



The Record

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Bad Idea; Better Idea

By Dr. Jim Haas

We all look to others for guidance when making important decisions—parents, successful friends, trusted teachers—so it’s reasonable for political leaders to look to other countries for examples of policies that work well. Japan famously conducted a detailed study of other leading nations in the late 19th century to expedite shifting from a feudal society and agrarian economy to a modern industrialized country with a parliamentary government. They copied the best of what they found abroad—German schools, for example—and became a world power in a generation.

America doesn’t need to build a new society from scratch, but we have serious problems to address as quickly as possible: the world’s costliest healthcare, gun violence, government that doesn’t fairly represent the people (the 50 current Senate Democrats have the same votes as the 50 Republicans but represent *41.5 million more people*), an inadequate response to the climate emergency. Make your own list; there’s no shortage of challenges.

And there’s no shortage of countries meeting similar challenges effectively. Oddly, though, prominent American conservatives are promoting Hungary as a model for change. This is a bad idea.

Hungary has a rich cultural history, and when it was freed from Soviet domination thirty years ago, became a democratic republic that soon joined the European Union (EU) and NATO. But with little experience of democracy, a national-conservative party under autocratic Prime Minister Victor Orbán took power in 2010 and began to rig the system by changing electoral rules and throwing out Hungary’s Constitution and writing a new one that suited their goals.

Orbán and his party are still in charge. How? By gerrymandering election districts and installing partisan election officials and

judges. That’s not democracy, and it’s gotten so unbalanced that in the last election, Orbán’s party got 54% of the vote but won 83% of the districts.

If this sounds familiar, it should because it’s the game plan of far-right conservatives here. Orbán’s policies are familiar, too: anti-Semitic, anti-Moslem, anti-LGBTQ, anti-immigrant. Hungary’s most distinguished independent university was shut down, and most public universities are now controlled by party loyalists. A free press barely exists with Orbán’s cronies running most media. In 2018, the EU Parliament voted to suspend certain of Hungary’s EU rights for violating protections for refugees and other issues.

America’s Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) recently met in Hungary featuring the likes of former Senator Rick Santorum and Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson. They and other influential conservatives promote Hungary as a model for a better America.

Here’s a better idea. Let’s use as models countries with the highest standards of living, whose citizens have an equal voice in gov-

ernment, who provide high-quality universal healthcare and free or low-cost higher education, whose women have full rights including paid family leave, who’ve taken effective steps to protect public safety, who maintain extensive public infrastructure, who have little public or private corruption, and who are leading the world in switching to sustainable energy.

Many organizations rank countries according to these and other benefits, and rankings differ somewhat according to what rankers emphasize. Rankings are easily found online by searching for “countries ranked by freedom” or by standard of living or by whatever you think important. You’ll have to look far below the top ten to find Hungary.

You’ll find the same countries dominate the top ten regardless of the emphasis: Norway (Parliament building pictured), Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Iceland, the Netherlands. There’s even a “World Happiness” ranking by Gallup that consistently has these same countries at the top. Those looking abroad for policies that work *for the people* need look no further.



Sue's Sudsy Soapbox



By Sue Reich

How many of you remember the '51 flood? I can still remember almost everything. The typhoid shots, the chickens, pigs, the car my cousin Don Hurd had to help the residents of Argentine get out of their homes. Aunt Helen Hurd losing everything, cousin Arla King walking away with the typhoid needle hanging out of her arm. People were "gigging" dead pigs and the National guard was called to stop them. A couple of my cousins and I went down to 7th and Met to wade in the low water there. Guess that's why we had to have those shots. My family and I would sit on our front porch at 11th and Metropolitan and watched Armourdale "go under." There was so many things that went down our KAW River. We washed in a Miracle Spring that for some reason came out of the hill at 12th and Ruby. Everyone used it for everything. After the waters subsided, the spring stopped flowing. The clean-up was massive. My dad, Bus Larson, went to the structural steel, where he worked, and scooped out the muck, mud and mire until they got it running again. That is where the Walmart is now in Argentine. Mom would pack his lunch and I would walk from 11th and Met. every day to take him his lunch. He would come home hot and very stinky and hose off and change clothes. Luckily no one lost their life, but a lot of animals did. So sad. Can't believe it's been 71 years. Something we will never

forget. Dad also helped clean out St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Such a devastating time in our young lives. A lot of people are gone now, their offspring are older

and I am sure we will always have those memories with us.

