

commentary

from other pens...

Traditional diplomacy yields to support of Israel

By Barry Schweid

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is moving America’s traditional evenhanded diplomacy in the Arab-Israeli conflict toward a policy of overwhelming U.S. support for Israel and strong U.S. pressure on Yasser Arafat to eliminate terrorism.

“The president continues to believe it is incumbent on Chairman Arafat to do more, take more steps and show with action he is committed to eliminating terrorism and combatting it wherever it exists,” White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Thursday.

It was the latest tough statement by Bush administration officials that blamed Palestinian leader Arafat for spiraling violence and a slump in peacemaking and delegated to him the responsibility for stopping it.

The White House is coupling this with an understanding of Israel’s confinement of Arafat to virtual house arrest. “The president understands the reason Israel has taken the action that it takes,” Fleischer said.

In addition, word came Thursday President Bush gave three crucial Arab leaders evidence that Arafat’s Palestinian Authority was involved in an effort to smuggle 50 tons of weapons to the Palestinians, which were intercepted by Israeli commandos in the Red Sea.

A senior administration official said Bush asked the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt, moderate Arab friends of the United States, to help persuade Arafat to arrest more people connected to the plot.

Pressure on Arafat is building on Capitol Hill, where dozens of Congress members are back from a firsthand look at the violence.

Congress may be getting ready to try to force the closing of the Palestinians’ office in Washington, an option already known to be under study in the White House and State Department.

It would not be the first time the United States took tough action. In 1990, after a terror attack on Tel Aviv, former President Bush suspended U.S. diplomatic contacts with the Palestinians.

A decision on the Palestinian office depends on what Arafat does about combating terrorism, a senior U.S. official said Thursday.

Arafat has been under virtual house arrest on the West Bank for close to two months, which prevents him from traveling in the Middle East or to Europe to seek support for the Palestinian cause.

Hassan Abdel Rahman, the Palestinians’ chief representative in the United States, said the administration’s focus on criticizing Arafat was unfair, “especially in light of the Israeli siege all over the West Bank.”

If the Americans close his Washington office, Abdel Rahman said, it “would be like shooting their policy in the foot, especially at this crucial stage of efforts to bring Israel and the Palestinians back to the table.”

Bush plans to meet Feb. 7 with Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister. It will be the fourth time in less than a year Sharon has called on the president. Arafat never has been invited to see Bush.

Richard Murphy, a former assistant secretary of state and one-time U.S. ambassador to Syria, said Israel was determined to dismantle Arafat’s Palestinian Authority. “We have to measure our steps very carefully,” Murphy said, “so we are not seen as a supporter of their policy.”

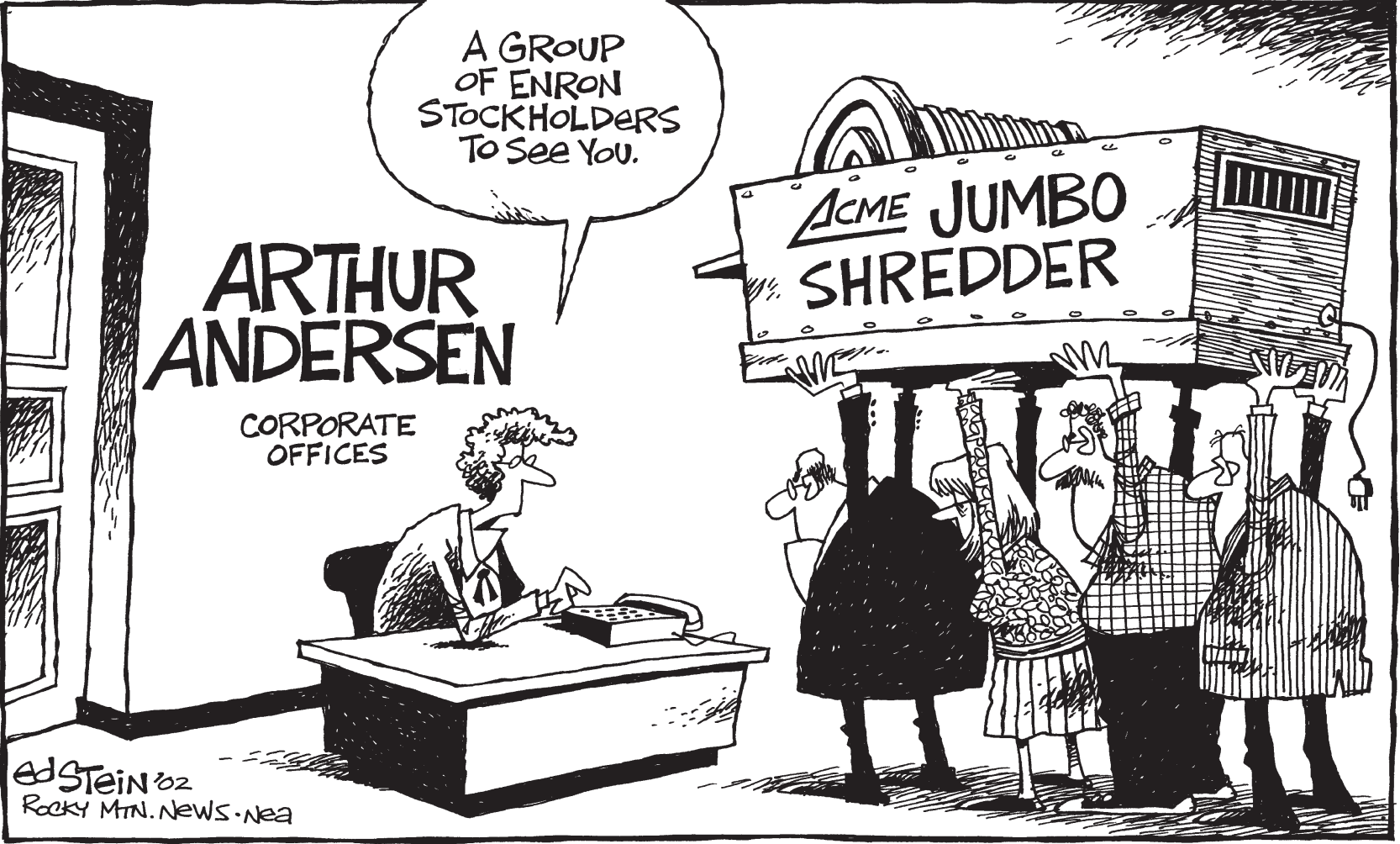
The administration was “thrown off balance” by the Palestinians’ abortive attempt to smuggle in the weapons, Murphy said from New York.

