

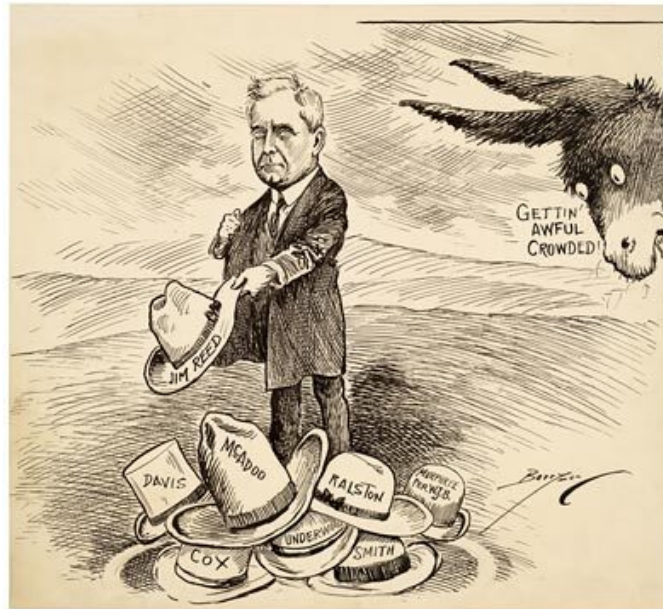
RETIREMENT PLANS THAT “CLEARLY” WORK FOR YOU.



Prizant Group



TO THROW ONE'S HAT IN (TO) THE RING: To show a willingness to enter into a contest or take up a challenge, especially in business or politics.



It was originally used in boxing with reference to the custom of throwing a hat into the ring to signal willingness to enter a contest; the earliest mention of this practice that I have found is from *The Morning Chronicle* (London) of Friday 30th November 1804:

PUGILISM.

The fight which we stated a few days since to be about to take place between Tom Belcher, brother to the champion of that name, and Bill Ryan, son of the late noted pugilist, who fought with Johnson some years since, was yesterday decided at Wilsdon Green, on the Edgware Road, the spot where the hard battle was fought between Blake and Holmes, a twelvemonth since, and where Pictoun beat Will Wood in June last. A council was held among the gentry of the fist on Tuesday last, when the misunderstanding respecting the purse to be fought for was adjusted, and the champions agreed that the fight should take place yesterday, instead of Monday next. The champions arrived at Wilsdon Green at eleven o'clock in two hackney coaches. Belcher first threw his hat into the ring over the heads of the spectators, as an act of defiance to his antagonist, who received him in the ring with a welcome smile. The champions then stript and set to.



I figured that with 2024 being a Presidential election year (Group "Cringe") and the "Super Tuesday Primaries" in March.

Super Tuesday is the United States presidential primary election day in February or March when the greatest number of U.S. states hold primary elections and caucuses. Approximately one-third of all delegates to the presidential nominating conventions can be won on Super Tuesday, more than on any other day. The results on Super Tuesday are therefore a strong indicator of the likely eventual nominee of each political party.

The particular states holding primaries on Super Tuesday have varied from year to year because each state selects its election day separate from one another.

Tuesday is the traditional day for elections in the United States. The phrase Super Tuesday^[1] has been used to refer to presidential primary elections since at least 1976.^[2] It is an unofficial term used by journalists and political pundits.

Though there will be no mystery who will be the nominees this year, unless Death, Disability, or Jail coming knocking, I thought a review of the primary process would be relevant. BTW, primaries are not required per The Constitution and are solely the imagination of the dominant parties. [Origin of Primaries!](#) "suppose" the concept is to "**Winnow Out**" the weak which, in theory, would translate into the best candidates. It makes you wonder whether a "Parliamentary System" makes a lot more sense in this climate of extreme partisanship (and the proverbial "**EVIL OF TWO LESSERS**") between Democrats and Republicans?

