

New council would tie state, military responses

There's suspicion in some circles that President Obama is moving to solidify potential control of the country using federal troops.

Constitutionalists worry that creation of a Council of Governors to coordinate response by the Defense Department, Homeland Security, state and federal agencies, the U.S. military Northern Command and the state National Guards poses a threat to our liberty.

That could be; use of federal troops within U.S. borders has always been considered a risky move, not forbidden, just not done.

You can count on your hands the number of times federal troops have gone into action on home soil. George Washington proposed to call up state militias to enforce tax laws during the so-called Whiskey Rebellion, but the issue was settled before he could carry out his threat.

President Eisenhower used federal troops to enforce a court order integrating schools in Little Rock, Ark. And of course, Abraham Lincoln did send blue-suited troops into the south to put down the late rebellion. In some quarters, those are still considered controversial actions.

The current proposal seems to be aimed more at use of troops in emergency situations, whether it might be a terrorist attack, a hurricane or some other disaster of extreme magnitude, though it could apply to an insurrection. The council would coordinate state and federal response. A treaty with Canada quietly signed in recent years would allow joint action by troops of both countries.

States have shown they can handle most disasters themselves. New York responded to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks with dignity and aplomb, but then New York City has more police, fire and medical resources than most states.

Some disasters pose such a broad and deep challenge that they defy state and local resources, however. The great San Francisco earthquake cut the city off from the rest of the world for days. Fire swept the ruins and officials despaired of keeping order.

Only the Army, under Gen. Fred Funston, a Kansan who commanded U.S. troops at the Pre-

sidio, working with city authorities, could quell disorder and keep the peace. What the general and San Francisco's mayor did, declaring a form of martial law, was not considered exactly legal by scholars of the day, but it worked.

Similarly, after public order dissolved in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, only the arrival of the U.S. Army, carrying M-16 rifles, could restore order in the flooded city. The disaster was too complete, the city's forces too broken to do it alone.

We hope this council will help form a way to regulate federal response in situations where it is needed, but that has happened only a few times in our history. It seems unlikely that most of us will see the day when troops are needed again to solve a civil issue.

And while it's true, in the best of all possible worlds, that federal aid in such situations should be planned and regulated, not invented by the commander on the scene, it's also true that once the feds step in with money and people, states are glad to take the money and often back away from their own responsibilities.

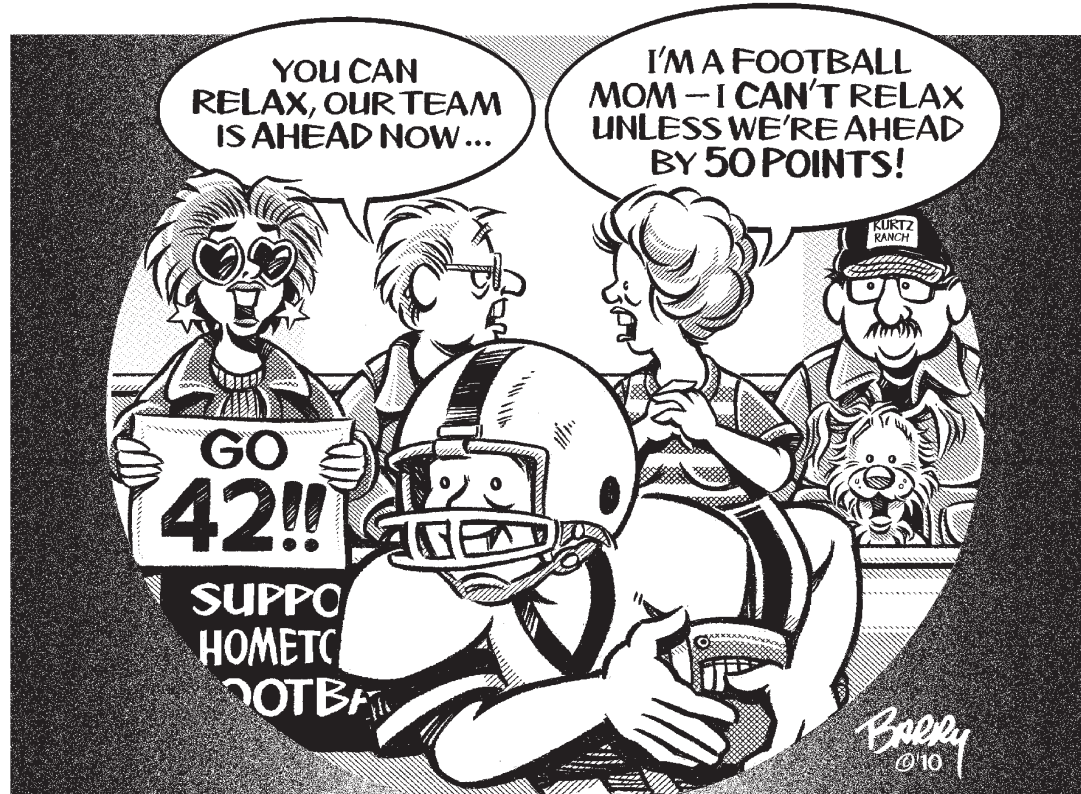
Witness the current mindless clamor to claim federal "disaster" money anytime hail or wind or minor flooding strikes. Twenty years ago, that was unheard of. Today, every county wants as much "federal money" as it can get.

And we shouldn't encourage reliance on federal help, federal troops or federal agencies. States can and should solve most of their own problems.

As to the constitutional danger, it does exist, and we should guard against it. The Council of Governors and the linkage between state and federal agencies, born of a Bush-era budget bill, might be benign. It could be a danger.