Well, got to sign off. Hope everyone had a safe July 4th. Take care, be kind. Lvyva all, hope we all can

recuperate from the pandemic, hope we get back to what we called normal. So many idgets are out there. From your friend from Argentine/ Turner, Sue



The anniversary of the '51 flood was Friday the 13th.



Cemetery in Turner. I know this bit of land in Turner on 55th street has quite a history. The graves there were probably some of the very first residents of this area. It makes for an interesting read.



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By Sharon Hoover

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

guys) and plenty of wheat grew. The summer help kids harvested the wheat and laid it out on the picnic tables to dry. Well, the birds found it and devoured almost 90% of it. With what was salvaged, the teens separated some of the wheat berries from the husks(chaff) for the TRC summer camp kids to examine.

Conversations commenced what to do with those wheat berries. Remember the story of "The Little Hen". She planted the seeds, grew the wheat, ground the wheat, and baked the bread. Aha! Let's get a wheat grinding mill! The mill arrived during the week the Junior Volunteer Corps was working in the garden connecting and laying the irrigation system (t-tape). The Vol-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Sometimes an accident turns into an opportunity. Every year, the garden purchases some straw to use as mulch to keep the ground moist and keep the weed seeds from germinating. It did a very good job of keeping the weeds down but last year the straw contained wheat seeds (unbeknownst to the



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Fairfax Industrial District 100th Anniversary Exhibit

As part of the Fairfax Industrial District Centennial the Wyandotte County Museum will feature the Fairfax Industrial District 100th Anniversary exhibit from July 5th until September 24th. A version of this exhibit will also be highlighted at the Fairfax Festival on October 6th, as part of the larger Centennial celebration brought together by the Fairfax Industrial Association.

The Fairfax Industrial District 100th Anniversary exhibit highlights the progression of the district alongside personal memories. It includes familiar and untold stories of people, places, and events in the district. This exhibit is designed

to help visitors connect with the place where tens-of-thousands of residents have worked over the past 100 years. Many of the objects and stories on display were shared especially for this exhibit. Visitors will see products made in Fairfax together with items employees saved from their time in Fairfax. Visitors can compare maps of the district, find out how long a company was in business, and look through employee newsletters and newspaper articles. It is a great way for families to connect with their past and we encourage visitors to share their memories connected to the district.

About the District: The Fairfax

Industrial District began more than 100 years ago with a vision for the future. In 1922, area property owners signed a petition to form the Fairfax Drainage Board. This move ultimately led to the area becoming one of the first planned industrial district, in the country. Through the 1920s the district became a hub for flight schools and airplane manufactures. It continued to expand with new industries despite the Great Depression. The district became a National Center of the Defense Industry during World War II, housing the North American Aviation of Kansas, B-25 plant and the Darby Corporation, which produced landing crafts, aerial bombs, and more. After the war new companies made the district their home. Since then, the Fairfax Industrial District has grown to house more than 130 companies and is still going strong.

About the Museum: The Wyandotte County Museum is located in Wyandotte County Park, 631 N. 126th St., Bonner Springs, Kansas. It is open to the public, free of charge, Monday-Saturday 9:00-4:00 pm. The Wyandotte County Museum is operated by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, with support from the Wyandotte County Historical Society & Museum Inc., a 501c3 non-profit. The museum mission is to strive to identify, collect, preserve, interpret, and disseminate material and information pertaining to Wyandotte County history, in order to assist the public in understanding, appreciating and assisting in the preservation of the heritage of this county.