Murphy, now with the private Council on Foreign Relations, said he fears the United States might be headed down a “slippery slope” toward contributing to a civil war between Arafat’s Palestinian supporters and his Palestinian foes.

Edward Walker, a former assistant secretary of state and former ambassador to Egypt, Israel and the United Arab Emirates, who heads the Middle East Institute, said Arafat is losing the war against terrorism.

“We should be an ally of Arafat, but we cannot be if he is not going to do anything,” said Walker. “He has his bunker mentality on. The Europeans are turning away from him, not having given him any money for months, and the Arab governments are turning away.”

EDITOR’S NOTE — Barry Schweid has covered U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East for The Associated Press since 1973.



Sometimes I want to know the ‘rest of the story’

I don’t know about you, but once in awhile I get a little upset over something I read.

Case in point: a Wichita Eagle article on December 21st. I usually don’t react too much to news articles; I figure it is either only part of the story or one other person’s opinion. But this one kind of got to me.

The headline was “Plan would award millions to attack victims, family”. That caught my eye, so I read on. The dateline is Washington; the first paragraph is “Families and victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks would likely become millionaires under the terms of a tentative settlement package announce Thursday by a federal mediator.” (Who is mediating what for whom?)

It goes on to say that the “families of the more than 3,200 people killed in the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center and the plane crash in the Pennsylvania countryside would average \$1.6 million. The people who were badly injured in the attacks would receive payments tailored to the severity of their injuries and the effect of those injuries on their jobs.”

The compensation packages seem to be based



lorna
g. t.

• commentary

on the potential lifetime earnings of the deceased. What do you think of this idea?

I am for helping people in need, especially families with small children.

I am for people, no matter how they were injured, receiving proper medical treatment.

But making them millionaires? What about all the disrupted families of the military who are away from home fighting the war on terrorism?

Aren’t they also victims of this tragedy?

Some of them are barely getting by, financially. And what if some of those military are killed or maimed? Will their families also get millions?

Our government is really good about helping military widows. I know.

I was left with small children; my life was turned upside down. I accepted the compensation the gov-

ernment gave and was grateful to have it.

But I never expected, nor would feel right about, being handed a million dollars because my husband died fighting for that in which he believed.

Too much compensation might have taken away some of our need to work at overcoming the loss and to hold a hurting family together.

Each year the military and ex-military lose more and more of their benefits that were promised to them when they went into the military as a career. One promise was hospitalization benefits for life. That is a joke now — even for the active duty military and worse for the retired.

What happened to cause the government to overlook their sacrifices?

The Sept. 11 deaths are terrible; I won’t deny that. My heart goes out to all the victims. But tragedies happen in life. We should make sure the injured have good medical care, but not everything can be compensated, and money will not stop the hurt or bring the person back.

Besides, where is all the money donated by generous Americans going? Who is accounting for those billions?

Columnists, governors sort of fit together

This has been quite a week with the death of Wayne Gattshall, who we worked with on a weekly basis for the past four years as he wrote a column “Waynes’s World” for the newspaper.

Then within a few days of his death there is the death of John A. Love, former governor of Colorado, who we knew during the time he was in that office.

Being in the newspaper business brings one into contact with a wide variety of people on a daily basis, and among those we meet there is a number of politicians, and columnists who write about what the politicians are doing.

Gattshall never wrote about Governor Love in any of his columns, and I doubt the two had ever met, although that was not impossible since Gattshall grew up in Flagler, Colo. However, each in his own right earned our respect and we feel a bit diminished by their passing.

