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Vetoed bills

In a legislative session where seemingly a thousand bills were introduced and a good share of them passed, it is almost a foregone conclusion that the governor will veto some of those that were passed.

In the recently concluded session, Dave vetoed four in their entirety and used line item veto authority on a fifth. Two of the House bills vetoed would probably have seen a veto override had the action been taken while the group was still in town.

HB213 and HB286 passed both legislative bodies with large majorities. HB213 passed through the House committee on a 9-0 vote, through Appropriations 5-2 and the full House by a 56-3-1 vote. In the Senate, the same HB213 passed committee 4-0, Appropriations 3-2 and the full Senate 30-0. Back to the House, the vote was 60-0. There were 13 co-sponsors.

Not much chance of Dave riding out that veto. The same thing was true for HB286. The House committee voted 9-0 for "Do Pass," and 59-0-1 in front of the whole body. In the Senate, it went 4-1, then 24-6. Back to the House, it was 59-1.

When the governor takes the opportunity to veto bills after the legislators have left town, it becomes one-person government.

It just so happens that HB213 was panned on these pages so I'm glad the governor vetoed it, regardless how many legislators supported it. It added bureaucracy and that's not a Republican thing to do.

The other two bills he vetoed, HB262 and SF34 were closer. In the first, the Senate passed it 17-13 and the latter passed the House by 43-15. There may not have been enough votes to override his veto.

Cheyenne's population?

When the Census Bureau finished the nose-counting for the 2000 census, Mayor Jack Spiker refused to accept the outcome. For a couple years, he would not change the city's population on the entry signs to the city.

In 1990, then-mayor Gary Schaeffer successfully fought to have enough people added to the Census Bureau's initial tally to take Cheyenne over the magical (mystical?) 50,000. 50,008 to be exact.

When the official count came in at 53,011 for 2000, then-mayor Jack Spiker would not accept that figure. He wanted the Census Bureau to recalculate, using arithmetic, not head counts.

They wouldn't. And, they didn't.

If Jack was right in 2001, what will the Census Bureau come up with for 2010? If he was wrong, growth will be easier to calculate. The arithmetic he wanted them to use in 2001 will be simple to apply.

Because of building permits issued, Jack felt the population in Cheyenne had to have grown by more than 6% in the previous decade. No other reason - just the number of building permits issued. He did not accept that the average "persons per household" has been on the downswing for years. Smaller families and more people living alone have skewed historical calculations.

Had the average per household been 2.6 in 1990, the number of household units (which includes the escalating number of

twin homes, apartments, etc.) would have been 19,234.

Had the average person per household slipped even one-tenths of a person in that decade, the number of household units for 53,011 would have been 21,204, an increase of 1,970. The reality is that, for the past few decades, a city with no population growth would still require more household units to house the same number of residents. That's reality.

The growth rate for the city of six-tenths of one percent per year spun the WT-E into a tizzy. Insults were hurled at any and everyone involved. They have (since Eckhardt's arrival, at least) espoused a 3% annual population growth. The fact that only two states in the United States saw such explosive growth in the 1990's was lost on them. In the 1990's, when the non-city population change was included, the area grew by 1.1% annually.

If Jack was wrong in 2001 and the Census Bureau was close, an annual growth rate of even 1% would result in a 2010 population of about 58,500.

If he was right, and his numbers calculated by building permits issued was more accurate than a head count, and the 2000 population was the 55,000 - 56,000 he believed, that same 1% annual growth would bring a 2010 population of 60,500 - 61,500 (rounded).

School enrollment has generally declined year to year. Our 2010 population will be around 57,500, in my opinion.

CBI - UDub

As a basketball player, you just want to keep playing. As a senior, whether college or high school, every additional game is that much more special. So, when UW was passed over by the NIT (UDub had no chance to be selected for the NCAA tournament), it was not surprising that they (whoever made the decision) chose to accept an invitation for another game.

If you're like me, my first thought when I heard "CBI" had to do with the television franchise. I only hoped that the red-head creep that used to be on NYPD Blue wouldn't be a part of this tournament.

The men's basketball team didn't do too well this past season. Frankly a little better than this writer expected but those first thirteen games, almost all against tomato can opponents, didn't improve their chances to make a postseason tourney. Nonetheless, the second-year CBI came calling and UW must have had an extra \$60,000 tucked away, so they played a team no one had ever heard of. And lost. End of tournament. End of season.

With the NCAA taking 65 teams, the NIT another 36, you'd have to wonder how many more teams deserve to play in a postseason basketball tournament. Now, UW didn't but they're all we've got so what the hell - let 'em play. It would be the "Ball Hog's" last play-for-pay game. What could it hurt? CBI took another 16 teams.

So, you ask, do all of these CBI teams have winning records? The answer is "no." Oregon State (14-17) and St. John's (16-18) both had losing records. UW's record after an 11-2 start was 8-11 before the final loss to Northeastern in the CBI tourney. It was P.T. Barnum, wasn't it?

Oregon State bought a first home game. Evidently there are schools with better judgment than UW. \$60,000 to play a single game in an unknown tournament sounded like a lot of money to some of these schools. The team that beat Wyoming wouldn't pay \$60,000 to play UTEP at home in the second round. The home team has an almost insurmountable advantage when playing on its home court.

UTEP bought the second round game because Northeastern wouldn't. Wonder what CBI would do if neither school would pay the freight to host a game?

Oregon State, with its 14-17 record, bought the first round game - against Houston, which was 21-12. OState won by four. OSU bought the second round game - they won in overtime by one. OSU bought the third round game - they won in overtime by three. UTEP, which was allowed to buy the second round game, won it and the third round game. Now Oregon State and UTEP play a best two of three series for the "championship." First at OSU, then at UTEP (maybe two).