

# The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION

# Executive Orders And D.C. Inaction

The executive order announced by President Barack Obama last week that could protect up to 5 million undocumented immigrants from being deported was an unfortunate turn of events, not because it was a "power grab" but because it seemed to be the only way we were ever going to see meaningful movement on the issue.

And for that, a large dose of thanks can go to Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives, who are among those now railing with a hysterical, hyperbolic venom. To borrow from Shakespeare, they seem to protest too much.

First off, let's look at what the president actually signed into law. What the order does, according to Slate.com, is provide "temporary administrative relief from deportation for aliens who are the parents of citizens, or the parents of lawful permanent residents." It creates a status of "deferred action" for up to three years, after which it could be extended, or it could be terminated at any time by the Department of Homeland Security. It's not an "amnesty"; in fact, there are millions of undocumented immigrants who remain unaffected by this order.

The move has also been described as a fundamental reshaping of U.S. immigration strategy, putting more of a focus, according to TheAtlantic.com, on sifting out criminals rather than breaking up families, addressing issues with the woefully overtaxed immigration courts and making changes to the high-skilled visa system.

It's part of a compromise immigration overhaul package that actually passed the U.S. Senate by a rather resounding vote in 2013. The package then moved over to the House.

But nothing happened. The measure has basically been placed in a political vacuum. Thus, this issue that has been dogging the U.S. for years was once again frozen by political calculations.

Obama's decision certainly ratchets up the hostilities between the executive and legislative branches, and that is never a good thing.

But in this instance, there seemed to be few practical options available.

Since lawmakers in Congress — or at least the House — didn't appear willing to move on this matter any time soon, the president made a move without them.

However, Obama also offered a reasonable alternative to diffuse his executive order and get the process moving again in a more conventional fashion. His words to Congress: "Pass a bill."

Given the breathless, outraged reactions some Republicans are having toward Obama's order, we anticipate there will be calls for other methods instead. Some clamor for impeachment, while others are talking of a government shutdown. In other words, these lawmakers would rather flirt with a constitutional crisis or a paralyzed federal government rather than actually tackle the immigration issue — a matter that isn't going away no matter how much they choose to ignore it.

Also, the argument that Obama's executive order destroys any chance of congressional action might hold some weight if there had been any sign of willingness to get the matter addressed. It just sounds like another excuse to dig in the heels deeper and play out the clock until the 2016 presidential election.

However, the House should call out Obama's "power grab," but instead of blustering about political retaliations and show trials, they should take up the immigration bill, either as a whole or in pieces. And that should start immediately.

kmh

## ONLINE OPINION

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

### LATEST RESULTS:

Do you plan to check out any "Black Friday" shopping sales events?  
No.....73%  
Yes.....20%  
Not sure.....7%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST.....367**

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:

Could you support any form of "amnesty" for undocumented/illegal immigrants?

To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

## IN HISTORY

### By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 25, the 329th day of 2014. There are 36 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlights in History:

On Nov. 25, 1984, William Schroeder of Jasper, Indiana, became the second man to receive a Jarvik-7 artificial heart, at Humana Hospital Audubon in Kentucky. (Schroeder lived 620 days on the device.) The Ethiopian famine relief song "Do They Know It's Christmas?" was recorded in London by the charity supergroup Band Aid.

**On this date:** In 1783, the British evacuated New York, their last military position in the United States during the Revolutionary War.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Confederate agents set a series of arson fires in New York; the blazes were quickly extinguished.

In 1908, the first issue of The Christian Science Monitor was published.

In 1914, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio was born in Martinez, California.

In 1920, radio station WTAW of College Station, Texas, broadcast the first play-by-play description of a football game, between Texas University and the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. (Texas won, 7-3.)

In 1944, baseball commissioner Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis died at age 78.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a slight stroke.

In 1963, the body of President John F. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery; his widow, Jacqueline, lighted an "eternal flame" at the gravesite.

In 1974, former U.N. Secretary-General U Thant died in New York at age 65.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1999, 5-year-old Elian Gonzalez was rescued by a pair of sport fishermen off the coast of Florida, setting off an international custody battle.

