

commentary

from other pens...

Few issues besides attacks will see legislative action

By Libby Quaid

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Measures in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks are claiming the lion's share of the action as Congress wraps up work for the year.

Few other measures will pass before the month's end, when lawmakers hope to adjourn. Among these are the 13 annual spending bills for fiscal 2002, which began Oct. 1.

Congress has not yet cleared one of these appropriations measures — and action ground to a halt last week amid the anthrax scare, with the House in recess and the Senate in session but with all Capitol Hill office buildings closed.

Among the most recent attack-related proposals is an effort by Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., to divert billions of dollars in planned farm subsidy payments to heading off livestock and animal diseases and other farm sabotage.

"The loss of markets resulting from the introduction of these pathogens would be devastating to our nation's economy," Roberts said. "I am suggesting we make an investment in the future of American agriculture that may well prevent this nightmare scenario."

Roberts is proposing to spend \$3.5 billion over the next decade to upgrade government laboratories and pay for research on vaccines, antidotes and pest control. Money set aside by Congress last spring would pay for the measures.

Meantime, Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback has been pressing to lift sanctions against Pakistan to bolster the U.S.-led coalition against terrorism. Pakistan's beleaguered president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, is opposed by many Pakistani people for supporting the United States — in a now-familiar scene, mobs this month stormed Quetta, a city near the Afghan border, lobbing firebombs while chanting glory to Osama bin Laden and hatred for America.

The White House and Congress have worked together to lift almost all sanctions against Pakistan. Brownback is sponsoring a measure to erase remaining sanctions.

"We must do everything in our power to strengthen the president's hand in showing the world exactly what it means to be 'with us or against us,'" Brownback said.

Brownback, top Republican on the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on immigration, is also pushing an anti-terrorism bill that would require the Immigration and Naturalization Service to track foreign students undergoing such vocational training as flight and language schools.

U.S. immigration and visa systems and how thoroughly they screen people have been under scrutiny since the attacks. Federal officials have said 13 of the 19 terrorist hijackers entered the United States on legal visas, although no records have been found to indicate how the other six got in the country.

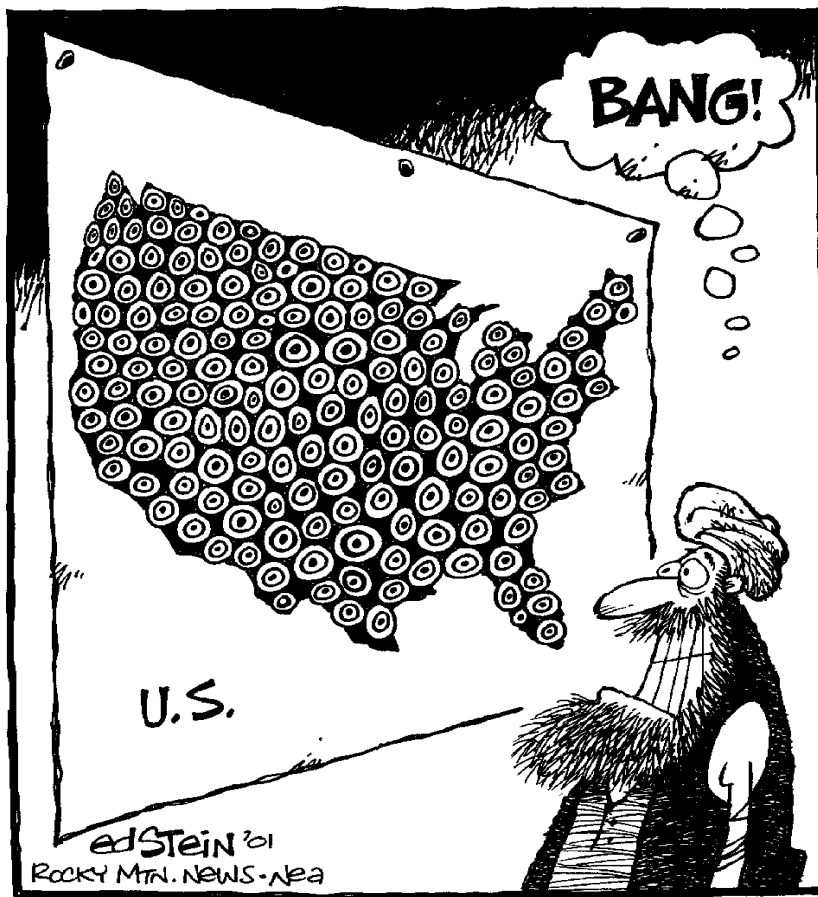
Brownback also was co-sponsoring an aid package for laid-off airline workers proposed by Sen. Jean Carnahan, D-Mo. The proposal caused a partisan stalemate on a major aviation security bill, and Mrs. Carnahan withdrew it after losing a procedural effort to link the two.

