

My op-ed regarding the 2019 government shutdown and how it relates to our current economy:

By John K. Doherty – Facebook post on January 19, 2019



So it has been almost a month (with no end in sight as of this post) since essential government employees have received their well-earned paychecks – thank you for going to work anyway and DOING YOUR JOB TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE... your continued dedication is deeply appreciated!

It frustrates me to see so many hard-working and caring Americans struggling to pay their bills and put food on the table... no one in America should be going hungry; which brings me to the REAL issue in this country – complacency.

Even before the shutdown, many American families were living paycheck-to-paycheck with the fear of possibly losing their job. People were struggling to pay their bills and many were homeless and missing meals. So why is THIS shutdown all of a sudden a “crisis”? One reason is that it is affecting educated, and otherwise, gainfully employed people who now find themselves needing the very service they may have deemed as “handouts” to those less fortunate.

The hard truth is that times are changing. The technological advancements of the 21st century have created an economic reality that is much different from what most of us are used to (and were taught) during the 20th century. Over the next 15 to 20 years, it is projected that almost 40 percent of jobs may be eliminated due to computers and technology.

So this begs the question... how will people be able to make money and pay their bills when this economic shift occurs? By the way, this “shift” has already begun... be prepared to say goodbye to your part-time UBER job within the next 5 to 10 years – no need for human drivers – ordering a computerized, self-driving car from your phone app will be here soon (I predict).

Unfortunately, most Americans are not financially prepared for the next economic crisis that may/will occur. Most people are complacent to their current situation. They think that since they have a good paying job now and have a college education that everything is fine... I wonder how many of the 800,000 government workers thought they were “fine” with their “reliable” government job?

The real challenge will be the ability to find income opportunities as we move forward in this evolving 21st century economy. It will be important for Americans to put aside their 20th century mentality and embrace the new opportunities this current century has presented.

Advancements in technology have made our lives easier – we no longer have to work as hard to accomplish certain tasks. Why can't this also be true for making money? The fact is, this new technology boom has created an “environment” where anyone can make money, regardless of their education and background. Many of the social trends over the past 10 years have one thing in common – collaboration. When people work together they can achieve amazing things. Teamwork is the key to financial success in the 21st century.

Right now, everyone is focused on the government workers who are working without pay; but, what happens when the shutdown is over? Will the American people go back to their complacent lives thinking everything is ok? Will they continue to be content with their lives, while failing to understand the urgency this current economic climate presents to their financial future? Probably... and that's the REAL crisis!