

Postal reform bill could hurt service even more

Taking another tack to revive the moribund U.S. Postal Service, a House committee and majority Republicans have turned down yet another dead-end street.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform passed, on a 19-13 party-line vote, a postal "reform" bill that could hurt the service at least as much as it would help.

Its principal feature would be to end door-to-door delivery of mail in favor of either curbside mailboxes for everyone or cluster boxes at the end of a block. The committee, chaired by Darrell Issa of California, estimated the savings at \$2 billion or more a year compared to postal losses of \$1.9 billion in the last three months.

Much of the \$7.5 to \$8 billion loss is accounted for by a mistake Congress made in 2006, requiring the service to prepay retirement contributions to the federal treasury. This burden — something no other federal agency has to do — threatens to sink the postal system, but Congress refuses to remove it — because the money goes to help reduce the federal deficit.

Things actually are looking up a little lately. Postal revenue was up 2.3 percent last year, the Associated Press reports, and the package business is bright, with the service competing fiercely — and successfully — against express giants UPS and FedEx.

Ending home delivery might, on the surface, offer the service a chance to recoup at least some of its losses. However, Chairman Issa's math doesn't stand up to analysis.

First of all, he's talking about converting something like 1 percent of postal customers a year to street or neighborhood delivery. It's no secret that the Postal Service is nearly out of

cash; it might not last two more years, let alone 100.

Then there's the possibility that this radical shift might drive off more business than it saves in costs. Customers may well be offended by having to walk to the curb — or to the corner — to get their mail.

And while Rep. Issa touts the cluster boxes, each with its own lock or combination, just like a postoffice box, as a safe place to leave mail, who will protect people in rough city neighborhoods who have to carry valuable packages home? Especially the old or infirm.

And remember, with First-Class Mail in a tails핀, the service depends more and more on advertising mail and packages. But businesses value home delivery of their ads. Mail-order houses might well switch back to services that do deliver to the door.

Why Mr. Issa wants to give the service something it neither needs nor wants is beyond our grasp. We'd like to ask why he's not fixing the obvious problems, especially the huge pension prepayment.

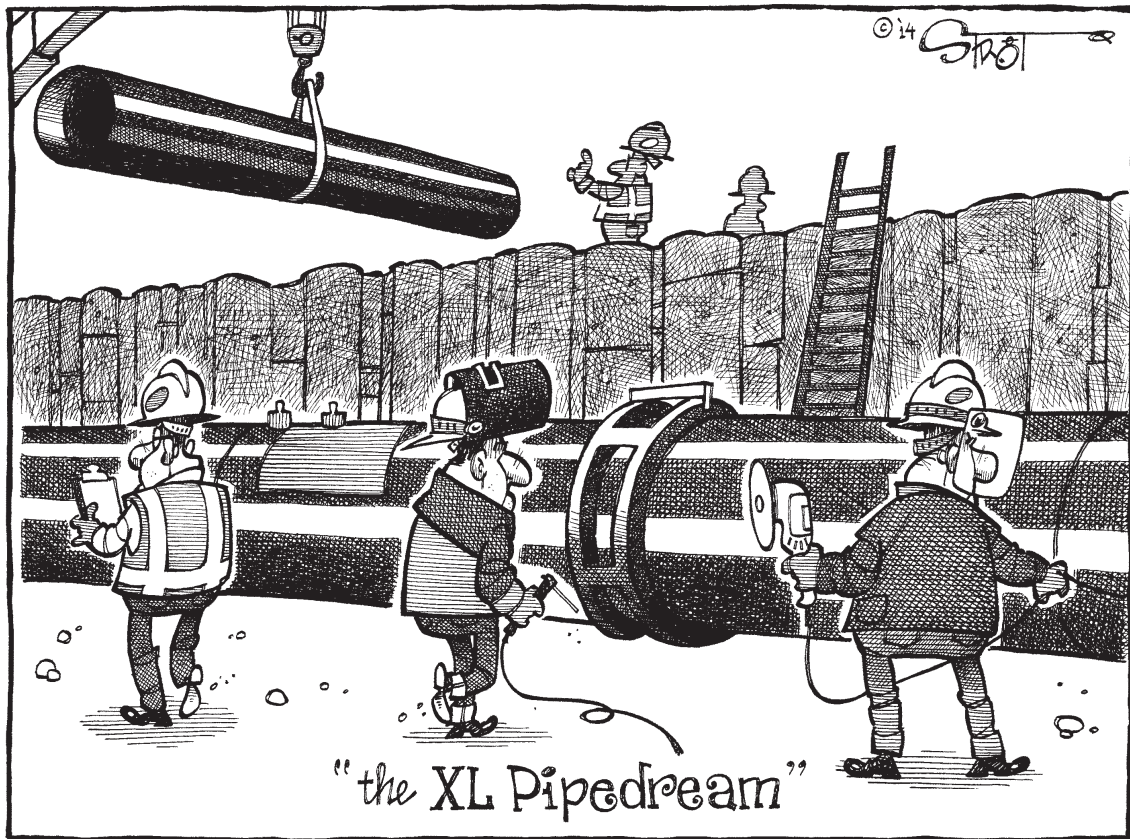
We think Fredric Rolando, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, summed it up well:

"Lawmakers should fix what they broke, not break what's working."

But with the Republicans in charge in the House and the Democrats in the Senate, Congress has been unable to pass any postal bill at all the last few years.

Why not try a little common sense and compromise before the whole thing collapses?

Naw, not in an election year. — Steve Haynes



Reader questions theater event

Dear Editor,
I Love mystery's.
The Jungle Gym lite fell at Theater!
The counter was broken!
Was someone hanging from it?
Was anyone hurt?
Why did the Ambulance come?
Was there a Police report?
City Insurance Have to pay?
Light probably not installed correctly to have someone hang on!

