

INFLATION AND SHORTAGES, OH MY!

TODAY'S TOP STORIES FROM THE BREITBART NEWS DESK

The Federal Reserve's monetary policy-making committee is set to meet again on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. The last time they met, in mid-June . . . food was up four-tenths of a percentage point, and gasoline had actually slipped seventh-tenths lower. . . .

Now inflation is running much hotter. Food prices jumped 0.8 percent in June, and gasoline soared 2.5 percent. Overall, the price level rose 0.9 percent and is up 4.7 percent compared with February 2020 (and 5.4 percent compared with a year earlier.) . . .

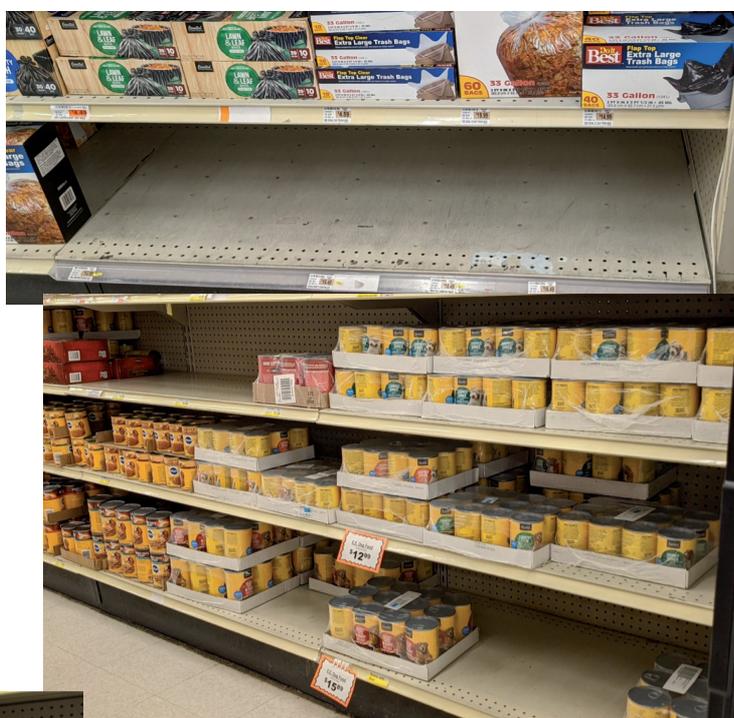
When the hotter than expected June inflation reports first came out, Biden administration officials argued that most of the inflation was driven by a few items suffering from shortages. That sounded vaguely reassuring, but now the shortages are spreading. Taco Bell told its customers: "Sorry if we can't feed your current crave. Due to national ingredient shortages and delivery delays, we may be out of some items." Customers on social media have complained about a lack of beef, chicken, hot sauce, and 10-inch tortillas, reported CBS News. Chipotle says it does not have any nationwide shortages, but

there have been spot shortages. "We are challenged by several industry-wide issues, most notably beef and freight costs, as well as staffing shortages at our suppliers," a spokesman said.

The price hikes and shortages appear to have become a broader drag on the economy. IHS Markit said on Friday that the services sector had unexpectedly slowed in July, partly because businesses are having trouble finding workers and supplies and partly because customers are balking at higher prices. . . .

— Alex Marlow & John Carney
Breitbart News Network

The excerpt above comes from an article that came to my email inbox a couple of weeks ago. It caught my attention because it is



right on the money with what we are seeing here at the store.

I can barely stand to walk down certain aisles due to the huge holes on the shelves, where items you want are missing. Take a stroll down aisle one and look at the ugly empty stretches where sparkling water, teas, and Gatorade ought to be. Pepsi cannot supply much of their mainline Pepsi and other flavors, creating a huge empty stretch on their shelves.

To get enough canned dog food, we have to juggle buying products from UNFI, our wholesaler, plus Amazon, and yes, Walmart. Back and forth. Get some from Amazon today and Walmart tomorrow. Huge boxes come in the back door. Heavy! Not set up for efficient grocery store receiving! Groan!!!

And it is hard to hire enough people, and even though we may have enough bodies on the roster, the

younger people call out sick or unable to work for this or that reason, so those who are left have to try to fill in to cover the gaps. They can get tired and cranky after a while.

What happened in the short 16 months between March, 2020, and June, 2021? How did we go from stable prices, reliable supply, and a more or less normal supply of people wanting to work?

We know what happened. The Presidential election was fraudulently stolen from the people's choice, installing a near-senile old man serving as a puppet to a shadowy group with an agenda that is hostile to normal, God-fearing Americans and our accustomed way of life.

