

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

I grew up in a small Montana farming town. All over town there were hundreds of big cottonwood trees. Every year, those trees produced green pods filled with cottonwood seeds distributed far and wide in cotton filament puffy clouds of fluffy stuff. The fluffy stuff collected in every corner of every building throughout the town. My friends and I delighted in lighting the cotton patches on fire. We would sneak matches out of our houses, and go all over town lighting the cotton patches of fire. Once a match hit the small filaments a whoosh of flame burned the collected cotton.

One afternoon I nearly burnt the back shed down playing with matches. A big pile of the cotton fluff had collected in a corner of the shed behind our house. Wanting to create the biggest flame ever, my friends and I piled more of the fluffy stuff on the pile. Big lesson learned! Don't play with fire when you can't control the situation. The match ignited the cotton and the flames spread up the side of the building and started the paint and siding of the shed on fire. My Dad rushed out of the house and put the fire out. I had trouble sitting down for a couple of hours after the punishment was rendered, but I learned not to played with fire. I never ignited those cotton patches again, and to this day--- when something involves setting fire to an accelerant, my mind flashes back to the shed fire. I remember the lesson!

Just turning on the TV, reading a newspaper, or listening to the radio today, frequently reminds me of the lesson. I feel frustrated because of the lack of judgment in many of the decisions and programs enacted by our political leaders. Will Rogers once said, "There are men running government who shouldn't be allowed to play with matches."

I recently read a Wall Street Journal story about limiting the size of dairy herds or exacting an additional tax on dairy farmers and cattle ranchers for cow flatulence as part of an Obama Administration program plan to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. In order to reduce methane omissions, the Environmental Protection Agency wants to limit the flatulence, belching, and exhaling from livestock. The Whitehouse has proposed cutting methane emissions from livestock by 25 percent by the year 2020. The

EPA has been charting methane emissions for many years and according to their experts beef and dairy livestock emitters are the largest methane emission offenders. To take this situation even further, the administration is seeking to regulate methane emissions across the board. All this despite the facts that show methane emissions have fall by 11 percent since 1990.

After I finished laughing out loud, I thought about the crises in the Middle East, the horror stories coming from Obama Care, and the stagnant economy coming out of limited growth for the past six years. It's too bad that we can't get the EPA to develop a program to reduce the methane coming from politicians.

I must go back to the shed fire and the Will Rogers quote. "There are men running government who should be allow to play with matches."

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