

4

Pritzker Is Your *Real* Boss?

Speaking of “the children,” how has it felt that Pritzker, flinging around his dictatorial powers for more than two years, has treated *you* like a child?

Go here. Stay there. Do this. Don’t do that.

It all was so confusing. So hurtful. So insulting! As if you were too ignorant, too heartless, or too selfish to protect yourself *and* your family and your neighbors.

Let us return for a minute to those frightening opening months of 2020, when COVID-19 was infecting increasing millions of Americans and killing hundreds of thousands of the elderly.

Looking back, it has now become apparent that our government officials and scientists were also stumbling around in the dark, trying this or that, hoping that they could find the key to control the pandemic. That stumbling included scientists and politicians of all kinds.

You don’t have to take my word for it. The director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said last August 17, “To be frank, we are responsible for some pretty dramatic, pretty public mistakes, from testing, to data to communications.”

We willingly complied with the recommendations from Washington, out of a sense of self-preservation or as a socially responsible commitment to the public good. Police, health care providers, and other essential workers bravely reported for work. All well and good.

That is, it was all well and good until the unending lockdown mandates and other imperatives were proven to be ineffective and other states started dropping them—except in “Hey, I’m-the-governor-and-I-know-what’s-best-for-you” Illinois, California, New York, and elsewhere, all states under one-party Democrat rule.

Remember what it was like?

You must stay in your house. You must not go to work. You must not gather with friends or family . . . or maybe we’ll eventually allow ten people to gather for Thanksgiving dinner, if I okay it. Heading to the hardware store? Sorry, it’s closed. No telling when it’ll reopen.

For some, like restaurant servers, your job was gone. So, what does it feel like to be on the unemployment line for the first time? Humiliating?

You’ve worked hard all your life, and now it feels like you’re on the dole—not because of something you did wrong, but because the governor told you that you *must not work*.

So desperate were some restaurants to stay alive that they received a limited blessing to open, with a condition: they could only serve diners who were

willing, in the dead of winter, to eat in goofy-looking pod-like igloos.

No one escaped. Every person. Every family. Every business. Every school. Every church. Everyone. Can you think of a time when every single person, every last one, was ordered around so completely from on high in our state? I can't.

Okay, we could discuss forever how ineffective was the full-scale retreat into our shells. We since have learned that lockdowns did not actually work anywhere in the world. Even early in the pandemic you could find many conflicting studies. But if you disagreed with the studies the *government* chose to believe, it was a sure sign you were anti-science. Or worse.

The very heart of science is *questioning*. Start with a question, form a hypothesis, test it, question the results, replicate the test, then maybe you'll have some decent results. That's what real science is.

But we weren't allowed to question anything.

Let's consider the government-science take on masks. At first, Anthony Fauci advised you not to wear the mask because it would be ineffective. This, after all, had been settled science at the CDC and FDA for decades when it came to a virus, since, unlike bacteria, viruses are too small to be stopped by almost all masks.

But, next, compulsory mask-wearing became the new rule. Masks were required to be worn without

exception in offices, schools, churches, and everywhere else indoors. For some, even outside—joggers, bikers, and others.

Just yesterday I saw a woman, by herself in her car, wearing a mask. In our ignorance in the first months of the pandemic, imposing the most crushing restrictions on our lives *might* have been justified as we searched for better answers. But for how long? In Pritzker's case, the answer seemed to be for as long as he felt like it.

He got away with this by declaring Illinois to be in a state of emergency. The law gave him broad emergency powers to deal with flooding, tornados, and other natural disasters. The law was vague enough to declare that he could take charge during a pandemic, even though the law cuts off this power after thirty days.

Not that it mattered. Pritzker unilaterally declared that he could extend the statewide emergency indefinitely by declaring a new emergency every thirty days. The Illinois Policy Institute, a non-partisan research organization, in March 2022 counted how often he has done so.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Pritzker has declared a disaster 27 times and issued 112 related orders—from requiring vaccinations and masks to taking over agency operations. He, in effect, has been the boss of everyone in Illinois, for more than *eight hundred days*.

As of this writing, his consecutive thirty-day emergency orders persist through the summer of 2022, with his excuse that an Illinois “emergency” continues.

He did this even though COVID-19 death rates have gone way down because the new versions of the virus are much weaker – now little different from the flu virus we catch almost every year. That is science, by the way. Each new generation of a virus is almost always weaker than the one that came before it. That is the virus’s “survival mechanism.” Because if a virus killed everyone, it too would die.

Too many go-along Illinois Democrats are either comfortable with or try to justify the governor’s extreme measures.

They failed us by not seeing and then doing what other states successfully did – for example Florida, South Dakota, or Texas (and even advanced Western European nations like Sweden, Norway, and Denmark) – when they ended or never imposed lockdowns and mask and vaccine requirements; when they let kids go back to school and let workers go back to work, free of boss rule.

In Illinois, our state’s Democrats have become what they once claimed to despise: thug-like *rulers* instead of *representatives* of “we the people” of Illinois. This has to stop.