

STEVENS COUNTY TIMES EDITORIAL

Did Nixon, will Trump, use July 4 as a promotional tool?

On July 4, 1970, President Richard Nixon had an "Honor America Day."

Depending on who you talk to or what you read, the day did or didn't go so well.

Let's consider the History Channel's version of the event. This day was supposed to be a nonpartisan event but opponents saw it as a day for Nixon and his administration to promote support for an unpopular war in Vietnam and as a rally for the right.

The day included the Rev. Billy

Graham and Bob Hope. It also included protesters wading in the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, some tear gas and chants against the war with some waving Viet Cong flags.

Maybe this July 4, 1970, event is an illustration of how we exercise our freedoms in America. Maybe not.

And now, we have President Donald Trump who plans a rally on July 4. The fear is that Trump will simply use July 4 like a promotional tool.

That didn't seem to go too well for Nixon.

Smith partners on bill to spur public, private collaborations

From the office of Sen. Tina Smith
On June 27, U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.) along with Sens. Chris Coons (D-Del.), James Risch (R-Ind.), and Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) introduced bipartisan legislation to allow small businesses to gain access to premier facilities at the Department

of Energy (DOE) National Labs to spur innovation and the culture of private-public collaboration.

The Small Businesses Partnering with National Labs Act of 2019 — which has a House companion bill introduced by Reps.

Assistant Speaker Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.) and Chuck Fleischmann (R-Tenn.) — will allow small businesses

to analyze the innovation potential of new technologies by accessing facilities and expertise at National Labs to mitigate the steep cost of investing in necessary but expensive capital equipment, which can often prohibit small businesses from pursuing truly innovative ideas and developing groundbreaking products. The bill also streamlines the application and approval process for vouchers, eliminating barriers that prevent small businesses from exploring the potential of new technologies.

"Minnesota has a long history of innovation. When I host roundtables and meetings across the state, I'm struck by the many ways Minnesotans are addressing important issues and developing innovative products, and having more access to DOE laboratory facilities and expertise will help," said Smith. "As a former small business owner myself, I want to make it possible for more small businesses in Minnesota and across the country to access the resources they need to ensure their businesses create good jobs, grow the economy, and help them and their families thrive."

"Small businesses are at the forefront of creating innovative solutions to the problems that face our nation," said Sen. Coons. "Often, small businesses need access to unique facilities and resources to succeed in developing truly groundbreaking products. This bill provides businesses with access to world-class facilities and experts to help strengthen the ecosystem of small business innovation in the U.S."

"American small businesses have led innovation for generations, creating lasting solutions in the fields of science, medicine, technology, and more," said Risch. "Utilizing the unique assets and expertise of our national laboratories, this bill provides additional resources for entrepreneurs to research and test their latest advancements. In my home state, the Idaho National Lab has been a leader in public/private partnerships and serves as a great example of how well this collaboration works."

"Our economy is driven by innovation and a desire to create. But far too often, the tools, research, or space needed to innovate are out-of-reach for small businesses," said Lujan. "This legislation will make it easier for small businesses

to access lab technologies and resources by streamlining partnership agreements and creating vouchers to be used at labs and research facilities — ensuring that small businesses and national laboratories continue to be technological leaders in the United States."

"This bill combines the entrepreneurial strength of small businesses with the incredible resources and expertise of our national labs. In my district, Oak Ridge National Lab is home to several state-of-the-art user facilities, such as the Manufacturing Demonstration Facility and the Spallation Neutron Source, and I am happy to play a part in this effort to enable the types of public/private partnerships that grant small businesses access to facilities like these, and in turn, help to drive our nation's innovation ecosystem," said Fleischmann.

"Small businesses often lack access to research facilities that would allow them to explore innovative ideas. DOE's small business voucher pilot programs are important tools to stimulate innovation and lower barriers to research for small businesses, while at the same time maximizing the value of the national labs to the American public. These pilot programs have already proven to be successful and should be extended to all national labs," said Stephen Ezell, Vice President, Global Innovation Policy, ITIF.

"The Department of Energy and our 17 national labs have enabled the United States to be a leader in clean energy innovation. To maintain that leadership, however, we not only need a well-funded DOE, we need one that can partner with America's small businesses and help these private sector innovators get their technologies into the market. We've seen enormous success with the GAIN initiative at the Office of Nuclear Energy, which has helped the U.S. advanced reactor industry grow from 48 projects in 2015 to 75 projects today. Expanding small business vouchers at DOE is a smart policy that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of national clean energy R&D," said Josh Freed, Senior Vice President for Clean Energy, Third Way.