Gattshall tried to develop his own style for telling about the plight of the American farmer from his unique perspective. His “it takes two wives to run a farm,” and calls for removing a requirement for an export license were his way of trying to get people to look at the farm issue on a larger basis than what was being raised on the half-section next door.

He always said he hoped people would question more of the plans and policies coming out of the “Pioneer Village on the Potomac.” He believed there was something of a conspiracy between the banking community, Wall Street and the large exporting companies to keep the American farmer tied to government programs and payments.

He saw himself as an independent farmer, and through his column an independent voice. He prob-



tom betz

• t, t & o

ably could have made the columns more general, and less detailed which might have made him easier to follow, but he did not see it that way. He felt whether the issues of most favored nation trading statue for China, the North American Free Trade Agreement or the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, the reader needed to grasp that each had a relation to the American farmer and the farm economy or lack thereof with, “farm prices lower than a snake’s belly.”

There is quite a bit of knowledge and sincere thought in the four years of columns Gattshall wrote, and when we publish his final column on Tuesday it will be with a heavy heart. However, we are sure he is talking St. Peter into letting him continue to inform the multitudes in Heaven.

Governor Love was someone we met at a young age, and his manner and effort was something we remember. Love was mostly a quiet spoken and astute politician who enamored the people of Colorado to vote him into office and to re-elect him twice with large margins.

The state was economically in good shape, but in the midst of his first term Mother Nature dealt the state a wide ranging blow with the biggest flood in the state’s history in June 1965. At that time both the Platte River and the Arkansas River overflowed

and flooded thousands of acres with the Platte flooding through Denver and the Arkansas flooding from Pueblo to Garden City.

The year after the flood my parents and I were attending the Colorado Press convention in Denver, and there was to be a special ceremony in the governor’s office which we had been invited to attend. When I walked into that massive office Governor Love reached out his hand and said, “Hello Tom Betz. Nice to meet you. Thank you for coming.”

I was impressed — it wasn’t until much later I realized he had simply read my Colorado Press convention tag. The reason for the ceremony was to present a plaque to the City of Lamar for the clean up and rebuilding efforts from the previous year’s flood.

That was not my only trip to the governor’s office, and as I grew older and Love continued in office I would meet him it seemed on a regular basis — he would fly to Lamar and thanks to being with the newspaper I was on hand to talk to him and greet him. He didn’t always have a name tag to use to get my name right, but I was amazed he frequently did know who I was.

I always thought he was a good governor, although being on the opposite side of the political fence I did not always agree with his decisions. He was something of a quiet leader, but in his way he was very good for the state. I was disappointed when he decided to leave and become the first “Energy Czar” under President Richard Nixon, and I felt sorrow when he left that post after a short time.

I only saw him once or twice since those days in the mid 70s, but he had the same firm handshake as the first time I met him.

2002 legislative session has started

Week one, of the expected 13 week 2002 legislative session, activity leads me to believe that this may be the most interesting session of the last 10 years. During the good financial times of the 90s programs, services and growth were easy to manage. Now, with a seriously eroded economy and not enough money to “pay the bills,” we find ourselves making hard decisions.

I absolutely do not support a tax increase. I voted against the final budget for this fiscal year last session because of the proposed expenditures involving an underground parking lot at the Capitol Building as well as many other “unexplained” expenditures. Kansas has been developing budgets based on growing income for at least the last 10 years. Budgets must be based on actual income, not speculations. Thus a problem arises.

If I vote against any increase in statewide taxes such as sales, fuel, or income taxes, the state will not be able to make promised payments to local units of government. County demand transfers will not be as much as in past years and may even be cut. Programs to continue current levels of assistance to the elderly, disadvantaged and people in



jim
morrison

• capitol review

crisis will need reductions. Meals on Wheels may have to be discontinued. Schools may lose considerable funding on a per-pupil basis.

In other words, voting against statewide tax increases may translate to considerable increases in local taxes. So, if I do not vote for increased statewide taxes you will (not may) experience considerable increases in local taxes. A one-quarter cent increase in the state sales tax should allow the state to fund the full demand transfers to counties. That would prevent a local tax increase for my district. It is also interesting to note Johnson County and Sedgwick County would pay 44 percent of a statewide sales tax. We would see an increase in funding from the state with an increase in sales taxes statewide.

Making a long story shorter, it well may be that

I have to vote for an increase in state taxes to prevent massive local tax increases and to support educational needs.

Stay tuned and please understand I will do the best I can to make sure my district is fairly treated and we make most efficient use of tax money as possible. Thank you very much for your support. Contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Use the regular email address of jmorrison@ink.org if you desire to use email to contact me.

Letter Policy

The Goodland Daily News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with phone numbers, by e-mail to: <daily@nwkansas.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
Doug Stephens, Sports Editor

Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor Skilar Boland, Reporter
Eric Yonkey, Bill Wagoner, Advertising Sales
James Schiefen, Adv. Production Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Nor’west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight
Betty Morris Lana Westfahl Helen Diltz



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.

Incorporating:

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