

An enemy of prosperity in America

By: Congressman Tim Huelskamp

Throughout the debate over raising the country's debt limit, people on both sides of the issue talked about the economic impact of raising the credit card limit, and how job creation would be affected based on the size of cuts and caps. After all, however much Washington spends and borrows is money that is taken out of the hands of consumers and businesses that otherwise keep the economy humming and prosperity growing. But there is a third component that cannot be neglected in efforts to spur job creation: the need to reduce regulation.

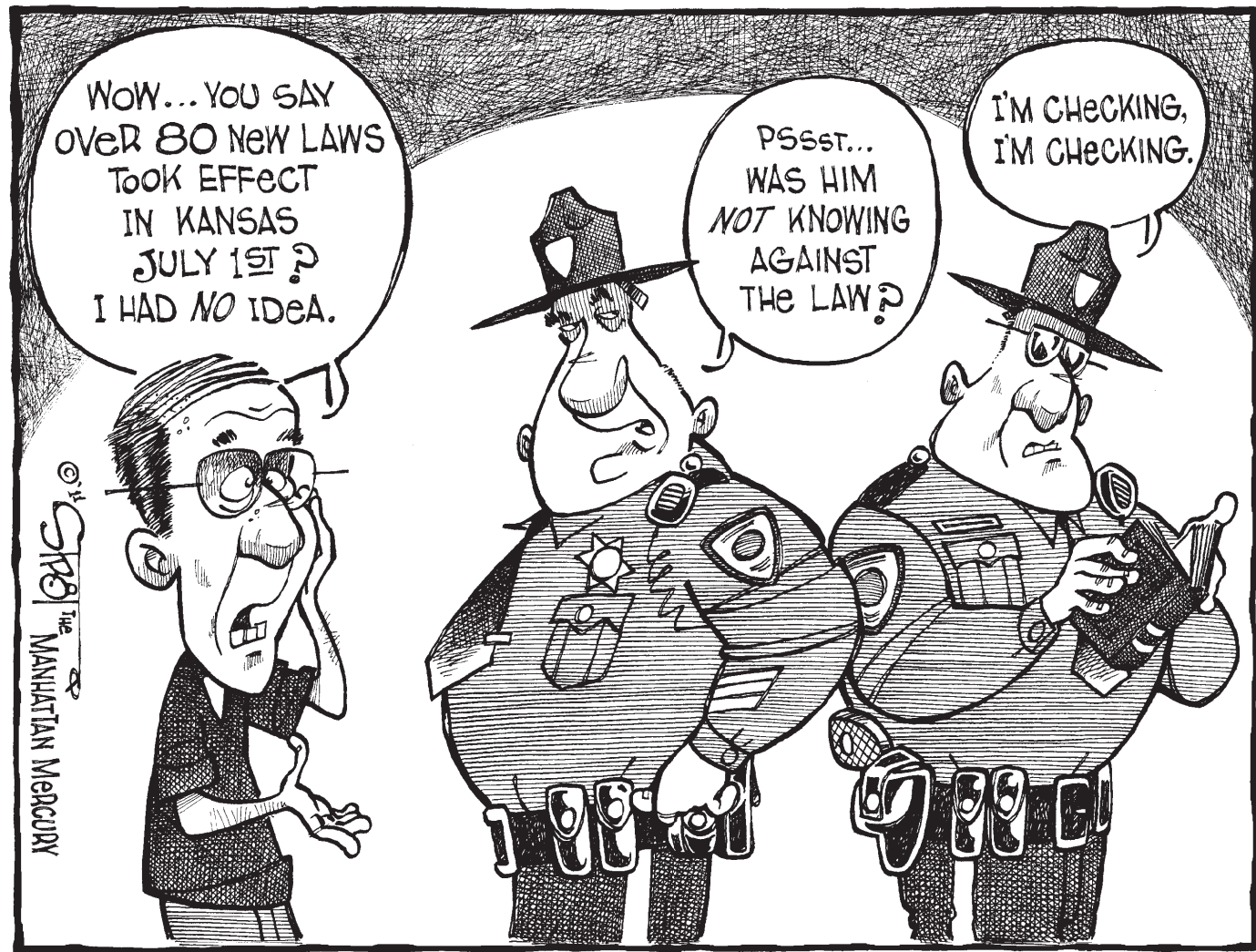
Besides getting spending and borrowing under control, the future of our economy depends on getting our regulatory system in check. America cannot afford an expanded and excessive regulatory scheme concocted by bureaucrats who have never met a payroll in their entire lives. Rules on employers are sold to the American people as well-intentioned, but they often end up being expensive and time-consuming for employers simply trying to pursue the American Dream. Unfortunately, this administration has bound employers so tightly with that red tape that they are choking their abilities to create jobs. Most of the bureaucrats writing and enforcing these regulations have no idea of the consequences, and if they do, they apparently do not care.

