

Washington's wrongness drives another away

No retirement from the United States Senate so far during the current term was as unexpected and shocking as that of Indiana Democrat Evan Bayh. A moderate, he's calling it quits because Congress isn't serving the people anymore, rather serving themselves as the country continues to deteriorate.

He was harsh with his criticism of fellow senators, and the president didn't escape the bite either. It's about time someone of his caliber stepped forward to tell it like it is. Sen. Bayh was in the midst of a re-election bid in the Hoosier State when he went before the cameras to announce his retirement this week. There was little question that he would have won re-election hands down. He's popular, he focused, and he wasn't a "Party of Yes" echo. He sometimes angered the Democratic leadership on Capitol Hill for challenging the way they were doing business.

Sen. Bayh is a rising star within the Democratic Party. But unlike a majority of Democrats on Capitol Hill, his mission is and has always been, to put his people of Indiana and the people of this country first. It's unfortunate that many in the United States Senate aren't taking stock of how he operated.

So far this term, 18 Republicans and 13 Democrats (Senate and House combined) have announced retirement instead of seeking re-election. And chances are we will see another dozen or so follow suit. Maybe more. The writing on the wall couldn't be any clearer.

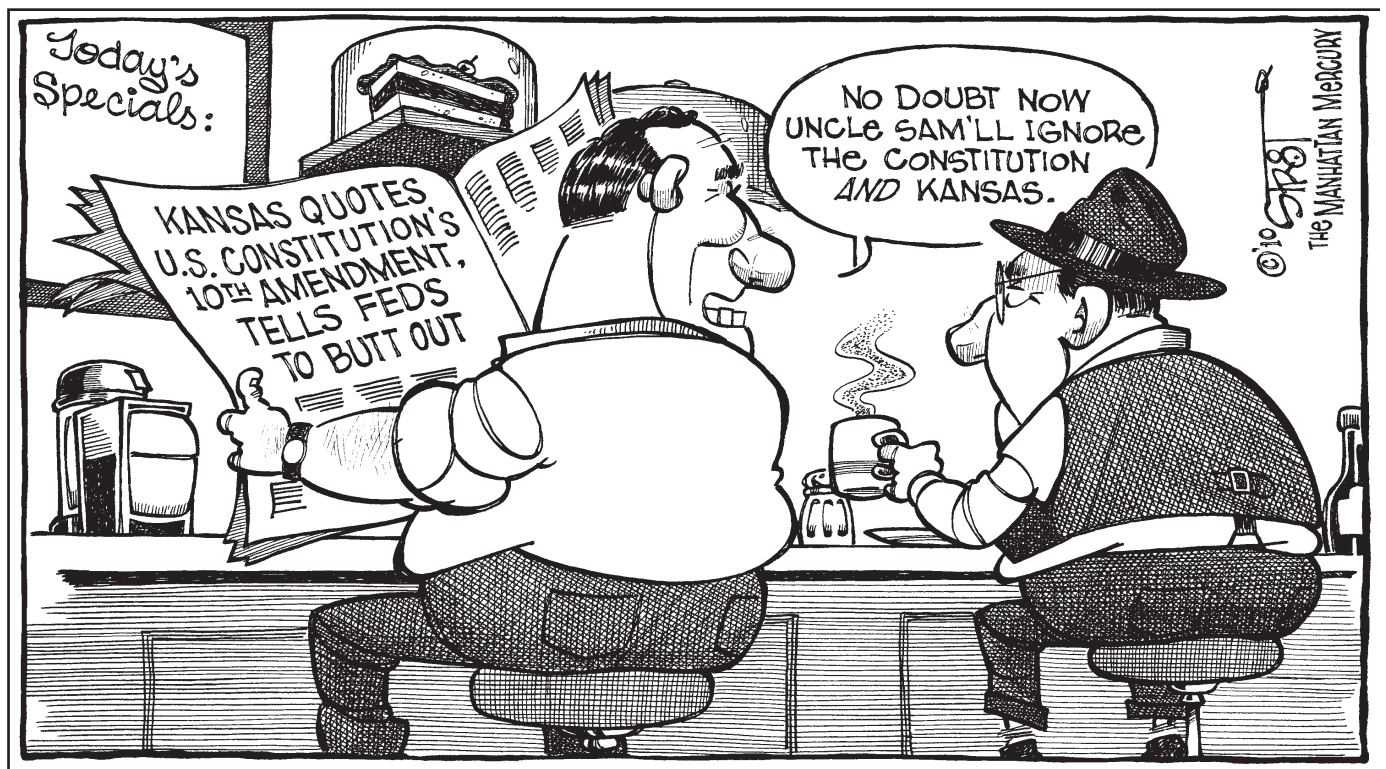
The biggest sham going on is the belief that THEY (the crowd in the Senate and the House) work for us. That's hard to believe if you pay any attention at all to the daily televised coverage of both houses on C-Span and C-Span 2. And those televised battles often carry over onto the hallways of the Capitol as television cameras continue to roll. It's nasty, the gloves are off. It's more like a bully showdown on a grade school playground.

