

Opinion

Constitution as relevant today as 235 years ago

An essay in *Time* magazine asks if our 235-year-ment granted excessive power. They gave us the old Constitution is relevant today.

There's nothing new in the question; it's been asked off and on for more than 200 years.

The framers of the Constitution, so the questioning logic goes, knew nothing of airplanes, telecommunications, cell phones, modern medicine. The list is endless.

A century ago, the telegraph. You get the pic-

Of course, times have changed. The Constitution, in great measure, has not. Oh, it's been amended – we banned, then restored the liquor trade, granted civil rights to all, limited presidents to two terms, but never specified "equal rights" for women.

Overall, the changes have been relatively mi-

Changes in technology don't outmode a system of government. The Constitution sets out an elegant solution to the need for a national government while protecting both the citizens and the individual states that joined to form the Union from that government's power.

If not the Constitution, with its republican system and its balance among three co-equal branches of government, how should we be governed?

By some socialist, liberal dictatorship where those who know best tell the rest of us how to live? Oh, that system has been tried, hasn't it?

By instant electronic democracy? Government by Facebook? Sounds dangerous, unstable.

The Founding Fathers may have known little of railroads, steamships or the telephone. They did know the value of the printing press, essentially the Internet of their day, and they knew hu-

They had fought to free the colonies from oppression by those across the sea who knew best, and understood the dangers of govern-

framework of a system that could endure many dangers, but they left out the most precious part our rights.

That omission was soon corrected by the addition of the first 10 Amendments, what we know as the Bill of Rights. And there, with a little tinkering, they gave us the most nearly perfect system of government known to man.

Today we look at the federal government and see that it's bloated, cumbersome, slow-moving, hard to deal with and still harder to change. Perhaps the problem isn't with the Constitution. Perhaps it's with the way it's interpreted and abused.

The framers never intended the government to be a tool for granting favors to big business interests or to social groups. They created a limited government, with limited powers and three branches to watch one another.

Time has, perhaps, corrupted that vision. It allowed the government to grow large, and at times, in its clumsy way, oppressive. Some say the system is no longer responsive to our needs. If that's the problem, though, it can be

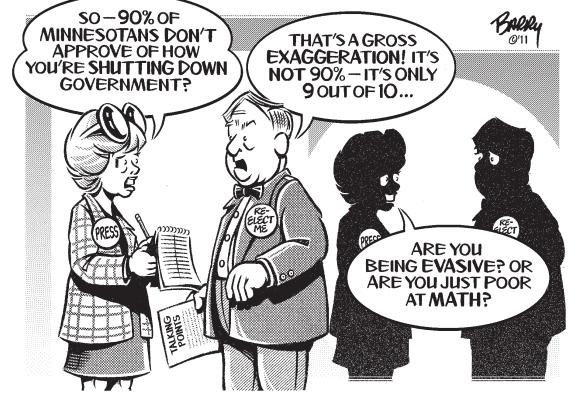
But the framework, the framework is as brilliant today as it was 200 years ago.

A new Constitution for the Internet era?

Can you imagine? If Congress wrote it today, instead of the spare and simple document we have, it'd run to thousands of pages, replete with earmarks for the politicians and tax breaks for corporations.

The First Amendment might be 45 pages, rather than 45 words, and mention each and every group that might claim a right or two.

Let's not take the chance. Let's keep the Constitution and dump those who want to subvert it. Steve Haynes



News From the Past

60 years ago - 1951

Construction bids for the first phase of development of public new Cheyenne County agent. recreation areas at Bonny Dam Reservoir are being received.

the International Associations of nor, C.W. McKee of Hays tonight at the grade school gym.

Service Board to report for physical exams. Included are Leonard John Kamla, Ned Dewayne McClain and Clifford C. Fischel.

Ridge area to K-27. Reports say at least 6 inches fell in a short time. There was a high wind and wheat and field crops.

ner attended Boys State in Wichita last week.

John C. Schlender of Moun- for 15 years was presented this champions.

30 years ago - 1981

Seventeen Northwest Kansas The new Lions Club of St. banks met at Riverside to discuss Francis will receive its Charter of problems connected with the continued use of counter checks Lion Clubs from District Gover- and the possibility of eliminating their use in the future. Many of the representatives want to do Six Cheyenne County men away with the counter checks have been called by the Selective and the St. Francis banks have set a tentative date of Sept. 1, 1981, for the termination of their use.

Steve Douthit was installed Felzien, Leon Arden Brethower, as the new president of the St. Dale Warren Adams, Robert John Francis Jaycees in a meeting held at Riverside Recreation. Randy Heavy rain storm floods Lawn Zweygardt is the outgoing presi-

The FFA Parent and Member Banquet was held April 23. hail which helped caused an un- Ben Leibbrandt, who has been determined amount of damage to the FFA advisor for the past 15 years announced his retirement at Leroy Felzien and Elmer Kell- the end of the school term. Alice Isernhagen, who has been preparing the meals for the FFA banquet Pa., with 626 other senior state

dridge arrived in the county last year's Honorary Chapter Farmer week to take up his duties as the Degree. Jerry White will be the new president for the 1981-82 school year.

