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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

They Always Want To 'Take The Money'

NORTH PLATTE (Neb.) TELEGRAPH (Jan. 5, 2014): As long as the sun comes up in the east every morning, and sets in the west every evening, there will be those amongst us who want to take the money, no matter what.

The latest example: The drumbeat of criticism — in letters to the editor and in front page news articles — for Nebraska's decision not to expand Medicaid. As you recall, the federal government, which is currently \$17 trillion in debt, will pay 100 percent of the cost of expanding Medicaid coverage today, with that assistance dropping to 90 percent over the next five years.

Medicaid expansion was to be compulsory under the long list of changes under the Affordable Care Act, but the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could make their own decisions regarding expansion. Nebraska is one of the 24 states that opted not to expand its Medicaid programs.

Last month, state Sen. Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha called on Gov. Dave Heineman, who opposes expansion, to give up his statefunded health insurance in light of his opposition to Medicaid expansion. The argument seems to be if low-income workers can't benefit from expansion, the state's chief executive should not get

Obviously, this is grandstanding. We applaud Heineman for not sticking our state's hand out for more borrowed money from the federal government, which is already hugely in debt. And we like the fact that our state is capable of seeing five years down the road and wondering where the extra money would come from to pick up our share of expansion.

One has to wonder if there ever is a point at which folks like Sen. Nordquist figure that trillions of dollars of federal debt could have serious ramifications and decide not to put their hands out. Will there ever be a time when they realize that the federal government is in far worse shape than Nebraska, and opt not to aggravate the D.C. addiction to spending, saying "no thanks" to the

Well, the tab is \$17 trillion so far, and the cries to "take the money" are as loud as ever, so probably not.

We are proud that Nebraska is one of the states that can see five years down the road, and decided not to take the money. We want decisions regarding our state to be made in Lincoln, not Washington, and we are not willing to trade what's left of our independence for borrowed federal dollars.

Stick by your guns, governor. This is important. Stick by your guns, governor.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The PRESS & DAKOTAN encourages its readers to write let-

ters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed. ■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. 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

■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or busi-

■ 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

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2014. There are 352 days left

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 13, 1864, American songwriter Stephen Foster, who'd written such classics as "Swanee River," "Oh! Susanna," "Camptown Races," "My Old Kentucky Home" and "Beautiful Dreamer," died in poverty in a New York begitted to ac 27 York hospital at age 37

On this date: In 1733, James Oglethorpe and some 120 English colonists arrived at Charleston, S.C. while en route to settle in present-day

In 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

In 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," was published in Paris.

In 1941, a new law went into effect granting Puerto Ricans U.S. birthright citizenship. Novelist and poet James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland, less than a month before his 59th birthday.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet forces began a huge, successful offensive against the Germans in

In 1962, comedian Ernie Kovacs died in a car crash in west Los Angeles 10 days before his 43rd birthday. In 1964, Roman Catholic Bishop

Karol Wojtyla (the future Pope John Paul II) was appointed Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, by Pope Paul VI. In 1966, Robert C. Weaver was

named Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by President Lyndon B. Johnson; Weaver became the first black Cabinet member.

In 1978, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey died in Waverly,

In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge and fell into the Potomac River after taking off during a snow-storm, killing a total of 78 people; four passengers and a flight attendant sur-

In 1990, L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the nation's first elected black governor as he took the oath of office in Richmond.

In 2012, the Italian luxury liner Costa Concordia ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio and flipped onto its side; 32 people were killed.

Ten years ago: Hostile fire brought down a U.S. Army Apache attack helicopter in Iraq, but the two

crew members escaped injury. A domestic airliner crashed in Tashkent Uzbekistan, killing all 37 people aboard. Harold Shipman, the British doctor blamed for killing more than 200 mostly elderly patients, was found hanged in his prison cell, an apparent suicide, a day before his 58th birthday.

