

from our viewpoint...

Honor tarnished by extra comments

One of his friends came to Topeka to give Sen. Tim Huelskamp an award last week.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, named Sen. Huelskamp, a Fowler Republican, as a "Hero of the Taxpayer."

Though it sounds like something out of the old Soviet Union, it's really a nice honor for a conservative legislator. While on the podium, though, he made some comments about Republicans and tax increases that drew a reporter's attention, and the result was not so good.

"Republicans who vote for tax increases are like rat head in Coke bottles," Mr. Norquist said. "They don't just hurt themselves; they damage the brand."

Of course the reporters had a field day. Sen. Steve Morris, who has the next district over, allowed as how he had voted for a couple of tax increases over the years. Morris, a conservative of sorts, is president of the Senate, and a man of some influence.

Rep. Bill Light of Rolla said he had voted for tax increases for highways and schools over the years. He thought they were good.

Nothing like offending potential allies to get a session rolling. Sen. Huelskamp has been a leader of conservatives in the Senate, especially since the untimely death of Sen. Stan Clark. He has been leading the anti tax forces, and he deserved the award.

He didn't deserve the notoriety that went along with Mr. Norquist's remarks. What an ugly phrase. Graphic and to the point, but tasteless.

And, whatever true believers say, there are times a tax increase is appropriate. Not many perhaps, but they exist.

Kansas spending has grown, in real dollars, more than four times in 40 years, though. We've had quite enough tax increases over that time, thank you very much.

And while his heart was in the right place, Mr. Norquist wasn't doing his friend or the antitax movement much of a favor talking like that.

Call a spade a spade if you must, Mr. Norquist, but leave the rats out of it.

The effort to control state spending and end the constant stream of tax increases is too important to be left to the careless and the loudmouthed.

With the state Supreme Court trying to establish a right of unlimited school funding, the entire state budget is in peril. We need all the help we can get here.

Memo to Sen. Huelskamp:
Find some new friends. — *Steve Haynes*



Newspaper shows lack of integrity

To the Editor:
As you all may know by now, we have canceled our subscription to *The Star-News* and dropped all advertising and our Internet service due to the lack of integrity that you have shown over the past few years.

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from our readers
● to the editor

junk at the store. You and your staff should be ashamed of what you have turned this paper into.

We know many people in this community feel the same as us. Have your subscription numbers changed recently? If not, believe us, they will!

Shad and Penny Sheldon
Goodland

Your paper has become nothing short of tabloid news, and frankly, we are tired of reading it. If we want to read gossip, we will buy that

Pirro vs. Clinton: A real fight for Hillory

By Dick Morris
Westchester District Attorney Jeanine Pirro is about to announce for the Senate from New York, which will pit her against Hillary in a battle royal. This is just the kind of fight Sen. Clinton had hoped to avoid.

While Hillary would have no problem dispatching an opponent like Nixon son-in-law Edward Cox or Yonkers Mayor John Spencer (the two other possible GOP contenders), Pirro presents a real problem.

Jeanine Pirro is pro-choice, pro-gun control, pro-affirmative action, pro-gay-civil unions and pro-immigration. And, of course, she's a woman.

In a sense, Hillary will have to end up running against someone who is quite like herself in her public positions: Except, of course, Pirro is a good old-fashioned anti-tax, anti-crime, tough-on-terror Republican from the suburbs.

Hillary would love to cloak her Senate reelection as a necessity in the face of a determined GOP effort to overturn *Roe vs. Wade* and to roll back the clock on gun controls. But against Pirro, she will be disarmed of all her best issues. She will have to run on her own record, which is limited at best.

Pirro, on the other hand, can point out that Hillary refuses to say she will serve out her term if elected — since we all know that the day the returns are in she will start her campaign for president. (Hillary has her own twist on the famous line of Gen. Sherman: "If elected, I refuse to serve.")

The Quinnipiac Poll recently found Hillary beat Pirro by more than 30 percentage points — but in the same poll, 60 percent of the state's voters said Mrs. Clinton should pledge to serve out her full term if she runs for the Senate.

