The Certainty of Uncertainty

Things change, often in unpredictable manners. Sometimes that change is good. Sometimes it is bad. Strong economies are full of change. New companies enter the market place and old companies go under. Some workers whose skills are in demand get paid more, while those who possess skills not in demand by the market become unemployed.

Since the beginning the New Deal, the US government has sought to reduce uncertainty in some economic areas while increasing it in others. In order to provide FDR’s “freedom from want”, the government took steps to delink cause and effect.

Businesses like price certainty..Many business owners see little problem with “partnering” with the government to reduce their economic uncertainty.

Uncertainty gets a bad rap because uncertainty caused by the government works to slow down the economy

No one can eliminate uncertainty. The optimal level of uncertainty

In the end, the only certainty is poverty.

When playing a baseball game, the outcome of the game isn’t known before the first pitch is cast (the 1919 Black Sox Scandal aside). This represents uncertainty for players, coaches, and fans. There is, however, certainty as to the rules of the game. A rule book exists and is enforced by umpires. Still, there could be some uncertainty as to the enforcement of these rules. Is the home plate umpire going to have a large or small strike zone? Will the second base umpire call the “neighborhood play” when a middle infielder doesn’t actually touch second base while starting a double play? A wide variation of rule interpretation or enforcement that it obviously meant to give one team the advantage over the other would detract from the essence, and entertainment of the game.

Suppose that in order to reduce the uncertainty that the home team might lose, the baseball rule book could be instantly changed to allow the home team, when pitching, to throw the ball into the stands and that be counted as a strike. Or perhaps when the home team bats, nine strikes make an out instead of three. Such rules would lower the uncertainty regarding which team would win. Since the majority of fans in the stands inevitably want the home team to win, it might sound like rigging the rules to favor the home team is a form of social justice.

While having umpires rig the rules of the game reduces fan’s uncertainty, it increases the uncertainty of players on any given play. Should they catch the ball in the air or let it bounce three times first? Should they catch the ball in their gloves, or in their hat

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