



MARKETWATCH

Industry Needs Less Talk, More Action

Speech by Dan DiMicco

Nucor Corp.'s top executive believes there's been enough talk in Washington and the time has arrived for more action to stimulate U.S. manufacturing and address trade issues, especially China.

"They (political leaders in Washington) all know what needs to be done," Daniel R. DiMicco, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Nucor, said.

He told a crowd of some 1,200 attendees at the Steel Success Strategies XXV Conference in New York that he and several other top manufacturing executives attended a meeting with Vice President Joe Biden about three weeks ago on the state of U.S. manufacturing. "The message from that meeting was that they (political leaders) all know what they need to do," he said. "But they haven't done (crap)."

Doing, rather than talking about doing, is the key to pulling the United States out of its economic malaise. DiMicco said that while there are signs that recovery is progressing, the country remains locked in a recession that represents the greatest economic downturn in the U.S. since the Great Depression.

"We've got to start doing something. We have to get back to making things in this country." Those "things" do not include policies and legislation that sap U.S. manufacturing of its strength and fail to create jobs. Instead, DiMicco said, the United States has to get back into the business of manufacturing goods. That's the only way, he said, to solve an employment crisis that by his estimate is far deeper than any government statistics indicate.

DiMicco estimates the "real" unemployment rate in the U.S.- including those who are under-employed or who have stopped looking for jobs entirely - is around 17 percent, nearly double official government statistics indicating that about 9.7 percent of Americans are unemployed.

"We need to add jobs in this country," he said. "This (unemployment) problem is larger than everyone knows. The

things that need to be done to get us there are not being done. We are still at the bottom (of the economic recovery) and we're just bouncing along."

DiMicco said economic recovery is a long, slow process and is far from being realized. He said the burgeoning U.S. trade deficit remains a major stumbling block to economic recovery, and again chided China for its trade policies.

The U.S. government's approach toward China on trade has not been tough enough, according to DiMicco. The government, he said, has allowed China to blatantly violate the rules of international trade at the expense of American manufacturing jobs. Holding China accountable for its illegal trade actions, he said, would begin to help the United States solve the trade deficit and would spark job creation that would in turn strengthen the U.S. economy.

He said the United States needs to create between 26 million and 29 million new jobs to address the unemployment issue and said the U.S. government does not seem to have the vision to get that job done.

"I defy anyone to show me where the plan is to do that," DiMicco said. "We have lost 6 million manufacturing jobs since 1998, many of them to failed trade practices."

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Dan DiMicco