

Closed-door meetings shouldn't have happened

Shawnee County prosecutor are snarling at been meeting behind closed doors. each other over charges that legislators may have violated the state's Open Meetings Act when they gathered last month at Cedar Crest to mingle with the governor and his staff.

Many Republicans have charged that District Attorney Chad Taylor, a Democrat, has a political motive in pursing the charge. In fact, it was the Topeka Capital Journal and the Kansas Press Association that filed the complaint. Mr. Taylor responded by opening an investigation, which is his duty.

House Speaker Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson barked that Mr. Taylor "should have gone through legislative leaders" to get information, rather than writing to all members of the House and Senate. The speaker, a lawyer, and a good one, should know better; a prosecutor has every right to look where he may for evidence of a violation.

Violation of the Open Meetings Act, while not a crime, is a serious matter. The law forbids public officials of all ranks from meeting behind closed doors to decide public business. Its basis is that the people have a right to know about state business.

The governor's office claims these meeting with legislators were strictly social affairs, and the members were cautioned not to discuss official business among themselves. The meeting involved Republican members of several key committees, who came together, presenting at

Leaders of the state Legislature and the least the appearance that a majority may have

The way things were set up, it's no wonder many were suspicious. Why, we wonder, were the press and public excluded from these "social" gatherings? If the purpose was to get together and get to know one another, why not invite a few of the statehouse reporters and others to come mingle as well?

The governor himself cannot be accused of violating the Open Meetings Act, since he is an elected individual state officer, and not a member of the Legislature. The appearance of undue secrecy cannot help him, however, and he and his staff must have anticipated that tongues would wag.

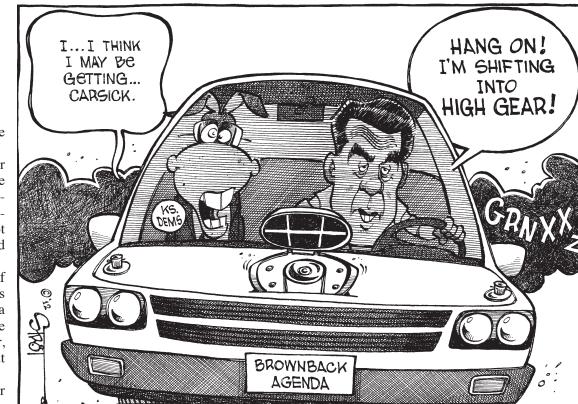
Inviting Democrats, now that's another

How much smarter the governor's office – and the legislative leadership – would have been to simply have avoided this trap and kept the meetings open. They were not, after all, conducting any important business.

"Social gatherings" held at a state facility with state money and state officials – there's a smell to that, and it isn't good. We doubt the investigation will turn up any serious wrong. But it never should have been necessary.

The governor, the leadership, the Legislature as a whole should set an example of openness for all public officials. It's what the voters and taxpayers expect and deserve.

- Steve Haynes



News From the Past

April 1905

The Curry Brothers, dealers of coal, flour and feed, offered all grades of flour constantly Pierces Favorite Prescription ty to his new one in Cheyenne. on hand and the best Colorado and Golden Medical Discov- In getting off the wagon, he coal. The ad noted that all kinds ery. All of the patents, which slipped and one wheel ran over of grain were taken in exchange regularly sold for \$1 were not his right leg causing a fracture. for flour.

The ad for J.F. Allen in Haigler said "Everything is cheaper at Allen's." "Why? Because we are selling for cash. The credit stores cannot meet our prices." They offered Paxton and Gallaghers Gas Roasted Coffee, 15 cents per pound.

Compound, McElrees Wine of evening while moving a load of Cardui, Kilmers Swamp Root, machinery from Thomas Coun-79 cents.

In the column of the "Bea-

The cold nights have put the barley back to the ground but

we hope it will start again. Ed Weaver is farming on his homestead this week. How does

batching go Ed?

ent medicines, Palne's Celery ful accident on last Saturday

Henry Weaver is bringing his new horse to a finish and he sure has a nice one.

