

FREDDY vs. JASON vs. DIOGENES



Pierre Report

Committees Busy In Pierre

BY SEN. JEAN HUNHOFF
R-District 18 (Yankton)

Government Operations and Audit (GOAC) and Interim Rules committees met last week in Pierre.

GOAC spent the majority of committee time reviewing the results of the single audit report for FY ending June 30, 2011. The audit includes both the entity's financial statements and the federal awards. The audit examines the financial records, internal controls and compliance with federal laws and regulations for both the federal program and the State as a whole. Audit findings and recommendations are reviewed by the Committee and Departments are asked to appear before the committee to respond to the findings and recommendations.

Pam Roberts, Secretary of Labor, provided an overview of the South Dakota Unemployment Insurance System. Data from the fourth week of July showed 1,624 individuals on state UI. This number is slightly more than pre-recession number of 1,326 individuals and less than 2010 recession numbers of 2,822 individuals. The amount of state benefits paid in July was \$370,073. Trust fund balance is \$41.7 million. In 2008, the trust fund was at \$25.5 million, the following year the recession hit and the trust fund was at a deficit of \$7.7 million. The Legislature adjusted the formula, and today, total income for the year was \$26.5 million, benefits paid are \$21.8 million.

The US DOL recommends states have a Trust Fund balance to cover one year of benefit payouts. The benefit cost is based on the average of three highest benefit to total wages ratio. South Dakota is on track to reach established Trust Fund target of \$76 million. Employers pay the tax rates for the UI. Of the 20,854 employers who had 2012 tax rates assigned last year: 2,506 were assigned the lowest rate of 0.0 percent and 795 were assigned the maximum rate of 9.5 percent. The average tax rate equals 1.2 percent.

The Interim Rules Committee spent most of its hearing time on the Bureau of Administration proposed rule to increase the maximum fees chargeable for legal publications required by the state law by 3 percent and the rules proposed by Public Safety Weights and Measures that would allow the sale of 85 octane gasoline in the western part of the state.

The only proponents for the 3 percent increase in maximum fee for legal publications were the Bureau of Administration that brought for the rule and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The association reported that they had not had an increase in the last five years. Increase costs for newspapers included mail expenses and purchase of newsprint.

Opponents to the increase were all groups affiliated with local government entities. Their opposition was based on their opinion that statute requires publication of all types of public notices, which is viewed as a mandate and that increase in the publishing fee was an unfunded mandate. Local government entities have had to make reductions in their budgets and now asking for an increase was not justified in their minds.

The committee moved to suspend the rules, which requires the committee to set a hearing and the BOA.



J. Hunhoff

BOA.

The committee debate on the 85 octane by now has been circulated in the media. The only proponents for the rules that spoke were public safety, the governor's Office staff and Ron Lamberty representing the American Coalition for Ethanol.

The only opponent that spoke was Dawn Leitzke, representing the South Dakota Petroleum and Propane Marketers Association. Her point was that any posting of lesser octane rating makes reference to the product being bad which is not the case. It is approved for use in higher altitude states as Colorado and Montana. The minutes of the public hearing were attached to the rules package.

Much of the discussion focused on effect of 85 octane on cars, manufacturers recommendation for octane ratings, pipelines bringing gas to West River, impact of altitude on burning of octane and access to higher rating octanes.

The emergency rules in place will expire in early October. If there is no permanent rule to allow for 85 octane it will not be allowed to be sold in South Dakota. That means West River would have to have gas trucked in from east river which raises the cost of gas to the end user. A gas station owner could be stuck with a tank of gas that cannot be sold. In the end access and cost will directly impact the citizen at the gas pump.

Every type of motion that is allowed was attempted and all failed with a tie. Consensus was that the issue will come before the legislature. The real issue is how to address the gap when the emergency rule expires and what can be done to assure access to gas and affordability to fill up your tank.

At the end of the day, the rule will come back to Interim Rules in September. The meeting date was changed so that if a rule can be approved there would not be a gap between emergency and rule implementation. From now till the next meeting, the ball is in the governor's court as how to proceed and if anything can be found acceptable until the legislature meets.

On a final note, GF&P set its license limits for several fall hunting seasons. East River deer license numbers were reduced. The reductions were in antlerless deer. Yankton County reduced doe licenses from 550 to 450. Bon Homme County doe licenses increased from 250 to 300 and two-tag licenses dropped from 200 to 100. Antelope license numbers also decreased. There was an overall two-thirds reduction in antlerless licenses. The one elk license available by raffle expanded the hunting area from Custer State Park to include the Black Hills.