"BPC Action is proud to support the Small Businesses Partnering with National Labs Act of 2019 which would expand opportunities for small businesses to harness the resources and expertise at our nation's renowned national labs. Technology innovation drives economic productivity and growth. Providing our workers with access to resources and guidance to develop new products and services benefits all Americans by helping to grow US businesses and create jobs across industries and the nation," said Michele Stockwell, Executive Director of BPC Action.

"The U.S. national laboratory system has a tremendous variety of cutting edge infrastructure and world-leading scientists and engineers. Making that capability available to small businesses throughout the U.S. will help spur innovation and keep the U.S. in a leadership position in emerging energy technologies. Expanding these private-public partnerships is smart advocacy," said Dr. Todd Allen, Glenn F. and Gladys H. Knoll Department Chair of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences, University of Michigan.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There are better investments than war

To the editor:
We are living at a dangerous time. We need to say no to war with Iran. We all need to ask: Will the US will remain in perpetual war with countries in the Middle East? Recently, President Trump called off a military attack against Iran. He decided that killing 150 Iranians wasn't "proportionate." This was a good decision.

Trump said he was against the invasion of Iraq. We were sold a war by G.W. Bush and his senior staff. People like Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, and John Bolton. Now, Bolton is advising Trump about Iran and is pushing us towards war again. Fool me once. We need to stand up for Constitutional principles. After being lied into war in Vietnam and Iraq, we should demand that Congress declare war before invasions. The Bush administration said the Iraq war would pay for itself. It was a big lie then and it is a whopper-of-a-lie now. Our 18-year involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan has been the longest war in US history. We have conservatively spent about \$3 trillion dollars so far. We will likely spend more than \$6 trillion after fully accounting for the costs of the war. The US has the largest military in the world. We spend about \$700 billion a year, more than most of the world combined. Many Republicans, Democrats, libertarians, greens, and other political parties agree — we can't stay on this road. A big reason for our involvement in the Middle East has been about oil. Keep in mind — 15 of the 19 hijackers on 9/11 were from Saudi Arabia — none of them were from Iraq. But, Saudi Arabia has oil. We need to end our oil-addiction with the Middle East. The US can make its own energy and so can Minnesota.

To put this war spending into perspective, for \$3 trillion dollars the US could have installed 750,000 large-scale wind turbines. Or, 15,000 turbines per state with an installed capacity of 40,000 MW. For perspective, we have two nuclear plants in Minnesota and together these plants produce about 2,000 MW, which is 20% of the generating capacity in Minnesota. Utilities are shuttering coal plants and installing wind as fast as they can because it's the cheapest energy. It's about the economics. But, it is also about our national security and national priorities. Spending on war means less spending things that make life better for Americans. When Trump sent 100 Tomahawk missiles into Syria

it cost \$150M — or about 10 water treatment plants like we built in Morris. You can't be a deficit-hawk and support endless war. Making things worse, after the new tax breaks passed we are now running \$1 trillion deficits. For too long, chickenhawk politicians have been taking us into war. But, this is about much more than money. Millions of US soldiers and their families have been affected. Thousands have been killed and displaced on all sides. And, what have we accomplished? Even more, war has become politicized. Remember, last October when several Green Berets were ambushed by ISIS in Africa? Probably not, because we didn't have hearings for a year. To emphasize the point, remember, Benghazi? There were 10 separate investigations, over 33 hearings, including an 11-hour hearing with Hillary Clinton, \$7M spent, and numerous reports produced.

Our moral standing in the world is compromised. The US has lost its credibility. We will have to earn back the trust we have lost. Americans will always fight when the war is just. But, we owe it to every soldier willing to die to make sure their sacrifice is worthy of the fight. Let's invest at home for once.

Troy Goodnough
Morris

Remember the Declaration of Independence on July 4

To the editor:
We are blessed to live in the land of the free because of the bravery of those who founded and fought for our nation, as well as the veterans and active military who defended and continue to defend our freedoms at home and across the globe.

The Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness..."

These words hold as much meaning today as when they were written more than 200 years ago.

As we pause as a nation to celebrate our independence, please take a moment to remember those words — that all people are created equal and made in the image of God. Please be sure to keep those truths in mind this holiday season.

Happy Independence Day!
Jeff Backer
District 12A State Representative,
Republican, Browns Valley



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MEETINGS

Hancock City Council
Hancock City Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 8 in City Hall.

Stevens County Board of Commissioners
The Stevens County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 2 in the commissioners boardroom in the Stevens County Courthouse.

Morris City Council
The Morris City Council will meet at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9 in the council chambers in the Morris Area Senior Center.

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