



Balance of powers keeps governor in place

Editorialists wailed and gnashed their teeth. Kansas, they said, could become a dictatorship when Gov. Sam Brownbeck got his friends in control of both houses of the Legislature. He'd be able to pass any bill he wanted, and that would be too much power for any one man. The governor's agenda would have "smooth sailing" during the 2013 session, one "expert" predicted.

Ha! Anyone who thought that might happen hasn't spent much time around legislatures or politics. There's a dynamic that makes senators and representatives independent from the governor, and one house poles apart from the other, no matter who's in office.

In fact, that's what the Founding Fathers hoped for when they created our three-part government, featuring executive, judicial and legislative branches sharing power in a rough balance.

No branch completely trusts the other, each is jealous of its independence and all fear one of the others might become too powerful. Each house of a legislature eyes the other with suspicion, casting a wary eye on the other side.

That's just the way things are, even when all three are run by members of the same party and even when, as the governor and his allies did last fall, one group becomes more powerful and gangs up on another.

The governor and other conservatives campaigned successfully to oust liberal Republican senators who blocked many of Mr. Brownback's plans in the Senate. The old

Senate leadership was ousted, replaced by a group closer to the governor's way of thinking. The Democrats, as usual in Kansas, were left with too few votes to count much.

So, this year, everyone expected great (or terrible) things from a new conservative alliance dominating the Statehouse. It never works that way, though.

The governor and many legislators saw eye to eye on many things, and his new allies in the Senate backed his plan to hold onto much of the remaining state spending while continuing to cut income taxes. Cuts would be paid for by retaining a 1-cent increase on the state sales tax passed under Gov. Mark Parkinson which otherwise would have expired next year.

Some reporters billed this as a \$700-million tax increase, though tax rates were going down, not up. The House balked, though, mostly because conservatives there felt they have made a promise to let the sales tax go down.

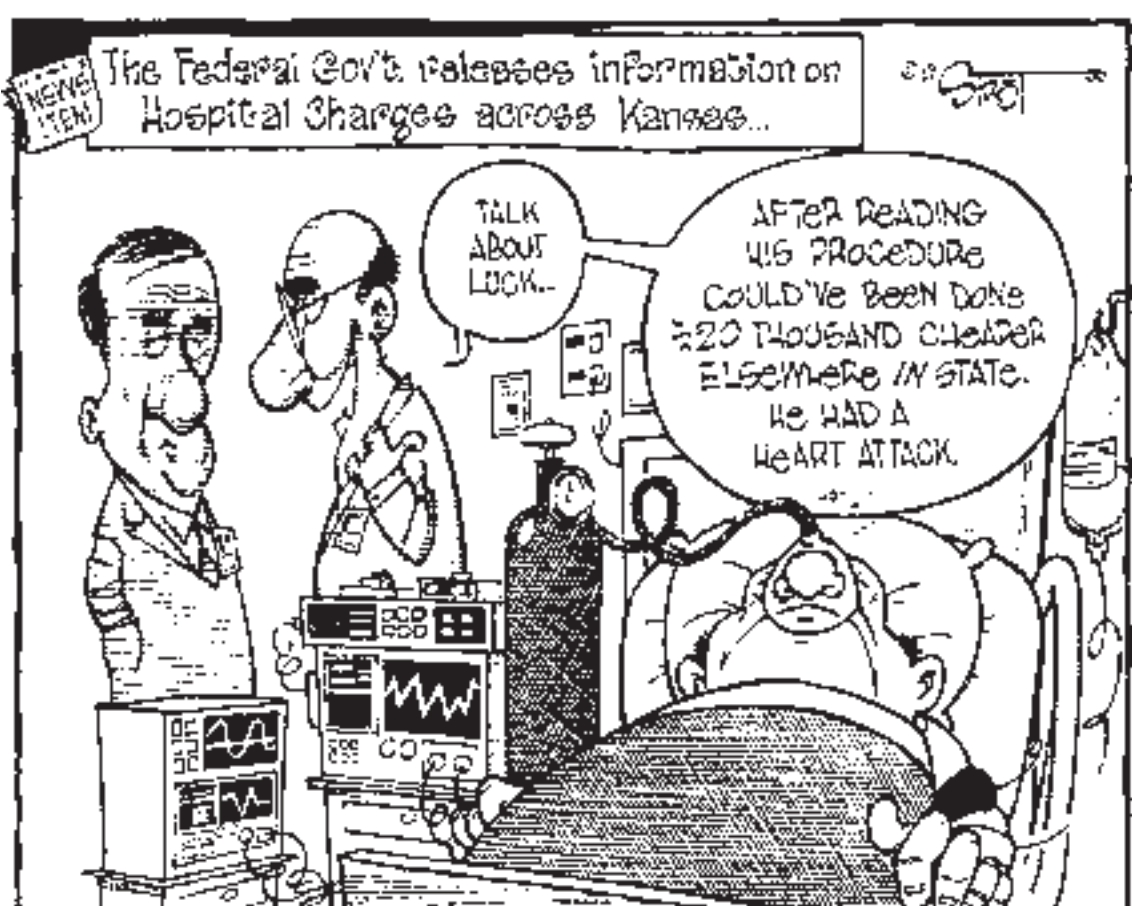
The deadlock left the session incomplete as the 80-day goal for adjournment leaders had announced came and went. Soon, the 90-day limit set by law passed. Still no agreement.

