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Dave, Rita and those other two guys did the right thing in denying public money for a private day care facility in Cheyenne

The question should not have had anything to do with need for an expensive day care facility in Cheyenne. It should have been solely how it would be funded.

Government does not have a responsibility to provide extravagant day care for a few private families. It just doesn't.

And to even consider it in a State that screams like banshees when the prospect of universal health care is even broached is incredible.

Today's vote by the State Loan & Investment Board was 4-1 against providing millions of dollars to create a day care facility to benefit fewer than 200 families - maybe 125 families if they averaged more than a child each for this publicly funded facility. (McBride voted in favor.)

Arguments in favor of the day care were specious when made in favor of other people paying for a place to watch very few children. If those arguments of need are valid, there is nothing stopping the same group that sought the public money from raising it privately. And they should.

Obviously, those parents who feel so strongly that there are no quality day care providers in Cheyenne at this time and were equally confident that a facility built and subsidized with public funds would answer their demands, should now pursue private funding. The fact that the governor and three other members of SLIB rejected the request from a privileged few does not mean the project has to be scrapped.

In fact, it is more imperative than ever that this same select group move forward and prove SLIB wrong. Build the facility with private money, gain accreditation and fill it to the rafters with children of parents who are willing to pay two to three times market rate for day care. Develop a waiting list longer than the Green Bay Packers and prove to SLIB that there was a huge, pent-up demand for this type of day care. That is your right.

With private money, couple with the high rates those parents seem willing to pay for "quality" day care, they can even cater lunches for the youngsters housed in a Taj Mahal Daycare Palace.

Short of accomplishing this endeavor on their own, funding it privately, they need to sit down and shut up.

Notice which groups supported using public funds to provide a private day care operation. The City of Cheyenne. Laramie County government. Laramie County Community College. LEADS.

Every one of them is a hands-out publicly funded organization that is not required to make a profit or even live within its means because they can go back to the State or donors for more money.

In a WTE editorial on October 8, Reed or Mike wrote that "those figures were rigged." Now, this is an outfit that knows when numbers are rigged. Too bad they didn't have the same attitude when the City and underwriters really "rigged" the figures for the downtown parking garage.

Whichever one of the guys wrote the editorial started the flawed piece by writing, "Opponents of a proposed child-care for Laramie County ...". Nobody opposes a local child-care center. Build a dozen of them. A hundred if you want. Use profits of the WTE to put one on every corner of the downtown. God knows we need something down there to save the area.

The opposition is strictly based on who pays for a facility like this. A facility that would, at most, benefit a tiny percentage of local families. And, for the WTE to now embrace "Laramie County" as though they give a tinker's dam about the non-city residents, is laughable. This is the same group that has frequently proposed charging non-city residents higher user fees for city amenities. They now open their arms to the same people.

"It's you and me, baby. You and me against SLIB and the Cheyenne Herald. We love you guys. Only want to help you with your day care needs. We would never think of charging you more to use the golf course or pool." The WTE cares only about subscribers and advertisers. If Cheyenne and Laramie County could somehow provide free day care to all comers, perhaps a dozen or so new families would come to Cheyenne or the county to live and maybe a couple would subscribe to their inferior daily newspaper.

Let's put this project into perspective.

If such a facility is built, and the supporters will no doubt pursue private funding to accomplish it with it being so desperately needed and they being so opposed to allowing existing day care providers to come into contact with their children, it will have 182 slots. 182! When built, many of those slots will be taken by insiders and the favored few who have the right connections.

The WTE presented its argument in favor of spending public money for a private facility on the basis that it would solve all quality and shortage problems of local day care. It would have done neither. That is a crock.

To further insult existing day care providers, the WTE offered that these places, places that have to satisfy customers to make a profit so they can remain open, only improved offerings or hours because of the threat of this 182 slot facility taking their business.

How any of the current day care providers can continue to spend a buck advertising in the WTE escapes me.

For some reason the WTE maintains that affordability was not considered in the later study that showed an abundance of local day care slots. Are they implying that existing slots are too cheap or too expensive? No one has come out and said it but was the expectation that the new slots would be cheaper because they'd be subsidized by government or from money donated to the United Way for other uses?

Projections of future needs are as unreliable as the representations made by the City about future parking needs in the downtown. When they made those exaggerated claims, they had no way of knowing that most of the major employers in the downtown would close or relocate over the following few years.

Already, since the quest for a publicly funded day care facility began, Sierra Trading Post had a very public layoff. The location of the proposed facility made it very apparent it was intended to be used primarily by Industrial Park businesses.

Everyone may agree that it is unfortunate that parents have difficulty in finding just the right fit for their child(ren) in day care - in the best location, by the best provider, at the lowest cost.

But, long before this Starbucks crowd came along, parents faced the same challenges. It isn't a new challenge. In Wyoming especially, those earlier parents would not have thought of demanding a day care facility be provided for their children, using public funds to pay for it and to subsidize their child's care. They just didn't think that way. Now is different.

Today's crowd, not all obviously but way too many, expect government to do for them what they cannot or will not do for themselves. They bought a gas-guzzler a dozen years back and then leapt on the opportunity to have the government pay them \$4,500 for being stupid. The "me generation" has grown up.

A letter to the editor, inadequately identifying the writer as the head of the group wanting the public funds to do something they could not do - fund the facility - in the same WTE conveniently omitted that fact. He led the unsuccessful group.

He started his letter: "The Early Childhood Education Partnership is truly a partnership of businesses, community organizations, educators and government agencies." What he failed to mention is that his group was supposed to raise private funds for his personal day care center. They failed abysmally.

He also claimed that this small operation was going to "meet the demands of Laramie County businesses and its workforce." With a 182 slot day care center? It would be a bit player in any day care shortage they may ever be. It was to be a private, exclusive country-club-level day care for a few dozen children. Children of well-to-do parents who should stay home and raise their own children or quit asking others to pay for a facility for their child. His coup de grace: "... our children and our future will be the victims."

This day care plan should have been DOA in terms of public funding. But, by all means, raise private money and do it. Save our children and our future. You.

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