So ... Are You An Extremist?

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

After Rep. Paul Ryan was announced as Mitt Romney's running mate, it took less than 24 hours for *The New York Times* to define Ryan as an "extremist." In a lead editorial, the paper bannered this sub-headline: "With no plan of his own, Mr. Romney can't distance himself from Mr. Ryan's extremist vision."

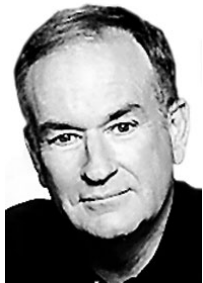
That "vision" would be federal spending cuts and entitlement reform.

While chairman of the House Budget Committee, Ryan sent two spending bills to the House, both of which passed but were killed in the Senate, which is controlled by the Democrats. The bills cut federal programs across the board. Ryan is also a fan of reforming Medicare and Social Security, which are going bankrupt.

In the bubble that is the liberal media, trimming government spending and making entitlements more fiscally viable are extreme positions. That's somewhat ironic because President Obama's strategy of massive government spending and borrowing is perhaps the most extreme economic plan in the nation's history. Never before has the USA run up such an enormous debt and had so little to show for it.

So defining Ryan as extreme is an interesting scare tactic – and one that might be extended in the days to come. Here are some other positions that the committed left media consider extreme:

- If you believe traditional marriage should be kept as the exclusive standard, you are not only extreme; you are a homophobe.
- If you believe all Americans should pay less in



Bill O'REILLY

taxes, you are greedy and an anti-poor extremist.

- If you believe the Second Amendment gives Americans the right to buy and possess guns, you are promoting violence in an extreme way.
- If you believe the government has a duty to combat overseas terrorists without giving them constitutional protections, you are an extreme anti-human rights individual.
- If you believe abortion is the taking of a human life, you are an anti-woman extremist.
- If you support securing the nation's borders and regulating immigration, you are anti-Hispanic.

The list goes on and on.

By labeling someone as extreme, you can dismiss whatever they say. That's the strategy being used against Ryan. *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd writes: "Ryan should stop being so lovable. People who intend to hurt other people should wipe the smile off their faces."

So in Dowd's estimation, Ryan is in politics to harm the folks. He gets up every day and plots the personal damage he might be able to achieve.

This is now where we are in American politics. If Ryan's reform vision will harm Americans, let's hear some specifics. So far, under Obama, we have a sluggish economy, high employment and record debt. Sounds harmful to me.

But then again, I'm an extremist.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

A huge thank you is extended to the many community members that volunteered their time and talent and presented programs. We couldn't do it without you.

We extend our appreciation to the numerous businesses and friends of the library that donated money or prizes for our prize store, the Dream Shoppe. Thank you to all who encouraged and helped the children of the Yankton area Dream Big/Read!

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

The Hard Reality Of The Death Penalty

WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION (Aug. 16): Tina Curl wants to see Donald Moeller die.

Actually, Curl wants to watch Moeller die.

Curl's daughter, Becky O'Connell, was killed in 1990 when she was 9 years old. O'Connell was abducted from a Sioux Falls convenience store, raped and murdered.

Moeller was convicted of the crime and sentenced to death.

Though no date has been set for Moeller's execution, Curl told a Sioux Falls media outlet she will be present when it does occur.

She "won't get any peace of mind" until Moeller is dead, "and I will be there to see it," Curl told the television station.

The United States is one of the few "first world" countries that still embraces capital punishment. As long as capital punishment is legal, it is difficult to argue Moeller does not deserve to be executed. Kidnapping. Raping. Murdering. All three committed against an all-but defenseless 9-year-old.

But if we are going to execute our most reprehensible criminals, we should not allow myths to intrude upon reality. Two of those myths are that execution provides "peace of mind" and "closure."

It provides neither.

The families of the victims of the 1995 Oklahoma City federal building bombing anticipated they would have peace and closure when convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh was executed. Those feelings were even stronger, they said, after McVeigh's federal execution was delayed by a month.

But, one year after McVeigh's eventual execution, most family members reported they felt no peace, no closure nor any better than they did before the execution.

The problem the United States has with capital punishment is not our pre-biblical "eye for an eye" sense of justice. Rather, it is the misguided notion that executing a heinous criminal accomplishes more than simply the execution of a heinous criminal.

Studies have shown:

- It costs more to execute a criminal than it does to imprison him for life;
- Executing a criminal does nothing to deter crime and;
- Execution does not — despite what they may say ahead of an execution — help the victims' families find peace or closure.