Finally the houses compromised, shaving the sales tax to 6.15 percent and setting a schedule for further income-tax cuts. So much for the governor's unlimited power.

Will Kansas be better off for the changes pushed by Gov. Brownback? Only time will tell. But for sure, we're in no danger of him becoming some sort of all-powerful dictator.

The system just won't allow that.

— Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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It's interesting how the land can draw you to it.

I love my home of Kansas, especially our northwest corner. But there are other places where I feel a connection.

For instance, in my twenties an opportunity to study abroad occurred. One windy and gray afternoon was spent standing on a hill on the Scottish Isle of Skye. With sea grasses whipping around my legs and the ocean smells filling my nose, I looked across the Irish Sea to the west. The strangest

feeling came upon me. Although born and raised in the States, I could have sworn I had been there before.

Last weekend Lezlie and I took a couple days to celebrate our anniversary. Our base was in the Colorado mountain town of Silverthorne. This allowed us to take short drives, seeing much of Summit County.

Snow still capped the steep, stone peaks around as rivers and streams ran fast with the cold, melting run-off. The ground was covered

with bright yellow and purple wild flowers that were set off by the lush green around them and a crystal blue sky above. The Aspen were in full leaf, with clusters filling gaps between the mighty pine trees.

Having spent many weekends of my childhood traveling those high country roads with my family, the connection there was a bit easier to understand.

The Gardener

By Kay Melia



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Someone asked me the other day where I bought my garden seed. My answer was that I normally buy my seed from J.W. Jung or Burpee. And my friend said "Why?" And I said that a lot of the reason for buying where I do was force of habit. I grew up in a family that nearly always ordered from Burpee in the 1940s, so, through the years, the Burpee name stayed with me. Then I discovered the Jung catalog and the largest part of my purchases went to them because their catalog was so well organized, and prices, while not the lowest, were less than some companies, including Burpees.

As I think back over that conversation, it occurred to me that the top priority for placing my seed order each year is not necessarily the price, or the beauty of the catalog. My first consideration is to buy from the Company that sells the variety of the vegetable or flower that I have proven to myself to be the best producer. If Burpee doesn't offer

Mirai sweet corn, and they don't, then I will order from Jung, who does. If Jung doesn't sell Northern Exposure tomato seed, then I'll buy from Burpee, who does. And so on.

