



## HEY, BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME?

A movement has begun that should be important to all Americans, especially those of us with a close connection to manufacturing. The movement centers around the book *A Nation on Borrowed Time*, written by Joe Arvin of Arrow Gear and Scott Newton of Apex Media Solutions.

The book's main premise is that most of America's economic troubles can be traced to one root cause: the loss of wealth resulting from decades of foreign trade deficits. More importantly, the book focuses on our country's declining capability to create new wealth through manufacturing. The book is extremely well-written, easy to follow and unbiased in presenting the facts about how we got into the mess we're in (see our full review of the book on page 10).

More importantly, the book offers suggestions about how our nation can get its economy back on track—suggestions that center around providing an environment that encourages growth and investment in U.S. manufacturing.

I know I'm preaching to the choir in talking to you about this subject, but I applaud Joe Arvin for his efforts and agree that policies to encourage the creation of wealth must be discussed by the decision-makers in Washington and supported at the grass-roots level. Joe has done far more than complain about the situation. He's gone through an extraordinary effort to inform and motivate Americans about something that frightens him and should be of concern to all of us.

A myriad of worthy causes vie for the attention of our lawmakers. Jobs growth, new energy, health care reform, Medicare/Medicaid, social

security, debt reduction and many other important economic issues sit right under the noses of those lawmakers. But we need to make sure they're aware of the bigger picture—the fact that without the creation of wealth, we'll never have the environment or means necessary to tackle any of these important problems. The man with his pockets turned inside out doesn't worry about the big picture. He's too busy trying to get by, day-by-day. Unfortunately, that's how our government usually operates.

But this big picture is too big to ignore.

The reality is, there are only three ways to create wealth: You can rip it out of the ground; you can grow it; or you can manufacture it. Once upon a time, the U.S. manufacturing industry created enormous wealth—and kept that wealth here in America. If we can find a way to restore that wealth-building engine, we'll create an environment where tackling some of those other problems won't be nearly as difficult. We'll have the resources to solve more problems without borrowing more money from the rest of the world.

Fortunately for us, the book lays out some suggestions, not just for our lawmakers, but also for the rest of us who want to get involved. In addition to the book, the authors have launched a website, [www.anationonborrowed-time.com](http://www.anationonborrowed-time.com), to serve as the focal point for their movement. At the website, you can order the book, join their mailing list and find suggestions about what you can do to take this movement to the next level. You can also watch videotaped interviews of me and others talking about some of these issues in

more detail.

The authors' purpose isn't to sell books. Their mission is to raise awareness and create a grass-roots campaign to spread that awareness. I encourage you to participate in that campaign by visiting their website and learning more about it. If you like what you see, order the book, read it and act on it. The future of our nation—including you, your children and generations to come—depends on it.

*Michael Goldstein*  
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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

P.S. I've recently come across another very good book, *The American Machine Tool Industry*, by Albert B. Albrecht. This book deals with the decline of that industry, but it also touches on the impact of the decline of U.S. manufacturing on the welfare of our nation. Although this book is much narrower in scope, it would be of interest to those, like me, who've spent a lifetime in the machine tool industry. For more information on ordering the book, contact the author via e-mail at [albertalbrecht@verizon.net](mailto:albertalbrecht@verizon.net).