Maybe we the people are at fault to some degree. Maybe we need to force a halt to Congress setting its own salary. If they do in fact SERVE us, why is it they can quietly slip through a pay raise without letting us, their bosses, know? And looking over their salaries — around \$170,000 annually, + all the perks that go with the office — it's clear why they want to hold onto those sacred seats. A salary reduction is necessary and must be enacted. After all in these tough economic times when millions of their constituents are jobless, one would expect our leadership to at least set an example by cutting their pay as a demonstration of concern. And the perks must also be scaled back accordingly.

Did someone just yell, "Term limits is the answer!" When the words "term limits" are mentioned, the name of Republican Sen. Sam Brownback of our great state comes to mind. During his initial campaign for the office, he placed a two-term limitation of service to Kansas as a U.S. Senator — that's a total of 12 years. And he stuck with it. As he serves out the last several months of his Senate career, he is also campaigning for governor. At this point in time he's the front runner.

Sen. Bayh's decision to retire is a big loss for Indiana and for the country. He is leaving the United States Senate for all the right reasons — the wrongness of our governing body. And if the leadership of his party fails to recognize the seriousness of his departure, then they deserve whatever wrath the voters inflict at the polls in November.

—Tom Dreiling



Common sense is hard to find

Common sense and keeping things simple is hard to find now days. The simple thing is that too many people want something without working for it. The people that work hard for their income that is taken by the government and redistributed to the people that don't work. Liberals like this. Too many working people don't know it is happening-don't care-or honestly don't understand.

A simple thing you can do is to look up the definition of: Liberalism, Socialism, Communism, Fascism, Statism.

America was made the greatest nation on earth through Capitalism-look that up also. Freedom is this product of Capitalism.

Don't get brainwashed on this global warming. This is easy to pass on to kids and others because who wants bad air and water and to destroy our planet.

We exhale CO2 and breath in oxygen in order to live. Plant life needs CO2 to



live and plants release oxygen which we need to live. Simple isn't it.

I want a National Health program so I can pay for others free care which I am already doing.

I would like to know what it will take for Conservatives to start some major Tea Parties. Say Norton, Graham, Decatur, Phillips counties and many more to take some action on insuring that a least we stood up.

Our brave young men and women in the military put their life on the line just so we can remain free over here and we go about our daily work as if there was no war against Terrorist at all.

The Revolutionary War was a war of "We the People" standing up against a corrupt government and their unfair taxes. We won the war and we became a free nation - America.

Tea Parties fit in there with a passion. In the past while doing my writings, I have talked about the war of 2011. Leaving it up to the readers to figure it out. But, now I need to reveal it. Do you remember the Civil War? It really did happen - Americans against Americans. We Americans that play by the rules, work everyday are going to say "to hell to the Socialist government."