She and other supporters are looking for more opportunities to pass the measure. Before the Senate floor showdown, Brownback had said: "We must do everything we can to jump-start our economy — and to make sure people who have been laid off can find work."

However, Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Kan., worries the legislation would not extend to Kansans who lost their jobs because of the attacks.

Tiahrt, a member of the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, said that while Mrs. Carnahan's measure specifically mentions airline workers, the language covering such manufacturing employees as Boeing Wichita is too vague and might be interpreted more narrowly.

He is pushing a measure to specifically cover manufacturing employees that could be offered as an amendment should Mrs. Carnahan's amendment arise.



TARGETS

Free-food Pentagon rode hard put away wet

Another food processor farm bill you say? Is the Pioneer Village along the Potomac committed to a viable farm economy? They sing "America The Beautiful" and its amber waves of grain but do they mean it? Or will it be "everyone send their surpluses to America" with another free trick agreement.

It sure would be nice if we had a 2002 farm bill before we harvest wheat in July. But you watch farmers will borrow the money put \$50 dollar an acre into fertilizer buy Cargill seed corn and weed control from Du Pont before they decide what this next free-food-complex farm bill will be.

Already the switcher is on. One Tribal council (House of Representatives) says \$17 billion a year over 10 years. The other Tribal council (Senate) and the Big Chief in the White Teepee is talking about \$16 billion out of a \$74 billion Department of Agriculture budget over five years.

Seventy four billion for the Department of Agriculture you know that is costing too much. No doubt about that but let's look at the root cause. Remember when the Big Chief embargoed grain exports when Ivan invaded Afghanistan? Isn't it amazing when these fancy guys say we have to bailout the airlines because they were grounded after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, but when the futures market closed down in 1978 for nearly a week it was "you farmers take care of yourself."

If that isn't enough to take a sniff of anthrax, when they have the gall to say we gotta pass an economic stimulus package of \$100 billion. Mr. President if you want a stimulus package you better not cut money to the Department of Agriculture-free-food-complex. That would be like choking the little red hen before she laid her egg.

This big Chief in the White Teepee is losing it.



wayne gattshall

• wayne's world

He wants a financial stimulus to pump up the Stock market and then cut the agriculture department's budget. That makes as much sense as declaring a pork checkoff vote illegal by that Chinese agent the Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman and call it we the people.

Well, the Big Chief can't have everything he wants. Everyone knows what he is thinking of he wants another flea trick ah, I mean a free trade agreement.

Well yes, that's right, but you farmers would not want to be isolationist would you?

Yeah? You should smell what you are scooping. These guys say free trade quicker than a Chinese spy gets out of jail. The General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, didn't make Alexander Hamilton's out of farmers. What was supposed to make dreams of sugar plumes dancing in the farmers head turned out to be the grinch who stole our farm markets.

That's impossible. Everyone knows farmers wanted a free trade agreement, (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs). But something happened we still have farm surpluses. So hold your nose just take another dose of castor oil, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). And that's when the roof fell in. The ink was not dry on it before Mexico canceled export permits of corn syrup to the U.S. They claimed it was unfair to Mexico.

Well no one ever thought Pedro was stupid. This free trade agreement was as relevant as a little old

lady in a bar room brawl. All the U.S. trade czar Mickey Kanter showed farmers was the white flag. He said OK you are right. Mexico's quota should be increased from 25,000 to 250,000 tones per year. It all was for the sake of Pepsi and Coke you know.

It wasn't any better along our Canadian border. In 1996 they shipped 62 million bushels of wheat to the U.S. up from 40.6 million bushels in 1995. It also broke the trade agreement and when farmer complained, Canada said sue me. So when the Big Chief says it was surpluses he was right, it was Canadians that made them.

OK this is the global economy, so what farmers need is more castor oil. You need Most Favored Nation Status for China, that sure ought to do it.

Wish you were right. But these government to government trade agreements have become the black cloak of trade barriers that farmers feared most.

So if the big Chief, President Bush, has a plan to boost the staggering economy he is riding the wrong camel. This agriculture department-free-food-complex farm bill has been rode hard and put away wet.

They say it's OK to subsidize federal crop insurance agents. It's OK to expand food stamp for the gypsy moths from the inter-city at a cost of \$3.4 billion. It's even OK to increase \$9.4 billion to please eco-terrorists, too. And finally, don't forget the money launderers give them a \$21 billion tax break for their tax dodging financial companies in the Caribbean.

The way they are spending money you would think the rapture was coming.

Mr. President don't use the bombing of the World Trade Center to sneak in another free trick - trade - agreement.

