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Manhattan Free Press

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 35 | An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper | Thursday, February 2, 2017

What Is Another Word For Stupid

The bridge and intersection at Seth Child and K-18 has only been in for 10-years and the City what to spend million to change it.

Editorial

By Jon A. Brake

The Manhattan Free Press has been calling "Roundabouts", Stupid round things from the time they were put in Manhattan.

Now we have the City and State wanting to change the Seth Child - K18 interchange into a "diverging diamond". "Stupid" has already been taken by the roundabout, what will Manhattan drivers call the diverging diamond. We need to come up with a new word.

The City and State spent millions in 2005-06 to put in the present interchange which has one stop light at the South end of Seth Child.

In a Memo to City Commissioners Staff said: "This intersection currently experiences undue delay and excessive queuing (backup) for the southbound to eastbound left-turn lane."

We know, the Free Press made this point in 2005 when the plan was introduced. We said at the time that a traffic light would hold up heavy traffic coming from Fort Riley.

But now the City and State want to takeout that stop light and put in Two traffic lights.

But stop lights, traffic lights, queuing is not the problem with this design.

The drivers in the United States have been driving on the rights side of the road for more than 130 years, now the City and State want drivers to stop at a traffic lights, cross over to the left side at the Diverging Diamond, drive about 300 feet, and stop at another traffic light and then crossover to the right lane again. (see photo of the first Diverging Diamond at Springfield, Mo.)

If you look on the internet for the Diverging Diamond you will find where many Cities have used this intersection and with rave reviews. But the reviews have been written by the Staff of the Cities that put in the interchange. You will not find where the drivers are writing that is works for me.

Charles Marohn is an engineer who is outraged by engineers. Marohn runs Strong Towns, a nonprofit organization in his home state of Minnesota that advocates less dependence on the building of new infrastructure as a model of economic development, and greater focus on getting more out of the infrastructure we already have.

"The engineering profession has devolved," says Marohn. "It's just, 'Do I meet the criteria?' This stuff looks good from the air, it looks good on a set of plans. It even looks good when you drive by. But we're not exactly building a place here that is going to add any value to society."

It may look good, but is will be confusing and it will not help move traffic.

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National School Choice

This past week, all across our nation millions of people celebrated National School Choice Week.

Flint Hills Christian School joined over 165 schools in Kansas and approximately 2,400 schools in the US celebrating with a variety of activities.

This week spotlights the many viable and effective education options available to parents as they provide for the education of their children. Those options include traditional public schools, public charter schools, magnet schools, private schools, online learning, and homeschooling. FHCS celebrates this freedom of school choice that we have in America which allows us to offer families an education from a Christian Worldview.

Speaker defends Trump immigration order amid GOP concerns

WASHINGTON (AP) -- House Speaker Paul Ryan on Tuesday defended President Donald Trump's divisive executive order on refugees and immigration, arguing that while the rollout was bumpy, the policy is consistent with Republican principles.

"The president has a responsibility to the security of this country," Ryan told reporters. "What is happening is something that we support, which is, we need to pause. And we need to make sure the vetting standards are up to snuff so that we can guarantee the safety and security of our country. That is what this does."

"I think it's regrettable that there was some confusion on the rollout of this," Ryan said, adding no one wanted to see legal permanent residents caught up in the immigration ban, which initially happened before the administration clarified that they should not be.

Even though GOP congressional leadership was frozen out of the drafting of the order, Ryan told rank-and-file Republicans in a closed-door meeting before speaking to reporters that he backed the decision to stop the U.S. refugee program and ban all entries from seven Muslim-majority nations for 90 days.

The action triggered mass confusion and chaos worldwide, split families and set off protests at airports across the country.

In the aftermath, Ryan told the GOP that the "rollout was a little bumpy, been a few potholes in the road but the actual policy he agreed with," Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., said.

Ryan warned lawmakers to expect protests at their offices, Roe said, but reminded them that the policy is in line with legislation the House has strongly backed in the past.

Another lawmaker, Rep. Dennis Ross of Florida, said the speaker's message was, "'Look this shouldn't be a surprise to anybody, this is what we all campaigned on ... We're looking at eight years of a legacy that we're essentially undoing.'"

Said Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y.: "The speaker was very out in front today reminding our conference this is something we should be embracing."

Ryan's reassurances weren't enough to quiet frustration from some members.

"Basically, I think the thrust of the executive order should have been a very positive move," said Rep. Pete King, R-N.Y. "The way it was handled though put the Republicans on defense, and also caused great inconvenience to too many people. But the political question you ask, yeah, they're losing political capital for no reason. It was a self-inflicted wound."

Top congressional leaders of Trump's party, including Ryan, were left to find out the same way the general public did: from news reports as Trump signed the order on Friday.

"I guess one of you guys probably told me about it. Thank you for that," Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., who chairs the Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters Monday.

Then, as lawmakers struggled to gather details for constituents about the order, at least one prominent GOP senator was told that the State Department had been instructed not to communicate with Congress.

"There's not a lot of answers as of today. In fact my staff was told the State Department as of today was ordered not to talk to Congress about this issue," said Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida. "That cannot be a permanent position, we expect answers here fairly soon."

Next followed the surprising news, first reported by Politico, that the administration's repeated claims that Hill Republicans were involved in drafting the executive order apparently referred to staffers on the House Judiciary Committee who acted without the knowledge of GOP leadership.

Each new revelation set off alarm bells on Capitol Hill where Republicans, eager to give Trump the benefit of the doubt barely a week into his presidency, are confronting repeated bouts of chaos of the administration's own making. The failure to consult with lawmakers ahead of time on the immigration executive order set the stage for high-profile Republicans to criticize the measure once it started attracting widespread controversy, and so they did, despite leadership remaining generally supportive.

And the administration's decision to make a major foreign policy move with no notice to Congress raised questions about how well the Trump White House will work with Capitol Hill to push through a massive legislative agenda that includes repealing and replacing Barack Obama's health care law, overhauling the tax code and building a border wall. Although many Republicans remained optimistic that the failures amounted to growing pains for the new administration, congressional relations under the Trump administration seemed to be off to a sour start.

"I think they understand, let me put it that way, that this was not handled in the most productive manner," Corker said. "My guess is next time they attempt to do something that is far-reaching like this there'll be a lot more communication."

Chili Feed

Boy Scout Troop 223 is hosting their annual Chili Feed on Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Pottorf Hall in CICO Park (Riley County Fair Grounds). Tickets are $5 and include all the chili you can eat, relishes, and a drink. Children under 6 eat for free. Fresh baked goods will also be available by cash donation for your enjoyment. All funds will go to support the Troopâ€™s camping activities. For tickets and information contact Anissa Hudak Andresen at (785) 813-1649.

For each issue of the Manhattan Free Press look for us on Facebook.

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

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Published Weekly Every Thursday

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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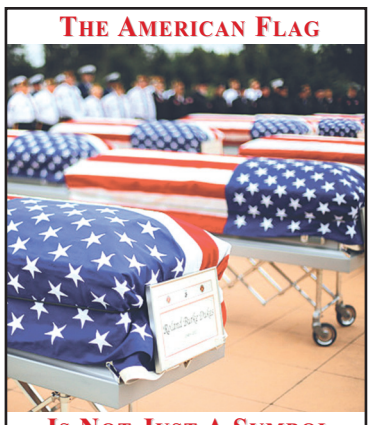


Free Press Second Front

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 34 | An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper | Thursday, February 2, 2017

Trump Calls House GOP Tax Plan 'Too Complicated.' He May Be Right

CATO Institute

The hot new term in the world of tax reform is "border adjustability," which refers to when governments have systems that tax imports and exempt exports.

This approach is widely associated with European-style credit-invoice, value-added taxes (VATs), and Republicans appear poised to bring something similar to our shores.

As part of their "Better Way" tax plan, House Republicans are proposing to change the corporate income tax into a destination-based, cash-flow tax (DBCFT), which in itself is a kind of border-adjustable tax.

A destination-based tax is levied based on where a good winds up, rather than its origin. Under a corporate border-adjustment tax (BAT), revenues made overseas by domestic companies would not be added to taxable income.

Conversely, companies that import goods for U.S. sale would not be able to deduct the cost of those goods against the corporate tax.

Not everyone is happy with this development. With border adjustability, consumers have to pay their home-country tax rate regardless of where they buy products. This also means that tax competition is weakened, giving politicians more leeway to boost tax burdens and increase the size and scope of government.

President-elect Donald Trump, meanwhile, has complained that a BAT is "too complicated."

Is that a legitimate argument? Yes and no. In theory, any type of BAT can be very simple, with the New Zealand VAT being an example of a clean tax.

