

commentary

from other pens...

Bush becomes convert to nation building

President Bush seems an unlikely candidate to be a backer of nation building, the process whereby wealthier countries use money, expertise and encouragement to achieve good governance where it is lacking.

During the 2000 presidential campaign, Bush said the Clinton administration had gone overboard on nation building, a view shared by many fellow Republicans.

Nation building earned a bad name in 1993 when what started out as a U.S.-led program to feed starving Somalis got caught up in local politics and took a dark turn. A daylong firefight led to the deaths of 18 American soldiers, not to mention untold numbers of Somalis.

Driven by events, though, Bush has become a convert. Alluding to the Palestinian territories on Monday after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Bush said, "What we've got to do is work to put institutions in place which will allow for a government to develop."

The idea is to have a smoothly functioning, accountable system in the territories, one that operates openly, enforces the law, roots out corruption and meets the basic needs of the people — all in place by the time a Palestinian state comes into being.

This, Bush said, would give "great confidence" not only to Palestinians but to Israelis as well.

The United States is not yet deeply involved in Palestinian nation building but is encouraged that many Palestinians seem to have embraced the idea.

Elsewhere, Washington is taking on the role of international handyman in earnest. An example is Afghanistan, where officials fear terrorism could resurface if the country is left to its own devices.

The administration is planning to spend \$900 million in Afghanistan over two years in hopes of creating a vibrant democracy, leaving behind a generation of brutish misrule. Other donor countries are contributing as well.

After Sept. 11, Pakistan emerged from relative obscurity on the U.S. strategic map. The U.S. assistance program for Pakistan is \$625 million this year, much of it to repair the sad state of Pakistani education.

It's a place where thousands of schools teach Islamic fundamentalism — and breed militants. President Pervez Musharraf says the education system must be modernized. Washington concurs.

In Colombia, the administration believes the twin evils of violence and drugs will persist unless the country strengthens its institutions, creates jobs, makes the justice system accessible to the majority and curbs corruption and persistent human rights abuses.

The United States has provided \$1.7 billion in Colombia over the past two years, some for military assistance, the rest for nation building.

The U.S. track record of nation building is not good. Washington spent a small fortune in the 1980s trying it in Zaire and Liberia — with almost nothing to show for it.

Ivan Eland, a foreign policy analyst at the Cato Institute, says he has little faith in the process.