[Parliamentary system, democratic form of government in which the party \(or a coalition of parties\) with the greatest representation in the parliament](#)

(legislature) forms the government, its leader becoming prime minister or chancellor. Executive functions are exercised by members of the parliament appointed by the prime minister to the cabinet. The parties in the minority serve in opposition to the majority and have the duty to challenge it regularly. Prime ministers may be removed from power whenever they lose the confidence of a majority of the ruling party or of the parliament. The parliamentary system originated in Britain (see Parliament) and was adopted in several of its former colonies.

The cynical phrases "Vote early -- and often" and "Vote early -- and vote often" are variously attributed to three different Chicagoans: Al Capone, the famous gangster; Richard J. Daley, mayor from 1955 to 1976; and William Hale Thompson, mayor from 1915-1923 and 1931-1935. All three were notorious for their corruption and their manipulation of the democratic process. It is most likely that Thompson invented the phrase, and Capone and Daley later repeated it.



RETIREMENT...NOT SO FAST - The percentage of older Americans still working has increased by over 70% since 1987. Whereas just 11% of Americans over the age of 65 were employed in 1987, the percentage increased to 19% in 2023. The pay gap between older and younger workers (aged 25 to 64) has also shrunk, falling from \$8 per hour in 1987 (\$21 vs \$13) to \$3 per hour today (\$25 vs \$22). (Source: Pew Research)
This is NOT surprising as "Retirement Confidence" is heading South!
Confidence



INHERITING DEBT Policygenius' 2024 Financial Planning Survey found that 46% of American adults and 58% of people earning more than \$150,000 per

year would pass on debt to their loved ones if they died today. Of those who said their loved ones would inherit their debts if they died, 21% had no life insurance coverage.

(SOURCE: POLICYGENIUS.COM)

I ran into this above tidbit in a recent MFS "Beyond The News" newsletter (2.5.24). For decades, the investment community has been awash in articles about the coming "Baby Boomer" inheritance and all the money that will be sloshing around [BB Inheritance](#) (i.e. **MORE \$\$ FOR THE WALL STREET/INSURANCE COMPLEX**). Thankfully, my only really outstanding debt is to the Department of Education in the form of Federal Parent Plus loans. My goal is to pay-off the outstanding balance within the next 60 months, but if I should "Drop Dead"; I have been assured by multiple legal sources that this debt **"Dies With Me."** Alas, we can be appreciative of the small things in life. We, as a family, have recently purchased life insurance policies that will more than cover our lifespan with a reasonable payout which "should" provide enough funds for the surviving spouse to forego "Connecting at Walmart with the Airstream." Additionally, we have Long-Term Care policies [LTC](#) that we "Painfully" pay the ever-increasing premiums on a monthly basis. As for inheritance, I will leave my children boxes full of photos and beloved items that they may or most likely not cherish. Alas, that Baby Boomer Trust Fund somehow got lost in the shuffle. Poor Bootsies! Lordy, I almost forgot my most important legacy. My Three Sons [My Three Sons](#) (Elliot/Ethan/Oscar (nee Ben)) will have unfettered access to my ashes that will **NOT** be prominently displayed at wherever my love Juli chooses to reside. Said remains, will be ensconced in a Folger's [Mrs. Olson-Folger's](#) coffee can with the plastic lid firmly placed.

We, at [The Prizant Group](#) operate our 401(k) plan as a "Tax-Shelter." We operate in the great (or not so great) State of Illinois as an "S" Corporation. ["S" Corp.](#) Per the instructions of our esteemed and knowledgeable CPA firm, our "Earned Income" (i.e. FICA/Medicare Wages) stays at \$50,000 annually and the rest is "S" dividends (if any). We dutifully pay monthly [\\$525 to cover our FICA/Medicare Obligations \(Remember: Considering I am the sole employee/owner we are required to both sides which equals 15.3%\)](#). For 2023, my personal 401(k) deferral was \$30,000 (\$22,500 Plus \$7,500 "Catch-Up). Due to the "Pre-Tax" nature of my contribution, that amount comes **"Right Off The Top"** of my "Earned Wages." Pretty Nifty and Rabbinically Blessed as "Kosher." And who says "Tax-Shelters Are Dead In America?" There are additional ways to use ERISA plans to **"Skin the Proverbial Cat,"** though I have given up on providing "Free Advice" to my adoring (or not so much) fans. Nonetheless, we are always available to discuss as long as a reasonable fee is paid. In closing, for absolutely no reason in particular, let's celebrate the 60th

anniversary of The Beatles appearing on the Ed Sullivan Show. THAT SUNDAY EVENING SHOW "LIVE." [Ed Sullivan](#)

