

A RESOLUTION RESCINDING THE RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING
REQUIREMENTS OF RESIDENCY FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2001 the Rapid City Common Council amended the resolution regarding residency requirements for City employees to eliminate the residency requirement for all City employees except department heads; and

WHEREAS, Rapid City has become a regional economic community and the provision requiring departments heads to reside within the City boundaries has become obsolete; and

WHEREAS, the City retains the management right to restrict residency through department work rules when these restrictions are based on response time or other needs of the public health, safety and welfare

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that no City employee shall be required as a condition of employment to reside within the City limits.

Dated this 19th day of January 2004.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Jim Shaw, Mayor

ATTEST:

Finance Officer

(SEAL)

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievance."

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— First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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EDITORIALS

dispute

better water flow in future

Those changes are supposed to be revealed in a new management plan. The plan, long delayed and under study for more than a decade, is to be released in March. That will tell us much more about how the corps plans to address this. And the delay until March also will give downstream interests plenty of time to lobby the Bush administration, which already has stuck its nose into the debate several times.

For now, though, we can look at this as positive news.

For compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act, the Missouri River needs a spring rise and low summer flow. It's what scientists and environmentalists have said all along, and it's what South Dakota — as well as other upstream states — have been seeking.

The new master management manual — which always has favored the interests of downstream states, especially the barge industry — must reflect that.

"The status quo cannot be allowed to continue," Daschle said. No, it can't.

Ending residency provision right

It doesn't seem like much, but eliminating the requirement that city employees live in Sioux Falls was the right move. The contract provision was outdated and no longer of any use.

Elimination of the provision comes in new contracts approved by workers and the City Council.

In the past, employees had asked the residency requirement be removed. This time, employees had other concerns — pay and health insurance — and it was the city that suggested the change.

"The theory behind residency is, you encourage people to be part of the tax base and the community," said Jennifer Holsen, the city's human resources director. "Since the city is an economic regional center, and we have lots of support from surrounding communities, we decided it could be dropped."

That makes sense. This recognizes how the region has changed over the years. Sioux Falls is not an insulated community, removed from the rest of the area.

This also should make it easier to recruit employees, who might already have homes in surrounding communities.

Smart move and overdue.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Medicare

Seniors have been sold out by the AARP's choice to support the Republican Medicare prescription drug bill, and I'm fully prepared to tear up my membership card if William Novelli does not admit that his decision on behalf of 35 million seniors was terribly, terribly wrong.

How can Novelli say this bill is a good first step when: 1) Up to a quarter of all Medicare beneficiaries would actually pay more for prescription drugs; 2) Millions of seniors would have to pay higher Medicare premiums unless they join an HMO (giving up their

what a Medicare prescription drug benefit really means as long as I've been in the AARP. Then suddenly, without discussing it with members, the executives at the AARP gave their blessing to the GOP version of the prescription drug bill supported by the big drug companies and the HMOs.

It passed, to the detriment of millions of seniors.

You may wonder what the executives at the AARP saw in this "Trojan horse" for insurance and pharmaceutical industry special interests, it does nothing to lower the costs of prescription drugs.

did Janklow intentionally commit manslaughter?

Janklow would not hurt an animal. I suggest that Janklow get a new lawyer, take his gloves off and fight this verdict hook, tooth and nail.

This was a planned prosecution by Democrats in general, and it will boomerang on them. Janklow resigned to my sorrow, and not only South Dakota but also this great nation lost a great legislative leader.

I ask Janklow to get well. He is innocent and needs a rest from the swamp of Democratic politics that smells across this great land that we call the United States of America. May the peace of the