

commentary

from other pens...

FDR says no masking for the White House

By Lawrence L. Knutson

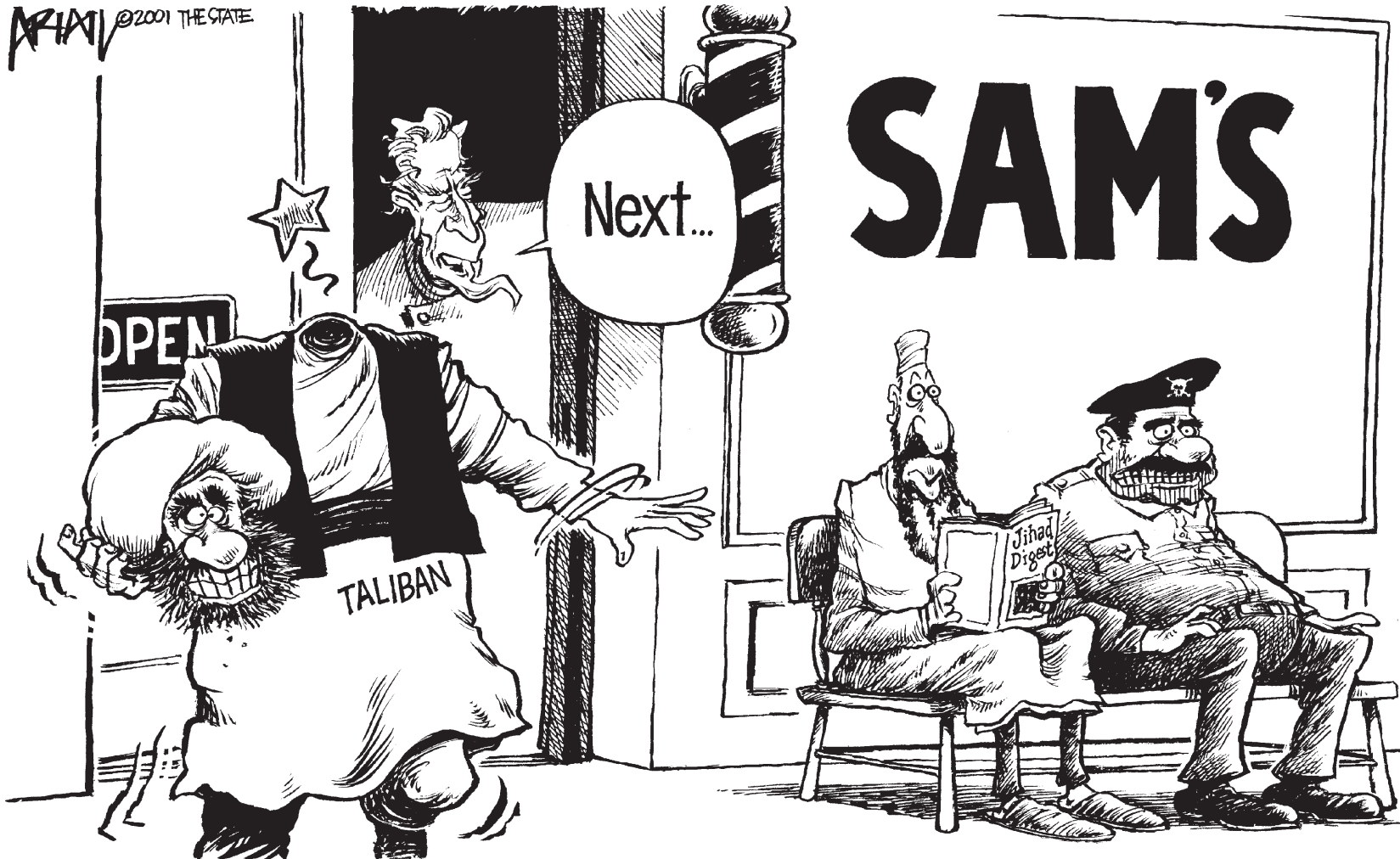
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Smoke was still rising over Pearl Harbor when officials proposed masking the White House with camouflage paint. Happily, Franklin D. Roosevelt rejected the idea and kept the White House white, even as the president’s house went on a war footing. The White House is again upgrading security as it responds to terrorist threats made visible by the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington. Pennsylvania Avenue across the lawn from the North Portico is likely to remain closed indefinitely. Other nearby streets are shut off. New barricades have sprouted. Incoming mail is closely inspected. The White House is closed to tourists; only invited guests will see the traditionally splendid Christmas decorations. When reports came on Sept. 11 that a hijacked airliner might be headed toward the White House, Vice President Dick Cheney and key staff members were rushed to an underground bunker. But little compares to the fright that gripped official Washington in the first days of World War II. For most of its existence the state floor of the White House was open to any respectably dressed and sober citizen who sought admission. All that abruptly ended with the outbreak of war in 1941. “The house was heavily guarded, beginning within an hour after the news from Hawaii on Dec. 7,” writes historian William Seale. The Secret Service proposed sweeping changes. The report, Seale writes, still “exudes the fear of those responsible for White House security.” The proposals:

- Repaint the walls of the White House “according to standards of Army Air Corps camouflage, with the slate roof painted black.”
- Encircle the mansion and offices with a 15-foot-high barricade.
- Cover the skylights with six inches of sand and a layer of tin.
- Set up sandbagged machine guns on the East and West colonnades.
- Station patrols on the roof; provide equipment to combat incendiary bombs; install bulletproof glass in rooms used by the Roosevelt family.

