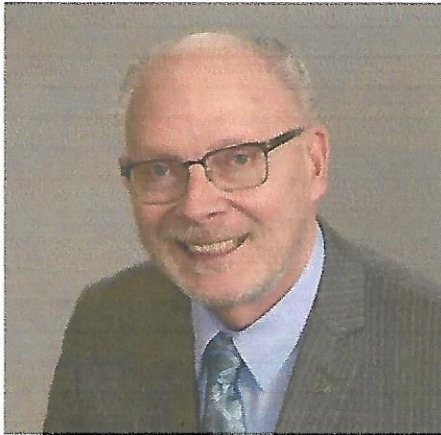


Letter From the Chair



Last week as I read news articles about the infighting among fossil fuel interests over the allocation of state funding to various efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, I asked Scott Skokos to provide me a list and description of the actors either supporting or opposing efforts to contain carbon dioxide emissions. The cast of characters in this melodrama is rather extensive, and the plot line is confusing as one set of actors seeks to undermine the efforts of another set of actors to promote its own efforts. Indeed, the plot is almost Shakespearean, the scenes are ever changing, and the cast of characters is always evolving.

As you read through the articles, you'll notice that wind and solar interests are not represented among the actors pleading for funding because the legislature excluded them as applicants for funding from the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority. You would think that wind and solar energy interests would be eligible for funding because they are clean and sustainable while coal and oil are not, and that is why environmental interests – including Dakota Resource Council – opposed the bill when it was introduced. Nevertheless, I've been amused at the infighting between oil and coal interests, and it reminds me of the adage: When your opponents are fighting each other, it's best to not take sides.

That evening, I had the strangest dream: It was a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's Henry the VI (Part I) set in Nordriket, a petti kingdom allied with other petti kingdoms into Nord-Amerikas Rike. The ruler of petti kingdom is King Burgomson, who prior to ascension was a wealthy duke from the dutchy of Microsoftia. He had never earned the trust of the noble families because of his education at the finest royal college in the petti kingdom of Kalifia, the wealth

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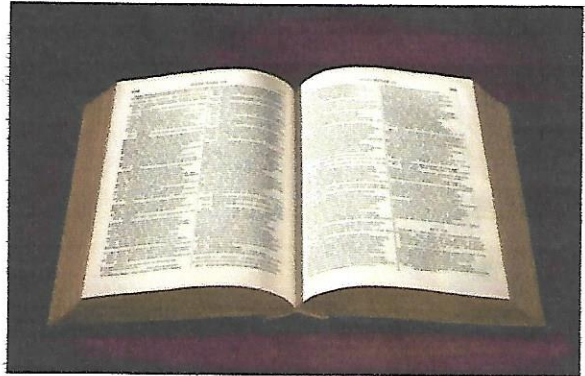
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(LETTER CONTINUED)

gained from his business acumen, his tendency to think that he can apply his alleged innovativeness and creativity to the governance of the realm, and the fact that his dutchy was relatively independent of the other dutchies which included the Dutchies of Landsbrukt, Kull, and Olje.

During King Burgomson's reign, the Dutchies of Kull and Olje came under increased pressure from other petti kingdoms, the Houses of Finance in the wealthier petti kingdoms, and the government of Nord-Amerikas Rike, because their produce was polluting the entire rike. Facing threats from Nord-Amerikas Rike that the Dutchies of Kull and Olje should clean up their produce, King Burgomson convinced the parliament -- whose members are primarily from the noble families -- to appropriate funds generated from a royal tax on kull and olje into a fund in the royal treasury. That fund was to be governed by a privy council comprised of representatives from the Dutchies of Kull and Olje. This privy council would hear pleadings from representatives from the dutchies for funding to be used to develop technologies to clean up their produce.

Unfortunately, for King Burgomson, the Dutchies of Kull and Olje began quarreling amongst themselves about which technologies from which dutchies should receive the funding. The representatives of Dutchy of Kull were under the impression that the fund was to be used exclusively to fund technologies to clean up their produce, while the representatives of the Dutchy of Olje thought the same regarding their technologies. The dispute between the two dutchies became so intense that the members of parliament gathered to debate the intent of the law it had passed to establish the fund. The Duke of Olje and the Duke of Kull had marshalled the noblemen of the petti kingdom to their respective causes. In their dispute before parliament, the dukes picked red and white roses to represent their difference of opinion. The rest of the noblemen did the same, thereby choosing sides in conflict. A wise counselor to King Burgomson -- who asserted that the parliament should have never appropriated funds to clean up the produce of the Dutchies of Kull and Olje -- warned that the dispute could spin out of control resulting in a civil war, but that he would sit aside and watch the carnage unfold.



Then I woke up when the dog whined that it was time for him to go outside and take care of his duties. I cursed my college English literature teacher for forcing us to read an assortment of Shakespeare's plays. But having read them, I know how Henry the VI ends, and as a student of English history, I know how the War of the Roses ends. I can't predict how the dispute between the oil and coal interests over appropriations from the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority will be resolved, but I'm laying in stock a supply of popcorn to watch the fireworks.

Curt Stofferahn
Chairperson

(Vogel Continued)

At the end of Vogel's presentation, one DRC member spoke up and thanked Vogel for not only saving their family farm, but her brother's life.

Vogel is continuously touring the country to talk about her story and giving people hope that one person can make a monumental change.

Vogel's book is available at most local bookstores.

"This is my kind of story—the young, inexperienced lawyer facing big odds. It's remarkably well told and heartfelt. I really enjoyed it."

— John Grisham