Five years ago: President-elect Barack Obama's nominee for secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton, vowed during her Senate confirmation hearing to revitalize the mission of diplomacy in U.S. foreign policy. Obama's choice to run the Treasury Department, Timothy Geithner, dis-closed that he had failed to pay \$34,000 in taxes from 2001 to 2004 U.S. Marshals apprehended Marcus Schrenker, 38, in North Florida days after the businessman and amateur daredevil pilot apparently tried to fake his own death in a plane crash. (Schrenker was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to securities fraud charges, on top of four years in federal prison on charges stemming from the plane crash.) Actor-director Patrick McGoohan died in Los Angeles at age 80. Author Hortense Calisher died in New York at age

One year ago: A Cairo appeals court overturned Hosni Mubarak's life sentence and ordered a retrial of the former Egyptian president for failing to prevent the killing of hundreds of protesters during the 2011 uprising that toppled his regime. (Mubarak was later ordered released.) "Argo" won best motion picture drama at the Golden Globes; "Les Miserables" won

best picture musical or comedy.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Frances Sternhagen is 84. TV person-ality Nick Clooney is 80. Comedian Rip Taylor is 80. Actor Billy Gray is 76. Actor Richard Moll is 71. Rock musician Trevor Rabin is 60. Rhythm-andblues musician Fred White is 59. Rock musician James Lomenzo (Megadeth) is 55. Actor Kevin Anderson is 54. Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus is 53. Rock singer Graham "Suggs" McPherson (Madness) is 53. Country singer Trace Adkins is 52. Actress Penelope Ann Miller is 50. Actor Patrick Dempsey is 48. Actress Traci Bingham is 46. Actor Keith Coogan is 44. Actress Nicole Eggert is 42. Actor Orlando Bloom is 37. Actor Julian Morris is 31. Actor Liam Hemsworth (Film: "The Hunger

Thought for Today: "The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well." — Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford, English author (1717-

FROM THE BIBLE

And we know that for those who love God, all thing work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Capitol Notebook

University System Takes Up SD's Deepest Problem

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The state Board of Regents wants the Legislature to earmark \$65,000 annually for a new position. It will be dedicated to American Indian education and outreach.

The legislation, House Bill 1020, is pre-filed in advance of the 2014 session that begins Tuesday. It might be the most important bill that lawmakers will consider this year.

The position's duties will be "focused on educating American Indian high school students and their families about becoming college ready and navigating college application and admission processes.

This is a truly necessary step. We have an enormous cultural disparity.

American Indian people comprise about 10 percent of the population in the state. But American Indian students comprise 3 percent of enrollments at the state universities.

Those numbers show we aren't doing this

We have too few students coming through our K-12 schools in many communities. We have too few students coming through our technical institutes, colleges and universities to meet employment needs.

The governor and the Legislature in separate ways have turned more attention to work-

This position can be a step in that effort. We have an achievement gap in our K-12 Year after year, results show American In-

dian students as a whole performing significantly below white students as a whole. Those numbers show little to no progress

overall, despite many teachers and aides trying very hard.

We have enormous problems with poverty, broken homes, joblessness, hunger, remoteness, substance abuse, crime and school

Adding one position in the Board of Regents central office can't fix any of that.

The same has been true at the state Department of Education. There has been a revolving door in its office of Indian education.

The Daugaard administration needs to review, reorganize and develop a clear strategy on better education for Indian students — and get the Legislature's coordinated support.

Millions of dollars from the federal government wash through the state department without accountability for results.

The gaps in South Dakota are wide, even in state government. Three small examples: The Legislature's state-tribal relations com-

mittee doesn't focus on Indian education. The state Board of Education doesn't schedule updates from the state secretary of

tribal relations. Tribal college leaders don't sit down with the regents or the state Board of Education. Those boards don't visit tribal colleges.

The regents through their central staff and leaders at the six universities have increased emphasis on recruitment and retention of Indian students in recent years. The report "Like Two Different Worlds" was delivered at the Dec. 4 board meeting.

The new request to the Legislature might seem duplicative.

South Dakota through the state Department of Education participates in the federally funded College Access program helping students and families.

But one more person alone can't reach all the families on all nine reservations and all the families in between.

The regents are serious about addressing the enrollment gap at the universities. This po-

sition is one small piece in the attempt. We spend considerable amounts of money on research at our state universities. A doctorate-level research program in Indian education would be a serious step in addressing South Dakota's biggest problem.

