

County residents attend meeting with congressman

By Karen Krien

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Congressman Tim Huelskamp was in St. Francis on Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 17, to talk to Cheyenne County residents. The meeting, held in the commissioners' room in the courthouse, was full and there were people standing outside the room.

Congressman Huelskamp had some posters which, he said, showed the "tidal wave of debt." And, who owns the debt? he asked. He answered the question telling that 50 percent is foreign owned and China, he said, expects to be paid back.

Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and other entitlements drives the debt. Now that the baby boomers are ready to retire, there is no money in the fund. No money was ever put aside. There are more people retiring than there is money coming in. Within seven to 19 years, it would be bankrupt.

The congressman's report was discouraging, noting that there has been no budget passed; the country has a deficit of \$14.5 trillion and by 2012, it will be \$16.4 trillion. There can be no agreements made in spending cuts.

Huelskamp serves on the House Ag Committee. He said there are three countries wanting to buy pork, beef and wheat which would increase Kansas' economy by \$100 million. However, the president will not sign the necessary trade agreements.

Chuck Kribs, when talking about the deficit, said that the government cannot continue to spend like they have been. He suggested a 2-percent pay cut across the board - everyone from military, Social Security, legislators - everyone! Then take one furlough day - eliminate inflation!

Huelskamp said if the federal government would cut 1 percent every year, in seven years, the country would be out of debt.

Don Love was concerned about all the casualties in the different foreign countries. Huelskamp said that it is Congress' job to know and authorize where all the troops are. However, the president will not release that information. He said he learns more about where the troops are on television or in the newspapers.

Bill Dungan suggested that more veterans are needed in congress. Congress gets pay raises but the veterans haven't.

Bruce Roelfs said if the government would get rid of all the regulations, there would be more jobs.

Ron Loudon asked if the cheap



CONGRESSMAN TIM HUELSKAMP visits with residents at a town meeting held at the courthouse.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

food policy was the reason the president doesn't want trade agreements? Mr. Huelskamp said, "no, it's politics."

Veda Orth asked about the president's czars, who are paid advisors appointed by the president. Mr. Huelskamp said the president was instructed to get rid of the czars and he ignored the orders.

Bruce Swihart was not happy with the environmental protection agency, wanting them to back off. Mr. Huelskamp said the agency was created in 1970 and has power. Swihart suggested that the money given to the agency be taken away. Mr. Huelskamp said he would like to see \$3 to \$4 billion cut from the

agency.

Ward Cassidy, representative for the 120 District, was concerned about the small post offices that are being closed in Northwest Kansas.

Mr. Huelskamp said he was unable to solve this problem. The postal service is not government funded. He noted that closing these post offices would not solve the service's money problems; in fact would most likely cost more.

He answered the question about Obama Care by saying, no, they were not getting rid of it.

He ended the meeting by saying that the government just needs to get a handle on spending!

Senator feels Kansans care about the country's future

By Karen Krien

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Kansans have good sense, said U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, who was at the St. Francis high school on Thursday evening. They genuinely care for the future of our country!

This was the 89th meeting for Sen. Moran as he toured the state this year. Comparing his home town, Plainville to St. Francis, he said he realized how important it is to keep Main Street alive. Small towns, he said, need a grocery store, hospital and school but, I worry about how we keep these service. We need to keep the federal government from meddling.

There is a risk of keeping America as we know it. If we don't change course in country policies, he said, we won't have the freedom we know today. There is a lot of fear and worry as markets move around but, he said, there was no substantial difference it what the government did to change matters.

People in our country don't have the belief and faith that Kansans have, he said. We know that farming keeps our country together.

We need to be able to explain what a farmer does. He told about the chairman of the Agriculture Committee who lived in Rhode Island but had no idea what a farmer did. He invited her to visit him in Kansas which she did.

The world has changed and Cheyenne County, he said, has changed with it and will continue to change. Life, where it has stayed the closest to what it used to be, is in Kansas.

There was a question about the tea party and what they have done to change things. Mr. Moran said he didn't think that the party had made any significant difference. People, he said, need to be actively involved with government. We need to express our concerns.

Robert Grace asked what



SENATOR JERRY MORAN addresses the crowd after the Farm Bureau annual meeting held at the high school.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

needs to be done to turn the nation around?

Finances are front and center, Mr. Moran said. We need to grow the economy, reduce the deficit and help create jobs. We need a tax code that is fair. He also talked about reducing regulations and developing the country's own energy.

Ben Smull also thought that the country should have it's own energy, noting the oil availability in Alaska.

The environmental crowd, Mr. Moran said, makes it nearly impossible to drill in our country. We need to get a different president!

We need a balanced budget, he said. Mr. Moran also said that the country needs to cut spending,

cap the percentage of spending to gross national product and pass a balanced budget amendment along with growth. We don't want us to forget the importance of a growing economy and putting Americans back to work. We need to get rid of uncertainty, we need to get rid of government regulations and taxes.

Mr. Moran was asked who he would endorse for president of the United States. Mr. Moran said he wouldn't do that.

The closing of post offices in several small northwest Kansas towns was discussed briefly as Mr. Moran left to attend the funeral of a Kansas soldier from Hays who had died in the line of action in Afghanistan.

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