

# CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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## Comments on Congress Shaping policy is hard work

By Lee Hamilton

You can interpret the Senate's recent rejection of the immigration reform compromise several ways.

You might see it as a political response to intense anti-immigrant pressure from talk radio and a slice of the heartland. You might consider it "an enormous failure that borders on dereliction of duty," as one Florida newspaper editorialized.

Or you might, as I do, count it an especially convincing example of just how difficult it can be to create sound public policy.

As the subject comes up at the courthouse-square café or over cards at the VFW hall or in conversation at church, many Americans no doubt are shaking their heads over the fact that, once again, Congress failed to act when it needed to do so.

Yet those exchanges themselves illustrate the problem. For some, illegal immigration is a scourge that must be dealt with harshly; for others, it's a fact of life that requires us to integrate millions of people into our society; for still others, immigration presents an opportunity to build an economy for the 21st century.

All these points of view were present in the Senate debate. And you can find equally diverse, passionately held beliefs whenever Congress takes up the most pressing issues facing us today: Iraq, health care, energy policy, global warming. It is Congress' job to find a way past those differences, to forge legislation that serves the national interest, meets the desires of the American people, and allows Americans whose views diverge sharply to find common ground. It's frustrating when it fails. But let's not pretend that it's easy.

The issues Congress is being asked to confront are extraordinarily difficult and they come at its members with such great rapidity that the time to consider them carefully seems an unaffordable luxury. Sometimes, as with global warming, there's a consensus as to the nature of the problem but no agreement at all - either on Capitol Hill or in the country at large - on how to proceed. Sometimes, as with health care or immigration, there's not even agreement on what the problem is, only that there is a problem.

For our political leaders, sorting through all this is immensely complicated. Some issues are highly technical and demand detailed study; others have so many moving parts that it's hard to master them in their entirety. And while Washington is filled with entrenched interest groups that may contribute to understanding the fine points of any given issue, they will inevitably fight hard when their interests are at stake.

If discerning where the national interest lies is difficult, so is trying to figure out where the American people stand on any given issue.

The truth is, our opinions are often fuzzy - more a gut sense than a finely nuanced argument - and changeable. Crafting legislation that will be accepted by 300 million people, or even a majority of them, is a gargantuan challenge. This is one reason many members of Congress would rather put off dealing with tough issues, and it is why it takes extraordinary political leadership to come up with a solution that can command a majority in Congress and support from most Americans.

It gets even harder when you take into account the process that legislation must pass through. Our system was designed by its framers to move slowly - to cool passions, to prevent a rash response, to keep the majority from trampling the interests of the minority. Letting it work can be immensely frustrating, especially when movement bogs down over the specific wording of a measure or a seemingly trivial point.

But the measured pace of change is also a gift, allowing legislators to examine an issue from all sides, understand its intricacies, look for unforeseen and unintended consequences, build consensus on Capitol Hill, create support in the country at large, and educate the American people as to what they're doing and why.

When they can't, our tendency is either to blame the politicians, assigning them all sorts of malign motives, or to blame the system itself. What we forget is that there are genuine, deeply held political differences that have to be resolved. It's hard work, and it demands strong leadership, patience, and an abundance of good will.

The road to producing good results can be fraught and difficult, yet I'm reminded of Gerald Ford's comment when he became President after Richard Nixon's resignation: "The Constitution works," he said. It does. We might not always enjoy the troubles that assail us along its path, but in the end we move past the difficulty of the moment, achieve at least a few victories, and, refreshed, square our shoulders to face the next challenge.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

## Web poll

Tell us starting Wednesday at our web site,  
carrollcountycomet.com

Each week the *Comet* polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at [carrollcountycomet.com](http://carrollcountycomet.com) starting each Thursday, and then click the *Comments* link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed the following week.

### Do you think school uniforms would be a good idea for local schools?

Yes - it would equalize students.  
No - it would take away individuality

### Last Weeks results

#### How do you support Carroll County Relay for Life?

11% As a walker  
16% As a donor  
14% Both as a walker & donor  
59% Not at all  
Total responses: 44

I call it the case of the "disappearing ink." My son Brad rolls his eyes in disbelief when I tell the story. He doesn't agree with me over the bad intentions I see hidden, lurking behind the computer screen.

In order to clarify a negotiated point in a real estate contract, I had the two parties initial a change to the standard contract language. But when the dust settled I wound up with a copy of the document with my client's initials but none with the initials of the other party.

I was already of the opinion that the other side was "tricky." They were about to prove it, at least in my book.

So, the other side e-mailed me a copy of the contract. There, up on the screen, appeared both sets of initials, but hit "print" and the tricky side's initials disappeared.

