

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | WE SAY

Worked Up



THUMBS UP to the emphasis on South Dakota workforce development that came out of Gov. Dennis Daugaard's State of the State address this week. The idea has generally received a positive reception on both sides of the aisle, although the parties do emphasize different areas. South Dakota — and for that matter, Nebraska — have emerged from the recession in much better shape than most of the nation. Now, the key is to build on that foundation by creating a trained workforce, particularly in rural areas, to take advantage of economic opportunities.

Weather Whiners



THUMBS DOWN to whiners in other parts of the nation when it comes to the weather. East Coast residents in particular have bemoaned temperatures in the 20s and wind-chill temperatures of zero degrees. Meanwhile, the Great Plains has endured (or for the hardy individuals, embraced) wind-chill temperatures of 50 degrees below zero and wind gusts of 60 miles per hour during the past two weeks. One national talk show host asked a puzzled, yet snarky, question about why anyone would want to live in our neck of the woods. We like it just fine, thank you, because we measure quality of life in terms beside the mercury reading.

Deep Disrepair



THUMBS UP to the recent findings of the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality — even though they are quite depressing. On the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the "War on Poverty," the nonpartisan organization issued a report on poverty and inequality. It found that "the country's economy and labor market remain in deep disrepair, whereas our various post-market institutions (e.g., the safety net, educational institutions, health institutions) have a mixed record of coping with the rising poverty and inequality that has been handed to them by a still-struggling economy and labor market." Do these findings surprise us? No. The disturbing thing is, there is no serious effort to address these matters on the federal level. Where is our leadership?

Cast Away



A sad **THUMBS DOWN** to the passing of Russell Johnson, much better known as the Professor from "Gilligan's Island," who died Thursday at age 89. Johnson had been a little-known character actor who may have been best remembered for a role in a slight "Twilight Zone" episode (he went back in time to try to prevent the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Remember it? Maybe not) had he not been cast in "Island," the slapstick 1960s comedy about a boat lost at sea during (say it with us) "a three-hour tour." The outlandish show was derided by critics but stayed afloat for three years, and then became a cultural staple in reruns. Thereafter, he was always remembered as the Professor, which may have hindered his career. Nevertheless, he still holds a warm place in the hearts of generations of TV viewers. Aloha.

ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the *Press & Dakotan's* Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:

Would you support state or municipal restrictions on e-cigarettes?
No 48%
Yes 40%
Not sure 12%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 260

The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

Do you think Vice President Joe Biden will run for president in 2016?
To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2014. There are 348 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 17, 1994, the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 60 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.
On this date: In 1562, French Protestants were recognized under the Edict of St. Germain.
In 1893, the 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, died in Fremont, Ohio, at age 70. Hawaii's monarchy was overthrown as a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Lili'uokalani to abdicate.
In 1917, the United States paid Denmark \$25 million for the Virgin Islands.
In 1929, the cartoon character Popeye the Sailor made his debut in the "Thimble Theatre" comic strip.
In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces launched the first of four battles for Monte Cassino in Italy; the Allies were ultimately successful.
In 1945, Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II; Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.
In 1950, the Great Brink's Robbery took place as seven masked men held up a Brink's garage in Boston, stealing \$1.2 million in cash and \$1.5 million in checks and money orders. (Although the entire gang was caught, only part of the loot was recovered.)
In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address in which he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."
In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.
In 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc.*, ruled 5-4 that the use of home video cassette recorders to tape television programs for private viewing did not violate federal copyright laws.
In 1989, five children were shot to death at the Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, Calif., by a drifter, Patrick Purdy, who then killed himself.
In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake of a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe, Japan.
Ten years ago: Three U.S. soldiers were killed north of Baghdad, pushing the U.S. death toll in the Iraq conflict to 500. Hollywood producer Ray Stark died at age 88.
Five years ago: Israel declared a unilateral cease-fire in its 22-day Gaza offensive. President-elect Barack Obama arrived in the nation's capital after a daylong rail trip that began in Philadelphia, retracing the path Abraham Lincoln took in 1861. Salvage crews hoisted a downed US Airways jetliner from the Hudson River, two days after a dramatic water landing survived by everyone on board.
One year ago: Algerian helicopters and special forces stormed a gas plant in the stony plains of the Sahara to wipe out Islamist militants and free hostages from at least 10 countries. Nearly all the militants were killed; at least 40 hostages died in the standoff. Oprah Winfrey's OWN network broadcast the first of a two-part interview with Lance Armstrong, in which the disgraced cyclist told Winfrey he had started doping in the mid-1990s.
Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty White is 92. Former FCC chairman Newton N. Minow is 88. Actor James Earl Jones is 83. Talk show host Maury Povich is 75. International Boxing Hall of Famer Muhammad Ali is 72. Pop singer Chris Montez is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer William Hart (The Delonics) is 69. Actress Joanna David is 67. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sheila Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 61. Singer Steve Earle is 59. Singer Paul Young is 58. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 57. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 55. Movie director/screenwriter Brian Helgeland is 53. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 52. Actor Denis O'Hare is 52. First lady Michelle Obama is 50. Actor Joshua Malina is 48. Singer Shabba Ranks is 48. Rock musician Jon Wysocki is 46. Actor Naveen Andrews is 45. Electronic music DJ Tiesto is 45. Rapper Kid Rock is 43. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 39. Actor-writer Leigh Whannel is 37. Actress-singer Zoey Deschanel is 34. Singer Ray J is 33. Country singer Amanda Wilkinson is 32. DJ/singer Calvin Harris is 30. Folk-rock musician Jeremiah Fraites is 28.
Thought for Today: "He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money." — Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790).

