

Congress can't pass a bill to reorganize intelligence

It seems hard to believe, in the wake of the Sept. 11 commission report and the intelligence fiasco leading up to the Iraq war, that Congress can't pass a bill to reorganize our national intelligence agencies.

Fighting over control of military intelligence has kept the bill from a floor vote in the House, though it passed the Senate with almost no opposition.

But the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Duncan Hunter, wants it changed to guarantee that information from military sources and satellites goes directly to battlefield commanders.

The bill, following recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission, would create a new national director to oversee all intelligence activities.

Of course, that's the same reason Congress gave us a director of Central Intelligence in the 1950s. Since then, though, the information-gathering business has fragmented, split among operations people and analysts at the CIA, the Pentagon and the individual services, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the electronic snoops at the National Security Agency.

With so many spies, it's hard for them to keep track of what they are doing, let alone what future and current enemies are up to.

Our guess is that Congress will pass the bill this week before it goes home for good, because something has got to be done. It's simply unacceptable that our entire intelligence network could have been so wrong about something so basic as Iraq's "weapons of mass destruction."

What happens will have to be more than just a reorganization, though. The new intelligence chief will have to pick people to run his agencies who will focus on the job, and not on their jobs.

Nothing is more critical to national policy than knowing what is going on out in the real world. Electronic snooping is great, but most of what it brings in is confusing chatter. Reports from spies and observers in the field are vital, but someone has to comb them for the thread of the truth.

Intelligence just can't be filtered through political vision. That's dangerous.

This is no easy job. We consolidated the field once, and it didn't take. But we have to do better.

The toll we paid for being unprepared for the Sept. 11 attacks was heavy. The price we've paid in Iraq is less, but the obvious danger of being so wrong about such a critical issue is undeniable.

There's no doubt our intelligence system is broken. But it will take not just a new law, but bold new leadership to fix it. Victory in Congress will be half the battle.

Somewhere, President Bush has got to find a top spy who knows how to run operations around the globe, read their reports and figure out what they all mean.

He and his people will have to navigate the slippery political slopes of Washington, deal with the Pentagon, its generals and admirals, and foster trust in Congress.

And they'll have to be right more than they're wrong.

It's no small task, but it's vital to our future as a nation.

— Steve Haynes



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News From the Past

10 years ago - 1994

The city has a new police car. It is a 1993 Crown Victoria Ford highway patrol car used by Terry Rieger, state patrolman.

At the Board of Education meeting, Shirley Swihart was hired to fill the position of elementary library aide.

Athletes earning league post-season football or volleyball honors include Jenny Cassidy, Sara Schultz, Andy Poling, Chris Blanchard, Brad Faylor, Chad Douthit, Ryan Pittman, Derek Crabtree, John Raile, Bill Gabel, Ryan McAtee, Kris Doyle and Kendall Day.

Many loads of scrap metal have been crushed and hauled away as part of a clean-up effort in Cheyenne County.

40 years ago - 1964

County election winners include: Ena Zimelman, Clerk of Court; Bill Wellman, Commissioner, District 2; Ben Andrist, Commissioner, District 3; Representative 107th District: Robert Cram.

A special Halloween pageant was presented at halftime of the football game by the St. Francis high school band assisted by the Junior Girl Scouts of Troop 124.

Junior Scouts included: Carol Wolters, Shana Winston, Jan Schultz, Jeanette Rose, Peggy Richards, Patricia Passell, Janet Lippert, Kathy Kramer, Charlotte Henderson, Iva Harper, Kristin Hale, Cindy Frewen, Claudia Cram, Kristi Cook and Ruth Canniff.

Karen DeGood is the 1964 winner of the State 4-H Leadership award. She is a member of the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club.

Eleven seniors played their last football game for the Indians. They are Larry Carroll, Lyle Cook, Dwen DeGood, Ed Dankenbring, Royce Schield, Gary Neitzel, Steve Sherlock, Kenny Caywood, Jim Worley, Roger Wiecek and Cliff Raile.

Hangin' With Marge

Choosing Your Falling Place

By Margaret Bucholtz



I have not been a person who has ever fallen down a lot, but the few times I have they weren't in a place that didn't bring attention.

The first time I embarrassed myself with falling was when I was going to beauty school in McCook, and a group of us were hurrying across Main Street to get to school on time.

