National Sales Tax

by Phil Rasmussen

As we approach Election Day on Nov 5, the political ads are ramping. We still haven't seen any definite policy or plans from Kamela Harris or the Democrats. However we have seen increased ads attacking Trump's character and characterization of him as a tyrant. Trump on the other hand characterizes Harris as lacking leadership skills and a clear direction for the nation.

We also see is a mischaracterization of things that Trump has said he would do if elected and turning them into **fear-mongering** ads, the latest of which is that he wants a *National Sales Tax* (never said that). What Trump has repeatedly said is that he favors tariffs on imported goods; specifically those goods that undercut American manufacturing and the American worker. Trump has also stated that tariffs can be used to achieve both national and economic security for the US.

According to <u>Investor's Business Dai</u>ly, tariffs are: "a tax on imports that protects domestic production and jobs." <u>Britannica</u> defines tariffs similarly but also adds, "The words *tariff, duty,* and *customs* can be used interchangeably."

Let's bring a little more focus on this thing call "National Sales Tax." The concept of a national sales tax is not new and dates before the Roman Empire. In 1932, it was proposed and shot down in the House of Representatives. In 1999, the *Fair Tax Act* was introduced to Congress and has been re-introduced with each congressional session since, but has not been passed. In essence, *Fair Tax* is one of several forms of national sales tax. There are many pros and cons with imposing a national sales tax on the country. One important thing to remember, however, is that such a tax does nothing to protect the American worker and business from foreign competition. Tariffs however protect workers and businesses alike and also bring revenue to the federal government.

While the democrats are calling Trump's tariffs a national tax, keep in mind that Kamela Harris has said that "<u>one of my singular priorities, is to invest and grow our</u> <u>small business</u>"

Given Kamela's statement and calling tariffs deplorable, how can she protect American business from foreign competition bent on undermining the US economy? The two statements are diametrically opposite each other, and demonstrates her inability to comprehend how our nation needs a solid, protected and secure economy.