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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

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Trump's COVID bill delay leaves millions of desperate Americans in limbo



FILE PHOTO: Workers shovel snow from the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S., December 16, 2020. REUTERS/Erin Scott/File Photo

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump's threat late Tuesday to veto the \$892 billion coronavirus relief bill approved by Congress this week may delay aid for millions of families on the cusp of eviction and about to lose unemployment benefits.

Trump's apparent refusal to immediately sign the bill "has injected uncertainty or worse into the effort to protect millions of Americans from falling over a financial cliff," said Mark Hamrick of Bankrate Wednesday.

Trump said the bill, which passed Congress Monday night, did not provide enough support for small businesses, and he asked Congress to increase stimulus checks to individuals to \$2,000, instead of the "ridiculously low" \$600 in the bill.

Many economists agree the bill's aid is too low, but say the immediate support to the economy is still welcome and necessary.

These households are in limbo:

14 MILLION COULD LOSE INCOME THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS About 14.1 million people are receiving unemployment benefits through pandemic programs that are set to expire on Dec. 26, according to Labor Department data.

GRAPHIC: Emergency benefits could end -

The bill extends two programs which support self-employed workers and the long-term unemployed until mid-March. It also adds an extra \$300 per week in aid to the 20.3 million people receiving unemployment benefits.

Letting the bill lapse would amount to a sudden cutoff in income for households that already saw unemployment benefits shrink drastically over the summer, when a \$600 weekly supplement expired.

CASH DWINDLES FOR HOUSEHOLDS Democrats embraced Trump's \$2,000 check proposal Monday, but Republicans are unlikely to join them. In the meantime, the \$600 checks that were supposed to be mailed by Treasury next week are on hold.

Households used the \$1,200 direct cash payments from the Cares Act in the spring to boost spending, pay down debt and pad savings.

Now lower-income U.S. households, earning between \$12,000 and \$30,267, are quickly depleting savings, JPMorgan Chase Institute found in a report released earlier this month.

The cash cushion is nearly gone for these households, increasing the risk they could fall further behind on housing payments and other bills, the research showed.

EVICTION THREAT LOOMING The bill extends a moratorium on evictions that expires Dec. 31 through the end of January, and provides \$25 billion in emergency rental assistance.

About 40 million people could face eviction over the next several months, according to research from the Aspen Institute. They owe about \$70 billion in unpaid back rent and utilities, Moody's Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi estimates.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY Wealee@scdaily.com

12/24/2020

Harvard Professor Ezra F. Vogel Has Passed Away

Professor Ezra F. Vogel, an eminent scholar of East Asia Studies at Harvard University whose writings about China and Japan helped western people understand the rise of the two Asian powers has passed away.

Vogel's son Steven confirmed that his father had passed away due to complications of surgery.

In 1979, Professor Vogel published a book called, "Japan as Number One: Lessons for America," he outlined how the Japanese had caught up with America

because of their ability to govern and educate its citizens efficiently.

In the year of 2011, Professor Vogel published an 876-page book, "Deng Xiaoping," one of the most in-depth biographies of the pragmatic leader who led the reform of China that helped lift hundreds of millions of Chinese out of poverty.

Ezra Vogel was born on July 11, 1930, in Delaware, Ohio, to a Jewish immigrant family. He and his wife Suzanne went to Japan and stayed for a period of time. Both of them became researchers of East Asian affairs.

Over the last sixty years, Professor Vogel frequently visited Asia and met all kinds of people and delivered lectures in both Chinese and Japanese.

His last book, "China and Japan: Facing History," was published in 2019 at the age 89. His goal was to examine the 1,500-year tie between China and Japan and to try and improve relations between them.

Like many scholars, Professor Vogel was worried about the recent downward



turn in relations between the U.S and China. But he still remained optimistic.

President-elect Biden will be in the White House in less than one month. We all hope the two world powers will get back to normal on the international stage and seek better solutions for both na-

tions.