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head.

Ten years ago to leading Sunni Muslim politicians in Iraq urged postponement of the January 30, 2005 national elections (however, the elections ended up taking

place as scheduled). A man with a knife broke into a high school dormitory in Ruzhou, China, killing nine boys as they slept. (Chinese authorities later executed a 21-year-old man who confessed to the attack.)

**Five years ago:** Toyota said it would replace the gas pedals on 4 million vehicles in the United States because the pedals could get stuck in the floor mats and cause sudden acceleration.

**One year ago:** Pushing back against critics, President Barack Obama forcefully defended the temporary agreement to freeze Iran's disputed nuclear program, declaring that the United States "cannot close the door on diplomacy." Prosecutors closed their yearlong investigation into the shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, that claimed the lives of 26 victims; their report said the motive of gunman Adam Lanza, who also killed his mother and himself, might never be known.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Noel Neill is 94. Playwright Murray Schisgal is 88. Actress Kathryn Crosby is 81. Actor Matt Clark is 78. Actor Christopher Riordan is 77. Singer Percy Sledge is 74. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs is 74. Singer Bob Lind is 72. Author, actor and comedian Ben Stein is 70. Actor John Larroquette is 67. Actor Tracey Walter is 67. Movie director Jonathan Kaplan is 67. Author Charlaiane Harris is 63. Retired MLB All-Star Bucky Dent is 63. Dance judge Bruno Tonioli (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 59. Singer Amy Grant is 54. Former NFL quarterback Bernie Kosar is 51. Rock musician Eric Grossman (K's Choice) is 50. Rock singer Mark Lanegan is 50. Rock singer-musician Tim Armstrong is 49. Actor Steve Harris is 49. Actor Billy Burke is 48. Singer Stacy Lattisaw is 48. Rock musician Rodney Sheppard (Sugar Ray) is 48. Rapper-producer Erick Sermon is 46. Actress Jill Hennessy is 45. Actress Christina Applegate is 43. Actor Eddie Steeples is 41. Actress Kristian Nairn is 39. Former NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb is 38. Actor Jerry Ferrara is 35. Actor Joel Kinnaman is 35. Actress Valerie Azlynn is 34. Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager is 33. Former first daughter Barbara Pierce Bush is 33. Actress Katie Cassidy is 28. Contemporary Christian singer Jamie Grace is 23.

**Thought for Today:** "The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart." — Mencius, Chinese philosopher (371 B.C.-289 B.C.).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Luke 1:42. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.*



## The Rez Of The Story

# Tobacco: Just Quit!

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives),

Jeff Goodell, the American author and contributing editor to *Rolling Stone Magazine*, once penned: "Big Oil and Big Coal have always been as skilled at propaganda as they are at mining and drilling. Like the tobacco industry before them, their success depends on keeping Americans stupid."

I was stupid for 32 years. That's how many years it took for me to finally grow up to the facts about how I was abusing tobacco by smoking cigarettes — two packs a day when I finally gave them up in 2000.

The following is not only for information's sake but is also a challenge issued all who smoke tobacco on a recreational basis. Please bear in mind that the American Cancer Society has given rise to "The Great American Smoke-Out" which falls on the third Thursday of November of each year. If you decided to participate, I wish you all the success in the world if you decided to carry out a more permanent "smoke-out." It isn't easy but it is necessary that you keep any efforts to quite smoking as an absolute priority in your life. Go for it!

According to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids: "Despite reduction in smoking prevalence achieved since the first Surgeon General's report on the consequences of smoking in 1964, smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Smoking accounts for 480,000 deaths in the United States each year, and is a major risk factor for the four leading causes of death; heart disease, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and stroke.

"Native Americans as whole, have an especially high risk of suffering from tobacco-related death and disease because they have the highest prevalence of smoking and other

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Good Life

John Magnuson, Yankton

I would like to offer commentary on two recent columns in the *Press & Dakotan*.

"America Has Become One Nation Under Godlessness," by Michelle Malkin (Nov. 17), discusses her belief of the moral decline in our youth with the false gods of Facebook, Snapchat and other social obsessions. She states there should be more of God in the lives of youth, and schools should not place limits on school prayer per separation of church and state. Malkin is a Fox News contributor, blogger, political commentator and author.