My son says it's my limited skills at the computer that keep these illusive initials from landing on my page. I'm staying with my own conspiracy theory complete with disappearing ink. Let's face it, from a writer's point of view it's much more interesting.

### Brown leaves

My wife observed the other day that lots of trees have with-

## Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



### Got ya

ering leaves at the far end of their branches. Wilt, that's what I've heard it called.

I suppose that the "good" in the way of nutrients and water from the core of the tree doesn't quite reach all the way to the outer end, the far perimeter of the tree.

It's sad, in any shape it takes, when it seems there isn't enough good - enough good will, or good cheer or good luck to reach all the way to benefit the all - be it a tree or a family, a career or a community.

### Trailing clues

I stopped in the library the other day. What a refuge. It was cool and quiet and just the spot to catch my thoughts and reroute the day.

I sat at a computer station in the middle of the room and did a little research on the internet and looked at e-mail. When it was time to leave I asked of the librarian instructions on how to log out of the computer.

"No need," I was told.

So off I went.

But then, as the dust hit the road, I got to wondering. I hadn't been at our local library, I was in unfamiliar territory and I was an unfamiliar face to them, too.

Were they now reviewing my travels on the computer? Was my e-mail being reviewed?

Paranoid you ask? No, but uncomfortable for the moment would describe that feeling as the trail I was leaving behind grew further along.

### Regrets for things not done

They say it's the things you don't do for which you have the most regret. I'm no exception.

I got asked to do something the other day. It was a real honor to be asked, one of those special moments that come along. And yet, I'm not up to the task, not able to say yes.

It's so hard for me to say no to this one, that I haven't said that no yet. It's hard to release the blessing of opportunity without at least a tussle with perchance or maybe.

And yet, I can't do it. It would be unfair to say yes.

I feel the well of regret swell up and there's no way to look the moment un-seized that is passing.

## Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The letter writer's name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: editor@carrollcountycomet.com; Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

### Jefferson Township resident responds to perceived inaccuracies reported

To my fellow Carroll County citizens: Mr. Robert Mills - the letter to the editor you submitted to the papers was so full of inaccuracies I hardly know where to start. The total Jefferson Township portion of TLRSD's Phase III and IIIB is approximately \$6,000,000 for the sewer plant and \$5,000,000 for the feeder lines.

With a different plan, we don't need the plant that TLRSD wants to construct. Because of the inclusion of too many homes due to the circuitous route necessary to get several miles east of Monticello and the Rattlesnake Creek polluting plant, we can cut the feeder-line cost in half.

The conservancy district could develop a lakeside-only plan with an expected cost of less than \$3 million. There are many grants and subsidies that will help with this last expense. The few residents left in this plan will pay a nominal fee to have Bio-town process the waste. I hope this answers many questions about the conservancy's true cost.

We were brought to the TLRSD by individuals who wanted their problems solved by others. I would not be advocating the conservancy district if I believed it would do the same thing and place a heavy financial burden on my fellow Jefferson Township citizens.

Gregory Smith  
Jefferson Township resident

## Restaurant Inspections

### Subway

Routine inspection: 7/3/07

Summary of violations: **No Violations Noted**

### Little Bit Country

Routine inspection: 7/5/07

Summary of violations: **No Violations Noted**

### Camden Grocery

Routine inspection: 7/5/07

Summary of violations: **No Violations Noted**

### Gracie's

Routine inspection: 7/6/07

Summary of violations: **No Violations Noted**

### Maple Leaf Country Store

Routine inspection: 7/13/07

Summary of violations: **1 Non-Critical**

There was a food employee in the food prep area without a hair restraint. Directed to correct by one day.

### Camp Tecumseh

#### Lake Village

Routine inspection: 7/17/07

Summary of violations: **1 Critical**  
The sanitizing solution for the wiping cloths read over 400 ppm. Corrected.

### Camp Tecumseh

#### River Lodge

Routine inspection: 7/17/07

Summary of violations: **1 Critical**  
1) The sanitizing solution for the wet wiping cloths read over 400 ppm. Corrected.

### Delphi Discount Tobacco

Routine inspection: 7/19/07

Summary of violations: **1 Non-Critical**

1) There was not a thermometer in the freezer in the back room to measure the air temperature. Directed to correct by two days.

### Delphi Pizza King

Routine inspection: 7/19/07

Summary of violations: **No Violations Noted**

### Hollow Acres Golf Center

Routine inspection: 7/30/07

Summary of violations: **No Violations Noted**

## Marriage Licenses

Nicholas Ryan Dekoster, 23, of Ottawa, Mich., and Katherine Elisabeth Wright, 23, of Brookston.

