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**OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS**

## Farm Bill Spotlight On Kristi Noem

**ARGUS LEADER, Sioux Falls (Nov. 2):** It's crunch time for Rep. Kristi Noem.

The South Dakota Republican is on the conference committee trying to hammer out a compromise farm bill. That's a difficult balancing act given the Senate and House versions of the bill are billions of dollars apart.

In addition to agriculture policy and nutrition programs, the farm bill has included disaster assistance provisions providing payments to farmers of up to \$100,000 for losses such as those incurred recently by many West River South Dakota ranchers. If those provisions are renewed under the new farm bill, they could be of great help to South Dakotans hit hard by the October blizzard.

Noem says she will work to find middle ground between the House and Senate bills in trying to forge a deal. It will take some serious give and take to come up with a compromise. And if her recent activity is any indication, Noem is not necessarily one to champion compromise.

She voted against the bipartisan plan that temporarily reopened the government and helped avoid a debt default after the recent shutdown.

That plan didn't go far enough in reducing deficits, she said. Yet it certainly went far enough for ranchers rocked by livestock losses and looking for answers and possible assistance.

Noem had criticized the federal government during the shutdown for refusing to open Farm Service Agency offices in order to assist those same ranchers.

She also might have trouble trying to persuade her colleagues to reauthorize disaster assistance in the new farm bill because she voted against providing assistance to victims of Hurricane Sandy. The politics of this situation are complex, for sure.

Noem didn't vote with her own party leadership to open the government, opting instead to join tea party conservatives. Was she trying to protect herself from a primary challenge? Maybe. But siding with tea party members in this case also might prove costly.

Conservatives who might have applauded her no vote on the government reopening measure still could oppose her efforts to pass a farm bill, something they consider a public welfare program.

So there's real work to be done here. For Noem to take advantage of her seat on the farm bill conference committee, she will need to be willing to compromise. We urge her to abandon the canned rhetoric and party line talking points in this debate.

With only one vote in Congress, South Dakotans expect their elected representatives to be skilled at working with other lawmakers and building coalitions to accomplish goals.

The time is now for Noem to prove she can do the job. It's great for South Dakota to be represented on the farm bill conference committee, but only if it results in action for the state's farmers and ranchers.

**THE VIEWS PAGE**

■ The PRESS & DAKOTAN Views page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the PRESS & DAKOTAN. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

**ON THIS DATE**

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, Nov. 11, the 315th day of 2013. There are 50 days left in the year. This is Veterans Day in the U.S., Remembrance Day in Canada.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Nov. 11, 1918, fighting in World War I came to an end with the signing of an armistice between the Allies and Germany.

**On this date:** In 1620, 41 Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower, anchored off Massachusetts, signed a compact calling for a "body politic."

In 1831, former slave Nat Turner, who'd led a violent insurrection, was executed in Jerusalem, Va.

In 1889, Washington became the 42nd state.

In 1909, President William Howard Taft accepted the recommendation of a joint Army-Navy board that Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands be made the principal U.S. naval station in the Pacific.

In 1921, the remains of an unidentified American service member were interred in a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony presided over by President Warren G. Harding.

In 1932, a new tomb to house the remains of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1942, during World War II, Germany completed its occupation of France.

In 1960, South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem survived a coup attempt by army rebels. (However, he was overthrown and killed in 1963.)

In 1966, Gemini 12 blasted off from Cape Kennedy with astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. aboard.

In 1972, the U.S. Army turned over its base at Long Binh to the South Vietnamese, symbolizing the end of direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1987, following the failure of two Supreme Court nominations, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Judge Anthony M. Kennedy, who went on to win confirmation.

In 1992, the Church of England voted to ordain women as priests.

