

# Abortion bill killed in House

On the  
Prairie Dog  
Steve Haynes



The U.S. House has killed, for now, at least, a bill to prohibit the "sex-selective" abortion of girls.

And if this bill can't pass in the conservative House, it is going nowhere with the Democrat-controlled Senate or the Obama White House.

This seems odd, since it's difficult to make a case that there is a moral or ethical right to "select" children by doing away with all the girl fetuses.

Most conservatives wouldn't give it a second thought. But the average liberal should be conflicted, at best, because this is not about a woman's supposed right to choose whether to have a child.

It's about how society as a whole values women, who remain in many ways second-class citizens: paid less, promoted less, less valuable to many parents – and less valued as offspring.

The issue has not risen to epidemic proportions in the U.S., which may explain the lack of traction the bill had in the House. There's no evidence of a great number of abortions designed to select out female children. Not yet.

The procedure is vastly more common in parts of Asia, where parents value boys over girls because of culture, law and custom. Male offspring are simply more valuable. Witness the flood of Asian girls given up for adoption here and in Europe.

The fact that American couples take and cherish these children says a lot about our values as a whole. But some studies suggest the anti-girl thinking has at least a foothold here. Sex-selective abortions are said to be on the rise among Asian immigrant populations.

Worldwide, social service agencies work to avoid this kind of discrimination, by abortion, abandonment or whatever means. They are not winning the battle.

People disagree on abortion. Some churches view it as totally out of the question, except perhaps to save the life of the mother or for other valid medical reasons. Others skirt the issue. Women's groups traditionally push a right to choice.

But in this case, we are not talking about choosing whether or not to bear a child, but merely discarding fetuses until the coin comes up heads.

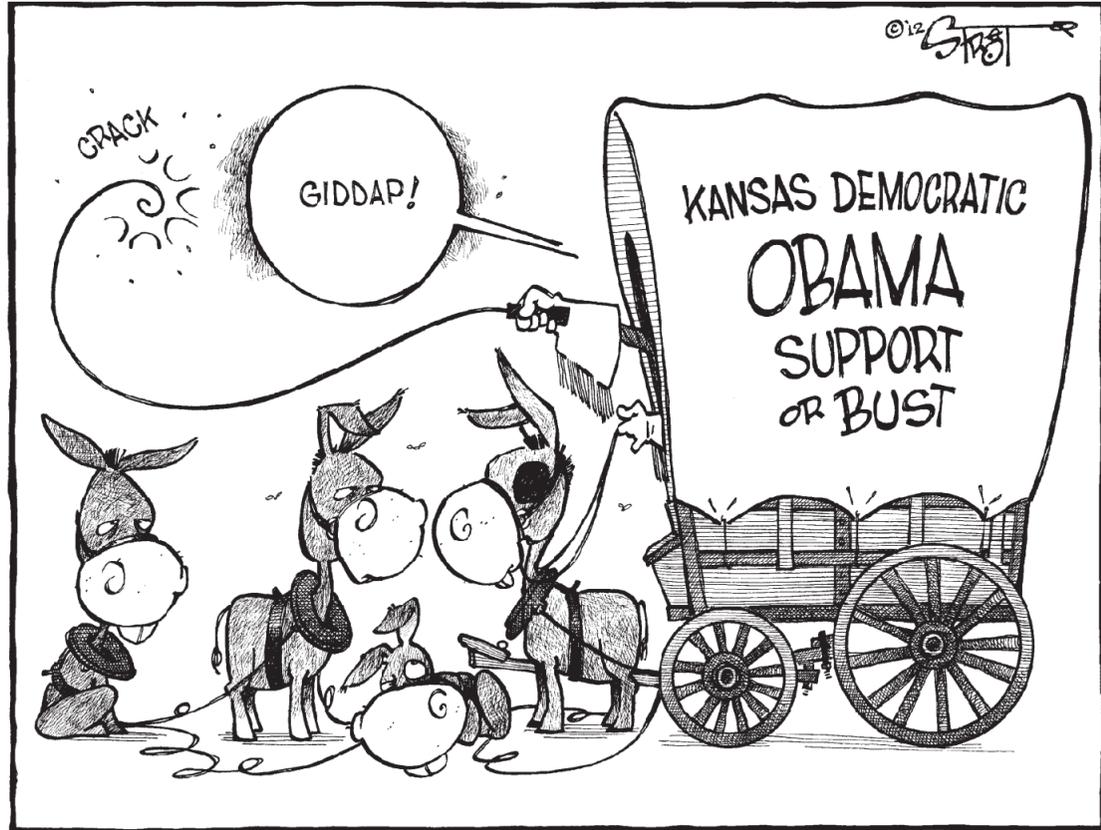
There just can't be much moral or ethical justification for the practice. We all should speak out against it.

But does it need to be against the law?

