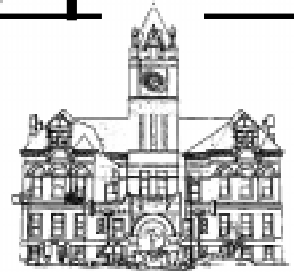


Opinion



Guest
Viewpoint

U.S. Senate sells out workaday families

Never have so few sold out so many for so little.

Sixty-six U.S. senators—including 25 Democrats—have recently caved in to big corporate lobbyists to sell out hundreds of thousands of American workers and their families. The vote was on the issue of “Fast Track,” a pernicious legislative process that hands the president autocratic authority to negotiate one-sided trade deals giving huge new powers to global corporations, and then forbids Congress from amending these deals to correct flaws.

As we have learned the hard way from North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), these trade deals are fraught with flaws, resulting in massive job losses here and abroad, gross environmental abuses, and even a loss of our people’s right to make our own laws.

But instead of standing with We the People, a majority of senators have cashed us in to the global corporate powers, even though their vote meant that the senators were meekly surrendering their own legislative authority (and responsibility) to the executive branch.

The saddest players were the senate’s Democratic leaders, for they pretended to be protecting us regular Janes and Joes, even while selling us out. They offered several amendments to put a little balm on the gaping wound of job losses that they admit will come from future trade deals, even while they allowed the fast-track railroad process itself to be approved.

The Democrats won only one of these amendments—a provision to extend some temporary and partial health insurance to U.S. workers who’ll now be fired by their globe-hopping employers as a result of fast-tracked trade deals.

Tom Daschle, the Democratic leader of the Senate, lamely shrugged and said, “I’m disappointed that we couldn’t do more, but . . . we’ve got to move on.” Yeah, Tom, but unlike the families you gave up on, you’ll move on with a high-paying job, plus lifetime pension and Cadillac health coverage.

If the meek ever inherit the earth, the Daschle Democrats are going to be land barons.

— by radio talk-show host and author Jim Hightower, who is a former agricultural commissioner of Texas. He can be contacted at 866-271-4900.

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Nor’West Newspapers
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Ken Weishaar in spotlight in big way

LET’S hear it for one of our own young people! Ken Weishaar, RT, son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Weishaar of Colby, was the focus of a full page advertisement in The Salina Journal, Wednesday, July 24. Ken takes up most of the page as his picture extends from the top to the bottom of the ad. He is a radiology tech at Salina Regional Health Center and of course the advertisement was placed by the center. Good picture. It appears on page C4 in case you have a Journal or want to get a hold of one. When you look at that ad, Ken is looking right into your eyes. I’m sure it made his parents and siblings proud, and everyone who knows the family...and that’s a lot of people.

HERE comes still another lawsuit. This time against fast food places by some people who claim those places ruined their health. Come on, get real! It’s a no-brainer that when you eat at America’s favorite fast food places what you put into your body might not be the best choice, but it is what you choose to eat. They are claiming, but not saying, addiction. They got hooked on the food at the fast food joints and can’t let go, so they say. Hmmm, where have we heard that before! I smoked, until in the 1960s I finally came to the realization that this ain’t good for anybody—so I threw them away, forever. It was tough but I did it. And I didn’t sue anybody. I eat at fast food places—not all that often but at times I cheat—and I’m not suing them. They didn’t race to the parking lot, gun in hand, and force into their restaurants. Choice, that’s what it’s called. Who is next and for what silly cause? We must realize that we, and we alone, are responsible for our own well being. And lawyers shouldn’t get too smug because I can see a lawsuit in this silly sue-sue society where someone will sue a lawyer for representing someone who is suing him or her. Sound silly? About as silly as the fast food junkies’ lawsuit. They ought to just zip the lip, sit down...and finish their french fries.

WELL, folks, now it’s Thomas County Fairtime. We’ve had some pre-fair activities going on the past week or so, but beginning Monday the focus shifts to the fairgrounds. And it’ll be that way through next Saturday, Aug. 3. Today’s 16-page fair section pretty much details the fair’s fare from Monday’s opening to Saturday’s closing. Keep that section handy. We’ll again be in our booth to visit with you and let you go through some really old, old photos (they’ve been



Tom Dreiling

• My Turn

in the basement of the office for years). That’ll be a treat. Stop by.

