

DATA DELAWARE: Monday, January 20, 2020

SUBJECT: Copeland RESPONDS to DE Dems

(Podcast transcript-Part I)

DISCLAIMER: This transcript is produced from Data Delaware podcast electronically; the conversion is being offered on a best-efforts basis.

Dace Blaskovitz: Welcome back to Money and Politics in Delaware. Welcome back, Charlie Copeland.

Charlie C.: Dace, thank you so much for having me. I appreciate it.

Dace Blaskovitz: And Charlie Copeland, if you're a first time listener, is a regular to the program about once a month. Charlie comes on and hits the hot buttons out there in the political space and, let's see, we get first time listeners, Charlie Copeland, let's start at the beginning, in 30 seconds about you, 30 seconds about your business.

Charlie C.: Yeah. So, I have spent the vast majority of my 56 years living here in the state of Delaware and out of those vast majority of my years, in the mid-forties somewhere I've lived within three miles of the statue there at the Rodney Square. So, Delaware is my state, Wilmington is my city, despite the fact that technically I live outside of it. That's another issue for another day.

Charlie C.: But so yeah, I've been around, I served in the Delaware legislature for about six years. I ran the state's Republican party through the 2013 to 2017 election cycles and ran a family business for, oh gosh, 20-something years, a direct mail commercial print marketing services company. Have a great team that runs that today. And about three years ago I took over the head of a nonprofit here that does educational work on college campuses across the country.

Charlie C.: We serve as a para-university, para meaning next to, and we come in to have a presence on a 40% of America's college campuses and we come in and provide educational content, curriculum, lectures, debates, societies. Great books, studies to students on those campuses and connect them into our alumni base.

Charlie C.: We've been around since 1953. It's called the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. And some of our alumni are people like Neil Gorsuch or Sam Alito who are both on the Supreme Court. Peter Thiel, who was the first outside investor in Facebook and one of the leaders of PayPal back in the day and very active today, as well as people like Larry Arnn, the head of Hillsdale College or Ed Feulner who started the Heritage Foundation and just dozens, and dozens, and dozens of others.

Charlie C.: Josh Hawley, a US Senator from Missouri, is one of our alumni. So, it's a, it's a great group. So, we have a lot of fun.

Dace Blaskovitz: You ready to go?

Charlie C.: I think so.

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Dace Blaskovitz: What's brought you here today, and I might make a giggle and say, "foaming at the mouth", is the Sunday News Journal, January 5th, an opinion piece. Three alpha house Democrats in the state of Delaware. The title, Getting Work Done for all Delawareans During the New Session, and again, Getting Work Done for all Delawareans During the New Session, and let me throw meat to the lion and tee it up a little bit.

Dace Blaskovitz: The three key Delaware democratic party state house leaders recently produced a Sunday News Journal opinion piece listing their accomplishments. Delaware taxpayers should be offended, in my opinion. Governor Carney has publicly stated the number one priority for him and the Delaware legislators is "strengthening our economy" "strengthening our economy." Unfortunately, and to quote that's apparently not true. The inmates seem to be running the asylum.

Dace Blaskovitz: Instead, giveaways and social issues are now the focus in Dover. In fact, creating jobs, remember that terminology, is a lowly number six in importance trumped by voting opportunities and restoring fairness and equity to the criminal justice system. Charlie Copeland, woo. Tell a story.

Charlie C.: That's a great intro. Thank you, Dace. So, for the last year or more, one of our regular topics, you and I, Dace, is that Delaware's economy has been and remains in bad shape. Worker's salaries are low, with 25% of Delaware workers earning less than \$25,000 per year. And that's according to the Delaware department of labor. So, that's not my number, that's the governor's number, that the Delaware economy has been flat. I'm going to say that again. The Delaware economy has been flat since 2011. We're in 2020.

Charlie C.: According to the St. Louis Federal Reserve, the Delaware economy has only increased 1% over that entire nine year period of time, while the greater Philadelphia area has grown 27% over that period of time, despite the fact that Delaware fits into that Philadelphia region and therefore is a drag on it, which means that the rest of the Philadelphia area grew more than 27% of that same period of time that Delaware grew 1% from 2011. So we've been flat.

Charlie C.: So I said, this is a topic that's been a regular one for us that Delaware's economy is, to be kind, in really bad shape. I could be less kind. So, to start the year, the Democrat leadership, as you pointed out, had an op-ed in Delaware's local paper. And in this op-ed, they state, "Every day house Democrats go to work for you." If that's not a political slogan, I don't know what it is, but, "And we make sure your roads are paved, your air and water clean and that we're leading on issues that touch every resident's life in some way."

Charlie C.: And they go on to say that, "Last year we made significant strides forward." Wow. That's the end of the quote. And these are nice people, don't get me

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wrong, I've known them for a long time. And they mean well, but who do they really think they are?

Charlie C.: First of all, technically, they don't pave roads at all. DeIDOT paves our roads and they use Delawareans money, your money, my money, and other taxpayer money to do it. So, you and I really pave our roads. We just hired DeIDOT through the government to do that.

Charlie C.: And then, this whole thing about clean air and water. Well, if you go back to the seventies and eighties that's where we really cleaned up the air and the water. It's been on cruise control ever since. A little nip and tuck here. But it really is just a stunning sort of commentary on their part.

Charlie C.: So, what does touch Delawareans lives every day? And that question is, how much pay they actually bring home to their family so they can run their lives? Are their children safe on the streets, safe from gun violence or drugs?

Charlie C.: So, the house Democrats, in their op-ed, list their 2020 agenda list that you went through some, that will deliver, in my opinion, no fundamental benefits to Delaware. And the list is long, on fixing mental health, and healthcare affordability, and protecting the environment, and fixing criminal justice, and expanding voting.

Charlie C.: And as an afterthought, as you pointed out, at number six they say, "Oh yeah, we should get good paying jobs too." But you know what's ironic is three days after that opinion piece ran, their football-spiking op-ed ran, three days after that, the local paper, the same paper, had two front page articles describing how life really is in Delaware and neither of those articles that were focused found their way onto their list.

Charlie C.: The two articles covered in the News Journal were youth gun violence and opioid addiction and as our self-congratulating Democrat and legislative leaders are bragging about how great 2019 was, the reality for many Delawareans is it was much different.

Charlie C.: The number of people shot rose 42% and shootings of juveniles, shootings of children, rose 142%, almost two and a half times the year before, that number. Rapes increased 9%, homicides decreased 5%, and interestingly enough, there was a single gun, one gun, that was linked to eight shootings.

Charlie C.: The other article was focused on opioid addiction. The current forecast is that in 2019 there will be one opioid death in Delaware every 22 hours. Every 22 hours. The reason we don't have a final number on that is because there are so many

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opioid deaths that the medical examiner's office can't keep up with them and process the toxicology studies in a timely fashion.

Charlie C.: In other words, the morgue is full. So, do I think there's a connection between the Delaware Democrat agenda and our violence and drug deaths? You bet I do. Jobs and a growing economy provide many, many benefits. One of those is taking people off the street and putting them into value-adding, dignity-creating, purpose in life, jobs that they can do.

Dace Blaskovitz: And Charlie, I got to jump in. We do two 10 minute segments with you. We've run out of time on this one. His name is Charlie Copeland. When we come back from break, I'll turn it loose again. We will be right back.