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# Journal Inquirer

## Dying for the Dow

By Edward L. Marcus

More than 115,000 dead from the coronavirus in America and it is anyone's guess as to how many more it will take to satisfy the voracious Dow — the Dow Jones stock market index.

A strange statement, to be sure. However, it is clear that when the Dow is up President Donald Trump can argue about "his economy." Without an increasing stock market, reflecting a return to more normal business, Trump is dead in the water.

Can anyone be callous enough to trade American lives for a high stock market?

Sadly, it seems the answer is a resounding yes. Trump seems to be trading American lives for one more boost in the net worth of America's wealthiest.

Trump had ample notice of the impending pandemic yet chose to ignore and downplay it so that the stock market would remain high.

His strategy to reopen business is not a strategy at all but rather a grab bag of try-anything exercises while blaming anyone else for the disaster that has enveloped our nation.

Trump asking that all houses of worship be opened was an obvious political gambit. He seems to hope that enough Democrat governors would refuse his "order," recognizing

the likelihood that more innocent people would die as a consequence of potential church gatherings — a clear violation of CDC requirements.

Never mind the dire health consequences. The president cares more about pandering to those who call for reopening the nation, those who refuse to wear masks, and those who gather in the streets waving signs that fly in the face of reality.

If a Democratic governor or governors say no to Trump demands, Trump will say freedom of religion, a bulwark of our democracy, is being violated.

It's pure Trump politics.

Meanwhile he plays golf rather than attempting to offer solace to the bereaved — or even the glimmer of a plan to show there's light at the end of the tunnel.

Trump argues that this is a war. People should do their part and go back to work regardless of work conditions and lack of safety protocols. If you become ill and die because of COVID-19, you died a warrior's death. So be it.

A warrior needlessly sacrificed for what? For whom?

The only answer is to improve Trump's election chances.

With 115,000 dead and more coming, a national disgrace has enveloped America. And there is more to come.

Trump wants the stock market higher to help him win reelection. He has put us into the dark hole that we are in and has exhibited no shame, no empathy, no compassion, and no pathos for those who have died and will die as part of the Trump war to keep the Dow high.

According to all the scientists that have commentated on the "Trump war," if he had heeded the early warning of experts within his own administration and acted several

weeks earlier, we would not be caught in the Catch-22 we now are in: either back to work and push the Dow up or stay home amidst economic disaster.

How many people would not have found themselves jobless if Trump had acted promptly?

The existence of the virus is not because of Trump, of course.

On the other hand, the deaths of probably thousands and thousands of people is due to his lack of leadership, self-interest, and unwillingness to do anything other than praise himself.

Five more months until election: Hopefully we can all hold out that long.

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