

Other Viewpoints

State budget plan shorts kid's needs

Of problems with a new budget plan approved by Kansas lawmakers – and there are many – moves to target the vulnerable in Kansas hurt the most.

And that would include programs to help children. As part of attempts to offset a severe budget shortfall brought about by income-tax breaks for wealthy Kansans, lawmakers approved a budget plan that included a \$9.5 million sweep from the Kansas Endowment for Youth into the state's general fund.

The Endowment for Youth fund and the Children's Initiatives Fund were created as a result of nationwide tobacco litigation in the late 1990s. Legislation called for tobacco dollars received by Kansas to go directly to the endowment fund, established for the long-term benefit of funding children's programs through the Children's Initiatives – and a sensible investment in the state's future.

The funds have supported many good early-childhood programs in Kansas, such as Head Start, Parents as Teachers and newborn health screening.

Unfortunately, significant endowment funding was raided by lawmakers over the years, jeopardizing future programs for children. The assault continued in the last session, even as Republican Gov. Sam Brownback and his ultraconservative allies claimed their financial strategies represent an engine for growth.

Targeting aid for children is no way to encourage economic prosperity. But as much as was to be expected in a budget plan that also subjects higher education – a known driver of economic development – to deep cuts.

A plan to generate economic growth has to acknowledge the potential that exists in all young Kansans. Education and health care are vital, starting with prenatal care and throughout a child's developmental years.

Credit Rep. Don Hineman, R-Dighton, for acknowledging as much in expressing concern over the financial raid on the endowment fund.

Hineman knows the importance of early-childhood education thanks in part to his wife's experience operating a preschool. He and others who support adequate funding for children's programs know a smart economic development strategy ensures that every child receives a solid start in life.

Children are the key to our future. Those who would undermine programs in place to give Kansas children a foundation for success apparently believe otherwise.

– The Garden City Telegram, via the Associated Press

Write us

The Colby Free Press encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses not pertaining to a public issue.

COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth St. (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
Colby, Kan. 67701 fax (785) 462-7749

Send news to: colby.editor@nwkansan.com

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout, Columns, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography. Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

Sharon Friedlander - Publisher
friedlander@nwkansan.com

NEWS

R.B. Headley - Sports Editor
colby.sports@nwkansan.com

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor
mballard@nwkansan.com

Sam Dieter - News Reporter
colby.editor@nwkansan.com

Heather Alwin - Society Editor
colby.society@nwkansan.com

ADVERTISING

colby.ads@nwkansan.com

Kathryn Ballard - Advertising Representative
kballard@nwkansan.com

Kylee Hunter - Graphic Design
khunter@nwkansan.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Office Manager

Melissa Edmondson - Office Manager
medmondson@nwkansan.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkansan.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Richard Westfahl - General Manager

Gary Stewart, Foreman

Jim Jackson, Jim Bowker, Pressmen

Kris McCool, Judy McKnight, Tracy Traxel,
Sheri Arroyo, Mailing

THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Nor'West Newspaper, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE paid at Colby, Kan., 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday. MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news herein. Member Kansas Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby, Thomas County and Oakley: three months \$35, one year \$85. By mail to ZIP Codes beginning with 676 and 677: three months \$39, one year \$95. Elsewhere in the U.S., mailed once per week: three months \$39, one year \$95. Student rate, nine months, in Colby, Thomas County and Oakley, \$64; mailed once per week elsewhere in the U.S., \$72.

MARGULIES
©2013 JimMarg@aol.com



Remember when shampoo was simple?

Remember when you just went to the store and bought shampoo?

We used Prell for years. It was green and good for your hair. The tube said so.

And just to be clear, I'm talking about my parents and my siblings here, not the family I raised. They grew up in a far different world.

Remember when you washed your hair, then combed it and let it dry?

If it didn't behave, you'd grab something like Vitalis or Brylcreem or some other kind of grease or goo and slicked it down. Or up. Depending on what was in style.

Life was simpler then. Just shampoo. Rinse. Repeat.

But I imagine that many of you out there do not understand what I'm talking about at all. Most of you probably grew up in the era of hydrating shampoos and nutrifying conditioner, or cream rinse, as we first called it.

Most of you probably don't even remember Prell, may it rest in peace. (OK, they still make the stuff, but Proctor and Gamble ditched it years ago. Just say it's no longer a market leader.)

It's been a long time since men discovered conditioner, still longer for women.

My hair is fine, and it's gotten finer as it's gotten grayer. Without conditioner, it just sticks out, levitated by the static it generates.

So let's just say the two-step shampoo-and-conditioner regimen is here to stay for me.

But having complicated our lives, why do the manufacturers insist on selling shampoo and cream rinse in similar bottles. The print these days is so small, no one over age 32 can



Steve Haynes

• Along the Sappa

read it, to start with. But many of them make the shape and color of the bottles identical.

And then you find yourself in the (dimly lit) shampoo aisle, looking for a magnifier so you can read the bottles.

Maybe that's what happened to me last year. I bought several bottles of rinse and several shampoos of the brand I like. At least, that's what I thought I'd done.

I buy small shampoos and large conditioner, because you need a drop of the concentrated shampoo and a handful of conditioner to do the average head of hair.

