

EDITORIAL

Should demand their money back Have financial contributors to the agitators group been misled?

The Nebraska Office of Political Accountability and Disclosure Commission informs that political donors and the amounts they donated to the agitators group formed within the Ponca school district is a matter of public record. Which means the names and amounts will be readily available on the state web site well before the upcoming bond election.

The Treasurer of this organization, William Kastning, disputes that he has to give up this information. Whether we get the information from the State or from treasurer Kastning himself is immaterial. The point we remind Mr. Kastning of, is that in America, politics are inherently open, and political donations are especially open by regulation and statute.

Mr. Kastning, as treasure, would enhance his group's credibility by striving for the utmost openness he or it can muster.

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If funders of this group were led to believe they could donate anonymously, they have been sorely disserved. In which case, if they wish to remain anonymous they should demand their money back. Agitating to the public is one thing, but to mislead one's own hardcore membership makes this exercise almost a lark. Treasurer Kastning may be a victim in this case. Was he properly briefed? Does he know if anything is going on behind his back? Who are these alleged out-of-staters he is serving?

At any rate, to better serve those who don't have access to the state website, we will publish the names and amounts donated to this agitator's group. *Editor.*

August 25, 2005, Editorial Page of the Nebraska Journal-Leader:

Paragraph one:

“...political donors and the amounts they donated to the agitators group formed within the Ponca school district is a matter of public record.”

This is nothing more than a scare tactic made by the lead “Pride” publicist.

It is true that some amounts are a matter of public record. However, that amount must exceed \$250 to be individually published. A simple search of the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission website will reveal who and what must be itemized. All amounts taken in by a Ballot Question Committee (which ABC’s is formally filed as) must be disclosed and any individual contributions exceeding \$250 must be provided to the state annually.

The last time checked, the “Pride” group’s contributions were never published in whole or in part. Where is their “utmost openness” mentioned in this same Journal-Leader editorial?

Paragraph four:

“If funders of this group were led to believe they could donate anonymously, they have been sorely disserved”

It is the subscribers to this publication that have been disserved. Subscribers should expect integrity and truth in its paper, not false propaganda. Again, the names and addresses of those providing total donations under \$250 are not subject to any public disclosure.

Paragraph five:

“...we will publish the names and amounts donated to this agitator’s group.”

According to the Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary, an agitator is “one who stirs up public feeling on controversial issues”.

During the last bond election, the “Pride” group members were the agitators. Why weren’t they labeled such by the paper? So much for their public charter to report all the news fairly. The silent majority has awoken (and has been labeled).

Growth confusing for communities

Most small towns in Nebraska have been struggling with problems of decline. When growth and expansion begin to occur the change is confusing. It is confusing because so many unrelated and independent economic actions take place simultaneously. Adam Smith's invisible hand is at work. None of these independent economic players have perfect knowledge, but together they produce a very large economic event. It is confusing because all these actions are difficult to see as a whole, but there are signals.

Early signals are the actions of big companies. Big companies in our area include Tyson, BPI, and Wal-Mart who are all expanding production. They market to the

world. Purchases of their goods and services from across the world produce funds that are enabling these businesses to expand and to offer additional employment opportunities right here in Siouxland. In short, the influx of foreign purchases has created new opportunities in Siouxland. These companies are earning plus foreign dollars, which, in turn, they are reinvesting in the local economy. Their growth stimulates the local building trades and their attendant economic activities. And so it spreads to the benefit of the whole local economy.

Growth may be difficult to foresee, but its impact is unequivocal.

Randolph, not so bad

Last week, I discovered several Randolph families weekend vacationing with their kids down by the river. They were surprised to learn of WNAX's reported feature on their town. They weren't aware of any great economic problems in their town. They felt things were booming along at a fairly steady pace. It could be that the report of WNAX's report may have been overstated in the school board meeting. Also, we've heard similar reports that Laurel is having difficulty, which appears to be untrue. Then, of course we've heard unfair comparisons to Allen's new school.

This appears to be a pattern, and it seems to be coming from the small cabal involved in defeating the school bond issue. It is the same people who, reportedly, first admitted they were paying funds to outside agitators, and then later denied they were paying funds to outside

agitators. (Sound familiar? Admitted it, before denying it?)

They would have opposed Allen's new school as well

These are the same folks who are now crying crocodile tears for Allen's beautiful new school, and truth be known, they would have opposed that new school also. They praise Allen's new school, but only after the fact. Only after the hard work of the good people who worked to get their bond passed. These agitators are against any public school, and they would have brought in outsiders to tilt against Allen's school also. Don't believe it? Watch their lips and be fooled.

We expect that Allen is grateful these agitators don't reside in their school district. *Editor.*

Nebraska Journal-Leader

Judy L. & Richard D. Volkman
PUBLISHERS
USPS 376-140
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF
Dixon County, City of Ponca, City of
Allen, City of Emerson, City of
Newcastle,
Ponca, Newcastle, Emerson-Hubbard,
and Allen Public Schools

Postmaster, send address change to

Nebraska Journal-Leader

P.O. Box 545, Ponca, NE 68770

Published weekly on Thursday

Periodicals postage paid at Ponca, NE

Member Nebraska Press Assn.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Dixon County and adjoining Nebraska Counties -

\$22.50/yr;

Outside area \$34/yr;

Postal Zones 7 and 8: \$44/yr.

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August 25, 2005, Editorial Page (cont'd) of the Nebraska Journal-Leader:

Paragraph five:

“...it seems to be coming from the same cabal involved in defeating the school bond issue. It is the same people who, reportedly, first admitted they were paying funds to outside agitators, and then later denied they were paying funds to outside agitators.

More “fine reporting” at work. Exactly which of the five ABC’s officers was interviewed about committee expenditures to so-called outside agitators. More good use of inflammatory descriptions; agitators and cabals.

It is apparently fine for the “Pride” group to hire outside assistance (such as Kirkpatrick Pettis and Neumann, Monson, Wictor) in their campaigns, but not for anyone in opposition to their proposals. Many in the ABC’s resent the use of their taxes to pay for outsiders to help run multiple bond proposals that the majority of voters oppose.