Daniel Levi Arion, 21, and Melissa Kay Foster, 22, both of Delphi.

Dustin William Bowers, 26, and Crystal Lynn Anderson, 30, both of Monticello.



### Guest opinion:

## Where will it stop?

I attended the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District (TLRSD) meeting July 28. I was the only one there except for an older couple and the *Monticello Herald-Journal* reporter. I am glad that I did attend, as they were discussing how they are going to stop the conservancy (the conservancy that hasn't even had the first step in the process approved yet...). As I sat there it became clear that they planned to promote confusion and scare tactics on a larger scale under the guise of concern for the recent actions in the court to establish a conservancy. They said:

1) They have someone in the field getting signatures and values of property among the farmers in Jefferson Township;

2) They have someone in the field getting signatures and values of property among the folks at C&C Beach;

3) They have someone in the field working the rest of the area along the lake; and

4) They are planning a mass mailing to all the folks in Jefferson Township that are within the boundaries of the TLRSD and asking the value of their properties and that they sign their petition to stop the conservancy.

If they can come up with freeholders with 66 2/3 the value of all the property in Jefferson Township opposing the conservancy, they will be able to stop it - if it gets started. Or if they can come up with 51% of the freeholders in Jefferson Township opposed to the conservancy, they will be able to stop it - if it gets started.

I believe that the TLRSD must feel threatened to wage this all-out campaign against something that hasn't even passed the first step of its forming! They expressed confidence that they would be able to stop the conservancy - and they skirted around the declaratory judgment issue!

But their purpose is to CONFUSE THE POPULATION - while they threaten our county officials concerning the Declaratory Judgment!

The real issue at this time is not the conservancy, it is to get the declaratory judgment filed. And that is the issue that the TLRSD is hoping we will confuse with the push that they are making opposing the conservancy.

If we can get the Declaratory Judgment filed, it will allow a court to determine who will have jurisdiction over Jefferson Township - Carroll County or TLRSD! And it is just possible the court will feel Carroll County should have jurisdiction over Carroll County!

I am concerned about the misunderstanding among the citizens, and want you to know that it is all a part of the TLRSD plan! Those tactics have been used before so that the TLRSD can accomplish its objective. And this time, their objective is to have Jefferson Township citizens paying monthly rates for the rest of their natural lives and in most cases, paying monthly rates for something they do not need.

I remember saying it was not going to be easy - and it won't. The request for monetary assistance for filing the Declaratory Judgment will be going before the Carroll County Council. We need to rally behind our elected officials. Our commissioners have taken a bold move and we are trusting that our council will be as concerned as our commissioners are. I made the statement that I know the county is facing money problems. It will be a hard decision for our elected officials to face, but it still stands - either they support the citizens or they bow down to the sewer district. There has to be a way we can work together to regain control of our township.

The Commissioners and the council need to know that we support them; with our presence and with our willingness to dig into our pockets and pledge to help defray the costs of this lawsuit. It is our future, and the future of Carroll County.

Folks, this is not just about TLRSD - but about the freedom to be governed by our

elected officials. If we do not step up and gain the right of being governed by our elected officials, we will be doomed to be governed by an entity that does not allow an election - that does not represent our citizens - and if it starts here - where will it stop?

Pat Robertson  
Jefferson Twp. property owner

visit us on the web  
[carrollcountycomet.com](http://carrollcountycomet.com)

### Because the public has a right to know...

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the *Comet* will now print upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

Wednesday, Aug. 8  
√ Burlington Town Council: 7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 9  
√ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m.-White County Gov. Building

Monday, Aug. 13  
√ County Chamber sponsored discussions with Rich McClain, Brandt Hershman and Joe Donnelly: 7 p.m. - Interpretive Center

√ Public hearing for the 2008 Delphi city budget: 7 p.m. - Delphi City Council room

Tuesday, Aug. 14  
√ Camden Town Council: 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 15  
√ Delphi Board of Works: 5:30 p.m.

### Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Not of Suit-Yeagley.....5B  
Sheriff Sale-Lively.....4B  
Sheriff Sale-Suto.....5B  
Jackson TWP-Budget.....2B  
Deer Creek TWP-Budget.....2B  
Town of Yeoman-Budget.....4B  
Rock Creek TWP-Budget.....4B  
Liberty TWP-Budget.....6B  
INDOT - Notice.....5B  
Rossville Sch-Ann Rpt.....4B  
Delphi Sch - Permit.....5B  
County Council - Budget.....6B  
Sheriff Sale-LaPlante.....4B

Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at

1-800-228-6013.