

commentary

from other pens...

Governor's gather in shadow of economy

By Will Lester Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Public discussions planned for the summer meeting of the nation's governors will cover the usual: urban sprawl, education, Medicaid. But a leading topic of their private sessions is certain to be the slowing national economy.

The slowdown has complicated every function in a statehouse, from balancing a budget to running a state to running for re-election.

"I advise my friends, if you want to be governor, do it while the economy's good," said Kentucky's Democratic governor, Paul Patton. "When the economy's slowing down, it takes a lot of the fun out of it."

Many of these governors have not had to run a state during tight economic times and are just now learning the stresses of budget cutting.

"In one way or another, this meeting relates to the economy, whether it's budget cuts or looking for more innovations," said Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns, a Republican. "The first governors' meeting I went to, the economy wasn't even talked about. They were talking about education."

The governors will gather in Providence, R.I. from Saturday through Tuesday for the National Governors Association summer meeting. The National Governors Association events usually take on a bipartisan tone, but both Republican and Democratic governors will meet separately the first day to air their problems.

All the governors are aware of the economy's downturn, but Democrats and Republicans will offer very different perspectives on what the money crunch means for their states.

Democrats plan to open the meeting by criticizing Bush's plans for setting new school testing requirements that will cost the states money.

"There's a fair amount of resentment among the governors — though Republicans won't admit it — about the unfunded mandate of school testing," said Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, a Democrat. "That will cost us many hundreds of millions of dollars for the testing."

Economic worries will be the "subtext of the meeting," Dean said. "We're all starting to lose manufacturing jobs. We're all starting to see erosion in our Medicaid budgets. Southern and Midwestern governors have already seen significant shortfalls — that kind of austerity is starting to creep into the Northeast."

Some states, like Maryland, have yet to feel the pinch, said Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening, NGA chairman and a Democrat.

"There's concern about the economy, but the effect has been uneven," Glendening said. "Some of the Southern states and industrial states are having problems, but in a number of states, the economy is still quite strong. Our revenues are exceeding projections from last year."

Democrats say the combination of the slower economy and tax cuts make it harder for the federal government to help troubled states in the most pressing problem areas like Medicaid funding, special education and the new school testing proposals now before Congress.

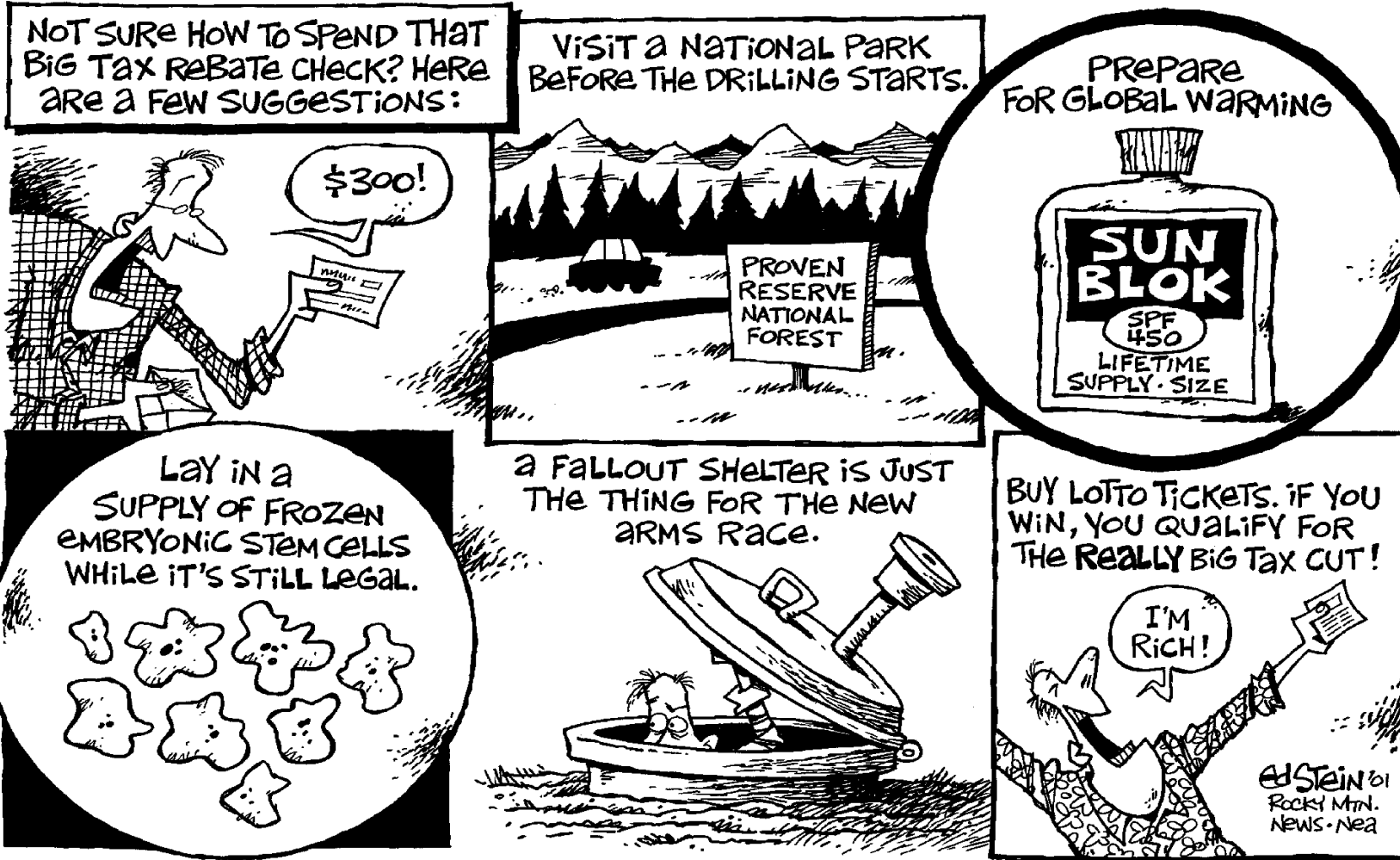
"Ultimately it gives incumbent governors a chance to show they're leaders," said Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, chairman of the Republican Governors Association. "It's one thing to lead and govern in time of plenty and another thing when they slow down."

