

from our viewpoint...

Can a President use troops in take over?

There's suspicion in some circles that President Obama is moving to solidify potential control of the country using federal troops.

Constitutionalists worry that creation a Council of Governors to coordinate response by the Defense Department, Homeland Security, state and federal agencies, the U.S. military Northern Command and the state National Guards poses a threat to our liberty.

That could be; use of federal troops within U.S. borders has always been considered a risky move, not forbidden, just not done.

You can count on your hands the number of times federal troops have gone into action on home soil. George Washington proposed to call up state militias to enforce tax laws during the so-called Whiskey Rebellion, but the issue was settled before he could carry out his threat.

President Eisenhower used federal troops to enforce a court order integrating schools in Little Rock, Ark. And of course, Abraham Lincoln did send blue-suited troops into the south to put down the late rebellion. In some quarters, those are still considered controversial actions.

The current proposal seems to be aimed more at use of troops in emergency situations, whether it might be a terrorist attack, a hurricane or some other disaster of extreme magnitude, though it could apply to an insurrection. The council would coordinate state and federal response. A treaty with Canada quietly signed in recent years would allow joint action by troops of both countries.

States have shown they can handle most disasters themselves. New York responded to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks with dignity and aplomb, but then New York City has more police, fire and medical resources than most states.

Some disasters pose such a broad and deep challenge that they defy state and local resources, however. The great San Francisco earthquake cut the city off from the rest of the world for days. Fire swept the ruins and officials despaired of keeping order.

Only the Army, under Gen. Fred Funston, a Kansan who commanded U.S. troops at the Presidio, working with city authorities, could quell disorder and keep the peace. What the general and San Francisco's mayor did, declaring a form of martial law, was not considered exactly legal by scholars of the day, but it worked.

Similarly, after public order dissolved in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, only the arrival of the U.S. Army, carrying M-16 rifles, could restore order in the flooded city. The disaster was too complete, the city's forces too broken to do it alone.

We hope this council will help form a way to regulate federal response in situations where it is needed, but that has happened only a few times in our history. It seems unlikely that most of us will see the day when troops are needed again to solve a civil issue.

And while it's true, in the best of all possible worlds, that federal aid in such situations should be planned and regulated, not invented by the commander on the scene, it's also true that once the feds step in with money and people, states are glad to take the money and often back away from their own responsibilities.

Witness the current mindless clamor to claim federal "disaster" money anytime hail or wind or minor flooding strikes.

As to the constitutional danger, it does exist, and we should guard against it. The Council of Governors and the linkage between state and federal agencies, born of a President George Bush-era budget bill, might be benign. It could be a danger.

We can only say, as with so many things that increase the power of the federal government in all areas, that it needs watching. Federal power, a sleeping bear, has the potential to be dangerous.

If the time ever comes when we wake up in the bear's embrace, it will be too late to do anything about it. — Steve Haynes

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e-mail: star.news@nwkansas.com

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nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services
(nt.betz@nwkansas.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkansas.com)

