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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Don't 'Go Big' On Immigration

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR (Aug. 1): President Barack Obama might be able to dramatically overhaul U.S. immigration policy by unilateral executive action.

Possibly some of his actions might even survive a constitutional challenge in federal court.

That still does not mean he should go ahead with such a plan. There's no doubt, as the *Journal Star* editorial board has said for years, that current immigration policy in the United States is broken.

But trying to fix the system with unilateral presidential action is the wrong way to fix it.

The range of options that the president is considering reportedly includes deferring deportation of anyone who eventually would have been eligible for citizenship under a bill passed by the U.S. Senate last year. Supposedly that would affect 9 million people.

Some reports say that those illegal immigrants would be granted work permit to give them legal status in the United States.

Legal experts differ on whether Obama's actions would pass constitutional muster. Proponents of the plan to "go big" say that such action would be justified under the concept of prosecutorial discretion, under which the executive branch traditionally has the authority to decide when to file charges.

A major problem with the plan to make a bold move to reform immigration policy is that it could be overturned by the next president, which would throw the system into even more chaos.

Another huge question is what the impact would be on the number of immigrants entering the country illegally. Would it act as an incentive that would dwarf the problem of unaccompanied children crossing the border?

Yet another concern is that unilateral action by the president would further inflame passions and divide Americans.

Polls suggest that most Americans would oppose a move by Obama to expand the deferral program. Only 31 percent of Americans approve of Obama's handling of immigration, according to a new AP-GFK poll. Forty-four percent of respondents blame Republicans for congressional failure to take action; 36 percent blame Democrats.

Frustrating as it is that Congress has not taken action — the Senate passed a bill last year but the House refused to allow the bill to come to a vote — that does not justify such sweeping executive action.

If the president gives temporary legal status to millions of immigrants, it would create more problems than it solves. Only Congress can truly reform immigration policy. Americans should demand action.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, August 11, the 223rd day of 2014. There are 142 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On August 11, 1954, a formal peace took hold in Indochina, ending more than seven years of fighting between the French and Communist Viet Minh.

On this date: In 1786, Capt. Francis Light arrived in Penang to claim the Malaysian island for Britain.

In 1860, the nation's first successful silver mill began operation near Virginia City, Nevada.

In 1909, the steamship SS Arapahoe became the first ship in North America to issue an S.O.S. distress signal, off North Carolina's Cape Hatteras.

In 1934, the first federal prisoners arrived at Alcatraz Island (a former military prison) in San Francisco Bay. In 1942, during World War II, Pierre Laval, prime minister of Vichy France, publicly declared that "the hour of liberation for France is the hour when Germany wins the war."

In 1956, abstract painter Jackson Pollock, 44, died in an automobile accident on Long Island, New York.

In 1964, the Beatles movie "A Hard Day's Night" had its U.S. premiere in New York.

In 1965, rioting and looting that claimed 34 lives broke out in the predominantly black Watts section of Los Angeles.

In 1975, the United States vetoed the proposed admission of North and South Vietnam to the United Nations, following the Security Council's refusal to consider South Korea's application.

In 1984, during a voice test for a paid political radio address, President Ronald Reagan joked that he had "signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes." At the Los Angeles Olympics, American runner Mary Decker fell after colliding with South African-born British competitor Zola Budd in the 3,000-meter final; Budd finished seventh.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton named Army Gen. John Shalikashvili to be the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, succeeding the retiring Gen. Colin Powell.

In 1997, President Bill Clinton made the first use of the historic line-item veto, rejecting three items in spending and tax bills. (However, the U.S. Supreme Court later struck down the veto as unconstitutional.)

Ten years ago: Britain granted its first license for human cloning for the purpose of stem cell research. The

U.S. women's soccer team defeated home team Greece 3-0 on the first day of competition in the 2004 Olympic Games (the opening ceremonies took place in Athens two days later).

Five years ago: A Myanmar court found democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee) guilty of violating her house arrest by allowing an uninvited American to visit her home; she was ordered to serve an 18-month sentence under house arrest. Jeers and taunts drowned out Democratic lawmakers calling for a health care overhaul at town halls; during his own town hall in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, President Barack Obama assailed "wild misrepresentations" of his health care plan. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President John F. Kennedy and founder of the Special Olympics, died in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, at age 88.

