

from other pens...

Republican candidate sets record straight

Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain set the record straight over the weekend and in so doing probably enhanced his standing with some independent voters. He pretty much has his base locked up but needs infusion from Reagan Democrats and Independents.

What Sen. McCain did was to correct a misinformed supporter at one of his town hall meetings. A lady in the audience told Sen. McCain she didn't like Sen. Barack Obama and concluded by saying he is an "Arab."

It didn't take Sen. McCain but seconds to grab the microphone from her and say, "Sen. Obama is a decent family man. You don't have to be scared of him." The senator then explained that he just happens to have disagreements with Sen. Obama over issues in their campaigns for the presidency.

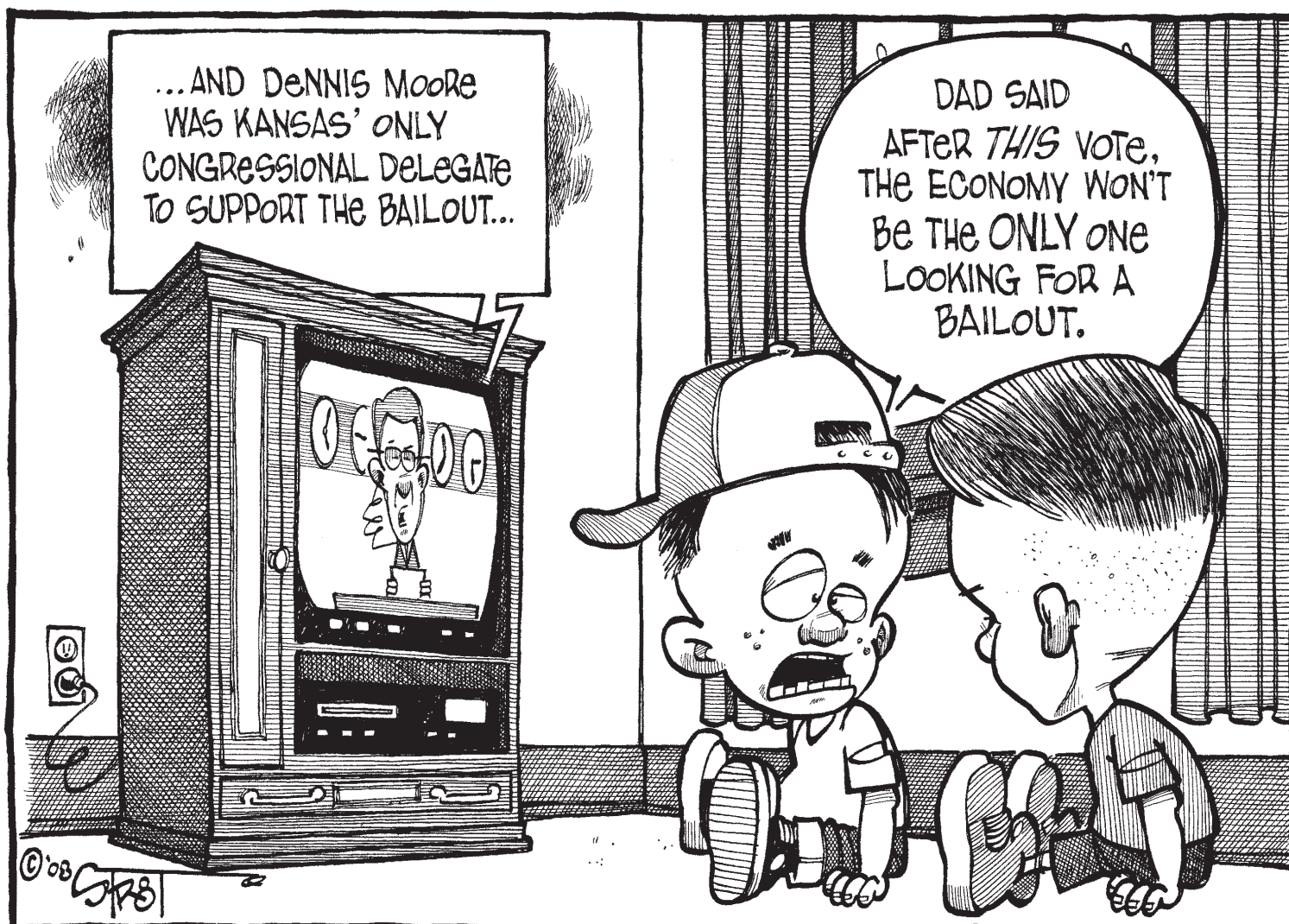
That, in itself, was a bold move on Sen. McCain's part. There was booing in the audience, but he handled that reaction very well.