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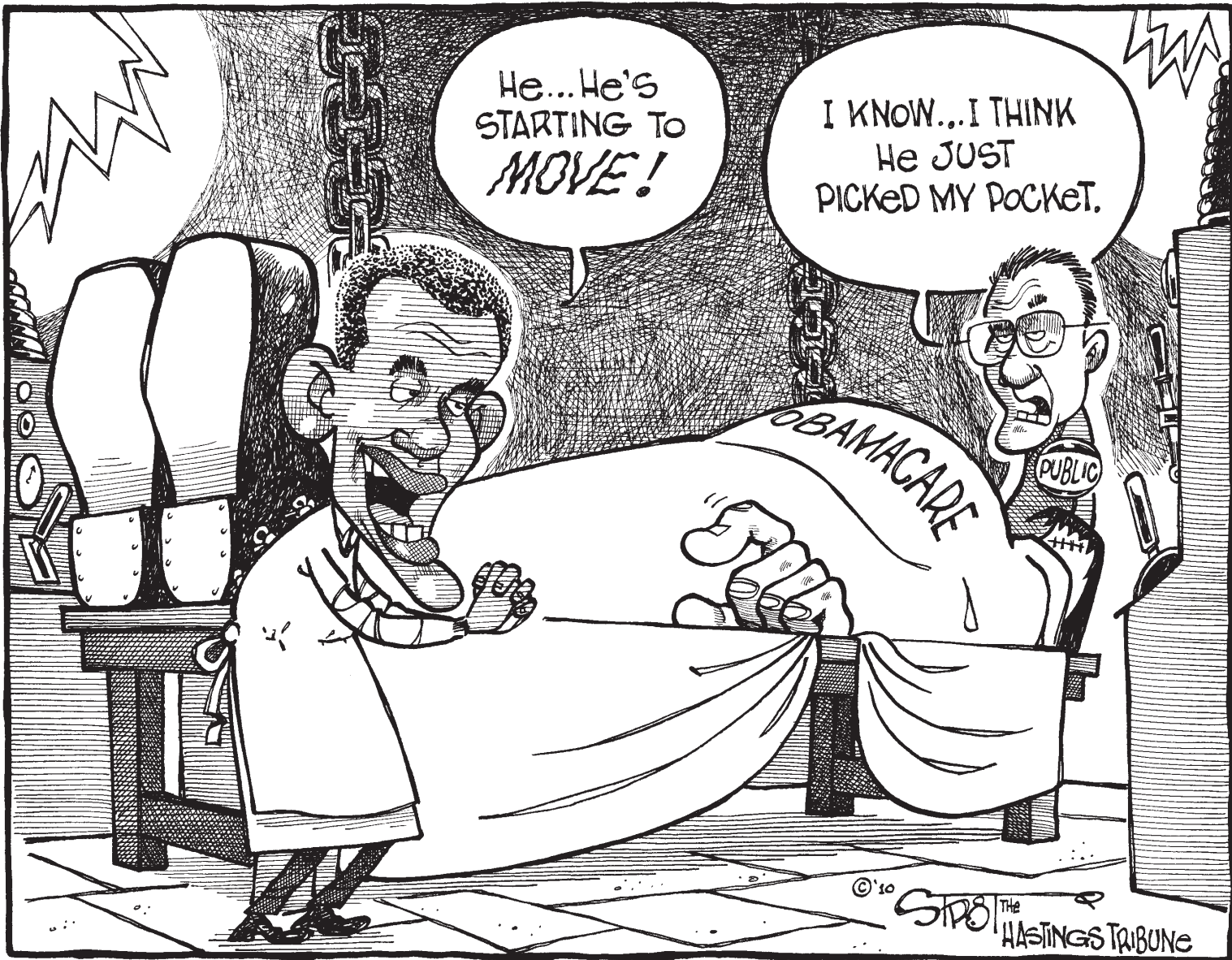
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Things I remember from my younger days

I seem to be spending more and more of my time with youngsters, or at least people younger than me.

And with every passing year, that number grows a lot.

I like to tell stories, but these days a lot of my references just go over their heads. I feel like the opposite of the protagonist in the second "Back to the Future" movie trying to get a drink at the drug store.

I finally sat down and wrote out a list of things that I remember or lived through that many of my co-workers might not remember.

I'm so old:

- I remember when we didn't have a television set – no one we knew did.
- I attended a Peter, Paul and Mary concert.
- I remember where I was when John F. Kennedy was shot.

- I watched the Mickey Mouse Club, Captain Kangaroo and Howdy Doody on television at my grandparents' house, since they had one of the first televisions in town.

- I was in college when Neil Armstrong landed on the moon.

- I remember when people got mad when they got an answering machine.

- I shook former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller's hand.
- I remember when Dwight Eisenhower was president and Richard Nixon was vice president.

- Phones came in black and they all had a cord. In fact, until I was in high school, we talked to the operator to make a phone call.

- I remember the Cold War and worrying that the Russians were going to nuke us all.
- Railroads still ran passenger trains, so you could take the Sante Fe, Missouri Pacific or Burlington to get somewhere.



cynthia haynes

• open season

- No one from earth had ever been in space. Space travel was strictly science fiction.

- People got killed going over the Berlin Wall and we ran a supply-drop air lift when the Communists closed off West Berlin, which was in East Germany.

- I used the phone in the lobby of my dorm to call my parents every Sunday night but kept those calls short because long distance was expensive.

- Milk came in bottles and sometimes it came in bottles with the cream at the top.

- Everyone got the chicken pox. If one child in town got them, parents would take their children over for "pox parties" so they could get it over with. Most children also got measles and mumps.

- When I was in grade school, Juan Batista was the evil dictator of Cuba and Fidel Castro was the rebel leader who was going to save the country.

- I remember when transistor radios made music mobile. You could suddenly take your radio to the porch, the beach, the mountains, the lake.

