

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Whoever is President, an administration needs oversight

By Lee H. Hamilton

After the inauguration of Barack Obama as President, the White House and Congress will both be controlled by Democrats. There's an important question that should be high on every attentive citizen's list of concerns: Will Congress live up to its responsibility to exercise robust oversight over the new administration?

I hope the answer is an emphatic "yes," because whoever is President, an administration needs oversight.

It is Congress's responsibility, after all, to ensure that the country is functioning properly and our laws are working as intended. In fact, this oversight process can be helpful to the White House, by bringing fresh eyes and insightful questions to policy-making and its implementation.

In 1787, John Adams wrote of what were to become the House, the Senate and the presidency, "Without three divisions of power, stationed to watch each other, and compare each other's conduct with the laws, it will be impossible that the laws should at all times preserve their authority and govern all men." The start of a new administration is exactly the moment for our leaders to recommit to that ideal.

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.

Lavish office parties are out this year, with the economy what it is, and our office is no exception.

At our last group meeting the manager announced that our annual holiday party would consist of a carry-in. Without fanfare, a sign-up sheet appeared out of nowhere with page headings labeled appetizers, salads, main courses and desserts.

As the sheet made its way towards me the music from the sound-track for "Jaws" played in my head.

"No store bought," the party organizer said as she waged her pointer finger at us all, admonishing us on how much fun this was going to be.

Blame it on the microwave, but I've lost all my instincts when it comes to cooking.

When the sign up sheet got to me I scanned the open categories and my eyes fell on "brownies." A sense of calm swept over me. How hard could brownies be?

When the meeting was over the carry-in assignments got posted on the bulletin board in the lunchroom. I noticed my friend Therese checking out the list to see who was bringing what. Suddenly she made a bee line over to me.

"I know every variety of store bought brownies, Mister," Therese said, "don't you even think of cheating?"

Uh oh.

And the brownies would have been no problem, if:

- a) my wife had been in town
- b) I had shopped earlier



Recipe for trouble

than the night before, or

c) I had cheated and gone with the store made.

Anyway, the night before the party I headed to the grocery store. And there I found choices and more choices. So I camped out in the cake mix aisle and read the back of each of the leading brownie mix makers. I even checked out the store brand generic. In the end I went with the Cadillac of brownies - the Duncan Hines.

I needed eggs - easy. Just pick a size. I went with large. I needed cooking oil. Not so easy. I have no body of knowledge concerning cooking oil. I don't know the pros and cons. Olive, peanut, corn - oh my. Heart healthy or tasty - which?

Wesson screamed out as the brand I could picture in the pantry of my childhood. I went with Wesson.

Then I headed home where it occurred to me, did we have the correct size baking pan?

I knew the pan was going to be a critical ingredient - the right sized cooking pan. But nowhere in the instructions did it mention what size pan to use. I read, then reread the instructions. I pulled out every pan in the kitchen and

started eyeballing them for size. Just like the cooking oil, I would go with instinct.

Of course it turned out the pan size was in large lettering on the front of the package. And the 9X12 size called for was one we didn't have. In fact, all of the baking pans I could find seemed pretty beat up. It turns out I was looking in the wrong spot. That, however, did not stop me from going to the mini mart to purchase a disposable foil pan.

Bad idea. Wrong size. Thin material.

I must say the stirring went well.

I knew better than to peek - "don't open that oven door," I said to myself.

But for lack of a toothpick, much was lost. Because once the timer said done - well they just didn't look done. I popped those brownies in and out of that oven a have dozen times. Everytime I cut a tiny tasting sample my knife forked through the disposable foil pan.

I compared my brownies to the picture on the Duncan Hines package. They seemed to be distant cousins at best.

I skipped the party but sent the brownies.

My friend Therese, however, told me she loved the brownies.

"Really?" "I loved the nuts in them," she said, inquiring what kind I had used.

But I'm not telling. Good cooks keep their secrets. And my secret is that my brownies were decidedly plain.

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.

Cautions readers

A lot of places are selling these new fangled infrared heating systems. They advertise that they cost pennies a day to operate. They also claim 30-50% savings on your next heating bill.