In Western Kansas, we are all too familiar with the devastating effects of the Environmental Protection Agency. Last week, the House considered the Department of Interior annual appropriations. The underlying bill contained a 17% reduction in funding for the EPA; I believed it did not go far enough and offered an amendment to reduce it even more. Unfortunately, not everyone agreed with me, but not everyone has witnessed the same type of assault on their districts as I have seen. Washington bureaucrats at the EPA have declared open season on agriculture and energy - two of Kansas' major industries.

In addition to reducing EPA funding overall, this appropriations bill seeks to prohibit the EPA from imposing unwarranted, unnecessary, and duplicative regulations on farmers. Given that many EPA bureaucrats have never stepped on a farm - let alone been to Kansas - it is easy to explain why they have no idea that their regulations would drive farmers out of business. Regulating dust? Are they serious? Wind is as common as oxygen on Kansas farms; the EPA would prefer we just halt operations on days the wind blows.

But perhaps one of the greatest offenses by the EPA is its war against Sunflower Electric's proposed expansion in Holcomb. There, the EPA is unnecessarily delaying and complicating the permitting process for the coal-fired plant. While the President pontificates about needing jobs in America, nearly 1,900 construction and nearly 300 permanent jobs remain uncreated and Kansas' economy is deprived of millions of dollars in economic activity.

Loosening the regulatory grip of the EPA on America's job creators is the next logical step for Washington to take in its efforts to restore in American employers the confidence they need to create jobs and pursue prosperity.



Turning to the internet and our children for help

August and suddenly it seems like summer is over!

Which is a good thing, because it will cool off----any day now.

It seems like summer is over because Elizabeth already had to go back to school: in Oklahoma. She reports the grass is crispy.

Before she departed she decided the dog was ailing. Poor Smiley, she is constipated. I'd take her to the vet but she's old, she's deaf. We love Smiley but she doesn't seem uncomfortable. Why prolong her life just because it would be difficult to lose her?

We looked it up on the internet. (What did we do before the internet?)

They suggested pumpkin. They said dogs like it.

They suggested mineral oil.

A friend said her mom's dog had the same problem and the Vet told them to put Metamucil or a similar product in the dog's water.

Another problem the cats and the dog drink from the bowl and there is ample evidence the cats do not suffer the same problem. So we aren't trying that.

We did get pumpkin and mineral oil. The dog didn't like the pumpkin, but the cats did.

The dog hasn't been eating well so we began giving her the choicest tidbits

This Too Shall Pass

Nancy Hagman



(steak trimmings and hot dogs) doused in mineral oil. She is eating better but I don't think it has helped.

Elizabeth had to return for a dental appointment. Kate came up. I'm glad to see them because it helps to have someone to share the worry with. Besides the dog a there are a lot of concerns this week!

Then I sit down to write my column and the computer monitor blinks and dies! The same computer monitor I just purchased in January! Oh well, I hate that monitor. It is a wide screen which distorts all my pictures. I don't mind when I'm looking at movie stars on the red carpet. It does wonders for my self esteem until I see a picture of myself.

Much as I dislike the monitor I need it to write my column. "KAAAAAAAAAATE--help."

And she did. She claims she waved her magic wand. Guess I'm stuck with the wide screen (and other parts).

The girls usually help their dad but a little rain dumped early in the morning.

It's so humid you can barely tell if it is or isn't raining, but at least the grass isn't crispy! Anyway that means they help their Momma. I've got them sealing the basement floor!

I sit down to write the column. I have a mental block. I keep a file of ideas and general stuff, to be honest it's mostly stuff.

Like those statements they send you telling you how much Social Security you will get when you retire (looks like I'll be working awhile!)

There are some diet tips. But with this computer screen it won't help anyway.

There are some gardening ideas. WHY???

There is an article about sealing cement floors which I probably should have read before I shopped for a sealant!

Some poems and articles I like but today do nothing to inspire!

I ask the girls, "What should I write about?"

Kate says, "Your genius daughter!"

Elizabeth says, "Yeah, you can write about me!"

I don't think they are on the same wave length but they inspire they do! My genius daughters---diagnosers of dreaded dog afflictions and magic wand wavers!

Thank you! Things are looking up!

A year of peace

Life is Good

Rita Speer



I just returned home from a Quilting Marathon Retreat at Manna House in Concordia. While I was there, I picked up a little book that talked about a 16 month period of time in Concordia, September, 2009 through December, 2010, when the town came together to "practice peace." This period of time was declared "A Year of Peace." People in the community pledged to return respect, dignity and honest debate to public discussions. There were weekly columns in the newspaper about individuals' understandings of peace and non-violence.

This made me think. There is a song in which one line says, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." Could I, a single individual, bring about some of that respect and dignity? Could I have an effect on others so that a more concerted effort to bring about peace might occur?

