

Don't count on Uncle to bail us out this time

Here we are, almost 80 years after the last great stock market crash.

Will the Crash of 2008 mark the beginning of another decade of depression, or just a speed bump in the road to prosperity.

No one can say, not with any certainty.

Government today, around the world, has more knowledge, more interest, more understanding of the economy. It might even have more tools to apply to the crisis.

That has not served, however, to "fix" the problem up so. Quite the contrary. Government has failed to regulate either the unbridled speculation in shaky securities or the unwise expansion of poorly financed institutions.

Governments stood by and let it all happen. The dominos began to tumble.

It would be a mistake to count on government to get us out of this mess. Nonetheless, we probably can count on government for a few things. And the Dow-Jones average did rebound 900 points Monday on "government assurances."

Governments will inflate the currency to solve at least part of the problem. This may undermine the worth of whatever is left of our investments, but it may be the only way to avoid a total collapse.

Governments will respond with new regulations which will prevent an exact duplicate of this crisis from ever happening again. Government won't be able to see what the next scam will be, though, and no regulation will be written to prevent it.

You simply cannot regulate what you cannot imagine.

Governments will spend "whatever it takes" to bail out the economy and get things moving. Nonetheless, it could be some time before a recovery commences. After the Crash of 1929, it took nearly 10 years. Some people maintain that only cranking up the war machine brought

prosperity back to the U.S. that time.

In the U.S., Congress will make a lot of noise, but do little of substance to help anyone. Congress will mix its message, trying to bail out big corporations and banks to prevent further erosion of confidence, while throwing money at the average voter.

Most likely, it will do too little, too late for anyone to benefit much. It will add a great deal to the deficit — and to the inflation factor — while satisfying no one.

If you don't believe that, witness the \$100 billion to \$150 billion in "earmarks" Congress added to the just-passed bailout bill. It was Christmastime in Porktown.

People will keep looking for a job. But business will be slow, credit will continue to be tight despite the best efforts of the Federal Reserve and other national banks, and jobs may be hard to find.

Out here in rural America, right now we see prosperous time. Commodity prices may follow stocks and others into the tank, however. The market has no respect for the cost of production, and farmers saddled with expensive land and expensive machinery may find it difficult to make payments.

This is not a good time to take on big debt or to get out on a limb. This is a good time to play things safe.

About your 401k or pension plan.

Might as well keep the stocks and bonds you have. As the governments pump up the economy, they'll be as good a hedge against inflation as anything. Unless, of course, you had a lot of AIG and Merrill-Lynch stock. In which case, you might want to keep working.

This is no drill. This is the real thing. The only question is how long it will last.

— Steve Haynes

Packing for trip runs to midnight

Socks: check. T-shirts: check. Work pants: check. Toothbrush: check. Toothpaste: check. Hammer: check. Sunscreen: check.

I know I must be forgetting something. It's almost midnight (we're leaving at 6:30 in the morning), and I'm still packing for our fall mission trip to Juarez.

I remember now. Vanilla orders: check, check and double-check. We're planning to bring back at least four cases. But, at the rate people use it, I hope that will be enough.

It's another interesting crew we've assembled. An electrician, a retired school teacher, a government employee, two domestic engineers, and Jim, our carpenter. Now, that's only six. But, here's the interesting part. In El Paso, we're meeting another small team from Silver City, N.M., and, together, we're going to build a house in Mexico. We know nothing about them, except they are Baptists. And, that they have servants' hearts. I know we're going to get along just fine.

Meeting new people is probably my favorite thing. People are so fascinating, and everyone has a story.

We know little about the family we're building for. The husband, Efren, is 21.; his wife, Maria, is 18;



Out Back

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and they have two boys, 4 and 2. Efren works in a factory and brings home about \$57 a week. They live in a pallet-and-tarpaper house and go to church. The one thing we're sure of is they have a need.

They have known since February that they were approved for a CasaporCristo house. I've been thinking about them a lot this week.

