

# Opinion



## Guest Viewpoint

### Supreme Court ruling not in our best interest

"The government giveth, and the government taketh away!" That statement was written by the chief counsel for the American Family Association Center for Law and Policy, a constitutional litigation firm, after the U.S. Supreme Court this past week ruled that it was OK for a Connecticut local government to seize private homes to use in the private development of an office complex.

The key word is "private" — "private homes" and "private development." If it were for a highway, it might be different to seize property. But, it is ridiculous for a person to lose his/her home so a private developer can make money by building.

The Supreme Court is using the "takings clause" of the Fifth Amendment so the land can be used for an office complex.

Why? The city needs a greater tax revenue. And, does that justify the fact that someone's property will be taken away?

The government should not have the power to take away personal property and give it to someone else. St. Francis residents could use some additional tax revenue but the thought of having city councilmen or commissioners go in and take someone's land, their house or businesses is scary.

Our forefathers crossed the ocean and fought wars so we did not have to live in fear of the government. They wrote the Constitution. And, then, to have something like this happen in the name of economic development is dumping everything they stood for.

What are the chances of something like this happening in our little corner of the world? Probably pretty slim but the people in the city of New London, Conn., probably never dreamed this would happen to them.

When it is time to vote, don't just mark the "yes" box for the judges or legislators. With judges taking more and more power, maybe it is time to study just what these judges stand for, some of the cases they have handled and decisions they have made before making that "mark."

*Karen Krien, Publisher  
Saint Francis Herald*

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. E-mail [td@nwkansas.com](mailto:td@nwkansas.com).

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**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124

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## My reunion; and supporting the arts



### Tom Dreiling

#### • My Turn

Well, the family reunion (Reunion VI) went well. Very well. They came from all over, examples: Florida, the Chicago area, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dallas, Corpus Christi, and Kansas City. Of course lots of Kansans and many from neighboring Colorado. Food, fun, fellowship and lots of other things went on during the Friday-Saturday activities.

Highlights are always seeing family you haven't seen in a while. Each reunion (held every other year) brings new faces. And this one wasn't an exception.

The large dining room at Thomas More Prep-Marian was comfortably air conditioned. Lots of room for the youngsters to do their thing. The German cooks cooked it up just the way it was intended to be. Deeee-licious!

Stories were told, some a bit exaggerated, but most were received by laughter.

There were serious moments, like the arrival of the senior member of the family, Norbert (Dreiling), by wheelchair, who is battling Parkinson's and is confined to St. John's Rest Home in Victoria, and who has difficulty at times remembering faces and names. However, he seemed to rise to the occasion and managed to call some members of the family by name. During a tribute later in the program, he received a prolonged standing ovation. I would like to think he understood exactly what was being said.

Seven of the eight living children of my Mother and Dad were there: Norbert, Donald, K. Dean, Dolores, Gene, JoAnn and myself. Our brother Jim, also confined to St. John's Rest Home in Victoria, wasn't up to the task, but he was remembered.

The 9th member of the clan, Mary K. departed this life in 1969 at age 31. She had a special place in our hearts on that special weekend.

Another highlight was touring the large main

building on the TMP campus, allowing the younger members of the clan to find their parents or grandparents (whatever the case may be) in the multitude of large class pictures appropriately displayed on the walls of the large corridors on the school's third floor. They go way back and that's quite a span of time as the school will, in the next two or three years (the exact year escapes me), celebrate its 100th anniversary.

After all of the weekend's words were spoken, stories told, hugs given and hands clasped, the final action was to determine the location of Reunion VI in 2007. It will be held in Colorado Springs.

**The Western Plains Arts Association** is again — for the 36th year — asking your help so it can continue to bring the arts to northwest Kansas. Those who head the association bring up a good point: the performing arts brought to our area adds to the already exceptional quality of life. A sampling of the 2005-06 programs include: The Vienna Boys Choir, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, Red Hot & Blue, and Golden Dragon Acrobats.

Memberships are sold in the following levels: Benefactor, \$1,500 or more; Sustaining, \$700-\$1,499; Patron, \$350 to \$699; Sponsor, \$160 to \$349; Family, \$90; Adult, \$40; and Student, \$15. There are benefits attached to each level. For

## Time for a chuckle or two

### TD

#### • At Week's End

*Time again for sharing some of the stuff readers have shared with me. You'll approve, I'm sure. If you want to get involved, simply e-mail whatever it is you want to share to [td@nwkansas.com](mailto:td@nwkansas.com), fax 462-7749, regular mail to 155 W. 5th, Colby 67701 or bring it by the office. Names not necessary and won't be used unless you request that I use it. Thanks! - td*

#### The Carpet Installer

A carpet installer decided to take a cigarette break after completing the installation in the first of several rooms he had to do. Finding them missing from his pocket he began searching, only to notice a small lump in his recently completed carpet-installation.

