

You give me a hundred million dollars and I'll create more than 15 new jobs. I guarantee it.

According to the coal industry, "our coal-based generating fleet is more than 77 percent cleaner on the basis of regulated emissions per unit of energy produced." It is also claimed that "America's coal-based electricity providers have invested more than \$50 billion in technologies since 1970 to reduce emissions," and "there is over \$6 billion in clean coal research underway right now in 41 states — even ones not normally associated with coal production."

Source: ACCCE

Wyoming is the nation's largest coal producing state so it makes sense that we'd be on the receiving end of a lot of the federal funds involved in keeping coal a viable fuel, regardless of what else is discovered or invented.

Gillette has a \$90.664 million endeavor - **National Energy Technology Laboratory**, the ENCOAL Mild Coal Gasification Project. Green River Basin has a \$20.185 million project - **NETL/Southwest Regional Partnership on Carbon Sequestration**, the Southwest Jurassic/Triassic Deep Saline Sequestration (Stage 2). And, Moxa Arch has two projects: **NETL/Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Partnership** (\$110.444 million), Phase III Saline Aquifer Large Volume and **NETL/Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Partnership** (\$7.973 million), Wyoming Phase II Saline Injection. Laramie has three projects, the largest

being a **Department of Energy**, Jointly Sponsored Research on Energy-Related Topics (\$52.980 million) project.

Why is Cheyenne so excited to be last? Why weren't we at the head of the line?

Grand Forks, North Dakota has 12, count 'em, 12, projects with 11 of them through the Department of Energy. What is Cheyenne, chopped liver?

The joint venture with General Electric is not even on the "clean coal technology" map. Is it real or yet another mirage?

How many jobs is the \$100 million supposed to provide to the local economy? Fifteen has been reported. That can't be right. The cost of a new job with public money shouldn't be anywhere near six and two-thirds million dollars. Other report says 300 new jobs. Anytime a new job costs a third of a million dollars to provide, we should not get excited.

I'll make an offer. If government and GE will give me a hundred million dollars, I will promise to create at least a thousand high paying jobs. And I have no idea what the business would be. I just know it wouldn't take \$100 million to create 15 high paying jobs. Nor 300. The difference would be, of course, that the jobs I would create would make the business funded profitable. A clean coal technology

laboratory would be designed to need more and more funding with every passing year. By the time this laboratory has anything constructive to offer, other electricity generation could supplant coal. Not entirely, just as we know it today.

These projects, the clean coal outfit and NCAR, sound an awful lot like remodeling the Hynds Building. Promised for over twenty years, the only occupants of the downtown buildings are rats, mice and bugs. The Dinneen property has a neat rendering of what it "will become." Who will live long enough to see that happen?

Is this a good time for General Electric to invest \$50 million into clean coal technology studies? They've got their hands full with a new host of the Tonight Show.

This Stimulus Plan of Obama's and the Democrats is going to break us. It's going to start so many "make-work" projects that we won't be able to afford to finish them. My dad once told me that greatest expense of the WPA was broken shovel handles. But we were in a depression then and needed to give men a way to feed their families - even if the projects were "make-work" and unnecessary. That's not the case now. As high as 90-92% of Americans who want to work have jobs. Spending money to build unnecessary things may be wise short-term but it'll destroy our nation long-term.

Another conservative hypocrite

Well, well, well. First it was Senator John Ensign of Nevada. He admitted to an affair with a staffer. Both the female staffer and her husband had been on Ensign's payroll(s) while the affair took place. As contrition, Ensign resigned his position as chairman of the Republican Senate Policy Committee. Yeah, that oughta make things right.

Accusations that the woman staffer had received pay hikes while the affair was underway were swept aside. After all, he resigned his Republican leadership position - four ranking in the Party. While most of us couldn't pick the 51 year-old senator out of a line-up, it was reported that "speculation was that Ensign was preparing to enter his hat into the 2012 presidential elections." Yeah, right.

Senator Ensign reportedly considered the staffer and her husband "his friends." He's been able to effectively shift criticism to the husband who may have been after some kind of financial "payoff." Now that the cat's out of the bag, it might be a little easier for the guy to hook up with another Congressman's office. His new card can say, "Have Wife, Will Travel."

Ensign was never going to be a serious contender for the Republican presidential nomination - no one had ever heard he was even interested. Of course, Barack Obama came out of nowhere - a nondescript, non-voting Illinois state senator - and look where he now lives.