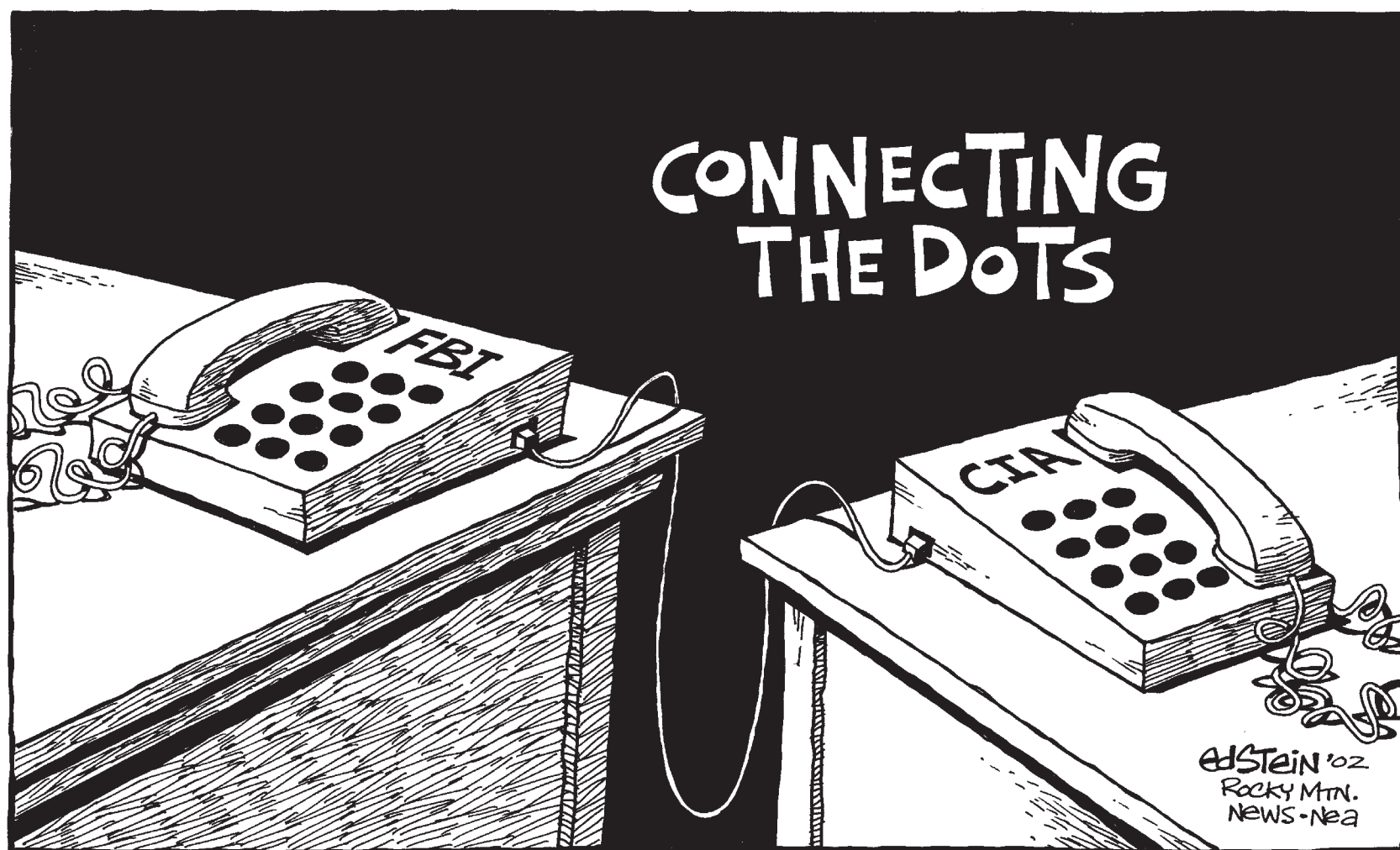
"Basically, people have to want to do it themselves," he says. "If they are open to trade and investment, they probably won't have much need for aid."

In the Palestinian territories, the challenge is great and resources are scarce. But the administration believes the political imperatives of making the Palestinian Authority a viable entity ahead of statehood leave it no other option.

Challenge No. 1 is reform of Palestinian security forces, some of which have been focusing not on law and order at home but on attacking innocent Israelis as a means of dealing with long-held grievances.

The administration hopes as reform happens in the territories and security for Israelis is enhanced, Israel will be more amenable to productive negotiations, leading to a more neighborly environment in the region.

EDITOR'S NOTE — George Gedda has covered foreign affairs for *The Associated Press* since 1968.



Memories of summer dairy treats

All of us have fond memories of various ice cream treats enjoyed in the hot weather. The following recipes were provided by the Midwest Dairy Association.

Creamy Carmelicious Milkshakes

1 1/2 cups lowfat milk
1/3 cup sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
1/3 cup caramel ice cream topping at room temperature

6 (3 ounce) plastic or paper cups or 6 (2.5 ounce) freezer pop molds
6 popsicle sticks

Combine sugar and cornstarch in a medium saucepan and gradually whisk in milk. Simmer over medium heat until thickened, about 2 minutes, whisking frequently. Remove from heat; stir in vanilla.

Transfer to large shallow bowl; refrigerate for about 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Drop heaping teaspoonfuls of caramel topping randomly over pudding. Gently swirl into pudding. Spoon mixture in cups and place cups in baking pan. Place sticks in centers. Freeze until firm. Makes 6 servings.

For pudding, refrigerate after swirling in caramel topping.



pat schiefen

• postscript

To save time substitute instant vanilla pudding mix for ingredients above and follow directions for pudding.

Double Strawberry Milkshakes

1 (10 ounce) package frozen strawberry halves in syrup

1 cup low fat milk
1/2 cup fat free strawberry frozen yogurt or strawberry sorbet

1 popsicle tray
8 popsicle sticks

Partially thaw berries by leaving at room temperature for 10 minutes or microwaving the unopened plastic pouch at high for 10 seconds.

