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**QUOTE FOR THE DAY:**

**“The campaign finance scandal in America is the global warming of American political life-with cash substituting for deadly solar radiation.” Alec Baldwin.**

**ENTER MICHAEL BLOOMBERG:**

**Seems Mr. Bloomberg doesn't like the president very much because he has pledged \$100 Million to defeat him in the state of Florida.**

**This past year the citizens of Florida voted to give the vote back to felons who had served their sentences – but not so fast. After much litigation it has been ruled that such people**

**can only vote if they have also completely paid off any monetary fines related to their crimes.**

**Up steps Mr. Bloomberg saying he is going to pay the fines of all released felons who have not already done so. Do you know what Bloomberg has just done? He has given money to people to vote democratic, vote for Biden – a serious violation of campaign laws.**

**Let me take the readers back a few decades to illustrate what this is all about. One of my customers was Aqua Leisure Industries, located in a Boston Suburb. Aqua Leisure, one of the largest swim gear importers in the country, was owned and run by Simon Fireman. The Fireman family was highly regarded throughout New England. Simon's brother was Paul Fireman, CEO of Reebok.**

**A lifelong democrat, Simon thought he saw something very special about Ronald Reagan and, as a result, he did something unthinkable – he founded “Democrats for Reagan” and, in part, due to his efforts, Massachusetts voted for the first Republican president in twenty-eight years. As a reward, Simon was made a**

**Governor of EXIM Bank, and proceeded to spend most of his time in D.C. with the company being run by trusted lieutenants. With the 1996 campaign for Bob Dole, Simon was equally enthusiastic. Obviously, no one on the Democratic side of the aisle had spoken to Simon in years. He was solidly ensconced in the pantheon of the reviled, along with Benedict Arnold.**

**Stringent rules were in place about how much any one individual could give to a presidential candidate, so Simon, in his support of Dole, did a major no no. He gave \$2,000 to 19 employees, suggesting to them that they donate the money to the Dole campaign. They did, word leaked out to the Democrats and you know what hit the fan. Revenge was sweet as the legal process played out, with Simon confined to house arrest for six months, having a felony conviction and being fined \$6 million – yes- six million dollars, the biggest fine ever levied in a campaign contribution case, all for a paltry \$38,000 contribution. Lesson; don't mess with the Democratic Machine in Massachusetts. Sound anything like what Bloomberg is trying in Florida? – You bet.**

**Just to show you that the lady holding the scales of justice isn't as well blindfolded in Massachusetts as the statue appears; a similar case occurred with one Michael Brown, an arch Democrat, and the son of Clinton's former Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown, who tragically perished in a plane crash.**

**The dollars were less than those involving Fireman, but a felony violation nonetheless. He had given money to friends to contribute to the re election of Ted Kennedy. So, how did the not so blind Lady Justice handle that one? A \$100,000 fine was discussed, but I find no record of his ever having paid a fine at all. And, of course, no home confinement or jail time. Hey, it's Democratic Massachusetts, don't you know, "Boys will be boys." If, in fact, Brown did pay \$100,000, at \$6 million, Fireman's heinous crime was considered sixty times worse.**

**We check back in with Simon. It's now around 2012 and he is spending the winters in Palm Beach where he is involved in many philanthropic activities, the major one being**

**his leadership of the annual heart fund drive and the Heart Ball.**

**Every year, how does the Palm Beach paper write it up? Snarky, like this, “Convicted felon, Simon Fireman etc, etc.”**

**So, we know Bloomberg could easily handle a \$6 million fine, but the headlines in the NY papers of him attending major social gatherings beginning with, “And last night, convicted felon, Michael Bloomberg, etc, etc.” You get the idea – would not be to Mike’s liking.**

**Suggestion to Mr. Bloomberg– forget trying to buy the convicted felons’ votes and deploy your \$100 million in Florida (while still trying to buy votes) in a much more subtle manner.**

**And, the takeaway from the Fireman- Brown affair: In an entrenched Blue state, or Red state, for that matter – do not mess with the political machine.**