We had all been at the coffee shop having a donut and we had lost track of time. As I crossed the busy street and stepped upon the curb my ankle twisted and down I went. I jumped up so no one would notice, but as I

stepped on my foot the pain hit and I fainted. When I came to, I looked up and it seemed to me there must have been at least a 100 people looking over me. I heard one of them ask if I was dead and it was then I decided just to lay there with my eyes closed and hopefully the world would go away.

Of course I had to eventually get up and face the crowd, but I wasn't sure which hurt most, my ankle or my pride.

Years later, my daughter stopped by to talk to me while I was at work so she and I walked to the post office together. I had picked up a couple of rather large boxes and we were walking back, talking a mile a minute. As I stepped off the curb, right by the post office, my ankle twisted once again and down I went. The boxes scattered along with the mail and there I laid in the gutter.

Recalling how I had fainted the last time I didn't want to just jump up and faint again so I laid there for a little bit. Naturally this happened at the busy time for people to get the mail and once again in my life, people were looking. My daughter, being the caring kind, kept tapping me very lightly, but several times, with her shoe and saying, "Mom, get up! People are looking at you."

As the dizzy spell was going away, I kind of looked around and sure enough she was right, people were looking. All of the people in their cars in front of the post office, were unwilling to back out until they knew who the lady was laying in the gutter. This caused other people to have to drive around the block several times looking for a place to park so they could get their mail. It even seemed that cars were piling up at all four intersections while they were just looking at the lady who was in a heap, in the gutter.

One man asked if I needed the ambulance, which I told him "No," but all the time I was telling him no, I was really thinking "how many men would it take just to lift my body out of this gutter?" and I really didn't want to know the answer to that question. That's when the thought of a diet in the near future even crossed my mind.

Finally someone called my sweet husband and he came to the rescue and got me loaded up and took me to the hospital.

Now instead of stepping off the curb I tend to use the wheelchair ramps. Surely I can't fall off of them!

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Martin Busse, Bird City; Billy Slyhoff, Montrose, Colo.; Roger Brenner, Kirk, Colo.; Esther Semler, St. Francis; Royce Cook, St. Francis; Scott Beims, Atwood; Wendell Kite, Junction City; Vera Fortmeyer, Wichita; Joshua Schultz, Lakewood, Colo.; Jessica Schultz, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Nathan Fiala, Hays; Eric Fiala, St. Francis; Tony Vandike, Bird City; Stephen Busse, Bird City;

Dan Knorr, Olathe; Ilene O'Leary, St. Francis; Tennille Lee, St. Francis; Leon Merklin, St. Francis; Gwen Jacobs, Greeley, Colo.; David Nicklos, St. Francis; Ed Kite, Eudora; Carl Frodine, Wheat Ridge, Colo.; Harvey Holzwarth, St. Francis; Ruby Garard, Lebo; Jerry Waters, Bethesada, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. Don Orden, Bird City; Gene Mears, McDonald

W.C. Boyson, Bird City; Joan Banister, McDonald; Roger Douthit, St. Francis; Rod Johnson, McDonald; Kenneth Potthoff, St. Francis; Bill Ehrman, St. Francis.

GOD SAYS

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:28

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This Is The Place

Cheyenne County Development Corporation
Carol Redding, Coordinator

I have a dream. . . .oops — that line's already been used. Catchy, though, don't you think? There can be more than one dream. Mine goes something like this: Cheyenne County becomes a magnet county for progressive-minded, energetic, long-term residents who build businesses, promote education and health care, and preserve our environment.

See, I don't want much, do I? Let's add that everyone loves their neighbors and smiles lots. After all, it is Christmas time, so let's dream big while we're at it.

Actually, one idea that really could happen — Cheyenne County becomes the center of agritourism training and entrepreneurialism because we're so successful. Or that we become the model of rural communities because we have the highest rate of returning young people

after they've gotten further education.

These ideas really can happen. We'll need to work together, but we already have the basics for success right now.

Let's talk about your ideas. The office in the courthouse is open most mornings 8 to noon, Monday through Friday. Or give me a call at (785) 332-3508 or (888) 725-2444. I look forward to visiting with all of you.

Worship Warms the Heart

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Pastor Tony Christians
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jim Martin
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

Wesleyan Church
Hwy 36 • 734-2727
Pastor Scott Baker
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Assembly of God
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
208 E. 2nd
Rev. Rob Meyer
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
332-2928 Pars. 332-2308
Pastor David Rossbach
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150 • 216 W. Washington
Pastor: Richard Garcia
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis Equity

Knodel Funeral Home
202 S. Benton • St. Francis
785-332-3131

First National Bank
Member FDIC