The City Restaurant, owned by J.J. and M.E. Jantzen, was serving warm meals at regular hours; short orders at all hours. They also sold sweet cider, confectionery, cigars, nuts, tobacco

Margaret

Bucholtz

Casey's Comments -

You never know what might be was named after? under that unturned rock.

My dad, the original Joe Mc-Cormick, was a member of what has become known as "The Greatest Generation" of Americans. Although he entered service late in World War II, being born in 1927, he was always proud of his time in the U.S. Navy.

Pop was on a couple different ships during the war, but the one of 1916, Swenson saw duty as I heard most of growing up was an officer on both ships and subthe destroyer, D.D. 729 Lyman K. marines during the World War I, Swenson. But there was a question I never got a chance to ask my old man. Who was the person the ship

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Through the power of the Internet I soon found an answer.

Like so many who have come to our nation's call, Lyman Knute Swensen grew up in a small community called Pleasant Grove, Utah. A clerical error upon entering the Naval Academy changed him forever from a "sen" to a "son." Graduating with the class remaining with the Navy into the World War II.

When our men were trying to was in command of the light cruiser, U.S.S. Juneau.

The ship earned distinction in several combat appearances, however she took heavy damage while protecting the Marines during the she and two other ships were limping back to friendly waters for re-

McCormick mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

Casey

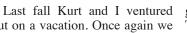
pairs she was struck by two torpedoes from the Japanese sub I-26. Before the crew had time to react the cruiser was below the surface.

Captain Swenson wasn't the only notable sailor to perish with the Juneau. Five boys from Waterloo, Iowa, were serving under him. The Sullivan brothers were among the 685 Americans who lost their lives with the sinking of the Juneau on Nov. 13, 1942.

A movie, The Fighting Sulturn the tide in the Pacific Theater, livans, was made to honor the using both land and sea attacks brother's sacrifice and the Sole in conjunction, Captain Swenson Survivor Policy was implemented having to endure a similar loss in the future. A reference to the brothers was made in the movie Saving Private Ryan, also.

This goes to prove that as long Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. As as we keep turning over rocks, interesting things are out there to learn.





out on a vacation. Once again we enjoyed the beautiful scenery and seeing some of our families. Kurt and I like traveling togeth-

er and it is amazing as on both

East and West coast trips the radio

is seldom on and we do a lot of talking. I don't even sleep while we travel and that is rare.

some of the places our families trips that we ever took them to a have lived. Molly, our dog, is a good little

I had my heart set on we couldn't state of Wyoming, with the kids, quite or they could walk.

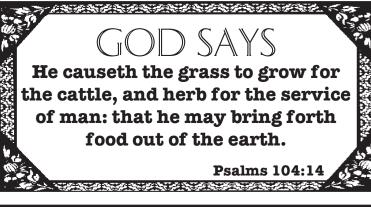
go as we didn't have a dog sitter. That was the island where the Alcatraz prison is. We could see it from the Golden Gate Bridge but we knew we couldn't leave Molly alone in the pickup for that long.

One night we stopped at a dog playground. When we sent a picture back to our kids with Kurt and Molly playing. It wasn't long Kurt is so good and allows time until we got a response from one for my genealogy along the way of the boys saying he couldn't replayground.

I reminded them of the way traveler and it is nice having her they acted on the trips. One of the with us. However one of the places worst trips was going through the and told them they could either be

when all of a sudden the people in the pickup ahead of us threw their dog out the window.

Yes, they were moving and the dog came sailing by our car and bounced off the highway. It got up and started chasing after the pickup that had thrown him out. At that point one of my dear sweet little boys told their sister that that was by the military to avoid families and he says he even enjoys seeing member when we took them on how we got her. Someone threw her out the window and Mom picked her up. Of course she cried and the boys laughed and the fight was on. Finally we stopped the car





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