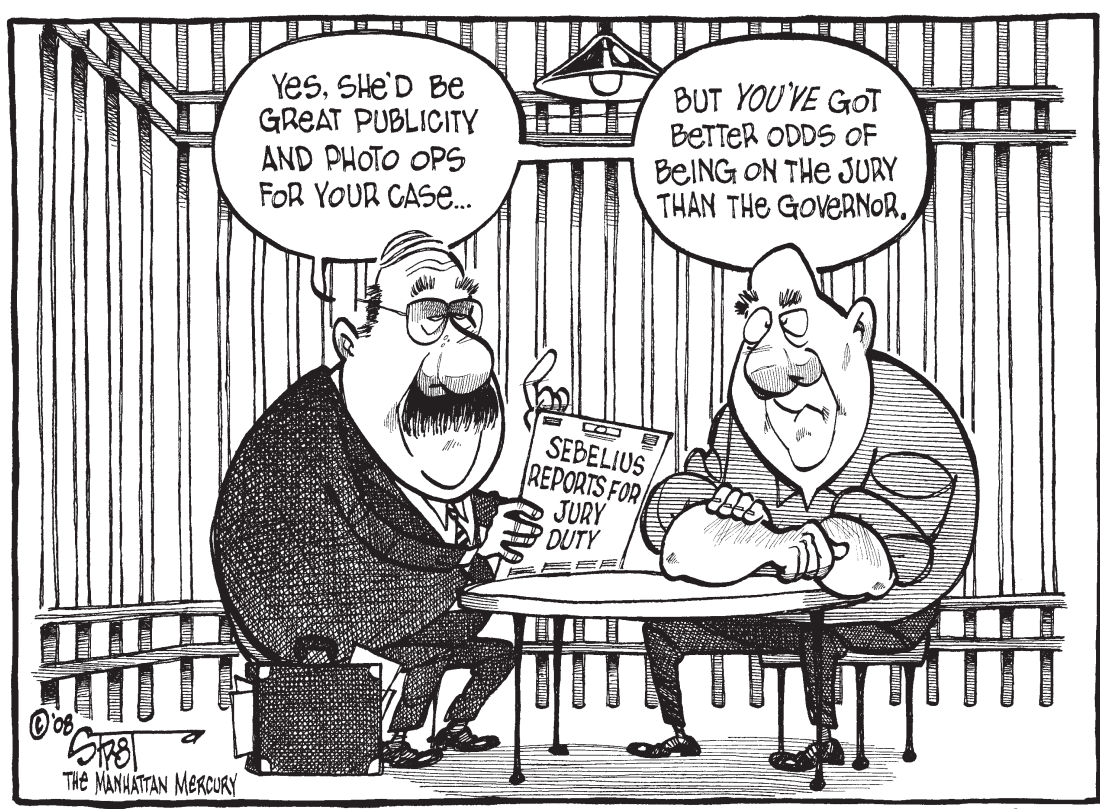
The building materials have all been delivered by now. It is starting to become a reality to them. They are probably beginning to realize that by this time next week, they will have a real house. A house with a door instead of a blanket tacked over the opening. A house with a concrete floor instead of dirt. A house with windows, insulation and electricity.

It will be fabulous. I can only imagine their excitement. What we build is a house. When the family

moves in, it becomes a home.

Post Script: Jim's poor finger still hurts, but we're confident the danger of infection is past. He had to modify his method of working, but he didn't slow down any.

I will just say, "Hasta la vista y Dios devienda." Translated: "Until I see you again, and God bless you."



Moran committed to 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 reelection 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 threatening 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 of done that, but the opportunity for a Senate seat seems



Along the Sappa

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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.

From the Bible

Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.

For if I have boasted anything to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth even so our boasting, which I make before Titus, is found a truth.

2 Corinthians 7:13-14

U.N. should live up to 'one dream'

By VANESSA SHIH

Minister of Information
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The tremendous efforts mainland China made to successfully host the Beijing Olympics in the spirit of fairness and peaceful athletic competition among people of all races and ethnicities have deeply impressed the world. It is this same spirit that animated the founding of the United Nations, as reflected in the principles enunciated in the UN Charter.

As the 63rd session of the U.N. General Assembly gets underway, it is the hope of the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait can, in the Olympic spirit of equality and mutual respect, cooperate within the United Nations to advance the well-being of all.

Over the past six decades, various historical factors have resulted in the separate development of the societies on both sides of the strait, and the exclusion of Taiwan from participation in the United Nations since 1971. Consequently, the peoples of Taiwan and mainland China have been deprived of opportunities to cooperate in the international arena so as to build mutual trust and benefit the world as a whole.

We must stop wasting our resources on confrontation and create spaces in which we can join forces to realize the universal values and compassion that underpin the Olympics as well as operations of U.N. agencies.

Since the administration of President Ma Ying-jeou took office in Taiwan in May, it has embraced a forward-looking, pragmatic attitude to promote friendship and understanding across the Taiwan Strait. To relax cross-strait tensions, it has taken steps to replace antagonism with openness, hostility with amity.

In June, the new administration

took the lead in resuming regular, comprehensive talks between Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation and its mainland Chinese counterpart, the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait. From their negotiations came the historic inauguration of direct, weekly cross-strait charter flights, for the first time bringing tourists from mainland China to Taiwan. This development is beneficial to people on both sides of the strait and is conducive to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

We hope that the two sides can continue working to settle disputes and develop mutual respect and understanding, not only in cross-strait relations but in our interactions in the international community, thereby replacing zero-sum competition with win-win collaboration.

The consequences of the lack of such collaboration are poignantly illustrated by the great suffering caused by the international SARS epidemic of 2003, which afflicted both Taiwan and mainland China and is still vivid in the memories of our peoples. In Taiwan, the disaster was greatly exacerbated by our inability to interact freely and directly with the U.N.'s World Health Organization.

It is evident, therefore, that our participation in international forums that formulate plans of action to address concerns of global importance is fundamentally a humanitarian issue, concerning the lives, health and dignity of everyone. In view of this reality, we sincerely hope that all members of the international community will realize the need for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the various U.N. specialized agencies, and that the General Assembly will encourage them to fulfill this need.

In seeking to participate in U.N. activities, it is not our intention to challenge mainland China's repre-

sentation in that world body. As an expression of our desire to promote fruitful interaction between our people and with people the world over, the government of the Republic of China has temporarily set aside the issue of membership in U.N. organizations and is focusing instead on advancing human welfare through our participation in them.

In his May 20 inaugural address, President Ma stated, "Only when Taiwan is no longer being isolated in the international arena can cross-strait relations move forward with confidence."

In other words, making progress in cross-strait relations and gaining more space for Taiwan internationally are two sides of the same coin. Through our participation in the functional organizations of the United Nations, we can establish a platform for cooperation with mainland China in advancing the cause not only of cross-strait friendship but of international peace and prosperity, thereby concretely realizing the ideal of the Beijing Olympics motto, "One World, One Dream."

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