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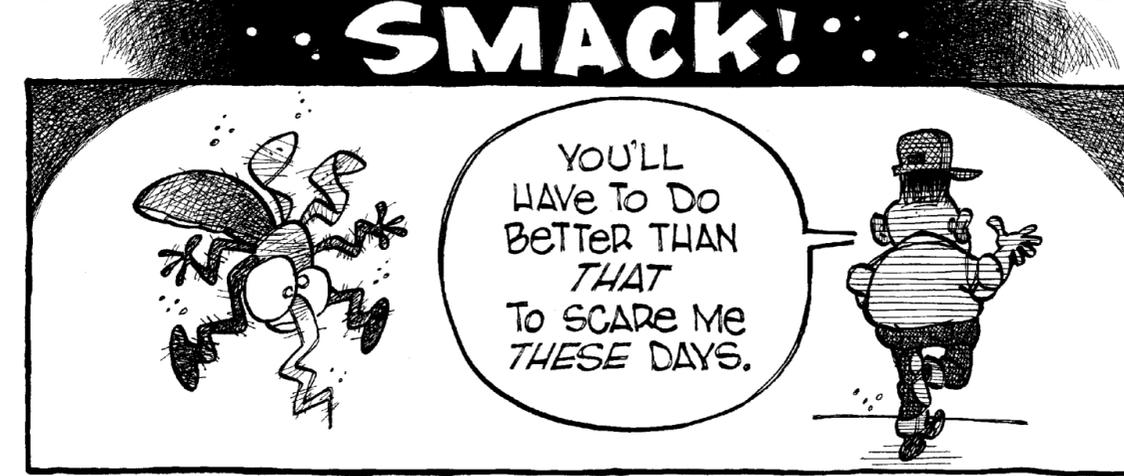
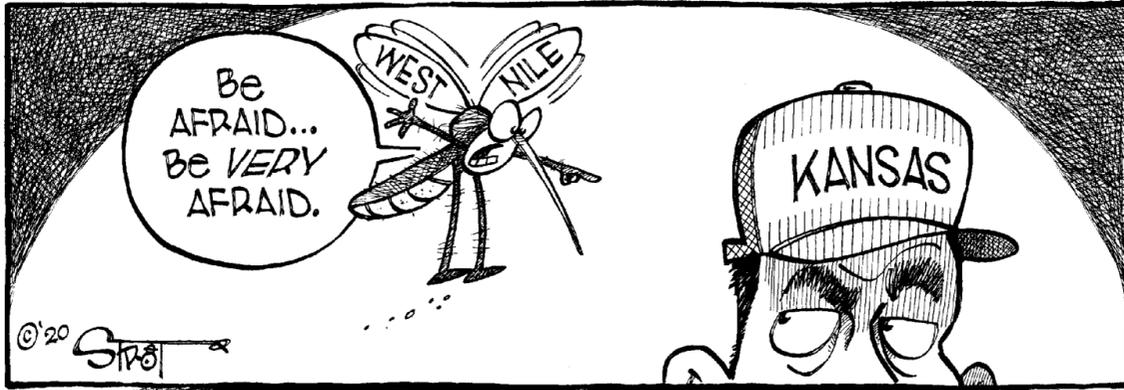
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Socialism's claims always prove to be false

Every few decades, going back nearly a century and a half, socialism makes another run at popularity in America.

Why is a question that baffles, because our system has produced for us a life that is better, more prosperous, more free and more rewarding than most any other.

Someone will scream that our system is unfair and uneven, that the poor and minorities are left behind. Life itself is not fair, of course. Some, rich or poor, live long, healthy lives and others are stricken by disease.

But even the poor in this country, by government definition, have cars, homes and cellular telephones, things the poor in many third-world countries cannot even dream of.

Our nation's wealth is immense. We are awash in material goods that often only complicate our lives. And we have made real, successful efforts to eliminate prejudice and advance women and minorities. The job is not done, by we continue to work at it.

