

Paid Patriotism and Economy Encomiums

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Few can fail to have noticed that virtually every major sporting event, and many other large public gatherings, will feature during halftimes, intermissions or even during games, some sort of patriotic display often with active duty service persons. One might think we were in a world war in which the entire population has been mobilized for its success. Many assume the sports teams and other business enterprises take unto themselves such displays as a civic duty. Given the state of the world it's almost heartening to know that such events are motivated by love of money rather than love of country. Here illustrated in the opening paragraph of a congressional report on the issue –

“In 2013, a roaring crowd cheered as the Atlanta Falcons welcomed 80 National Guard members who unfurled an American flag across the Georgia Dome’s turf. Little did those fans—or millions of other Americans—know that the National Guard had actually paid the Atlanta Falcons for this display of patriotism as part of a \$315,000 marketing contract.”

Check out the following for the complete report.

http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/12de6dcb-d8d8-4a58-8795-562297f948c1/tackling-paid-patriotism-oversight-report.pdf

The Department of Defense says they are just legitimate recruiting expenditures. But these aren't *Be all you can* be ads in which our paid to kill mercenary military is informed of all the pay and benefits that are possible through government authorized death and destruction. Rather these are broad based flag waving patriotic displays aimed at the general public because most of that public does not support invading countries that are no threat to us. Flags waving before the public eye are intended to obscure the horrendous human cost – millions dead or injured, millions more in flight to safety, and thousands that drown making the attempt – and then there is the huge cost which could be used for positive purposes.

The sport leagues were somewhat embarrassed by the revelation and have vowed to show their true patriotism. We certainly can expect that to be done on the cheap but with possibly more drama. Recently NBA teams have arranged family meetings during games. A service person in battle fatigues will walk into the arena and then emotionally embrace a loved one while the crowd stands up and applauds and with probably a few folks shedding some tears.

Such positive reinforcement of things that are in fact not going well have become the norm for a failing system. The economy is repetitively being said to be in a

state of robust growth. We supposedly have full employment and the lowest unemployment rate in decades. Obama shill Paul Krugman actually accounted for the disappearance of 20 million people in the prime working age group by boldly asserting they were so confident in a thriving economy that they quit their jobs to have some fun. Meanwhile we've had the dream Trumped by the anti-bullshit sector of the electorate.

The chronically sick economy generated enough outsider votes to elect an insider in populist disguise as president. Their boy immediately began to undo the financial safety measures enacted immediately following the crash, and the markets exploded based on the new regulatory free lunch. If the economy was really so healthy, and the economic future so bright, the financiers would accept controls to avoid the next crash, which, based on the seriousness of the one that is still a drag on the economy, may be the last one. But it's devil take the hindmost as they all hurry to hell.

Friday's boom is a good example. Fed president Daniel Tarullo, top regulator of Wall Street banks, announced his resignation this April five years before his term was to end. Peak 'prosperity' arrives at the point of maximum risk, and the max is only known to have been reached when it produces a collapse. Such is rationality, capitalist style.

<http://unrealeconomy.org>