One of the columnists began her discussion with the statement, "Peace is more than the absence of war." Well, yes, we might quickly agree, but what exactly do we mean when we say we want to bring about peace or that we want to be peaceful people? For me, that means treating each person I encounter with respect. I do not have the right to put people down nor discount their beliefs. It does not mean I should be a doormat or not stand up for what I believe, but I am called to do that in a respectful manner.

The other word used frequently in

the book is non-violence. My husband doesn't watch much of what is on television because he believes many of the programs are violent. He has said to me, "I don't know how you can watch that show and then go to bed and go to sleep." My favorite programs are whodunits, and they do contain violence. Most of the programs are based on finding the perpetrators of crimes, and the crimes are often murders. If I am to live a non-violent life, does that mean I have to give up my favorite shows? Ouch; that possibility gives me cause to think hard. If I want to live peacefully and promote non-violence, am I called to give up watching those very shows I enjoy? I will let you know where I come out with that question.

As I grapple with what it means to promote a non-violent life style, I invite you to consider living your own year of peace. Concordia discovered one year was not enough, so another year of peace began January 1, 2011. It may become permanent. Could we in Norton do the same?

Honor and respect, living by the Golden Rule

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



Recently our five year old granddaughter, Ashley, awoke in the night unable to sleep. Her father has always spent a great deal of time with her and so when she asked if they could take a late night walk he obliged. First they went down the street to one of his favorite hangouts. Children are always welcome so after her soda they continued on their walk. They have a park across the street from their home and as they passed Ashley asked if they could swing. Without blinking an eye she was swinging in the middle of the night, in the middle of the park, in the middle of the largest city in the world, in the middle of downtown Tokyo.

What city in this country offers that safety? I can't think of a one. In the midst of hearing this story I also listened to one of Joel Osteen's sermons where he talked of honor and treating people honorably. In Japan, the elderly are treated with respect, children are valued or perhaps the word is honored. Joel Osteen reminds us it is easy to honor those with whom we agree or share values. It is more of a challenge with those with whom we differ.

The Golden Rule of treating others as we would like to be treated is a time hon-

ored value. Children need to learn honor and be honored as well. Not honored as in give me what I want, but honored as in I love you enough to establish boundaries. Children mimic adults. If they witness respect and receive respect, they will learn to respect others.

Recently a couple, married over three decades, was asked how their marriage endured.

He responded, "We respect one another. We remember to say thank you." A key ingredient of honor is making someone feel appreciated.

Schools are an excellent learning center for honor and parents play a key role. All too often though in a school situation, parents side with their children rather than upholding the rules of the school.

Somehow they feel their child is exempt from regulations invoked for the well being of all.

Unfortunately the same holds true for law enforcement. Years ago one of our son's friends received a speeding ticket...his excuse and his parents? He was going downhill. The parents felt the officer was too hard on their child. The parents' response was to bad mouth the officer and coddle their teenage son. Three weeks later the boy came out of the shower, tossed his wet towel on his bed and was grounded for three weeks. The message sent to the young man was powerful, but certainly not honorable.

Honor creates an environment of respect; respect creates an environment of safety; and safety allows for midnight walks. I have a plaque at home titled, Help Me Grow. One line says, "Take responsibility for all your feelings and actions, then I also won't blame others and I'll take responsibility for my life." It may be addressing the needs of a child, but it is never too late for us as individuals or for the country as a whole. mailto:mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Hello Norcat. As you have most likely heard by now our way of life here in Norcat will make a drastic change as the United States Postal Service has slated our Post Office as one of the 3600 plus offices to be put on the chopping block and be permanent closed. Please join me in contacting our elected officials and voice our concerns on how this will affect our community. We must do this collectively or it most certainly will close. The more people we get to voice their opinion the better chance we have to save our Post Office. Jerry Moran, U.S. State Senator and Ward Cassidy, 120th District Representative, would be the obvious closest to home choices to contact. Also there is Sam Brownback Governor, Pat Roberts, U.S. Senator, Tim Huelskamp, Lynn Jenkins, Mike Pompeo, and Kevin Yoder, all U.S. Representatives. Another contact we really must voice our opinion to is the Postal Regulatory Commission. Please take a few minutes to voice your opinion to these people as the Post Office is very vital to the survival of, and the way of life we enjoy in Norcat. Time is of the essence as the Federal Government is going to make rulings on the locations very soon.

Thank You, Scott Hartzog

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

E-mail: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654

Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

STAFF

Dana Paxton..... General Manager
Advertising Director/
email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com
Carleen Bell..... Managing Editor
cbell@nwkansas.com
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay Sports
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Brandi Diederich..... Intern/Society Editor
bdiederich@nwkansas.com
Vicki Henderson..... Computer Production
Marcia Shelton..... Office Manager

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

Kansas Press Association