I bought one of these heaters. They are great for space heating, but if you run the heater all day, it makes the meter run like crazy. My electric bill was double what it normally runs and I didn't save much on natural gas.

You might want to reconsider buying one of these units.

William Madden
Monticello

Business as usual

I heard this morning there may be a consideration of Gov. Blagojevich resigning with continued pay. I think that would send a message that he is not really guilty of the crime he's being accused of. And, if he isn't, then why is Illinois trying to get him out of office?

What is wrong with us??? This is not a secret that no one knows about. And I'm sure there's a lot of other corruption going on in local, state and federal government. We should not be tolerating this kind of manipulation but we are because the "we the people" have no real say so in these matters. It's just business as usual in the political world. No wonder we're in such a MESS!!!

Pat Mills
Bringinghurst, Ind./Sarasota Fla.

Take a stand for EMS

I have been an EMT for 25 years and I know how hard we fought to get the coverage we have in his county. At an accident scene or domestic disturbance, I never had to worry about watching my back because an officer was always there.

The Emergency Medical Service (EMS) seems to be the focus of budget cuts and this county needs to take a stand just like we did for Carroll Manor. I know the county's EMS director Mike Durr well. He is dedicated to his profession, a good role model and a qualified leader. He is also extremely frustrated with the budget cuts.

I'd like to share a few thoughts from an EMT's perspective.

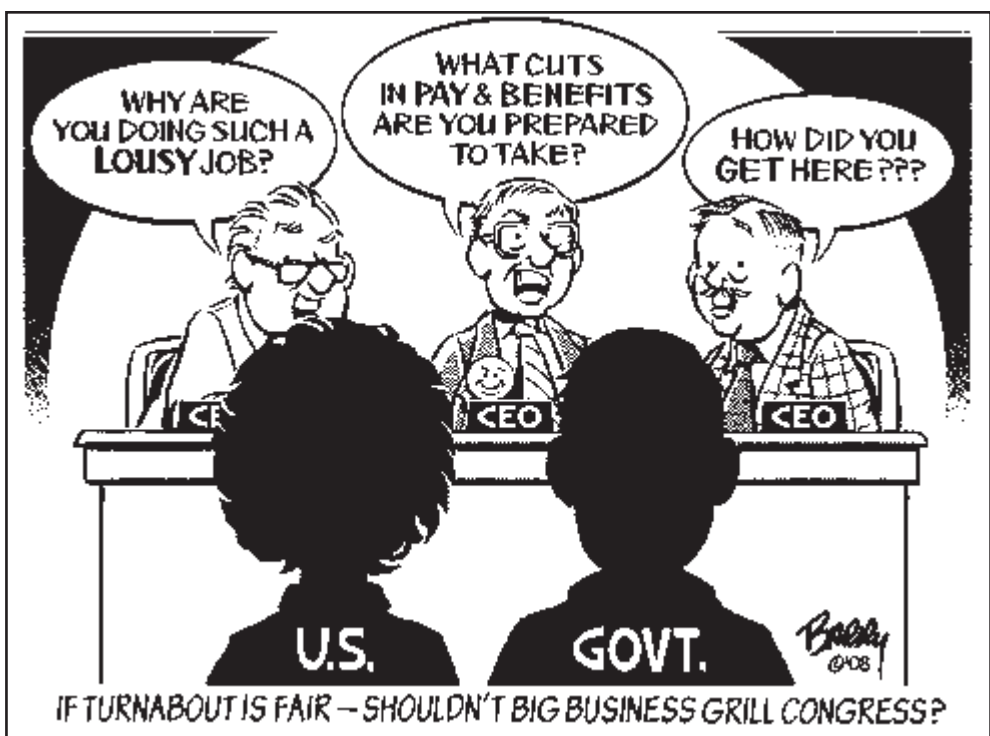
- 1) Every EMT or paramedic I know has to work at least two jobs because the pay scale isn't high enough to support a family.
- 2) The burn out time for people in EMS is around four years, partly due to the stress of the job, partly due to pay.
- 3) There is what is known in the medical field as "The Golden Hour." That's the optimum time frame from when an emergency starts to when doctors intervene. Recovery is greatest within that time frame. It's usually between 10 and 15 minutes before an ambulance is called. If the ambulance is 20 to 30 minutes away and it takes another 20 to 30 minutes to get to a hospital, your "Golden Hour" is used.
- 4) After about six minutes without oxygen, brain damage starts. A person is without oxygen when they are having an allergic reaction, an asthma attack, emphysema, a baby with croup or a heart attack. If an ambulance is called when an attack begins with your child or loved one, and you live in Yeoman, that person is going to be without oxygen for 24 minutes before an ambulance can get there from Delphi.
- 5) If you are in a serious accident or pinned by a piece of machinery, it could take 20 to 30 minutes to extricate you after waiting 20 minutes for the ambulance, and another 20 minutes to a hospital. It does not take long to bleed to death or suffocate.