**CUOMO ON TRUMP AND COVID-19 VACCINE:**

**“He better have an army if he thinks he’s gonna walk down the street in New York. He can’t have enough body guards to walk through NY City.” Unfortunate, inflammatory statement that could easily be taken as approval to attack the president, especially coming from the Governor. –Surprised he hasn’t received a visit from the Secret Service telling him to shut up – or maybe he has.**

**I believe this man is losing it. Yesterday he said, “The first question is, is the vaccine safe? I’m not going to trust the Federal Government’s opinion.” Just great, Governor. We have a country where 40% of people already say they won’t take the vaccine and you’re trying to raise it to 50+%. You are telling the country they can’t be comfortable with the combined assurances of the FDA, the CDC and the NIAID (Dr. Fauci’s organization). Very worrisome from the Governor of the state with the worst CV record.**

**POLITICIANS WILL NEVER CHANGE:**

**“Drain the swamp”, and how many other similar slogans have we heard from politicians over the years?**

**It’s not as if high level politicians and presidents don’t get enough goodies when they leave office- board directorships, writing books, etc (The advance on the Obamas book is \$22 million), but so many do so well while in office. If skillfully done, it may not appear they are direct beneficiaries, but readers do you really believe that? What visiting entourage to Washington stays any place other than Trump International Hotel? Are these foreign dignitaries and their 100+ member support teams trying to curry favor? Maybe; how about, “hell yes.”**

**A Republican Senators’ report just released found that Hunter Biden’s role on Burisma’s board negatively impacted the U.S. push for anticorruption measures in Ukraine. The report goes on to allege that Hunter Biden and other Biden family members (James Biden and his wife, Sarah) “cashed in on Joe Biden’s vice presidency, ‘through a vast financial network**

**that connected them to foreign nationals and foreign governments.”**

**At the simplest, easy to understand level, would Hunter Biden have ever been made a \$50,000 a month board member of Burisma, if his father hadn't been vice president? Were prominent figures in Ukraine, China and Russia trying to curry favor? Maybe; how about, “hell yes.”**

**None of this sticks on Joe Biden; no paper trail or NSA taps to reflect any quid pro quos – of course not. Everyone who plays these games is smarter than that.**

**Politicians have been doing this stuff from time in memoriam. The American public isn't fooled. That's why the U.S. Congress and Senate rank numbers 25 and 26 on a listing of the 27 most honorable/ethical professions. At the end of the day the citizenry is inured to these things – “just business as usual”, and I don't expect it will have any measurable impact on upcoming elections.**



**Currying favor in the corporate world on the other hand is a whole different issue. The politicians become indignant and the courts spring into action. My former employer, J.P. Morgan, had a seemingly nice hiring policy for young Chinese men and women who were children of prominent government and business officials. Well, why not? For eons all the big banks have had in their training programs children of senior executives from major client and prospect companies. What could be wrong with that? When it came to China, plenty – that’s “currying favor.” That little hiring program cost J.P. Morgan a \$264 million fine. “Do as I say, not as I do.”**

**We are such a divided country today, with almost everyone totally locked into his/her own views. From what I have read and am seeing on TV, this is an election that hinges almost entirely on issues- how the voter feels about the economy, pandemic, healthcare, abortion rights, etc., and very little about the candidates themselves, except in the negative; those who are voting for Biden, primarily because they can’t stand Trump, and those who are voting for Trump because they are**

**horrified that Biden will be a pawn for the ultra progressives on the left. I remember candidates who so personally resonated with the country that, while their platforms were important, a huge percentage of our vote was for the man- thinking of, but not limited to; Eisenhower, Kennedy and Reagan. Sad times.**

### **WHY DENMARK?**

**“Normal bodies don’t look like this” is the title of a recent article regarding a Danish TV show where the five participants all show up in bathrobes. It’s a show primarily directed at children, say wha? The purpose of the show is as an educational tool “to fight body shaming”. The five participants drop their robes and there they are, completely nude. We all come in different shapes and sizes. In the U.S. it is reported that 66% of us are overweight or obese, but Denmark? You’ve got to be kidding. Ever been to Copenhagen? 99% of the people ride bikes, and a small VW costs \$75,000 to make sure it stays that way. Always on the cutting edge, leave it to the Danes to address a problem they are the last to have.**

**Your faithful scribe, PB**

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