We all know from watching presidential campaigns over many years, that the role of the vice-presidential nominee is that of "attack dog." And Gov. Sarah Palin is carrying that out as viciously as we have seen in years. Poll numbers would seem to indicate, however, that she is wearing thin with the voters. Perhaps Sen. McCain needs to take her to the side and have a chat.

When the governor came on board she was something new to Republican politics. She came in like a tidal wave. And to her credit, she woke up what had been a sleeping giant.

We don't know if Sen. McCain will continue his support of his rival as it relates to personal attacks or not, but it was a generous act, indeed. And Sen. Obama did call to thank him. And we would hope that Sen. Obama tones down his party's attacks on his rival. We'd all be the better for it, if he did.

— Tom Dreiling



Moran starting to talk about Senate

Congressman Jerry Moran has started to talk openly about his campaign for the U.S. Senate two years down the road.

The idea is nothing new. Rep. Moran, a Hays Republican, has talked with supporters about the possibility for a couple of years at least, and he's been committed to the race for at least a year.

For three or four years now, he's taken whatever speaking engagements and other invitations he could get from eastern Kansas, where he's not quite the household name he is out here in the 69-county Big First District.

Now, though, with his 2008 re-election all but in the bag, he's started raising money this year for the 2010 Senate campaign. He'll need it.

For several years now, former Sen. Bob Dole has talked up what he sees as the need to promote Mr. Moran to the Senate. As one of the more beloved of Mr. Moran's predecessors in the congressional seat, he should know a good candidate.

At first, the congressman was coy. He was happy in the House, he said.

But in the last year, he's admitted he could do more for Kansas and the causes he believes in in the Senate.

The power of a single senator, he says, is incredible, especially when you compare it to being just one of 435 members of the unruly House.

A single senator can hold any bill by threat-



steve haynes

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ening a filibuster. In the clubby senate, the desire of one member puts a "hold" on a bill that can be broken only by a 60-vote majority.

A couple of years ago, there was talk that Mr. Moran would come back to Kansas, run for governor and straighten things out in Topeka. He might do that, but the opportunity for a Senate seat seems more attractive.

Sen. Sam Brownback says he won't run for a third term, leaving his seat up for grabs. There's no doubt, Mr. Moran can have the Republican nomination, just as he would have won the nomination for governor.

Being in the Senate would allow his family to remain in Hays, where his girls have gone through school, and being governor would require them to move to Topeka. That is not such an attractive proposition for lifelong westerners, even though the commute to Washington each week can be a grind.

Sen. Brownback should be a snap to win the governorship against a Democratic candidate who promises to be far weaker than the incumbent.

That leaves Rep. Moran with what could be a tough race for the Senate. Or maybe not.

If Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is still in Topeka, there's a good chance she'll run for the Senate, too. That would be a contest. The governor is popular, she's a good political operator and a great campaigner.

But if the Democrats win the White House, her strong support for Sen. Barack Obama could land her in a cabinet post. She's a star among Democrat governors, she had a prominent role at the national convention and she's a natural for the national stage.

Then who would the Democrats run? No one who would beat Jerry Moran, that's for sure.