But, it's also possible for such taxes to be very complicated. Many of the European VATs are riddled with special rates and preferences. In fact, there are a number of potential complications for the DBCFT now proposed in the United States.

Is it WTO compliant?

House Republicans gravitated to border adjustability because it is a way of raising substantial revenue (more than $1 trillion over 10 years) that can be used to finance pro-growth tax cuts.

But, GOPers didn't want to choose a credit-invoice VAT because it is unpopular with libertarians, conservatives, and other advocates of limited government. So that's why they came up with the DBCFT.

Under existing trade treaties, however, only "indirect" taxes (such as the aforementioned VAT) are eligible for border adjustability. And the DBCFT, even though it is designed to have a "consumption base" like a VAT, is a direct tax.

So if that system ever gets adopted, the U.S. will get dragged before the World Trade Administration and likely lose.

This doesn't mean the DBCFT is "too complicated," as Trump might say, but it does mean that there would be a huge amount of uncertainty if it gets close to passage.

Even more worrisome, lawmakers might respond to an adverse WTO decision by making wages non-deductible, which would turn the DBCFT into a subtraction-method value-added tax.

This nightmare scenario causes considerable angst for people who worry about giving politicians a money machine to finance bigger government.

Will it be susceptible to "carousel fraud"?

Nations with border-adjustable value-added taxes have a significant problem with fraud. Businesses have a big incentive to claim domestic sales as foreign sales because they then get VAT rebates.

There's also a problem on the other end as fly-by-night purchasers collect VAT on imports and then disappear before that money gets forwarded to government. This issue of "carousel fraud" is a big problem in Europe.

The DBCFT isn't exactly a VAT, but it could create similar problems. Businesses will have an incentive to classify sales as exports in order to avoid tax. Just like in Europe, that means lots or rules and regulations as the government tries to prevent leakage.

Whether all that red tape means the system will be "too complicated" is a judgment call.

How will cross-border activity be impacted by the promised changes in the value of the dollar?

Supporters of the DBCFT say their tax on imports and exemption for exports isn't anti-trade because the dollar will rise in value. That's a reasonable proposition, but it overlooks the fact that exchange rates are affected by all sorts of factors.

Thus, investors, entrepreneurs, and companies will have to devote considerable time to figuring out the potential impact.

Moreover, there will be windfall gains and losses for entities that earn income in one currency and pay lenders in another currency. This will be an especially important (and threatening) issue for foreign companies (and also governments) who borrow in dollars and earn local currency.

If the dollar suddenly jumps in value, that might wreak havoc and cause defaults or bankruptcies. This will complicate economic life, though it may not be the "too complicated" that Trump has in mind.

What about rules for "export" of real estate and education?

Foreigners each year spend billions of dollars purchasing things that never leave the United States, most notably real estate and college education. These sales are "exports" in the sense that money comes into America from overseas and is used to buy things.

How will these transactions be taxed? Presumably, there wouldn't be any border adjustability since nothing leaves the country, but that's a wrinkle that will have to be addressed.

To conclude, it's not clear that a DBCFT is complicated (particularly compared to the current corporate income tax). That being said, I don't think voters elected Republicans to push a tax that undermines tax competition and could pave the way for a VAT.

So I'm heartened by Trump's words, even if I'm surprised that he's discouraging them from a bad idea rather than vice-versa.

The So-Called "Patient Freedom Act" Is Not an Alternative to ObamaCare

Freedomworks

Earlier today, a quartet of Republican senators — Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.V.), and Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) — introduced the Patient Freedom Act, S. 191. The bill, they say, is a comprehensive replacement for ObamaCare after it's repealed, the process for which is currently underway in Congress.

Well, the Patient Freedom Act, as introduced, replaces ObamaCare with...ObamaCare. Yes, you read that right. The bill would allow states that maintain ObamaCare as it currently exists, including the costly regulations and Medicaid expansion; develop their own health insurance alternatives with "federal assistance"; or develop their own health insurance alternatives "without federal assistance."

Before we go any further here, let's be clear: there is absolutely nothing that would prevent states on their own from adopting ObamaCare when it's repealed. That's really the beauty of federalism. Keep in mind that ObamaCare was based on the 2006 health insurance law adopted in Massachusetts under then-Gov. Mitt Romney. The law, of course, has largely been a failure, much like ObamaCare. Still, if a state wants to take that route, its lawmakers can do so without federal legislation like the Patient Freedom Act.

There are several other issues with the Patient Freedom Act, as Philip Klein explained after the bill was introduced by Sen. Cassidy. "One reason it can't be seen as a legitimate choice is that the law keeps Obamacare's taxes and most of its spending in place (particularly, 95 percent of its subsidies) and keeps the federal exchange infrastructure intact. That means that even if lawmakers in one state choose not continue participating in Obamacare, their residents will still have to be paying to support the program," Klein wrote. "It also means that for the sake of inertia if nothing else, many states will stay within Obamacare."

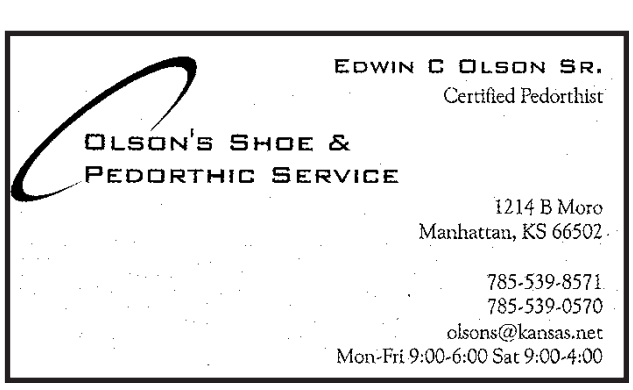
"Another reason it isn't a legitimate choice is that the law will continue to impose costly regulations at the federal level. Those include forcing insurers to cover those with pre-existing conditions, prohibiting annual or lifetime caps, requiring insurers to allow adults to remain on their parent's plans until age 26 (also known as the "slacker mandate"). Whatever the arguments are for these policies, a system of choice would leave states free to impose such requirements, but other states free to pursue alternate market-based plans. Instead, under the Cassidy-Collins plan, any state that opts out of Obamacare would continue to be restricted by its regulatory tentacles," Klein added.

The goal of the bill, as Sen. Cassidy said at its unveiling, is to attract Democrats to strike a compromise on an alternative. "At some point in this process, we're going to need a bill that can get 60 votes. We think that helps us get to 60," Sen. Cassidy told reporters. "California, New York: You love ObamaCare, you can keep it."

Of course, no Democrats are listed as original co-sponsors, and to no one's surprise, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) dismissed the Patient Freedom Act. "Ultimately, this proposal is an empty facade that would create chaos — not care — for millions of Americans. Republicans should drop their disruptive repeal plans and work with Democrats to improve, not gut, the Affordable Care Act and healthcare system for all Americans," Schumer reportedly said in a statement.

If Republicans are serious about repealing ObamaCare, they, you know, actually have to do it. Introducing a bill that effectively preserves ObamaCare does nothing to further this effort. Any replacement bill must repeal what remains of ObamaCare that can't be repealed through reconciliation, and it must promote policies — including expanded health savings accounts and block grants of Medicaid — that would truly give patients freedom.

Moreover, any replacement should decrease the federal government's role in the health insurance system, not continue to meddle in it by creating a false narrative that Congress is doing something that states couldn't do before ObamaCare became law.



Editorial

Trump Refugee Order Balances Security and Compassion

Heritage Foundation

Read any commentary on the just signed executive order on visa and refugee-vetting from several countries in the Middle East., and odds are the assessment will tell you more about the writer's politics than be an analysis of the order.

I confess: I have a perspective as well. Mine comes from working on the presidential team on both foreign policy and homeland security from after the Republican convention up to the inauguration. I can't share the detailed workings of the team. But what I can share, having worked on the issues, is what I believe guided the work.

And it all started with making America safe.

Not campaign promises, anger at any religion, or prejudice of any kind impacted our thinking on the transition team. What we were worried about were future threats.

As the space for the Islamic State, or ISIS, gets squeezed in the Middle East, the remains of the tens of thousands of foreign fighters will have to flow somewhere. Every nation, not just the U.S., believes they are most likely to flow to the countries cited in the order. That fact, and only that fact, is why those countries are included on the list. Indeed, when it comes to visa-vetting, that's why the European Union has restrictions that are comparable to the United States.

The reason why we all worry is because, from those countries, foreign fighters could well try to flow to the West, principally by using visas or posing as refugees. When they get to the West, they could carry out terrorist acts. We know that because they already have—specifically in western Europe.