So put on your seat belts, because we ain't seen nuthin' yet. It looks like hard times are coming at us, and that's not even including the double-V* situation that is making things even worse. Maybe if we normals in Lucerne Valley stick together, we can stick it out together.

And may God help us through this!

Linda Gammel

*Virus and vaccine



INFLATION

Because the easiest way to steal your wealth is by cheapening your money

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

From the Web.

INFLATION HAS PUSHED PRICE OF "YOUR THOUGHTS" TO 9.5 CENTS: MOST THOUGHTS NOT WORTH THE INVESTMENT

Wall Street -- Economic inflation has pushed the price of "your thoughts" to nine and a half cents (\$0.095) and most investment experts agree that it is usually an extremely bad investment yielding not only no actual positive return, but it has the potential to deteriorate thoughts you already have.

According to the Wall Street Journal (WSJ), at the cost of a penny, it was often worth the risk to ask someone for their thoughts. Used to be at worst the investment would yield information that the investor could simply ignore. But that has all changed.



The price of someone's thoughts has risen to nine and a half cents, and on top of that the information you may receive could be so completely without logical and reasonable merit, that it could cause you to leak out some of your own worthwhile thoughts. One investment analyst called it "the black hole of stupidity" when referring to the risk of asking someone to share what they're thinking.

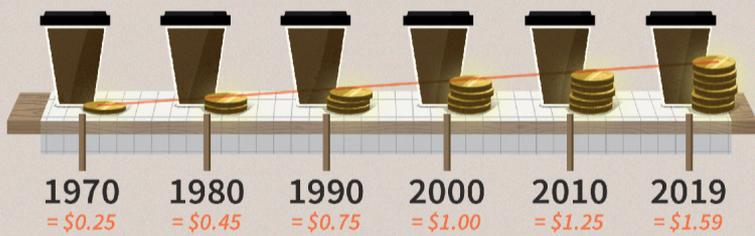
"You nonchalantly ask them what they're thinking, you even offer to pay them, "Nine and a half cents for your thoughts", and what you get could be so utterly inane that it literally sucks some of your intelligence and reasonable thought right out, to disappear into the abyss of their infinite lack of insight and common sense."

POTATO BAG EXERCISE

An exercise for people who are out of shape: Begin with a five-pound potato bag in each hand. Extend your arms straight out from your sides, hold them there for a full minute, and then relax. After a few weeks, move up to ten-pound potato bags, and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-pound potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. Once you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.



How Inflation Has Changed the Price of a Cup of Coffee Over Time



Investopedia

DO YOU LISTEN?

Pastor Ray's Daily Devotional

This message from Ray Bentley spoke to me as we find ourselves so busy "doing" things, hopefully doing God's things. Good things, useful things, but not necessarily things that God wants us to be doing at that moment. It's called trusting Him and letting Him take the lead in our lives. I especially need to hear this! -- Linda

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed . . ."

— Luke 10:41-42

"As you listen to the conversations of the world, they are for the most part, conversations of the deaf." —Paul Tournier

Everyone has something to say. Everyone wants to be heard.

The problem is, not everyone listens.

Jesus stopped one day in

Bethany to visit two sisters, Mary, and Martha.

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, to die.

Before the journey's end, He would stop many more times to teach and minister, but here, with good friends, He stopped for rest and refreshment.

Martha celebrated His visit by offering the best her household could afford. She fussed about the kitchen, banging pots and pans, stoking the fires, dishing up food, pouring wine, determined to prepare Jesus the best meal He would ever eat.

While Martha scurried about, her sister Mary simply sat down at Jesus' feet and listened to Him talk. Eventually, Martha stopped long enough to cry, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord

answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Jesus had a need: peace and quiet. With the cross before Him and turmoil brewing inside Him, He needed to draw strength from loving friends. Bethany was an oasis. Outside, crowds of people could gather with just one miracle from His hands. Martha's home could be the calm before the coming storm — which is what Mary gave Him, and Martha, despite her good intentions, did not.

"One thing is needed," Jesus said.

Mary tuned into the one thing Jesus needed and ultimately,

what she needed as well.

With all our efforts and best of intentions, we can end up doing the right things but doing them *our* way. We like to do good *our* way, to be kind *our* way, to be Christian *our* way. But if our way isn't the best way, we can feel offended and unappreciated.

Communion and fellowship require that we *listen* to others to hear what is being communicated, what is really needed.

Mary listened and understood that what Jesus wanted was for her—and her sister—to draw as near to Him as possible. Jesus encouraged Martha to slow her down, to interrupt her busyness, to realize, "Martha, Martha...only one thing is needed."

How often do we miss that "one thing"?



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