Turning the ambulance service over to a contractor is not the answer either. The community I moved from thought contracting would be a wise move. What they've found out is that the contract states that the service will provide ambulance service to the area. What it doesn't mean is that there will always be a local crew or ambulance. If there is no crew available, the local unit is shut down. If you need ambulance service it may come from 30 miles away.

When the economy is bad, companies close and people feel desperate and unsure about their future. It's the worst time to cut fire, police and EMS. People do desperate things to get money, they rely on unsafe methods for heating their homes, and they have to choose between food and a doctor's visit. We have no emergency facility in this county and most doctors aren't taking new patients.

It's time for the community to take a stand once more and not give in to complacency.

Karen Rodgers EMT-B
Camden



Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

New filings

Larry Farner was charged with criminal mischief.

Brandon R. Becker was charged with maintaining a common nuisance and possession of marijuana.

Shane D. Hayden was charged with criminal recklessness.

Scott O. Akers, Monticello, was convicted of OWI and endangering and was sentenced to one year supervised probation.

The following were dismissed: Federal Home Mortgage Corp. vs. Robert O. Kenworthy, Joyce Ann Kenworthy, et al; Transworld Systems vs. Laura S. Wick; Stan and Darlene Spencer vs. Barry and Brook Sandifur; Peter F. Kunz M.D. vs. Sally Vescovi; Harry W. Jones DDS vs. David and Sherrie Cain; Matthew Macaluso for Cayla Macaluso vs. Allen Beckett Jr and Lisa Ringer.

Judgment to foreclose was

granted the plaintiff in: Washington Mutual Bank vs. Alan L. McCracken Jr. and Beth A. McCracken for \$193,299.40.

Default judgments were entered for the plaintiff in: Merchants Acceptance Inc. vs. Thomas L. Harrison for \$1,693.99; Ron Carmen Excavating vs. Michael Stout and Valerie Stout, \$1,814.84; Pearson's Gas vs. Ken Conners, \$994.70; FFPM/Carmel Holding I LLC vs. Melissa R. Little, \$963.04; World Financial Network National Bank vs. Brian L. Northrup, \$2,323.34.

Judgment was entered for the plaintiff in: Ron Carmen Excavating vs. Brad Eurit and Julie Eurit, \$2,587.23; Lafayette Accounts Inc. vs. Ronald Stevens and Penny Stevens, \$1,426.71; Discover Bank vs. Randie E. Veach, \$7,918.75.

Traci L. Hahn was found guilty of check deception and was sentenced to one year supervised probation.

Default judgment was decided in favor of the plaintiff in the following: Auto Club

South Insurance Company vs. Nicholas K. Kellogg; Horizon Veterinary service vs. Esteban Olivio; Capital One Bank vs. Nina Emmett.

Judgment in the sum of \$401.95 plus court costs was decided for the plaintiff in Ronald D. Matthews vs. Ricky Wolma and Lisa Wolma.

Judgment in the sum of \$817.04 plus court costs was decided in favor of the plaintiff in Van Kauffman vs. Chris Tanner and Pat Tanner.

The following causes were dismissed: Jackson-Lee-Pearson vs. Brian Fogarsi; Jackson-Lee-Pearson vs. John C. Workinger; Capital One Bank vs. Michael L. Turner.

