

Precedented Payments

June 26, 2020

I idly wonder who cooks up the initialisms for the big federal legislative packages (“laws”) — you know, like the recent “CARES Act” that distributed \$2.3 trillion conjured out of thin air... and the faith and credit of a wobbly reputation. CARES stands for “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security,” and I say “idly” because I am not googling this.

If I can resist searching for (as I am instructed to do daily) “any three numbers

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and ‘new cases,’” I can let others do that initialism research.

Whoever it is, though, does a pretty good job. Usually. Good P.R. But they missed the boat a bit on CARES. It should have been CORPSE, standing for “Coronavirus Overpayment, Relief, Prodigality, Stupidity

Coronavirus Overpayment, Relief, Prodigality, Stupidity and Eeeeeek!” Act

CORPSE



and Eeeeeek!” Act.

For, you see, \$1.4 billion was sent to dead people.

More than a million of them.

At least we can be thankful that the IRS wants that money back.

Well, “wants” is a funny word to use for a bureaucracy. Especially since the IRS has no current plan “to notify ineligible recipients on how to return payments.” According to the General Accounting Office.

You can read about it all at *Reason*.

I would say it makes for fascinating reading, but it doesn’t really. This is the same-old/same-old. The Department of Kludge and Fubar, you know, which would be a better name for most government bureaus.

The *Reason* piece call the CARES Act “unprecedented emergency spending,” but I think we could find plenty of precedents.

If we googled.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.