

Less secret things are the better

What is wrong with the idea of the government-owned company from the United Arab Emirates owning terminals in American ports? There has been a lot of wailing about this over the past few weeks, and the deal has been put on a 45-day delay because of the furor.

We admit at first blush, the announcement left us wondering where this began. There is a sense the government has not been looking at this closely enough.

This is replacing a British company with an Arab one. This is not a new situation. Firms from half a dozen countries operate terminals at American ports on both coasts and the Gulf of Mexico.

The extent of the foreign investment in operating American ports is surprising, and disturbing at the same time. Apparently the sale of terminals began in the 1970s, and has been expanding over the years. In fact, the British-Arab deal actually covers more than the six ports being listed in news reports.

The six being mentioned are the largest container terminals and a couple of cruise ship terminals. There are six in Texas that have not been mentioned, and eight more along the east coast from Maine to Miami. Along the Gulf, besides the one in New Orleans, there are two more in Louisiana and one in Gulfport, Miss.

Criticism targets President Bush because of the process for reviewing and approving foreign investments in the United States. The Committee on Foreign Investments is under the Department of the Treasury. The law has been amended at least twice by Congress to define when such reviews are required.

The committee has 12 members, including the secretaries of Treasury, State, Defense, Homeland Security and Commerce, the Attorney General, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, the U.S. Trade representative, the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, the director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the president's national security and economic advisors.

Yes, these are all people appointed by President Bush, but the other deals that have been made over the past 20-30 years have been reviewed by appointees of other presidents, Democrat and Republican. The companies that run the terminals hire American workers to load and unload the ships, but it is true the people running the companies would be privy to all the security arrangements at each port under the control of the Coast Guard and Homeland Security.

Whether the deal is right this time remains to be decided, but at least there will be more talk and thought than has happened in the past. When other foreign investments come down in the future the American people should be informed, and there should be more thought about whether we have reached a point where enough is enough.

— Tom Betz, *The Goodland Star-News* editor

Thumbs Up to...

√ **Busy Jayhawkers 4-H Club** for the goodies you gave the staff of *The Norton Telegram*.

√ **Rod Wallgren**, for your many years of service and loyalty to Rural Telephone. Good luck in your retirement.

√ **Norton FFA**, on your PALS program. A super cause.

√ **Heath Vincent**, on being named recipient of the prestigious Kansas State University Putnam Scholarship.

√ **Karla Reed**, Norton Area Chamber of Commerce Director, **Board President Marvin Matchett** and your board members, and **all others** who had anything to do with your highly successful annual banquet....and for providing the community and area an opportunity to meet Kansas State University's new football coach, **Ron Prince**.

√ **The school district's cooks** for keeping the students' energy levels right where they belong.

(To submit a name, names, or a group simply e-mail tomd@nwkansas.com, call 877-6908 or 877-3361, fax 877-3732, drop a note in the mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop in at the office. Thanks, in advance, for participating. — tomd)

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I should get an Oscar for watching

I decided this year to sit through the Oscars. Well, I sat in a comfortable, padded, upright swing chair for the first hour. Then I moved into the lounge chair the second hour. And then finally onto the couch for a full blown stretch out for the third hour. It was 3+ hours long, but I expected nothing shorter. I enjoyed host Jon Stewart who pleasantly surprised me by not getting overly political and not stooping into the gutter for material.

The show moved along relatively smooth, for an Academy Awards show, that is. I'm glad I watched because there were surprises and the biggest one came at the end of the night when "Crash" won the Best Picture Oscar. I guess it was surprising because we were led to believe by the experts that "Brokeback Mountain" would run away with Best Picture and a host of other awards. But that didn't happen. I think, if memory serves me correctly, "Brokeback Mountain" captured three awards.

The thing that stopped me in my tracks was Best Song from a movie. I guess it was a song. The title, and I didn't make this up, was, "It's hard out here for a pimp," and it was sung by some rapper I've never heard of. Then again maybe I have, but to me if you've seen one rapper you've seen 'em all.

For most part the ladies were dressed like ladies and not like they were competing to see who could come closest to being naked. The guys were appropriately attired, except for one who came on stage to accept his Oscar wearing a white shirt, crooked tie, sport coat and jeans...not fashion jeans but something that looked like he had been sleeping in them.

One of these days we'll be able to watch

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



some of the Oscar-winning movies right here in our own theater. Then we will be the judge, not having to depend on the Academy's Board of Voters. It's strange how many times what they voted to be the best of the best were considered a flop by a lot.