I had finished off a bottle of conditioner, rinsed out the last drops and thrown it away. I went to the cupboard, and got a new, large bottle, put it in the shower. The next day, I washed my hair, then worked a handful cream rinse into it. It seemed a little foamier than the last bottle, but my hair looked OK when I combed it.

The next morning – maybe I was more awake – I noticed that the conditioner was a LOT more foamy than usual. I looked at the bottle. Shampoo. I'd been rinsing my hair with shampoo! Well, I thought it felt a little odd.

I checked the cupboard, and the other large

bottle in there was conditioner, so I put it out to use. I asked Cynthia to get me a couple of bottles of conditioner next time she was at the store that carries it. Then I was called away on an emergency, leaving her to mind the store.

When I got back, I was beat after facing the sun all day, driving home from Lawrence. I needed a shower. When I grabbed the shampoo, I turned it over and out ran – a stream of water. How odd.

I managed to pour most of the water off, but the remaining shampoo was a little thin. Then Cynthia popped in.

"I filled the small shampoo from the big bottle so we didn't have to have the big one in the shower," she told me brightly.

"You mean the watered-down, nearly empty bottle I'd left in there to be used up?" I said.

Oops. It will be easier to use than the big one, however, and though it's a little runny, it does a great job on hair.

Then Cynthia told me what'd happened when she went to get the conditioner. When she got home, she said, she found she had two conditioners and one shampoo. And when she took the shampoo back, she found that the stocker had put them on the shelf that way, alternating bottles of cream rinse and shampoo.

No wonder we had been fooled.

The store traded her for what she wanted. Maybe they'll even have the stocker straighten out his mess. But me? I think I just want my Prell back.

Steve Haynes is president of Nor'West Newspapers. He'd rather be casting a fly.

Internet sales tax not Senate prerogative

The Constitution is exceptionally clear on the origin of all taxes. "All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives," not the Senate (Article I, Sec. 7).

When is the House going to protect its powers from the Senate's intrusive attempts to steal its power? Recently the Senate passed the "Marketplace Fairness Act" by a vote of 69-27, an Internet sales tax, giving states the authority to require online retailers, with no physical presence in those states, to collect sales taxes.

Americans will pay more taxes with this bill. A bill for raising revenue, it did not originate in the House as mandated by the Constitution.

To put the Senate in its constitutional place, the House should never take this bill up. Instead, they should originate their own bill, then invite the Senate to take the new bill through the committee process and to the floor again. I might also suggest not doing so for a year or two just to make the message stronger. "You are infringing on our constitutional jurisdiction." If the Senate will not do so, the House should consider the bill non-existent. Under no circumstances should they accept this bill as appropriate action. Retailers, on the other hand, should refuse to pay this tax and challenge it in the courts on constitutional grounds.

Unfortunately, this is becoming a practice on the part of the Senate. Yet another infringing piece of legislation has also just passed the Senate Judiciary Committee in a 13-5 vote, the so-called "Gang of Eight" immigration bill, S.744. The Heritage Foundation estimates that this bill will cost taxpayers a net \$6.3 trillion above what illegals contribute through taxes over the next 50 years, providing benefits for

Other Opinions

• Harold Pease
Liberty Under Fire

millions now living in the U.S.

There may be debate over the numbers but what is clear is that the bill did not originate in the House as constitutionally required and that Americans will pay more taxes with this bill than without it. Therefore it constitutes an unconstitutional tax.

The worst of all such recent intrusive taxes was "The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," known as Obamacare, also originated in the Senate, not in the House as constitutionally required. There have been extensive efforts on the part of the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to cover this up following the judicial decree of Justice John G. Roberts Jr. proclaiming it a tax when the administration had argued otherwise.

The establishment media should have been all over this story. Obamacare may be the only revenue-raising bill in American history originated and processed by the Senate alone. Nothing could be more unconstitutional.

So why does this matter? A tax is a tax. For thousands of years governments taxed citizens with no limits. Rulers lived lavishly off the wealth extracted from poor subjects with little or no mercy toward them – lavish physical structures and frivolous wars of conquest were

too often the norm.

The Founders took this power from the rich and gave it to the poor by requiring that the poor, then the majority, had to consent to any taxation. The power to tax is the only constitutional power exclusively given to the masses. The House was the only branch of government designed to actually represent them as it is based upon population. The Senate represents the states, only indirectly the people.

As far as I know the U.S. is the first, possibly the only, country in world history that puts its tax base with the masses who pay the taxes. It is a priceless freedom. If we are over-taxed we have chosen to be so and one body alone is responsible – the House of Representatives.

No tax can constitutionally originate with the President or the Supreme Court – even if Justice Roberts says it is OK – or even the Senate, although it can modify as on other bills originated by the House. The House is also in charge of spending. We must not let this freedom dwindle or allow the line between the legislative branches to be blurred into oblivion.

By letting "origin" slide in these three matters, the House loses its clear distinction on the origin of taxes and the people their right of first approval of taxation for generations yet unborn and probably forever. If left unchallenged these three offending bills, one already implemented, severely damage Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution. All involved are under oath to preserve the Constitution. There is nothing in it more clear than this. Liberty is lost one piece at a time. It is also restored one piece at a time. Pass this around.

Dr. Harold Pease has has earlier weekly articles online at www.LibertyUnderFire.org.

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

