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OPINION

Crisis Demands Firm Response

lacksquare ive days seemed like an eternity: It was the time that passed between the end of the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, and the Russian incursion into the Crimean peninsula of Ukraine, lobbing a new hand grenade into a political powder keg.

Russian forces moved into the peninsula Friday in what was called an "uncontested arrival" in the region. The wording, used by U.S. officials, reflected the complexity of the issue, not only for the world but for the people at the epicenter of this crisis.

As the Ukraine was dealing with the recent overthrow of its pro-Moscow president in favor of a more pro-western government (the tip of an iceberg of local ethnic and autonomy issues), Russian President Vladimir Putin sent forces into a region of the Ukraine where the majority of the residents speak Russian and align themselves more with Russian heritage. These people were reportedly dismayed by the recent change of government in Kiev and the rather anti-Russian rhetoric of some of the new officials.

Moscow, fearing the loss of political and economic influence in the former Soviet satellite, moved in to solidify its hand in the re- gion — and to more actively steer the Ukraine away from the orbit of the European Union (EU).

The U.S. and the EU would appear to have limited leverage in this region in geographic terms, but there are larger diplomatic avenues that can be addressed.

Whether or not Putin has undertaken this action because he "disrespects" President Obama, as some critics have charged, is an accusation that has both merits and flaws. But Putin does realize that while the west has only limited military leverage in the region, there are potent economic and diplomatic reprisals that can be taken. However, since much of Europe looks to Russia for a good chunk of its energy, it may be a calculated risk betting on

Nevertheless, the west must indeed respond with economic force. The Ukrainian government, however much it has been in flux, must have the backing of the international community. Treaties have been broken with this move, including a pact between Russia and the Ukraine that guarantees the Ukrainian borders. Russia risks becoming isolated from the world stage, and the economic consequences of that cannot be overlooked in Moscow for very long.

The Crimean intervention could have other consequences, such as compelling NATO to pursue an Eastern European missile defense program that was abandoned as a post-Cold War relic. Such a move would anger Moscow, whose help has been needed in issues such as Iran and Afghanistan, but frankly, Russia has forfeited such considerations.

To be sure, Russia's road going forward here could become more difficult. Its forces did march "uncontested" into a region where it had majority support. But Moscow's next moves could face much greater internal risks. Clearly, there is a significant percentage of Ukrainians who would detest and resist a Russian presence — Cold War wounds tend to heal slowly, after all. Also, the Ukraine, which is supported by western resources, has some military punch of its own; it may not be enough to ultimately ward off Russian forces, but it could inflict some damage and it certainly reflects how difficult an occupation, or whatever it would be called, might be for Moscow.

What's needed is a strong show of western backing for Kiev, plus an element of restraint by the Ukrainians so as to not invoke a reaction that Putin may well be banking on as an excuse for further action. Russia has so much to lose on the world stage with this latest incident, and that's a fact that Moscow must grapple with as events move forward

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, March 4, the 63rd day of 2014. There are 302 days

Today's Highlight in History: On March 4, 1789, the Constitution of the United States went into effect as the first Federal Congress met in New York. (The lawmakers then adjourned for lack of a quorum.)

On this date: In 1791, Vermont

became the 14th state. In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th president of the United States. The U.S. Government Printing Office began operation. The Confederate States of America adopted as its flag the original version of the Stars and Bars.

In 1863, the Idaho Territory was created.
In 1913, the "Buffalo nickel" offi-

cially went into circulation.

In 1930, Coolidge Dam in Arizona was dedicated by its namesake, former President Calvin Coolidge.

In 1944, mobsters Louis Capone, Louis "Lepke" Buchalter and Emanuel Weiss were executed in the electric chair at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, N.Y., for the murder of business owner

Joseph Rosen. In 1952, Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis were married in San Fernando Valley, Calif.