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, Dec. 17**
 ✓ Burlington Town Council special meeting: 9:30 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 22
 ✓ Carroll County Council: 8:30 a.m.
 ✓ Delphi City Council special meeting: 5 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Unity HC-Anderson4B
- Shanks Estate4B
- CCSC-Bus Chassis4B
- CCSC-Bus Body4B
- Sheriff Sale-Baker4B
- Camden-Pub Notice4B
- Duke Energy4B
- Heathcote Estate4B
- CC-Ord. 2008-174B
- CC-Ord. 2008-184B
- Sheriff Sale-Akers4B
- Fite Estate4B
- Sheriff Sale-Martin4B

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.

Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie

New filings are from public records available in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi. Other information regarding judgments and marriage dissolutions is gathered from public records found in the clerk's office.

Complaints on note and to foreclosure mortgage were filed by: Everhome Mortgage vs. Susan E. Remaly and Culligan of Delphi; First Financial Bank vs. Elmer Noe.

Gloria Lopez-Angeles was convicted of forgery and was sentenced to three years probation, one year supervised and two years unsupervised.

Jeremy W. Wilkinson-Hubble, 21, was found guilty of aiding, inducing or causing burglary. He was sentenced to four years in the Department of Correction.

Thomas A. Powell was sentenced to 180 days in jail for revocation of probation.

Eddie A. Hanna, 54, was found guilty of burglary and was sentenced to three years in the Department of Correction and one year supervised probation.

Judgments of foreclosure were entered for the plaintiff in: Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. vs. Elmer J. Crider, IV, for \$70,777.70 plus interest; PHH Mortgage Company vs. Kevin L. Handy; LaSalle Bank National Association as trustee for First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust vs. Andrew E. Hoss and Sarah L. Hoss; PHH Mortgage Corporation vs. Steven D. Ogle and Ramona S. Ogle; LaSalle Bank National Association as trustee for Merrill Lynch First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust vs. Kristen Rohrman; LVNV Funding LLC vs. Jack Wallace; PHH Mortgage Corporation vs. the unknown heirs and devisees of Eric P. Akers, deceased, and Commercial Federal Mortgage Corporation;

The following marriages were dissolved: Matthew D. Phillips and Christa D. Phillips; Kristie Jo Hanna and Eddie A. Hanna; Melissa Filbrun and Jared Filbrun; Beth A. Curtis and Thomas A. Cur-

tis; and Terry Wood and Stephen Wood.

The following causes were dismissed: Sate of Indiana vs. Ernesto A. Gonzalez-Galvin; Capital One Bank vs. Skip L. Singley; Capital One Bank vs. Dave W. Ashenfelter; State of Indiana vs. Jordan Woodward; Deutsch Bank National Trust Company as trustee vs. April Wasielewski, a/k/a April L. Wasielewski and Mortgage Electronic Registrations Systems, Inc. acting solely as nominee for Freemont Investments and Loan.

Betty J. Spear was appointed administrator of the Carl D. Spear estate.

Discover Bank filed a complaint against Melissa M. Newman.

American Acceptance Company LLC filed a complaint against David A. Grindstaff.

Capital One Bank filed a complaint against Livia Trent

American Acceptance Company LLC filed a complaint against Adam D. Nichols.

Advantage Assets II filed a complaint against Glenn D. Baird.

Midland Credit Management filed a complaint against Marion J. Gibson.

HSBC Bank Nevada filed a complaint against Frederick H. Thomason.

Arrow Financial Services LLC filed a complaint against Jonielynn Radke.

Benigo Bautista was charged with two counts of child molesting, one count of forgery and one count of identity deception.

Randall S. Spry was charged with two counts of burglary and three counts of theft.

Jason W. Ash was charged with one count each of burglary and theft.

Allan Zettee, 24, Monticello, was convicted of forgery and theft and sentenced to four years at DOC for the first offense, one and one-half years suspended, and one and one-half years for the second plus one and one-half years probation, restitution and court costs.

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 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.

- What makes Christmas a special time for you?**
- Time with family and friends
 - Gifts
 - Traveling
 - Christmas music and programs
 - Celebrating Christ's birth

Last Week's results

Are you changing your Christmas giving this year?
 59% Am spending less
 07% Am purchasing more practical gifts
 03% Am doing more making/baking this year
 03% Doing less shopping and more gift card/money giving
 28% Doing the same thing I've always done
 Total responses: 153