"The Growing Wealth, Clout of the Richest .01 Percent," by Robert Reich (Nov. 19), details the increasing disparity of income between the very wealthy and the common wage earner. In the 1970's, the 1 percent were 220 times wealthier but are now about 1,120 times more so. Wages in real terms have declined and are the sole source of income for the commoners. The 1 percent become wealthier from capital gains and investments. The wealthy donate huge amounts to politicians to influence favorable lawmaking. To understand the economy, follow the money, says Reich, a former Secretary of Labor, an economist, commentator and author.

These two articles demonstrate what appeals to voter bases. Conservatives energize voters by discussing moral decline while progressives often highlight disparity and unfairness in our system. For me, its about the economy.

When I worked for Caterpillar Tractor Co. in the 1970's, we could afford nice homes, new cars, good annual family vacations, and we had 100 percent paid medical and medication coverage. You could pay a semester of state tuition with one paycheck and Cat had a guaranteed pension after 30 years.

Like Reich states, haven't the 1 percent enabled and pushed Congress to make laws for their benefit and at our expense? We don't need discussions on morals that are really just smoke screens. We need better government that brings back the good life we once enjoyed.

### Did You Vote?

Pam Koch, Fordyce, Neb.

As a baby boomer, I wonder how many of us voted in the recent mid-term elections.

I remember my parents making a big deal of going out early to vote; it was all very secretive with a lot of whispering as if it was some great mission of import. After, they acted like some huge weight was lifted from their shoulders, and I was very curious about the whole thing.

Years later, I understood how important Americans take voting. At 18, I had not reached that realization, so I didn't. Women's suffrage in history class was just another chapter in a class that I didn't care for.

My first ballot was going to be placed for Bobby Kennedy. I really got him. He reached my generation and knew how to talk to us. I was very anxious to go the polls until that fateful day. I don't know if it was the shock so soon after his brother's assassination or exactly what it was. But it had a huge impact on our view of politics.

tobacco use compared to any other population group in the United States.

"In 2001 cigarette use among high school students in National Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded schools was 56.5 percent — about double the smoking prevalence rate among all U.S. high school students (28.5 percent). Almost one quarter (24.4 percent) of students at BIA funded schools reported frequent cigarette use. In comparison, 13.8 percent of all high school students reported frequent cigarette use in 2001. The BIA funds 185 schools located on 63 reservations in 23 states with approximately 8,500 high school students."

It should be noted that America has no cultural use or regard for tobacco other than as a recreational passtime. This is not so among traditional Dakota people and other Native Nations which have highly structured protocols for tobacco use. Still the abuse of tobacco, even among Traditional, is an unfortunate reality. Make no mistake, once addicted to nicotine, quitting is not even on the "to do" list of hooked smokers. I speak from experience.

I helped bury a well regarded uncle of mine stricken down early in life by lung cancer and a close friend who suffered with emphysema for many years before his eventual death. The suffering they both endured in their respective illnesses is horrible beyond description. This is what awaits those who choose to ignore the truth. It is not only the smoker who ends up suffering for years, the families who must care for them at the end of their struggle with these and other diseases also suffer needlessly.

STOP SMOKING! Do not tolerate any excuse to continue to smoke. You will absolutely find you have made one of the best decisions you will ever make in your life — JUST QUIT!

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

## P&D Letter Policy

The PRESS & DAKOTAN invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask 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 mind.

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

- 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 to 665-1721 or email us at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

I know my parents would have been appalled had they known, as they both served in World War II; my mom sending secret codes on a teletype and my dad in the army as an airplane mechanic, so they had lived the right to be an American and vote.

I know many people that have still not gone to the polls for the first time. The mystery of voting has yet to be cracked for a lot of American voters; young and old alike. Election ads on TV do not educate, they turn us off. The majority of us do not believe 95 percent of what we hear. Voter turnout was very low. Politicians must find a way to do it better, to reach those missing voters. In this age of technology, we still read our mail.