For more information about this exhibit contact the Wyandotte County Museum at 913-573-5002 or visit www.wycokck.org/wyco-museum

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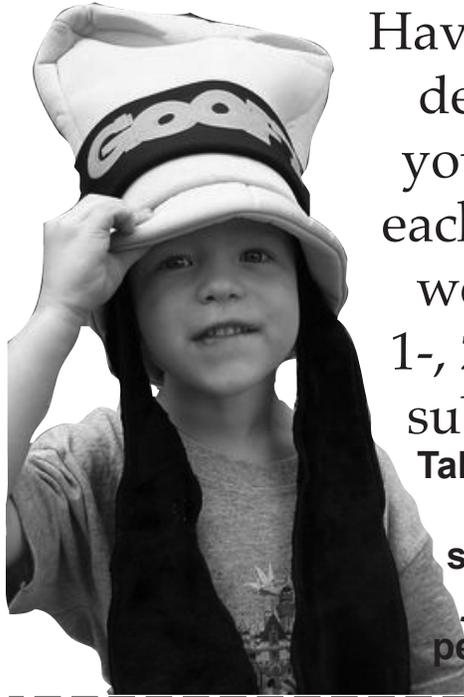
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Turner... ...from page 3

unteers separated some the wheat berries, assembled the mill, and demonstrated its use. Next week, the TRC summer camp kids will be able to do the same thing. Next year, when the kitchen is ready in

the Community Gardens building, we will be able to take it one step further and bake the bread. Sounds yummy!

Until next time stay safe and be kind to those around you. Please pray for those who have lost loved ones and continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to be free.



Governor Announces Fiscal Year with Total Tax Collections Surpassing Estimate by \$438.1M

Governor Laura announced Kansas' June total tax receipts were \$918.8 million. Those collections are \$20.2 million, or 2.2%, over the estimate and \$64.4 million, or 7.5%, over June 2021 total tax receipts.

"In June, we brought in more money than was estimated – re-enforcing that our state's economy is continuing its forward momentum," said Governor Kelly. "Our efforts to be the most fiscally responsible and pro-business Administration in Kansas history has helped our state become a hub for economic growth."

Individual income tax collections were \$40.3 million, or 9.9%, below the estimate. But for a one-time significant refund paid in June, such receipts would actually have exceeded the estimate by 6.7% for the month. June corporate income tax receipts, which are comprised primarily of estimated tax payments, continue their upward trend. Corporate income tax collections were \$148.1 million, or 48.1%, over the estimate and 33.2% over June 2021.

"The higher-than-expected corporate estimated payments send a strong signal that corporations anticipate greater profits in 2022," said Secretary of Revenue Mark Burghart. Combined retail sales and compensating use tax receipts at \$303.6 million were 10.6% over the combined receipts for such taxes for June 2021. Inflation may have positively impacted such receipts, but overall consistent consumer spending also has continued during the months of May and June.

When June's positive numbers are taken into account, Kansas will end FY 2022 with total tax revenues of \$9.8 billion which exceeds the FY 2022 revised estimate by \$438.1 million.

Governor Kelly Announces Increased Funding to Double Impact of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Programs in Kansas

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced the Kansas Children's Cabinet will begin matching dollar-for-dollar investments made by local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) programs to accelerate efforts to promote a love of reading in every Kansas child. This additional funding is made possible by a line item to add \$500,000 to the Children's Initiatives Fund that the Governor included in her proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget, which the legislature passed. Kansas children who participate in the Imagination Library program will have an age-appropriate book mailed to them from birth until they turn 5 years old. The goal of this additional funding is to increase the number of children signed up and expand the reach of local contributions.

"We know that one of the most important factors for early childhood learning and development is an early introduction to books and being read to at home," said Governor Laura Kelly. "Kansas community organizations currently connect more than 42,500 children with the gift of books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library each month. This new funding will enable the program to reach even more Kansas children."

