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SENATORIAL, CONGRESSIONAL LETTER:

As suggested in issue 5, for those believing it would be a good idea for the government to give an “opt out” option for those in the \$150,000 to \$198,000 income range, here is a letter I have written to our Senator.

**The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate office Building
Washington, D.C 20510**

March, 29, 2020

Dear Senator Rubio,

As one of your constituents I want to congratulate you and Congresswoman Frankel for your good work in helping to pass the Covid 19 legislation.

One observation I have is that the provision for couples making \$150,000 to receive \$2,400 seems excessive. And, even on a decreasing scale, to make payments all the way up to an income of \$198,000, also seems to be unwarranted.

I realize these payments are mandated under the law and can't be changed. That being the case, I have a suggestion:

I would contend that very few families in the \$150,000+ category have need for any such financial support, or, certainly not as much need as those families making \$75,000, \$50,000 or less.

My suggestion would be to have the Treasury Department send to all recipients in this category notification of the opportunity to opt out of receiving payment.

From the internet I learn there are 128 million households in the U.S. and that 7% of them have income between \$150,000 and \$198,000, that's 8.96 million households. Assuming an average payment of \$1,800- to \$2,000 (given the decreasing scale) we are looking at huge numbers which could greatly help those in greater need. If not to be included in the first payment, these unspent monies could be distributed in a second disbursement.

My sense is that a very large percentage of those in the \$150,000 to \$198,000 category would be delighted to opt out.

Many thanks, in advance, for giving this suggestion your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

**Thomas F. Bundy, Jr.
4333 N Ocean Blvd. BS1
Gulf Stream, Fl. 33483**

**561 330 3750
bundytf@aol.com**

**CC:
The Honorable Lois Frankel
2500 N Military Trail #490
Boca Raton, Florida 33431**

This may be tilting at windmills, but anyone else believing, as I do, might also consider contacting their representatives.

SHUN THE EXTREMISTS:

HH readers have one thing in common, for better or worse they are all friends of mine. Our good readers are all over the map politically- Democrats, Republicans and Independents. That's why HH does not, and cannot, have a political agenda. What I hate to see/read are spewings of misinformation and invective by the polarized extremists on both sides of the spectrum. The latest I find especially heinous- the ridiculous attacks on Dr Fauci. He is doing a wonderful job for the country and acting as a great help mate to the administration in bringing the nation's expectations into a realistic focus. Why, when

we need to be pulling together do we need people trying to divide us?

THE COLLEGIATE CALAMITY:

We have been so inundated by unsettling stories across the globe created by the covid-19 virus. I'm not speaking of the health aspects of the virus, but of the collateral life dislocations that have occurred. There has been much written about the upset created in the college world, but most of it has been focused on what it has done this year, rather than what will likely appear in the dismal future. Previously, most everything that was written was about the men and women athletes who, as seniors, would never get to play for the championships they sought; the dance/theatre majors who would never get to put on the performances for which they had practiced the entire year; the thrill of graduation evaporated and the wrenching termination of campus life, not even permitting time for proper farewells with close friends.

The foregoing was what I had mainly focused on in commiserating about the lives of our college seniors (under classmen as well), but it took a major news article the other day to make me realize the above issues were only the tip of the iceberg. That which lies ahead for our graduating seniors is beyond scary. Yes, most can move back in with parents, but job prospects that were so promising just three months ago have evaporated. Just when they were ready to take on the world, it's no longer there. The financial aspects are the least of it, the blow to the psyche must be debilitating.

We see enough sad news so I apologize for piling on. It's just one more indicator to me that we're not just going to throw a switch in the third quarter, or whenever, and everything will quickly return to normal- a long road ahead for our college seniors and for all of us.

SPORTS STORY OF THE DAY:

YOU'RE GOING TO DO WHAT?

There's this nice- beautiful grounds- college in Fairfield, Ct. ,Sacred Heart University- really a

baby institution having only started in 1963. It has grown exponentially in recent years and now has an enrollment of 5,500. Apparently, not super hard to get into as 60% of applicants are accepted. On line student reviews are positive so it can be presumed there are a lot of happy campers. Compared to other colleges, tuition, room and board is only \$45,000, which has mom and dad gagging, but not choking.

Sacred Heart has had a hockey team for the past 27 years and, although they have improved somewhat recently, they have had losing seasons for the last nine years.

Enter stage left, Bobby Valentine. Yes, for you north easterners, our same fun, funny and loved former manager of the Mets and Boston Red Sox. Bobby has recently become the Athletic director at Sacred Heart.

The short version of the story is that Sacred Heart has been looking over it's shoulder with envy at the national success of neighboring Quinnipiac College in hockey and, a bit further afield, similar success by tiny (2,200 students) Union College.

Even though Sacred Heart has had two different arenas in which to play, neither one is especially close to campus. The university has been trying to recruit some of the better U.S. and Canadian high school players, but the Maurice Richard wannabes who come to look at the campus like everything except for the lack of an arena, so off they go to other venues.

The Sacred Heart men's and women's hockey rosters each have 29 players. That's 58 students out of a population of 5,500. BTW, the men's team seldom gets as many as 1,000 to watch their games. But, Bobby, heeding advice from an old friend, Lou Lamoriello, former general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs, has become convinced that Sacred Heart needs it's own arena.

I'm thinking to myself, wow, this could be expensive, maybe 5-6 million dollars. Mind you, for the size of the student body, Sacred Heart has a puny endowment, only \$137 Million, an important metric in college evaluations according to U.S. News and World

Report, which certainly is a factor in their so so U.S. ranking of #218.

So what does Bobby have in mind, that the Trustees have apparently agreed to- a 4,000 seat arena on campus at a cost of \$60,000,000. That's right folks, SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS. Oh, but we are told they will rent out the arena when not being used for hockey. That and bake sales should should greatly lessen the financial impact.

All of this to have the hockey world wake up one morning and say, "Hey, Sacred Heart has a damn good hockey team."

What Sixty Million dollars would have done to build a new computer center, hire great new professors- raise the academic standards of Sacred Heart, will never be known.

Arena to open in 2022

What foolishness!!

**Your faithful scribe
PB**