We can only say, as with so many things that increase the power of the federal government in all areas, that it needs watching. Federal power, a sleeping bear, has the potential to be dangerous.

If the time ever comes when we wake up in the bear's embrace, it will be too late to do anything about it. — Steve Haynes



News From the Past

75 years ago - 1935

Weighing 34 tons, 22 feet in height and parts of it buried in 6 or 7 feet of sand, the Beecher Island monument that marked the site of the famous "Battle of the Arickaree" with the Indians is going to be a difficult object to recover. The flood waters undermined its well-set base and the monument fell upstream. It is planned to dig out the monument and move it north to higher ground near the large meeting hall.

Work began on Aug. 29 on the new Burnham bridge, the first of the six bridges to be built across the Republican River in Cheyenne County.

Coach Hartman has 49 candidates for the football team. "Ack" Reinhold, Hank Overstake, Vernon Lockard, Don Boardman, Arnold Reasoner, Bob Cram, Lyle Miller, Clayton Gienger and "Pete" Danielson are the older ones back who show promise.

In a deal, which was closed

up this week, Dan Danielson stepped out as one of the partners in the Danielson store leaving only Deroey Danielson and his mother as sole owners.

A new textbook for use in teaching vocational agriculture is being compiled and written this year by two teachers in the St. Francis Community High School. Lorence Laird, mathematics instructor, and R.E. Cleland, who teaches vocation agriculture, are collaborating in assembling and writing the book.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkansan.com This is a little story about the importance of moderation.

I would be the last person in Cheyenne County to "dis" (for anyone over the age of 30, this means "disrespect") the kids of this area. As a group they are among some of the finest around. However, they can get a little carried away sometimes.

An example would be the Homecoming bonfire held in St. Francis last Wednesday eve-

ning. Here's how it normally goes: the seniors find an old, dry and well seasoned outhouse from the country. It is brought to the open dirt area north of Green Field. With a little gas to help get things going, the structure, with a few hidden fireworks, burns as the Indian cheerleaders get the crowd fired up.

This year the graduating class wasn't satisfied with one, but collected 11 outhouses. School

officials curtailed the final number to six.

So with fuel applied to the wooden condominium complex the mob gathered to witness the spectacle. I wasn't present when Nero played his fiddle as Rome burned, but I figure it probably had a similarity to this fire.

Luckily the St. Francis Volunteer Fire Department was present to extinguish the flames before the wind could carry embers to other parched places.

Again, this is not meant to discourage the Saintry seniors in anyway. But my hopes would be that they would learn from this experience and know "when to say when" to stacking their outhouses.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Arrilla Zimbelman, Farmington, Ark.; ErvaGene DeAragon, St. Francis; Monica Geocaris, Wilmette, Ill.; Frank Tiff, Longmont, Colo.; Pat Owens, St. Francis; Donna Jensen, Bird City; Ryan Shay, St. Francis; Kip Wiese, St. Francis; Willard Gienger, St. Francis; Judy Baxter, St. Francis; Terry Crites, Kirk, Colo.; Dorothy Orth, St. Francis; Eunice Burnham, San Antonio, Texas; Dan Stang, Derby; Lee Newell, Stillwell; Ana Brewer, St. Francis; Marta Walz, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Arlene Walz, St. Francis; Jana Wilhelm, Royal, Neb.; Neil McCumber, St. Francis;

Bonnie Gray, St. Francis; Dr. and Mrs. Tim Hoskins, Wichita; Phyllis Carrol, St. Francis; Stephen Busse, Bird City; Ronald Daniels, Great Bend.

GOD SAYS

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. I Peter 5:5-7

Constitution reading appreciated

To the Editor:

On Sept. 18, many cities across the nation had a public reading of the United States Constitution. St. Francis was no exception.

Although it was a cold, cloudy, damp day a small crowd gathered at the Sawhill Park band shell to hear the reading of this important, vital document. Kip Wiese emceed the event. Deonn and their daughter Candace wore brilliant patriotic red, white and blue jackets. Connie Jenkins' parents led patriotic singing and her father led the singing of the

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national anthem.

Highlight of the event was the reading of the Constitution by a group of Steve Jenkins' high school students. Stepping out of the pages of colonial history to end the observance was Bonnie Cram in her delightful period costume and enthusiastic comments.

In spite of the cold and dampness the Cheyenne County Republican Committee served ice cream

to those in attendance. Those who missed this event lost out on a rewarding experience and a touch with the forefathers' wisdom in planning for this great nation.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wiese, Bonnie Cram and others for bringing this event to life for our enjoyment.

In appreciation, Lee Nichols St. Francis

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



The sunset

margeb@cityofstfrancis.net

Last week Kurt and I went to Sherman county to plant the wheat. We took the trailer down so it would be easier to fix his meals and I wanted to be away from home.

It isn't like pitching a tent or sleeping under the stars, but it isn't home either with many channels on TV for Kurt and internet for me. Yet we enjoy it.

The night it started storming, he was watching the one channel we get on television and trying to enjoy it. I was reading a little and watching the lightning as it was striking in every direction when Kurt said, "Margaret, look at that beautiful sunset."

I thought to myself, the sun had set a couple of hours ago, but I looked out the window. It was a

beautiful glowing orange and yellow color. However it was growing wider by the second.

Instead of the sun it was a fire just a few miles from where we were parked.

Before long, we could see the blue and red lights on the fire trucks arriving and it wasn't long until Kurt's sunset went away.

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www.sfccfamily.com
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Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
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St. Francis Equity

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Praise the Lord