

A Few Minutes with the Boss

By: Joe Andalina

It's in your face now

You know, it's the middle of April. Spring has finally sprung. The legislators are dreaming up many useless bills and we thought maybe their thoughts would be like mine: FOMOH!

That's right all you hockey fans out there—now that it's playoff time in Hawkeytown, you would think it would be FOMOH (Fear Of Missing Out on Hockey)! But nooo, instead headlines have appeared where it states in big bold print: **Mayors call for pension reform.** The mayors of Du Page County (and I'm sure elsewhere) met in Springfield to call for change in the retirement benefits for cops and firemen in this county. The Downers Grove mayor says that the costs of the pensions are an “unsustainable situation.” He states that cops and firemen could lose their benefits entirely.

That is something that is certainly hogwash, as “our” system is completely different than the state or Chicago's pensions. But the change in the state and the Chicago system has given the mayors the stones to screw with your current and retirement benefits. And screw with you they will.

The mayor of Lisle wants to lower the COLA for retired employees. He says “I know for a fact as retiree's grow older they need less.” Oh really, Mr. Mayor? What a crock. What is your comfort level in retirement, especially since these retired cops do not get any Social Security benefits and the law says we are not supposed to get our benefits diminished?

These hypocritical types want the legislators to do pension reform now, but I don't think it's going to happen this year simply because of the election fallout.

Therefore, it gives us all the time we need to avoid FOMOH! Pump up for what is lining up to be a glorious playoff series, not only with our Blackhawks but for hockey in general.

But asleep we should not be. Between the unions and you, the individual cop and fireman, both on active status or retired, your letters, faxes, and emails are most important in letting your legislators know that you will only vote for those who are opposed to this sort of pension reform.

Remember, the mayors are not going to give up. They want to keep more pension money and make you pay more. They are going to attempt to beat you down with negative press, outright tweaking of the truth, layoffs, concessions, and political razzle-dazzle until you and the press and the political weaklings agree that they can keep that pension money that reform would bring them. They will promote change, dress it up, even lie about it and try to maneuver politicians but it's all crap.

It's at its basic level stomach and gut churning propaganda against all of us who are or have been heroes. Do some research—make that call.

And while you're at it, enjoy what will be a great end of another hockey season.

Vita é Bella.