

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

CHRISTOPHER RUSH Publisher KATHRYN B. BROWN Owner DANIEL WATTENBURGER Managing Editor

Founded October 16, 1875

OUR VIEW

Trump trade policies mostly promises

Last week Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue released details of the administration’s response to trade damages from retaliatory tariffs by China and other countries. The plan includes nearly \$4.7 billion in direct payments to producers harmed, more than \$1.2 billion in government food purchases and \$200 million to develop foreign markets. It is, at best, a stop-gap measure. Assistance checks and government purchases are not a replacement for stable export markets. We urge the administration to make good on its campaign promises and reach fair agreements with our major trading partners. American farmers and ranchers export \$135 billion in products each year. They have a lot riding on trade and are feeling more than a little nervous. One of the central themes of Donald Trump’s campaign for the presidency was that the United States was not well served by its many trade agreements.

It was a message that resonated with manufacturers, farmers, union workers and the creators of intellectual property — none of whom can survive without trade, all of whom find themselves perpetually challenged by trade. People have been complaining about various provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement since the first President Bush negotiated it and President Clinton signed it. China’s manipulation of its currency and its lax enforcement of patents have tested administrations since trade relations opened up in 1979. Dealings with the European Union and its byzantine bureaucracy have always been vexing. And all of the candidates — Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Trump — said they’d pull out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the big 12-party deal among all of our big Pacific Rim trading partners, with the exception of China. It should not have come as a surprise that President Trump sought to redress these grievances. What has been surprising is that



Associated Press File

Farmers worry that the trade relationships they have worked so hard to cultivate will be lost because of President Donald Trump’s trade policies.

he has chosen to fight all of our best trading partners at once. We are out of TPP, we’ve slapped tariffs on China and a host of other partners, NAFTA has been blown apart. And while he has followed through on his promises to extricate the United States from unfair trade deals, Trump has fallen woefully short on delivering better replacements. There could be some progress in the offing. Even as Perdue was announcing the details of the aid package, the president

was announcing that the United States and Mexico had reached an agreement to replace NAFTA. It is unclear at this writing whether the Canadians will join in the rewritten agreement. Nonetheless, the trade situation continues to hang heavy over farmers. They rightfully worry that the trade relationships they have worked so hard to develop will be lost if tensions are not soon eased. Farmers and ranchers would rather sell to trading partners than receive cash assistance checks.



YOUR VIEWS

Walden weak on senior aid, veteran issues

Recently a woman wrote in from Hermiston saying that the reason Walden doesn’t do town hall meetings is that he doesn’t have time, since he chairs one of the most important committees in Congress. I found that odd because I have been told by other congressmen who chair important committees like Veterans Affairs, Armed Services and Health and Human Services that they do town hall meetings — so why doesn’t Walden? Representative John Katko (R-24th District New York) told me that it is expected that you do town hall meetings. If he can do them then why doesn’t Greg? Mr. Walden, are you so tied to your PAC money that you are too busy to have a town hall and listen to your constituents on matters that matter to them? You talk about helping seniors so where is AMTRAK? Why is it that we do with unreliable bus service or air service when we have rails that run through the majority of your district that used to haul AMTRAK cars every day of the week? You talk about getting good health care for veterans, yet it was Patty Murray who made sure that the money was there to build the new clinics at Walla Walla VA outpatient clinics. Did you forget that part of the veterans who live in Eastern Oregon go to that clinic? Greg, if you aren’t willing to step up to he plate and help your constituents then maybe it’s time that you retire to Hood River and run your radio stations and let someone else, such as Jamie McLeod-

Skinner, do the job. She’s not afraid to tackle the hard issues and get results. Barbara Ann Wright-Dunagan Pendleton

Who has the most to gain from explosive op-ed?

Who wrote the explosive op-ed article on The Donald’s White House situation in the *New York Times* is generating much more interest than “Who Shot J.R.”? (see television hits, circa 1980s). Even Agatha Christie herself could not come up with a better fictitious who dunnit plot or situation. Or, for movie buffs, this can be a classic, “I am Spartacus” moment, wherein numerous White House staffers, or Cabinet members, could take credit for the op-ed, to further confuse, and enrage, The Donald. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, of Sherlock Holmes fame, must be rolling over in his grave because no one has asked the obvious question: Who has the most to gain if little Donald Trump had to take a quick powder? There are no second acts or re-runs for the Oval Office. Elementary, Mr. Watson! Thus, if I was a betting man, I would put my dinero on Veep Mike Pence. Who knows? Beneath that innocent, choir boy look, could be a sinister, cunning, Machiavellian mindset. Mike Pence would no longer have to play second fiddle in the biggest orchestra in the country, but would be “He da Man.” Bob Shippentower Pendleton