As we salute the late, great scholar, Professor Ezra F. Vogel, we will continue to look for peace and a better future for the world.



Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

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Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Biden's Victory Comes Too Late To Stop A Covid-19 Surge This Fall And Winter

Biden's Covid-19 Challenge May Worsen Before He Takes Office

The week before Election Day, Brown University School of Public Health dean Ashish Jha told reporters something becoming more and more evident: "In two weeks, [Biden and his team] are going to have no more power to turn the pandemic around than they do today."

It's true. President-elect Joe Biden has defeated President Donald Trump, but his inauguration isn't until January 20, 2021. Until then, there are no signs that Trump will give up any levers of power early — if anything, the opposite is true, as Trump now contests the election results. So Trump's failed response to Covid-19 will continue, unchecked, over the next couple of months.

The U.S.'s coronavirus epidemic is already among the worst in the world, with a death toll from Covid-19 that now stands above 230,000. It's fall, and winter is coming, both bringing several issues that could make America's outbreak even worse: Schools will continue to reopen, the cold will push people into poorly ventilated indoor spaces in which the virus can spread more easily, the holidays will bring families together in potential superspreading events, and a possible flu season could further strain health care systems.



Medical staff members treat a patient in a Covid-19 intensive care unit in Houston, Texas, on October 31. (Photo/Go Nakamura/Getty Images)

Trump could, of course, prepare the country for all of this. But he's spent the past several months actively downplaying the coronavirus — deliberately so, as he told journalist Bob Woodward. He rejected or undermined proven policies, from social distancing to masking to testing and tracing. And now Trump no longer has to worry about the politics around his response. He'll instead be able to spend the next few months carrying out the response he

truly believes in without any risk that it could cost him the election.

To put it another way, Trump's loss may unchain Scott Atlas, the controversial adviser Trump has leaned on to justify a hands-off approach to the coronavirus. Atlas has spoken favorably of a "herd immunity" strategy — which experts widely reject because it would likely lead to a catastrophic death toll, but which Trump and Atlas see favorably as a way to avoid measures that can hinder the economy in the short term.

If states follow that lead, America's already soaring Covid-19 cases and deaths will get even worse.

All of this will boost the need for comprehensive action starting from Biden's first day in the Oval Office. That begins with implementing the policies proven to combat Covid-19, including measures that encourage and enable social distancing to slow overall spread, get people to wear masks to protect themselves and others, and widely deploy testing and tracing to detect new outbreaks and contain them. It also requires empowering science — something that Trump has worked against as he's contradicted expert advice, including from federal public health agencies.



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



President Trump addresses supporters in the East Room of the White House in the early morning hours of November 4. (Photo/Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images)

And Biden has to prepare the country for a vaccine, which requires not just finding a safe, effective vaccine but also mounting a vast distribution effort to get doses to hundreds of millions of Americans. Biden, for his part, has already promised to do all of this.

But doing some of it will require Congress, which could pass economic stimulus to ease the pain of and therefore enable further social distancing, incentivize states to mandate masks, and direct more fund-

the top four for developed nations and more than five times the death rate of the median developed country. If the US had the same death rate as Canada, over 140,000 more Americans would likely be alive today.

And just like they are in much of Europe, Covid-19 cases are now rapidly increasing in the US — recently hitting more than 100,000 confirmed cases in one day for the first time.

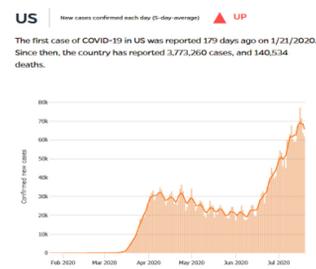
The rise in the US and Europe doesn't mean this was all inevitable. As Jha has said, "The truth is there's lots of countries that have controlled it." Among the countries that have performed much better than the US: Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, and Vietnam.

"What this outbreak gives you is the same problem for every country around the world," Clare Wenham, a global health policy expert at the London School of Economics and Political Science, said. "So you can really see the impact of different policies that were launched." The US's performance "is a testament to failures of the Trump administration."

