

from our viewpoint...

'More of the same' won't win drug war

Why is it when the War on Drugs fails, the answer is always, "more of the same?"

The latest failure, oddly enough, stems from one of the few real successes we've had in this decades-long war.

Putting cold tablets behind the counter at drug stores has cut the incidence of meth labs in Kansas by more than half in just six months.

And that is great news as far as it goes.

Cooking meth is a dangerous sport. We don't need drug labs in Kansas.

But making the drug harder to produce, while it makes the state a safer place, does nothing to lessen demand for the drug.

We still have a lot of meth addicts. They're going to get their "stuff" from somewhere.

So now law enforcement officials report a rush of Mexican and Asian imports to fill the gap left by home-brew meth labs.

What we should see is that we're not going to find a legal solution for our drug problem, any more than we found a legal solution for our alcohol problem.

Addiction is a disease.

Addicts need their drugs. Making them illegal doesn't change anything for the addict.

If we want to do something about the drug problem, we need to start with the addicts and help them. With the children, and teach them. With society, and find out why so many of us fall prey to addiction.

As a people, though, we don't learn these lessons very well.

We tried to end alcoholism by banning alcohol.

It didn't work.

And we're little better off in terms of treating the problem than we were a century ago.

When other drugs arose, we made them illegal.

It didn't work.

Yet we keep trying to find a legal solution to the problem.

The solution isn't in the law. We can't hire enough cops and build enough prisons to stop the drug trade.

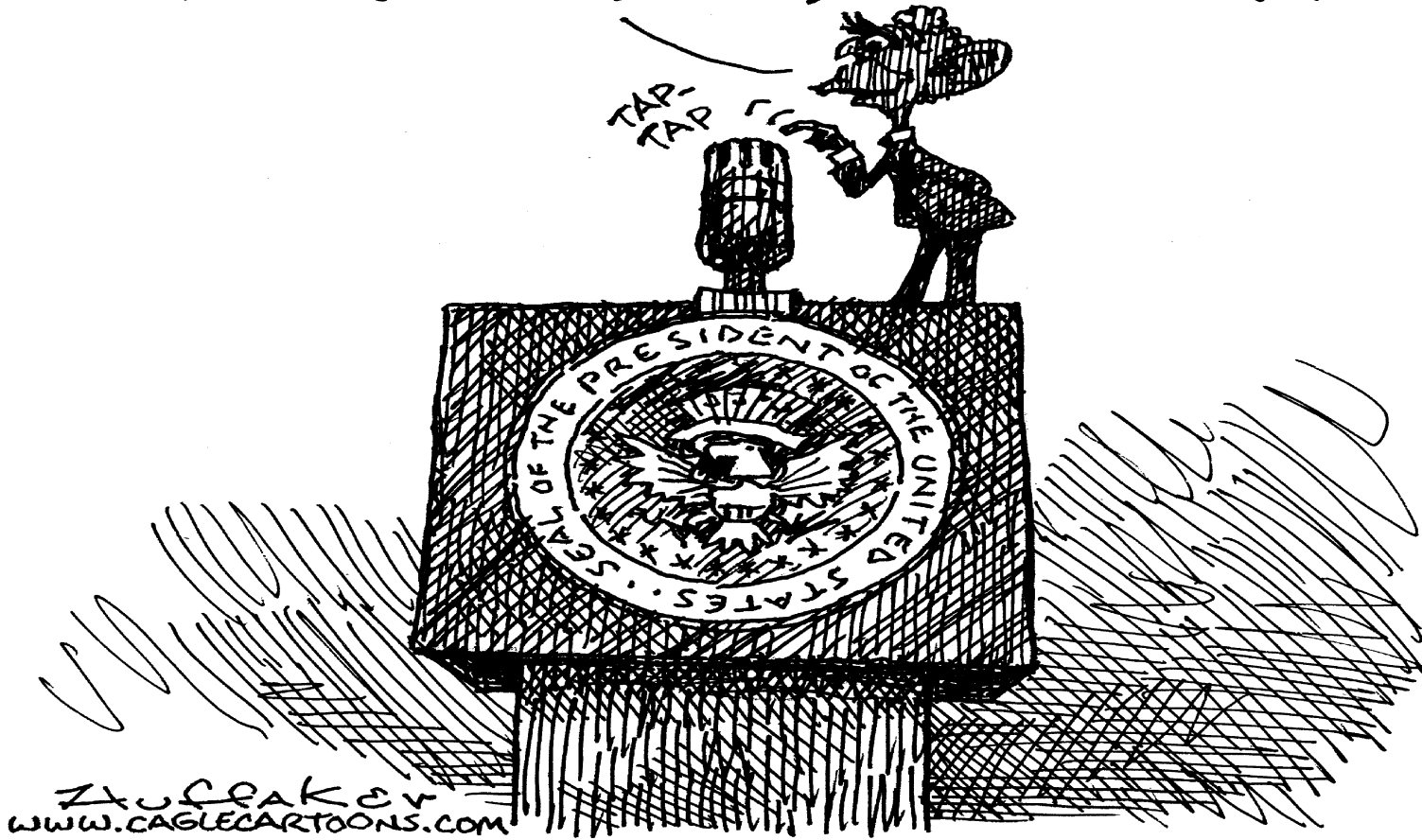
We can only corrupt America and, ultimately, fail.