They haven't come to the U.S.–yet. Right now, our primary threat is Islamist-related terror plots that are organized by terrorists who are already here.

What this administration is doing is making sure we are ready for the next wave of terrorism as well—the outflow of terrorists from the countries of conflict where the foreign fighters are likely go first.

There are already cries that the precautions are unfair—creating hardships. Fair enough, but terrorists attacks (like those at the Bataclan in France by the followers of ISIS) create unbearable hardships as well—and the government has the responsibility to find the right balance between security and compassion for its citizens as well as consider how U.S. actions impact others around the world.

One area where the order tries to get that balance right is to ensure future refugee processing prioritizes addressing the plight of religious minorities. That is particularly crucial in the Middle East where the remnants of the region's Christian communities are under severe threat. Worldwide persecutions against Christian minorities have been rising for four straight years. It's particularly problematic in the Middle East. The administration is making an extra effort to address that crisis.

While critics will continue to demonize the administration's policies because it doesn't fit their politics, Americans who crave a foreign policy that prioritizes American interests, puts a compassionate face on statecraft that reflects our values, and acts responsibly will find much to respect in the order.

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Trump Takes the First Step in Restoring the US Military

Heritage Foundation

On Friday, President Donald Trump signed an exceptionally important executive order initiating both the beginning of the rebuilding of the U.S. armed forces and the fulfillment of a campaign promise.

Because he signed this order on the same day as he signed the order on immigration it hasn't yet gotten the attention it deserves. That's a shame.

The order, titled "Rebuilding the U.S. Armed Forces," has not yet been officially posted to the White House website. But a draft of the order, accompanied by news reports, gives us enough details to be able to assess it.

The order directs Secretary of Defense James Mattis to conduct a 30-day review of the readiness of the armed forces to assess their ability to conduct the fight against the Islamic State or ISIS, and other forms of radical Islamic terrorism, as well as near peer competitors and regional adversaries.

This review is critically needed. The Heritage Foundation has been vocal in calling for such a review based on our independent assessment of the U.S. military. The Heritage 2017 Index of U.S. Military Strength assessed our overall military capability as "marginal, trending towards weak" because of many years of budget cuts and overuse. Our assessment found that the U.S. Army today is the smallest it has been since the start of World War II; the Navy is the smallest it has been since World War I; and the Air Force suffers from crippling shortages of pilots and maintenance personnel. For example, the average age of the Air Force's planes is 27 years old.

For too long the nation, and the president, has neglected the state of military readiness in favor of other priorities.

This 30-day review will allow the defense secretary and the president to establish the facts and determine the necessary priorities for the rebuilding of the military.

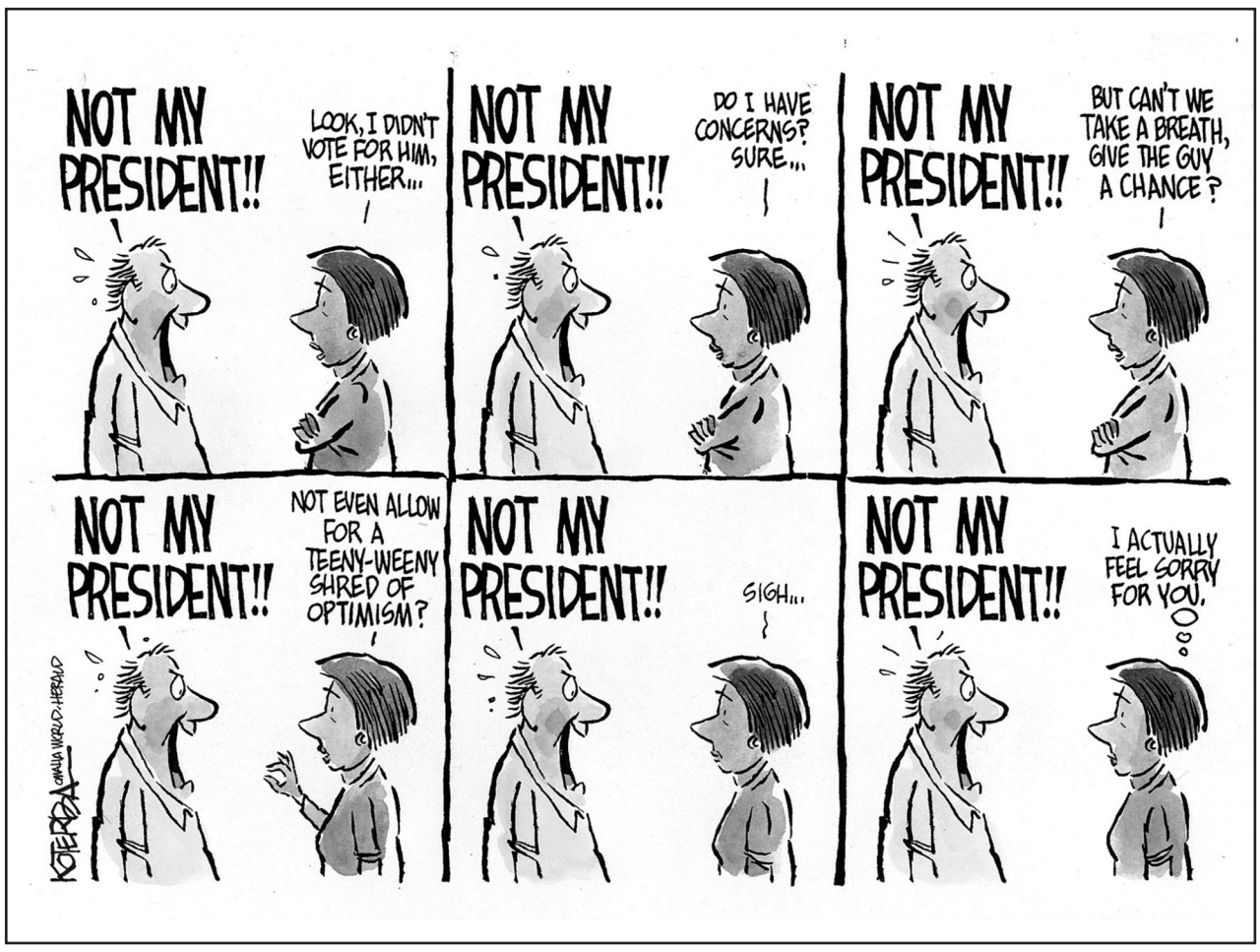
The order also calls for a review to "reduce commitments not directly related to the highest priority operations to make resources available for training and maintenance." This is also overdue. As described in the Heritage's Blueprint for Balance, the Department of Defense spends hundreds of millions of dollars each year on programs not directly related to military readiness such as non-military related medical research, sustainable energy programs, and junior ROTC programs. Although there won't be enough resources identified just through cuts and efficiencies to fix the Pentagon's readiness problems, every little bit helps.

