

There Was No Need for Biden's Big Stimulus

Kudos to Bidenomics champion Gene Sperling for making lemonade out of rotten lemons in "The Vindication of Biden's American Rescue Plan" (op-ed, Feb. 16). According to Mr. Sperling, we should be celebrating that happy days are here again—the theme of Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration in the early years of the Great Depression.

Given the excellent growth, unemployment and inflation numbers touted by Mr. Sperling, why does it feel to so many that the American Rescue Plan is a bust? Trillions of dollars dropped by Washington into the economy produces a nitrous-oxide boost, but the debt overhang casts a long shadow. Inflation has backed off, but the cost of living is still far higher than it was before our rescue.

President Biden's solution is to blame business, as did FDR. If that falls flat, look for regulatory attacks to combat "shrinkflation." Much of the Bidenomics spending helped state and local governments expand, but progressive states such as California are flailing.

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Mr. Sperling mischaracterizes the economic impact of the American Rescue Plan. Supply shocks, particularly during the early stages of Covid-19 recovery, helped fuel inflation. But inflation, peaking at over 9%, wasn't primarily driven by supply shocks.

If supply shocks were the main driver of inflation, one would expect high unemployment and sluggish real

It's Government Malpractice

Regarding your editorial "The Supreme Court and the Right to Sue" (Feb. 20): The statute of limitations in medical malpractice cases begins to run only after the plaintiff becomes aware—or reasonably should become aware—of a purported injury. There is no reason the federal government can't operate under the same principle.

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growth. This scenario, however, didn't unfold.

Mr. Sperling's argument that the American Rescue Plan was a successful fiscal stimulus, based on lessons learned from the slow recovery after the 2007-09 recession, isn't compelling. By the time Mr. Biden took office, unemployment had dropped from more than 14% to approximately 6%, and vaccines were going into arms. The notion that a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package was needed, nearly equivalent to the original Cares Act passed at the onset of the pandemic, is plain wrong. The stimulus surpassed any "output gap," contributing to rising inflation, and policy makers dismissed its long-term negative impact on the national debt.

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Cash Bail Offends Justice

I take exception to your editorial's conclusion that "the movement to eliminate bail was always misguided" ("Georgia Rethinks Easy Bail," Feb. 13). What is and always will be misguided is cash-only bail. Therein lies society's challenge to equal justice under law. Cash-only bail creates two sets of suspects: Suspects of meager means will remain incarcerated while those with resources will enjoy their freedom while awaiting trial.

LOU HORWITZ
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Pepper ... And Salt

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Gottschalk

"I hate the pressure to compromise with somebody who's dead wrong."