

I Was Wondering?

I was reading about the new Super Flat Sorter that is being rolled out by the USPS. Each machine is huge. The most recent article stated that the one being installed in San Diego will take the place of 26 clerks. The service plans on having 47 of these bad boys though out the United States. I did some math and that is the equivalent of 1222 Clerks at a minimum. Not bad you say, retirement can handle that many. Well here is my question: *As a society – how much mechanization/automation can this country afford?* Huh??? Well take a look at the auto industry and all the jobs that have been lost to mechanization/automation. The Postal Service brags they have reduced the clerk complement by some 250,000 employees which have been replaced in a large part my automation. The new Flat Sorter will not only replace clerks but will also create a need for fewer carriers. The Postal Service is touting the 1.5 Million Dollar price tag as a cost saving feature due to the loss of employees and fewer vehicles they will need to buy. But I wonder – I do not believe that all these fewer jobs will be replaced by attrition. I think they are working on getting rid of our No Lay Off Claus and fully intend to lay employees off.

Further you hear, constantly, on the news that to help with the deficit, government workers must be laid off and government paired down. Is there not a huge problem with a high unemployment rate? Is there not a crisis arising in that there are not enough people in the work force to pay for the social security needs of the baby boomer population? Would someone please tell me how laying people off from good paying jobs, with good benefits, and good buying power – those who can afford nice cars and houses, etc, is helping to solve any of this crisis. I see it compounding the problem. If all the good jobs are replaced with mechanization/automation – who is going to have the money to spend to buy the products that are being produced? I guess I just do not see the big picture. Or maybe what is even scarier is that I do see the big picture and it is the people in control of our Congress that fail to see it. **How long are we going to put up with our jobs being replaced – not just by those companies going overseas but by the ones that stay here and become automated to the point that they no longer need flesh and blood humans? Will there be any jobs available for our children and grandchildren?**