

Debt deal leaves much to be done

Over the last few months, the American people have endured the many ups and downs of an ever-changing debate in Congress over whether we should raise the debt ceiling for the eleventh time in the last decade. I, along with many of my colleagues, hoped we could use this moment in history to bring about significant change to the way business is conducted in Washington, D.C.

Capitol Views

Sen. Jerry Moran



In fact, on March 22 of this year, I informed President Obama that I would not vote to raise the debt ceiling in the absence of substantial reductions in spending and structural changes to the way Washington spends taxpayer dollars. In my view, the plan that passed Congress this week failed on both accounts. This legislation might be considered a good 'deal' in Washington - but it is not good for the future of America.

The reality is the legislation did not offer a solution to the underlying problem of our financial crisis today: our government's out-of-control spending. Even if fully enacted, the bill only slows the growth of spending - but just barely. Next year, this plan will reduce spending by \$21 billion, and \$21 billion may sound like a lot of money, because it is. But given the fact Washington spends \$4 billion more than it takes in each day - those savings will disappear in less than a week.

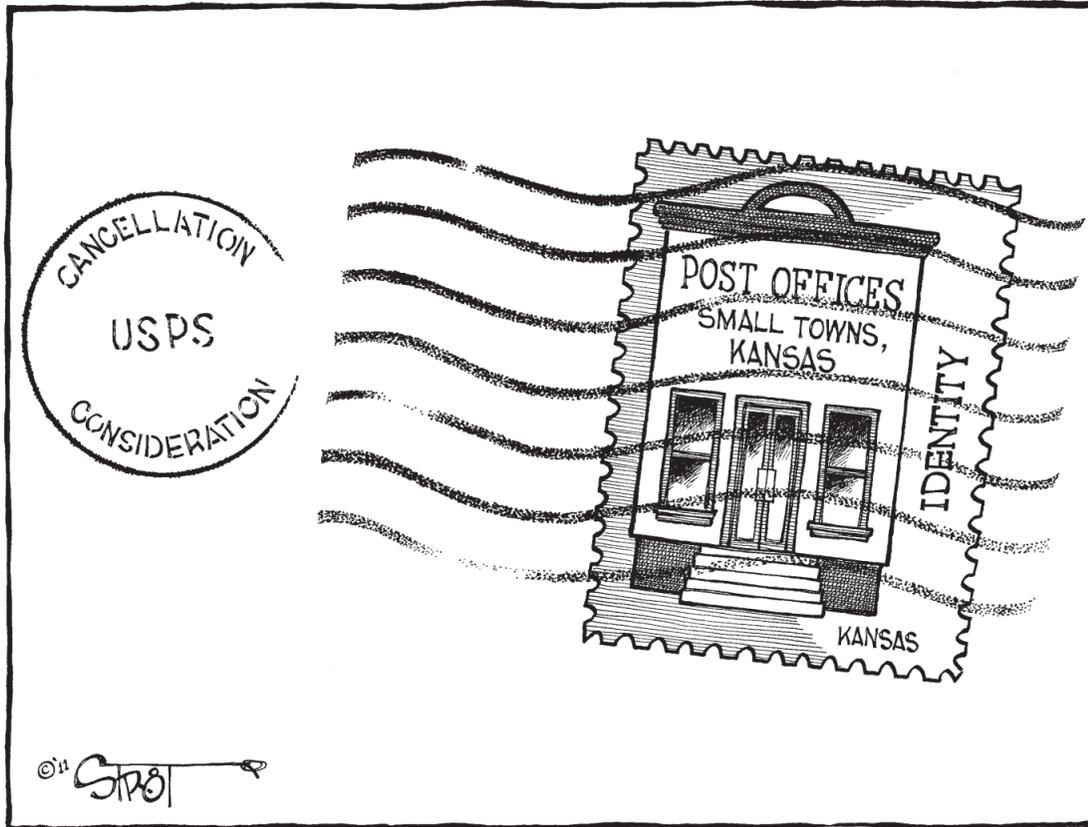
This deal also ignores the stark warnings from credit rating agencies, which said a \$4 trillion deficit reduction plan would be necessary to prevent a downgrade in the U.S. credit rating. Even if everything in this legislation is accomplished, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates it will only achieve \$2.1 trillion in deficit reduction, so the threat of a downgrade to our credit rating is still very real.