In 1964, Teamsters president James Hoffa and three co-defendants were found guilty by a federal court in Chattanooga, Tenn., of jury tamper-

In 1974, the first issue of People magazine, then called *People Weekly*, was published by Time-Life Inc.; on the cover was actress Mia Farrow, then co-starring in "The Great Gatsby.

In 1989, Time Inc. and Warner Communications Inc. announced plans for a huge media merger.

In 1994, in New York, four extremists were convicted of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed six people and injured more than a thousand. Actor-comedian John Candy died in Durango, Mexico, at age 43.

In 1999, Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun, who wrote the 1973 decision that legalized abortion nationwide, died in Arlington, Va., at

Ten years ago: Mounir el Motassadeq, convicted in Germany in connection with the 9/11 attacks, won a retrial from an appeals court. (El Motassadeq was later convicted of helping three of the suicide hijackers and was sentenced to 15 years in prison, the maximum possible under German law.)

Five years ago: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, addressing a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, called on Americans to look beyond their own tumbling financial markets to see a world gripped by an "economic hurri-cane" that could be turned around with U.S. help. Playwright Horton Foote, who'd won an Oscar for his screen adaptation of "To Kill a Mockingbird," died in Hartford, Conn. at age 92.

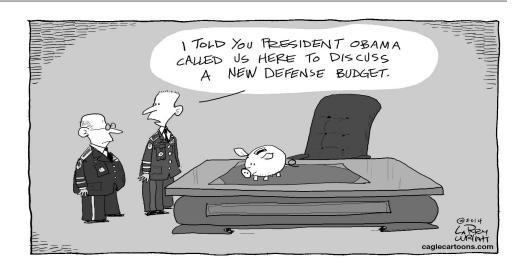
One year ago: Cardinals from around the world gathered inside the Vatican for their first round of meetings before the conclave to elect the next pope, following the retirement of Benedict XVI. Kenya's presidential election drew millions of eager voters, but the balloting was marred by deadly violence. (Uhuru Kenyatta beat seven other presidential candidates with 50.07 percent of the vote.) Fivetime Grand Slam singles champion Martina Hingis headed the 2013 class for the International Tennis Hall of Fame; also named were Cliff Drysdale, Charlie Pasarell, and Ion Tiriac. (Australian player Thelma Coyne Long's election was announced ear-

Today's Birthdays: Actress Paula Prentiss is 76. Movie director Adrian Lyne is 73. Singer Bobby Womack is 70. Rock musician Chris Squire (Yes) is 66. Singer Shakin' Stevens is 66. Author James Ellroy is 66. Texas Gov. Rick Perry is 64. Singer Chris Rea is 63. Actor/rock singer-musician Ronn Moss is 62. Actress Kay Lenz is 61. Musician Emilio Estefan is 61. Movie director Scott Hicks is 61. Actress Catherine O'Hara is 60. Actor Mykelti Williamson is 57. Actress Patricia Heaton is 56. Actor Steven Weber is 53. Rock musician Jason Newsted is Actress Stacy Edwards is 49. Rapper Grand Puba is 48. Rock musician Patrick Hannan (The Sundays) is 48. Rock singer Evan Dando (Lemonheads) is 47. Actress Patsy Kensit is 46. Gay rights activist Chaz Bono is 45. Actress Andrea Bendewald is 44. Actor Nick Stabile is 44. Rock musician Fergal Lawler (The Cranberries) is 43. Country singer Jason Sellers is 43. Jazz musician Jason Marsalis is 37. Actress Jessica Heap is 31. TV personality Whitney Port is 29. Actress Margo Harshman is 28. Actor Joshua Bowman is 26. Actress Andrea Bowen

is 24. Actress Jenna Boyd is 21. Thought for Today: "I am glad that I paid so little attention to good advice; had I abided by it I might have been saved from some of my most valuable mistakes." — Edna Št. Vincent Millay, American author and poet (1892-1950).

