



Just in case it matters to you:

- SHORTENED WORKWEEKS AND FURLoughS FOR OFFICE EMPLOYEES pose potential labor law risks, since “exempt employees are entitled to full salary if they work at all during the week; cutting hours doesn’t reduce costs unless consensual and carefully implemented.” Also, mandating that accrued vacation time be taken when no work is available, offering vacation cash outs, and implementing retroactive salary or bonus plan reductions, can each create serious problems. “Know the technicalities before acting.” [SIEFFLAW.COM NWSLTR – Jul 09]
- THE CURRENT HEALTH-CARE DIATRIBE ABOUT BUREAUCRATS DECIDING WHAT’S BEST should also focus on the reality that some 80% of America’s health-care costs are incurred at the end of life. “If we really are going to change how we spend money on health, it means we must change how we spend money on death,” meaning sensible perspective about euthanasia. Proponents believe individuals should be allowed to make their own choices about death without pain, suffering or burdening one’s families or caretakers (cited as the reason for 1/3 of assisted-suicide requests in Oregon last year), arguing that “autonomy and dignity are precious personal values...and an overriding right.” Opposition is generally based on either religious dogma or on the idea that society “derives a larger benefit from treating every life as precious – even to the point of protecting one from oneself.” Current laws allow for the “removal of feeding tubes, withdrawal of respirators, and replacement distance, the ‘right to die’ becomes a ‘duty to die’ – given that America’s health care system is economically unsustainable while, at the same time, “seems to incentivize everything except the peaceful death to which we all aspire.” [TIME - Aug 1, 09]
- “AFTER DECADES OF OUTSOURCING WORK TO LOW-WAGE COUNTRIES, the nation has shed not only millions of low-skill jobs – it can no longer make many of the high-value goods that matter in the 21st century... More alarming, the U.S. is losing its ability to create big-impact products, as research and development is increasingly transferred to foreign lands that have become manufacturing leaders... Except for Apples’ products, for example, every U.S. brand of Notebooks is now designed in Asia... Protectionists may have had it right...” [BUSINESSWEEK – July 27, 09]
- “IN A SOCIETY GOVERNED PASSIVELY BY FREE MARKETS AND FREE ELECTIONS, ORGANIZED GREED ALWAYS DEFEATS DISORGANIZED SOCIETY... Goldman Sachs investment bank has engineered every major market manipulation since the Great Depression – and they’re about to do it again... The bank is a huge, highly sophisticated engine for converting the useful, deployed wealth of society into the least useful, most wasteful and insoluble substance on Earth – pure profit for rich individuals. They achieve this using the same playbook over and over again. The formula is relatively simple: positioning itself in the middle of a speculative bubble, selling investments they know are crap. Then they Hoover up vast sums from the middle and lower floors of society with the aid of a crippled and corrupt state that allows it to rewrite the rules in exchange for the relative pennies the bank throws at political patronage. Finally, when it all goes bust, leaving millions of ordinary citizens broke and starving, they begin the entire process over again, riding in to rescue us all by lending us back our own money at interest, selling themselves as men above greed... And now they’re preparing to do it again, creating what may be the biggest and most audacious bubble yet”: ‘Cap and Trade’ credits on carbon emissions.” [ROLLING STONE – Jul 9-23, 09]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: ***“I don’t think that just because you were not born in this country, you are qualified for any special loan programs, government sponsored bank loans or tax breaks, etc., so you can open a hotel, coffee shop, trinket store, or any other business. We did not go to the aid of certain foreign countries and risk our lives in wars to defend their freedoms, so that decades later they could come over here and tell us our constitution is a living document and open to their interpretations.”*** – Andy Rooney

“To be both pompous and inarticulate is a fitting tribute to American newspapering in its death throes.” – Mark Steyn

“It’s never what happens that matters, it’s how we view it that empowers us or disenfranchises us from our power.” – Barry Eisen

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