Jeanine looks weak in the polls right now because she has about a 30 percent level of real name recognition statewide. But the fact that



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to be re-elected than voted for her in the first place.

And, at some point, Mrs. Clinton may feel Pirro gaining on her and wonder if it is worth the battle.

It's worth remembering Hillary did not want Bill to run for re-election for governor of Arkansas in 1990 as he contemplated a race for president in 1992. (Back then she had a better idea: She would run in his place!)

Hillary almost has a lock on the Democratic nomination in 2008 and can build up a massive financial and political lead over all possible rivals. But if she is engaged in a nip-and-tuck battle in New York to keep what she already has, she will have to divert \$30 million or \$40 million from her presidential race and spend her time in Rochester, rather than in Iowa.

If Pirro posts some early gains, particularly upstate, where it is cheap to do early advertising, Hillary and Bill may read the handwriting on the wall and she may pull out of the race.

Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years. Look for Dick's new book "Because He Could" about Bill Clinton. © 2005 Dick Morris, all rights reserved. e-mail Dick Morris at dmredding@aol.com

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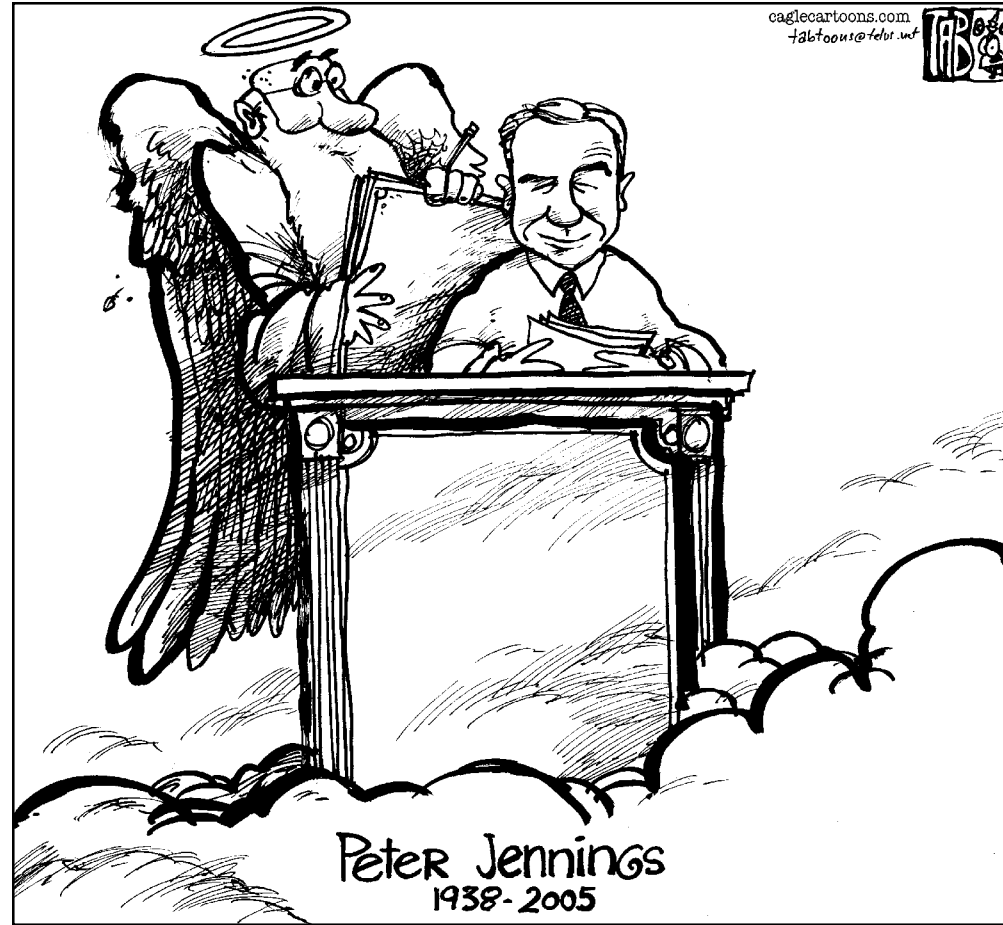
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