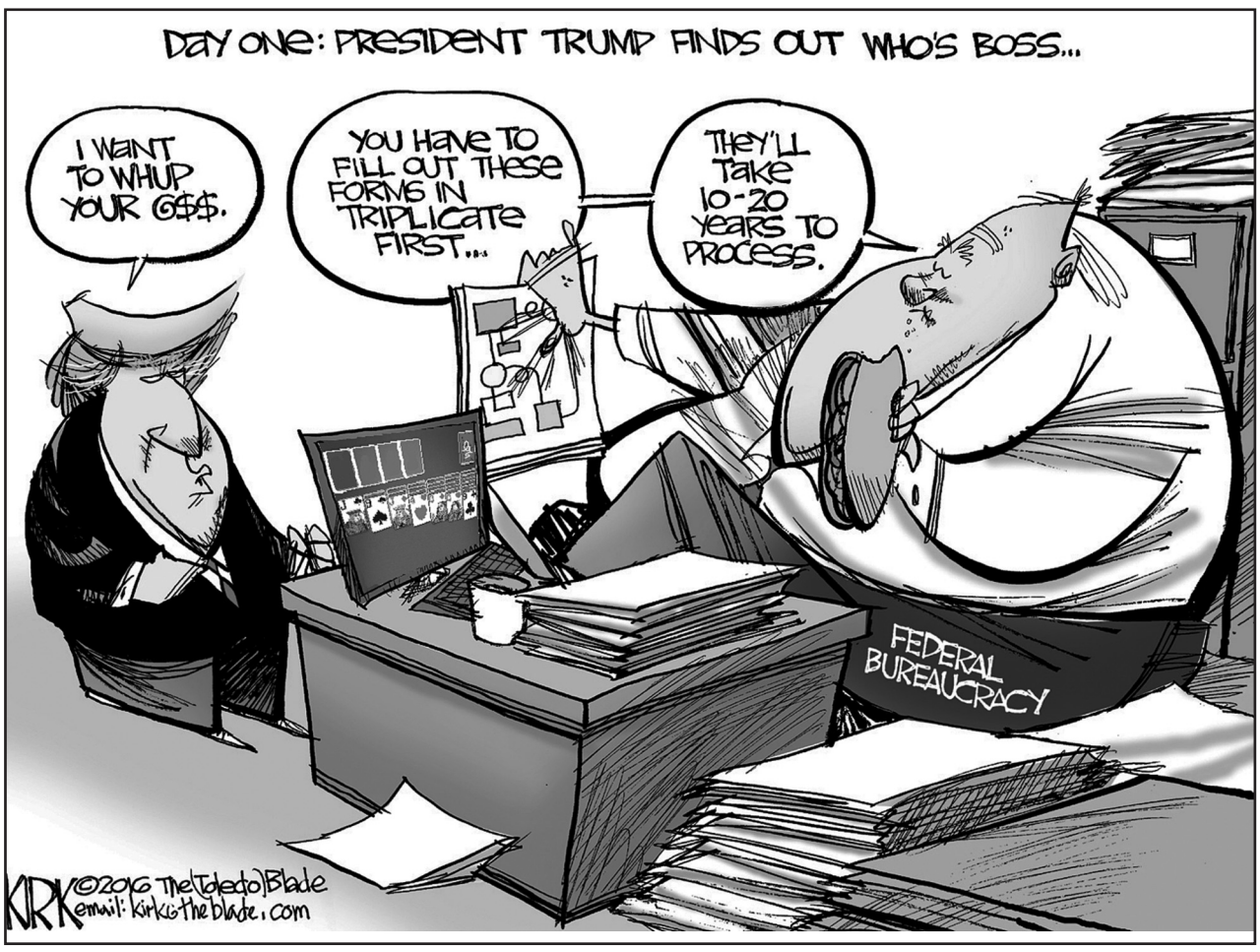
Perhaps most significantly, the order directs Mattis and the director of the Office of Budget and Management to develop both a new request for emergency funding for fiscal year 2017 and to revise the still-to-be-released budget request for 2018 to provide the increased funding needed to begin the rebuilding of the military. That direction aligns with recommendations from both Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas. McCain and Thornberry, the chairmen of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees respectively, both have a clear-eyed view of the critical state of the U.S. military and have written persuasively on the need for additional defense funding.

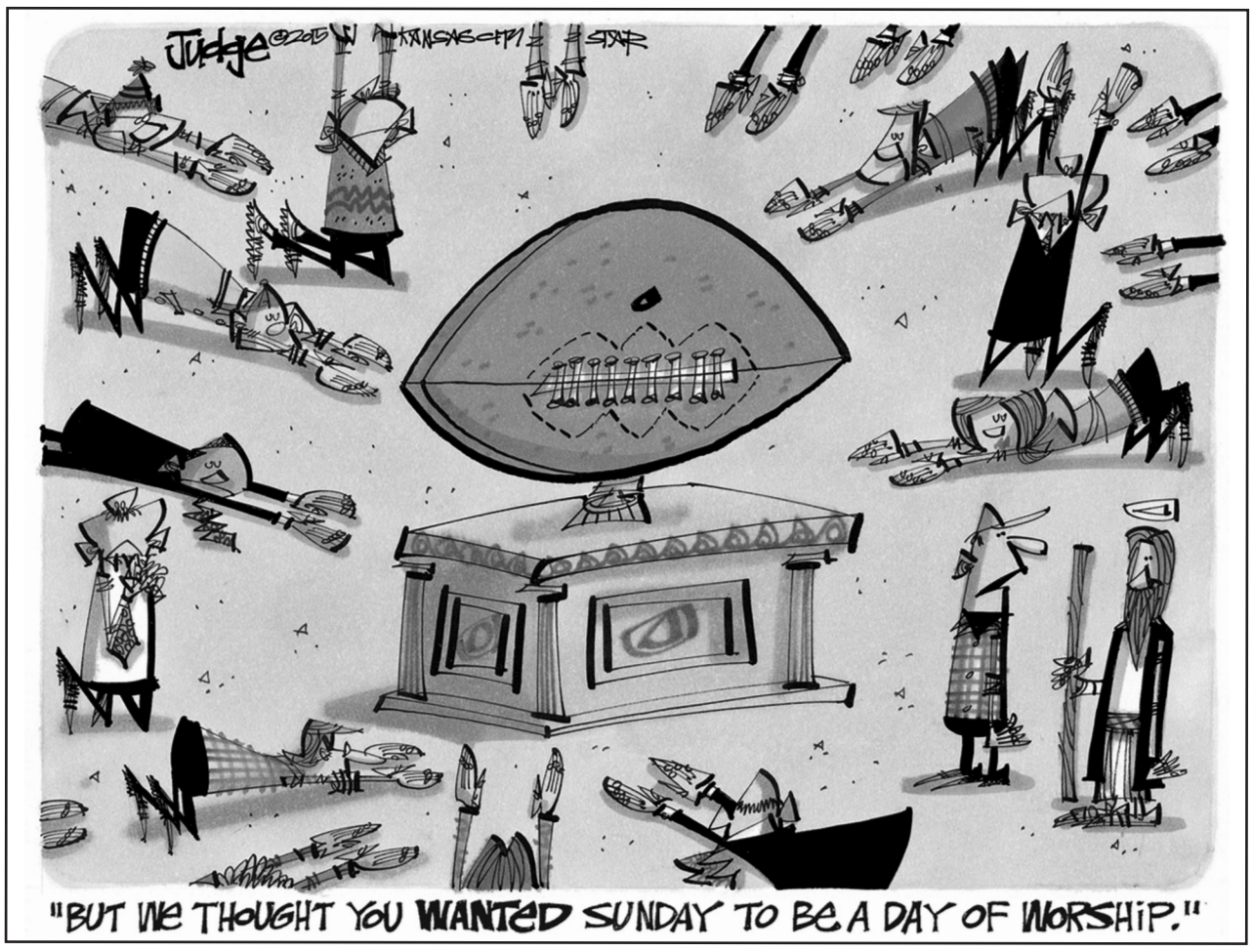
Obtaining additional funding for defense will require some difficult negotiations within Congress and with the White House, but the need is so critical that failure to succeed is not a viable option. Congress and the administration will need to establish concrete and measurable objectives for the rebuilding of our military so that the American taxpayer can be assured that every dollar applied to defense results in an improvement.

Finally the executive order calls for a new nuclear posture and missile defense reviews, two critical defense areas which have both suffered considerably under the Obama administration. Heritage has been consistent and vocal in pointing out the need for new reviews and increased investment of our nation's nuclear and missile defense domains.

Could all of these actions been undertaken without a presidential executive order? Certainly. But by signing this order Trump has sent an unambiguous signal across his administration that the rebuilding of our military is one of his top priorities. Given the threats our nation faces today to its national interests, this sends exactly the right signal to both our allies and potential adversaries.







Blue Rapids
Free Press
Jon A. and Linda Brake, Publishers
A Free Distribution Newspaper
Published Every Thursday - 25th Year
Mail to Box 1191, Manhattan, Ks 66505
Phone - 785-537-8953
Jon's Cell 785-556-1694
E-Mail - freepress@kansas.net
Web - manhattanfreepress.com

Prince scores 25 points to lift Baylor past K-State

The Associated Press
MANHATTAN, Kan.

Alexis Prince got Baylor going and the No. 2 Lady Bears never looked back.

Prince scored a career-high 25 points to help Baylor rout 25th-ranked Kansas State 91-49 on Wednesday night.

"I got off to a good start," Prince said. "I hit my first couple of shots and then from there I just kept hitting."

Prince had 17 of her points in the first half, outscoring the Wildcats by three in the opening 20 minutes.

Baylor (20-1, 9-0 Big 12) led 7-5 before scoring the next 21 straight points to blow the game open early in the first quarter. Prince got the run started with a 3-pointer and Lauren Cox capped it.

"The last time they played us, they just pounded us on the glass." Kansas State head coach Jeff Mittie said. "We tried to make them make jumpers early so we could be in better position to rebound. (Alexis) Prince was obviously hot early, our offensive attack was not good.

"We felt like we could've been in a 5-6 point game but we couldn't score and they shot what–66 percent in the first quarter. They cooled off in the second quarter but we just never–I didn't like the way we competed tonight."

By the end of the opening half, the Lady Bears led 44-14 as the Wildcats made just five baskets in the first 20 minutes.

Karyla Middlebrook led Kansas State (15-6, 5-4) with 17 points on the night, with 11 of those coming in the 3rd quarter.