-td-

Observations from the very young (as shared by an e-mailer)...

Brittany (age 4) had an ear ache and wanted a pain-killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a childproof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked, "How does it know it's me?"

Marc (age 4) was engrossed in a young couple that were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad, "Why is he whispering in her mouth?"

Clinton (age 5) was in his bedroom looking worried. When his Mom asked what was troubling him, he replied, "I don't know what'll happen with this bed when I get married. How will my wife fit in?"

James (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." Concerned, James

asked, "What happened to the flea?"

"Dear Lord," the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. "Without you, we are but dust." He would have continued but at that moment a very young, obedient, observant little girl leaned over to her mother and in an audibly shrill little girl voice asked, "Mom, what is butt dust?"

Melanie (age 5) asked her Granny how old she was. Granny replied she was so old she didn't remember any more. Melanie said, "If you don't remember do what I do. I look inside the back of my panties. Mine say five to six."

Ah, leave it up to the kids!

-td-

It won't be long and we will be moving our clocks up one hour to conform with daylight-saving time. That begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, April 2, although we will want to push the clocks up before going to bed Saturday night, April 1. It never occurred to me that the weekend we change time is also April Fools' Day weekend. That could set up some pretty interesting situations. Right?

-td-

You will notice a nice 16-page Working Women's section in today's *Telegram*. That was an effort of Vicki, Susie, Veronica, Carolyn and Hypatia. Lots of good stories, lots of good pictures, lots of good ads, and nicely designed. It's called *team work*, and you will notice our team on the back page of the section.

Enjoy.

-td-

Have a good weekend. And again remember to occupy a seat in the house of worship of your choice this weekend.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Research details the church's stand on evolution

To the Editor,

In response to Tim Peterson's letter on what the Catholic Church teaches regarding human evolution, I would like to attempt to clarify where the Church stands on the debate.

The best way that I know of to do this, would be to quote Dr. Richard Geraghty, a professor of philosophy at St. Joseph's House of Studies in Alabama, in an answer to a poster on the Q and A forum at <http://www.ewtn.com>.

"...The Church believes...that God created the first human beings, Adam and Eve, who have a body and a soul. The Church also teaches that this pair are the first parents of the human race. Catholics accept these teachings as truths or facts because the Church teaches them as coming from God Himself. They accept them on faith... the Catholic philosophical tradition holds that one, by reason alone, can prove that there is one God who created the world from nothing. It follows that, since God is intelligent, the world is a product of intelligent design. The philosopher will have nothing directly to say about Adam and Eve because their existence and role is a matter of divine revelation. Nor will he have anything direct to say about whether the intelligent design of the world is due to a process of evolution or some other theory of development.

"He will leave that matter to the scientists. From the view point of the scientists, evolution is a theory that human beings developed from a non-human source like

apes who, in turn, evolved from lower forms of life. Now, the only way to prove that this theory is true is by collecting the facts from the geological record and digging deeper into the genetic code of living things. So far the theory has not been conclusively proven in the way, for example, Newton's theories have been proven.

"Popularly, however, it is most often taken for granted that the evolution of human beings from lower forms of life is a proven fact. It isn't. But whether it is a fact or not, the scientist has nothing to say, for example, about the existence of God or of the human soul. These are philosophical and theological matters which are beyond the power of physical measurement and experiment. What the scientist can do, however, is consider the theory of intelligent design and then examine the evidence for it. Here he can proceed by experiment and measurement.

"From what I have read, many scientists in the field of nuclear physics and chemistry reject the theory that the world was formed simply by chance. They see intelligent design in the world and support

their views from accepted physical facts. So you see, the whole matter is quite complex as far as the Catholic Church is concerned...

"While the Catholic Church agrees that God created the world from nothing, it does not necessarily rule out any scientific theory of evolution... reasoning that, whether God created directly the various species and had them evolve over millions of years, He is still the intelligent designer of the whole process.

"To summarize: if one is to keep the discussion straight about evolution, one will have to mark off the theological from the philosophical and then mark off this pair from the strictly scientific which proceeds by experiment and measurement. Now the field of theologians and philosophers does not consist in collecting geological facts or doing experiments with genes.

"For the facts in these cases they have to go to the scientists, like everyone else. The Church then has to do the same — and does so."

Catherine A. Lentz
Norton

LETTER POLICY

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author. We do not publish

anonymous letters. We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. We also will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.