Leaving a safe seat in the House is always a gamble. Mr. Moran could serve there until he dies or retires. That doesn't seem likely. He'd get tired of running for re-election every two years.

The congressman is one of the few decent, honorable and intellectually honest members in the House. He stands by what he sees as right, regardless of pressure from the White House or the leadership. He questions the growth of government and the trend toward Uncle Sam making all our decisions. All that, and he's a pretty nice guy.

He is, in short, the person we should have representing us in the Senate. That may happen, it probably will, but it'll be an interesting two years.

where to write

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To listen to the Obama spin-masters you'd think that the McCain campaign's questioning of their candidate's association with unrepentant terrorist bomber Bill Ayers is a smear tactic falsely elevating a casual relationship between the two men into one where they worked together in promoting Ayers' far-left goals.

Their reaction to the continuing revelations that disprove that claim is one of sheer panic — and they have a good reason to be scared witless that any in-depth probe of what went on between the two comrades will reveal Obama's true colors — all of them dark red!

If the truth becomes better known — and it will if the Ayers issue is doggedly pursued — it will be clear that Obama was not only deeply immersed in the fetid swamp of Chicago's far-left political scene, but was from the very beginning of his career carefully groomed by the city's socialist left to follow the path he's on now in his quest for the presidency of the United States.

Giving credence to the charge that Obama was "groomed by an older generation of radical leftists for insertion into the American political process, trading on good looks, brains, educational pedigree, and the desire of the vast majority of the voting public to right the historical racial wrongs of the [past]" as the American Thinkers' Thomas Lifson has written:

• Obama belonged to the socialist New Party, described by Lifson as "a radical left organization, established in 1992, to amalgamate far-left groups and push the United States into socialism by forcing the Democratic Party to the left." A March 22, 1998 article by John Nichols in These Times revealed, "After six years, the party has built what is arguably the most sophisticated left-leaning political operation the country has seen since the decline of the Farmer-Labor, Progressive and Non-Partisan League groupings of the early part of the century."

• Obama has been allied with ACORN and their Project Vote, the radical leftist group now charged with massive vote fraud aimed at electing Barack Obama president of the United States. Obama has long been directly involved with ACORN. An article by Toni Foulkes of



michael reagan

• making sense

ACORN, "Case Study: Chicago-The Barack Obama Campaign," which appeared in Social Policy magazine in 2004, Foulkes revealed ACORN noticed Obama when he was organizing on the far south side of the city with the Developing Communities Project. Wrote Foulkes: "He was a very good organizer. When he returned from law school, we asked him to help us with a lawsuit to challenge the state of Illinois' refusal to abide by the National Voting Rights Act... Obama took the case, known as ACORN vs. Edgar... and we won. Obama then went on to run a voter registration project with Project VOTE in 1992 that made it possible for Carol Moseley Braun to win the Senate that year. Project VOTE delivered 50,000 newly registered voters in that campaign (ACORN delivered about 5000 of them). Since then, we have invited Obama to our leadership training sessions to run the session on power every year, and, as a result, many of our newly developing leaders got to know him before he ever ran for

office."

• Obama and Bill Ayers were close associates for years, going back as far as 1995 if not earlier. According to CNN: "A review of board minutes and records by CNN show Obama crossed paths repeatedly with Ayers at board meetings of the Annenberg Challenge Project. The Annenberg Foundation gave the project a \$50 million grant to match local private funds to improve schools... Obama was asked to serve as the board chairman in 1995... For seven years, Ayers and Obama — among many others — worked on funding for education projects, including some projects advocated by Ayers... The board, for example, gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to Bill Ayers' small schools project... The funding, according to records... CNN reviewed, came directly from the Annenberg foundation which Obama chaired. While working on the Annenberg project, Obama and Ayers also served together on a second charitable foundation, the Woods Fund."

No wonder the Obama campaign wants the Ayers connection to be off-limits.

Mike Reagan, the elder son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on talk radio stations nationally. E-mail comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com.

