

‘Hurry Up and Get It Done’

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And there was a lot to get done by Norfolk Southern Railway workers in the one minute allotted for each task listed on the railway inspection list. NSR experienced a number of railway accidents in the two years beginning in December 2021 – three of them with fatalities. The importance of inspections for railway safety is obvious as is the increased risk when those assigned the task are forced to rush through each one in seconds.

But in a for profit system risk is rewarded with an increased income for top executives if they if they reduce workers, or replace highly skilled workers with those relatively new on the job. 80% of the compensation for Norfolk Southern management depended on the size of the profit margin. The higher it is the larger their paychecks and the more incidental casualties among workers and residents living in rail disaster zones.

From a Department of Justice report: *Over the past four years, annual reports show a stark contrast between the increases in operating income and the drop in railroad operating costs. The drop...includes reductions in spending to repair, service, and maintain locomotives and freight cars, perform train inspections, and pay engine crews and train crews...*

James Orwan, general chairman of IAM Lodge 19, a labor union that represents workers who inspect, repair and maintain locomotives: *“There’s a ‘hurry up and get it done,’ or if it’s not done, ‘hurry up and get it out of the door’ mentality...”*

There is no way to make a heartless, brain dead, political and economic system to systematically do the right thing when the right thing is always maximizing profit.

Iraq – US and UK Partners in Crime

On the 20th anniversary of the criminal invasion of Iraq by the US and UK with support from the other Nato members, it’s a good occasion to remind people that the alleged danger to the world in the person of Saddam Hussein was a lie, and the real reason was to loot and pillage the primary asset of the nation – oil. After the worst period of the war for the Iraqi people in 2007 which brought the Iraq death count to 1 million people it was safe enough for Britain to return to the oil fields in Rumaila it claims to have discovered in 1953 during the UK’s

earlier exploitation. It's the largest known oil patch (50 miles) in Iraq, and Britain, mostly through BP, but also Shell, and BP says it extracted 15 billion pounds worth of oil since 2011.

One must not forget that the alleged communist nation of China participated in the imperialist looting of Iraq's assets. The state owned China National Petroleum Company obtained a 37% stake in the imperialist seized Rumaila field.

Iraq still lives under foreign occupation while 'governed' by a weak puppet regime. When the US sought to prevent a peace agreement with Iraq and Iran it attacked a group of Iraqis and Iranians as they arrived in the capital for negotiations killing 10, including 5 Iraqi officials. That's a good example of the sum and substance of 'liberated' Iraq under benevolent foreign occupation.

ETC

--- According to the Bank of America debit and credit card debt spending has slowed to the weakest in 2 years. No doubt partly due to the ending of pandemic relief measures but also to the soon to arrive predicted recession.

--- Bloomberg headline: **So Much of the World Economy Has Been Going in Reverse. A problem that started long before Covid...**

After reading the above. Burn it. It's only for the eyes of the ruling class.

--- A well paid CEO 50 years ago would earn about \$2 or \$3 million annually, about 20 to 30 times the pay of the average worker. Now the average CEO of a major company 'earns' 400 times what those would earn. There have been many studies showing that CEO pay does not closely correspond to returns to shareholders. Lucian Bebchuk and Jesse Fried's book, *Pay Without Performance*, presents a wide range of evidence on this issue.

--- *A recent study from academic and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) researchers found that wealthy Americans have stashed nearly \$2 trillion in foreign tax havens, with much of that fortune linked to a handful of the country's richest households.*

The US Supreme Court is doing its class duty by limiting the fines for tax evasion schemes.

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