



Zanetti Monday Missive 2023.06.26

Public Trust, Moral Standards, and The Rule of Law

**“Corrupt politicians make the other 10% look bad.”
~ Henry Kissinger**

Happy Monday Everyone!”

Public trust in institutions, the rule of law and basic fairness are all essential in a properly performing economy. But when corruption rears its ugly head, it undermines the whole enchilada. This is why even the hint of impropriety must be promptly investigated and the results made public.

Let’s define “Political Corruption”. Wikipedia defines it as the following: The use of powers by government officials or their network contacts for illegitimate private gain. Forms of corruption vary, but can include bribery, lobbying, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, parochialism, patronage, influence peddling, graft, and embezzlement.

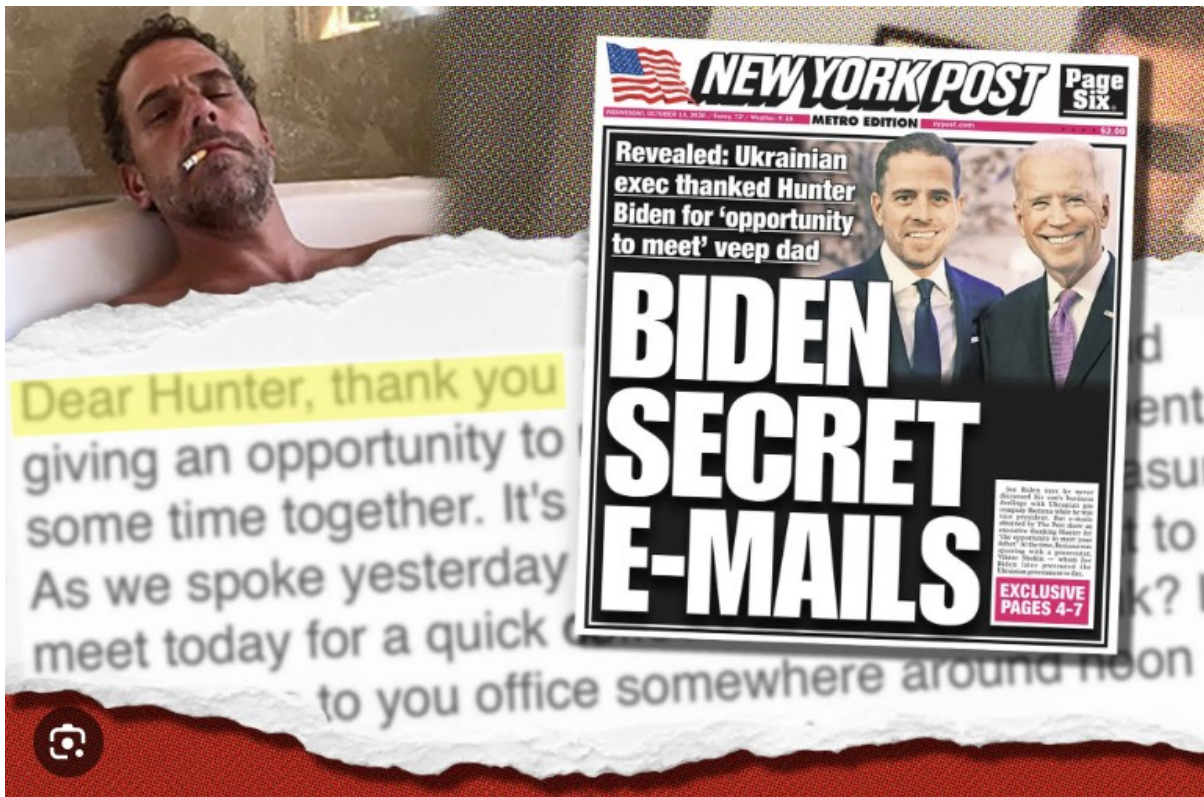
When considering political corruption here in the U.S., we should ask three questions:

1. Is corruption a rare occurrence or is it BAU (Business As Usual)?
2. Is there any sense of sincere shame or wrongdoing when those committing corruption are publicly exposed?
3. Are there two standards of justice: one for the general public and another for elites?

I would argue that corruption is BAU; there is no sincere shame or sense of wrongdoing; and there are indeed two standards of justice.

Can we identify any political corruption in the news lately?
Oh, yes, I think we can. Let's look at 3 institutions in the news lately: POTUS, SCOTUS, and SCROTUS.

POTUS – the President of The United States. I'm sure you're now aware of the deluge of information that has come from Hunter Biden's laptop. The whole story stinks of political abuse, Federal Agency abuse, and big media going along with the whole thing. If you're not familiar with it, look it up – you'll find it pays to be the son of the POTUS.



SCOTUS – the Supreme Court of the United States. That the highest ranking members of the U.S. judicial system seem blind to the impropriety of accepting gifts from super-wealthy "friends" whose interests come before the Supreme Court shows just how broad the problem has become. Despite a flood of partisan weeping and gnashing of teeth, SCOTUS is equally without shame.



SCROTUS – The Supremely Corrupt Royalty of the United States. These are the corporate bigshots, the lobbyists, the billionaires, the politically influential, the financially

connected, and all the elites that are protected from consequence and therefore untouchable.

I know you could build a list of elites who avoid penalty, but here's a recent story that really sets me off...

The Sackler family, the billionaire owners of Purdue Pharma, first introduced OxyContin in the 1990's and promoted it as a non-addictive painkiller. The company was one of the leaders in triggering and fueling the opioid epidemic in the U.S.

Statistically, this has probably impacted your family or a family you know.

Between 1999 and 2020, more than 564,000 people overdosed from opioids in the U.S. Opioid painkillers are prescribed way too often and many of the outcomes have been tragic.

Well, justice came after the Purdue Pharma, they filed bankruptcy in 2019. Then justice came after the Sackler family, who profited from the opioids Purdue Pharma produced. The family was recently granted immunity for ever in exchange for \$6 billion. It was estimated the family was worth \$14 billion.

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| Markets → | | | | Fear & Greed Index → | Latest Market |
| DOW | 33,727.43 | 0.65% ▼ | |  | Former CNN e |
| S&P 500 | 4,348.33 | 0.77% ▼ | | | Drive-thrus are |
| NASDAQ | 13,492.52 | 1.01% ▼ | | | The world's fig |

Court grants Sackler family immunity in exchange for \$6 billion opioid settlement

By Samantha Delouya, CNN
Updated 8:36 PM EDT, Tue May 30, 2023

What about the lives that were lost, the families that were destroyed, the cities that are dealing with the addicted?

And don't get me started on Nancy Pelosi's husband, Paul. His wife receives more information than almost any American, and before any American. Paul might be a good stock picker, but his portfolio performance has continually beat the best hedge funds on Wall Street as well as Warren Buffett. Meanwhile, Nancy has fought in Congress to allow U.S. Representatives the right to participate in "capitalism" by trading stocks without limit.



In a nation that regarded the Public Trust as sacred, even the hint of impropriety at this level of government would have sparked an immediate and thorough ongoing investigation, and calls for resignation and indictment.

Instead, nothing happens except the usual cover-ups, wrist-slaps for lesser violations, zero admission of guilt, zero display of shame, zero punishment.

Until we reach that point of social transformation, we're passengers on a ship doomed by rampant, systemic corruption and the collapse of moral standards and the rule of

law.

Your Putin-Outlawed-Chickens-Because-Now-He's-Afraid-Of-A-Chicken-Coup Financial Advisor,

Walt

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