The evidence backs several approaches to dealing with Covid-19: social distancing, aggressive testing and tracing, and widespread masking. But Trump has rejected all these approaches — demanding that states open up early and quickly, punting testing and tracing programs down to local and state governments, as well as mocking and questioning masks. Meanwhile, the public, along with local and state leaders, has collectively become more complacent and fatigued with the pandemic. That's led to more and more people going out, with each interaction carrying a chance of spreading the coronavirus.

This has continued despite relatively widespread inaction and apathy already leading to outbreak after outbreak in the US. As Jha has told me, "I, at this point, feel like I clearly no longer understand why our country can't learn its lessons and why we keep repeating the same mistakes."

(Article continues on page C4.)



America's Covid-19 epidemic is out of control

The US is already in a bad spot with Covid-19. Its death rate so far is within

Editor's Choice



Men dressed in Santa suits sit in outdoor tables in Rome's Trastevere area one day before Italy goes back to a complete lockdown as part of efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus, December 23. REUTERS/Remo Casilli



Fireworks illuminate the sky over the Arc de Triomphe during the New Year's celebrations on the Champs Elysees in Paris, France, January 1. REUTERS/Benoit Tessier



People dance tango on a street one day before Italy goes back to a complete lockdown, in Rome, December 23. REUTERS/Guglielmo Mangiapane



People wearing protective masks walk along a shopping street one day before Italy goes back to a complete lockdown, in Rome, December 23. REUTERS/Guglielmo Mangiapane



The Colosseum is seen in front of an empty street in Rome, December 24. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



A person walks on the stairs near the Campidoglio in Rome, December 24. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



A street vendor sells roasted chestnuts on Via Frattina, as Italy goes back to a complete lockdown, in Rome, December 24. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



A person walks at the deserted Circo Massimo, as Italy goes back to a complete lockdown, in Rome, December 24. REUTERS/Yara Nardi

(Article continues from page C2.)

Biden's Covid-19 Challenge May Worsen Before He Takes Office

As temperatures have gotten colder, particularly in northern parts of the US, people have flocked more to risky indoor spaces like bars and restaurants. In these places, people are close together for long periods; they can't wear masks as they eat or drink; the air can't dilute the virus like it can outdoors; and alcohol could lead people to drop their guards further. Each of these factors helps the virus spread further.



Cars pass through a coronavirus testing site in El Paso, Texas on October 31. (Photo/Cengiz Yar/Getty Images)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Schools have also reopened since the late summer — with colleges and universities in particular seeing big outbreaks, not only as students go back to class but also as they hit bars and restaurants, party in dorms, and hang out with their peers, friends, fraternities, and sororities. With winter coming, all of this could get even worse. More schools will reopen. It'll get colder in more parts of the US. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's will bring friends and families together, including from hot spots at colleges and universities. Hospitals and other parts of the health care system may have trouble treating a bigger surge of Covid-19 patients if a flu season appears, too, potentially leading to worse outcomes across the board.

What's particularly problematic for the US, though, is that the country is starting from such a high baseline of cases. As RTI International epidemiologist Pia MacDonal has repeatedly emphasized to me, "We never got to low enough levels [of Covid-19] to start with in most places." The threat of exponential growth from such a point could lead to a level of spread that no country has ever seen before — not even in the spring, when the coronavirus first hit the US and Europe.

"The next number in the fall is likely going to shoot way up," Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for

Infectious Disease Research and Policy, previously told me. "Likely well beyond 65,000, 70,000," the summer's previous peak. "I think this fall is going to be the biggest spike of all."



Students move in to Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania on August 19. (Photo/Ben Hastly/Reading Eagle via Getty Images)

Trump's response to the coronavirus could get even worse

Trump could, in theory, at any moment shift course and try to take the threat of Covid-19 more seriously. Eight months into the pandemic, though, that seems very unlikely. Even after he got sick with Covid-19, Trump continued to downplay the threat of the virus: As he left the hospital, he tweeted, "Don't be afraid of Covid. Don't let it dominate your life." He contin-

ued to push a false sense of normalcy in the weeks leading up to the election. One possibility that experts worry about: As bad as Trump has been, maybe he was partially restrained by the election. If he really believes what he was preaching, he could now do even more to discourage social distancing, masking, testing, and tracing.

