

Imagine missing a deadline for 2 1/2 years. In any normal workplace, an employee would not have the opportunity to let a responsibility linger for that long. But, your United States Senate has done just that. On Nov. 1, 2011, 915 days will have passed since the Senate passed a budget.

Outraged yet? If not, consider this: in addition to refusing to pass a budget, the Senate also has refused to take up 15 pro-growth and pro-jobs bills that the House has already passed. Even the president cannot convince the Democrat-controlled Senate to take up his "jobs bill." That's how bad the situation has become. These "forgotten 15" would stimulate without stimulus spending. They would roll back the red tape that is choking our agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and finance sectors. For the Senate to let these lay idle is to concede the responsibility it has in our democratic process and to forego the opportunity to get our economy moving again.

While I do not support the half a trillion of dollars of new stimulus spending contained in the president's jobs bill, House Republicans agree with the President on some aspects of his plan. An example of this is his support for a permanent repeal of a 3 percent withholding tax on government contractors.

This tax was passed in 2006, but actual implementation had been delayed several times since then. Why the delay? Not only would this harm contractors who provide goods and services, but also the federal, state, and local governments charged with administering these contracts.

A diverse coalition of organizations – including many that represent state and local governments – supported the repeal. The House eliminated this tax by an overwhelming 405-16 margin. For the sake of America and our economic recovery, let's hope that the Senate does not allow this legislation to collect dust with the others.

But, amid this whole debate about the efforts Congress and the president can have in job creation, it all comes down to one question: What is the responsibility of the federal government?

The president argues that his stimulus spending is necessary to keep cities and towns running. Who opposes communities having the teachers, police officers and firefighters they need? I certainly do not. But I do reject the notion that Washington should be creating (and, therefore, paying for) these



On the Potomac

By Rep. Tim Huelskamp
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jobs, given the financial situation of our federal government.

For every dollar of a check Washington would write to state and local governments, more than 40 cents would be borrowed. Maybe today's kindergartners will take out loans to pay for college 13 years from now. But should the federal government be taking out a loan from China on their behalf for K-12 education? That is money today's 5-year-olds will have to pay back.

Our cities and Washington are in the same boat: they both need more

revenue if they want to sustain the services people have come to expect from government. But transferring money from Washington to states and cities does not solve the problem. It only shifts the burden of responsibility. The only solution that benefits all parties is private-sector economic activity, which in turn spurs tax collections. The 15 bills the House has passed will do just that.

The House has recognized its responsibility. It's time the Senate did the same.

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Letter to the Editor

Hospice says pharmacists play a key role

To the Editor: Pharmacists play a major role in the hospice concept of care, but often do not receive the recognition they deserve.

The Hospice Services board, staff, volunteers and, most importantly, the patients and families we serve extend our heartfelt appreciation to them during National Pharmacists Month in October.

Hospice care helps people live life to its fullest, offers dignity when a cure is not possible and surrounds families with caring at one of life's most challenging times. The vision of Hospice Services is a world where people and families facing serious illness, death and grief will experience the best that humankind can offer. We join hospice professionals across the country to focus on one purpose: to provide comfort and support at the end of life.

Patients served by hospice often experience many physical and psychological symptoms. Pharmacists use their knowledge and skill to address these complex needs.

As new medications become available, the pharmacists help us understand the benefits and burdens of each. Pharmacists also help us explore delivery options.

Hospice Services has provided comfort, compassion and quality end-of-life care for northwest and north central Kansas since 1982.

Comfort, compassion and quality also characterize our area's pharmacists. We see it with our work in hospice and in their daily assistance to our communities.

Hospice Services is grateful to these pharmacists for being vital partners in our efforts.

Sandy Kuhlman
executive director
Hospice Services Inc.
Phillipsburg

There's No Place Like Home

By Eunice Boeve
Illustrated by Michelle Meade



Chapter 12

Susan B. Anthony

Last Chapter: Wearing their glasses, the twins walk to their school where they expect a big welcome. When no one even looks up and the date on the board is the day they left, they realize they are invisible and time has stood still. At home even their dog can't see or hear them. And so they travel on. This time they are in Goodland to witness the trial flight of a forerunner to the helicopter.

"When I was six," the woman at the podium said, "we moved from Massachusetts to Battenville, New York, and I was enrolled in the school there. When it came time to learn long division, the teacher refused to teach me because I was a girl."

Just minutes before, Jack and Mollie found themselves sitting on chairs in a big room among an audience of men, women, and boys listening to the woman who had just spoken those words.

Mollie nudged Jack. "The teacher wouldn't teach her math because she was a girl?" she hissed. "What kind of a school was that?"