**Ten years ago:** President Bush's top foreign advisers summoned L. Paul Bremer, Iraq's U.S. administrator, for hurried White House talks focused on their growing frustrations with the Iraqi Governing Council and a logjam in transferring political power to Iraqis. In Galveston, Texas, millionaire Robert Durst was found not guilty of murdering Morris Black, an elderly neighbor who Durst said he'd killed

accidentally. Toronto's Roy Halladay won the American League Cy Young Award.

**Five years ago:** President George W. Bush marked his last Veterans Day as president at a New York pier, speaking to a crowd of thousands gathered for the rededication of the USS Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum. San Francisco's Tim Lincecum won the National League Cy Young Award.

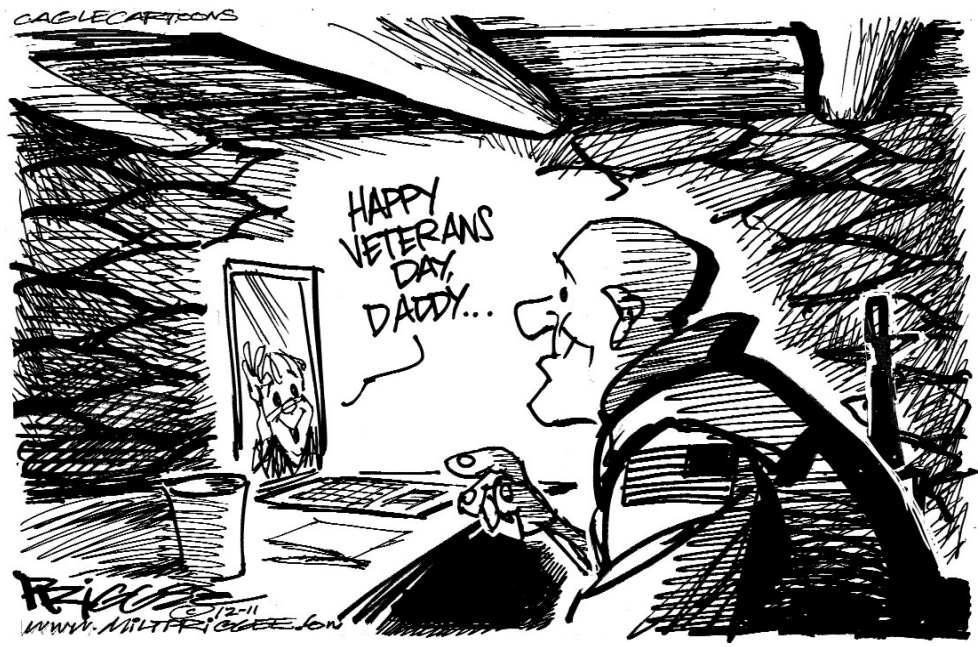
**One year ago:** President Barack Obama laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery and said the Sept. 11 generation had "written one of the greatest chapters" in the country's military service, toppling a dictator and battling an insurgency in Iraq, pushing back the Taliban in Afghanistan and decimating al-Qaida's leadership. A Florida woman identified as the recipient of harassing emails from David Petraeus' girlfriend acknowledged her friendship with the former CIA director. Jill Kelley, an unpaid social liaison to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, said she and her family had been friends with Petraeus and his family for more than five years.

**Today's Birthdays:** Jazz singer-musician Mose Allison is 86. Actress Bibi Andersson is 78. Country singer Narvel Felts is 75. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., is 73. Americana roots singer/songwriter Chris Smither is 69. Rock singer-musician Vince Martelli (Vanilla Fudge) is 68. The president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, is 68. Gaffer Fuzzy Zoeller is 62. Pop singer-musician Paul Cowill (The Cowsills) is 62. Rock singer-musician Andy Partridge (XTC) is 60. Singer Marshall Crenshaw is 60. Rock singer Dave Alvin is 58. Rock musician Ian Craig Marsh (Human League; Heaven 17) is 57. Actor Stanley Tucci is 53. Actress Demi Moore is 51. Actress Calista Flockhart is 49. Actor Philip McKean is 49. Rock musician Scott Mercado is 49. Actor Frank John Hughes is 46. TV personality Carson Kressley is 44. Actor David DeLuise is 42. Actor Adam Beach is 41. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio is 39. Actor Scoot McNairy is 36. Rock musician Jonathan Pretus (Cowboy Mouth) is 32. NFL quarterback Mark Sanchez is 27. Actress Christa B. Allen is 22. Actor Ian Patrick (TV: "The Neighbors") is 11.