WHO is #1? The cable news channels, those 24-hour babblers, continue tagging themselves as #1. Hey Fox, MSNBC and CNN—you can’t all three be #1. One bills itself as “America’s News Channel,” whatever that means, and one bills itself as “Fair and Balanced Reporting,” whatever that means. The other one more or less gives the impression they are the news leaders, the reliable bunch. I haven’t determined which is best. Now that Donahue is back, I pretty much flip by that channel (never liked him), can’t put up with Connie Chung and Bill O’Reilly at times drives me under the couch. But I watch him. I try to be fair and balanced by watching other channels, too. I like sitcoms, the History Channel, HGTV (Home & Garden network), Smoky Hills Public Television ... and a few others. Movies are fine, but I can take them or leave them. Yes, I also like the animal channel, watching veterinarians treat pets and also the fellow who pulls in crocodiles and other less than friendly creatures. Sometimes I catch these programs out of the corner of my eye as I read, which I do a lot of.

EVER notice how depressed the liberal media become when they report polls that show President Bush continues to maintain solid numbers in the favorable category? They still haven’t accepted the fact he is president. And my party of Democrats better get off the Al Gore kick and find a new face two years hence if they want any chance of beating the Texan. Tom Daschle and Dick Gephardt are old, worn out faces and do not represent the best interest of the party, nor the country.

I WAS watching a program on sleep disorders Thursday night and it all came down to this conclusion: “If you need an alarm clock to wake you up you are not getting enough sleep.” Period. Never gave that

any thought, but now as I reflect on that comment I can see what they are saying. I am always awake before my clock goes off. Must be getting enough sleep. It’s rare that I depend on the alarm to get me started for the day. There’s something to that.

HAPPY Birthday to...

July 26 — Andrew Goossen, Paula Bixenman

July 27 — Melinda Enfield, Marge Mowry, Dan

Denneker, Jamie Cox

July 28 — Steve Shepard, Casey Quagliano

July 29 — David Stueve, Brock Wagoner

July 30 — Josh Miller, Scott Lindberg, (twins)

Phillip Hillis/Ashley Hillis

HAPPY Anniversary to...

July 26 — Chris & Sherry Mead

July 27 — Jeff & Amy Jo Nelson

Congratulations!

Call us at 462-3963 or e-mail td@nwkansans.com

to have your special day mentioned as our gift to you. You can also sign the *Birthday/Anniversary Book* at our booth at next week’s Thomas County Fair. Please keep us advised of any changes (including deaths). We need your help to keep this record accurate. Many Thanks!

MORE Eternal Truths:

✓If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.

✓My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.

✓For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.

✓Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

✓Junk is something you’ve kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.

✓Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

✓By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.

✓Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.

✓Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself.

HAVE a good evening and a good weekend!

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Pres. His column appears Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

‘Retroactively’ would be nice

Donald Kaul

• Another Viewpoint

Security and Exchange Commission ruled the ’89 transaction phony and ordered the company to restate earnings.

Just before news of that ruling got out, causing the stock price to plunge, Mr. Bush sold two-thirds of his stake for \$848,000.

Insider trading? Perish the thought, he says. A lucky coincidence. He used the money to pay off the loan he’d taken out to buy a piece of the Texas Rangers baseball team, whereupon the clueless voters of Texas proceeded to build the team a handsome new stadium. The Rangers’ value skyrocketed and Mr. Bush sold out again, this time as a multi-millionaire. Ain’t the Free Enterprise system wonderful?

He also said this in his speech: “Corporate officers who benefit from false accounting statements should forfeit all money gained by their fraud.” But not retroactively, I imagine. He said still other things in his speech, all funny. For example: “In the long run, there is no capitalism without conscience. There is no wealth without character.” And “the American system of enterprise has not failed us. Some dishonest individuals have failed our system.”

I wonder where that puts Dick (Seldom Seen) Cheney, our rumored Vice-president. Cheney is being sued by a non-partisan watchdog group for overseeing “fraudulent accounting practices” at Halliburton Co. while he was CEO there. Halliburton, the suit alleges, used accounting tricks to overstate revenue by some \$445 million in 1999-2001, thereby kiting the stock.

The Security and Exchange Commission is looking into the matter. When asked about it Cheney said that, as CEO, he never paid any attention to accounting procedures.

Apparently he was too busy with other CEO duties, like deciding whether to have bar soap or dispensers in the lavatories.

You could say that Mr. Bush’s speech was a lot of sound and fury, signifying nothing, but there wasn’t that much fury, just a lot of half-baked nostrums that sound good. The stock market responded by continuing its slow slide toward 1929 (the year, not the number).

The real meaning of the speech could be gleaned from the fact that he moved it up 15 minutes, to upstage a press conference being given by Democratic leaders who were questioning his role in the Harken deal.

They call it politics and Bush is good at it; if not much else.

Donald Kaul is recently retired as Washington columnist for the Des Moines Register. His comments are his alone and not necessarily shared by the Colby Free Press. Feedback to td@nwkansans.com.