

from our viewpoint...

## Tuesday's election was not an upset

The pundits are calling it an upset. The pundits, keep in mind, live in a world all their own. What happened in Massachusetts Tuesday night in that state's special election to fill out the term of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, was bound to end up like it did.

The Kennedy clan endorsed the Democratic candidate, Atty. Gen. Martha Coakley. Little good that did. President Obama traveled to Boston to appear at a Coakley rally over the weekend. Little good that did. A lot of Democratic leaders traveled to Massachusetts to lend their support. Little good that did.

State Sen. Scott Brown, little known outside "the State of Kennedy," won the election. His victory was big, very big. What it did was rob the Democrats of their 60-vote cushion in the United States Senate. The makeup will be 59 Democrats and 41 Republicans.

It is unclear at this time when the new senator-elect will be administered the oath. That's important, too, because those 59 votes aren't quite enough to hold off any plans the Republicans might have to derail the healthcare reform bill, currently being negotiated between the Senate and the House. There is talk that the Democratic leadership might try to pull a fast one and schedule a vote while they still have those 60 votes before Sen.-elect Brown finishes the oath.

There are some key Democrats, however, who are displaying anger at any such move by their leadership to beat the oath to the punch. Keep your eye on Senate Majority Leader Reid and House Speaker Pelosi. That's where the signal to jump before the gun goes off will come from.

The Democrats are in trouble. Make no mistake about that. The Massachusetts results just might be the beginning of an unraveling of the Democratic Party's blanket. How all of this is happening is nothing short of a mystery. After all, they own the White House, the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. And they still are having trouble getting it right. Some Capitol Hill folks just don't know how to handle political prosperity, plain and simple.

Maybe — and this is just a matter of thinking out loud — maybe the good people of the state of Massachusetts have taken the first step to move beyond that political dynasty known as the Kennedy clan. They've controlled the political machine for so long with their untold wealth and in most cases facing only token opposition, that Sen.-elect Brown looked to them to be a breath of fresh air. And if that be the case, they took one whale of a whiff Tuesday night.

While the Republicans are wearing smiles on their faces, the Democrats are busy now pointing the finger of failure at one another. Who would have ever guessed. Just one year ago the Democrats were flying high with the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Today, they are a party in shambles.

And there is only one person who can pull them out of this nose dive: President Obama. He's needs to take charge, like a battalion commander in the face of battle, to get his party back to where it should be. Of course the Republicans are in hopes he doesn't achieve that goal. And rightfully so!

- Tom Dreiling

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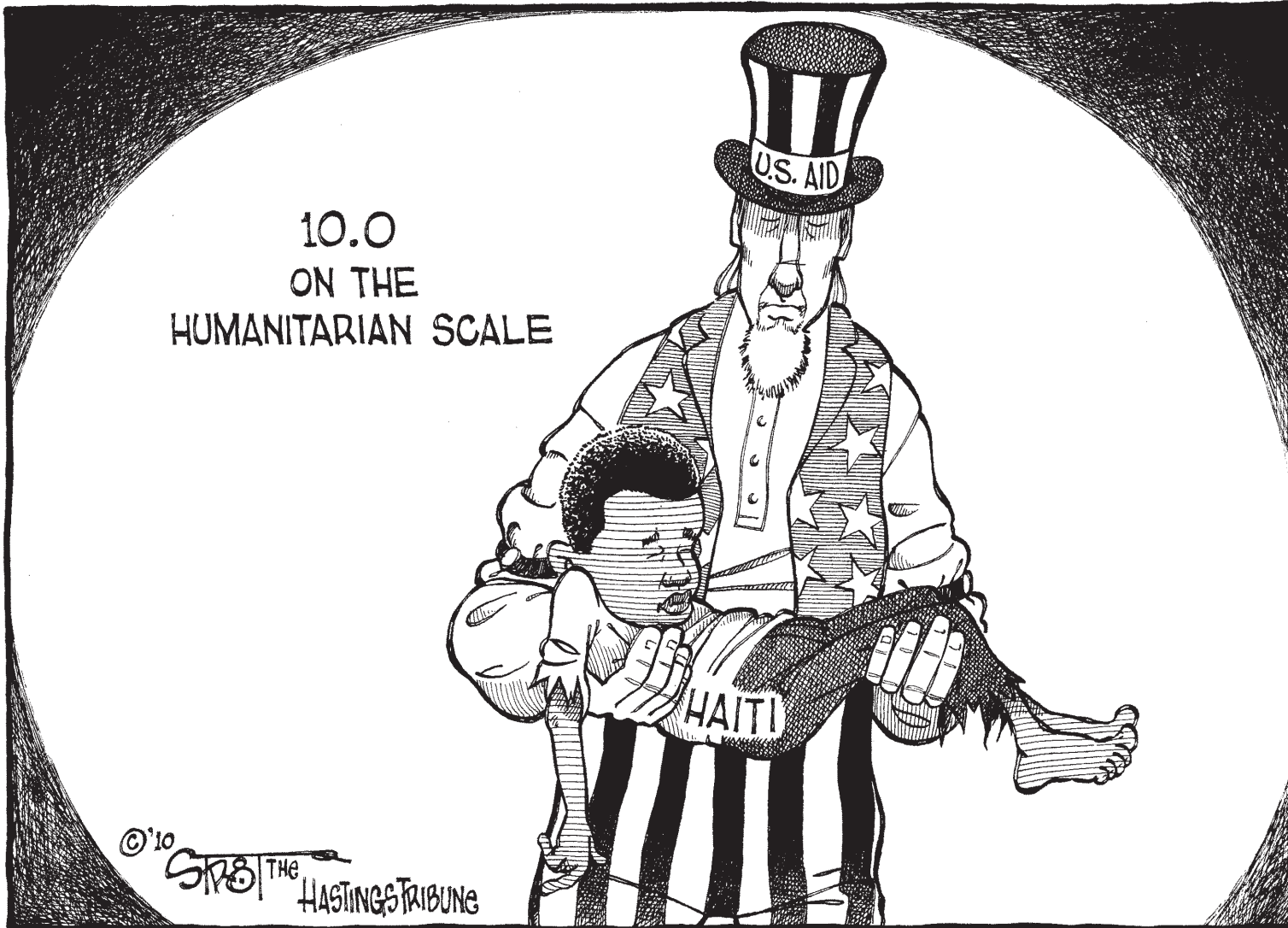
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## Budget main topic of session

The state budget will no doubt be the main topic of the legislative session.