Place partially frozen strawberries with liquid in blender container. Add milk and yogurt or sorbet. Cover, blend and pour into popsicle tray. Place sticks in center. Freeze until firm. Makes 8 servings.

Chocoberry Milk Chiller

1 cup lowfat chocolate milk
4 tablespoons chocolate syrup (divided)
2 tablespoons raspberry syrup
Stir 2 tablespoons of chocolate syrup and 2 tablespoons of raspberry syrup into chocolate milk and mix thoroughly. Chill mixture in freezer for 5 minutes. Drizzle remaining chocolate syrup on inside and bottom of glasses. Remove mixture from freezer and pour into drizzled glasses. Garnish with raspberries if desired. Makes two servings.

Lip-Lickin' Limeade Milk Chiller

1 cup milk
1 cup lime sherbet
1/4 cup frozen limeade concentrate, not thawed or diluted

Place milk, sherbet and limeade concentrate in blender container. Cover and blend. Pour into frosted glasses and garnish with lime slices if desired. Makes two servings.

Kiddie Coconut Milk Chiller

1 cup milk
1 cup pineapple sherbet or coconut sherbet
1/2 cup canned or fresh crushed pineapple
1/2 teaspoon coconut extract

Place milk, sherbet, pineapple and coconut extract in blender. Cover and blend. Pour into frosted glasses and garnish with pineapple spears if desired. Makes two servings.

Law provides immunity protection for farmers

We enacted a law which ensures the availability of anhydrous ammonia for Kansas farmers. The legislation was proposed in response to the agriculture industry's concerns relating to the theft of anhydrous ammonia for use in manufacturing methamphetamine. Kansas agriculture depends on anhydrous ammonia as a low-cost form of nitrogen fertilizer. However, the use of anhydrous ammonia by Kansas farmers has been threatened by the actions of methamphetamine producers. SB 489 provides immunity to farmers who own anhydrous ammonia from liability from lawsuits based on negligence filed by any person who has tampered with the chemical. The law also authorizes the imposition of certain civil penalties against persons or custom blenders who violate regulations regarding the storage of liquid fertilizer in mobile containers. Without the use of anhydrous ammonia, Kansas farmers would suffer increased expenses and the consumer would be faced with higher food prices. This important piece of legislation provides farmers with protection in order to economically produce agricultural products.

Funding Passed for Transportation Plan

Due to the current state fiscal situation, it became apparent to us during the early part of the session that if additional funding was not provided for the 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), many state highway projects would not be completed. In order to provide the necessary funding to maintain and complete transportation projects, the 2002 Legislature approved a measure that makes several changes to the tax and financing provisions of the transportation plan. HB 3011 increases state motor fuels tax by an additional 2 cents per gallon effective July 1, 2002. The state tax on gasoline will increase from 21 cents to 23 cents per gallon. In addition, the special fuels tax will increase from 23 to 25 cents per gallon and the LP-gas tax will increase from 20 to 22 cents per gallon. The transportation funding bill also increases motor vehicle registration taxes for passenger automobiles and pickup trucks by \$5 and for various trucks by amounts ranging from \$2 to \$10, effective July 1, 2002. As passed, HB 3011 provides \$44.2 million in funding for the CTP in FY 2003 in order to ensure Kansas roads, airports and railroads are maintained and additional needed transportation infrastructure is built.

Kansas No-Call Law Established

Kansas residents may soon sign up to eliminate unwanted telephone calls from telemarketers. We enacted the Kansas No-Call Act, which allows Kansans to put their phone number on a "no-call list" to greatly reduce the number of unsolicited calls they receive. Under Substitute for SB 296, consumers can sign-up to be on the no-call list at no cost by mail or for \$5 over the internet. A person's name will remain on the no-call list for



jim morrison

• capitol review

five years at a time. The exceptions to unsolicited phone calls include instances where a prior business relationship was established by voluntary two-way communication.

