commentary

from other pens...

What's wrong with 'Governor' Glasscock?

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — The field of candidates for the Republican gubernatorial nomination should begin to settle over the next few weeks.

Attorney General Carla Stovall, Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer, State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger and Senate President Dave Kerr all have expressed an interest in next year's race. Fourth District Congressman Todd Tiahrt also is a potential candidate.

House Speaker Kent Glasscock has been campaigning for two months. He's assembled a staff and started raising money and collecting endorsements from activists.

Yet one question underlies speculation about the governor's race: What's so wrong with Glasscock that other prominent Republicans aren't ready to stand aside and support his nomination?

Some Republicans say GOP voters simply like to have choices when an incumbent governor isn't running, and history bears them out.

Some Republicans wonder whether the holder of a statewide office or a member of Congress would have better name recognition with voters. As a legislator, Glasscock hasn't run in a statewide campaign.

Finally, some Republicans worry about how Glasscock would fare against the presumed Democratic gubernatorial nominee, Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius.

"For whatever reason there is a perception that he is not a foreboding candidate. Otherwise, you wouldn't have as many people talking about being part of the process," said Sherrer, a frequent Glasscock critic.

For his part, Glasscock shrugs off the speculation, and his aides say his campaign is going well.

"I don't think anybody is saying anything detrimental about me," Glasscock said. "The Bible says there will be wars and rumors of wars. In election politics, there are candidates and rumors of candidates."

Activists in both major parties saw a contentious governor's race next year because Gov. Bill Graves can't seek a third term.

Congressman Jerry Moran, who represents western and central Kansas, became the front-runner even though he had announced only that he was interested. He said last week that he would seek re-election to Congress. That left Glasscock in the GOP race with Shawnee County Treasurer Rita Cline, considered a dark horse candidate.

Glasscock is correct in saying that Republicans expect to have choices when no incumbent governor is running.

Since the state began having primary elections in 1910, there have been 13 elections in which the governor's race is without an incumbent. In all but one — in 1936—the Republican primary was contested.

What's more, in nine of those 13 elections, there have been four or more Republican candidates. The record was set in 1964, when U.S. Rep. William H. Avery emerged from an eight-person field.

"I think what we're seeing is a generation of political ambition that has been bottled up," said Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence. "It's not healthy when the major political party anoints its nominee."

But other issues are in play as well.

State GOP Chairman Mark Parkinson said some Republicans believe a statewide official or congressman would have higher name recognition than Glasscock and a better chance of beating Sebelius. He is quick to say he doesn't agree but acknowledges that the sentiment exits.

"A lot of folks would prefer that you have what would be considered a slam-dunk candidate," he said.

With the primary election more than 10 months away, it is, of course, too early to judge the viability of Glasscock's candidacy. But he can't deny that some Republicans have questions about it.

"The impression I'm getting is that there is a concern with his ability win the general election," Sherrer said. "This a perception busines

Now a days to be full service, a bank needs gas pumps.

In 1929, everyone rushed to their banks to get their money back, but today they drive past their bank to the nearest self service gas station and stop. Cheap gas is more important than health care, and a Molotov cocktail is better than a gun.

As much as 16,000 gallons of flight fuel made a big Molotov cocktail when several Islam fundamentalists hijacked a 747 airliner and slammed it into the World Trade Center in New York City.

Wonder what would happen if there was a right to carry law? Bet Senator Charles (I will take your guns) Schumer of New York would say "You can't give guns to crazies." Wouldn't have to. Just one gun out of 64 would be enough to send those hijackers to glory the old fashioned way. Even if they were promised paradise with plenty of beautiful women, it would be kind of hard to watch 64 people who MIGHT have a hand gun.

For quite a while we have lived in a surreal world of invincibility. We have the biggest economy and we have all that money in New York City. We have farm surpluses big enough to choke a horse, too.

The reaction was to bomb their camps. We know where they are, bomb, bomb, bomb them. Call the CIA, it sure is patriotic to buy flags made in China.

All of a sudden everyone hates America. The enviro-terrorists hate us because of the Kyoto treaty. Even if the eco-terrorists were right, there is nothing to be alarmed about. The air we breathe is 78% nitrogen and 21% oxygen. But the mixture of CO-2, argon, neon, and helium, is only 1 percent of the earth's atmosphere.

Then there are the Islamic fundamentalists. They agement, hedge fund, who probably walked off our caves first. would drive the nation of Israel into the Sea of with a mere trillion dollars or two. Galilee if a bunch of white guys (England and the Also, among these mostly Moslem nations, there © 2001 Wayne Gattshall wayneg@good-United States) would let them. If anyone thinks \$5 was a Yankee inconsistency that they found hard *land.ixks.com*



gas is price gouging, just let the balance of power in the Persian Gulf fall into the hands of Saddam Hussein.

