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Drafting Corporations

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[James Rath](#) Signature Track · 2 hours ago 🔒

I appreciated the fact that my question was addressed in Friday's bonus material, but my question was ridiculed by suggesting I was interested in sending Coca Cola to Afghanistan. Instead, I was interested in having the president of General Motors drafted as a captain, say, and paid a captain's wage during the war effort and all the stockholders of GM would be drafted and paid a sergeant's salary. This policy would cut down on war profiteering and would save all of us citizens a lot of money -- by lowering the costs of war. Truman tried to "draft" steel companies during the Korean War but was stopped by the Supreme Court. I wonder what reasons the Court gave.

Jim

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[Alec D. Rogers](#) · 25 minutes ago 🔒

James,

I think a better analogy in "drafting a corporation" would be to setting policies requiring the companies perform certain war related work. Individuals like a corporate CEO are dealt with as individuals, although perhaps there's some sort of allowance made for the notion that he's likely more valuable ensuring the company is performing the work the government is contracting for or requiring than as a foot soldier.

I'd highly recommend you read the Court's opinion in the Steel seizure cases, esp. Justice Jackson's concurrence, which is generally considered to be one of the definitive statements on presidential authority in times of war:

<http://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/343/579/case.html>

As for drafting GM shareholders, many of whom are likely elderly retirees, I don't think that makes much sense. In short, GM can do a lot more for the government by working to meet it's needs to equipment than shutting it down and putting the workers in the army.

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