“Because of the president’s recalcitrance, most of the official recommendations were not carried out,” Seale writes. But security was enhanced. Some measures became permanent; others were lifted as the war neared an end. Bulletproof glass was installed in the Oval Office. A concrete “bomb barrier” was installed along the west wall of the Executive Office Building. Heavy “blackout” curtains were draped across windows. A bucket of sand was placed in every room in case of fire. There were other changes, small and large. Roosevelt installed a map room so he could follow the daily progress of the war. Construction crews replaced the turn-of-the-century East Wing with a much larger but still unobtrusive office building. Working in secrecy, the Army carved out a large space below it for a presidential bomb shelter. The shelter resembled a dungeon, “with walls and floors seven feet thick and a ceiling nine feet thick, all of concrete heavily laced with steel,” Seale writes. It was one 40-foot-square room “with a tiny island of a presidential bedchamber and bath in the center, encased in walls three feet thick.” Side rooms held ventilation equipment and toilets. A work room contained desks and telephones and telegraph and radio equipment. The low ceilings were plated with steel and the floors left as bare concrete. Roosevelt visited just once, Seale reports, and then out of curiosity. “One can imagine his discomfort; during the tedious progress of his wheelchair through narrow descending passages, he was lifted down steps, there being no ramps.” The president’s sense of unease must have been overwhelming, Seale writes. “But he never had to go there again.”

EDITOR’S NOTE — Lawrence L. Knutson has covered the White House, Congress and Washington’s history for 34 years.



Jackson-Vanic amendment? Missile shield maybe!

Let’s see here President Putin was from the Russian KGB and former President George Bush was once in the CIA. Isn’t that about the same thing? Does that make President Putin and the Big Chief buddies? Sure looks like it. Even though they didn’t quite agree on everything — but if Russian is about to be our strategic partner he asked the Big Chief to revoke the Jackson-Vanic Amendment. Never heard of it. Was that about Andrew Jackson and the Indian wars? No it was about the cold war. All right you don’t remember Senator Henry Jackson, D-Washington, was the geek that called farm exports to the Soviet Union the “great American grain robbery.” He also said Ivan had taken advantage of our free markets! Humph! Representative Charles Vanic, D, was from Ohio. Ah, farm surpluses and Leonid Brezhnev stole the free-food Pentagon’s grain. Bet the American farmer could have said come steal from us again. A little bit of free trade for farmers? That would be unconstitutional. So why is the Jackson-Vanic Amendment still on the books? The reason is these free trickers ah, I mean free traders, are all a bunch of isolationists. One thing more it’s really bad when you get misty eyed over Richard Nixon. He didn’t need a thousand page General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to sell grain to the Soviet Union. He didn’t need a fast trick ah, I mean a free trade agreement, to trade with good ole Uncle Leonid Brezhnev, either. The agreement was you bring your own ships and pay cash money if you want the grain. So why was the Jackson-Vanic Amendment needed? Good question. It wasn’t needed to sell grain to the Soviets. The Jackson-Vanic Amendment was called a way to force Moscow to allow it’s citizens



wayne gattshall

• wayne’s world

to immigrate to Israel. But out here where the deer and buffalo didn’t roam they thought it was an isolationist trade barrier. It had as much to do with Jewish immigration to Israel as a Chinese spy had to do with a U.S. missile shield. It wasn’t a free Jewish immigrants either. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger did it all by himself. He told the Soviets to reverse your immigration policy or no grain. This linkage of farm exports and foreign policy resulted in an increase of Jewish immigration from 400 in 1968 to 35,000 by 1973. Not even Henry Kissinger understood the power of food exports. To his astonishment, he also was able to get the Russians to settle an old WWII debt. While it was not for the full payment, it was nearly three quarters of a billion dollars, a figure some \$25 million more than he had expected Leonid Brezhnev to agree to. In fact, the Salt agreement never would have come to pass without grain exports. If Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz did not report all his taxes he did know how to work out a credit arrangement with the Soviets for \$750 million dollars and about 500 million bushels (\$1.50 a bushel). But his effort was in vain with the implementation of the Jackson-Vanic Amendment. It was forget the most-favored-nation trade status the Soivet Union had been promised. However, Uncle Leonid ended up buying a billion bushels of wheat, anyway. Our entire surplus? So Senator Jackson was right after all. The USSR did steal our entire surplus.