Will we raise taxes or make further cuts?

There is an opinion by some that further cuts will only make the hole deeper.

I tend to agree with Winston Churchill's statement, "Taxing your way to prosperity is like standing in a bucket and lifting the handle."

The business community is struggling and doesn't need higher taxes to slow the economy even more.

The Governor's speech on Monday was delivered better than the nine prior State of the State addresses. He was firm upfront and



**Ralph Ostmeyer**

• state senator

sometimes cautious as he spoke.

I had hoped he would not have asked for tax increases as solutions to the current fiscal crisis. Our receipts still have not leveled off, and we need to be cautious of raising taxes, adding further burdens on the people of Kansas. Businesses have no one to bail them out and I hope we don't increase their burden this session.

When we finish the legislative session, I hope we have made policies that will serve Kansas best with the least harm.

I always appreciate the contacts from my 40th Senate District. The office room number has changed this year to Room 225-East. However, we are still in the same room as before.

My e-mail address is: [Ralph.Ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Ralph.Ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov)

My secretary's e-mail is: [judy.crapser@senate.ks.gov](mailto:judy.crapser@senate.ks.gov)

The office telephone number is: (785) 296-7399

## We need to take back our country

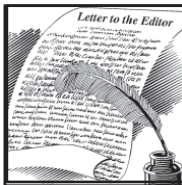
To the editor,

Obama has broken all his campaign promises — bailing out the rich. This country is losing our liberties, we don't need a dictator with concentration camps. The people we are fighting have no respect for life. We should do as Bush No. 1 did, start sending missiles, and get our troops out. Those people do not want a democracy or republic over there anyway.

Many people had jobs until Obama took the stuttering oath of office and started spending trillions. They also had 401K savings plans, which are now half the size.

We do not need the Rockefellers and stock market having all this power and money and continuing to break this country.

We do not need foreign oil, we have plenty of our own. I feel that this war is no longer ours,



### from our readers

• to the editor

but that theses foreign countries should supply the fuel, since we are over there fighting for their freedom.

Obama thinks the poor and middle class are going to pay off this huge debt?? Somehow we need to take our country back. Too many people have fought to keep our freedoms and liberties. I understand that the rich Rockefellers have instigated theses wars for their profit. Have they fought in any of these wars? Also, do the rich people of this country pay their share

of income tax, or do they hide their money. Maybe we should have a fair tax, instead of an income tax.

There is definitely something wrong with the governing of this country. More and more bureaucrats are appointed. What are the Zarrs doing in Congress? Apparently the acorns are no longer there. I say that we shouldn't have lobbyists in Congress and the people staying at the United Nations building should have to pay rent on those apartments.

Never have I seen so much corruption. The White House was bought, I didn't know that it was for sale.

My Dad fought in the trenches of World War 1 — ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Ruth Nichols  
Kantorado

## A salute to state's top post office

**Thumbs Up** to all those who took part in setting up and taking down the Nativity Scene in the hospital area. Your labor is appreciated. (telephone request); to the state's top post office, at Kanorado, on your 111th birthday! (email request); to Mr. Barkley, for sharing his story of hope; to the people who drive the public transportation mini-buses, thus allowing the community to have that much needed service.

-td-

A golden opportunity awaits the leadership of our community. It has to do with the building currently known as the Goodland National Guard Armory. It becomes the City of Goodland's property sometime in February, if I understand things correctly. It's big, there's a lot of ground around it and our leaders will have to put on their best thinking caps on this one to come up with some significant use. Got any ideas? Share them with our leadership, they need to hear from you; or email me at [tad1@st-tel.net](mailto:tad1@st-tel.net).

-td-

I've had it with the Jay Leno-Conan O'Brien power struggle on NBC. Who cares? Sadly, this nightly squabble is about the only thing on NBC that's drawing viewers. But maybe that's NBC's plan — keep the infighting going,



**tom dreiling**

• time out with td

it helps their viewer count. I thought Leno's new prime time show was a bust and O'Brien's wasn't much better. Wherever they end up, they can count me out as a viewer.

-td-

How about the K-State Wildcats beating previously unbeaten and top ranked Texas? That gives the 'Cats a 16-2 mark and Texas 17-1. Whatever spell coach Frank Martin has cast over his troops is paying off. I've even dusted off my 'Cat jacket. In my little family my two sons, Todd and Lance, and daughter Denise are KU fans....don't ask me why. But I am anxiously awaiting the first showdown of the season between the 'Cats and the Jayhawks at Manhattan later this month. Too, I would be remiss if I didn't tip the hat to the Wichita State University men's basketball team for their great season so far and the Fort Hays State University Tigers for their outstanding run. KU, KSU, WSU and FHSU are reasons why the sports world is talking about the state of Kansas!

## where to write

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; web address — [roberts.senate.gov](http://roberts.senate.gov)

**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521; web e-mail address — [brownback.senate.gov/CMEmail.me](mailto:brownback.senate.gov/CMEmail.me)

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