

from other pens...

Taking the farm out of the farm bill

Late last month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a farm bill that was hijacked by urban interests, sacrificing rural America in the process.

For the first time, rural interests lost the battle of determining what goes into America's farm policy.

Congress rewrites the farm bill just once every five or six years, so it needs to be done right. Historically, the bill has been written by those who work and care for America's farmers and ranchers with a focus on progress, not politics. This is because those in rural America are not concerned with the partisan bickering of today, but rather about working together to see that their way of life continues in the future.

The farm bill used to be one of the few legislative measures in which Republicans and Democrats could work together to provide stability in the risky industry that gives the world its essential food, fuel and fiber. But that is no more.

While farm-state lawmakers from across the country and from both political parties worked together to accomplish the best possible farm bill this year, the bill that brought to the U.S. House of Representatives had assistance for farmers and ranchers stripped away and placed into special-interest programs. Taxes were increased, labor provisions added and an urban agenda advanced.

I support the farm bill, but I do not support the shift to an even bigger government and a greater emphasis on the priorities of urban interests. Not in the farm bill. The bill that came before the U.S. House was one I could no longer support.

We are seeing a historical change in Washington. The number of members of Congress who represent the interests of rural America — places like Kansas — is diminishing. In the farm bill that expires this year, 27 percent of the money goes to providing a safety net for America's farmers. In the bill passed by the House, the percentage was cut by more than half — a change that reflects how disconnected our country is from its food supply.

Those of us who represent our nation's farmers and ranchers have our work cut out for us, but we still have a chance to get this bill back on track. I have not given up.

As the farm bill continues its way through the legislative process, I will continue fighting for a bill that meets the needs of rural America. We must make certain Congress never forgets who provides the food on our table, the clothing on our backs and the energy to power our world.

We must do what we can to give farmers the tools needed to keep America running into the future.

—Congressman Jerry Moran, Hays



Mike Keefe THE DENVER POST 08/19/07 www.caglecartoons.com

Pardon me, but ...



michael reagan

● making sense

Anybody who watched presidential spokesman Tony Snow face a pack of snarling White House press corps correspondents following President Bush's commutation of Scooter Libby's prison sentence will understand the meaning of the word hypocrisy.

These are the very same media hacks who turned a blind eye to Clintonista Sandy Berger stuffing national security documents in his socks, stealing them from the National Archives and destroying them and then getting nothing more in the way of punishment than a mere slap on the wrist.

Then there was Mrs. Hillary Clinton, who had the gall to issue a statement saying, "Today's decision is yet another example that this Administration simply considers itself above the law. This case arose from the Administration's politicization of national security intelligence and its efforts to punish those who spoke out against its policies. Four years into the Iraq war, Americans are still living with the consequences of this White House's efforts to quell dissent. This commutation sends the clear signal that in this Administration, cronyism and ideology trump competence and justice."

Said Tony Snow: "I don't know what Arkansas is for chutzpah, but this is a gigantic case of it."

Here, after all, is the wife of a president who all but peddled pardons to an assortment of felons and miscreants including one malodorous fugitive from justice who had renounced his American citizenship.

Doesn't this woman recall that on her husband's last day in the White House he signed

140 pardons and several commutations?

Among the beneficiaries of Clinton's compassion, according to Wikipedia:

• Melvin J. Reynolds, a Democratic Congressman from Illinois, who was convicted of bank fraud, 12 counts of sexual assault, obstruction of justice and solicitation of child pornography. Clinton commuted the sentence on the bank fraud and Reynolds was allowed to serve the final months under the auspices of a halfway house.

• His half-brother Roger Clinton on drug charges after having served the entire sentence more than a decade earlier.

• Marc Rich, a fugitive who had renounced his U.S. citizenship, was pardoned for tax evasion charges. Denise Rich, Marc's former wife, was a close friend of the Clintons and had made substantial donations to both Clinton's library and Hillary's Senate campaign. Clinton agreed to a pardon that required Marc Rich to pay a \$100,000,000 fine before he could return to the United States. According to Paul Volker's independent investigation of the U.N. Oil-for-Food kickback schemes, Rich was a middleman for several suspect Iraqi oil deals involving more than 4 million barrels of oil.

• Carlos A. Vignali, who had his sentence for cocaine trafficking commuted after serving 6 of 15 years in federal prison.

• Almon Gledd Braswell was pardoned for his convictions for perjury and mail fraud, even while a federal investigation was underway regarding additional money laundering and tax evasion charges.

Braswell and Vignali each paid approximately \$200,000 to Hillary Clinton's brother, Hugh Rodham, to represent their respective cases for clemency. Hugh Rodham returned the payments after they were disclosed to the public. Braswell would later invoke the Fifth Amendment at a Senate Committee hearing in 2001, when questioned about allegations of his having systematically defrauded senior citizens of millions of dollars.