Beware Of 'Main Street' GOP

Michelle

BY MICHELLE MALKIN Creators Syndicate

What do George Soros, labor unions and money-grubbing former GOP Rep. Steven LaTourette all have in common? They're control freaks. They're power hounds. They're united against tea party conservatives. And they all have operated under the umbrella of D.C. groups masquerading as "Main Street" Republicans.

LaTourette heads up the so-called "Main Street Partnership," which claims to represent "thoughtful," "pragmatic," "common sense" and "centrist" Republican leadership. Reality check: The pro-bailout, pro-debt, pro-amnesty, anti-drilling group founded by former

MALKIN liberal New York GOP Congressman Amory Houghton includes three liberal Senate Republicans (John McCain, Mark Kirk and Susan Collins) and 52 center-left House Republicans. LaTourette himself is a self-serving Beltway barnacle who held office for nearly two decades. Now he's leveraging his new tea party-bashing platform to benefit a family-operated lobbying

The New York Times shed light on La-Tourette's tangled web of GOP establishment outfits last week. But that story just scratched the surface. As the paper reported, the Main Street Partnership is a nonprofit group that charges members up to \$25,000 per year to rub elbows with Washington's rich and powerful. The Main Street Advocacy Fund and the Defending Main Street SuperPAC are political satellites planning to amass \$8 million to bolster Republican liberals and moderates facing tea party challengers in 2014. McDonald Hopkins Government Strategies is LaTourette's lobbying firm.

The *Times* notes that "corporations and lobbyists" fund the Main Street Partnership. But farleft donors provided seed money for these affiliated K Street fronts. Who's behind the Defending Main Street SuperPAC? Big Labor. National Journal's Scott Bland reported last month that "two labor organizations, the International Union of Operating Engineers and the Laborers' International Union of North America, directed a combined \$400,000 to the Republican group in September and October. Main Street says it has

raised roughly \$2 million total between its super PAC and an affiliated nonprofit group so far and that means labor has supplied at least 20 percent of those funds.

> Along with the anti-tea party U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the "Main Street" fat cats and union leaders have banded together to help President Obama push through illegal alien amnesty. The payoff: cheap labor for big business, cheap votes for the Democratic Party.

> Main Street Partnership's chief operating and financial officer is Sarah Chamberlain Resnick. She also serves on the partnership's board of directors and previously served as an officer of the soft-money-raising Main Street Individual Fund. The MSIF is yet another spinoff group that received \$50,000 from progressive billionaire George Soros in 2002 soon after it was created.

Soros also dangled a "seven-figure contribution" in front of the Main Street Partnership, but Resnick said the group declined that one. The MSIF accepted a separate \$50,000 Soros donation during the 2004 election cycle. It was mysteriously returned in November 2005 after I called attention to it.

These various groups are legally independent entities on paper, but have shared staff and legal resources. When I reported on the "Main Street" farce eight years ago, the partnership's counsel sent me a threatening letter baselessly claiming I had made "libelous" statements about its network. My sin? Exposing the radical environmental funders of "Main Street" Republicans who had sabotaged House conservative efforts to open up drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The "Main Street" Republicans back then gloated over their successful campaign to force squishy GOP leaders in D.C. to cave in to the left. There's nothing principled about their agenda. It's not about "common sense." It's about the Benjamins. These statists in populist clothing are running a Washington incumbency protection racket. Same as it ever was.

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.

YOUR LETTERS

Soccer Situation Ruth Ann Dickman, Utica

I read the article that Rick Anderson wrote. with much interest! My granddaughters play soccer at the Soccer Field at the HSC grounds, so I have been there many times to watch them play, and I also saw many other teams play, and all the different tournaments that have been played there, on the wonderful field that Mr. Anderson, so tirelessly worked, to make a great soccer field.

On one meeting that I had attended, shortly after the city bought the HSC grounds, I asked

several city commissioners if they would keep the HSC grounds as the soccer field, and they assured me that the soccer field would always be

So what happened? Once again, the city is breaking its promise! I have also been in a situation where I worked

so hard, only to have it taken away. Later, they found out that I was right, but then it was too late! I hope the city commissioners wake up be-

fore it's too late and keep the soccer fields where they're at!