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Consumers have three-day right

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

Earlier this week I bought a used car from a local dealership. I drove the car for two days and decided it was a little smaller than I initially thought. I returned it to the dealer, but he refused to take it back. I thought there was a cooling off period, or a three-day right to cancel law, that applied to these types of purchases. However, the dealership manager said these laws do not apply to automobile purchases. Attorney General Stovall, is this true?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

It is true that there is no three-day right to cancel law, also known as the "cooling off period," for car purchases from a dealer's approved place of business. The three-day right to cancel only applies to sales made at a person's home or at a place away from the seller's normal place of business. If a sale



carla j. stovall

• consumer corner

of an automobile is made at the dealership, the three-day right to cancel does not apply.

You may want to contact the dealership to see if it has a policy which would allow you to exchange the car for another one. If so, this provision would fall within the dealership's own customer service policy. There is no law requiring a car dealership to make an exchange, give back a portion of the purchase price, or refund the purchase price for the sole reason that the customer changed his or her

mind about the car.

Because automobiles are such expensive purchases, it is extremely important for consumers to do their homework before making the final decision to buy. Have the vehicle inspected by a mechanic, obtain a title history, and carefully examine it for yourself.

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.

Transition to a technical college

My family and I arrived in Goodland on June 27. The trip from Northeast Kansas in Atchison was a six-hour journey across the northern edge of Kansas. Friends from the east would joke that my family was moving to the edge of the earth. Actually the trip fully consumed six hours, but I can assure my friends in Atchison Goodland is closer to Denver than the edge of the earth.

Members of my family are somewhat familiar with living in the western half of Kansas since we spent many years in Pratt and Kingman counties.

My wife, JoAnn and I celebrated our 30th year of marriage shortly after our arrival in Goodland this summer. Our 10-year-old son, Brennen, accompanied us here to Goodland. Our other three children are grown and in early adulthood living in Overland Park and Rogers, Ark.

My family has found Goodland to be a community of extremely friendly people. My wife, son and I have been welcomed to Goodland by pleasant people and people who are sincerely interested in getting to know us.

It is difficult to drive anywhere without receiving a wave from almost every vehicle you meet, and it is equally as difficult to go anywhere on foot without being greeted and given a warm feeling of friendliness. This friendliness has made our first three months in Goodland an easy adjustment. We enjoy evening walks in Goodland and have grown to appreciate the peaceful neighborhoods.



kenneth a. clouse

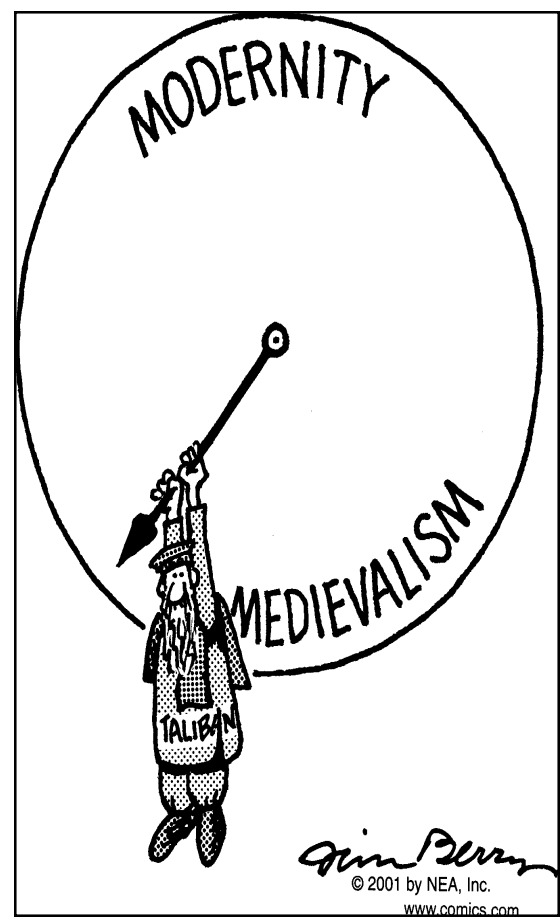
• college notes

My orientation to the college has been quick and easy due to the exceptional condition Larry Keirns left the college. This adjustment has continued to be smooth with the assistance of the excellent staff at the college.

I have told anyone who would listen, how proud I am to be a part of the family of staff at the Technical College. My pride is strong because I truly believe Northwest Kansas Technical College is the best Technical College in Kansas. I have personally visited every technical college in Kansas and can honestly say in Goodland we have some of the best instructional programs, the finest facilities and the most beautiful technical college campus in all of Kansas and many of our surrounding states. Students who attend Northwest Kansas Technical College are fortunate to receive the education and services that are provided.

All of the down home hospitality my family and I have experienced in Goodland is absolutely present at the college. We are very pleased to be a part of this community and look forward to contributing to the future of the college and Goodland.

berry's world



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