

We are all a bit old fashioned in our voting

On the
Prairie Dog
Steve Haynes



We've seen a wave of articles chastising Kansans for taking federal money while voting for politicians, like our Rep. Tim Huelskamp, who rail against federal spending.

This goes back to the book "What's the Matter With Kansas," by Thomas Frank, who argued that Kansans hew to the conservative social outlook of the Republican party while they benefit from the liberal-left spending of the Democrats.

In effect, he says, we vote against our own economic interests. We've abandoned the populist notions of a century ago - regulation of robber barons, bans on corporate farming, strict limits on banking - for social issues such as abortion and, yes, big government.

"Not long ago," Mr. Frank writes, "Kansas would have responded to the current situation by making the bastards pay. This would have been a political certainty, as predictable as what happens when you touch a match to a puddle of gasoline...."

"Not these days. Out here, the gravity of discontent pulls in only one direction: to the right, to the right, further to the right. Strip today's Kansans of their job security, and they head out to become registered Republicans. Push them off their land, and next thing you know they're protesting in front of abortion clinics."

He's right, of course.

An article in *The Kansas City Star* last week shows that in one rural Kansas county, at least, federal spending exceeds the federal taxes people pay by at least 2-1, yet that county and dozens of others continue to vote for Mr. Huelskamp.

Liberal editorial writers at Kansas newspapers expound on the fact that we are all "takers" even as we opposed federal spending in principle. The hypocrisy of it!

Guilty as charged, I suppose.

It's true, rural people, and not just in Kansas, tend to vote their conscience rather than their pocketbook. People who don't believe in abortion vote for candidates who don't believe in abortion. Those who think big government is dangerous and expensive tend to vote for candidates who push for smaller government.

And if their hometown or county takes in more than it sends out to the federal government, well, they probably haven't ever added it up, but they'd probably vote for the same guy for Congress as they did last year. Because the principle would still be more important to them than the money.

There is a certain amount of hypocrisy involved here, yes. People tend to see the federal benefits they get as "earned" or "deserved," while those going to others seem like "waste." Candidates who want to get elected cater to those tastes and try to balance the good and the bad.

Federal farm payments may be wasteful, for instance, and they may not work too well in preserving the "family farm" - just look at our plunging population curve in spite of all those billions spent - but the entire economy out here is built on them. How would we get disentangled?

And Social Security? We all paid into that.

We suppose it's old-fashioned for people to vote their principles rather than their pocketbooks, but that's what we are: old-fashioned.

Some would say that's not such a bad thing.

- Steve Haynes



Someone please enlighten me

Phase II
Mary Kay
Woodyard



are quite capable, and willing, to carry out violent acts.

Our Constitution begins:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The use of capitalized words in this Preamble is interesting; Order, Justice, Tranquility, Welfare, Blessings of Liberty and Posterity. Coming out of the Revolutionary War, one finds it surprising that defense was not capitalized. Perhaps, our founding fathers knew something we didn't. Perhaps it is as Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself." Mail to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

Everyone has a passion of one sort or another, especially when it comes to freedoms. For me, the right to freedom of speech, religion and press are paramount. To others, the Second Amendment holds this honor. In that manner, I am trying to understand those who feel their Second Amendment right is being threatened. Fear, we all know, can be a powerful driving force.

I have a hard time equating background checks and the right to bear arms, so hopefully someone will enlighten me. Ridding the country of privately owned firearms would not only be an impossible task, it isn't even a logical one. Standing by the Second Amendment, we are a country founded and secured by gun ownership, but what, pray tell, do background checks have to do with that. Responsible adults should have the option to purchase guns, after a waiting period and background investigation. With nothing to hide, succumbing to a background check, should be of little consequence to

law abiding, accountable citizens, particularly when a drone can fly over your house and read your mail.

The Second Amendment states: A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

If one were to take this literally, everyone should have firepower, be they ex-felons or mentally ill. I tend to see our forefathers as having had a bit more common sense. I have no problem with gun ownership, what I object to, is too little regulation. If Timothy McVeigh taught us anything, it should be that home grown terrorists

Sometimes things can't just be fixed or explained

This Too
Shall Pass
Nancy
Hagman



If he were deported his life would be in peril. At this juncture, it appears he will be staying in the United States.

The bombing gives me insight into how the far right thinks about immigration. The Tsarnaev brothers were duplicitous enough to convince those around them they were not a threat. They traveled freely despite a warning from Russia. One became a U.S. citizen.

Maybe the young man I know is also running a scam. Think of the repercussions if he remains here and commits a more serious crime. His immigration status is iffy. He was previously arrested. INS knew his situation.

I was reading up on brain studies as I wrote this. Some reasons it is thought the brains of psychopaths do not develop normally are: birth trauma, genetics, poor prenatal care, drug or alcohol use by parents, poor nutrition after birth, failure to nurture after birth, and so on.

The situation is not hopeless; intervention at an appropriate time can help in some instances.

In the end I'm like the rest of humanity: hoping to "fix" things that cannot be fixed; praying to intervene at the appropriate moment and, regretfully, searching for someone or something to blame when things are beyond my understanding!

All the while knowing I'll never know why!

As I predicted three weeks have passed and we are no closer to knowing why the Tsarnaev brothers set bombs off at the Boston Marathon.

Is it because they were Muslim? Because they were mistreated in the USA? Because we are a decadent society? Our women are loose? Our citizens use drugs?

It's sort of funny how some of the behaviors these guys claim to abhor, they apparently enjoyed, right up to the moment they decided to teach America a lesson.

April second on CNN, Dr Sanjay Gupta interviewed a scientist claimed a part of the brain that closes on most people as they develop, remains open in those prone to violence. Included in this group are psychopaths and boxers!

Since one of the Tsarnaevs was a Golden Gloves Boxer I guess we can happily consider the case closed.

Would we have looked to science to explain the Tsarnaevs if they had used guns at the Boston Marathon?

Adam Lanza, the perpetrator of the Sandy Hook tragedy, was proven to have a personality disorder yet not much has been done to change policies regarding the mentally ill.

Instead we went for the easy answer, it happened because of guns! And now it will keep on happening because Congress did not pass more gun legislation. Drat the NRA.

Are easy and politically correct

answers all we really want?

What about asking some hard questions? What is it about Islamic religion that breeds terrorists? Does our immigration policy work?

My heart goes out to immigrants. My feeling is they add more to our society than they take.

I observe the work ethic of those in southwest Kansas. I do not see them as leeches taking advantage; they are here because they want a better life. They work jobs many of us would never consider.

I especially believe we should offer asylum to those persecuted in their own countries. Now I'm shocked to learn the Tsarnaev family not only received asylum but lived off the social services our tax dollars provide.

We became acquainted with a man from Africa, who came here as a child seeking asylum. A crisis developed last summer when he was arrested because of a foolish (on his part) incident. It was discovered his Visa had long since expired. He claims not to have known this; believing a now dead relative had taken care of it.

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