Despite what people in many other countries may say, executing the darkest, most sordid members of our criminal society is not inherently wrong. Doing it under false pretenses, though, is inherently wrong. If we are too meek to accept the facts of why we are executing someone (the "fact" being we can) then, perhaps, we should not be doing it.

Donald Moeller likely will die for the death of Becky O'Connell. But we would not honor our responsibility as a free people if we did not acknowledge the real reason for his death.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

- Please limit letters to 300 words or less. (During political campaigns, letters related to the campaign may be limited to 150 words.) Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.
- In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.
- Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.
- Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 20, the 233rd day of 2012. There are 133 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On Aug. 20, 1862, the New York Tribune published an open letter by editor Horace Greeley to President Abraham Lincoln titled "The Prayer of Twenty Millions"; in it, Greeley called on Lincoln to take more aggressive measures to free the slaves and end the South's rebellion.

On this date: In 1833, Benjamin Harrison, 23rd president of the United States, was born in North Bend, Ohio.

In 1866, President Andrew Johnson formally declared the Civil War over, months after fighting had stopped.

In 1882, Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" had its premiere in Moscow.

In 1910, a series of forest fires swept through parts of Idaho, Montana and Washington, killing at least 85 people and burning some 3 million acres.

In 1920, pioneering American radio station 8MK in Detroit (later WWJ) began daily broadcasting.

In 1940, during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill paid tribute to the Royal Air Force before the House of Commons, saying, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

In 1955, hundreds of people were killed in anti-French rioting in Morocco and Algeria.

In 1968, the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations began invading Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" liberalization drive.

In 1972, the Wattstax concert took place at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

In 1977, the U.S. launched Voyager 2, an unmanned spacecraft carrying a 12-inch copper phonograph record containing greetings in dozens of languages, samples of music and sounds of nature.

In 1986, postal employee Patrick Henry Sherrill went on a deadly rampage at a post office in Edmond, Okla., shooting 14 fellow workers to death before killing himself.

In 1992, shortly after midnight, the Republican National Convention in Houston renominated President George H.W. Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle.

Ten years ago: Without firing a shot, masked German police commandos freed

two senior diplomats from armed men who had stormed the Iraqi embassy in Berlin, bringing a bloodless end to a 5-hour hostage drama by a previously unknown group opposed to Saddam Hussein.

Five years ago: Tens of thousands of tourists fled the beaches of the Mayan Riviera as Hurricane Dean roared toward Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. A roadside bomb killed the governor of the predominantly Shiite Muthanna province in Iraq. A smoking China Airlines Boeing 737-800 exploded in a fireball at an airport gate in Okinawa seconds after all 157 passengers and eight crew had safely evacuated. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama expressed irritation with the "Obama Girl" Web video, telling The Associated Press it had upset his young daughters. Hotel magnate Leona Helmsley died in Greenwich, Conn., at age 87.

One year ago: Israel issued a rare apology for the deaths of three Egyptian soldiers who were killed during a cross-border attack blamed on Palestinians. North Korean leader Kim Jong Il arrived in Russia's Far East on a nearly weeklong visit. Jordyn Wieber won her first title at the U.S. gymnastics championships in St. Paul, Minn., in a rout, finishing with 121.30 points, 6.15 points ahead of McKayla Maroney.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-producer-director Walter Bernstein is 93. Boxing promoter Don King is 81. U.S. special envoy George Mitchell is 79. U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is 77. Former MLB All-Star Graig Nettles is 68. Broadcast journalist Connie Chung is 66. Musician Jimmy Pankow (Chicago) is 65. Actor John Noble is 64. Rock singer Robert Plant (Led Zeppelin) is 64. Country singer Rudy Gatlin is 60. Singer-songwriter John Hiatt is 60. Actor-director Peter Horton is 59. TV weatherman Al Roker is 58. Actor Jay Acovone is 57. Actress Joan Allen is 56. TV personality Asha Blake is 51. Actor James Marsters is 50. Rapper KRS-One is 47. Actor Colin Cunningham is 46. Actor Billy Gardell is 43. Rock singer Fred Durst (Limp Bizkit) is 42. Rock musician Brad Avery is 41. Actor Jonathan Ke Quan is 41. Rock singer Monique Powell (Save Ferris) is 37. Actor Ben Barnes is 31. Actor Andrew Garfield is 29. Actress-singer Demi Lovato is 20.

Thought for Today: "Idleness is not doing nothing. Idleness is being free to do anything." — Floyd Dell, American writer (1887-1969).

FROM THE BIBLE

They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Romans 2:15. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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