

Promises, Promises

By Paul Arieti

Trump made a number of promises during and after the 2024 election. There are many we wish he kept and many we wish he did not keep. On the domestic front, he promised to reduce inflation. Instead, over the past Year, it has increased from 2.3% to 3.0%, and the Iran war will surely raise it further. He “promised” to increase jobs, especially in manufacturing. Instead, there has been zero job growth in the last six months with 92,00 jobs lost in February alone and approximately 100,00 manufacturing jobs lost over the past year. He promised to continue his 2017 tax cuts, but they mostly benefit the wealthy and corporations. The cuts have significantly added to our annual fiscal deficit (~\$2 trillion) and to our total debt (~\$40 trillion). This level of deficit and debt will continue to keep inflation and interest rates high, adversely affecting most household budgets.

On the foreign front, he promised “America First”. All we have had the last several months is one foreign involvement after another. Some have had some initial success, but over time, permanent positive change has been elusive. In Gaza, the peace deal is on shaky ground due to continuing violations on both sides. In Venezuela, Maduro was removed, but his whole ruling junta remains in place; the only difference is that they are now “nice” to Trump. In Iran, the original leaders have been eliminated, but there is no prospect that the ruling class will change while significant destruction continues throughout the region. Sadly, 13 of our troops have been killed and hundreds injured. The most important foreign policy promise not kept is support to Ukraine and his promise to “end the war on day one”. Instead, he continuously sides with the invader, Putin, while

pushing back on Zelensky. The Iranian war has increased oil prices, penalizing Americans while helping the Russian economy. Worse yet is Putin's support for Iran endangering our troops! Years ago, if you predicted that this would be our government's policy toward Putin and Russia, it would have been dismissed as absurd.

Then there's the few promises he's kept that never should have been kept, such as the release of the January 6 the rioters. He promised to close the border and deport immigrant criminals, but in doing so he has authorized unbridled use of armed, masked ICE agents in ways that are contrary to American values. Brutal tactics have been used to deport or detain immigrants without due process. The record for deportations (409,000) occurred in 2012 during Obama's first term, and a 10-year high (271,00) occurred during Biden's term, all without the draconian tactics and hyper publicity. Many of the targeted immigrants are citizens, most are law abiding, doing the tough jobs, such as farm, road and construction work.

The lessons here, of course, are the old bromides "watch what they do, not what they say" and more importantly, "your vote counts". In the 2024 election, 95 Millions of the voting age population did not vote! More than ever, your vote counts. Vote your conscience, not the "promise".