

year. Alibaba had to fire thousands of employees), his refusal to either import Western vaccines or tolerate some contagion, and a foreign policy that enduringly antagonized In-

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When Government Officials Play the Market

Regarding "U.S. Officials Trade Stocks of Firms Agencies Oversee" (Page One, Oct. 12): The denials by the people involved are right out of the political playbook, and if the violations uncovered in the article weren't so inappropriate, they would be laughable. Congress should require senior officials to place all investments in a blind trust while holding government jobs. This should apply to members of Congress as well since some have a history of similar trades. Why should any of us be surprised by the selfish behavior of those whose salaries and benefits are paid by their neighbors?

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Your investigation reveals another facet in need of improvement: the widely varying rules and guidance among agencies and the judiciary. One clear, consistent set of rules should suffice, such as those governing the independence of certified public accountants. That might be a good place to start for any organization, whether public, private or nonprofit, whose independence is paramount.

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This article brings to light the lack of oversight, the power of insider information and monetary gain with respect to employees of government agencies. It also sheds light on the hypocrisy in our government with regard to transparency and government oversight of other industries.

Case in point: In 2010, as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the government made a hullabaloo over the Physicians Payment Sunshine Act requiring manufacturers of medical products or pharmaceuticals to report to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services any payments to physicians of more than \$10. Many times this came in the form of lunches or promotional materials (e.g., pens or educational aides). As a result, pharmaceutical reps, who served a vital role and helped provide new product information in busy medical practices, have essentially disappeared from offices.

Government ought to keep its own house in order and apply the same rules of transparency and oversight in their domain before mandating regulations in other sectors.

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Visitor Visa Backlog Is Hurting U.S. Tourism

Joe Lonsdale's op-ed "The Other Immigration Crisis: Endless Visa Waits" (Oct. 10) raises alarms about the effect of visa-processing delays

partment's visitor visa backlogs are also constricting business and leisure travel to the U.S.

The consequences are real. Would-