BIG PICTURE

Baylor: The victory against Kansas State marks the 16th straight season Baylor has won 20 or more games under head coach Kim Mulkey.

Kansas State: The loss by Kansas State pushes the Wildcats record to 5-3 as a ranked team in 2016-17.

STAT OF THE NIGHT: Baylor complied a season high 15 steals against Kansas State on Wednesday night.

Kansas State's Jessica Sheble (0) has the ball striped as she heads for the basket.

Karyla Middlebrook (21) lays one up and in.

Kindred Wesemann (24) git the ball into the center of the court.

Kansas State's Kayla Goth (10) finds out that basketball is a contact sport.

Breanna Lewis (22) a K-State Senior turns for a shot.

Eternati Willock (13) gets to the loose ball first.

Shelyn Maartin (5) drive the lane before taking a shot.

Big 12 Women's Basketball Standings

	Big 12	Overall	Pct.
Baylor	10 - 0	21 - 1	.955
Texas	10 - 0	16 - 4	.800
Oklahoma	7 - 3	16 - 6	.727
Kansas State	6 - 4	16 - 6	.727
West Virginia	4 - 6	16 - 6	.727
Oklahoma State	3 - 6	13 - 7	.650
Texas Tech	3 - 6	11 - 9	.550
Iowa State	3 - 7	12 - 9	.571
TCU	2 - 8	10 - 11	.476
Kansas	1 - 9	7 - 14	.333 .

Ben Brake

Free Press Photographer
16th Year of K-State Basketball

Free Press Big 12 Sports

No. 2 Kansas rallies past No. 4 Kentucky 79-73

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Second-ranked Kansas missed all of its 3-point attempts in the first half, and still the Jayhawks kept on shooting.

That confidence paid off in one of college basketball's toughest, loudest environments.

Josh Jackson calmly made consecutive 3-pointers to jumpstart the Jayhawks, Frank Mason III had 21 points and Kansas beat No. 4 Kentucky 79-73 on Saturday night in the SEC-Big 12 Challenge.

The Challenge's marquee matchup between college basketball's two winningest programs ended with the Jayhawks earning their second straight win over the Wildcats on Kentucky's home floor.

Three-point shooting was critical for Kansas (19-2). It shook off an 0-for-8 first half to make 5 of 11 after halftime, starting with Jackson's back-to-back makes which provided the first of several leads in a back-and-forth half. Kansas led throughout the final seven minutes.

Coach Bill Self had a word for his team after the game. (Photo by KU Sports Information)

The Jayhawks shot 59 percent in the second half, and Jackson finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

"I find making 3s gets kind of contagious," the freshman said after his fifth double-double this season. "I think it kind of opened it up for us a little bit."

Kansas got this big victory at the end of a tumultuous week for the program.

After the Jayhawks' 85-69 loss Tuesday night at No. 18 West Virginia, campus police in Lawrence announced they were investigating an alleged rape of a 16-year-old girl at the team's dormitory. Coach Bill Self said on Thursday that the investigation had become a "major distraction." Self also suspended forward Carlton Bragg Jr. this week for a violation of team rules that he said wasn't connected to the investigation.

Mason had 13 second-half points and Landen Lucas contributed 13 points — including a layup with 4:41 remaining to cap an 11-0 run for a 69-59 lead — and five rebounds before fouling out. Kentucky (17-4) got within 77-73 before Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk's two free throws with 16 seconds left sealed the hard-fought win.

"Coach told us to focus on the things we can control and we did a pretty good job of that," Mason said. "We just have to do that, not get distracted and focus on what we can control."

Kansas used a variety of defenses, including a zone, to effectively slow Kentucky. Malik Monk and Derek Willis each had 18 points for the Wildcats (17-4), but Monk had just six in the second half as the Wildcats dropped their second straight.

"We struggled with what we were doing, they shot 60 percent," Wildcats coach John Calipari said. "You cannot win with a team shooting (nearly) 60 percent. You can't score enough."

THE BIG PICTURE

Kansas: The Jayhawks forced 17 turnovers for 21 points and outscored Kentucky 44-34 in the paint. Devonte' Graham had 12 points, and Mykhailiuk provided a big lift in place of Bragg with eight points.

"I thought this could get ugly really fast," Self said. "The key part of the game for us was the last five minutes to get it to five (32-27) at halftime. ... Then Josh's two 3s to start the second half took the lid off and we were pretty good after that."

Kentucky: The Wildcats' ragged stretch just before halftime resulted in 10 turnovers, and their problems continued in the second half. They gave the Jayhawks all kinds of opportunities that not even 40-percent 3-point shooting could overcome. The Wildcats don't lose often at Rupp Arena, but they now have two home defeats this season, both in marquee games against ranked teams — they lost to now-No. 8 UCLA in December.

"Kansas' experience showed," said Isaiah Briscoe, who had 12 points and eight rebounds. "They were down and kept fighting. I give them credit, but a lot of that is on us."

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Kansas' gutsy win in a tough environment might be enough to convince some poll voters to put the Jayhawks on top. Kentucky figures to drop several spots with a home loss following an SEC defeat at mid-pack Tennessee.

Big 12 Basketball Standings and Schedule

Big 12 Standings

School	Big 12	Overall	
Baylor	7 - 1	20 - 1	.952
Kansas	7 - 1	19 - 2	.905
West Virginia	5 - 3	17 - 4	.810
Iowa State	5 - 3	13 - 7	.650
Kansas State	4 - 4	15 - 6	.714
Texas Tech	3 - 5	15 - 6	.714
TCU	3 - 5	14 - 7	.667
Okla State	2 - 6	13 - 8	.619
Oklahoma	2 - 6	8 - 12	.400
Texas	2 - 6	8 - 13	.381

Kansas State Schedule

Fri, Nov 11	vs Western Illinois	W 82-55	1-0 (0-0)
Tue, Nov 15	vs Omaha	W 81-68	2-0 (0-0)
Sun, Nov 20	vs Hampton	W 89-67	3-0 (0-0)
Tue, Nov 22	vs Robert Morris	W 61-40	4-0 (0-0)
Fri, Nov 25	vs Boston College*	W 72-54	5-0 (0-0)
Sat, Nov 26	vs Maryland*	L 69-68	5-1 (0-0)
Wed, Nov 30	vs Green Bay	W 80-61	6-1 (0-0)
Sat, Dec 3	@ Saint Louis	W 84-53	7-1 (0-0)
Tue, Dec 6	vs Prairie View A&M	W 74-55	8-1 (0-0)
Sat, Dec 10	vs Washington State*	W 70-56	9-1
Sat, Dec 17	vs Colorado State*	W 89-70	10-1
Wed, Dec 21	vs Gardner-Webb	W 67-54	11-1
Fri, Dec 30	vs Texas	W 65-62	12-1
Tue, Jan 3	@ #3 Kansas	L 88 - 90	12-2
Sat, Jan 7	vs Oklahoma	W 75 - 64	12-2
Tue, Jan 10	@ Texas Tech	L 65-66	12-3
Sat, Jan 14	vs #4 Baylor	L 77-68	12-4
Wed, Jan 18	@ Oklahoma State	W 96-88	13-4
Sat, Jan 21	vs #15 West Virginia	W 79-75	14-4
Tue, Jan 24	@ #25 Iowa State	L 65-70	14-5
Sat, Jan 28	@ Tennessee	L 58-70	14-6
Wed, Feb 1			

Kansas Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time/	TV
11/11/2016	Indiana	L 99-103	0-1
11/12/2016	Duke	W 77-75	1-1
11/18/2016	Siena	W 85-65	2-1
11/21/2016	UAB	W 83-63	3-1
11/22/2016	Georgia	W 65-54	4-1
11/25/2016	UNC	W 95-57	5-1
11/29/2016	Long Beach State	W 91-61	6-1
12/3/2016	Stanford	W 89-74	7-1
12/6/2016	UMKC	W 105-62	8-1
12/10/2016	Nebraska	W89-72	9-1
12/17/2016	Davidson	W 89-71	10-1
12/22/2016	UNLV	W 71-53	11-1
12/30/2016	TCU	W 86-80	12-1.
1/3/2017	Kansas State	W 90-88	13-1
1/7/2017	Texas Tech	W85-68	14-1
1/10/2017	Oklahoma	W 81-70	15-1
1/14/2017	Okla State	W 87-80	16-1
1/16/2017	Iowa State	W 76-72	17-1
1/21/2017	Texas	W 96-67	18-1
1/24/2017	West Virginia	L 69-85	18-2
1/28/2017	Kentucky	W 79-73	19-2