15 years ago - 1991

Cheyenne County has a new county executive director at the Farm Service Agency office. Angie Bock arrived last week and will be taking the place of Kevin Ochs, who was the previous di-

Repairs to the courthouse, including roof and air conditioning, were among the business items discussed by the Cheyenne County Commissioners. There has been recent deterioration of the roof of the courthouse. Within a week's time, the roofing material had pulled away from the walls of the courthouse because of the extremely cold tempera-

Senior Bill Gabel, Kansas fourtime state champion, competed in the National High School Wrestling Tournament in Pittsburgh,

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

Whether it is the movie actress bouncing in-and-out of rehab or the star professional athlete who flect a very positive image.

Last week, former First Lady, She lived a very full life. At one early 1980s. point she even danced under the direction of Martha Graham.

life by any means. Gerald Ford Looking at most people in the was president from 1974 to 1977. public eye doesn't always leave At that time, Mrs. Ford kept hidthe best taste in one's mouth. den from most that she was fighting a long-running battle with alcoholism and prescription drugs.

With the help of her family, she is demanding more money or the overcame her addiction. But rathcrooked politician, they don't re- er than using her weakness in a when it happened to the wife of energy to help others. The Betty Betty Ford, died at the age of 93. Ford Center was established in the She also brought breast can-

cer to the forefront of Ameri- usually unusual these days. But she did not have a perfect can thought after her own mastec-



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tomy in 1974. In a later interview Mrs. Ford said that when other women have this operation, it doesn't make the headlines. But selfish way, she devoted time and the president, women realized it could happen to them.

"I'm sure I saved at least one person, maybe more."

That sort of character seems un-

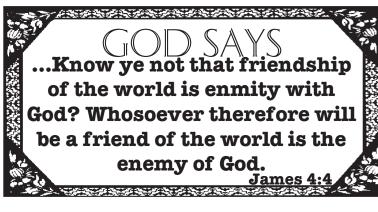
Honor Roll

Francis; Lee Roy Neitzel, St. Francis; Fred Waters, McDonald; Kay Manion, Logan; Goodland Public Library, Goodland; Charlie Nipps, St. Francis; Ervin Rogers St. Francis;, Jana LaBarge, St. Francis; Florece Peacock, St. Francis; Walter Douthit, St. Francis; Justin McAtee, Fruita, Colo.; Merlyn Sherlock, St. Francis; Janette Pledger, San Diego, Calif.,

Karolyn Wattenberg, Thornton, Colo.; Edmond Baker, Dothan, Ala.; Alan Russ, St. Francis; Cheyenne County Hospital, St. Francis; Lyle Williams, Emporia; Paulette Kempton, Surfside Beach, S.C., Betty Heitschmidt, Guymon, Okla.; Karen Engle, Madison; Larry Hartley, Mount Calm, Texas; Donna Moberly, Fort Collins,

New and renewed Herald sub- Colo., Don Krantz, McDonald; scriptions: Ilene O'Leary, St. Kari and Nate Toon, Hays; Paul Raile, Lakewood, Colo., Ilene Peterson, Bemidji, Minn., Robert Wilber, Montrose, Colo.; Gary Leach, Bird City; Steve Golden, Oakley; Gary Wickwar; St. Francis; Tye Faulkender, St. Francis;.

Barbara Ewing, St. Francis; Kenneth Deardoff, Peoria, Ariz.; Gene Dodd, St. Francis; Floyd Pettit, Benkelman, Neb.; Oscar Watson, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Leonard Richard, St. Francis; Mark Kamla, Haigler, Neb..



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Posturing among those elected **Letter to the Editor**

Well, it's about his debt ceiling deal, and other stuff. We are else has been forced to do? To How about the Department of seeing a lot of posturing among our elected employees in Wash-

"No tax increase," "no reduction in SS" ad nauseum. In the end, the debt ceiling will be raised, OFFSET by nebulous spending cuts, created largely by smoke and mirrors, which will take place over several decades when most of these flacks will be retired on bloated pensions or still swilling at the Public trough.

I wonder why the Federal Public sector can't do what everyone run their business better than they.

Wit: Across the board salary and benefit cuts. Mandated furlough days for ALL Federal employees. Elimination of Junkets and, in the extreme, no more free bottled wa-

How about elimination of whole agencies that serve no purpose?

In this day and age, do we need, for example, a Bureau of Indian Affairs? Most elected tribal council members are degreed, smart people. You can't convince me that a Government Agency can

Commerce? We can all think of a couple more.

Unemployment? Let's start by kicking out about 6 million illegals, and making their jobs available to legals. Go a step further and make people in those geographical areas who are drawing public funds, go to work. OOPS! Forgot about the self esteem thing.....

What ever happened to common sense, American pride, work

Chuck Kribs, Bird City



Sabbath School 9:30

Morning Worship 10:45

Solid Rock Baptist Church 412 S. Denison Welcomes You! **Pastor Allen Coon** Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Prayer Meeting, Wed

7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.m.

First Baptist Church 2nd & Scott • 332-3921 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

St. Francis **Community Church** 332-3150 204 N. Quincy Street www.sfccfamily.com **Pastor: David Butler** Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck & Communion -**Every 2nd Sunday** Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

202 N. College Pastor Glenn Isernhagen, Interim 332-2928 Worship 9:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC



St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald

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