Why's Right on Inflation? Not Weapons, or Monsters

Trading Where I Am Trading on the Edge

Should we celebrate the monthly update from the Bureau of Labor Statistics that inflation is still running at 2.4% year-over-year? Or should we be worried that it is still running at 2.4% year-over-year?

The answer is both, of course.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the consumer price index for March increased 0.4% from February and 2.4% from March a year ago. Economists had forecast a 0.3% increase and a 2.4% year-over-year increase. Core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, also came in at 0.4% for March and 2.8% year-over-year, in line with economists' forecasts.

Inflation has been stuck in a range of roughly 2.4% to 3.0% for the past year, and it looks like it will continue to hang around that level for the rest of the year.

Is inflation still a problem? Yes, it is. Is it a crisis? No, it isn't. Is it something we should be worried about? Yes, it is. Is it something we should be panicking about? No, we shouldn't.

Congress is pushing for a new round of stimulus payments to Americans, and President Biden is pushing for a new infrastructure bill. Both would be inflationary if implemented at a time when the economy is already at full employment. It is not clear to me whether Congress will pass either of these bills, but if it does, it will be a mistake.

Wilfulness Appreciation Month

May is Military Appreciation Month, a period when the Pentagon and other agencies honor the men and women who have served in the armed forces. Unfortunately, it is also a period when the Pentagon and other agencies try to hide the fact that some of the men and women who have served in the armed forces have committed war crimes. A Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation by the Associated Press found that at least 36 members of the Marine Corps, the Navy, the Army and the Marine Corps Reserve have been charged with murdering civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan since the start of the wars in those countries.

Some of the murders were premeditated, some were committed in the heat of battle, and some were committed in a drunken stupor. The victims were men, women and children who were shot, stabbed, bludgeoned, or blown up by grenades. The victims were not combatants, they were not terrorists, they were not "bad guys," they were not "the enemy," they were just people who were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Congress is considering a bill that would require the Pentagon to keep a database of all civilians killed by members of the armed forces. The Pentagon has opposed the bill, claiming that it would be too difficult to keep such a database. The Pentagon has also opposed a bill that would require it to keep a database of all civilians killed by drones, claiming that it would be too difficult to keep such a database. The Pentagon has also opposed a bill that would require it to keep a database of all civilians killed by its cyber weapons, claiming that it would be too difficult to keep such a database.

The Pentagon has also opposed a bill that would require it to keep a database of all civilians killed by its nuclear weapons, claiming that it would be too difficult to keep such a database. The Pentagon has also opposed a bill that would require it to keep a database of all civilians killed by its chemical weapons, claiming that it would be too difficult to keep such a database. The Pentagon has also opposed a bill that would require it to keep a database of all civilians killed by its biological weapons, claiming that it would be too difficult to keep such a database. The Pentagon has also opposed a bill that would require it to keep a database of all civilians killed by its weapons of mass destruction