Big 12 Men Basketball Schedule

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Location	Time (CT)	Media
SEC / Big 12 Challenge presented by SONIC					
* Wed, Feb 01	Kansas State	TCU	Manhattan, Kan.	6:30 p.m.	ESPNEWS
* Wed, Feb 01	Texas	Texas Tech	Austin, Texas	8:00 p.m.	ESPNU
* Wed, Feb 01	Kansas	Baylor	Lawrence, Kan.	8:00 p.m.	ESPN2
* Sat, Feb 04	Kansas	Iowa State	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA	ESPN or ESPN2
* Sat, Feb 04	TCU	Texas	Fort Worth, Texas	12:00 p.m.	ESPNEWS
* Sat, Feb 04	Baylor	Kansas State	Waco, Texas	2:00 p.m.	ESPNEWS
* Sat, Feb 04	West Virginia	Oklahoma State	Morgantown, WV	4:00 p.m.	ESPNU
* Sat, Feb 04	Texas Tech	Oklahoma	Lubbock, Texas	6:00 p.m.	ESPNU
* Mon, Feb 06	Kansas State	Kansas	Manhattan, Kan.	8:00 p.m.	ESPN
* Tue, Feb 07	TCU	Texas Tech	Fort Worth, Texas	8:00 p.m.	ESPNEWS
* Tue, Feb 07	Texas	Iowa State	Austin, Texas	8:00 p.m.	ESPN2
* Wed, Feb 08	Oklahoma State	Baylor	Stillwater, Okla.	6:00 p.m.	ESPNU

Trump fires Justice Dep't head over clash on refugee ban

WASHINGTON (AP) -- In an extraordinary public showdown, President Donald Trump fired the acting attorney general of the United States after she publicly questioned the constitutionality of his refugee and immigration ban and refused to defend it in court.

The clash Monday night between Trump and Sally Yates, a career prosecutor and Democratic appointee, laid bare the growing discord and dissent surrounding an executive order that halted the entire U.S. refugee program and banned all entries from seven Muslim-majority nations for 90 days. The firing, in a written statement released just hours after Yates went public with her concerns, also served as a warning to other administration officials that Trump is prepared to terminate those who refuse to carry out his orders.

Yates' refusal to defend the executive order was largely symbolic given that Sen. Jeff Sessions, Trump's pick for attorney general, will almost certainly defend the policy once he's sworn in. He's expected to be confirmed Tuesday by the Senate Judiciary Committee and could be approved within days by the full Senate.

Yet the firing reflected the mounting conflict over the executive order, as administration officials have moved to distance themselves from the policy and even some of Trump's top advisers have made clear that they were not consulted on its implementation.

As protests erupted at airports across the globe, and as legal challenges piled up in courthouses, Yates directed agency attorneys not to defend the executive order. She said in a memo Monday she was not convinced it was lawful or consistent with the agency's obligation "to stand for what is right."

Trump's press secretary, Sean Spicer, soon followed with a statement accusing Yates of having "betrayed the Department of Justice by refusing to enforce a legal order designed to protect the citizens of the United States." Trump named longtime federal prosecutor Dana Boente, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, as Yates' replacement. Boente was sworn in privately late Monday, the White House said, and rescinded Yates's directive.

Also late Monday, the acting head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement was removed. The administration didn't offer any explanation for the move, only said via Twitter that Daniel Ragsdale is returning to his previous position as deputy director. ICE executive associate director Thomas Homan was elevated to the role of acting chief.

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly said in a statement that Homan had led efforts "to identify, arrest, detain, and remove illegal aliens." The statement didn't mention Ragsdale.

The chain of events bore echoes of the Nixon-era "Saturday Night Massacre," when the attorney general and deputy attorney general resigned rather than follow an order to fire a special prosecutor investigating the Watergate scandal. The prosecutor, Archibald Cox, was fired by the solicitor general.

Yates, a holdover from the Obama administration who was the top federal prosecutor in Atlanta and later became Loretta Lynch's deputy, was not alone in her misgivings about the policy and its rollout.

At least three top national security officials - Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly and Rex Tillerson, who is awaiting confirmation to lead the State Department - have told associates they were not aware of details of the directive until around the time Trump signed it. Leading intelligence officials were also left largely in the dark, according to U.S. officials.

Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that despite White House assurances that congressional leaders were consulted, he learned about the order from the media.

A large group of career diplomats circulated several drafts of a memo arguing that the order Trump signed last week will not make the U.S. safe, saying it runs counter to American values and will fuel anti-American sentiment around the world.

Spicer challenged those opposed to the measure to resign. "They should either get with the program or they can go," he said.

Trump's order pauses America's entire refugee program for four months, indefinitely bans all those from war-ravaged Syria and temporarily freezes immigration from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. Federal judges in New York and several other states issued orders that temporarily block the government from deporting people with valid visas who arrived after Trump's travel ban took effect and found themselves in limbo.

Yates on Monday said that she had reviewed the policy and concluded that it was at odds with the Justice Department's mission. She said that though other lawyers in the department had reviewed the order, their review had not addressed whether it was "wise or just."

"I am responsible for ensuring that the positions we take in court remain consistent with this institution's solemn obligation to always seek justice and stand for what is right," Yates wrote in a letter.

Trump said the order had been "approved" by Justice Department lawyers. However, the department has said the Office of Legal Counsel review was limited to whether the order was properly drafted, but did not address broader policy questions.

The blowback underscored Trump's tenuous relationship with his own national security advisers, many of whom he met for the first time during the transition.

Mattis, who stood next to Trump during Friday's signing ceremony, is said to be particularly incensed. A senior U.S. official said Mattis, along with Joint Chiefs Chairman Joseph Dunford, was aware of the general concept of Trump's order but not the details. Tillerson has told the president's political advisers that he was baffled over not being consulted on the substance of the order.

U.S. officials and others with knowledge of the Cabinet's thinking insisted on anonymity in order to disclose the officials' private views.

Despite his public defense of the policy, the president has privately acknowledged flaws in the rollout, according to a person with knowledge of his thinking. But he's also blamed the media - his frequent target - for what he believes are reports exaggerating the dissent and the number of people actually affected.

After a chaotic weekend during which some U.S. legal permanent residents were detained at airports, some agencies were moving swiftly to try to clean up after the White House.

Homeland Security, the agency tasked with implementing much of the refugee ban, clarified that customs and border agents should allow legal residents to enter the country. The Pentagon was trying to exempt Iraqis who worked alongside the U.S. and coalition forces from the 90-day ban on entry from the predominantly Muslim countries.

Senate panel approves Zinke, Perry

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Republicans pushed President Donald Trump's nominees to head the Energy and Interior Departments through a Senate panel on Tuesday while other committees moved toward votes on his picks to head agencies in the thick of partisan battles over health care, legal protections, education and the economy.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee quickly approved former Texas Gov. Rick Perry as Energy secretary by 16-7, and Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., to head Interior by 16-6. But several of his other picks faced more spirited opposition from Democrats.

As the Senate Judiciary Committee worked toward a vote on Sen. Jeff Sessions' nomination to be attorney general, the panel's top Republican praised the Alabama Republican.

"He's a man of integrity," said Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa. "He's a man of his word. And he'll enforce the law, regardless of whether he would've supported passage of that law as a legislator.

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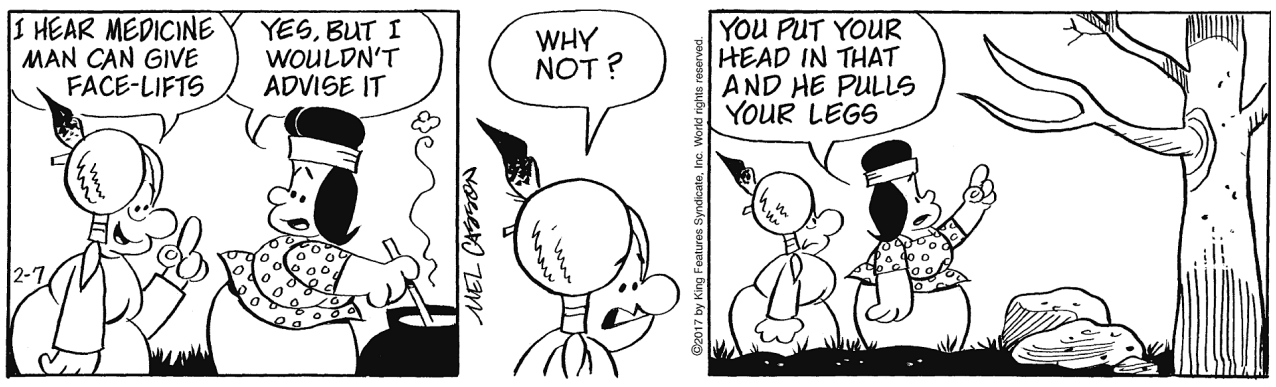

