

ering it in 2020. Bill was pumped about going, seeing his many industry friends, and covering the keynote talks by two big plastics company CEOs: Jim Fitterling of Dow Inc. and Tom Salmon of Bery Global Group Inc.

Bill suggested that we write a column praising SPE for going ahead with the in-person event. "Good idea," I told him, "but let's hold off, just in case they change their minds."

But that seemed unlikely. On March 3, SPE had posted an open letter announcing that Antec would be held as scheduled, while emphasizing the steps it had planned to ensure the safety of attendees.

"Nobody wants to fly." I responded: "Now Antec is the last plastics event that hasn't been canceled or postponed. Your move, SPE."

The next day, we learned that SPE was canceling the event in San Antonio. But officials promised that the technical papers would still be delivered, but like a live webinar.

"Antec 2020: The Virtual Edition" was on.

It kicked off on Monday, March 30 with a joint keynote address by Fitterling and Salmon. More than 700 people tuned in live, including Bill, and I was honored to moderate the session. Bill was pumped about his coverage and my role.

That first day of Antec was a

presentations, the event came to its conclusion.

SPE deserves a hand. Instead of sticking to its original plan and holding an in-person event, the Danbury, Conn.-based organization quickly scrambled to make Antec a fun and successful virtual conference. More than 3,300 people from seven countries tuned in to at least a portion of the 93-plus hours of programming.

SPE CEO Patrick Farrey acknowledges that it wasn't an easy decision to cancel what would have been an in-person three-day event. He credited the executive board, technical committees, presenters and, most of all, the SPE staff, for quickly coming together to pull off the virtual Antec.

MAILBAG

Fails to see much reshoring

I fail to see the decoupling and reshoring mentioned in April 20 issue. ["Could COVID prompt reshoring?" and "Long term, some see a 'decoupling' from China," Page 1.]

Current customers who source items from China are intransigent.

To wit: barricade tape, pressure-sensitive tape, ice bags and shower curtains to name a few.

Those who inquire about PPE and body bags disclose up front they are only interested in the short term. This morning there was a story about how the U.S. government has secured enough PPE from "Asia." When we follow up with hospitals and distributors who were frantic a few weeks ago, they yawn and say they are getting plenty of PPE supply from China. There is enough margin they can afford air freight.

The public has a short memory. They only remember

Walmart said something a while back about buying American. The cold reality is they pay maybe 7 percent over China pricing.

My perspective as a small, Midwestern processor is by definition limited and provincial. I do not have the wisdom of your clairvoyant academic sources who correctly predicted the current crisis.

My questions for them:

How will globocorps get from where we are to paying for U.S. manufactured products?

What about the fiduciary obligation top management have to their shareholders to maximize profits?

What is the date and time the American consumer will pay \$4,500 for an iPhone?

Why do the basic premises of the deindustrialization of America no longer apply?

I'm from Missouri. Show me.

Joel Longstreth
Brentwood Plastics Inc.

Bravo for Rich April 27 cartoon

I am a recently retired quality manager with 30-plus years in manufacturing working in various industries, most recent for a gasket manufacturer making parts for critical pump parts.

Bravo for Rich Williams' cartoon in April 27 issue of *Plastics News* ["Tip of the hat to industry heroes," Page 6]. Not because of the company that you had in the cartoon, but as a good reminder that this foundation of critical manufacturing plants are needed to produce the product that is needed by the health care workers to fight this horrific disease.

We need to remember these

'Thank you from the health care workers on the front line to those who are building the equipment/care for the health care workers'

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