**Thought for Today:** "Old myths, old gods, old heroes have never died. They are only sleeping at the bottom of our mind, waiting for our call. We have need for them. They represent the wisdom of our race." — Stanley Kunitz, American poet laureate (1905-2006).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

"So, as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts ...' " Hebrews 3:7 NIV. Portals of Prayer, Concoria Publishing House, St. Louis



**Capitol Notebook**

## 4 Investigations And A Funeral In EB-5 Probe

**BY BOB MERCER**  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Nearly each day lately brings revelations regarding something few people followed before: The EB-5 visas for foreign investors program in South Dakota.

There's Aberdeen-based investment recruiter SDRC Inc., the Governor's Office of Economic Development, some recent South Dakota projects partially funded using EB-5, and one of the men in the middle, Richard Benda.

There are at least four separate investigations under way and maybe five or six.

According to some sources, the FBI began asking questions in 2012. The focus reportedly was EB-5's use in South Dakota and the flow of funds within several specific projects.

The EB-5 program is federally authorized and is under the Department of Homeland Security. It can lead to permanent residency status for immigrants who invest at least \$500,000 in rural areas.

Then there is the state investigation. In April of 2013, Gov. Dennis Daugaard reportedly became aware of something amiss in the Governor's Office of Economic Development. It reportedly was from before he took office in 2011.

The governor hasn't disclosed the nature of that matter. But evidently it didn't initially involve the EB-5 program.

That's because in July, GOED commissioner Pat Costello gave Aberdeen-based SDRC approval to recruit EB-5 investors for another project. (It is a pork-butcher plant proposed for South Dakota by three people from Flushing, New York.)

Yet by September, something changed. Costello canceled the business contract between GOED and recruiter SDRC.

The contract was developed in 2009 between Benda, in his role as tourism and state development secretary for Gov. Mike Rounds,

and SDRC president Joop Bollen. The contract ran through June 30, 2014.

What was discovered between July and September hasn't been disclosed by the Daugaard administration.

The governor said he turned the original matter involving GOED over to state Attorney General Marty Jackley for investigation.

The governor also said federal authorities were informed. We don't know if federal agents are looking into it.

The governor further said he ordered an internal review of GOED regarding the matter. So that makes at least three investigations.

The fourth investigation is the state probe of Benda's death. His body was found with a gunshot wound on Oct. 22 at a farm near Lake Andes.

We also understand someone from the FBI went to the death scene. If the FBI is formally looking into how Benda died, that would be at least the fifth investigation.

The intrigue is deeper because there is limited oversight of EB-5 investments. They are private placements and weren't subject to state security regulators or the state banking commission.

SDRC's Bollen created "investment funds" for each project offering. Essentially they are loan pools. There are 20 registered. Each also has a limited partnership that SDRC controls as general partner.

Under the state contract, GOED periodically received unaudited reports from SDRC about each fund.

The other overseer of SDRC is the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. USCIS runs the EB-5 program and determines if a project created sufficient jobs for visas to be granted to investors.

We don't know for certain what activities are under investigation beyond Benda's death. But this promises to get much more complex and much more intriguing.

## Boys Will Be Boys ...

**BY LEONARD PITTS JR.**  
Tribune Content Agency

Boys will be boys.  
Strip away the extraneous verbiage and that is what much of the defense of Richie Incognito boils down to. Incognito, a Miami Dolphins lineman, was booted from the team a few days ago — perhaps permanently — for abusive conduct, racist language and bullying behavior toward fellow lineman Jonathan Martin. Incognito's teammates are firmly on his side.