We need to focus this war on helping people kick their drug habit, one addict at a time.

Then, we might have a chance for winning.

The way we are going is just a waste of lives and money. — *Steve Haynes*

...testing...testing...terrorism...
...hello?...anybody listenin'?



Cut off U.S., U.N. aid



dick morris

• commentary

The Palestinian people have delivered a resounding vote against peace — calling, in their election, for a continuation of the savage and sanguinary war against Israel. This sharp reversal in the peace process should not go without a vigorous response from Washington.

President Bush is correct to cut off all dealings with the Palestinian Authority until Hamas renounces and reins in its campaign of terror against Israel. But the United States should go further and cut off all direct and indirect assistance to the PA or to Palestinian refugee groups until Hamas makes the requisite declarations.

The U.S. taxpayer is the foremost financial supporter of the Palestinian community, now set to come under Hamas management. Last year, America gave \$81 million directly to Palestinians in Gaza and on the West Bank and was responsible for a considerable share of the almost \$1 billion in aid to the Palestinian Authority from

the United Nations and its relief organizations.

The United States should:

- 1) Cut off all direct subsidy of the Palestinian refugee population or its political or charitable organs.
- 2) Demand that the United Nations follow suit.
- 3) Immediately suspend all payments to the United Nations until it does so.

After all, Israel is a U.N. member. How can the United Nations subsidize an entity that is dedicated to the destruction of one of its mem-

bers?

By a direct and aggressive response to the Palestinian vote, the United States will assure that it is not placed in the incongruous position of funding the deadly adversary of its ally, Israel.

Some will argue we allowed aid to flow under Yasser Arafat. But we did not do that until he pledged to work with Israel and to cease his efforts to destroy it. When it became clear that he was double dealing and, in fact, winking at terrorist attacks on Israel, the United States set in motion a series of events that led to a new democratic Palestinian Authority (aided by Arafat's death, of course).

Now the United States should ratchet up its pressure on the Palestinian Authority: Cut off all funding.

Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years. E-mail for Dick Morris is dmredding@aol.com

Committee action can be watched live



jim morrison

• capitol review

Legislative activity is beginning to move discussion of issues and normalize committee functioning.

Visit <http://www.kslegislature.org/hhhs/> to follow the activity in my House Health and Human Services Committee.

You are now able to download the same information we have as it becomes public as well as watch and hear the meeting. Soon you will be able to interactively participate in the committee by delivering testimony from the comfort of your home rather than having to travel to Topeka to appear before the committee.

You will soon be able to interact in real time with committee members during live testimony suggesting questions and comments regarding confere answers to committee member questions. The interactivity will be complex and may just not work but I really believe if the public is better able to participate, question and oversee (legislator accountability) what we do, the process and outcomes have to be better than today.

You will hear more about my attempts to better open the legislative process to the public and make more of our meetings open rather than effectively closing them because you must be in Topeka to participate.

As you know we have a debit problem in Kansas. The Legislature has sidestepped the "cash basis" constitutional requirement by classifying bonds as revenue bonds rather than general obligation bonds. That simple change has created a Kansas debt so high we now pay \$429 million on the debt interest where in 1992 our total debt was \$424 million! That really stresses our ability to deliver services.

Add to that the real probability we will need about \$1 billion more during the next three years to support schools and you will begin to see the enormity of our situation. The problem most vexing to me regarding schools is the near certain loss of our low enrollment weighting. I hear we will have a "hold harmless clause in legislation but that only holds us to our current levels and does not allow for future increase in budget so all future increases must be from

local (property taxes) effort. I am trying to help stop that concept from becoming reality.

Eminent domain will be discussed this week and probably next week as well. In reality what the U.S. Supreme Court did was to actually clarify and narrow the current use of eminent domain. Too many jurisdictions have been abusing application of eminent domain such that the appearance is one of improper taking of private property for another individual's gain. Unless this issue is clarified some of my communities may be unable to properly utilize their authority to improve blighted neighborhoods. We just might find ourselves unable to obtain grants for neighborhood improvement programs or to attract new business.

Most of you will be happy to hear that we are likely to phase out all franchise taxes and taxes on machinery and equipment. There is legislation to restore the demand transfer that was taken from counties a few years ago.

Health care access, affordability and availability are gaining more attention. You will hear a great deal more about fraud and misuse

of Medicaid and Medicare dollars by providers and consumers. In part fraud questions were generated by massive problems created by Medicare part D implementation and the resultant attention on the care and drug delivery system. Some whistle blowers contacted me a few years ago with some interesting information concerning fraud and abuse. Investigators looked at the information, further investigated and confirmed problems were present in our health- and drug-care delivery systems. This may amount to tens of millions of dollars per year in Kansas — maybe in the hundreds of millions.

Many of you visited with me as you came to testify on legislation and participate in the Kansas Birthday week activities. I really appreciate your taking time to visit when you are in town. Please let me know if you will be here for any reception for a group that has a legislative reception or whatever so I will be sure to attend your activity. I generally do not attend activities unless I know some constituents will be present and would have time to talk with me. Otherwise I need the time to study legislation of importance to us.

Thanks again for your tremendous communication and support this session. I really appreciate your input on issues. If you have any question please email me at jmorrison@ink.org or call at (785) 296-7676.

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