

My Two Cent's Worth

By: Joseph Andalina

Good, bad, or lousy?

I vote for lousy. And that describes the government in Illinois, as well as the press. Crooked, disingenuous, liars, and all that equals lousy.

Let's start with the press. Over the last few days, they are complaining about police overtime in Chicago. Really, over 500 homicides and over two thousand attempted murders that the press still calls "shootings; cops, underpaid, overworked and underappreciated, being forced to work overtime and the press complains about it?

And yes, some make DUI stops and volunteer to work more at shift change? So what? What would the press think of that DUI stop being ignored? No, they just infer that cops are cheating to get overtime. Sad.

And I read an article about Lt. Louis activists and the praise they get while the reporter refers to an unarmed Michael Brown being shot and killed by a white cop. No mention that the grand jury did not indict due to testimony of black folks who told the truth.

No mention that Brown attacked the cop. Disgusting. I'd say they are very disingenuous.

And politicians? Look at the soda tax. Preckwinkle moans and groans to save fat kids from sugary drinks.

When she announced her new budget a few days ago, she said if the soda tax is repealed it would trigger an 11 percent cut to public health and criminal justice jobs.

So she is going to punish the folks by threatening the most needed of services. Nice, huh? And then she said this, that her commissioners "...faced a moment of truth...because you know we need this revenue." Notice she did not say we need the revenue to save the fat kids! I'd say that this is lying at its best.

And if you want a definition of lousy, read the recent *Tribune* article *Doomed by Delay* by Patricia Callahan.

It's an investigative report that shines brightly on the incompetence of Illinois legislators when it comes to processing the state's newborn screening program, which was supposed to be immune from budget pressures. It's very essence was to save the lives of newborn babies during the screening process at hospitals.

You must read the lengthy article to grasp the irresponsibility of our lawmakers. The highlight, however, was this gem:

“To make (the screening process) worse, the (Illinois) legislature in October 2008 passed a law that allowed a state to raid the newborn screening fund, taking \$500,000 from it to pay for unrelated expenses — calling this a sweep.” Sweep? My ass.

So it was okay for the fund to run low because of this “sweep” that ultimately produces profound suffering for babies and their families that could have been avoided if the screening was performed in the hospital as originally planned.

Why the press and public continue to think the pension crisis is the fault of public workers is beyond me. If they steal from newborn babies, why wouldn't they steal from us? Put the blame where blame is due — the politicians.

I see no good here, a lot of bad, and way too much lousy.

Vita é bella.