FROM THE BIBLE

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit. John 12:24. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Janklow Barometer

BY KELLY HERTZ

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As you watch New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie twist in the winds of scandal over the George Washington Bridge fiasco, a question might be burning in your head: What would Bill Janklow have done?

The spark's there because the two men were clearly cut from the same temperamental cloth. It's impossible, for instance, to watch video of Christie sparring with reporters or tearing into political opponents without resurrecting a few choice memories of South Dakota's late governor. Tenacity. Abrasiveness. Strong-willed governing styles. A taste for confrontation. Polarizing and utterly domineering. Hardball politicians who were also capable of bipartisan work. Loved or loathed by people, with almost no ground in between. You really can't help but see the similarities.

That is, until recently — which may surprise a few people based on some quips and observations I've heard of late.

Christie's bridge mess (naturally dubbed "Bridge-gate") has momentarily, at least, thrown a few hand grenades at his presumed preparations for a Republican presidential bid in 2016. It started when the George Washington Bridge at Fort Lee, N.J., was snarled for several days last September under the guise of a "traffic study"; the apocalyptic congestion infuriated tens of thousands of motorists, crippled Fort Lee as the school year opened and severely hampered emergency personnel, which means lives were endangered. It's now known that the study on the bridge, one of the busiest in the world, was part of a political retaliation by individuals in Christie's administration against Fort Lee's mayor, a Democrat who refused to endorse the governor for re-election last year. Damning emails have confirmed the skulduggery.

For his part, Christie, who snidely shot down any notion of such plots before the true nature of the debacle came forth, now denies any knowledge of this plot and has removed the staffers involved. He's also been forced to be contrite and humble, which does not comfortably fit in his repertoire.

And this makes me wonder what Janklow might have done.

I didn't know our governor real well, but I knew him well enough from watching him in action for years and after getting a couple of butt-chewing phone calls from him during his time in Pierre. I also heard tales of him allegedly berating GOP caucuses and in fact belittling crit-

ics; I saw that temper in tense action during a meeting in Yankton several years ago. I don't know all the background mechanics from his years in office, so I can't speak to what his "operatives" may or may not have done for him politically. I have no evidence to suggest anything particularly sinister. I DO know that the last thing anyone really aspired to do was get on Janklow's bad side, whether you were a journalist, a regular citizen, a lawmaker or, I imagine, a member of the governor's own staff.

This is what puzzles me about the Christie situation, and where I think he and Janklow may diverge.

Critics attached many targets to Janklow through the years, but his devotion to South Dakota was never questioned. He was a fierce champion for this state. Although his political career ended in infamy after his involvement in a car accident that killed a motorcyclist, Janklow was remembered upon his death two years ago as a guy who would do anything for his home state. I think he would have arm-wrestled God if it meant bringing jobs here.