Theaters FAULT!
Theater Board had Exec. Ses-

sion with city council — Secret?
If someone was hanging from it, does Insurance have to pay, or person's Parents?
Who pays Ambulance?
Can the light be hung back, or will we get some new modern thing that looks out of place in our theater?
Maybe the Culprit is on the NO Touch list that our City don't

Have!
Probably just charge it all to Taxpayers so Insurance rates don't go up!
Looks like a Cover up — Well Obama gets away with it — Why Not?
I Love A Mystery — specially at a Theater!!!!!!
Larry B. Wilson

Letter to Editor

Casey's Comments



By Casey McCormick
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Shining shoes

By Casey McCormick
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Do people still get their shoes polished or do they just buy new ones these days?

I always enjoyed Johnny Cash's tune, "Get Rhythm." It tells of a little shoe-shine boy who never gets low down, but just pops his rag as he works along with a song.

I wish I would have known that tune as a young lad. One of my

chores was to shine my father's street shoes. Dad was a business man in Denver, along with being a former sailor in the U.S. Navy, so clean bright shoes were a must each day. He paid me 25 cents a shoe, which was enough to buy a pop, candy bar or pack of football cards at the closest convenience store.

Back then I had no idea what a useful experience it was, as today

the old shoe shine kit, with Kiwi polish, rag and brush, are still pulled out to do my own shoes.
So back to my question, do other folks shine their own shoes anymore? Or do they have a little helper around who's chore it is? Or, when they get dull, it's time to go street shoe shopping?

Lines From The Library

By Pat Leibbrandt
The following new books have arrived at the library:

A BRIDE FOR NOAH-By Lori Copeland; THE LAST BRIDE-By Beverly Lewis; RAINY DAY DREAMS-By Lori Copeland; UNLUCKY 13-By James Patterson; DESERVES TO DIE-By Lisa Jackson; PEOPLE OF THE MORNING STAR-By Michael W. Gear; A SENSIBLE ARRANGEMENT-By Tracie Patterson; UNSEEN-By Karin Slaughter; BURIED-By Kate Watterson; INTO THE DREAMING-By Karen Marie Moning; STYXX-By Sherrilyn

Kenyon; THE DISCIPLE-By Stephen Coonts; DIVERGENT-By Veronica Roth; INSURGENT-By Veronica Roth; ALLEGIANT-By Veronica Roth; THE TARGET-By David Baldacci; THE CHASE-By Janet Evanovich.

We have the following new books in the children's department:

CURIOUS GEORGE SAVES HIS PENNIES-By H.A. Rey; CURIOUS GEORGE MAKES MAPLE SYRUP-By H.A. Rey; RUBY GETS CRAFTY; SPORTY BUNNY TALES; DORA IN WONDERLAND-By Mary Tillworth; TEA

PARTY IN WONDERLAND-By Delphine Finnegan; PONY PARTY-By Cathy Hapka; BLUE RIBBON DAY-By Cathy Hapka; ALVIN GETS AN A-By Kirsten Meyer; ANNA'S BEST FRIENDS-By Christy Webster; THE LITTLEST ANGEL-By Charles Tozwell; THE EXTREME TEAM: SKATEBOARD MOVES-By Matt Christopher; FANCY NANCY: JUST MY LUCK!-By Jane O'Connor; CHARLIE'S NEW FRIEND-By Ree Drummond; PINKALICIOUS AND THE PERFECT PRESENT-By Victoria Kann.

The Gardener

Spinach is for more than Popeye



By Kay Melia
vkmelia@yahoo.com

Memorial Day has always been special to me, not only because of what it means in terms of remembering, but as a gardener, it seems to usher in the summer season. And it's time to do some serious gardening!

I picked a lot of fresh spinach the other day, and delivered it to a neighbor. Their reaction was one of pure pleasure and you might have thought they won the lottery!

I can certainly understand that. A fresh spinach salad is close to the top of the list as far as true garden produce is concerned. Only

a bacon-tomato sandwich rates higher with me.

My history of growing spinach is relatively short. My parents, out there on that dusty old farm, grew only a very short row of it because in those days, eating spinach raw was a bit of an unknown treat. My mother canned a few jars, but generally speaking, nobody in the family really cared about that dark green slimy cooled stuff. "Eat your spinach or you'll never have strong muscles like Popeye" was the parental plea. We preferred the wild growing weed called Lambs Quarter as opposed to spinach.

But we planted lots of leaf lettuce, and my mother would slather it with bacon drippings and it was called "wilted lettuce." I can remember a big bowl of it for dinner in the harvest field, along with plenty of fried chicken. It was absolutely delicious and was about the extent of our summer salad menu.

My neighbor said that the spinach salad she enjoys today is made similarly. Tear up a few spinach leaves and fry a little bacon. Crum-

ble the bacon on top of the spinach after the hot drippings and the result is wonderful. Another neighborhood favorite is to dress the spinach with poppy seed dressing and thinly slice some strawberries into it. Strawberries and fresh spinach are known to work well together, particularly in a fresh salad.

The really good news about raw spinach is that it is at the top in nutritional value. It especially valuable because of its content of dietary fiber. It is extremely low in saturated fat, and name just about any vitamin, and raw spinach tops the list. The only downer is that it is high in sodium content.

Fresh spinach is often referred to as "the world's healthiest food" and those of us who enjoy it would surely agree, except that garden fresh broccoli rates very high, as do carrots, or how about fresh tomatoes, cabbage, sweet corn, zucchini, or any other product grown in the backyard garden.

Summer is upon us. Be sure you have a nice sharp hoe and plenty o jar lids!

GOD SAYS

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:1-2

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