"I THINK THIS FALL IS GOING TO BE THE BIGGEST SPIKE OF ALL."

"What is the Trump team, once they have lost, going to do over the next two, three months? Because they're going to have the reins of federal power," Jha said. "It's going to be a very tough two, three months." Citing his conversations with White House staff, he added, "There are a lot of people in the White House task force who are already very worried about this."

Consider what Trump and his people were already doing behind the scenes. One of Atlas's first actions when he joined Trump's team was, reportedly, to push for less testing, out of fear that exposing more asymptomatic cases could lead more people to quarantine and more businesses to close down. With Atlas's support, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also briefly recommended less testing, especially for asymptomatic people. Trump, who has a tendency to say the quiet part out loud, has repeatedly suggested this is what he always wanted. He said he told his people to "slow the testing down please," since more tests revealed more cases and, in his view, could make the US look bad.

Testing is perhaps the least controversial part of this pandemic, with both Democrats and Republicans supporting it at varying levels across the country. After all, who could object to more data showing the disease's spread? That Trump managed to make this into an issue speaks to his never-ending drive to "always play [the coronavirus] down," as he told journalist Bob Woodward.

But unchaining Trump and Atlas from politics could go much further than testing. Both have at different points spoken favorably of a "herd immunity" strategy — one that would aim to get younger, healthier people infected and, hopefully, immune to Covid-19. The idea is this would build up enough immunity that the vast majority of the country could go back to life as normal.



President Trump tours a lab where they are

making components for a potential vaccine in Morrisville, North Carolina on July 27. (Photo/Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images)

Experts have widely panned this idea, pointing that it could lead to hundreds of thousands or even millions of Covid-19 deaths as massive segments of the population are infected with the virus and get seriously sick. Sweden, which appeared to try a "herd immunity" strategy while denying it was doing so, suffered one of the highest Covid-19 death rates in the world — even as its neighbors were spared significant outbreaks — before its leaders admitted to a mistake.

If the US followed such an approach, and the Trump administration worked even more against widespread social distancing, masking, testing, and tracing, it could make the country's Covid-19 disaster even worse. And even if Trump's approach doesn't get worse, the status quo clearly hasn't been working.

One potential for optimism: Maybe Trump will shift course now that the election is behind him. Maybe he only downplayed the virus as part of his reelection bid, out of a desire to make it seem like things were fine and normal, hoping that would boost voters' approval of his presidency. So the lack of political incentives could make Trump act more wisely.

But that assumes a level of competence and responsibility that Trump, who got his start in politics by falsely suggesting then-President Barack Obama wasn't born in the US, has yet to display. And if Trump genuinely believes what he's been saying for months, things could get much worse. Biden has to be ready to strike on day one

It will be too late for Biden to do anything about a fall and winter Covid-19 surge in late January. But a Biden administration could take significant steps to put the country on a better path once he takes office. And Biden, as the president-elect, can start putting together a plan and team to accomplish this on day one.



Joe Biden speaks alongside Sen. Kamala Harris in Wilmington, Delaware on November 4. (Photo/Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

When experts were asked about what Biden should do, they pointed to several ideas:

1) Implement policies that are proven to work: A Biden administration could encourage more social distancing, simultaneously offering financial support to affected people and businesses so they don't suffer as much and don't

have another incentive to try to go back to normal. It could push, with the bully pulpit and potential funds, states to mandate masks and really enforce those mandates. It could build up a national testing-and-tracing system, fixing supply bottlenecks for widespread tests and putting money into hiring contact tracers. All of these efforts could help suppress the virus.