Some in government including Arthur Burns Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and the Free-food-pentagon hyperventilated over the amount of grain exported. It was the end of capitalism as they knew it. What had been thought to be entrepreneurial cleverness by the President became a Belt Way hot potato that no one would take credit for. The very same ones that had lobbied night and day for trading relations with the Soviet Union now were madder than a turpentine cat. The New York Times, which criticized the trade agreement, nor Senator Jackson ever explained how their farm economics worked. The only ones that felt deprived over the event was the free-food Pentagon. Instead of the Department of Agriculture’s ever normal grainery (grain reserve) of the 30s, they had to carry their own stocks the old fashioned way. So when that pioneer Village along the Potomac says its surpluses just remember the Berlin Wall is gone but farmers are still behind the Berlin Wall. We still have that relic of the coldwar the Jackson-Vanic Amendment. So what is it foreign policy or is it trade? The Big Chief wants to entice Putin to support missile defense program. Ah, wonder where that leaves China? Back in 1996, President Boris Yeltsin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin first proclaimed we are strategic partners. It may be Putin is not quite ready to put his rig into the missile shield pasture yet. He may not quite be ready to cast his lot with all those white guys from the U.S. and NATO but he is leaning that way. There is an irony here. The Salt agreement and the Jackson-Vanic Amendment was the hottest news along the beltway in 1973, and in 2001 the Jackson Vanic Amendment still is big news. Could it be revoking it would be an instrument of agreement on a missile shield defense? Nay! © 2001 Wayne Gattshall wayneg@goodland-ixks.com

The Goodland Daily News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)
Member: Kansas Press Association
The Associated Press
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
National Newspaper Association
e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com




Steve Haynes, President
Tom Betz, Editor/Editorial Page
Rachel Miscall, Managing Editor
Pat Schiefen, Copy editor
Sharon Corcoran, Sports Editor
Doug Stephens, Skilar Boland, Reporter
Eric Yonkey, Bill Wagoner, Advertising Sales
James Schiefen, Adv. Production Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Nor’west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Ron VanLoenen	Judy McKnight	Richard Westfahl
Betty Morris	Charlotte Hankins	Helen Dilts



nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services (nbetz@nwkansas.com)
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkansas.com)

Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.
Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.
TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: gdnadv@nwkansas.com
The Goodland Daily News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.
SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$22; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. By mail in Kansas, Colorado: three months, \$28; six months, \$50; 12 months, \$95. (All tax included.) Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$25; six months, \$40; 12 months, \$75.

The Sherman County Herald

Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR

Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor’West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company

Buying your first computer



carla j. stovall

• consumer corner

Dear Attorney General Stovall:
I am preparing to purchase my first computer. However, some of my friends have had bad experiences with their computer purchases. I would like some guidelines to help me make an informed decision before I enter into a major purchase. What tips can you offer?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

Selecting a computer can be a challenging but rewarding process. The decision to approach this as an informed consumer indicates you have already taken the first step to making a successful purchase. Here are a few tips that, hopefully, will make the job easier:

- Ask friends and family for recommendations. They will be happy to refer you to places where they have done business and had pleasant experiences. They can also give you brand names of computers they have purchased and list what options you should look for.
- Research the terms and vocabulary used by computer sales personnel. You will be better able to communicate with the salesperson if you understand some of the language associated with computers.
- Know your computer needs and make a list of how the computer will primarily be used. Will it be for entertainment such as playing games or internet usage? Will it be for record keeping such as organizing home finance records or scanning receipts? You want to purchase a computer that will meet your needs. It is an unfortunate event to purchase a computer and then realize it cannot do what you had wanted. Likewise, you wouldn’t want to pay a lot more for a computer that does much more than necessary.
- Read Consumer Reports (the September 2001 issue specifically addresses home computers) for information on how a particular brand name and model were reviewed by other computer users.
- Talk to the technical staff in the service department. Ask what brand of computer they would recommend. The service department staff generally sees all the problems that come back to the supplier and probably have a strong opinion about which computers are most reliable.
- Compare the extent of warranty coverage for each computer package you are considering. State law requires that warranties be available for the

customer to read before making a purchase. This includes when a customer is shopping by catalog or on the Internet.

- Once you have a list of businesses you are considering buying from, call your local Better Business Bureau or my Consumer Protection Division to check the complaint history of the business.
- When you have purchased a computer, be sure to keep all receipts. If you later purchase other accessories, or have any service done to the computer, keep those receipts as well. Receipts docu-

berry’s world



www.comics.com
© 2001 by NEA, Inc.



www.comics.com
© 2001 by NEA, Inc.
"IT WASN'T EASY, BUT I GOT AN Xbox."



www.comics.com
© 2001 by NEA, Inc.



www.comics.com
© 2001 by NEA, Inc.
"IT WASN'T EASY, BUT I GOT AN Xbox."