FROM THE BIBLE

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart. All your soul, and all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5 NLT. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Pierre Report I Tom Jones

The Capitol Cross-Over

BY SEN. TOM JONES

D-District 17 (Viborg)

The bill frenzy started Monday and continued Tuesday as Tuesday was the last day that bills could acted upon. Those bills that passed in one chamber had to go to the House from the Senate

SB184, a bill I introduced, would make an appropriation to support the South Dakota Hall of Fame in the amount of \$75,000 Although it had a majority of the Senate votes (21-13), it required a two-thirds majority. State law however, states that any bill that receives a majority of the votes, but has a twothirds requirement must be reconsidered. On Tuesday, upon reconsideration, the passed the bill 25-10 thus exceeding the required number of "aye" votes. Next, the bill will be heard by the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee.

Another bill, \$B185, appropriated \$50,000 to support the W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion. This museum was supported by our Legislature until Gov. Miller stopped the funding. To give you a little more background of this 123-year-old museum, it is located on the University of South Dakota campus, the building is owned by the state as is most of the artifacts that it holds. SB185 passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee 9-0, then received the majority of the votes (21-13) in the full Senate, but it also required two-thirds to pass. Upon reconsideration on Tuesday, it failed 20-15.

A bill I had a difficult time with was SB114, to establish a wine direct shipper license and to provide for certain direct shipments of them. There were good and bad points on each side of this issue. I voted against the bill and the bill passed 23-11.

Tuesday morning, we listened to the presentation from the Game, Fish and Parks Department. Their department has a \$1.2 billion impact of our state. Twenty-one percent of South Dakotans hunt, 26 percent of South Dakotans fish and last year they stocked 55 million fish and eggs in our lakes and streams. On a sad note, they commented the pheasant population was down 64 percent last year.

The Department of Agriculture also met with us Tuesday morning. Talk about impact on South Dakota: Ag has \$21.4 billion impact on us. They oversee the state fair and reported the fair's attendance is up 37 percent since 2006. Since the federal government was shut down while we had a terrible blizzard, the problems were multiplied. Now that a farm bill has been passed, federal disaster payments to our ranchers that lost livestock will be reimbursed at 75 percent of fair market value based at the time of their losses.

Twenty bills finished the Senate side of all proposed bills Tuesday afternoon. One bill that I thought had an interesting ending was SB149. It was an act to establish a pilot grant program for alternative care programs for adults with substance abuse issues and to make an appropriation. It failed 23-12 (one vote short of passing), but did not have an emergency clause in it; therefore, it wasn't reconsid-

Two hunting bills were voted on Wednesday. HB1014 increases the non-refundable application fee for bighorn sheep, mountain goats and elk. The increase is to double the fee from \$5 to \$10, which will generate approximately \$160,000 more in license fee increases. The other bill, HB1068, was a bill to allow hunting dogs in hunting mountain lions outside of the Black Hills. The bill failed 14-18 and I voted for the bill.

Thursday, several bills were heard, but action was deferred until a later date. Of course, these bills contain money requests, so they were added to our list of requests that will be acted upon the last day of session. Included in these bills were: \$1.2 million for upgrading the railroad bridge in Chamberlain, funding for school districts that have students with limited English proficiency, and funding monies to prepay building bonds of approximately \$58 mil-

There are two weeks of session left on our schedule. If you have a question or opinion, please contact me at: sen.jones@state.sd.us.

Kathleen Parker

Obama's Best Hope For Change

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — President Obama's new outreach initiative to help at-risk boys of color Brother's Keeper" — is cause for cheer.

It isn't that we haven't known for some time that minority boys are in trouble. Poor school performance, truancy, delinquency and, ultimately, high incarceration rates cannot be separated from the absence of fathers in many homes. Out-of-wedlock births are now at 72 percent in the African-American community and 53 percent among Latinos, compared to 29 percent among non-Hispanic

But sometimes things can change only when the right messenger comes along. Obama is that man, though he seems to have realized it late in his game. Or perhaps he feared criticism for focusing on the black half of himself and waited for a second

Whatever brought him here, he may as well be reading from an old text — the 1965 Moynihan Report, when then-Assistant Labor Secretary Daniel Patrick Moynihan first sounded the alarm about family disintegration and fatherlessness in the black community.

