**Spending**

**Americans spend $109 billion a year on illegal marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin, according to a new study by the RAND Corp. That’s more than Americans spend at electronics and appliance stores. *(Bloomberg Businessweek, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 28, 2014)***

**Americans, on average, plan to spend $1,004 on holiday gifts this year, up 13% from last year and the highest total since 2018. 36% say they started shopping early because of concerns over supply chain shortages. (CNBC/AES, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 24, 2021)**

**Americans plan to buy an average of nine gifts this year, compared with 16 last year, according to Deloitte’s annual holiday shopping survey. Total anticipated spending per household was $1,455, down slightly from $1,463 a year ago. (The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 2, 2022)**

**Americans ages 65 and up accounted for 22 percent of spending last year, the highest share since records began in 1972 and up from 15 percent in 2010, according to the Labor Department. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 20, 2023)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**How much is a billion dollars? If you spent $1,000 a day ($365,000 a year), it would take you nearly 3,000 years to spend it all! *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Economists say a college education adds thousands of dollars to a man’s income -- which he then spends sending his son to college. *(Earl Wilson, in Publishers-Hall Syndicate)***

**Consumers say they will spend an average of $1,447 on gifts, travel, and entertainment during the holidays this year – 20 percent more than last year, according to a PWC survey. Of that, $448 will be spent on themselves, an increase of 48 percent from 2020. *(Axios.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 22, 2021)***

**Nothing is easier than spending public money. It does not appear to belong to anybody. The temptation is overwhelming to bestow it on somebody. *(Calvin Coolidge)***

**While visiting the Denver Mint, our guide ushered us down a narrow mezzanine overlooking large rooms where huge presses were punching out various denominations of coins into bins. When our guide noted that each bin contained more than $45,000, a woman in our group interrupted. “See, dear,” she told her husband, “they do make it faster than I can spend it.” *(Joseph K. Sfair, in Reader's Digest)***

**In framing new federal programs, we must beware of the old American habit of spending dollars to still our anxieties. An anthropologist friend of mine who lived in the Southwest said of the traditional Indian rain dance, “The dance didn’t bring rain, but it made the tribe feel a lot better.” So it is with some of our federal spending. *(John W. Gardner, in No Easy Victories)***

**Every time you spend money, you’re casting a vote for the kind of world you want. *(Anna Lappe, environmentalist)***

**I’ve spent a fortune on my kids’ educations, and a fortune on their teeth. The difference is, they use their teeth. *(Robert Orben)***

**According to a study by Ball State, Americans who shop on an empty stomach spend more. It’s just a theory – they weren’t able to find Americans with empty stomachs. *(Jay Leno, 2004)***

**Anyone can squander money, and anyone can hoard it. But the most difficult thing in the world is to know how to spend it. *(Emlyn Williams, writer)***

**Billy says to Grandma who has just given him a dollar bill: “Thanks, Grandma. Sure, I'll save it for the future. I won't spend it 'til tomorrow.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Almost any man knows how to earn money, but not one in a million knows how to spend it. *(Henry David Thoreau, American writer)***

**Spend not where you may save; spare not where you must spend. (John Ray)**

**Will a society that has barely quibbled about spending $13 billion on an aircraft carrier, largely in the service of preventing armed conflict, also accept spending on an even grander scale to prevent epidemic diseases? *(Richard Conniff, in National Geographic magazine)***

**Husband, paying bills, to wife: “My problem is if I have it, I spend it. Your problem is even if you don’t have it, you spend it.” *(George Clark, Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***