"I don't feel like any hazing or anything like that was going on," Mike Wallace told my colleague, Greg Cote of *The Miami Herald*. "It's normal in football. ... It's what football teams do, like playing with your brothers."

"Rite of passage," said another player, Cam Wake. "You have to pay your dues to get certain privileges. ... Football is the best fraternity I can think of."

And there is a kernel of truth there. Our culture sometimes devalues the bumptious, rowdy, chest-bumping, testosterone-fueled swagger that typifies boys and men. We want them to be "sensitive" and "in touch" with their feelings. We consider it enlightened to allow men to cry, but sometimes fail to appreciate that a man might also find value in toughing it out.

But before we go too far down that road, consider a voicemail Martin says his teammate left him. Incognito, who is white, reportedly greeted Martin, who is biracial, as follows:

"Hey, wassup, you half-n— piece of s-t. I saw you on Twitter, you been training 10 weeks. Want to s-t in your f— mouth. I'm going to slap your f— mouth. I'm going to slap your real mother across the face (laughter). F— you, you're still a rookie. I'll kill you."

Boys will be boys? Um ... no.  
And apparently, that's just a sampling of Incognito's charm. Among his other alleged misdeeds: pressuring Martin to pay \$15,000 for a party in Vegas that Martin did not even attend. The final straw was apparently a "prank" where Martin sat down at a table in the lunchroom — and everybody else got up and left. Martin is on leave from the team and is said to be in therapy.

Meanwhile, other defenses have been raised for Incognito's boorishness.

It has been suggested that he was ordered by coaches to toughen Martin up. (But that doesn't mitigate the guilt; it only spreads it.)

It has been said the voicemail was taken out of context. (Pray tell, what context would make "half n— piece of s-t" appropriate?)

It has been argued that Incognito was actually Martin's best friend on the team. (Martin obviously felt otherwise.)

Finally, there is this gem: "Incognito considered black in Dolphins locker room." That's the headline of a blog post by *The Herald's* Armando Salguero. "Richie is honorary," a former Dolphin told Salguero. "I don't expect you to understand because you're not black. But being a black guy, being a

brother is more than just about skin color. It's about how you carry yourself. How you play. Where you come from. What you've experienced. A lot of things."

So the quiet younger guy is not fully black, but the loudmouth with a history of disciplinary problems is? Lord, have mercy. That's precisely the kind of self-hating, self-limiting garbage one gets sick of hearing from African-American men, a statement of such numbing stupidity this guy's lips should sue his brain for making it say the words.

Boys will be boys.  
And there is nothing wrong with that. But too much of any good thing is a bad thing and the retarded maturity and abject loutishness pro football seems to consider "normal" suggest these guys crossed that line a long time ago and never looked back. The example set here must cause any parent struggling to raise a rambunctious male child into honorable and productive manhood to cringe a little.

Boys will be boys, yes. But one hopes that once in a while boys will also be men.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for *The Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miami-herald.com.

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**YOUR LETTERS**

### Salvation Army On The March

**Carol Pooler, Yankton**  
*Salvation Army Bell Ringing Chairperson*  
The Salvation Army in Yankton will soon be ringing bells at local businesses in Yankton.

Ninety percent of funds raised locally are used to provide temporary emergency assistance to residents and transients in Yankton.

You can make a difference in the lives of those in need either by donating when you see

a Red Kettle or by volunteering two hours (or more) to staff a Red Kettle at a local business Nov. 29 through Dec. 21.

We are looking for individuals, families, service clubs, church groups, youth groups, etc., who would be willing to help a couple hours during this holiday season.

If you are interested in bell-ringing or have questions about The Salvation Army in Yankton, please call Carol Pooler at 661-5153.