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OPINION

New Crisis At The Border

From the June 16 Los Angeles Times: Facing a massive rise in the number of undocumented and unaccompanied minors crossing the border, overwhelmed Obama administration officials are seeking up to \$2 billion from Congress to deal with the "urgent humanitarian situation." In addition, the administration is creating a new branch of AmeriCorps to provide 100 lawyers or paralegals to help the unaccompanied youngsters navigate the deportation process. Both are good and welcome steps.

These steps follow the creation of an interagency Unified Coordination Group to help ensure that the children are decently fed and cared for while their deportation cases unfold. And the administration is opening temporary shelters at military bases, including the Naval Base Ventura County at Port Hueneme, Calif., to house the children.

Why such urgency? Because more than 47,000 children traveling alone have been detained while crossing the border since October, nearly double the number detained in the same period last year. On Thursday, border officials announced they were investigating assertions that children were being mistreated by border agents; some apparently reported that they had been deprived of food and medical care, while others complained of physical abuse.

It's a vexing problem. Despite the simplistic assertion by the right that the surge in minors is the result of an eased approach to immigration enforcement by the administration, activists interviewing the children say most are sent north by their families in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador seeking to protect sons and daughters from rising gang and drug violence and sexual assault. This is clearly a regional problem requiring a regional solution, and the administration has taken the welcome step of expanding discussions with the involved nations to stem the flow.

Meanwhile, the kids are here, and more are on their way. The "justice AmeriCorps" program will add to the existing and overwhelmed pro bono network of lawyers trying to ensure fair hearings for unaccompanied minors who face human trafficking, physical abuse and other terrors should they be returned to their home countries. This is not to argue that they all have a right to stay in the U.S., but it is only fair that they be represented by an adult during their deportation hearings. An added bonus: Having a lawyer speeds up the process.

It is unlikely the House will take up immigration reform before the August recess. Obama's critics complain that by seeking regulatory rather than legislative solutions to the immigration problem, the president is ruling by fiat. But House Republicans created the problem with their intransigence. They should abandon their obstructionism and tackle this issue. If they don't, voters should hold them accountable.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

How concerned are you about the consequences of climate change?

Very concerned	28%
Somewhat concerned	16%
A little bit concerned	11%
Not at all/don't believe in it	45%

TOTAL VOTES CAST 313

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 believe the United States should become militarily involved with countering progress by militant extremists in Iraq?

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 Wednesday, June 18, the 169th day of 2014. There are 196 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 18, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson and Japanese Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda spoke to each other by telephone as they inaugurated the first trans-Pacific cable completed by AT&T between Japan and Hawaii, and linked to existing cables between Hawaii and California. (Due to the time difference, it was already June 19 in Tokyo.)

On this date: In 1778, American forces entered Philadelphia as the British withdrew during the Revolutionary War.

In 1812, the War of 1812 began as the United States Congress approved, and President James Madison signed, a declaration of war against Britain.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte met his Waterloo as British and Prussian troops defeated the French in Belgium. In 1873, suffragist Susan B. Anthony was found guilty by a judge in Canandaigua, New York, of breaking the law by casting a vote in the 1872 presidential election. (The judge fined Anthony \$100, but she never paid the penalty.)

In 1908, William Howard Taft was nominated for president by the Republican National Convention in Chicago.

In 1912, the Republican National Convention, which would nominate President William Howard Taft for another term of office, opened in Chicago.

In 1940, during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill urged his countrymen to conduct themselves in a manner that would prompt future generations to say, "This was their finest hour."

In 1953, a U.S. Air Force Douglas C-124 Globemaster II crashed near Tokyo, killing all 129 people on board. Egypt's 148-year-old Muhammad Ali Dynasty came to an end with the overthrow of the monarchy and the proclamation of a republic.

In 1972, 118 people were killed in the crash of a Brussels-bound British European Airways Hawker Siddeley Trident 1C shortly after takeoff from London Heathrow Airport.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter and Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev signed the SALT II strategic arms limitation treaty in Vienna.

