

## **In behalf of the DFL Senior Caucus at the Capitol 07-13-11 Dick Bernard**

The DFL Senior Caucus strongly supports the efforts of Gov. Dayton to reach a just conclusion to the Shutdown.

July 12 STrib headline "WHAT SHUTDOWN?" was no surprise. (Today's headline - "One by one, bars get TAPPED OUT") suggests the real looming crisis: running out of beer near Target Field....")

Most of us, including seniors who are Democrats, are doing okay, at least at the moment. We can pretend all is okay, if we view only our immediate surroundings.

This fantasy is not true for the most vulnerable in our society. As Hubert H Humphrey defined them\*, many of the young, the old, the sick, the needy and the handicapped are hurting. The hurt is getting worse. There are many stories.

These are the people who have no tools, no microphone, no lobbying ability, except through we the more fortunate.

Now there are moves afoot to make it more difficult for them to even vote.

We will pay a heavy price, balancing a budget on the backs of these folks, including many of our own senior citizens. A death by a thousand cuts will not be pleasant for our society, and we'll see that only when it's too late.

In a July 6 e-mail, David Butcher, a person I don't know, put it well concerning Governor Dayton's resolve: "[It is] not Dayton's ethic to take [the] easy way out - he'll keep working to prevent so much damage to people and the state."

We strongly support the Governor's emphasis on caring.

In the end, we citizens are the government that we see.

This crisis is not a spectator sport. We all need to get actively engaged and involved.

\* - ***"The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped."*** - Hubert Humphrey, 1976  
<http://www.hhh.umn.edu/about/HHHquotes.html>

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