Wrote Moynihan the following year: "A community that allows a large number of young men to grow up in broken homes, dominated by women, never acquiring any stable relationship to male authority, never acquiring any set of rational expectations about the future — that community asks for and gets chaos."

Moynihan was clobbered by civil rights leaders who felt that other concerns — school integration, voting rights and the end of Jim Crow laws — were more crucial to black ascendance than family organization. But today, with an African-American in the highest office, we can afford to take another look. It would seem that Moynihan had a point and back then the out-of-wedlock birthrate among

African-Americans was just 25 percent. Since the 1960s, as women have made strides toward greater empowerment, the trend of fatherlessness has been largely overlooked except by a few lonely voices in the media, including yours truly and, notably, Christina Hoff Sommers and Cathy Young. Otherwise, the noisemakers were men, mostly white, who garnered more mockery than consideration, drowned out by feminists who dismissed fathers as nonessential, often conflating the incidence of abusive or "bad" fathers with an indictment of men generally. Those who insisted otherwise were characterized as heretical pawns of the patriarchy.

Though this interpretation persists in smallish circles, we seem to have transcended such facile branding. It is harder to hold the antagonist's ground, moreover, when the president himself — a black man who experienced the pain of father abandonment — reiterates Moynihan's observations.

Whatever one's politics, this is great news for the country. A nation can't long flourish without the commitment of fathers to raise their sons — and,

yes, their daughters, too. Announcing \$200 million in private funding for the initiative whereby businesses will connect young men with mentors, the president spoke about his personal history as a young son growing up without a father. This first-person connection is Obama's most powerful weapon in encouraging two-parent homes, as well as highlighting societal trends that have minimized the importance of men and the need for role models to teach boys how to be men. Who better than the president of the United States? Well, of course, a father, but meanwhile.

In minority communities, fathers became scarcer in part owing to a welfare program that was predicated upon no man in the house. It would not take long before marriage and fathers made little economic sense to many mothers. Three generations later, two-parent families have become a quaint memory.

Rather than tackling the source of problems in minority communities, we have embraced a pop culture that celebrates destructive behavior via movies and music. It is hard to teach young boys to treat girls respectfully when icons such as Beyonce sing about her guy "so horny ... he Monica Lewinsky-ed all on my gown.'

Magazine covers and chatty television shows, meanwhile, cutesify the tragedy of casual procreation by touting baby-daddies and baby-mamas, who aren't so adorable in the inner city where the biological offspring of such lyrical liaisons are most often doomed to a life without much promise.

A culture faced with such challenges can only benefit from the president's attentions, especially as he has sway with the media that shape so much of our culture. The uniqueness of his outreach isn't only that he is a man of color and has shared the sorrow of having to imagine his father's dreams but that he is inoculated from criticisms that might have been raised against another type of politician. This is gratifying progress and marks a victory of common sense over ideology.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

YOUR LETTERS

Thanks to YMS **Sack Pack Program Board of Directors**

The Sack Pack Program would like to thank the Yankton Middle School student body, as well as all students of YMS, for their show of support for the Sack Pack Program.

The student body held a "Souper Bowl" food drive prior to this year's Super Bowl. Student's placed food items in shopping cart that represented the football team they thought would win the Super Bowl. Each food item counted as a vote. More than 600 food items were brought in and donated to the Sack Pack Program. What an awesome group of kids we have at our middle school!

Thanks again for helping to support kids who are in need in our community.

Online Opinion

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

Do you support barring the sale of e-cigarettes to minors?
Yes
No
Not sure
TOTAL VOTES CAST
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 con-
strued as an accurate representation or scientific meas

CURRENT QUESTION:

Do you believe there is a teacher shortage in

urement of public opinion.

To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.