• In March 2000, Bill Clinton pardoned Edgar and Vonna Jo Gregory, owners of United Shows International, for bank fraud charges from a 1982 conviction. (They were already out of jail, but the prior conviction prevented them from doing business in certain states.) Hillary Clinton's youngest brother, Tony, was an acquaintance of the Gregorlys, and had lobbied Clinton on their behalf.

In the wake of the pardons the Federal prosecutor in New York, Mary Jo White, was appointed to investigate what the media was calling "Pardogate." She was replaced by James Comey, who obligingly cleared Clinton of any wrongdoing.

This same James Comey was later responsible for the appointment of Patrick Fitzgerald as the special prosecutor who indicted Libby.

Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on talk radio stations nationally. E-mail comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com.

Letter Policy

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If you missed the fair it was a lot of fun

To the Editor:

Did you attend the fair and see the exhibits, go to the grandstand, barbecue, carnival or livestock sale?

If not, you missed a lot of fun and good visits.

As grand marshal of the parade, I have a special thanks to the 4-H Ambassadors, workers, fair board members, sponsors and those who



from our readers

● to the editor

were in the parade.

Thank you, Goodland Star-News, for the

article and corrections.

Thanks to the people who lined the streets and called, sent notes and congratulations.

We, the people of Goodland, need to work together and support our fair.

Thank you again for everything.

Arbutus Topliff

Goodland

where to write

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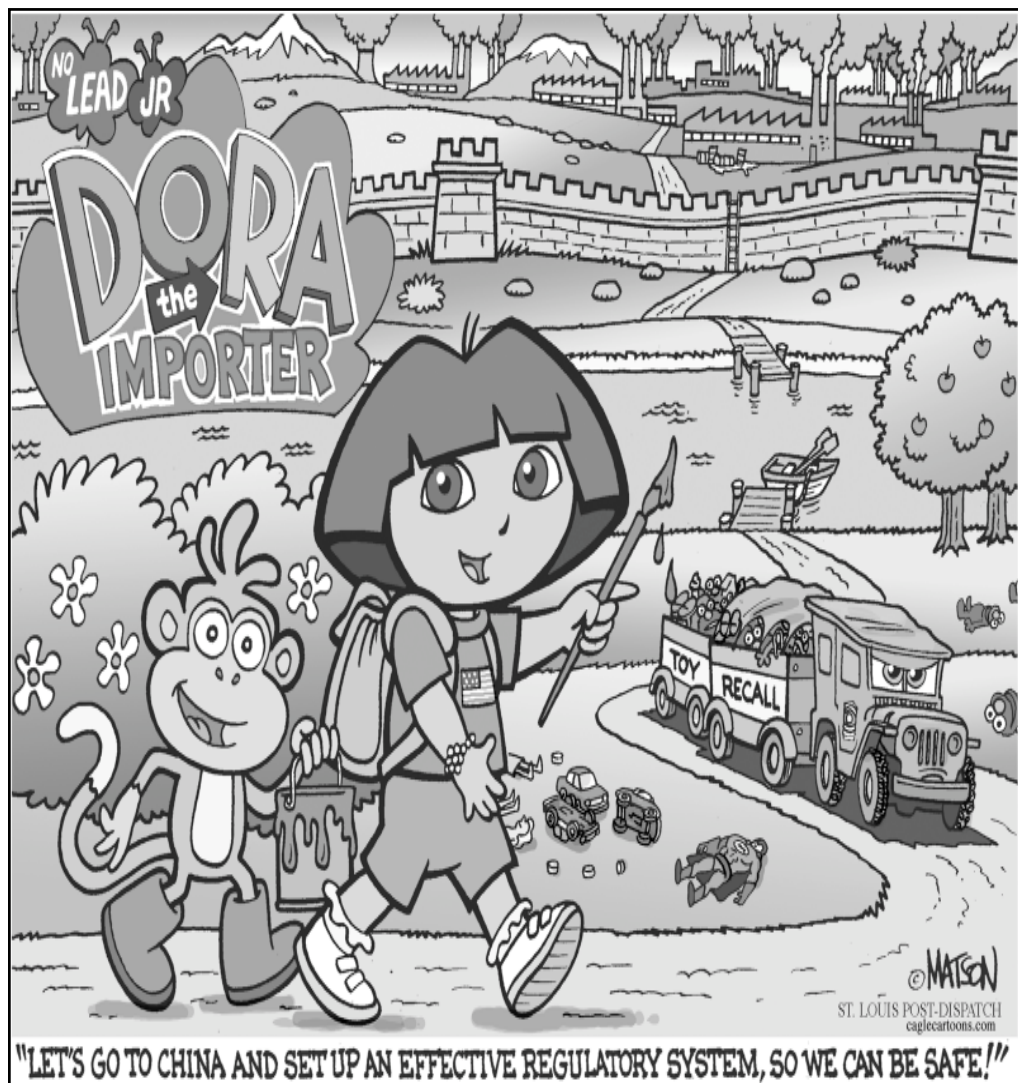
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