For those who want to blame U.S. foreign policy for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon Building, it is a mathematical impossibility for U.S. foreign policy to be wrong every time. Some how by happenstance we would have to be right about something.

However, we are doing something wrong when this activist Alan Greenspan Federal Reserve made successful risk taking another federal intervention. In 1994, we and the Bank of Japan helped create a world wide currency crisis when they intervened by buying U.S. dollars and selling Japanese yens. It may have been great for Japanese exports, but it was like lighting a match in a gas-filled room for all those emerging economies in Asia. All of a sudden Japanese exports were cheaper and theirs were higher.

You know, that sounds like farm export. Yep, it sure does, and there are consequences when you try to fool the law of economics. Here in the United States, it made Alexander Hamilton out of a half of a dozen of crazy derivative traders like George Soros, and the renown Long-Term Capital Man-

to comprehend. It was OK when our Federal Reserve would rewrite the laws of moral hazard when it bailed out a bunch of white guys, but you Asians take care of yourself.

So it's not so hard to think that there is an anti-American sentiment among most of these Muslim nations in Asia.

There are some who say the children of Israel may be God's chosen people but God also told Ishmael, "You will be a great nation, too."

There also is a perception — and it even could be called ironic - that there are reports out of London that there was a suspicious short selling and share dumping of large numbers of shares in airlines before the attacks.

In a normal day, the volume of shares might be 4 million, but more than 10 million shares were traded or sold on Friday before the attack. If this proves to be true, not only did the terrorists attack the U.S. nuclear capitalism (World Trade Center) and our vaunted military-industrial-complex (Pentagon), they used our money to do it.

However, it is time we realize our enemy Afghanistan is one of the poorest nations in the world and may still live in caves. We can give them our farm surpluses under the Mother Jones Act and the 416(b) Food For Progress exports that pays the freight doing.

If you wear a dish towel on your head you will be interrogated. But it is insanity to put American boys who grew up watching MASH into Asia, when we can't control our own borders. This one world of the Americas is unconstitutional and we have Fifth Columns right here in our own country. So look in





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You'll be interrogated if you wear a dish towel

Correspondent John Hanna has covered Kansas politics since 1987.

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Verbal agreement over phone is not binding

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stovall

All applicable prices and fees, including ship-

ping, handling and delivery, must be listed, along

with the date of the transaction and a description

There must be a duplicate copy containing the

same information to be retained by the consumer

as proof of the terms of the agreement. Immedi-

ately preceding the space allotted for the

consumer's signature, the confirmation must state,

in large print, "You are not obligated to pay any

money unless you sign this confirmation and re-

turn it to the seller." This company's contract did

Transactions exempt from this provision include

those made in accordance with a prior visit by the

consumer to the business establishment where

there is a pre-existing business relationship, goods

or services purchased pursuant to an advertisement, catalog or other mailed material, and where

the consumer may obtain a full refund for the re-

turn of goods or cancellation of services within

The company advised us that its "pay as you

read" program is able to be canceled upon written

request. It confirmed your account has already

seven days after receipt by the consumer.

of the goods or services sold.

not meet these requirements.

• consumer corner

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

About four months ago I was contacted by a man who was selling what he said was a magazine service. He claimed that "for as low as \$2.90 per week" I could have six magazines of my choice delivered to my home.

The man told me the price would not be increased by any postage or subscription increases. I thought this sounded like a good deal and I signed up for the service. When the contract arrived, it stated I was to pay \$27.72 per month for 30 months, at a total price of \$831.60!

This was not what I had agreed to over the telephone. I called the service in an attempt to resolve the situation, but the company told me I could not cancel because I verbally agreed to buy this service. Attorney General Stovall, my agreeing to this service was a mistake. What can I do?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

We contacted the company and explained that under the Kansas Consumer Protection Act (KCPA), a verbal agreement made by a consumer to purchase goods or services from a telemarketer is not binding unless the telemarketer receives from the consumer a signed confirmation that discloses in full the terms of the sale they have agreed upon.

This confirmation must include the name and address of the telemarketer and a telephone number where the consumer may contact an employee or agent of the company during normal business hours.

where to write

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1217 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2715

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676

State Sen. Stan Clark, State Capitol Building Rm. 128-S, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7399

Kansas Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767

been canceled and you are under no obligation. Should you happen to receive a few issues of some of the magazines, you may keep them with the company's compliments.

We stressed to the telemarketing company that all future sales to Kansas consumers must comply with the KCPA.

Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry with the receptionist and an agent will return your call promptly.

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