

Remarks of Ross C. "Rocky" Anderson  
Stop the TPP Rally  
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Salt Lake City, Utah

On this date, one hundred fifty years ago, at Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln described the new nation of the United States as being one "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." And he implored that those who died at Gettysburg would not have died in vain, but that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth".

Except for those who benefit from the raping and pillaging by the Wall Street crooks, the fossil fuel earth-plunderers, and the rapacious insurance and pharmaceutical industries, the American people -- and working people throughout much of the world -- are being prepared for a fleecing perhaps like never before in our history. It is all a horrible betrayal of the American promise of liberty, of equality, and of a government that is not controlled by a tyranny of the few, the rich, and the powerful, but a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Sadly, most people have hardly a clue of the tremendous betrayals being plotted against them by the Tran-Pacific Partnership negotiators and the corporate lobbyists calling the shots.

The Obama administration and its multi-national corporate sponsors have been negotiating for several years in secret - to create an extra-judicial and extra-legislative structure that betrays the interests of we-the-American-people and sells off the ragged remnants of our democracy to the polluting, exploitative, climate-destroying corporate fat cats of the world.

To say that those negotiations have been conducted in secret isn't quite correct. Lobbyists of about 600 corporations, including Walmart, Monsanto, Chevron, and Halliburton, have had access to the texts of the negotiating documents -- but we-the-people have been completely left out. These government representatives have made abundantly clear *whose* interests they are looking out for.

From what has been leaked (and thank god for leakers!), we know that the TPP, if passed, is going to continue the trend of harming working people in the U.S. and elsewhere by shipping even more jobs overseas -- and refusing to protect workers' rights and the environment -- all so these multinational corporations can rake in even higher profits.

Among the results of the TPP will be lower wages, more dangerous working conditions, less availability of affordable medicines for life-threatening diseases, the prohibition of local-first purchasing preferences and incentives, fewer food safety protections, and massive roadblocks to protecting us against the ravages of the "too-big-to-fail" financial institutions that have already caused so much economic havoc and misery for millions of people across the nation and throughout the world.

When will enough be enough for those who exploit workers, destroy our environment, and seek to further diminish the foundations of our constitutional republic? We need to call it as it is and recognize that these IPP promoters are traitors to our republic, traitors to the public interest, and traitors to the concept of government of, by, and for the people.

Income inequality in the U.S. is already at its worst in almost 100 years -- and it is even worse in many of the other nations whose representatives are sitting at the TPP negotiating table.

Incomes among the top one percent in the U.S. rose by 31.4 percent between 2009 and 2012, while incomes for everyone else grew just 0.4 percent. A 31.4 percent raise for the ultra-wealthy one-percent and a piddling four-tenths of one percent increase for everyone else! The top 10% in our nation now capture more than 50% of the total income.

Many of the CEOs who make several millions of dollars a year, while much of the world's population is starving and while millions of hard-working people in the U.S. are barely getting by, want their taxes *reduced*, they want to send *more* jobs overseas so they can pay a slave wage . . . , and now they want to set up, through secret negotiations, a special court and a special set of international laws that may prevent *our* elected representatives and courts from protecting *our* food, *our* environment, *our* economy, and *our* workers.

The people of this country must wake up and rise up.

Most of the people of this nation acted as if they were in a stupor and simply stood back and allowed the commissions of illegal and wholly unnecessary and unjustified wars of aggression, inflicting untold terror and misery on millions of people.

They have sat around passively, distracted by celebrity, sports, and the idiocy that passes for television these days and continued to vote for people in public office who sell public policy -- detrimental to our health, safety, and security, and devastating to the foundations of our constitutional republic -- to the highest bidders.

How can these multinational corporate killers and exploiters and their government puppets think they can get away with the TPP -- and the behind-closed-doors, anti-democratic means of arriving at this crime against the people? Because they are confident the people won't be paying attention -- just like they haven't been paying attention as their democracy has been degraded, their privacy rights have been shredded, their government has become an international criminal, and their world has been dangerously heating up, spelling disaster for our children and later generations.

Let's let them know, in profound and powerful ways, that the people will remain silent no longer. That we will not stand for a government that is so disgracefully servile to the interests of the wealthy, while devastating what used to be a thriving middle class, and wholly ignoring the rampant poverty in the United States and throughout much of the rest of the world.

All who care for justice, all who care for decent treatment of working people, all who care for the underpinnings of our constitutional republic: Rise up now, before it's too late.

Let our voices join together to send the unmistakable message -- not that we simply *oppose* the TPP, but that we will not *allow* the secrecy, the lack of transparency, and the special governmental favors for the avaricious, gluttonous multi-national corporations who chew people up and spit them out like they are just little gears in their machines of destruction.

Let us make it clear that we do not simply *oppose*, but that we will not *allow* the oppression, the exploitation, the destruction to our world and to so many lives.

Let us make it clear: We will not *allow* the TPP or any more government sell-outs to the multi-national monsters that wreak so much damage to our earth, to our economies, to millions of lives.

*We will stop the TPP! We will stop the TPP! We will stop the TPP!*