One year ago: Israel approved building 1,200 more settlement homes and agreed to release 26 long-held Palestinian security prisoners. Suspected militants gunned down 47 worshippers as they recited their early morning prayers at a mosque in Kon-duga, Nigeria, and killed another 12 civilians in a nearby village. Jason Dufner won his first major title with a two-stroke victory over Jim Furyk at the PGA Championship.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Arlene Dahl is 89. Songwriter-producer Kenny Gamble is 71. Rock musician Jim Kale (Guess Who) is 71. Magazine columnist Marilyn Vos Savant is 68. Country singer John Conlee is 68. Singer Eric Carmen is 65. Computer scientist and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak is 64. Wrestler-actor Hulk Hogan is 61. Singer Joe Jackson is 60. Playwright David Henry Hwang is 57. Actor Miguel A. Nunez Jr. is 50. Actress Viola Davis is 49. Actor Duane Martin is 49. Actor-host Joe Rogan is 47. Rhythm-and-blues musician Chris Dave is 46. Actress Anna Gunn is 46. Actress Ashley Jensen is 46. Rock guitarist Charlie Sexton is 46. Hip-hop artist Ali Shaheed Muhammad is 44. Actor Nigel Harman (TV: "Downton Abbey") is 41. Actor Will Friedle is 38. Actress Merritt Weaver is 34. Actor Chris Hemsworth is 31. Rock musician Heath Fogg (Alabama Shakes) is 30. Singer J-Boog is 29. Rapper Asher Roth is 29. Actress Alyson Stoner is 21.

Thought for Today: "Keep your dreams, for in them lies joy denied to men grown wise." — Edgar A. Guest, American author, journalist and poet (1881-1959).

FROM THE BIBLE

And Jesus said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." Mark 10:51. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

A Bad Gateway

John K. Cornette, Yankton

After spending 50-plus years working with individuals experiencing drug related problems, I feel it necessary to comment on a recent letter to the editor written by John Magnuson (*Press & Dakotan*, July 31). This letter was in reference to the legalization of marijuana.

Before jumping on the bandwagon and considering to support the many unrealistic benefits of legalization, take

a moment and think about those that I have listed below (I have not begun to mention them all, there are many more).

There is no question that marijuana is a gateway drug. There are reams of research showing how a large percentage of individuals with major drug related problems started with marijuana. When the high is no longer good enough, they moved on to something stronger.

In this day of medical advancement

and discovery the AMA, the American Medical Association, has yet to endorse marijuana as any kind of accepted medical treatment. This organization has been our accepted standard for many years.

I have yet to see any branch of law enforcement agree that the legalization of marijuana would make their job easier. This has not happened in those states that have passed such laws. What has happened is that it has increased the problems that have just



Point Of View

A Gift Of True Service

BY REP. MIKE STEVENS

Yankton

Regardless of when you were born, I doubt that there is anyone who hasn't heard those immortal words spoken by President John Kennedy in his inaugural address on Jan. 20, 1961 when he said: "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

At a time when so many services and benefits are being requested and demanded of our federal, state and local governments, I think that it is time for us to acknowledge that within our Yankton County community, there are those who have not forgotten this incredible challenge by the president and who are also putting the president's idea into practice.

There are numerous examples of this within our community and I know that if I start naming them I would inadvertently forget those who are making a difference in our community because they are doing their work quietly and not looking for publicity, personal financial gain or assistance from the government to fund their programs. They truly are the people who are answering the call to do something for their country by not asking what their country can do for them.

One of these individuals is Jarrett Bies, who has a love for the Missouri River and for the sport of kayaking. Jarrett had a vision and dream to combine these two loves so that others could enjoy and appreciate one of God's great creation as he does. As a result, with the encouragement of his wife Laura and the support of countless volunteers, Jarrett put his dream into action by organizing one of the premier kayaking events in the United States called the "South Dakota Kayak Challenge," a 72-mile grueling race from Yankton to Sioux City. This past May, more than 150 racers and their families/crew took part in this race. Of these racers, only about a dozen were from Yankton; the rest came from Rhode Island, Kansas, Iowa, North Dakota, Texas, Missouri, Wyoming, Minnesota, Illinois, Arkansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Alberta and Winnipeg, Canada. Due to Jarrett's vision, these racers and their crew



Stevens

slept, ate and bought merchandise in Yankton.