2) Rebuild trust in scientists: Under Trump, trust in scientific institutions has dwindled. Federal agencies like the Food and Drug Administration and the CDC were previously considered the gold standard in their fields, but now Americans and experts are increasingly questioning just how effective these once-respected institutions are, in large part because they've been politically polarized under Trump. By taking steps to ensure Americans that the experts are leading the response and the best science is the guide, Biden could help rebuild some faith in these institutions.

3) Prepare the country for a vaccine: If all goes well, a vaccine will be proven to be safe and effective in clinical trials before Biden takes office. But that's just the beginning. After that, the vaccine will have to be distributed to every corner of the country so hundreds of millions of Americans can actually get it. It will be a massive operation — one that experts often compare to nationwide wartime efforts — and the federal government will need to lead that operation to ensure it all goes well.



Crucially, much of this, particularly elements that require more money, will require support from Congress. How quickly Congress acts could dictate how quickly Biden does. And with more than 800 Americans dying of Covid-19 a day now and potentially more dying once we're in the middle of winter, every single day, week, and month will matter.

But if done correctly, this could get the US closer to normal more quickly. "If you do things the right way, you can do them," Cedric Dark, an emergency medicine physician at the Baylor College of Medicine, previously told me. "If you do them the wrong way, then you're going to get cases."

Before that, however, the US will need to get through the fall and much of winter under the same leadership that's made America's Covid-19 outbreak one of the worst in the world. (Courtesy VOX.com)

天下奇聞 Daily News

十位被自己的发明杀死的著名科学家



考珀·菲普斯·科尔斯



卡雷尔·苏塞克



居里夫人

托马斯·米基利·梅勒



据国外网站报道，科学家的使命是探索未知，在追求科学的道路上充满荆棘和险情。有些甚至冒着生命危险，其中不乏为事业献身者，在这里列出10位伟大的科学家，他们都是最终死于自己的发明。

1、居里夫人 Marie Curie 居里夫人是一位法国籍波兰科学家。她研究放射性现象，发现了一系列新元素，包括镭和钋。此外她的放射原理以及放射同位素分离法都是非常著名的。1903年她和丈夫皮埃尔一起荣获诺贝尔奖。当时放射性元素的破坏作用还没有被发现，居里夫人在工作没有采取任何保护措施，有时将装有放射性元素的试验管放在衣袋里，有时放在抽屉里，由于长期接触放射性元素，居里夫人最终在1934年7月4日死于恶性贫血。

2、托马斯·米基利·梅勒 Thomas Midgley Jr 托马斯·米基利是一位美国化学家，发明了加铅汽油和氟氯烃。虽然在世

时也得到了很多赞誉，但真正使米基利成名的是由于他的发明他被称为“地球历史上对大气影响最大的个体生物”以及“历史上杀数最多的个体”。他后来染上了脊髓灰质炎和铅中毒瘫痪在床。为此，他发明了一套绳索滑轮系统以便于起床。后来在他55岁的时候，被滑轮绳索缠住，窒息而死。他的滑轮发明和含铅汽油都促成了他的死亡。

3、约翰·戈弗雷·帕里·托马斯 J. G. Parry-Thomas 帕里·托马斯是一个威尔士赛车手和工程师，他一直梦想着打破马尔柯姆·坎贝尔创下的速度记录，于是他开始尝试自己造一部汽车来帮助自己达成梦想。最终汽车造了出来，他给汽车取名芭布斯，在这辆汽车上托马斯做了很多改进，将轮子和发动机连接起来的链子露在汽车的外面。1926年4月27日，帕里·托马斯打破了记录，在第二天他又把速度提高到了每小时170公里。这个记录到第二年又被马尔柯姆·坎贝尔打破。帕里·托马斯在重新夺回记录时车链突然断开，其中一部分击中了他自己，致使他当场死亡。

4、威廉姆·布洛克 William Bullock 威廉姆·布洛克是一位美国发明家，他于1863年发明了一种高速高效的轮转印刷机，这个发明给印刷业带来了彻底革命。在一次维修印刷机的时候，他将一只脚踢进机器下面试图将一个滑轮踢回原位，脚受了伤致使坏疽，威廉姆在截肢手术时死亡。

