47 SCOTT HORTON: About Iraq War II. And this is a miracle to me. This is something that Ron Paul tried so hard and he made great progress, but was never really able to succeed in any serious way. But Donald Trump, I think, has done so much to normalize regret over Iraq War II on the right. And he outright just says about Hillary Clinton for example, "Oh, I'm anti-Muslim? She killed a million of them, or 100,000 of them or something," he said, "and because of her stupidity, and her mistakes, and her ignorance, and this kind of thing." Well, that's the exact same base that supports him, were the hardest core supporters of Iraq War II, who hated anyone who told them otherwise. And here, Donald Trump says, "Oh, now you're an idiot for supporting the war. At least she and Dick Cheney were idiots for supporting that war," and it doesn't seem to hurt him at all with the right. And I wonder how is he pulling that off? Well, they're able to get over that cognitive dissonance of having to take back their previous position that me and everybody at antiwar.com were all a bunch of traitors who should've been run out of town on a rail for knowing better back when.

23:58 SCOTT ADAMS: Well, that's part of his magic, certainly he can make anybody believe in anything, but there's more to that trick. Again, when he said Hillary Clinton killed hundreds of thousands of people, the media went scrambling to figure out if the number was really that big or if she only killed

50,000 or 100,000. Right? So once you have this in your mind that it's some big number, "Oh sure, he always exaggerates, but God, Trump didn't kill anybody. All he did is hire a lot of female executives for his company over the last decade when nobody was doing that. Hillary Clinton actually killed women, hundreds of thousands of women, innocent women. She killed them," with her policies, he would say. Again, I'm not taking sides, I'm just giving you the Trump persuasion method.

24:42 SCOTT HORTON: Yeah, and that really is the thing. He's willing to say things that no one else would ever dare. For example, the right wing meme that George W. Bush kept us safe, and never mind the anthrax attack and never mind this, that or the other thing and certainly never mind 9/11. That stuck for years, and Donald Trump is just like, "Yeah, really?" And got rid of it with the wave of his hand. Pulled the rug right out from under Jeb and hit his head and everything on that one. And that was a really powerful argument for a long time. I don't know how, but they had gotten away with it until Trump said, "Well, hey, who was in charge on the big day, man?"

25:22 SCOTT ADAMS: Yeah.

25:23 SCOTT HORTON: I think that actually is helping, because I consider him actually to be quite a few clicks more dangerous than the average Republican who I think are all pretty dangerous as far as that goes, but I think he is so funny. And I just love him for destroying Jeb Bush and the way that's it happened, reducing Jeb to a crying little baby and everything, is so beautiful, but I think he really disarms people with that humor. He knows just what to say to make you laugh while he cuts somebody, but it sort of makes him seem less dangerous than I think he really is. I don't know if Mussolini ever really had a great sense of timing for a punchline.

26:05 SCOTT ADAMS: The whole fascist Mussolini thing, I get the analogy and I get that he's got the mouth that looks like Mussolini, but when you start analysing who he's after they tend to people who are not Americans to protect Americans, so his frame is completely different than those guys. I do get that there's enough similarity that people are making sort of an automatic connection. Very similar to the master persuader theory, if you were actually to dig into the details of, "Is he a fascist?" or "Is he Hitler?" it falls apart pretty quickly. But it feels like it, it totally feels like it. Even I get that too, but rationally, it's not even close.

26:45 SCOTT HORTON: Yeah. Well, there's some parallels. It's never the complete hyperbole but when you're talking about picking on people because of who they are, then that is something that typically, at least recently in America, we've tried to live down that past and do better. And he's bringing that back in a way that is further to the right than what was even the populist right in say, the 1990's I think.

27:10 SCOTT ADAMS: So far he's only been after criminals. He's not said anything about a group that were not actually trying to kill us, and he's not anti-Muslim, he's just saying, "Hey, if nobody has a better idea how to keep us safe, let's do this temporarily until we figure it out." That's not crazy. You can hate it, but it's not insane.

27:35 SCOTT HORTON: Alright, fair enough. Hey listen, I kept you way over time here. I really appreciate your time on the show, Scott.

27:40 SCOTT ADAMS: Alright, thanks for having me.

27:41 SCOTT HORTON: It's very interesting stuff there. Alright, so that is Scott Adams. He is the creator and the author of the Dilbert cartoon. It's blog.dilbert.com for the cartoons and the political writing and all the rest of it. And yeah, see you all tomorrow.

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