The rich live better than the rest of us, it's true. Many of them earned their

place with superior talent in music and the arts, sports, business or some other field. The rest of us may be envious, but we can't sing or throw a football or lead a multinational corporation.

But amidst all that we have, still socialism in all its guises has an appeal, and each generation has to discover why it is a system that does not work.

For socialism has failed whenever and wherever it's been tried. It is a system that produces not mass wealth, but mass poverty, where the means of production belong to the state and no one takes responsibility for success.

Socialism failed the Soviet Union, it failed utterly in Cuba, it failed in Europe where ever it has been tried. It failed, in part, because the state cannot create wealth, it can only consume it.

Why, then, does socialism keep coming back? Why is the leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination an avowed socialist millionaire?

The columnist Cal Thomas writes that socialism makes itself sound good.

"Socialism is a false doctrine," he says. "It sells itself to new generations who know little about it. They promote it by promising 'free stuff,' along with envy of the successful...."



Steve Haynes
The Oberlin
Herald

No Constitutional right to education

Earlier this month, the 16 judges on the Sixth Circuit federal court unanimously overturned an April ruling that educators hoped would establish a Constitutional right to read, if not a right to a fuller education.

Education Frontlines

In 2016, a lawsuit was filed on behalf of seven students in schools in Detroit, Mich. They claimed they had no chance to get a real education because they lacked textbooks, qualified teachers and adequate school buildings. They claimed a Constitutional right to literacy.

In April 23 of this year, Judge Eric Clay issued an opinion that a right-to-read is implicit in the 14th Amendment.

The 14th Amendment reads: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process

of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The students agreed to a settlement with Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer in May. Each of the seven received about \$40,000. The Detroit Public School District received \$2.7 million. And Governor Whitmer committed to pursuing legislation for additional district funding.

But that agreement also cancelled the students complaint that they had been denied a basic education.

The 16 judges on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals then voted unanimously to dismiss the case. Therefore, Judge Clay's opinion that there is a "right to read" can no longer be used as a legal precedent. Any legal battle to establish a federal Constitutional right to literacy or education will have to start all over.

Based on the 10th Amendment, since education is not explicitly in the Constitution, it is a state right and responsibility. Therefore each state does oversee its public schools with education funding usually consuming about half of the state

"Its adherents claim it is fairer than capitalism. It isn't fair, socialists say, that some people make more money than others."

Socialists excuse the failure of their programs by saying we haven't done enough. Great Society government programs failed to eradicate poverty in this country, but they continue to exist. Socialists want more of the same, though most of these programs only enable people to exist in poverty, not to escape it.

We should pray that socialism does not take root in America, for that would mean the end of our extraordinary prosperity – for all of us.

But won't a socialist system be more fair?

Fair, as in Cuba, or the Soviet Union, or China? Where everyone is equally poor except government officials, military leaders and party members? Who somehow become wealthy and live well in a society supposedly based on equality?

This is not a good future for our country, no matter what some say. It would bring us only failure, decline and decay.

Let us hope the American people can recognize socialism for what it is, a failure, and turn back this tide.

"If it looks like we were scared to death Like a couple of kids just trying to save each other

You should've seen it in color. A picture's worth a thousand words

But you can't see what those shades of gray keep covered

You should've seen it in color" — Jamey Johnson, "In Color"

If you are from the Plains region, your social media feed is probably filled with wheat harvest photos right now.

Hot, dry winds roll across fields of golden waving wheat. Friends and family come together to drive combines, grain trucks, "the old wheat truck" and "the new semi" late into the night to bring in the crop. Famous home-cooked meals are served out of the back of SUVs. Heavenly displays of color created by the dust-filled

air as the sun sets over the heart of America.

However, the country song "In Color" is spot on that "seeing it in color" by living through an event is so much more powerful. A picture can't quite capture an air of excitement, comradery of families and communities working together, or pride in an honest day's work. No picture, black and white or color, can capture the true heart of the experience.

In recent years, farmers and ranchers have become frustrated with "city people" who have never been on a real farm because they can't seem understand that even though farming is truly a passion it is full of challenges.

