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THE PERFECT STORM:

Jumping to the top of the list is the headline we all saw this morning; the president and his wife testing positive for Covid- 19 (CV). This has all the potential to become a superspreader event as it typically takes 4 to 5 days after a person comes in contact with the virus before he tests positive. Therefore it will be necessary to do contact tracing on thousands of people, given the president's very active schedule. One of this morning's TV programs shows a photograph of about 20 top government officials who have had contact with the president in recent days, to say nothing of the many others, family etc. that those people have been exposed to.

The political ramifications are also very serious as the president will be constricted in

his activities for at least 10-14 days, with there being only 30 days to the election. This crisis is further politically magnified by the fact that the Trump contingent attending the debate all came into the hall wearing masks, but then removed them, once seated, in violation of the Cleveland Clinic instructions. The Biden contingent all kept their masks in place. With only 30 days to the election, this is not only a major health scare about which we all pray for everyone's safety, but an event that will be of major political significance.

QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

“There is a consensus in Europe that this is getting out of hand, and this debate is an indicator of the bad shape of American democracy.” Ulrich Speck, German Marshall Fund.

OTHER REACTIONS TO THE DEBATE:

“embarrassed to be an American”; “The debate was a joke, a low point, a shame for the country.”; “Makes me despondent about

America.”; Roaring insults, two over 70s who interrupt each other like 5 year olds.”

RANSOMWARE AND ELECTION NIGHT:

Much as I have criticized Governor Cuomo for making the public feel doubtful about a blessing from Federal agencies on an eventual vaccine, thereby scaring many away from getting one, I also think the president has not been helpful in throwing doubt on the validity of mail in ballots, specifically, and the election, generally. That said, however, there are valid areas of concern.

“A Texas company that sells software that cities and states use to display results on election night was hit by ransomware last week.” Tyler Technologies does not actually tally votes. “It is used by election officials to aggregate them and report them in at least twenty places around the country- making it exactly the kind of soft target that the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and the U.S. Cyber Command worry could be struck by anyone trying to sow chaos and uncertainty on election night.” In other words, actual votes

would not be affected, but the reporting of them would be. By the time that gets sorted out and tallies are revised, everyone is asking, “Hey what’s going on?” On the one hand, this type problem is not related to mail in ballots, but it is one more pointer as to why we are not apt to know who won the election until well afterwards and, why some people continue to have doubts about all the mechanisms covering the election process.

Then we have the anecdotal story of how nine early mail in ballots were found in the garbage, seven of them for Trump, and another instance, where almost 100,000 absentee ballots were sent out in Brooklyn incorrectly—one person’s name on the outside another on the inside.

Further, I would ask why there is such a patchwork of rules regarding mail in ballots. Perfect example, in Wisconsin the Democrats won a court ruling that mail in ballots can be postmarked as late as election day and can be counted, if received, as late as November 9th. What sort of system is that? Why shouldn’t your ballot be received no later than election

day. In Miami/Dade, however, your mail in ballot must be received by election day, no later than 7PM.

On the other hand, the judge ruled against the Democrats in upholding a requirement that absentee ballots have a signature from a witness. How ridiculous is that? If it isn't required that the witness signature be notarized, I sign my name with my right hand and Wally Baloo's with my left.

MANAGED NEWS:

It seems the NY Times does not check on previous stories before publishing updates, as an article appeared last week entitled, "A quiet retreat from 'defund' in Minneapolis." Wrong!!

The original article referred to the fact that the Minneapolis City Council unanimously voted to disband – not defund, the police department. With pressure from the Black Visions group, (see issue 60) the City Council agreed that the police department was to be replaced by "The Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention" – a wonderful Kumbaya moment.

That idealistic, unrealistic balloon has now been popped.

The disbanding vote, “became a case study in how quickly political winds can shift and what happens when idealistic efforts at structural change meet the legislative process and public opposition. The pledge is now no closer to becoming policy, with fewer vocal champions than ever. It has been rejected by the city’s mayor, a plurality of residents in current public opinion polls, and an increasing number of community groups.”

But, how about the geniuses on the City Council? All of a sudden it seems they were misunderstood. City Council president, Lisa Bender says, “I think our pledge created confusion in the community.” City Council member, Andrew Johnson, said that he meant the words, “in spirit, not by the letter.” And council member, Phillipe Cuningham, says the language in the pledge, “was up to interpretation.” And, again back to Ms. Bender, “It was very clear that most of us had interpreted the language differently.” Instead

of disbanding the police department, how about firing the City Council?

THE FEW, THE DAMNED:

Just as a few bad police officers can create the impression that most police are abusive or worse, the same can happen in any organization where the few can tarnish an organization's image.

Such is the recent case with Black Lives Matter (BLM). The organization is already seeing a substantial drop in approval, only partially due to "movement fatigue", but really being caused by the rioting in cities throughout the country, which, from my readings, is more a function of far left and far right agitators than members of BLM.

A quick side note: political correctness continues to impinge on the real world, as the Writer's Style Book has eliminated the word "riot", replacing it with, "unrest." - Really!!

Back to BLM issues. Black Lives Matter of Greater Atlanta took in donations of \$36,000

in June, \$371,000 in July and \$60,000 in August- all money to support the movement. The individual running the organization comes with a monicker that might raise eyebrows to begin with, Sir Maejor Page, who appears on social media wearing tailored suits and ties, he bragged, that cost \$150. Speaking of his staying in luxury hotel rooms, he said, "My room way up at the top- at the top, top."

Statements like that got the Attention of that "no fun" guy, Justin Herdman, U.S. attorney for the northern district of Ohio because one of Sir Page's recent acquisitions was a \$112,000 house in Toledo where he actually lived. Federal prosecutors have charged Page with one count of wire fraud and two counts of money laundering. Page stated that, "None of the money was used for personal items- all movement related."

Investigators tell a different story. Page was sole signer on the movement's account and he used a debit card related to that account to pay for food, entertainment, furniture and a home security system plus the Toledo house. As a friend, Ron Goolsby, told the Toledo Blade,

**Page had plans to turn the Toledo house into a shelter for victims of domestic abuse. “This is all going to be cleared up, for sure.” Indeed!!
Your faithful scribe, PB**