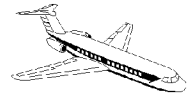
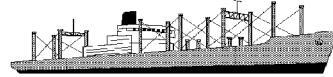




# Rollin' On...



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## BAILOUT MANIA:

*And a Merry Christmas for all; well maybe some more than others*

As transportation stocks tank, e.g. Yellow Freight, a \$50 stock in 2006, hit \$1.20 on Nov. 20, with carriers failing and capacity drastically diminishing, we can reflect on the state of the rest of the economy.

## BAILOUTS GALORE:

### Catch the ride

Maybe we aren't in such bad shape after all.

**Banks.** For example, the government gave out \$300 plus billion to the banks, who instead of loaning it, are investing in T-bills, driving the interest rates on those bills to all time lows, and even into negative returns. That must mean that Joe Blow doesn't need credit to buy a car, or to finance or refinance a house.

**Old Big Three.** To further support this no-problem attitude, the government is now handing out over \$15 plus billion to the "Big Three", the old school big three, not Viagra, Cialis or the other one I forget right now but the name of which I will be reminded during family viewing hours on the tube. They are using it judiciously.

Ford says it doesn't need it but will take it since it will help the other three if Ford takes its share. For real. Chrysler is taking it, but plans to close all of its plants for four weeks, with two weeks completely paid to the employees. GM is taking it, while simultaneously postponing production of a new electric car – which is supposed to be a big part of its future.

In the meantime, the unions have objected to pay cuts, claiming that they are being picked on. Horror or horrors.

**Wall Street.** We have to first remember that the people in

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government handing out the green cash used to work on Wall Street. These are there buddies.



**BEST WISHES FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS AND FOR A  
HAPPY AND ENJOYABLE  
NEW YEAR.  
AND MAY YOUR  
TRANSPORTATION  
TRAUMAS BE TRIVIAL.**

Goldman Sachs got a big payout, over \$10 billion bucks. Now they are giving bonuses to their employees that are roughly equal to that bailout money. But not to worry – they assure us that not a cent of the bailout money, the "TARP money", is being used for these bonuses.

Plus, it is important for us dummies to know that those bonuses are absolutely necessary in order to retain

the tremendous talent with that bailee. That is self-evident, given the wonderful job they are doing, as evidenced by the bailee's performance. Just imagine if they had to rely upon stupider people. That would be frightening and none of us would be safe in our homes.

Some of the other bailee firms, like JP Morgan, are also paying out handsome bonuses.

Wall Street gets big easy money while the Big Three have to beg for a much smaller share.

**No strings.** You see, when all of this money was handed out, there were no, or very few, strings attached. So the banks can hoard the money, the Big Three can continue to kick the can down the street, and Wall Street can continue with its excesses. Joe Schmuck taxpayer picks up the tab.

**Bonus points.** And for bonus points, we've got the \$50 billion dollar man – none of this puny Lee Majors \$6 million dollar man who could actually do something – who has ripped off his friends and some pretty noteworthy mucky mucks. You had to know someone in order to play.

**Gov't no show.** The most astounding thing about this bizarre accomplishment was that the government was missing in action.

**Blame game.** So whose fault was it. Not to worry, we have that answer. The SEC chairman is saying that it is the fault of the SEC staff. They did not do their jobs. The SEC chair, on the other hand, has performed remarkably well. It's true – just ask him.

**Positions.** Many people are maintaining two positions today – cash and fetal.

That's it for now. Until next time, keep the cargo rollin'!

### The Obligatory Disclaimer

This newsletter is for informational purposes, does not provide legal advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship

### Short Bio

Admitted to the state bars of Oregon, Alaska, Florida and Massachusetts. Practicing law for over 30 years and emphasizing transportation law, business law and related litigation