

Assigning and accepting responsibility

By: Congressman Tim Huelskamp

Imagine missing a deadline for 2 1/2 years. In any normal workplace, an employee would not have the opportunity to let a responsibility linger for that long. But, your United States Senate has done just that. On November 1, 2011, 915 days will have passed since the Senate passed a budget.

Outraged yet?

If not, consider this: in addition to refusing to pass a budget, the Senate also has refused to take up 15 pro-growth and pro-jobs bills that the House has already passed. Even the President cannot convince the Democrat-controlled Senate to take up his "jobs bill." That's how bad the situation has become.

These "forgotten 15" would stimulate without stimulus spending. They would roll back the red tape that is choking our agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and finance sectors. For the Senate to let these idle is to concede the responsibility it has in our democratic process and to forego the opportunity to get our economy moving again.

While I do not support the half a trillion dollars of new stimulus spending contained in the President's jobs bill, House Republicans agree with the President on some aspects of his jobs plan. An example of this is his support for a permanent repeal of a 3 percent withholding tax on government contractors. This tax was passed in 2006, but actual implementation had been delayed several times since then. Why the delay? Not only would this harm contractors who provide goods and services, but also the federal, state, and local governments charged with administering these contracts. A diverse coalition of organizations - including many that represent state and local governments - supported the repeal. The House eliminated this tax by an overwhelming 405-16 margin. For the sake of America and our economic recovery, let's hope that the Senate does not add this legislation to collect dust either.

But, amid this whole debate about the efforts Congress and the President can have in job creation, it all comes down to one question: What is the responsibility of the federal government?

The President argues that his stimulus spending is necessary in order to keep cities and towns running. Who opposes communities having the teachers, police officers, and firefighters they need? I certainly do not. But, I do reject the notion that Washington should be creating (and, therefore, paying for) these jobs given the financial situation of our federal government. For every one dollar of a check Washington would write to state and local governments, more than 40 cents would be borrowed. Maybe today's kindergarteners will take out loans to pay for college 13 years from now. But, should the federal government be taking out a loan from China on their behalf for K-12 education? That is money today's five year-olds will have to pay back.

Our local communities and Washington are in the same boat: they both need more revenue if they want to sustain the services people have come to expect from government. But, transferring money from Washington to states and cities does not solve the problem; it only shifts the burden of responsibility. The only solution that benefits all parties is private sector economic activity, which in turn spurs tax collections. The 15 bills the House has passed will do just that.

The House has recognized its responsibility. It's time the Senate did the same.



Writer's block can be a terrible problem

For about two minutes this morning it appeared it would be a wonderful day! I've had writer's block. The hubby refused to help, even though I begged him to do something to give me a little "ammo".

The past couple of days have been miserable. For one thing the weather turned nasty and another; I had to go to a meeting! In my world it doesn't get much worse than that!

Upon my return from the meeting, I noted a beautiful sunset. While that was nice it also meant the night would be cold. I went grumbling into the house!

The hubby gave me a gem of an idea; he'd been online. "I bid on a plasma cutter!"

I did not realize cutting plasma was a priority at our house so I asked, "Why?"

"Because I've always wanted one!"

You see why I hate meetings? It is best not to leave him unsupervised.

We had supper. I sat down to write my column. Then I decided to call someone and rehash the meeting. Then I called Patricia to see how packing for the move was going.

That provided a nice comic interlude. The motorcycle had too much gas in it to go into the moving van. They

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



wanted advice.

Some suggestions we made were better received than others: ride it around until it runs out or pick it up and pour it out!

I thought about the column. Things might look better in the morning. I went to bed.

Morning dawned: cold and crisp as anticipated! I solved the motorcycle problem: load it in the back of the pickup. But I was as stumped about the column as ever. I headed for the computer, noting there was a light on in the living room.

The hubby explained, "I was checking to see if the TV works in there! It doesn't!"

"Do the phones work?" I asked. He hadn't checked. I did. They didn't!

This was my "Oh Happy Day!" moment. Because probably the internet wasn't working either! Even if I had written a column, I could not send it.

So I could just call the Telegram and explain that there would be nothing from me because of internet problems.

First I used the cell and called the phone help desk. Talked to a sweet girl, Kelly, who confirmed there was a problem in our area and they were working on it.

I said (making it sound like I was involved with a life or death situation), "How long will that be, because I need the internet for work?"

She assured me because all services were out they would be diligent and get the repairs done quickly.

So I headed to the computer. Maybe I couldn't send the thing but I best make a good faith effort to write it!

I turned the monitor on and there was my e-mail. Wow, those Nex-Tech people work fast. Darn it!!!

Kelly called. I don't know if she calls everyone who has a problem or just those of us with important work related issues! I thanked her as graciously as I could.

I checked the e-mail: the hubby was outbid on the plasma cutter.

I wrote my column. Here it is!

Hope you have a good week-end and don't forget to set your clocks back!

Call Dana for your next ad. 877-3361!

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Accepting and living with the good and the bad

One of the late great supporters of our community used to say, "We all owe rent for the space we occupy and the services we use." In other words we live here and therefore we can help it be and become the place we want it to be.

Recently I was privy to the thinking of some people who reside in our town. Now, before I go any further let me say I think everyone has a place. As it happens the people expressing these views were young, very young, but nevertheless old enough to be living on their own, with choices before them. They complained about every aspect of our community, from grocery stores to hospital, from theater to schools and most importantly the people. Now I have to wonder why are they here? They have choices. They can go anywhere they want...if they have the courage? Or do they stay because if everyone else is so bad then they can

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



feel superior? Or is complaining and negativity such a way of life they know of no other way to survive...sad.

Unfortunately these are the same people who would say they can't go elsewhere. They couldn't get a job, or they couldn't get an apartment or on and on and on... They will be victims no matter where they live. Anyone can find the bad in things, whether it is in a community, a job or a friendship. Real skill comes not in uncovering what is wrong, but in identifying what is right. Then the challenge is working to preserve the good and correct the things

you see as wrong i.e. pay your dues.

Each place one lives, and I have lived in several, has things we like and things we don't. No matter where you go there is the good and the bad. There have been places I didn't like as well as others, so what do you do, you find a place which better suits your personality or you learn to adjust.

I feel sad for the people who feel their lives here are so thwarted. They aren't doing themselves any favor being here and their presence certainly isn't enhancing our lives. We don't need people, we need citizens as defined by Webster, "one who owes allegiance to and wants protection in". I feel joy and appreciation for those who have made the conscious decision to not just reside here, but live here. As Bill Sharp, the late, great supporter of Norton, would have said, "Fantastic." mail to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

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To the Norton Police Department for making Halloween great for the kids by handing out treats while making the rounds. Thank you! Emailed in.

Thumbs up to Pat. D and Adam Z for making it safer for the kids to walk on West Crane Street. Faxed in.

Thumbs up to the Norton sixth grade football team for placing third in the WKFL Western Kansas Football League. Called in

Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up:
e-mail dpaxton@nwkansas.com or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654

Remember there is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumps Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community. Also remember all Letters to the Editor must be signed.