Many would say yes. Others would say that, while society as a whole views this as wrong, it's an issue of conscience. Members of most major religions, and certainly most Christians, should view interfering with God's decisions this way as wrong. The church can and should fight any movement for selective abortion.

But in the end, it comes down to the meeting between each of us and our Judge. At that point, we believe, He will make clear who was right and who was wrong. It will make no difference what the rest of us say or believe. There is no higher court, no further appeal.

Support the elimination of little girls? We think not. – Steve Haynes



## Fear is used as a motivator or paralyzer

Many years ago, while living in Oregon, our third son severely cut a tendon in his thumb. Our pediatrician immediately sent us to a hand surgeon. When the bill came, our insurance company, generally quite fair, refused to pay 85% of what was charged, as it exceeded what they established as customary. The doctor's billing clerk told me the doctor was highly skilled as a hand specialist and had taken extra training to do this work. I told them I understood that, but didn't feel I needed to pay for an entire semester of his education. The bill was adjusted.

I bring this up because a recent situation made me realize how frequently we feel we have no power in medical situations. A friend recently said she had been told, by someone she trusted, Medicare would no longer cover an ambulance to Kearney and it would cost the patient \$30,000. I called

Phase II  
Mary Kay  
Woodyard



All too often people are controlled by fear of what might happen, not what is. Fear can be a great motivator or paralyzer.

As residents of rural America, living a distance from a larger hospital and 20% of our population over 65, these types of statements are frightening. Many would opt out of treatment to spare their family. This makes finding correct information critical and it also makes it even more important that individuals in trusted roles arm themselves with the facts. I don't believe this person purposely lied about this, but he believed something someone told him. One of the great things about this country is we have the right to question, whether it is a doctor's bill or Medicare information. We have the power, the right, and the responsibility, to exercise it. Mail to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

our Norton County EMS, which by the way we are so fortunate to have, and asked about this. If it is a medically necessary trip, which a medical professional is able to determine, Medicare does pay. Rather than the quoted \$30,000, it is \$1,678 one way. Information in the Medicare handbook further defines medical emergency. So, why would someone, who should supposedly know, give information which is so erroneous? In part, because they are not a Medicare expert and also because threats of change create fear.

## Finding peace in you heart during the harvest

More than 25 years ago I attended a "Ladies Night" sponsored by the Lenora Mercantile Co-op. The speaker originally hailed from New Almelo, a Mindrup---I think.

I recall her message was from Dr Norman Vincent Peale. I cannot find anyone else who remembers this so I cannot check my facts. (A topic of discussion for another day might be about selective memories. It is a puzzle to me that an event no one else remembers is something I have never forgotten.)

Before she spoke, our presenter gave us a list of things we might wish for. It was a long list. Some of the things were fun, some profound. We were to check maybe 10 things we wanted in our lives.

After the presentation we reviewed our lists. We were to choose our top five and rank them. She asked that we take our list home, put it away and look at it in a year or two or ten.

I put my list in a drawer I did not frequent often. When I did I would think and pray about my list.

My number one thing: Peace in my heart.

When we moved, I sold the dresser. As I cleaned the drawer one last time I looked at the list, then threw it away. Not because it no longer applied rather I did not require a written

This Too  
Shall Pass  
Nancy  
Hagman



rained since October! Our regular help had other plans for the week of June second and half our equipment is broke; how would we ever get the crop harvested???

Oh gloom, oh doom. It's like living with Eeyore!

Suddenly it is June 11. We are slow getting started; on the other hand we haven't been running around moving equipment helter skelter and annoying the elevator as we searched for dry wheat.

It's too early for us to evaluate our crop but the reports we hear are excellent yields, and average to poor yields. Light test weight to exceptional test weight. In other words: a typical harvest! Some are winners, some are losers. You cannot predict who or why. Was it a timely rain? The right combination of chemicals and fertilizer? Superior equipment? The brilliance of the farmer?

Those with successful harvests who choose the last option do so at their own peril.

When you pray or meditate or whatever it is you do: remember it is better to be lucky than smart.

Have a great harvest and when it is over, may the bins be full and your heart at peace!

reminder of what I need to work on!

I'm telling you this because it is harvest.

My wish for all the farmers is a bountiful crop of the highest quality; a safe and conflict free time for all.

Sadly, I've realized both that wish and my desire to attain peace in my heart are nearly impossible when you live around farmers.

We just had our Farm Management Analysis meeting. 2011 was a great year especially for Northwest Kansas. The least profitable crop enterprise for the Association: Wheat!

Of course it's a game of averages. Year in and year out the crop that sustains us; living in the fall, dying in the winter only to live again (and again and again and again) is wheat.

This year due to the mild winter weather the wheat came out of dormancy too early. It froze (several times); there would be no grain. It got too hot; it would be like bran! Diseases ran rampant: better spray! It hasn't

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