

Humberto Giles-Sanchez

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In Chicago during the month of September 1918 they were not expecting to be hit hard with the Spanish Influenza virus. This was far from correct, in fact September 8th was around the day that the Spanish Influenza virus hit Chicago first. They did not take enough measures to securely protect their citizens from the Spanish flu in the first couple weeks of the flu first arriving in Chicago. They started taking major steps in trying to contain this invisible enemy around the last week possibly around September 29th, 1918. The Chicago tribune printed a fairly long article giving more information of what was going on, on the 29th of September 1918. This news when first read reminds the reader that our own problem with Covid-19 is not too far off of what happen during the Spanish flu pandemic.

The first portion of the article talks about how Chicago finally got someone in charge of leading the fight against the Spanish Flu in the city of Chicago specifically. They were able to get Dr. Franklin Martin of the National Council of Defense. Yes, this is different from today with the fact that there is not a single person in charge when it comes to fighting Covid-19 for each state. There is the CDC who is in charge of finding a cure for the whole country along with several Universities in each state that are helping out with trying to find a cure. Although this is very different, they do have their similarities with the number of doctors/physicians that the US government is currently using to run tests for potential Covid-19 cases. The article goes on to talk about how in the afternoon of the 29th of September 1918 they were going to have a full list of 300 physicians that were going to be used to help treat people with the Spanish flu. Again, touching back on COVID-19, this is similar to the way that we are conducting tests for COVID-

19 today with a multitude of doctors and scientists working non-stop in order to find a suitable vaccine that could prevent the spread of COVID even further.

The second part of the article recaps on what happened and how Chicago first got Spanish Influenza. It is a reminder of how easy it is for a virus of that caliber to quickly spread in a population when safety precautions are not taken. Similarly, to the downplayed of the COVID-19 virus that we are currently experiencing in 2020. The article explains how after only 24 hours of quarantining the workers are just sent back to work. It also talks about how sixty-seven of the sailors that contracted the Spanish flu died. This is similar with what is going on in the world currently because you have a lot of people downplaying this pandemic and in fact going about their day as if there was no virus to worry about. This is not only helping spread the virus quicker, but it is putting in danger a multitude of people that could be effected in a worse way than the person who originally had it. In a way this is what many people thought at the time of the Spanish flu, “if it does not affect me severely or I don’t get it, then it must not be that bad.”

The third part and fourth part of the article talk about the quarantining process and how some landlords refuse to help those with utilities and rent. This is similar to today in the aspect that most people are told to quarantine but they do not end up doing so because they think that what is going on in the world is just a hoax or something that does not need to be worried about with significant urgency. This would lead to massive super spread events that help spread the virus faster, putting more people in danger of getting COVID-19. As for the landlord problems, similar cases are popping up around the US concerning people getting laid off and not being able to work because of COVID-19. The landlords then refuse to help them or give them until the quarantine ends to pay the rent. This eventually leads to people getting evicted and not being

able to find another apartment or place to live. Thus, making families either ask for help from the government or help from other family members that could be having a rough time as well.

There are so many similarities with the Spanish Influenza and the new Covid-19 virus. Not in the virus itself but in how the US has informed its citizens on what precautions to take, like the US in 1918, today in 2020 the government still downplays a lot of the significant impacts that this virus has caused many families and individuals to endure. Not only does the government downplay the impacts, but the media does not cover the topic as it should be covered as well. Since it is an election year not only is the media not putting as much emphasis on the virus itself, but the media is also using the virus as a political tool to shame the candidates. Thus, making supporters suspicious if this virus is even real or just a political point to get points off of for each candidate. Just like in 1918 with WWI overshadowing the Spanish flu, you have the election overshadowing COVID-19. This is leading to a lot of misinformation that is being spread, due to this many people start to believe the misinformation and begin to not listen to the government when they say that the public should wear a mask or that the public needs to social distance for a while.