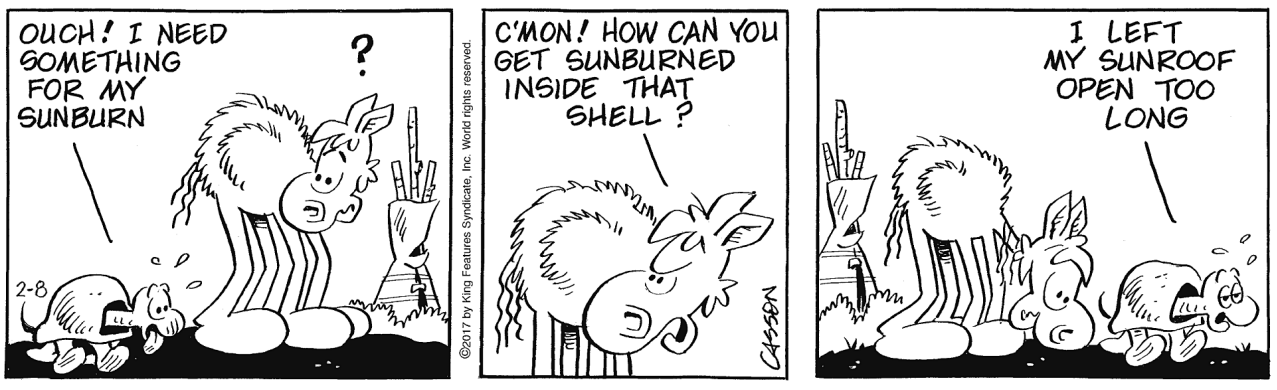

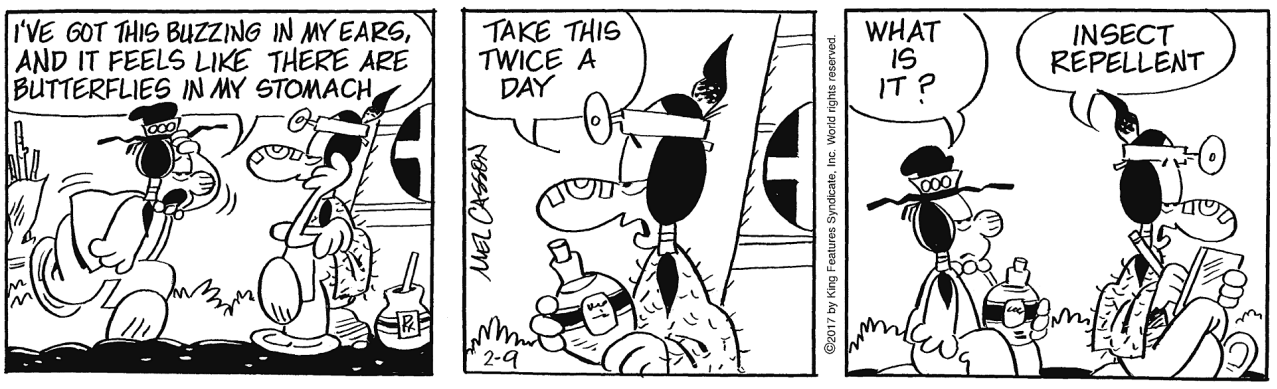

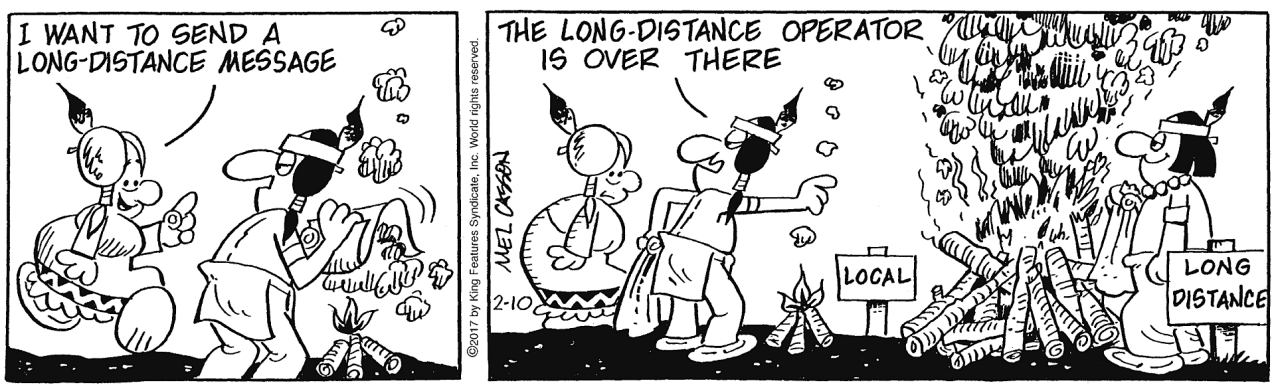

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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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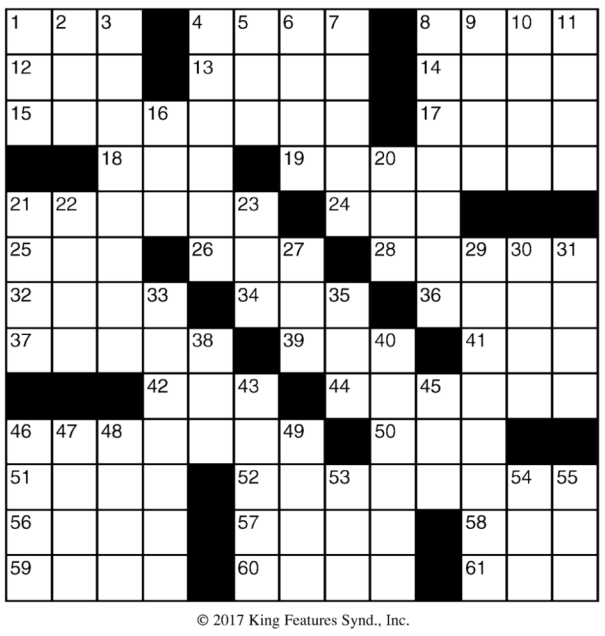
4 Tosses in
8 Slays, "Sopranos" style
12 Altar affirmative
13 Voice in an iPhone
14 Law office aide, for short
15 "Sinker"
17 Caspian feeder
18 Teut.
19 Financial rescue
21 Decapitate
24 Fish eggs
25 Greek vowel
26 Coffee holder
28 Family member
32 Tatters
34 Physique
36 Grabbed
37 Astronaut John
39 Speck
41 Work with
42 Wet wriggler
44 Persistent attacks
46 Bug
50 To the — degree
51 Smell
52 Bafflers
56 Otherwise
57 Throw
58 "To be or — ..."
59 Start a garden
60 — Stanley Gardner
61 Wildebeest

DOWN

1 Auction action
2 Commotion
3 Fiber
4 Religious retreat
5 Cacophony
6 Defeat soundly
7 Shankar's instrument
8 Rich
9 Gambling game
10 Herr's wife
11 Shaker contents
16 "Golly!"
20 Debtor's letters
21 Ice mass
22 List-ending abbr.
23 Fix the soundtrack
27 Deity
29 Cold symptom
30 Misplace
31 Stretches (out)
33 Showed disdain
35 Two, in Tijuana
38 Butterfly catcher
40 Feels pins and needles
43 Workshop machine
45 Ordinal suffix
46 Troubles
47 Not working
48 American Beauty, e.g.
49 Rain hard
53 Web address
54 A billion years
55 Disco fan on "The Simpsons"



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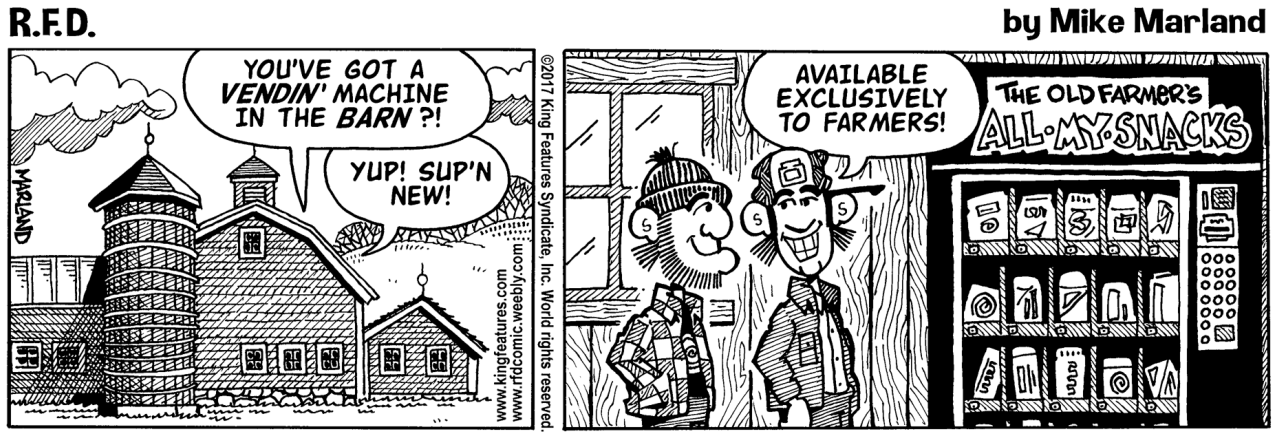
Answers page 2

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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Trump to sign orders advancing Keystone, Dakota pipelines

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will sign orders Tuesday to advance the construction of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines, a pair of projects that were blocked by the Obama administration due in part to environmental concerns.