Substitute for SB 296 authorizes the Attorney General to contract with the Direct Marketing Association (DMA) to maintain the no-call list of Kansas consumers. The bill requires telephone solicitors to obtain and consult the Kansas no-call list and delete from their calling list all Kansas residents on the no-call list. Then, the telephone solicitor is prohibited from calling a consumer whose number is on the no-call list. If a telemarketer calls an individual who is on the no-call list, the consumer can complain to the county prosecutor or to the Kansas Attorney General's office and the entity would be liable for commissions of unconscionable acts or practices under the Kansas Consumer Protection Act. Since the legislation passed in mid-May, no web site or address is yet available for Kansas to sign-up for the no-call list. However, the Kansas Attorney General's office plans to place the industry web site and no-call list request form on its web site soon, so people can download it and send it to the DMA.

Research Centers Approved

New Kansas research centers will soon be able to receive federal funding for research and development projects. We passed the University Research and Development Enhancement Act this session. The act authorizes bonds to build three new university research centers and improve a fourth aviation research center. Proposed research centers include a biomedicine research facility at The University of Kansas Medical Center (KU Med) in Kansas City, a food safety research center at Kansas State University (KSU) and an aviation engineering center at Wichita State University (WSU). In addition, the measure will provide for improvements to be made at the National Institute for Aviation Research in Wichita, including the construction of a crash-testing lab and a tunnel for testing the effects of ice on aircraft wings.

HB 2690, as passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, gives the Kansas Board of Regents the ability to make and execute contracts for the construction, operation, and management of the before named scientific research and development facilities. In addition, the legislation would authorize \$133.0 million in bonds for the projects to be issued through the KDFFA. The legislation expands research and development infrastructure at state universities, which serves as an incentive

for federal grants. The new research centers are primarily economic development initiatives with emphasis on developing and safeguarding major sectors of the Kansas economy. Each of the facilities will provide an avenue for Kansas researchers to make medical advances for the benefit of all Kansans, to provide safer means of aviation travel and advance the protection of Kansas agriculture and food supply.

In Brief

• Keg Registration Act requires beer and cereal malt beverage (CMB) retailers to place an identification number on all kegs with a capacity of four gallons or more. SB 407

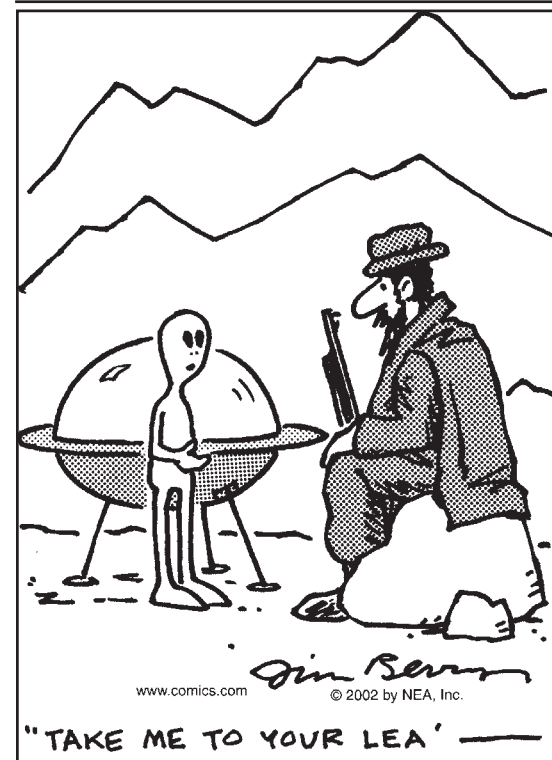
• Kansas State Board of Regents directed under the Higher Education Coordinating Act to develop and implement comprehensive plan for coordinating all program offerings by postsecondary institutions. SB 647

• Businesses that accept credit cards and debit cards cannot print more than the last five digits of the credit card or debit card account number or the expiration date of the card on a receipt issued to the cardholder. HB 2676

I am really happy to be home for the rest of the year and look forward to returning for the 2003 session. The 2003 session should be important for health care in rural Kansas, telecommunications and agriculture. I intend to be involved in framing the discussion for next year and beyond.

Thank you for your support, help, calls, email, letters and prayers during the last five months.

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