Since September 2021, the Kansas Children's Cabinet has been working to expand access to DPIL to every child under five years old throughout Kansas – no matter their family's income level or background. Since every family must be signed up through a local community program, enlisting nonprofits to participate is essential. Efforts to date have resulted in an increase from 82 to 98 community programs, adding coverage in 65 additional zip codes across a total of 91 counties. This additional funding will help cultivate even more local community programs.

"As a father, I know the joy that comes from reading with your child," said State Representative Troy Waymaster. "Shortly after our son was born, we enrolled him in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. All children in the state of Kansas should have the ability to participate in this program as well. I am committed to helping ensure that all children in the state of Kansas, from ages zero to five, will have this opportunity."

About Dolly Parton's Imagination Library?

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has become the preeminent early childhood book gifting program in the world. The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation has gifted well over 182 million free books in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, and Australia. The Imagination Library mails more than 1.8 million high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to registered children from birth to age five. Dolly envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading, inspiring them to dream. The impact of the program has been widely researched and results suggest positive increases in key early childhood literacy metrics. Penguin Random House is the exclusive publisher for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. For more information, please visit imaginationlibrary.com. Nonprofit organizations interested in becoming a local community partner should reach out to Pam Hunsaker, phunsaker@imaginationlibrary.com.

Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

On the last day of June, Congresswoman Liz Cheney spoke at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA. As Ms. Cheney walked across the stage, there was a sign hung behind the podium which read: "A Time for Choosing"

The auditorium was packed and the topic of her speech was the future of the Republican party. This is what she said to her fellow republicans:

As the full picture is coming into view with the January 6 Committee, it has become clear that the efforts Donald Trump oversaw and engaged in were even more chilling and more threatening than we could have imagined. We have shown Donald Trump attempted to overturn the presidential election, he attempted to stay in office and to prevent the peaceful transfer of presidential power. He summoned a mob to Washington. He knew they were armed on January 6th, he knew they were angry. And he directed the violent mob to march on the Capitol, in order to delay or prevent -- completely, the counting of the Electoral votes.

Trump attempted to go there with them and when the violence was underway, he refused to take action to tell the rioters to leave."

Instead, he incited further violence by tweeting that the Vice president, Mike Pence was a coward.

Trump said quote, 'Mike deserves it.' And he didn't want to do anything in response to the "Hang Mike Pence" chant. It's undeniable, it's also painful for republicans to accept. And, I think we all have to recognize and understand what it means to say those words and what it means that those things happened.

The reality that we face today as republicans as we think about the choice in front of us; we have to choose. Because republicans cannot be loyal to Donald Trump and loyal to the Constitution.

As she spoke her final words the republican audience began to loudly cheer, clap, and gave Ms. Cheney

a standing ovation. She was taken aback by the reaction of the audience and was holding back tears, she was very moved. From the beginning, when she signed on to be Vice-chair of the January 6 Committee, she has been reviled, ostracized by her peers, and all because she stood up for what is right. The only other republican on the Committee was Adam Kinzinger. For their dedication to their Oaths, they each had threats of death to themselves and their families. Both rose in time of crisis and showed that they served the Constitution and not the evil ex-president.

These are true Patriots and to go against their political party required strength of character and a passion to serve the people of the United States. The January 6 Committee has worked to reveal the full extent of Trump's efforts to steal the election win from Joe Biden.

Cheney and Kinzinger are heroes whose work will be remembered long into the future. They are owed a debt of gratitude for standing up against Trump and his Fascist, Neo national, extremist groups in defense of Democracy and Freedom. They honored their Oaths to support the United States Constitution and were faithful to it and demonstrated that this is more important than allegiance to a failed, self-serving, ex-president.



Passings...

By Sue Reich

Sandra Whistler, age 87, passed away on June 24, 2022. She was a life member of the Kansas Alumni Association and a member of the KU Nurses Alumni Association. She had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force where she served as a registered nurse and retired with the rank of Captain. She also worked for many years at the University of Kansas Medical Center.



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