Therefore, my seed purchases, which seem to average in the \$75 range over the years, have always gone to the people who offer the variety of seed I prefer. When I buy seed, variety trumps price every time! If I have to, I'll pay a little more to get what works best for me. You know what? I notice that many times in the seed catalog, that the price of my choice is less than the others on the page. The cost of a packet of Ambrosia cantaloupe, my favorite, costs about the same as the other varieties.

Then there is the question about buying seeds and plants from your hometown dealer. There again, the variety I prefer trumps the availability of any other consideration. I raise nearly all my own plants. If I didn't do that, I would absolutely buy tomato, pepper, cabbage, and broccoli plants from my friends at the garden center. But probably not unless they offered the ones I feel I must have. That's how strongly I feel about variety. But

my guarantee to my hometown seed and plant dealer is that I will always buy the needed garden products from them, like fertilizer, insect sprays, weed killers, and tools. Those items will always total up to be much greater than seed packets and tomato plants.

Shopping seed catalogs and in-store seed racks can be an interesting process if price is your main seed buying objective. Seed packets are usually sold by weight, not the number of seeds. An ounce of seed will likely mean a whole lot less seeds of one species than another. Most seed catalogs now tell you how many seeds in a packet. But not all.

And if you have noticed that some of the more than 300 mail order seed companies seem to charge more per packet, it's probably with good reason. They either go to greater extremes to prepare an eye catching, colorful, easy to read publication, or they mail their catalogs to many more gardening households than the others. Or both.

Honor Roll

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GOD SAYS

These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Proverbs 6:16-19

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Readers shares what he wrote commemorating Father's Day

Dear Editor,

A couple of months ago as a representative of Cheyenne County Kansans for Life, I volunteered to write something commemorating Father's Day. Since then I've thought about what to say, how to say it, and when to stop. So here goes:

Hats Off to Dads!

Hats off to dads, who know the differences between right and wrong and teach those differences to their children.

Hats off to dads, who give of their time and resources even when there isn't much time and resources are limited.

Hats off to dads, who try to say yes, but are wise enough to say no when no is necessary.

Hats off to dads, who do the right thing even when the right thing is really hard to do. But dads know that someone is watching and he or she needs to

Letter to the Editor

see the right thing being done.

Hats off to dads, who volunteer to coach their kids' baseball team even though they may know little about the game. Or maybe they do know something about the game. Or maybe they just enjoy being around the kids.

Hats off to dads, who have fun with their kids. Maybe even so much fun that other kids like to hang with your kids because YOU are fun.

Hats off to dads, who work hard and pass that work ethic on to the next generation.

Hats off to dads, who stay and fix things. Bikes, doors, shingles, washers, and relationships. And teach their offspring how to maintain and fix these things as well.

Hats off to dads, who put off

their own desires and ambitions for the sakes of the kids. They will be gone all too soon and there will be time for those things later.

Hats off to dads, who read to their kids and/or with their kids. All will benefit from this exercise.

Hats off to dads, who pass on a heritage of spirituality and faith. Pray with them and for them. Take them to church. The results are eternal.

Hats off to dads, who let their youngsters know that they are supported, loved and have someone special in their corner.

I could go on, but it is time to stop. Hats off to you, Dads.

Bruce A. Swihart
Secretary, Cheyenne County Kansans for Life

<p>Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos 1st Sunday of the month Morning Mass 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p>First Baptist Church 2nd & Scott • 332-3921 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>United Methodist Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott Pastor Warren Cico Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p>St. Francis Community Church 332-3150 204 N. Quincy Street www.sfcfamily.com Pastor: David Butler Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams Pastor James McCurdy Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>Solid Rock Baptist Church 412 S. Denison Welcomes You! Pastor Allen Coon Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC 202 N. College Pastor Randy Nelson Church 332-2928 Parsonage 332-2312 Worship 9:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday</p>
<p>First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis Equity</p>	<p>St. Francis Herald</p>