South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford, on the other hand, had been considered a contender. Not anymore. Unless we apply Bill Clinton's past and have decided that infidelity is not a disqualifying trait in a president. And it may not be.

Sanford was in the U.S. House when Bill Clinton was being tried. He voted for three of the four articles of impeachment. He thought someone in Clinton's position ought to have some morals. Pot/kettle.

Then, the chickens came home to roost.

In an 18 minute press conference, in which he did not accept any tough questions and answered what he wanted asked, not what was asked of him, he said things like, "I'm a bottom line kind of guy." Then he dissembled like mad about his affair. He praised his wealthy wife (sound familiar - John Kerry) for "how closely she has stood by my side." He didn't mention that she had told him to leave their house a couple weeks back. Sanford said that "I have been a person of faith all my life." A Ted Haggard kind of faith, obviously. He asked the media, "for a zone of privacy - not for me, for Jennie and the boys." What a thoughtful guy. For the children. His affair became known to his wife five months ago and he just took a secret trip to Argentina? He talked about how the relationship "had started innocently" via e-mails. He couldn't break it off by e-mail - he had to go to the woman for a week - "cry five days in Argentina" - to give her the bad news? Will he resign the governorship? Not willingly, but he must be forced out.

Free Country Club membership for mayor and council members?

As Yogi said, it's déjà vu all over again.

Maybe the new mayor was hoodwinked into putting his name on the letter to the Cheyenne Country Club - maybe he is a willing participant. Likely the latter.

Rick and Patrick Collins received a letter from the Cheyenne Country Club President, informing them that their request of April 28, 2009 for "honorary memberships" to the Country Club, "as required by the lease the Club has with the City of Cheyenne," had been "acknowledged".

The Country Club in the lease with the City is required to do that. However, state statutes make pressing for honorary memberships a dicey proposition.

The original lease is # 787 and is dated December 28, 1953. Basically, it allowed the Cheyenne Country club to lease 156.63 acres of land for a term of thirty (30) years, beginning January 1, 1954.

Lease # 787 has been amended several times. It seems all the Club has to do is to offer to mow the grass once more each month and the lease is extended another ten, fifteen or twenty years.

May 13, 1991, the Club agreed to pay "such past and future real property taxes ..." in return for an extension to the lease.

The lease then in effect was to expire January 2, 2020 - 29 years after this modification. As reward for doing what the City probably could have required them to do - if property taxes even apply to a country club - the City extended the lease another 15 years. Yep, that's right. A fifteen year extension. Now, the lease will expire January 2, 2035 "unless otherwise extended."

That's just around the corner, isn't it? With less than 26 years to go, another extension must be in the offing.

On January 27, 1969, the City and the Cheyenne Country Club agreed to extend the lease that was to expire January 1, 2000. The Club agreed to certain new provisions in the lease for an extension to January 1, 2020.

Those provisions included, "permitting" the Club to be used for an "annual South-eastern Wyoming Interscholastic Athletic Conference Golf Championship."

Interestingly, there is a provision to "permit use" of the golf course and clubhouse (without charge) for "the Western Athletic Conference Golf Championship Tournament." The WAC lost all of its regional members when the Mountain West Conference was formed in 1999. So, a conference that does not include Wyoming

is entitled to have its conference golf tournament in Cheyenne - AT NO CHARGE.

There were other provisions of the new lease including an "amature" (sic) championship. And, Para 4. of the new lease provides for "honorary memberships to: the Governor, the Mayor and Councilmen of Cheyenne (sexism was certain alive and thriving back then) ...".

In 2001, the City received a legal opinion that those honorary country club memberships were a violation of Wyoming state statutes - statutes that the Legislature had just passed in 1998 to end or at try to slow down the influence peddling creeping more and more into state and local government. By the way, county commissioners are not included in the gratis memberships. The UW and LCCC prez's are. And the Base commander.

The Country Club (if they grant free memberships) and the Mayor and Council members who apply for the honorary memberships and accept them, are in violation of state law. They do so at their own peril. **[W.S. § 9-13-101 - 9-13-109]**

REMEMBER: CHEYENNE RESIDENTS CAN PLAY GOLF AT THE COUNTRY CLUB ON MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS - WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP OR SPONSOR. PAY GREENS' FEES!