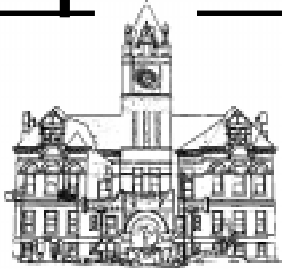


Opinion



Other Viewpoints

State's emergency fund is off limits

The Manhattan Mercury

...A \$426 million gap between money the state has and money the state needs isn't cause for cheer.

That gap also isn't cause for desperation, however, and doesn't justify tapping the state's emergency fund...

Spending the state's emergency money now is neither wise nor necessary.

It's unwise because that one-time solution would only make the state more vulnerable to real emergencies ...

The chief function of siphoning money from the state's emergency fund ... is that it would allow them to avoid even modest tax increases during an election year.

Lawmakers seem loathe to acknowledge that the tax cuts of the late 1990s ... are a good part of the reason the state's in this fix. Lawmakers also refuse to acknowledge that reinstating just some of those taxes is reasonable as part of the solution ...

In their effort to avoid being associated with taxes, lawmakers are contemplating unconscionable cuts in a variety of programs and services ... Our fear is that tapping emergency funds will bring the state closer to an emergency and that excessive budget cuts will make the Legislature's cure worse than the state's ailment.

Editorials under the *Other Viewpoints* heading are shared by a variety of Kansas newspapers. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Colby Free Press.



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Interesting session assured

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Week one, of the expected 13-week 2002 legislative session, activity leads me to believe that this may be the most interesting session of the last ten years. During the good financial times of the 90s programs, services and growth were easy to manage. Now, with a seriously eroded economy and not enough money to "pay the bills," we find ourselves making hard decisions.



Jim Morrison
● **Capitol Review**

I absolutely do not support a tax increase. I voted against the final budget for this fiscal year last session because of the proposed expenditures involving an underground parking lot at the Capitol Building as well as many other "unexplained" expenditures. Kansas has been developing budgets based on growing income for at least the last ten years. Budgets must be based on actual income, not speculations. Thus a problem arises.

If I vote against any increase in statewide taxes such as sales, fuel, or income taxes the State will not be able to make promised payments to local units of government. County demand transfers will not be as much as in past years and may even be cut. Programs

to continue current levels of assistance to the elderly, disadvantaged and people in crisis will need reductions. Meals on wheels may have to be discontinued. Schools may lose considerable funding on a per pupil basis.

In other words, voting AGAINST Statewide tax increases MAY translate to considerable increases in LOCAL taxes. So, if I do not vote for increased statewide taxes you will (not may) experience considerable increases in local taxes.

A one-quarter-cent increase in the State sales tax should allow the state to fund the full demand trans-

fers to counties. That would prevent a local tax increase for my district.

It is also interesting to note that Johnson County and Sedgwick County would pay 44 percent of a statewide sales tax.

We would see an INCREASE in funding from the state with an increase in sales taxes statewide.

Making a long story shorter, it well may be that I have to vote for an increase in state taxes to prevent massive local tax increases and to support educational needs.

Stay tuned and please understand that I will do the best I can to make sure that my district is fairly treated and we make most efficient use of tax money as possible.

Thanks you very much for your support. Contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Use the regular e-mail address of jmorrison@ink.org if you desire to use e-mail to contact me.

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Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company

Exactly a century ago, the restless ghost of Pierre L'Enfant began to stir in the capital he had envisioned as a sweep of broad avenues, green parks and spraying fountains.

L'Enfant's city plan was rediscovered by a new generation of architects who saw how a work of 18th century city planning could be adapted to meet the capital's 20th century needs.

On Jan. 15, 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt brought his family to the Corcoran Gallery near the White House to view a dazzling display of before-and-after models and 179 drawings of a city of the future.

The models and drawings illustrated a unified and grander place, one viewed by its promoters as worthy of a nation emerging as a world power.

The new plan was issued by the architects of the McMillan Commission, named for its sponsor, Sen. James McMillan, a Michigan Republican and railroad executive who was chairman of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia.

Soon, influential Washingtonians were enthusiastically absorbing details of proposals by four of America's leading designers: architects Daniel Burnham and Charles McKim, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens.

The map L'Enfant drew in 1791 became their blueprint for a reinvented city's monumental core. Washington, the planners said, should be treated as "a work of civic art."

The architects were energized by the "City Beautiful" ideas that had sprung from the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

Preparing to refine those ideas for Washington, they spent several weeks in 1901 viewing the monuments of Paris, Versailles, Rome, Venice, Vienna,

Lawrence L. Knutson

● Washington Yesterday

Budapest, London and Oxford.

All of this would have been heady stuff for L'Enfant. Headstrong and hot-tempered, he was fired by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson in 1792 after only a year on the job. He spent the rest of his life bitterly dunning Congress for the pay he insisted was owed him.

But that single year had been a foundation stone. And the city slowly struggled out of the dust and the mud along the streets and avenues L'Enfant had laid out. By 1900, the 100th anniversary of the federal government's move to the new capital, Washington was sleepy and disheveled. Railroad tracks and train sheds cut across L'Enfant's great Mall, which had become a series of unrelated parks, not the grand vista the French engineer had hoped for.

The McMillan Commission plan restored L'Enfant's hopes.

Discussing it last week in a centennial lecture at the National Building Museum, historian Jon A. Peterson ranked the commission's 1902 report with "the most significant urban plans in American history."

The McMillan plan is universally recognized for "public idealism, its consummate artistry and professionalism," said Peterson, an associate professor and authority on city planning at Queens College of the City University of New York.

The reinventing of Washington

The plan went to the heart of the matter with a spectacular design for the city's ceremonial center. It expelled the clutter that had accumulated over the previous century and put the Mall on parade as a tree-lined greensward extending 2 1/2 miles west from the foot of Capitol Hill.

Gone were railroads and a jumble of parks, grounds and red brick Victorian buildings.

"In their place, a unified green space controlled the scene accented by gardens, waterbasins and monuments and flanked by rows of trees in front of new Beaux Arts buildings with everything located in concert rather than by happenstance," Peterson said.

Other elements of the plan called for a new Union Station to consolidate rail lines away from the Mall, an extensive park system with room for playing fields, a memorial to Abraham Lincoln, new parkways, a memorial bridge across the Potomac River, a redesigned Arlington National Cemetery and much more. All came to be.

"No American city had ever contemplated anything like it," Peterson said. "It was, in fact, a new and comprehensive vision of the capital and the nation."

So enthusiastic were its supporters that in 1909 L'Enfant's remains were removed from an obscure Maryland grave and installed with honors on the hill at Arlington Cemetery overlooking the Potomac and the city he had designed.

The McMillan Commission ended its work by reporting its plan had cost three times the money allowed by its small budget.

"Worth every cent, then and now," Peterson said.

Lawrence L. Knutson has covered the White House, Congress and Washington's history for 34 years.

Doonesbury

● Gary Trudeau