Budget shortfalls were a problem in a third of states during this past year, said a report released this week by the National Conference on State Legislatures. Twenty states had to either tap reserves, cut spending, increase taxes or delay purchases.

"We just finished our state budget," said Wisconsin Gov. Scott McCallum, a Republican. "I've got this month to make decisions on what I will veto."

"The question now is how to deal with some of the things the Legislature did," he said. "How close do I cut it? How close do I play this, anticipating an upturn in the economy?"

EDITOR'S NOTE — Will Lester covers politics and polling for The Associated Press.



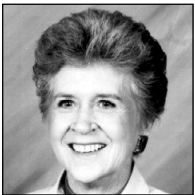
Sharing 'words of wisdom and nuggets of gold'

I don't know about you, but I like to read, and I am continually finding "words of wisdom" and "nuggets of gold" that just beg to be shared.

Since I have very little "storage space" left for remembering them, I cut them out, hoping for a time when I can communicate them in some manner.

Today, I'd like to share some of them with you readers.

- 1) Rod Steiger: "Success means controlling your own time. If you can gain control over 60 percent of the time in your life, you are really successful. Time is the most important currency, but once you spend it, man, it's gone." (And it goes faster every single year.)
- 2) Jim Scancarelli: "A sharp tongue sometimes cuts its own throat."
- 3) Japanese proverb: "One kind word can warm three winter months." (And a mean one can permanently chill the spirit.)
- 4) George Bush: "Don't confuse being 'soft' with seeing the other guy's point of view."
- 5) Unknown: "Don't frown, because you never



**lorna
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• commentary

know who's falling in love with your smile."

- 6) Unknown: "If you judge people, you have no time to love them." (How true!)
- 7) Plato: "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle." (Most of our problems are bearable because they didn't all fall on us at once. Would you like to switch problems with those of your neighbor?)
- 8) Unknown: "Enthusiasm is contagious. You could start an epidemic!"
- 9) Unknown: "It takes a minute to have a crush on someone, an hour to like someone, and a day to love someone, but it takes a lifetime to forget someone." (Whether it was a friend or an enemy.)
- 10) Andy Rooney: "I've learned that the Lord

didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?" (I confess! I don't even try any more.)

11) George Washington: "Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation. It is better to be alone than in bad company." (A word especially to the wise teenager!)

12) Solomon: "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."

13) Unknown: "May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, enough hope to make you happy."

14) Unknown: "The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go on well in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches."

Hope you have given some serious thought, broken out in a smile or thought of someone else as you've read these quotes.

Don't you wish you'd have said most of them?

If you have comments or ideas for Lorna please write to her by e-mail at <lornagt@nwkansas.com>

Even a poor day fishing is a good day on the river



**steve
haynes**

• along the sappa

This is a fish story for Duane, who sometimes drives all night to find a trout stream.

My first evening on the creek last week was pretty much as good as it gets. In less than two hours, I caught a dozen fish, using a barbless No. 16 fly.

It's easier to unhook fish with a barbless fly, though a little harder to land them. But I was putting half of them back anyway.

I took up fly fishing when I realized bait fishing was way too easy, at least for trout. If you pull a fish from every hole, you get to the limit pretty quick. And it occurred to me it was time on the river that I needed.

After I first moved to Colorado, a friend took the time to teach me how to fish with a dry fly. He loaned me an old pair of boots (they leaked so much that they let in more water than they kept out, I think, but he still wanted them back) and took me out on the creek.

