

Say it ain't so, Joe. Say it ain't so.

Joe Meyer is an attorney.

Nobody ever said a very good attorney. Just an attorney. And maybe a college roommate of the former vice president.

He's not an accountant.

And, he's the Wyoming State Treasurer because it's easier than finding a real job. A real job in the private sector. Joe hasn't had a job in the private sector for ... well, maybe ever if you don't count those first couple years in private law practice.

In the Cheyenne Herald's dictionary, beside "trough feeder," it says, "see Joe Meyer."

He says and does some bizarre things.

Remember how he announced he was going to run for governor and then backpedaled faster than Ricky Hatton in the Manny Pacquiao fight when the Republican Party said, "you're not our guy?"

Joe Meyer is nothing if not cautious. So, he chose to run for Secretary of State for a second term. A bird in the hand is better than two in the bush - and a steady salary is better than none at all.

And caution is usually a good trait in a bean counter. But Wyoming's bean counter has fewer and fewer beans to count with each NYSE closing bell.

Wyoming's investments tanked like almost everyone else's. Getting a 401K statement in the mail nowadays is something akin to receiving your draft notice back in the early 60's. It was no fun opening that envelope.

Alas, Wyoming's Shoeless Joe devised a way around disclosing the massive losses. Taking a page out of the Hillary Clinton playbook, Joe announced that Wyoming would only recognize gains to our investments, not losses. Remember, that's how Hillary turned thirty-five cents into a hundred grand. But no one is eating *our* losses. Joe is not going to reduce gains made in earlier times (perhaps under his predecessor's watch?) by losses under his. Nice touch.

Not since those 1919 Black Sox has a more devious way been attempted to cover losses. Joe's solution is to reduce the principal amount by the losses, allowing the gains to stand.

That's what can happen when we allow an attorney to have a hand in our treasury. And in years to come, no one will know that the Treasurer's office, under Joe Meyer, oversaw the ruination of state investments. What they may notice is that the principal amount declined in spite of continued gains. What? For a Democrat governor to buy into the scheme makes sense. A Democrat is not expected to finances. A Republican is.

Citizen Survey

Being the only Cheyenne resident who actually purchased the past Mayor's Citizen Surveys, I noticed that it was no longer being done.

Presented by former mayors as critical to the management of Cheyenne and by the daily newspaper as the King Jack version of the municipal bible, it was surprising that, without notice or fanfare, the survey was simply dropped.

This survey was, after all, the holy grail. According to the love duo in City Hall and at 702 W. Lincolnway, the survey not only advised insiders what the public thought, it was their only reliable link to residents' opinions. It was also a major source of income for a local "econo-missed" who mailed the survey and tallied responses.

In recent years, the effort to get at least a 50% response led to multiple mailings to the same recipient and multiple responses from that same recipient. It had become an unreliable barometer of residents' opinions but it was, according to the mayor and WT-E, the only way they knew how to manage the city.

Why would anything so critical to intelligent management of Cheyenne be dropped without notice or fanfare? Was it because the insiders had become so adept (or is that inept) at running the city's operations that such outside input was no longer wanted or necessary? Or was there a more nefarious reason for dropping the survey that had been done for a

decade or so? Was it so the mayor could divert those funds (at least \$7,500.00 annually) to another, more important cause? And divert those funds in a way not likely to come to the attention of the public? Don't tell 'em, they won't know.

What other use - a use better left unannounced - could be better than a citizen survey that had been presented for so long as irreplaceable - as invaluable?

What project was more important than being told by residents (at least a few hundred of them, at least) how to manage the city? What amenities were and were not important to those surveyed?

But, rather than being told what to do, what use could the city make of that money to tell residents what to do?

Might it have been the rec center? How could the city spend those funds legally and still convince residents that a rec center was more critical to the future of Cheyenne than any other project ever has been or ever could be? The city cannot present a proposition to voters and ask that they vote in favor of that proposition. Nor can they recommend voters vote against such a proposition. But there is nothing in the law that prevents them from presenting only favorable points about a project - and then stop short of telling voters which way to vote. Voters only given one side of an issue may be inclined to vote that way. That is what the city used the survey money for.

Cyndy's still a "No!"

I'll bet this gal didn't eat her spinach, broccoli, asparagus or cauliflower.

She just shakes her head at everything.

In the last issue of the Cheyenne Herald, there was a listing of the bills voted on since Cynthia Lummis arrived in Washington.

In baseball, there is the fictional "Mendoza Line." It is used to illustrate an offensive ineptitude of a baseball player. Mario Mendoza played parts of nine seasons in the major leagues. The reference to "below the Mendoza line" means a batter is hitting below .200 - or one hit in every five official plate appearances. Mendoza not only couldn't hit, he also did not earn walks and did not steal bases. In his nine seasons, he had 1337 plate appearances with only 52 walks and he was caught stealing eight times in his 20 attempts. Not much of a player.

Mendoza was known as a defensive specialist and only had one season with over 400 at-bats. He appeared in 148 of the 162 games one year and batted .198. Ever-consistent, he appeared in three post-season games and batted .200.

Cynthia, your very own Cynthia, has driven a stake in the heart of the Mendoza Line. Her batting average, if voting in the U.S. House of Representatives were analogous to appearing in the major leagues, would be, after her latest vote on the Community Oriented Policing Services grant program, but .048.

Seldom has anyone, in any legislative body, been so negative. Yes, she votes "no" on every bill that was passed.

Consistent, yes. Useful? No.

COPS Improvements Act of 2009 - Vote **Passed** (342-78, 12 Not Voting)

The House authorized this five-year, \$1.8 billion bill funding the Community Oriented Policing Services grant program.

Rep. Cynthia Lummis voted **NO**.

Of twenty-one bills voted on since her arrival in D.C. in January, Mrs. Wiederspahn has voted against 20 of them. All twenty-one passed. She has been on the prevailing side once. That was "**Making further continuing appropriations for FY2009.**" Spending.

Chances are she and her staff would not have been paid had that bill not been approved. That does make a difference.

In the COPS bill shown before, only 78 of the 435 who could vote on the bill chose to vote "no." Cyndy was one, of course. All 78 negative votes came from Republicans. Isn't the Republican party the law and order party?

So, Cyndy's voting record thus far is 1 "yes", 20 "no." We don't really need a human to do that, do we? Where is J. Fred Muggs? Next up: **Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act.** Bets?

ADD: (as of Tuesday, May 5, 2009)

Congressional Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 - Vote **Passed** (233-193, 7 Not Voting)

The House passed the conference report for the 2010 fiscal year budget resolution.

Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act - Vote **Passed** (249-175, 10 Not Voting)

The House approved this bill that would provide local jurisdictions with funds to prosecute hate crimes.

Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009 - Vote **Passed** (357-70, 7 Not Voting)

The House passed this bill that intends to place new restrictions on credit card companies.

Rep. Cynthia Lummis voted **NO** on all three listed above.

Now she is batting .042. If you prefer degree of negativism, she is at .958.

Note a new Cheyenne Herald e-mail address:

cheyenneherald@yahoo.com

(Instead of cheyenneherald@bresnan.net)

Both will be active for awhile, but a conversion will likely be made over the coming weeks.



**Polish w/ Kraut
Large Drink
Large Fries**

\$5.99 plus tax

Burger Inn
Pershing & Snyder

MAXIE MNDAYS - \$1.25