5、奥托·李林塔尔 Otto Lilienthal 李林塔尔为德国工程师和滑翔飞行家，世界航空先驱者之一。他最早设计和制造出实用的滑翔机，人称“滑翔机之父”。很多国家的报纸和杂志都刊登过李林塔尔的滑翔照片，他使人类长期以来发明一种飞翔工具的梦想成真。但探索总是要付出代价的，1896年4月9日，李林塔尔*纵他的滑翔机时恰遇一股强劲的风，滑翔机失速栽向地面，滑翔机摔毁了，李林塔尔也受了致命的重伤（脊椎断裂），第二天死亡。在弥留之际，对他弟弟古斯塔夫说：“总是要有人牺牲的。”

6、弗兰兹·瑞切特 Franz Reichelt 弗兰兹瑞切特是一个澳大利亚裁缝，他设计了一个可以作为降落伞的衣服，并且宣称穿了这件衣服，人就可以很轻盈地走路甚至可以飞。为了证明此衣服的神奇功能，弗兰兹做了一项试验，他穿起自己的“杰作”从埃菲尔铁塔的第一层往下飞，当时很多人和摄影记者

都赶来观看，但是不幸，这个件衣服并没有发挥它的神奇功效，试验没有成功，弗兰兹从塔上直接栽了下来，当场死亡。

7、卡雷尔·苏塞克 Karel Soucek 卡雷尔苏塞克是一个加拿大特技演员，他发明了一个“密封舱”然后乘坐该舱飞下尼亚加拉大瀑布，从此名声大噪。这次历险经历苏塞克虽然受了点伤，但并没有危及生命，在1985年，他说服一家公司赞助他另一次冒险——那就是依靠他发明的密封舱沿休斯顿的透明圆顶棒球场顶部滚下。这个建筑高180英尺，有一个专门设计的瀑布自顶部流下，瀑布底部有一个水潭。然而苏塞克这次却没有那么幸运了，在入水时由于没有钻入潭中心，而是碰到了池边。密封舱破碎，苏塞克严重受伤，第二天就死了。苏塞克被称为最敢于冒险的特技演员，他所驾驶的“密封舱”至今还陈列在纽约博物馆。

8、考珀·菲普斯·科尔斯 Cowper Phipps Coles 考珀·菲普斯·科尔斯是优秀的皇家海军上尉，他在克里米亚战争期间发明了一个轮船转盘台。战争结束之后，科尔斯获得了这项发明的专利所有权，看到自己的发明在皇家海军轮船上运作良好，他开始利用这个创新的设计建造自

己的轮船。但是他的轮船需要做一些危险的修整，包括一个称作“飓风甲板”的改装。这个改进提高了船的重心，在1870年9月6日轮船翻了，科尔斯和其余500名船员一起落水，最终导致科尔斯溺水身亡。

9、亚历山大·波丹诺夫 Alexander Bogdanov 亚历山大·波丹诺夫是一位著名的俄国物理学家、哲学家、经济学家、科幻小说作家和个革命家。他曾经作过一项试验就是通过血液传输来达到返老还童的目的，给很多显赫的名人输过血，其中包括列宁的妹妹。后来，波丹诺夫做出了一个大胆的决定——给自己输血，血液来自一个疟疾和肺结核缠身的病人！不久之后他就受到感染了。

10、亨利·温斯坦利 Henry Winstanley 亨利·温斯坦利（1644-1703）是英国著名的灯塔设计师和工程师，修建了首座迪斯通灯塔，据悉亨利·温斯坦利对自己的作品极其推崇，对他坚固程度也非常有信心，他一直有一个愿望就是在“史无前例的大风暴”的时候呆在灯塔里面。1703年11月灯塔遭受了毁灭性破坏，很不幸，当时亨利钻在灯塔里面做一些维修工作，灯塔倒塌，他和另外五个人均没有逃过劫难。