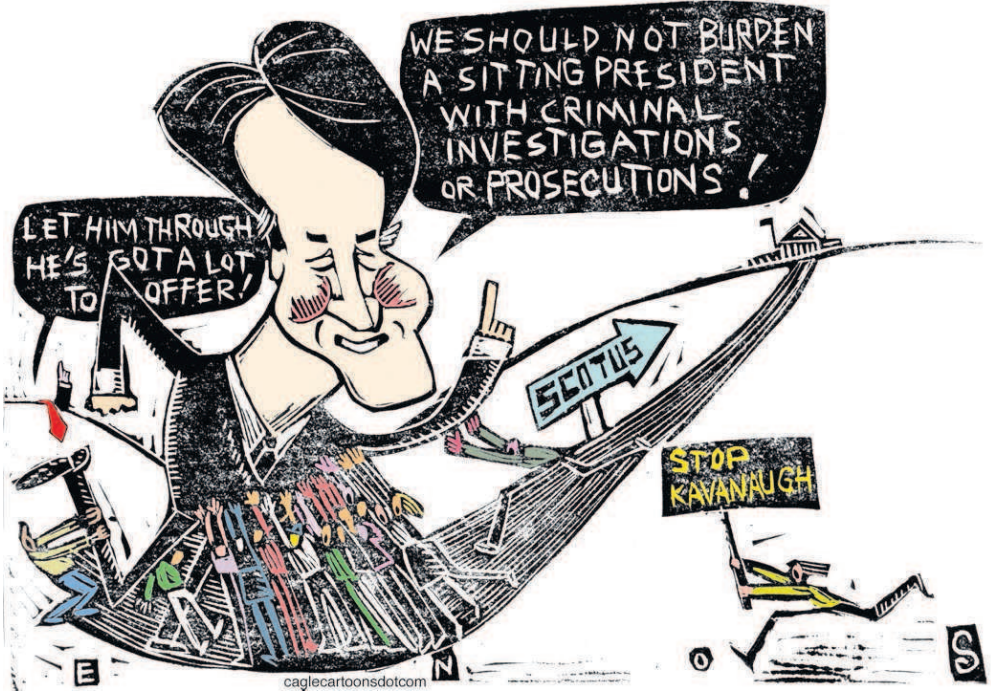
OTHER VIEWS

Don’t muddy Measure 105 by invoking Tibbetts’ name

Baker City Herald

We think Oregon voters should repeal the state’s 31-year-old “sanctuary” statute by approving Ballot Measure 105 on the Nov. 6 ballot. That said, we’re not bothered by Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash’s decision to not join 16 of his 35 counterparts who signed a letter that urges voters to pass Measure 105. The letter was written by Clatsop County Sheriff Thomas J. Bergin. In a written statement, Ash said he declined to sign Bergin’s letter because Bergin cited as an example the recent murder of Mollie Tibbetts in Iowa. The man charged with her murder apparently is a Mexican national living illegally in the U.S. “I didn’t agree with using the Mollie Tibbetts family’s personal tragedy for political purposes,” Ash wrote, “especially without knowing how they felt about it.” It seems that Tibbetts’ father, Rob, would not think much of Bergin’s letter. Rob Tibbetts, while giving his daughter’s eulogy, said “the Hispanic community are Iowans. They have the same values as Iowans.” Ash didn’t take a position on whether he supports or opposes Measure 105.

But he said that whether or not voters approve the measure, “it will not affect the way we do business at the Baker County Sheriff’s Office.” Ash, who also oversees the Baker County Jail, said his policy, which he says is consistent with Oregon’s current law, is to notify federal immigration officials if an inmate who is in jail on other charges is also suspected of being in the country illegally. But Ash also wrote that such situations are “rare.” That’s not necessarily the case, however, in some of Oregon’s more populous counties. We agree with Knute Buehler, the Republican candidate for governor, who said he will vote for Measure 105 because he believes repealing the sanctuary law will eliminate confusion and potential discrepancies in how individual counties deal with illegal immigration issues. Opponents of the measure contend its passage would encourage police to engage in the noxious tactic of racial profiling. But the 1987 “sanctuary” law is not the only bulwark against profiling. In 2015 Gov. Kate Brown signed a law — one we support — that creates a database of profiling complaints against police, and an independent task force to review those complaints.



Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to managing editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.