

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

Freedom of Speech is not a License to Lie

As a global society, we seem to have moved from a world where truth is admired and trusted and lies are shunned to a world where lies are admired and truths are shunned.

The legal system is to blame

My view is that the legal system has failed us by failing to enforce the laws regarding frauds and false advertising. And I think the view of political speech as largely exempt from the rules is an enormous problem. Indeed political speech should be the speech most demanding of elimination of lies.

Lies, not viewpoints

I am a big fan of free speech. I am NOT advocating stopping people from telling it like they see it. That's not the problem here. The problem is the outright lies. People who know or should know better make statements that are patently untrue for political advantage. They do so repeatedly, and no negative consequences accrue. They amplify their speech artificially using media and thus have outsized voices in our public discourse.

Money and power built on lies

They take advantage of their lies to raise money, which they use to increase their ability to amplify their lies, which allows them to make more money and round and round it goes. Along the way, as they dominate the public discourse, they gain power, which allows them to build on the cycle, and at this point, they are almost at the point where they have enough power to finish destroying the system of justice in the US.

Truth, Justice, and the American way

I used to watch the Superman TV show from the 50s and 60s. This saying was at the heart of it. And those first two seem to have been dropped from the American Way. This is what we need to repair. And it's not just political. It's in every aspect of our lives. In business we applaud people who lie their way to success – “fake it till you make it” is the phrase they use. In cyber-security, where I have spent much of my career, we see the constant adaptation of “100% secure”, “zero trust”, and other phrases one after another go largely unchallenged. In science we see false claims about artificial intelligence in many areas. All of these have to get to mammoth proportions of frauds before being taken down.

The land of the free and the home of the brave

We are not brave because we are free. We are free because we are brave. And this bravery is something we seem to have lost. Not bravery of the body – bravery of the mind and mouth.

Conclusions: solutions!

(1) Speak up for truth and stop going along to get along. (2) Enforce the fraud laws early on instead of waiting till things break big-time. (3) Use a direct approach and stop being polite and gentile about it. (4) Push truth early and often. (5) Don't take it on face value just because it seems sensible to you. (6) Anarchy is horrible. (7) Be brave and honest or lose our freedom.