The one positive result of the debt debate is that Washington is now talking about how much it should cut instead of how much it can spend. Even though significant cuts did not occur, the debate informed the American people of the magnitude of our spending problem - but that's no reason to pat ourselves on the back. Can you imagine a family congratulating themselves for talking about their spending habits without ever changing the way they spend money? When Kansas families are in serious financial trouble, they don't just slow down how quickly they spend borrowed money - they cut up their credit cards.

Our national debt now stands at more than \$14 trillion, but under this plan, our debt will continue to grow and will reach \$22 trillion in 10 years. Over the next three decades, our debt will become more than three times the size of our entire economy. This reality served as a wake-up call to Americans last November - and they called on Washington to come up with a responsible solution to this growing problem. Unfortunately, business as usual continued this week in our nation's capital, and solving our fiscal problems was pushed off for yet another day.

Although members of the Kansas delegation ultimately came to different conclusions on the final deal, we remain unified in our commitment to rein in our staggering national debt and grow the economy. There is much work to be done in the months ahead, and I will redouble my efforts to bring common sense to Washington and put Kansas back to work. The revenues we need to balance our books are not tax increases, but revenues that come from a growing economy where Americans and Kansans are working. When our economy is strong, the federal government can pay down its debt, Americans can provide for their families, and we will all have the opportunity to see our children and grandchildren pursue the American dream.

To subscribe to Sen. Moran's newsletter, visit http://moran.senate.gov



Where the deer and antelope play

Tuesday morning there was a dead fawn in the road between home and town.

Right after seeing the deer I met a sheriff's deputy. He travels our road every morning around 8:00. It's reassuring to know someone is checking on things. I thought perhaps he would stop and move the carcass.

Then I thought, that's not his job, but maybe he will call someone. I don't know who--whose job would that be???

For just one moment I felt really, really bad I didn't stop and move it. It was so little. What's wrong with me, don't I have any compassion? Some poor mama lost her baby!

A child of the fifties, I saw Bambi. We had the story on a record. I listened to it more than once.

So seeing the fawn was upsetting. It may upset you to hear about it.

Let's all sigh, "Ahhhhhhhhh, how sad!"

Then let's get over it!

I love Kansas. I live near the "Home on the Range" cabin. Lovely song all about this great place, "where the deer and the antelope play."

Earlier in the summer I took the hubby to a field on the river. We were looking down on some corn as we entered the field. I noticed a spot where it was extremely short. "What happened there?" The hubby put forth the theory the soil was exceptionally sandy there so didn't hold water, stunting the corn.

This Too Shall Pass

Nancy Hagman



Later he made a little foray into the field to look at the damaged corn. It was the work of those sweet little creatures that play with antelope! DEER!

For some reason the very day I saw the dead deer, the hubby decided to check out another field of corn which is near the road. The deer have done a lot of damage to that field. We suspected it would be even worse by morning (with the funeral for the little fawn and all!)

If you think that's ridiculous you obviously never saw Bambi!

Our cussed cows got out and destroyed some corn. I say cussed because the hubby cussed loudly at the cows. I thought he was getting sick.

The conversation went something like this: Me "Do you feel okay, you are losing your voice!" Him, in a whisper: "I was yelling at the cows!" In fairness he wasn't just cussing, he calls the cows: sometimes they are docile and come when you call! Sometimes we like our cows! Sometimes we don't!

But no matter how we feel about the cows we take responsibility for them and the damage they do! Who is responsible

for the deer?