In 1983, astronaut Sally K. Ride, 32, became America's first woman in space as she and four colleagues blasted off aboard the space shuttle Challenger on a six-day mission.

In 1984, Alan Berg, a Denver radio talk show host, was shot to death outside his home. (Two white supremacists were later convicted of civil rights violations in the slaying.)

Ten years ago: An al-Qaida cell in Saudi Arabia beheaded American engineer Paul M. Johnson Jr., 49, posting grisly photographs of his severed head hours later. Saudi security forces tracked down and killed the alleged mastermind of the kidnapping and murder. European Union leaders agreed on the first constitution for the bloc's 25 members.

Five years ago: Tens of thousands of protesters filled the streets of Tehran again, joining opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi to mourn demonstrators killed in clashes over Iran's disputed presidential election. Hortensia Bussi, the widow of Chilean President Salvador Allende who helped lead opposition to the military dictatorship that ousted her husband, died at 94. Washington Capitals forward Alex Ovechkin was named the NHL's most valuable player for the second straight year after leading the league with 56 goals.

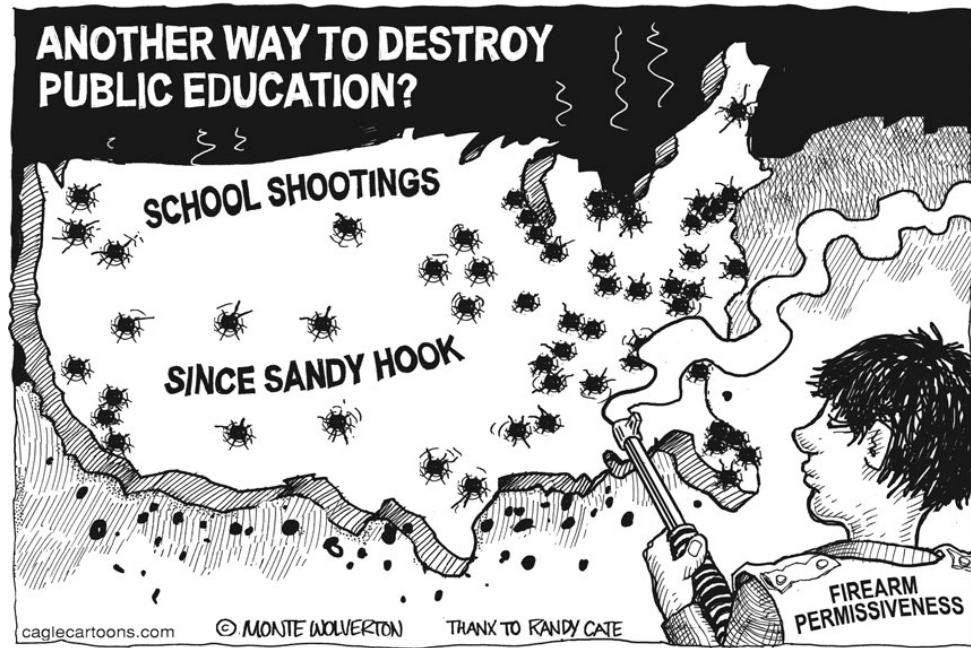
One year ago: The Taliban and the U.S. said they would hold talks on finding a political solution to ending nearly 12 years of war in Afghanistan, as the international coalition formally handed over control of the country's security to the Afghan army and police. Declaring "the days of Rambo are over," Maj. Gen. Bennet Saoilick, director of force management for U.S. Special Operations Command, said that cultural, social and behavioral concerns might be bigger hurdles than tough physical fitness requirements for women looking to join the military's special operations units.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., is 77. Baseball Hall of Famer Lou Brock is 75. Rock singer-composer-musician Sir Paul McCartney is 72. Actress Constance McCashin is 67. Actress Linda Thorson is 67. Rock musician John Evans (The Box Tops) is 66. Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., is 64. Actress Isabella Rossellini is 62. Actress Carol Kane is 62. Actor Brian Benben is 58. Actress Andrea Evans is 57. Rock singer Alison Moyet is 53. Rock musician Dizzy Reed (Guns N' Roses) is 51. Figure skater Kurt Browning is 48. Country singer-musician Tim Hunt is 47. Rock singer-musician Sio (The Boo Radleys) is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nathan Morris (Boyz II Men) is 43. Actress Mara Hobe is 43. Singer-songwriter Ray LaMontagne is 41. Rapper Silk the Shocker is 39. Actress Alana de la Garza is 38. Country singer Blake Shelton is 38. Rock musician Steven Chen (Airborne Toxic Event) is 36. Actor David Giuntoli is 34. Actress Renee O'Leary is 25. Actress Willa Holland is 23.

