

“The Salt of the Earth”. Workers Rights in the 21st Century...

By [Philip A Farruggio](#)

Global Research, September 16, 2020

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

Over 50 years have transpired since the lyrics of this song, Salt of the Earth, resonated then, just as much as now:

Let's drink to the hard working people
Let's drink to the lowly of birth
Raise your glass to the good and the evil
Let's drink to the salt of the earth

Say a prayer for the common foot soldier
Spare a thought for his back breaking work
Say a prayer for his wife and his children
Who burn the fires and who still till the earth

And when I search a faceless crowd
A swirling mass of gray and
Black and white
They don't look real to me
In fact, they look so strange

Raise your glass to the hard working people
Let's drink to the uncounted heads
Let's think of the wavering millions
Who need leaders but get gamblers instead

Spare a thought for the stay-at-home voter
His empty eyes gaze at strange beauty shows
And a parade of the gray suited grafters
A choice of cancer or polio

And when I look in the faceless crowd
A swirling mass of grays and
Black and white
They don't look real to me
Or don't they look so strange

Let's drink to the hard working people
Let's think of the lowly of birth
Spare a thought for the rag taggy people

Let's drink to the salt of the earth

Let's drink to the hard working people

Let's drink to the salt of the earth

Let's drink to the two thousand million

Let's think of the humble of birth

Mick Jagger, sung by the Rolling Stones

Hundreds of millions of us punch in the hours, day by day, to pay our way in this capitalist circus.

Many wish they could find suitable employment, and others, millions, take one, two and I have heard of even *three* part time jobs with NO benefits. They, perhaps you too, are what **Mick Jagger** referred to as the '**Salt of the earth**'.

This writer has worked for perhaps 200 small businesses, mostly in the sales end of them, since college 47 years ago. What have I learned? Well, to a man (sometimes a woman) each owner did what he could to keep as much of the money coming in funneled into his pocket. Since these were all non union jobs, I had no recourse but to just find a new job (with a similar type owner), quit in disgust, or just stay and do what most Amerikan workers do... VENT! When we leave it up to 'Noblesse Oblige' that is what we get.

Labor has always been frowned at by the super rich as nothing more than a 'Necessary Evil'... to them of course. Anytime they could get away with finding and using cheap labor, they did just that. Why do you think so many super rich loved the idea of slavery?

Here is a quote from another great Christian organization, the 1858 Law and Order Party of Kansas (you did not think that Tricky Dick Nixon invented that phrase do you?). They had a leader, David Atchison, who actually said the following:

"We believe slavery is a trust and guardianship given us of God for the good of both races. Without sugar, cotton and cheap clothing, can civilization maintain its progress."

Can you imagine the chutzpah (that is from the anti Christian language, Yiddish) of a fellow human being towards other human beings?

Oh, I forgot, slaves, like the undocumented IE: illegal aliens of our day, are not really looked upon as 'Human Beings'.

No, as with the Chinese peasants who came here in the 1800s and got jobs, backbreaking jobs, laying out railroad tracks, and dying by the score, these were but one notch above the slave. Do you know where the saying "Ain't got a Chinaman's chance" came from? THAT is where it came from!

Trailer of the Salt of the Earth 2014 Documentary on Human Suffering, Slavery and the History of Humanity

Less than 11% of all workers today belong to a union. The highest percentage was at 25% in 1953.

Did they know more at that time than we know now?

So, around 90% of us have no protective umbrella from a union.

Of course government workers, those doing full time, do have many benefits, which have been carefully *stripped away* over the decades. However, in the private sector labor has zilch!

Yet, the sun comes up and folks rush off to their jobs, many not knowing what would be in store for them if the boss or the corporation did not need them anymore... at least for *that* price.

The only true solution, no NOT a revolution, is for ALL workers to belong to what the Industrial Workers of the World AKA Wobblies, called 'One Big Union'. Imagine the bargaining power that would bring.

The dilemma that the Wobblies faced in the early 20th century was what such ideas could face now: The sellout by those who run the unions nationwide. These leaders marry themselves to one of the two political parties (mostly, but not exclusively, the Democrats) and keep their power and prestige while 'Rome burns'.

Do yourself a favor and read Jagger's lyrics carefully. And then view to "Salt of the Earth" documentary

Imagine how, in the *supposed* greatest economy in the world, nothing has really changed... except to add more *salt* in labor's wound.

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Philip A Farruggio is a contributing editor for *The Greenville Post*. He is also frequently posted on *Global Research*, *Nation of Change*, *Countercurrents.org*, and *Off Guardian* sites. He is the son and grandson of Brooklyn NYC longshoremen and a graduate of Brooklyn College, class of 1974. Since the 2000 election debacle Philip has written over 400 columns on the Military Industrial Empire and other facets of life in an upside down America. He is also host of the 'It's the Empire... Stupid' radio show, co produced by Chuck Gregory. Philip can be reached at paf1222@bellsouth.net.

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Philip A Farruggio](#), Global Research, 2020

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **Philip A**

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca