



Newsletter
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THE FORTNIGHTLY DELIGHTFULLY BRIEF, PITHY AND WHOLLY IDIOSYNCRATIC NEWSLETTER.



Delightfully Brief

Between the North American heat waves and the European debt shock waves there seems little good to talk about, especially for shipping and transport. Yet, there are some glimmers of hope leaking over an otherwise bleak horizon. Our British cousins muddle through. I sense that some how the European money people will muddle through. It will be neither elegant nor gracious, but eventually it will be put together and look like a camel: a horse designed by a committee. But then, so does the entire EU. In America I make no predictions.

On the one hand in our sound-byte television- flash mud-smearing political ways [why would any person want to subject himself or herself to all that?] it is difficult to discern who will be President. However in each case America loses. On the one hand we have a man who cannot lead and whose visions go little beyond the Chicago skyline of which he speaks. On the other hand we have a man who is Babbitt personified and whose depth of thought would be an embarrassment anywhere outside the US. All that being said, the economy seems to be turning – and if *The Economist* says so as it did this week, it must be true. Private capital well exploited will again be our salvation and with that perhaps turn around what seems to be one of the most dismal times in American history in thought, word and deed.

Pithy

The moans about the Congress gutting various subsidy programs for US shipping are now whimpers. What none of the players in this trivial

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How may Cartner & Fiske help you?

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Book Sale

Defending Against Pirates is now on sale! We are offering the PDF

blue-water shipping state do not understand is that the US has a huge fleet – the second largest in the world. The reality is that US shipping capital resides in Greenwich and controls a large fleet simply not US-flagged. The second reality is that the Republic of the Marshall Islands flag is a captive US flag. The Marshalls are in "free association" with the US, analogous I suppose to the Cook Islands in the antipodes. More importantly, if Marshallese law does not cover a difficulty, US law does -- by law. What is curious is the lack of US recognition of all this of a well-run flag under a government which accepts substantial US monies in aid and whose ties to the US are strong and strategically necessary. And yes, there are many Americans – seafarers and landside – employed under the Marshallese banner. Yes, Virginia, there is a large US fleet. It simply does not fly Old Glory.

version for \$75.00, and the PDF and hardcover book bundle for \$125.00. That is a 35% discount just for my long-suffering readers! Click [here](#) to place your order!

Wholly Idiosyncratic

Someone once said that it is good to be over 65 years of age. One can say anything one wants with utter impunity. That is likely true but that assumes the temperance of the wisdom of the aged. Wisdom seems to be in short supply these days, but if one turns to Cicero the Roman orator one finds not surprisingly that nothing has changed in that department. Our leaders are bureaucrats and self-enriching politicians. Our policies worldwide are rushing headlong into the 20th century. Our government models are not working. Our insurance models are not working. Our banking models are not working. In the US we cannot even educate our children. They turn out with tattoos and cell phones and chewing gum not being able to read or write or talk too good. But depend on the US: it has the largest and most incompetent secret police in the world – the Department of Homeland Security. I am grateful they are incompetent. Can one even contemplate all that money in the Russian Federation under that state's organic secret police?

Urgings

If you are not a member, sign up for [FOB](#) -- the dedicated networking site. It is a lot better than the infinite number of groups in LinkedIn -- and the more than infinite numbers of conversations and discussions.

Watch [Maritime TV](#). Come see that 80% of what we know comes from visual input and Maritime TV is the best maritime visual input. Give it a try!

If you like good law reporting, sign up for [Maritime Advocate](#) put out by my good friends Sam Ignarski and Humphrey Hill in London. They also include funny stories from time to time which we all need the current shipping vale of tears.

Smooth sailing, fair winds and a following sea.

John A. C. Cartner
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Cartner & Fiske, LLC consults in maritime and related law, naval architecture and marine engineering and maritime economics and trade.

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