Thought for Today: Today: "The way of a superior man is three-fold; virtuous, he is free from anxieties; wise, he is free from perplexities; bold, he is free from fear." — Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551-479 B.C.).

FROM THE BIBLE

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Biggest Lies About Poverty On The Right

BY ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune Content Agency



Robert REICH

Rather than confront poverty by extending jobless benefits to the long-term unemployed, endorsing a higher minimum wage or supporting jobs programs, conservative Republicans are taking a different tack.

They're peddling three big lies about poverty. To wit:

Lie No. 1: Economic growth reduces poverty.

"The best anti-poverty program," wrote Paul Ryan, the House Budget Committee chairman, in the Wall Street Journal, "is economic growth."

Wrong. Since the late 1970s, the economy has grown 147 percent per capita but almost nothing has trickled down. The typical American worker is earning just about what he or she earned three decades ago, adjusted for inflation.

Meanwhile, the share of Americans in poverty remains around 15 percent. That's even higher than it was in the early 1970s.

How can the economy have grown so much while most people's wages go nowhere and the poor remain poor? Because almost all the gains have gone to the top.

Research by Emmanuel Saez and Thomas Piketty shows that 40 years ago, the richest 1 percent of Americans got 9 percent of total income. Today they get over 20 percent.

It's true that redistributing income to the needy is politically easier in a growing economy than in a stagnant one. One reason so many in today's middle class are reluctant to pay taxes to help the poor is their own incomes are dropping.

But the lesson we should have learned from the past three decades is that economic growth by itself doesn't reduce poverty.

Lie No. 2: Jobs reduce poverty.

Sen. Marco Rubio said poverty is best addressed not by raising the minimum wage or giving the poor more assistance but with "reforms that encourage and reward work."

This has been the standard Republican line ever since Ronald Reagan declared that the best social program is a job. A number of Democrats have adopted it as well. But it's wrong.

Surely it's better to be poor and working than to be poor and unemployed. Evidence suggests jobs are crucial not only to economic well-being but also to self-esteem. Long-term unemployment can even shorten life expectancy.

But simply having a job is no bulwark against poverty. In fact, across America the ranks of the working poor have been growing. Around one-fourth of all American workers are now in jobs paying below what a full-time, full-year worker

needs in order to live above the federally defined poverty line for a family of four.

Why are more people working but still poor? First of all, more jobs pay lousy wages.

While low-paying industries such as retail and fast food accounted for 22 percent of the jobs lost in the Great Recession, they've generated 44 percent of the jobs added since then, according to a recent report from the National Employment Law Project.

Second, the real value of the minimum wage continues to drop.

Third, government assistance now typically requires recipients to be working. This hasn't meant fewer poor people. It's just meant more poor people have jobs.

Lie No. 3: Ambition cures poverty. Most Republicans, unlike Democrats and independents, believe poor people are poor mainly because of a lack of effort, according to a Pew Research Center/USA Today survey. It's a standard riff of the right: If the poor were more ambitious, they wouldn't be poor.

Obviously, personal responsibility is important. But there's no evidence that people who are poor are less ambitious than anyone else. In fact, many work long hours at backbreaking jobs.