[73 million viewers](#)

Never before had the world witnessed this level of fandom and excitement for any musical act. The performance drew an astonishing 73 million viewers to The Ed Sullivan Show, making it the most-watched television event of its time.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS - For calendar year 2024, employees can contribute a maximum of \$23,000 into their 401(k)s and similar plans, representing just a \$500 increase from 2023. For combined contributions on the part of employees and employers, the total annual limit has increased from \$66,000 in 2023 to \$69,000 in 2024. (Source: Internal Revenue Service)

[Sanford Prizant \(President\) The Prizant Group, Ltd.](#)

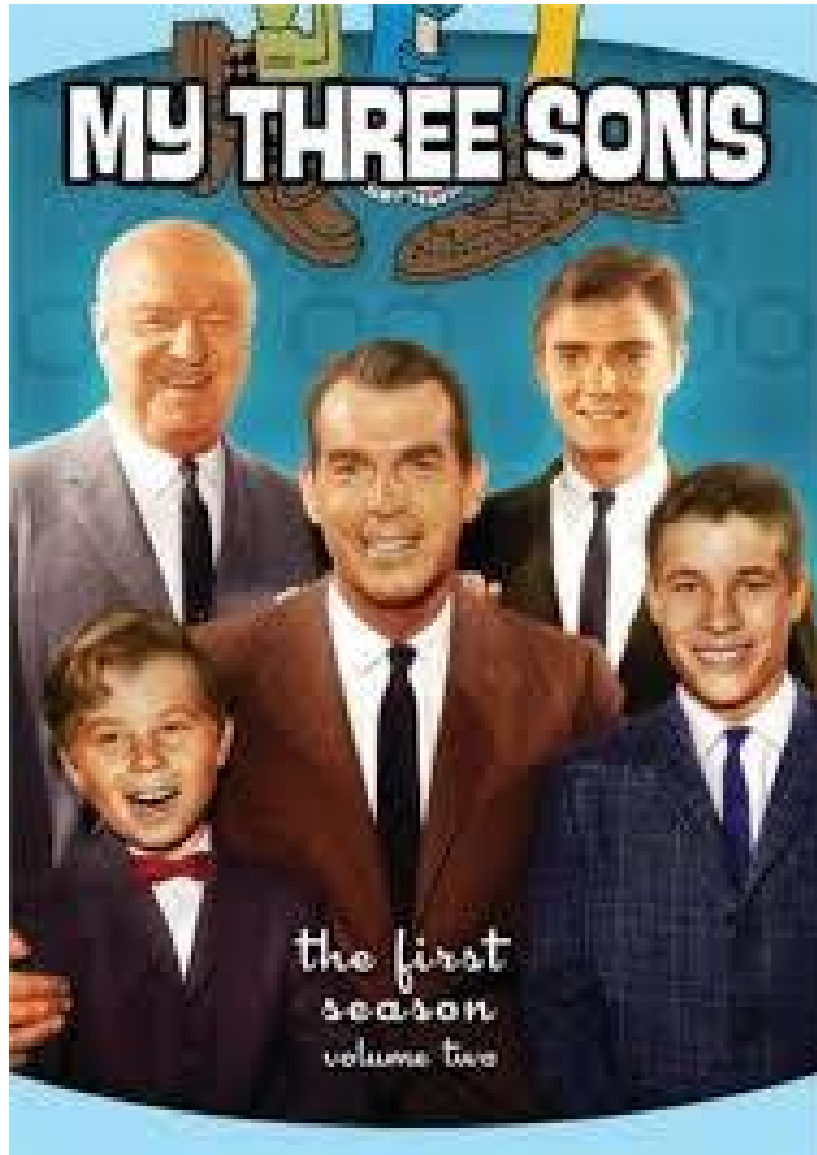
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