- There was no such thing as Diet Coke or Diet Pepsi.

- When I first started wearing hose, I made sure the seams were straight and kept them up with garters.

- Several of my classmates served in the Vietnam War.

- My husband Steve visited New York when

he was in high school but didn't visit the twin towers of the World Trade Center – because they hadn't been built yet.

- I remember racial segregation and all the disturbances it took to abolish it.

- Maxwell House and Folgers were the coffee most people drank and a cup cost 5 or 10 cents at a restaurant or you made it in the percolator at home.

- The drug store sold 5 cent Cokes and theater tickets were 50 cents for children and 75 cents for adults.

- One of the sayings for something that was never expected to change was, "Is the pope Italian?"

- Band Aids came only in dead white or a tan shade known as flesh.

- Central air was virtually unheard of but people had window fans, swamp coolers and the occasional window unit.

- People sat out on the front porch at night, not on the patio or back-yard deck.

- A vaccine for polio had not been invented and one of my grade-school friends contracted the dread disease.

- Yes, I really did see *I Love Lucy* and *The Andy Griffin Show* the first time around, and I watched the Beatles on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

However:

- I did not have to crank the car to start it.
- Air travel had been invented by the time I was born.

- I did not live through the Great Depression or World War II.

- Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt and Queen Victoria were dead before I was born.

So there you have it: I'm not older than dirt, but it's likely I'm older than you. (No, Mother I'm not talking about you.)

A winning proposition



Insight this week

• john schlageck

In communities across Kansas, farmers' markets continue to offer homegrown and homemade products.

Everything from freshly picked fruits and vegetables to mouthwatering baked goods, fresh eggs, beef, lamb, pork, colorful flower arrangements and assorted bedding plants.

Farmers' markets are one of the quickest growing industries in communities across this country. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently reported there are more than 6,100 such markets today. This is up 16-percent since last year, meaning more than 850 opened this past year.

This access to fresh, high-quality food and the joy of connecting with a farmer is something that is resonating with more and more people. Key here is the opportunity for consumers to talk to the people producing the food.

When people have the chance to talk to someone one-on-one, they believe that because the food is grown closer to home, it's probably safe. There's a sense of responsibility

for the vendors who stand there and face the people who are buying their goods.

Vendors like markets because they can sell their home-produced products directly to consumers with no middleman. Farmers' markets are unique because the producer is also the marketer.

In most phases of production agriculture the producer rarely has a chance to participate in this level of marketing. If a farmer grows wheat for example, he can sell it but has no control over price. In a farmers' market he can set the price and negotiate with people.

Farmers' markets are popular with a wide range of people. In university towns like Manhattan and Lawrence international students, accustomed to shopping in markets rather than grocery stores, frequent these establishments. Senior citizens are also regular customers.

Markets are popular with people who have been transplanted from rural to urban areas. Folks who were raised in rural areas like that connection with the farm.

Without a doubt, farmers' markets are a happening, a community event and a place to socialize. Many shoppers rise early in the morning so they can talk to people and sometimes more importantly secure the best produce. You remember, the early bird gets the worm.

Shopping in an outdoor venue is just more fun. There's nothing like an open-air venue to buy fresh, healthy food.

And after a recent trip I took a couple weeks

ago, I listened as a younger shopper told me it's serious, part of a socially responsible life.

"I'm buying from people in my own community," she informed me. "I'm supporting people who I live with."

Farmers' markets are family affairs. Kids are as much a part of scene as the vendors and customers. In case you hadn't noticed, kids like to eat too and they know what they like.

And for the children who help their parents sell products, it's a primary learning experience. Heck, I've seen many a second or third grader making change as Mom hands over the goods.

The friendly relationship between buyers and sellers, the festive atmosphere and the quality produce all make the farmers' market a popular community event.

While I go to the market mainly for juicy, mouth-watering tomatoes and fresh, brown farm eggs, I sometimes find a real treat, something I haven't bargained for or something my wife or I can't replicate at home.

My favorite purchase at the downtown Manhattan farmers' market are homemade tamales and salsa brought to our community by a vendor who lives in Topeka. Talk about wonderful.

You know, I'd go to our farmers' market even if I didn't buy something, but that'll never happen because I love to eat too much.

I just like being there. It's the best show in town.

John Schlageck of the Kansas Farm Bureau has been writing about farming and ranching in Kansas for more than 25 years. He is the managing editor of "Kansas Living," a quarterly magazine dedicated to agriculture and rural life in Kansas.