What they really lack is opportunity. It begins with lousy schools.

America is one of only three advanced countries that spend less on the education of poorer children than richer ones, according to a study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Among the 34 OECD nations, only in the United States, Israel and Turkey do schools serving poor neighborhoods have fewer teachers and crowd students into densely populated classrooms than do schools serving more privileged students. In most countries, it's just the reverse: Poor neighborhoods get more teachers per student.

And unlike most OECD countries, America doesn't put better teachers in poorly performing schools.

So, why do so many right-wing Republicans tell these three lies? Because they make it almost impossible to focus on what the poor really need: good-paying jobs, adequate safety nets and excellent schools.

These things cost money. Lies are cheaper.

Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. His new film, "Inequality for All," is now out on iTunes, DVD and On Demand.

YOUR LETTERS

Speed Bump

Jim Sorenson, Yankton
While I am not against the removal of the stoplight at Fourth and Walnut, I wish it hadn't been replaced with a speed bump in the left lane of Fourth Street.

Pitbull Profiling

Kathy Taybor, Dante
"Punish the deed, not the breed" is the statement owners of pitbulls want the public to respect. Why is it that news reports only give the breed of dog if it's a pitbull?

In two recent "Daily Records," it was reported "a dog" was involved in a police call. Why isn't the breed given? Why is it pitbull the only breed specified? This is profiling!

Negative reports do not solve anything. If any canine is involved in an accident, any and all breeds should be reported. Pitbulls can be and are wonderful dogs. I know. I have one.

Help Appreciated

Darwin and Dennis List, Yankton
We would like to give a big "Thank You" to the young lady, police officers and ambulance crew for their quick response to aid us following a tree trimming accident. We were very fortunate to walk away with scrapes and bruises from what could have been much worse.

It is very comforting to know that great people like these are so quick to offer

comfort and aid. Thank you so much.

Witness For Jesus

Kenneth Philippi, Yankton
Concerning the dialogue between Christians and Buddhists (*Press & Dakotan*, June 12), I feel we should respect all faiths. But I feel that, as Christians, we are all expected to witness for Jesus Christ. This is the basis of the Christian faith.

Life-Changing Belief

R.J. Buckman, Yankton
In response to Rev. Pearson (*Press & Dakotan*, June 12): Why did Jesus ask us to fear not? Because He knew He was going to die on the cross for our sins and we would have eternal life if we believed that. That is a life-changing belief. I know it changed mine.

Proud Of Officer

Yankton Elks Lodge No. 994
Yankton Elks Lodge No. 994 would like to thank all of the members and guests who attended the June 7 Law Officer Recognition ceremony. Elks National and Yankton Elks Lodge No. 994 were very proud to present the Enrique S. Camarena Award to Yankton Police Officer Patrick Nolz.

We would also like to thank Nathan Johnson and the *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan* for the paper's excellent coverage of this awards dinner.

Spiritual Identity

David Kahle, Yankton
The Associated Press story in the June 14 edition of the *Press & Dakotan* mentions that, "Barack and Michelle Obama appeared delighted as children, adolescents and adults in face paint and costumes stepped to native dances on the reservation grounds."

The hand-made regalia are not "costumes." Costumes are meant for stages. When traditional attire is made for a "wacipi" (powwow); this attire is a personal expression of his or her spiritual identity, which is made to function for each ceremony in a holy spiritual dimension.

What A Pickle

Randy Gleich, Yankton

Recently a friend gave me a jar of Breckenridge Farms' Kosher Spears Pickles purchased for one dollar at a local Yankton store. (There is no Breckenridge Farms; it is just a trademark.) I had some spare time, so I looked at the ingredients. However, what struck my attention was the fact that this jar was imported by Greenbrier International, Inc., and it was a product of India. As to being kosher — questionable. To sell for one dollar a glass jar, the pickles, the labor and the transportation costs of importing from overseas — I guess America is in such a "pickle" that we have to import pickles. Ridiculous.