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Why no criminal investigation of Caterpillar after worker's death?

The thermal annihilation of Steven Dierkes

By Russell Mokhiber

On June 2, 2022, 39-year-old Steven Dierkes, father of three young girls, checked in for work at the Caterpillar foundry in Mapleton, Illinois. It was his ninth day on the job.

Dierkes was taking a sample of the 2,600 degree molten iron when he tripped and fell into the vat.

There was no guardrail.

There was no protection to keep him from falling in.

Capitol Hill Citizen obtained a copy of the Peoria County's coroner's report.

Cause of death?

“Thermal annihilation.”

The deputy coroner, Matthew Schlieper, arrives at 10:50 am and reports that at the scene was Peoria County Sheriff's detective Lee Hoffman.

“Hoffman states there is a pit where there is molten metal,” Schlieper reports.

“The workers take a sample with a long pole that has a cup on the end. Hoffman states there is a video of the incident. He denies anyone pushing the deceased. He states it looks like the deceased tripped and fell into the pit of molten metal. He states there was a witness that tried to come over the deceased, but could not help him.”

“Hoffman states shortly after the incident happened, a crane was used to try to pull out remains of the deceased. Unknown if any remains were removed. Per workers, the material will not be cool

enough to handle until (4 pm to 6 pm). Work supervisor was given a business card and told to call when material can be dumped to be sifted through for remains. Work supervisor also states the deceased has worked there for a little over a week.”

Schlieper reports that “there was an area marked off the caution tape that was put by Sheriff's Office.”

“There was a pit with molten material inside. No railings around the pit noted. . . . Material noted around the circumference of the pit, unknown

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Stephen Dierkes

Family Photo

Presidential waivers flout separation of powers

By Bruce Fein

It has become commonplace for Congress to endow the president with limitless discretion to waive application of a statutory mandate.

Waiver authority is most prominent in statutes bearing on national security or international commerce, but they also make more than cameo appearances in the domestic field.

Such unbounded executive authority is both injudicious and arguably unconstitutional.

It is symptomatic of wholesale congressional abdications to the executive branch to evade accountability.

Power inexorably flows to the executive

It is said that waivers are necessary because Congress cannot foresee all the circumstances in which application of a statute might subvert the public interest. True enough.

But that observation applies to every congressional enactment.

Life has always been in constant flux. In the digital age, change comes at warp speed. No person or collection of persons can foresee the future and tailor statutes accordingly.

The Constitution anticipates

a lack of clairvoyance by endowing Congress with power to repeal, amend, or supersede statutes based on experience. In cases of genuine emergencies, Congress is fully capable of legislating without tarry. It has done so even in non-emergency situations.

Congress acted with lightning speed in 1973 (Public Law 93-107) to prohibit television black outs of sporting events if tickets for attendance had been sold out 72 hours before game time.

And today, Congress enjoys a three-day work week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) which can easily be extended if circumstances show a need

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Dear new member: Welcome to Congress

26 tips to help you survive and thrive

By Congressman
Dennis Kucinich (1997-2013)

Congratulations! For many of you, as it was for me, election to Congress is the fulfillment of a dream. Now that you have arrived, I humbly offer for your consideration some practical guidelines as you begin your journey of service to our Nation.

1. Your Family. Don't trade your family or loved ones for a congressional seat. That will always be a bad deal. Take care to protect yourself, and those you love, by conserving personal time. Washington is exciting and full of distractions. In Washington, new acquaintances are not substitutes for friends and loved ones.

2. Your Time. Your scheduler must be sensitive to your need to protect time for yourself for food, for breaks, and to reflect.

3. Your Health. Congress can be demanding and stressful on your health. Don't hesitate to check-in with the Office of the House Physician.

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