

Major League Baseball: time for a change

by Phillip W. Weiss

There is a direct correlation between economic instability and violent street crime. The more unstable the economy, the higher the rate of violent street crime. The top driver of economic instability is inflation. Inflation erodes buying power, which produces alarm, uncertainty, and social discontent.

While public officials offer lip service to the need to control inflation, their pronouncements are in direct variance to what is happening daily at the food market and the fuel pump. Nowhere is this more evident than major league baseball. Major league baseball is a multibillion-dollar business controlled by an oligarchy that is accountable to no one except itself. Its mode of operation which includes charging high prices for tickets and the payment of huge salaries to the baseball players make a mockery of public efforts to control inflation and call to question baseball's commitment to promoting economic stability.

Please understand that this is not a mere academic question. Major League Baseball is a huge industry whose actions have a direct impact on the entire economy of the United States. While the Federal Reserve keeps raising interest rates to reduce the rate of inflation, major league baseball keeps increasing the prices of its tickets, the prices of the items it sells at concession stands, and the incredible, unprecedented salaries they pay to the players, some of whom are now paid more than FORTY MILLION DOLLARS per year. In contrast, sixty years ago the salary of the highest paid players was \$125,000 per year. Thus, through its actions, major league baseball is directly contributing to the inflation that is eroding buying power and threatening the stability of the national economy.

To remedy this problem, CUSNY proposes the US Congress do the following: 1. enact legislation mandating that all major league baseball franchises and their minor league subsidiaries be organized as public corporations subject to scrutiny and monitoring by all pertinent regulatory public agencies and subject to public scrutiny, 2. revoke major league baseball's exemption from antitrust laws, and 3. seriously consider nationalizing major league baseball. Nationalizing major league baseball would ensure more accountability to the public and lower prices for the public.

Major league baseball's current economic model, in which control of billions of dollars of assets is concentrated in a small group of private persons, simply no longer conforms with the current social and political climate that demands transparency and accountability, neither of which exists in major league baseball.

Once upon a time, baseball was a game. It was considered the national past time, a form of entertainment, and a welcomed diversion from the trials and tribulations of daily life. Now, baseball is a Big Business, a multinational industry, and a major driver of the economy. The time is now for the public to take a more active role in ensuring that major league baseball acts in a manner that will help reduce prices, ease inflation, promote social stability and reduce violent street crime.

Sources:

[MLB average concession stand prices 2022 | Statista](#)

[Hot Dog, Beer, & Ticket Prices at MLB Parks \(2023 Update\) \(webstaurantstore.com\)](#)

[Opening Day, and the Rising Cost of Concessions at MLB Games - Vested \(fullyvested.com\)](#)

[MLB Baseball Tickets, 2023 Games & Locations | SeatGeek](#)

[What it costs for every MLB team's fans to attend a game, and why the average price went up in 2021 - The Athletic](#)

[MLB Salary Rankings | Spotrac](#)

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