So, what would William J. Janklow have done if he discovered that his staffers had, unbeknownst to him, perpetrated a thermonuclear headache on South Dakota similar to what happened in New Jersey? I think he would have gone absolutely volcanic. I think he would not have merely fired the people responsible, he would have excoriated them publicly. Even if they were old acquaintances, I don't think he would have forgiven what he saw as a criminal betrayal to the state and to him.

Frankly, I'm not seeing this now in New Jersey. Christie maintains he didn't know what was happening and that "mistakes were made," but it's hard for me to buy the notion that his staffers would perpetrate such a momentous act on their own volition — and without a cold-sweat fear of their boss's wrath — unless there was a tacit clearance to do so. This surely isn't proof, but something just doesn't feel right when a bombastic, iron-fisted governor suddenly professes an uncharacteristic powerlessness over his own inner circle.

South Dakotans knew that Janklow, no matter what they thought of him, would never take his eye off the ball to such an extent.

Perhaps our vivid recollections of the Janklow years really don't serve as an adequate guide as we witness Chris Christie's passion these days. Then again, maybe those memories function as a telltale barometer for us. If so, Christie isn't registering too well right now.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.



Kelly HERTZ

Obama Remains Clueless

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

Let me get this straight. For five years Barack Obama has been president.

For five years he's demonstrated — with amazing consistency — that he has no clue what we need to get out of the ditch and back on the road to real economic recovery.

He's repeatedly demonstrated that he can't work with a divided Congress and he can't, or just plain won't, lean on Harry Reid to allow the Senate to vote on the stack of jobs bills that has been sent over by the House.

The president clearly has learned nothing on the job. And now our multi-clueless commander in chief is so frustrated that he's not getting his way with Congress, he's starting to issue decrees like some tin-pot socialist South American dictator.

That's what Obama did this week when he called on Congress to pass his latest list of tried-and-not-true ideas for resurrecting the economy.

If Congress didn't enact his pet policies — a federal minimum wage hike, another unemployment insurance extension, funding for universal preschool, etc. — the president decreed, he was going to wield his executive super-powers.

"I've got a pen and I've got a phone," he bragged, "I can use that pen to sign executive orders and take executive action and administrative actions that move the ball forward."

Trouble is, the president is one of the few guys on the field who doesn't realize that the ball he wants to move forward has been out of air for almost a century.

The most powerful leader on the planet still doesn't get it when it comes to economic policy — and obviously never will.

He still thinks like a naïve 20-something community organizer from South Chicago who has never had to meet a payroll or raise a dime of capital.

He still believes in the 1930s New Deal myth that it's the government that creates prosperity and growth, not free-market capitalism.

And he still doesn't understand that it is lower tax rates, federal spending cuts and less

government regulation that encourage businesses to expand, create jobs and hire people.

In Obama-Think, passing a law to jack up the minimum wage, extending unemployment insurance for six months and throwing billions in subsidies at shaky solar companies are considered magical ways to stimulate a sluggish economy and create jobs.

In the real world, as we've seen for the last five years, it works the opposite way.

When one political party passes laws making it more costly for businesses to hire humans, companies learn to streamline and get by with fewer humans or hire humans in foreign lands. Can you spell Obamacare?

When jobs become too costly, they get destroyed and they never come back — by the millions. Can you count a record 92 million people not participating in the workforce?

The only way our slow boat to permanent economic stagnation is going to be turned around is if we return to the economic policies of the 1980s and 1990s.

That's when a pair of economically savvy presidents named Reagan and Clinton made sure tax and regulatory policies did not cripple the ability of capitalism to create economic growth, prosperity and jobs.

It doesn't matter how many lightly taxed and lightly regulated "Promise Zones" President Obama sets up in North Carolina or Texas with a wave of his mighty pen.

The whole country needs to be turned into a permanent "Promise Zone." But that's never going to happen as long as we have someone in the White House who doesn't appreciate or like the free market and doesn't know the difference between capitalism and cronyism.

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelreagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reagan-world on Twitter.