He picked a spot just a mile from town where everyone knew there were no fish, and he showed me how to pop a fly into a hole and let it float around until a trout exploded out of the water to grab it. Or some days, maybe just nibbled at it.

I learned a lot that month. He was patient and persevering. How to cast. How to follow a fly. How to watch for a strike and how to set a hook. How to sneak up on the fish. And how to fool them. He told me to be sure my flies had something white on them so you can follow them. And he told me to lose my

clunky old fly rod and get a good one.

I've never touched a worm or a salmon egg since.

I found fly fishing is the ultimate relaxation. When you are standing in the middle of a stream, water rippling around your boots, trying to follow a quarter-inch speck on the water, you can't worry about much else. You can't worry at all.

Some days, I need that. But last week was a test.

If that first night was great, the next week or so was not. The next three nights it rained. I went to the canyon a couple of times, but never got out of the car. I decided to go in the morning, before the rain, and that worked OK, though by midday the trout's pace of feeding slows down a lot.

The second day on the creek, I thought things were good. I caught fish on my first four casts, and one of them was a monster German brown that measured 14 inches, big for a creek. Real big.

I hooked a dozen fish, throwing most of them back. But when I sat down to change my fly, I found my pocket empty. They had fallen out, the whole dozen I had bought that day. No problem, I thought, I have a couple of old ones in my fly wallet.

I lost both of them while trying to tie them on, though, and had to put the wet one back on. It was an elk-hair caddis that was so beat-up the hackle was falling apart. I never had another bite, but it didn't rain. The day was beautiful.

The next day, it rained for an hour in the morning before I could start fishing. I had my friend Earnest with me, so I wasn't bored. Fishing was OK, but when the sun came out, the bites stopped.

Next day, I was fishing along the creek where everyone knows there are no fish, doing pretty well, when I stumbled and reached out for the rock beside me. A 40-pound chunk came loose, bounced off my chest and stripped the reel right off my pole. I wound up on my butt in the creek, my pole in pieces. That was it for that day.

So far, I'd lost \$12 worth of flies, broke my pole and bruised my chest. I'd been wet and spent more time watching the water than catching fish. So of course, I went back out the next day.

Back at the fly shop, getting my pole fixed, the game warden and I agreed, any time spent on the river is good time. The worst day is still pretty good.

And that night, standing in the creek, listening to the water rush around my boots, I looked up to the cliffs above, where the evening sun cast a bright, yellow-orange, light on the highest outcrops.

I had enough fish for dinner, put several more back. In another day, I would be back at work. But that night, I was far from the worst time on the river. Far, far from the worst.

Inconvenience of improvement will end

To the Editor,

I would like to commend Schyler Goodwin and Mitch Hixson for moving to Goodland and wanting to make a positive difference in our community. Obviously, others could take a lesson from their fine, young example.

If I was Mitch or Schyler and I came to Goodland to make a difference and then opened the "hometown" newspaper and read the recent letters to the editor, I would run as fast as I could out of town.

It is not the so called "goons and ragheads" that are chasing people out of this community. It is the negative and pessimistic people who are not willing to get involved to try to make it a better place for all.

We are all inconvenienced by the recent closing of roads and streets, but it is not the city or county commissioners who had any control over this. The state and the contractor are the ones responsible for the closing dates. If you will recall, at the time of the public meetings on the road construction, the city manager and the chamber were both present at those meetings and asked that all construction not be done at the same time. Both were concerned that all entrances would be closed all at once. The state made the final decision in spite of those requests and paid no attention to those requests.

My father was a very smart and wise man. As a



**from our
readers**

• to the editor

child, he taught me that if something was not the way I felt it should be or something was wrong, I should get involved to fix it or shut up.

It is time we work together to make Goodland a better place. If you don't like the way the so called "goons and ragheads" are doing things, then get involved, attend a meeting, talk to your city and county leaders, or better yet get your name on a ballot to do "something better."

The city and county commissioners are elected by the people to represent all the people, whether you voted for them or not. When was the last time you talked to your city or county leaders about your concerns?

I challenge all of you negative and pessimistic people to strive to "make a difference."

We would probably have a greater chance of getting new businesses and young people to town if we had recreational, cultural, and educational activities as well as excellent streets, hospital, schools and a positive attitude from the community to draw such people and businesses to town.

Such things all come with a price tag. I support Goodland and I know we cannot have good things without having some inconveniences first and a price tag attached to it.

The highway will be excellent when completed and the entrances into Goodland will be greatly improved and I will put up with the inconvenience to have something nice when it is done.

Schyler and Mitch, you go, guys! I support your efforts and I know many other positive folks support you as well! Your will and desire will make a difference. Don't let the negative attitudes scare you off.

Kathy A. Russell
Goodland

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