Do you remember when it was so rare to see a deer we would travel miles with the binoculars at the rumor of a citing? We've all seen plenty now. Even if you don't farm, they damage yards and landscapes; spread noxious weeds! Even worse: deer/vehicle accidents, actual people are injured or die! There are too many deer!

So why feel bad about a dead fawn? Or be upset that no one stopped and moved it? Nor called someone else to do it? Because of Bambi?

Those of us in production agriculture, especially those with animals need to be aware of the threat from well meaning animal rights groups. They are only too happy Bambi bestowed a human personality and characteristics on deer, skunks and by extension all animals.

We watched a deer walking along the highway, in broad day light, on a recent trip to draught stricken central Kansas. We joked about his thoughts: "It's hot; there is no water to drink. I may as well end it. Here comes a truck!" But he bounded away, perhaps concluding "On second thought not today!"

But deer don't plan. They may mourn, but they don't have funerals. Elephants remember, dogs are loyal, horses can be trained. Still, God gave us dominion over them all.

Except cats (no one has dominion over a cat!)

And deer-----



Dear Editor,

I feel that our great country is doomed.

For the first time in history we have a President that hates our country. Obama is a Socialist, Marxist, Anti-Christian that wants to destroy our country and reduce us to a piece of third world trash.

And, we have a worthless elected Congress composed of Democrats who love their Progressive Party more than their country and support Obama without question, and, a group of newly elected Conservative Republicans that don't have the smarts or the guts to change things.

There are two things we can do to help get our country back on track. In the 2012 elections we can adopt term limits to rid ourselves of lifetime, career, self-serving politicians that represent the government and not the people, and, remove Obama from office.

If we don't make these changes soon, our children and grandchildren will not live in America.

Thanks,
R.W. Yeager



Thumbs Up to Holly Puga, Director and the Staff of Holly's Clubhouse, for making the North West Kansas Child Care Aware Newsletter! Emailed in.

We must play a role in our nation's recovery

One thing the American public still fails to understand is this, in order to put the United States back on firm financial footing we are ALL going to have to make some sacrifices. I would venture to say, over 99percent of the American people have ways they can alter their lifestyle to help the country get back on its fiscal feet. In addition, if people truly want fiscal responsibility they must be willing to do their part.

It is a little scary to me when Senator Rand Paul has a proposal which actually makes sense to me, but, gulp, here goes. Rand Paul suggested the federal government cut one cent on every dollar spent. Let's say the 2010 budget came in at \$3.55 trillion, the new budget amount would be \$3.51 trillion. Let's put it in perspective. The unemployed worker receiving \$400 a week would receive \$4 less. Most, I would venture to say, could make that sacrifice. It may be cutting out cigarettes, alcohol, and soda pop or reducing trips to the store.

What if we cut one cent on the dollar

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



of Medicare and share the cost between the patient and the doctor. What about pharmaceutical companies absorbing that one cent of cost to the patient. Pharmaceutical companies spent billions of dollars on advertising even surpassing the amount spent on research; perhaps that budget could be readjusted.

Harry Reid makes \$193,400 per year; John Boehner, \$223,500; and John McCain, \$174,000. The new salaries would look like this, Reid, \$191,466; Boehner, \$221,265; and McCain \$172,260. President Obama's salary would be readjusted to \$396,000. The only other stipulation is no one gets a reduced tax rate because

of this reduction.

For Social Security, drop a penny on the dollar as well. Will some suffer, yes, without a doubt they will and this is where one hopes churches, individuals and non-profit organizations will pick up the slack and create an environment of well being. Cut farm subsidies, school loans, food stamps, all programs, universal across the board down to each individual.

Is this a painless solution? Truth be known in the majority of the cases probably. It is fear in the numbers more than in the actual circumstance. No one wants "their" program cut. This solution places the responsibility for our recovery on everyone's shoulders. The very fact we all would play a role in the recovery is important. Responsibility and accountability are two traits in short supply in Congress and in the American people as well. This is a start for us to regain pride and that is in short supply too. mailto:mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

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