We have our 2nd Amendment to bare arms and will use them if necessary. Our Armed Forces will follow the Constitution and we can wipe out the tyranny. Are you ready to defend freedom? If not you may as well follow the rest of the sheep over the cliff. I am just a Conservative that stands up for our Constitution.

Robbie Jones

Giving sports too much credit

Did you watch the Super Bowl? We did in a most disinterested way.

First off, as do the Championships in College Football, it went on too long! I must have ADD because I lose interest in college football after New Year's. The NFL in February? Sorry it's time to focus on High School Wrestling, Basketball and as the days lengthen: spring and baseball!

Also my favorite teams were not in the Super Bowl. I have grown to appreciate Peyton Manning but he's so over exposed! And I'm tired of hearing him called the "smartest man in football"! At the same time I feel bad for him because he will probably have to spend some time being heralded as dumb for throwing an interception for a touchdown. Not to worry, his penitence will not last long; after all he is Peyton Manning.

I also have a hard time buying into the heart warming stories about how the Saints have healed New Orleans. It's all okay now because they got a trophy? The tragedy of Katrina and the politics of the town are just wiped away? Please!

Why do we watch at all? The Feb. 15 issue of Newsweek has arrived with an article on sportsmanship by British born Christopher Hitchens. I've

Back Home Nancy Hagman



always had a hard time figuring Hitchens out. He appears a lot on talk news shows. I googled him and discovered he is so far left, the left considers him a Neo Conservative. There is a theory that the political spectrum is not a line but a circle. If you go too far left or right you meet the other side. That seems about right to me. Or perhaps the methods of extremists tend to be the same; making them indistinguishable.

Whatever, Hitchens' review of sports hits home.

He quotes George Orwell's essay "The Sporting Spirit". I was aware of this essay because, in my opinion, an even better quote from it is used on the Fansite of KSU sports:

"Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness and disregard of all the rules."

It's very cool that the creators of the

KSU site were able to mock themselves by using this quote. At the same time it reinforces the "dumb jock" image because they attribute it to George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant". Perhaps they should have consulted the smartest man in football.

There are plenty of great sports stories. And I think we can learn a lot about ourselves by observing how we play games. The hubby and I went to see "The Blind Side". GREAT STORY. I'm not sure what the director hoped audiences would take away from the movie. But the contrast between the life Michael Oher was born to and the life he ended up with had me questioning everything I have. Life is so very unfair.

What I hope movie goers got from the story is sports did not save Michael Oher. He saved himself by the grace of resilience.

Whether we end up happy or bitter really has nothing to do with the trophies, plaques or Super Bowl rings.

Critics like George Orwell or Christopher Hitchens and devoted sports fans are on a circle just like liberals and conservatives. Both give sports way too much credit, one side for bad, one for good.

It is, after all, only a game.



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It's called Your Vote

Phase II
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It was bound to happen; the exodus of several members of Congress. The most recent departure, Senator Birch Bayh, diagnosed the problem and the reason for not seeking re-election as a "dysfunctional" Congress. I don't think any American would argue with that, but it is important to remember this "dysfunctional" group is made up of individuals elected by all of us. To quote Lord Acton, "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely," no doubt applies to Congress.

Once elected, they believe they know what is best. Without consulting the majority, I might add. Some part of representation was lost in the translation.

To date 13 democrats and 18 republicans have announced plans not to run for re-election.

Some will be seeking other state offices

much contention in Congress however... and this is a really big however, most members of Congress did not run for re-election rather, "they went back home and let someone else serve." The interesting thing is there were no term limits, but the members set their own limits, others stepped forward to serve and they refused to spend a fortune on re-election.

The departure of these elected officials could mean politicians are beginning to see the hand writing on the wall and perhaps we, the public, will realize we don't need legislation to limit our Congress, we only need our voting right.

Let us applaud those who feel they can serve in better ways and have the courage to step down and allow others to serve. We have a responsibility to have a healthy Congress and we can exercise it any election...it is called your vote.