Not wanting to rip up all that work for a lousy pack of cigarettes he simply walked over and pounded the lump flat. He decided to forgo the break continued on to the other rooms to be carpeted.

At the end of the day he's completed his work and loaded his tools into his truck when two events occur almost simultaneously: he sees his pack of cigarettes on the dashboard of this truck, and the lady of the house where he spent the day carpeting calls out, "Have you seen my parakeet?"

#### Things to Ponder

In 1772, the 4th of July was celebrated with parades, music, and firing of cannons. But the first official 4th of July celebration, as affirmed by a legislative act occurred in Massachusetts in 1781.

By the early 1800's the traditions of parades, picnics, and fireworks were widely faceted on the 4th of July. Congress didn't establish Independence Day as an official holiday until 1870.

On July 4, 1976, Washington D.C., celebrated America's 200th birthday by exploding 33 tons

of fireworks over the Washington Monument. America imports about \$130 million in fireworks annually from China.

John Adams, one of the Founding Fathers, said that Independence Day "ought to be celebrated by pomp and parade, with illuminations from one end of the continent to the other." He also predicted, "I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations, as the great anniversary festival."

In 1955, a postage stamp cost 3 cents, a gallon of gas .23 cents, minimum wage was .75 cents, a new home cost \$22,000 and the median family income was \$4,418.

In 1980, a stamp cost 15 cents, a gallon of gas \$1.25, minimum wage was \$3.10, new home was \$76,400 and the median family income was \$21,023.

In 2005, a postage stamp cost 37 cents, a gallon of gas is \$2.20, minimum wage is \$5.15, a new home is \$160,000 and the median family income is \$43,527.

Isn't this a beautiful country?

#### Bragging

A man from Texas, driving a Volkswagen Bus, pulls up next to a guy in an Arkansas-licensed Rolls Royce at a stop light. Their windows are open and he yells at the guy in the Rolls, "Hey, you got a telephone in that Rolls?"

The guy in the Rolls says, "Yes, of course I

more particulars, contact any of the following: Joan Albers 460-6448, Vicky Waldschmidt 460-6620, Carol Rahn 462-6342, Carol Barnes 462-2641, Pat Ziegelmeier 462-7808 or Kevin Juenemann, 460-2525 (home), 462-3063 (work). If you have been a member in the past, please keep your support going as the association embarks on the 2005-06 season. And if you haven't been a member, give it serious thought. The arts also deserve a place in our lives here in northwest Kansas.

A few questions and answers about retirees:

Q. Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

A. The term comes with a 10 percent discount.

Q. Among retirees what is considered casual attire?

A. Tied shoes.

Q. Why do retirees count pennies?

A. They are the only ones who have the time.

Q. Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

A. They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Q. What is the best way to describe retirement?

A. The never ending coffee break.

Q. What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

A. If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Have a good evening...and a good weekend. And church should be part of your planning.

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do...."

"I got one too... see?" the Texan says.

"Uh, huh... Yes, that's very nice."

"You got a fax machine?" asks the Texan.

"Why, actually, yes, I do."

"I do too! See? It's right here!" brags the Texan.

The light is just about to turn green and the guy in the Volkswagen says, "So, do you have a double bed in back there?"

The guy in the Rolls replies, "NO! Do you?"

"Yep, got my double bed right in back here."

The Texan replies.

The light turns and the man in the Volkswagen takes off.

Well, the guy in the Rolls is not about to be one-upped, so he immediately goes to a customizing shop and orders them to put a double bed in back of his car.

About two weeks later, the job is finally done. He picks up his car and drives all over town looking for the Volkswagen beetle with the Texas plates. Finally, he finds it parked alongside the road, so he pulls his Rolls up next to it.

The windows on the Volkswagen are all fogged up and he feels somewhat awkward about it, but he gets out of his newly modified Rolls and taps on the foggy window of the Volkswagen.

The man in the Volkswagen finally opens the window a crack and peeks out.

The guy with the Rolls says, "Hey, remember me?"

"Yeah, yeah, I remember you." replies the Texan, "What's up?"

"Check this out...I got a double bed installed in my Rolls."

The Texan shouts, "You got me out of the shower just to tell me that?"

*That's it...til next week! - td*

## Doonesbury

### • Gary Trudeau