Trump is to sign the orders Tuesday, according to a person with knowledge of the decision. The move is expected to be cheered by Republicans and some union groups who backed the projects.

Former President Barack Obama stopped the proposed Keystone XL pipeline in late 2015, declaring it would have undercut U.S. efforts to clinch a global climate change deal that was a centerpiece of his environmental legacy. The pipeline would run from Canada to U.S. refineries in the Gulf Coast. The U.S. government needed to approve the pipeline because it crossed the border.

Separately, late last year, the Army Corps of Engineers declined to allow construction of the Dakota Access pipeline under Lake Oahe, saying alternative routes needed to be considered. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe and its supporters say the project threatens drinking water and Native American sites, though Energy Transfer Partners, the company that wants to build the pipeline, disputes that and says the pipeline will be safe.

The pipeline is to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois.

The person with knowledge of Trump's decisions insisted on anonymity because that person was not authorized to confirm the moves ahead of a formal announcement.

Trump has moved swiftly this week to make good on some of his core campaign pledges he says are aimed at creating jobs and growing the economy. On Monday, he signed a memorandum withdrawing the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, a proposed accord with 11 Pacific Rim countries and another of Obama's prized accomplishments.

"Great thing for the American worker what we just did," Trump said as he signed the order in the Oval Office.

Yet even as Trump moves to implement his agenda, he is still making false claims.

During a reception with lawmakers at the White House Monday evening, Trump claimed the reason he'd lost the popular vote to Democratic rival Hillary Clinton was that 3 million to 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally had voted. That's according to a Democratic aide familiar with the exchange who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

There is no evidence to support Trump's claim. He made a similar statement on Twitter in late November that he had won the Electoral College in a "landslide" and "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally." Clinton won the popular vote by nearly 2.9 million votes but lost the electoral contest.

Trump's assertion appears to be part of a continuing pattern for him and his new administration in which falsehoods overshadow his outreach efforts.

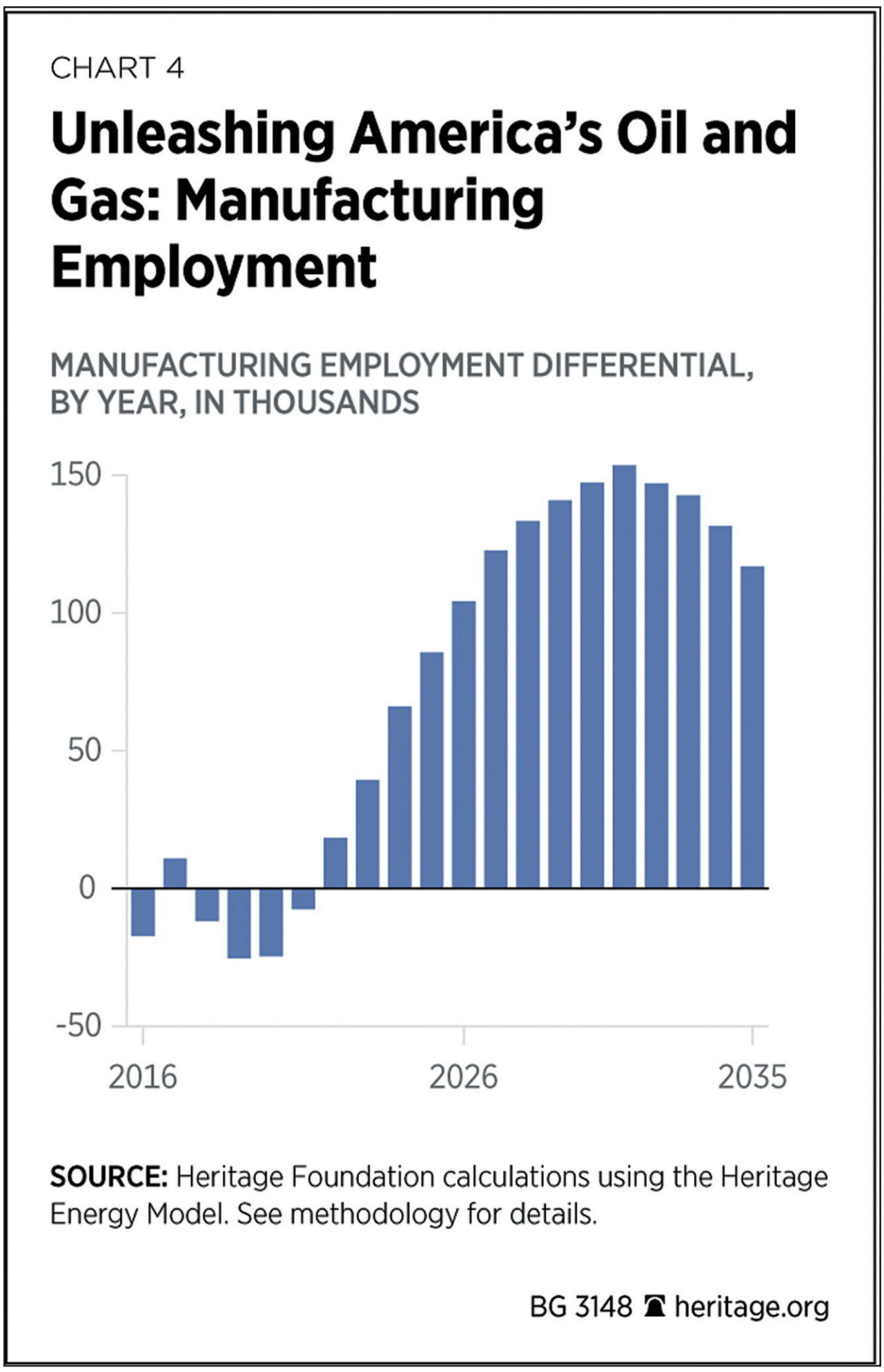
On Tuesday, Trump summoned the heads of the big three American automakers, General Motors, Ford Motor Co. and Fiat Chrysler, for a breakfast meeting at the White House. He pledged to scrap regulations and reduce taxes on corporations that keep jobs in the U.S., though he did not specify his plans for either.

His administration, he said, will "go down as one of the most friendly countries" for business.

Trump's actions signal a reset after a tumultuous weekend dominated by his and his spokesman's false statements about inauguration crowds and their vigorous complaints about media coverage of the celebrations. While Trump's advisers have long accepted his tendency to become fixated on seemingly insignificant issues, some privately concede that his focus on inauguration crowds was unhelpful on the opening weekend of his presidency.

In addition to his executive action on TPP, Trump signed memorandums freezing most federal government hiring — though he noted an exception for the military — and reinstating a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information on the option. The regulation, known as the "Mexico City Policy," has been a political volleyball, instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984.

The actions were among the long list of steps candidate Trump pledged to take on his opening day as president. But other "Day One" promises were going unfulfilled, including plans to propose a constitutional amendment imposing term limits on members of Congress and terminating Obama's executive actions deferring deportations for some people living in the U.S. illegally.



Kansas sends out incorrect tax forms

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) _ The Kansas Department of Revenue said it's resending about 380,000 tax forms after some taxpayers received forms that had incorrect information.

The department on Monday found that some of the 1099-G forms sent out for 2016 had incorrect refund amounts, The Lawrence Journal-World (http://bit.ly/2jeriQM) reported. The 1099-G lists money that the tax filer received the preceding year in the form of state income tax refunds, credit forwards or offsets. It also includes money given to a check-off program.

Information from the 1099-G is reported on the federal form 1040 that the taxpayer files this year if he or she is itemizing deductions.

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