"Look at our clothes, Mollie," Jack said. "It was a long time ago."

"Still," Mollie muttered indignantly. "It wasn't fair."

"Shush," said the woman seated beside her.

Embarrassed, Mollie focused her attention on the woman speaker who was dressed in a black long sleeved dress, the skirt brushing the floor, her dark hair parted in the middle and pulled back into a bun. As the woman spoke of women's suffrage, it took Mollie a moment to realize she meant women's voting rights. From their clothes, she knew they were back again in the 1800s, and as always, in Kansas. The question was, where in Kansas and who was this woman?

As she listened to the woman talk so earnestly for a woman's right to vote, Mollie could feel her heart fill with the same emotion, and she laughed right out

loud when the woman said that all women should be allowed to vote in all elections and the men were blockheads if they didn't think so, too.

Jack rolled his eyes at his sister and pulled slightly away. It wasn't that funny.

He looked at the men's faces and saw that they didn't think it was so funny either. Some of them scowled at the woman and moved uneasily in their seats.

Mollie noticed that although the men frowned, the women's eyes sparkled and they held up small fans and embroidered handkerchiefs to hide their wide smiles and delighted grins. Mollie wondered why she was the only girl in the audience. Had the fathers dragged their sons here? And where were the women's daughters? She thought the boys looked really bored. She was sure they'd rather be outside playing baseball or something.

Now the woman talked about a convention held in 1859, eight years ago, called the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention. There, the woman informed them, it was decided that Kansas women could vote for school issues. "So that, I imagine, was to appease Kansas women,"



she said. "Although it is definitely better than not at all, it is not good enough. We will fight until we gain full suffrage"

Jack had a hard time paying attention and kept nodding off. He heard the speaker say, "Today, the seventh day of September, 1867, not just here in Manhattan, Kansas, but all over this state, half of the population does not have full suffrage. And that is deplorable."

Mollie poked him with her elbow and he jerked awake. "We're in Manhattan," she

whispered, "and I didn't know women couldn't always vote. Did you?"

No, Jack mouthed silently.

Still not knowing the woman's name, Mollie whispered to the woman beside her.

"You don't know?" Shocked, the woman forgot to keep her voice low and earned a few frowns. Lowering her voice, she whispered, "That's Susan B. Anthony. She is fighting for us, for our right to vote. You're too young to understand, but it is a right all women should have. A right we must fight for in every way we can."

Mollie thought of her mother and wished she could be here.

After Susan B. Anthony's speech, several women, including the woman who sat beside Mollie, went up talk to the speaker, and Mollie followed.

"I am so glad to see you here, my dear," Susan B. Anthony said, when she came to her. "You are the future and I pray we'll have the vote by the time you are grown."

Mollie wanted to tell her about her mother and grandmother. Both always voted. But they didn't see eye-to-eye on politics. In the last presidential election, Mom, a Democrat, had voted for President Obama. Grandma Andrews, a Republican, had voted for John McCain. Instead, she said, "Thank you for trying to help us get the vote."

Later she told Jack she also wanted to tell her that the Susan B. Anthony dollar was minted in her honor.

"Too bad it was so small," Jack said.

"I know. Mom said people got it confused with the quarter, so no one wanted it. But a regular dollar was too heavy. Maybe they should have made paper ones."

"And get rid of George Washington?" Jack said.

Mollie frowned. "That doesn't seem right either. I wonder if her picture was ever on a stamp?"

"The computer will know," Jack said. The twins had found their glasses in their pockets and they put them on as soon as they were outside. Instantly the modern town of Manhattan and the time machine appeared.

Inside the time machine, the twins read about the struggle it took for women to get the right to vote. Some women were jailed for protesting. Some women were even beaten and kicked. One doctor was asked to declare a woman insane for wanting the vote.

They read about Charley Parkhurst, a

woman in the early days of California who passed herself off as a man. At election time, she voted under her assumed name many years before the right was granted to women. They also read about Susanna M. Salter the first woman mayor of Argonia, Kansas, the first woman ever to be elected mayor or to hold a political office of any kind in the United States.

A man put her name on the ballot as a joke. He thought she wouldn't get any votes and be embarrassed. Instead she won. She served one term. She had nine children. One baby was born and died while she was in office. She did her job well and the men who joked about "Petticoat Rule" soon grew silent.

Reading on, the twins found that the women in Kansas got the right to vote in 1912. Figuring in his head, Jack said, "That was forty-five years after this talk we just heard."

Mollie grinned. "Forty-five years after this talk you almost heard."

"Sorry," Jack said.

"Look," Mollie said, reading off the computer. "That was Kansas. It wasn't until 1920 that all the women in all the states could vote."

To Be Continued.

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