What did Jarrett get out of this? Absolutely nothing but the satisfaction of seeing each racer enjoy the Missouri River that Lewis and Clark paddled.

Jarrett's dream didn't end with the South Dakota Kayak Challenge. Last month in July Jarrett once again organized a

new Missouri River kayak event called the "Fort to Fifty Paddle Battle." This inaugural kayak race was 50 miles. It started at Fort Randall Dam and ended at the Marina in Springfield, South Dakota. Once again people from many states as far away as Illinois, Wisconsin, Colorado and Mississippi flocked to the event bringing needed tourism dollars to another part of our state which often doesn't get the attention it deserves. Once again, the only thing that Jarrett and his countless volunteers got out of this event was the pure satisfaction of seeing each racer enjoy another part of "his" Missouri River.

How can you ever say "thank you" enough to these many individuals and civic groups who are doing so much for our community, yet never seek publicity, personal financial gain or government assistance? You can't really. The best way that I know of is to participate in their many activities so you too can see the enjoyment associated with those who are only asking what they can do for their country.

Linda and I are going to say "thank you" to Jarrett, his wife Laura and all of his countless volunteers by participating in the 2014 Riverboat Days second annual Kayak Race. You can do the same by signing up for this six-mile race ... there is still time. Although there isn't going to be a "triple crown" winner in horse racing this year, Linda and I are going to complete the first South Dakota Triple Crown of Kayaking by finishing all three kayak races. Why is participating in the Riverboat Days Kayak Race a special way to say thank you to Jarrett? Well, you shouldn't be surprised that he also organized this event, too.

Thanks, Jarrett!

Capitol Notebook

Students Carry Load At State Colleges Without State's Help

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — South Dakota students pay some of the highest tuition and fees for public campuses in the region. Yet the financial aid available to assist students lags far behind neighboring states.

Earlier this year, the Legislature and Gov. Dennis Daugaard took a rare step. The universities received additional funding to avoid raising tuition and fees for South Dakota residents.

The Board of Regents, whose members govern the system, meet Wednesday and Thursday in Pierre to set the system's next round of budget requests.

The dilemma the regents face in the next few days is whether to ask again. The student leadership had accepted higher tuition and fees in the past two decades because the Legislature didn't provide enough funding to keep pace.

Students paid extra, for example, so the universities could offer higher salaries that drew faculty closer to levels of pay at public universities in neighboring states.

And students paid higher fees, campus by campus, so they could have better facilities where they eat meals and work out and study.

The tuition and fees freeze for the fall 2014 and spring 2015 semesters marked a turning point.

If the regents don't ask, the governor and the Legislature likely won't consider continuing the freeze for a second year.

Funding previously was so tight from the Legislature that the universities have immense backlogs of building maintenance and repairs and other infrastructure needs. They will take several decades and more than \$300 million to recover.

Addressing the tuition problem and restoring

more of the brick, mortar, heating, cooling and electricity systems leaves little or no money for establishing a better financial aid program to help students.

There's also little or no money left for expansions or new programs in our changing economy and changing state.

A second year of tuition and fees buy-down would cost an estimated \$6.8 million. Another \$1.7 million is needed to offset what students would otherwise pay in additional costs for support of existing buildings.

The regents will look at seeking \$1.7 million to restore some of the buying power of the Opportunity scholarship.

Measured against the cost of two semesters of courses, the \$5,000 scholarship's value was 26 percent when it began in 2004 and now is 16 percent.

The proposal presented to the regents calls for setting the scholarship's total value at 20 percent of tuition and fees for 30 credit hours annually over four academic years.

The scholarship is distributed on a four-year basis: \$1,000 each of the first three years, followed by \$2,000 the fourth year.

The regents again are asked to create a permanent position called director of student preparation to recruit and retain more American Indians to attend the state universities.

Another proposal calls for \$2 million of ongoing general funds to pay staff at universities to work on student success, better assist veterans and broaden students' training experiences.

The regents also will consider proposals for \$21.8 million in one-time general funding.

The regents' decisions are step one. Next is winning the governor's recommendations. The test comes in January through March when legislators put together the new budget.

gotten larger in the past few years.

One last item, although I could list so many more. Colorado's recent legalization of marijuana has resulted in a huge overload in their homeless shelters from teenagers and young adults. They have moved to Colorado for the sole reason that marijuana has been legalized. The jobs available are not able to support their habit. Do we want a similar situation?



Bob
MERCER