And he said what?

Tonight President Trump will give the State of the Union speech after a one-week delay that many say is his own fault for not capitulating to the Congress and signing a bill to put 1/4 of the U.S. government workforce back to work after a 35-day shutdown. There are just as many Americans on the other side who think that the Speaker of the House has put partisan politics (and a deep and abiding hatred of Donald Trump) above protecting the country's border by not acceding to the President's demands for \$5.7 billion to build 234 miles of wall - or a wall-like barrier - on our southern border with Mexico.

It's anybody's guess what tone the President will take tonight, but many of the Washington punditry class expect it to be one of bi-partisanship that encourages unity in America. That may very well be the case, but is that what the President's base wants to hear? I suspect not. I think they would rather hear him say the following:

"My fellow Americans. The state of the union is disturbing to me. Half of you think it's finally on the mend after eight years under the half-wit that had the job before me and the other half of you want my scalp and to die a miserable death or just be impeached. I'm here tonight to tell that that's not going to happen. I'm not going anywhere. I'm going to be opposing any and all attempts by the Democrats, the media or Robert Mueller to throw me out of office or turn our great country into a sideshow.

In fact, to use Las Vegas parlance, I'm doubling down on my efforts to protect our country and our way of life from the attacks of no-nothing twenty-somethings like the Marxist ingénue Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez or as I call her *little miss no-nothing* and her older 'siblings' Elizabeth *Pocahontas* Warren and Kamala *Medicare for all* Harris and all the other crazies that are lusting after my job. In case you don't know it, socialism and communism just plain suck. Don't believe me? Open a history book or ask the people of the old Soviet client states, Cuba or maybe Venezuela. And while you're at it, talk to the millions of people in Central and South America who are beating on <u>our</u> doors to let them in. If things were so great there, the poor people of the USA would be beating on THEIR doors...but they aren't. The State of the Union address is a time for Presidents to level with you about what's really going on in your country, so here goes...

Our economy is booming, not solely because of me but because people have <u>confidence</u> in me and that America is returning to its roots of individual freedom, protection from intrusive government regulations and because of tax reform that shows we believe in their entrepreneurial spirit. Look at our unemployment and GDP rates and the stock market for proof. On race relations, we have been thrown backwards in our progress by the same people that were clamoring for that progress! While the mainstream media may be enemies of the state, many in special interest caucuses in the House are agitating and radicalizing millions of their own by perpetuating the myth that somehow I and all Republicans are racists and that we share the singular goal of destroying America's racial comity. My friends, the people that say these things are true enemies of American unity. They seek to divide us into small, bite-size demographic groups where they can work their propaganda magic to separate them from the fabric of American life rather than introduce them to it.

I'm not going to let this happen. Too many good people have died trying to make America a melting pot where all our differences are minimized and our commonality accentuated. I'm tired of having my words all twisted around by sick, disturbed people who are not fans of this country and its core values but live somewhere high above the gravity of reason floating in a utopian paradise that only exists in their minds. My fellow citizens. We are teetering on the edge of the abyss. Some of you are standing on the sidelines, fearful of getting involved because the enemies of democracy have threatened you with extinction. You must ignore them and risk ridicule and demonization as I have. Your families, your community and our country need you to dare to enter the fray. You must speak out about American and human values, like the sanctity of life. Just this last week pro-abortion zealots have spoken up about protecting the 'health of the mother' by advocating for laws that

would allow for abortions up to the time of birth. Killing the defenseless among us has never been an American virtue and should never be allowed. Abortion is abominable and should be severely restricted, but allowed during the first trimester and in cases of real and demonstrable danger to the health of the mother. And while we're at it, we need to bring fathers into the picture, not to veto the mother's wishes, but to inform them early on about the pregnancies so that they can participate in the decision-making process.

On immigration, I'm for it. Legal immigration that is. We currently allow one million immigrants/year into the country, and I would guess that most of them turn out to be exemplary citizens. But we are also experiencing a crisis at our southern border. Every day, 2,000 people try to crash our party, entering the country, illegally. I'm not going to let this continue. No more innocent American lives must be lost due to illegal border-crossers or drug traffickers. No more young girls can be forced into prostitution or lives of crime because Congress refuses to stop playing politics with people's safety.

That's why I'm declaring a national emergency at our southern border as of tonight at midnight, just a few short hours from now. Even as I speak, our military and our Army Corps of Engineers are suiting up to travel to the border. Once there, they will begin the process of hardening our border and assisting our valiant Border Patrol and ICE who, by way, will not be abolished but strengthened over the next few months to do the work to which they were assigned: to interdict drugs, stop illegal aliens and to arrest the criminal element that has managed to dig in and create havoc in our towns and cities. To the Hispanic communities in the U.S. and the citizens living in them, I value your support. You are every bit as equal and valuable to our country as every other ethnic group. You are just not any better or worthy of more support than any other group, that's all. Take a look at the Asian communities and African communities. They have put their shoulders to the wheel and seized opportunities to assimilate into society. While they stuck together a generation or two after arriving here as immigrants, they saw that their futures were inextricably tied to fully integrating themselves into the broader fabric of America and embracing our history, our language and our ways. Indeed, every American has started out being a hyphenated American, but trades it in, later, when he or she realizes that our country is much more than ethnicity or race. We are the American idea. THAT is the unwritten message on our passports.

We have heard much from the *alternative lifestyle* groups over the past two years, and I would just like to say, you need not fear me nor any conservative. Conservatism is not a euphemism for bigot. I believe that all people should be allowed to choose who they love and wish to be with. All I ask of you is that you ratchet down the rhetoric a bit. And that goes for any group wanting Americans' attention. We can all live in harmony here as long as we don't get in each other's faces. I'm for protecting all Americans' rights, no matter what your preferences are as long as they don't infringe on anybody's Constitutional rights. You, on the other hand, have a responsibility to yourselves and to the rest of us to regard traditional Americans with civility and not animosity. Just because we don't necessarily subscribe to your lifestyle choices doesn't mean we are opposed to <u>you</u>. Let's move on, together.

I've already said a mouthful this evening, but I'd like to close with a plea to all of you. Try to love one another, but if you can't do that, accept one another. If you still can't do that at least tolerate one another. We didn't achieve what we have in America by mistrusting or working against each other, and we won't survive much longer unless we remember the neutrality principle that is often attributed to Voltaire; "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Let's hope we don't go that far, but instead work to repair relations with our fellow citizens in what is still the greatest country known to man, the United States of America. Thank you and God bless you all."

Stephan Helgesen is a former career U.S. diplomat who lived and worked in thirty different countries, specializing in export promotion. He is now a political analyst and strategist and author of over 900 articles and nine books on politics, the economy and social trends. He can be reached at: stephan@stephanhelgesen.com