For example, harvest is such a whirlwind because farmers are terrified if they don't get wheat out of the field, hail, fire or bugs could destroy it. An entire year's income is tied up in each field and farmers aren't actually rich, they just have larger bills than most other people. It's not uncommon to go days or weeks without tucking their kids into bed, a proper night's sleep or a moment of downtime.

The seeds, chemicals and other scientifically developed farming practices we use are what we believe to be the best, safest tools to grow healthy food.

A city person scrolling through social media probably doesn't appreciate (or maybe even care about) all my feelings about wheat harvest. Pictures are informative and can help tell a story, but they can't provide context, background and first-hand feelings created by seeing the true colors of an experience with your own eyes.

Our national conversation is consumed with Black Lives Matter, protests, race and injustice. I see these stories and feel like an outsider looking at another family's photo album. I can see what is happening and the emotions of the participants, but I can only guess at what they feel and have no understanding of each snapshots' value. I am not part of their experience.

No matter how much I want to understand, I can't wrap my brain around what it is like to be a black man living in

SPARK watch

Well, the out-of-session Legislature watched last week as the governor's Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas

(SPARK) task force doled out an even \$400 million to Kansas counties to help them meet the costs they've seen due to the COVID-19 pandemic effects that have swept the world, nation and ... well, Kansas ...

Martin Hawver
Columnist

Legislators, most of whom want to continue spending winters in Topeka, and even those who have had enough and will retire, are wondering just what that money is going to buy. And ... if there's a political upside for them in, well, while not actually having voted for that money for locals, waving as the money went to their home districts.

And, they're also going to be watching to see just how the county commissions in each of the state's 105 courthouses divide that money up, since its allocation a few days ago, between cities, townships, rural water districts, school districts ... you name it, nearly any outfit that can assert to commissioners that the virus and its stay-home and stay-closed orders have shaken those small local economies.

Problem, of course, is that most legislators, and most Kansans, don't have any idea of just what the shut-downs, the overtime for some workers, the expenses of working at home and even those face masks actually cost. And, whether those county commissioners are going to distribute their county's apportionment to real needs or try to find ways to use it to boost their local budgets.

Lots unknown about this initial SPARK federal money distribution, and lots of money going to courthouses to spread across public and private operations.

Did the closure of schools, the shutdown of parts of water districts and of township water departments, the additional security at public buildings, all that moving of COVID-19 testing materials, the actual test specimens and Personal Protection Equipment cost local units of government much money? How much?

Amounts awarded varied, including \$340,000 in Comanche County and \$25 million in Douglas County. Where is that money to go, and will it stay in just the county budgets or will it be spread to reduce the financial impact on the local schools, hospitals, police and fire departments and everything else we expect government to pay for with our tax money?

Yes, isolating those pandemic-related additional costs is going to be tricky for nearly every local unit of government. Oh, and will counties spread that money to private businesses which suffered economic hardship due to the disease?

It's all out in the counties, but count on it, legislators are going to want to win some credit — and votes? — for at least being at the top of the chain that sent those checks to local units of government.

Don't forget that the money has to be directly tied to additional expenses which are linked to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, at the state level and at some point when the federal government auditors start thumbing through the check stubs to see whether this was actually a pandemic-related cost that counties are distributing money to solve or maybe just some new police and sheriff's cars that are easier to keep clean — and avoid spreading the disease to the public.

Also, remember that the county commissioners are going to want political credit for dispersing that money within the county lines, whether it's helping defray the cost of those six-foot social distance reminders we see on the floors of nearly every store we've entered, or those stacks of face-masks and jugs of hand sanitizer near the doors of those stores and businesses and schools and government offices.

Next step, finding out whether those SPARK dollars cause future problems for local units of government. We'll wait for the auditors to tell us, won't we ...

—Syndicated by Hawver News Company LLC of Topeka; Martin Hawver is publisher of Hawver's Capitol Report — to learn more about this nonpartisan statewide political news service, visit the website at www.hawvernews.com.