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## Your View: Letters to the editor (May 27)

Posted: 05/27/2010 08:40:07 AM MDT

Voting my conscience

A Sun-News letter writer (May 10) painted everybody worldwide with the same biased brush.

On more than one point I disagree vehemently.

For starters, the above writer (he or she?) claims, "we are slow learners here in the United States." I presume that means only the above writer has "the smarts."

What is ignored in that sweeping statement is the widely publicized lack of teaching of history in the current school systems. I recall well that in my education in New York and Massachusetts public schools I heard about American as well as Greek history.

The above disgruntled writer after claiming, "Being old enough to remember Jimmy Carter and Lyndon Johnson" thereby concludes that the worst ills worldwide are due to such leaders being "all called progressives/Democrats."

What that statement actually reflects is the writer's selective ignorance of 20th century history most of which I experienced first as a child and later as a journalist.

Having been born during World War 1, what I recall as a very young child was presidential campaign hoopla for Harding, followed by Coolidge, followed

by hapless Herbert Hoover presiding over the 1929 stock market disaster known as the Great Depression. Far from being "progressives," along with Richard Nixon - the only U.S. President ever to have to resign in disgrace-all four were Republicans.

As for election day, like a great multitude of Americans I vote my conscience.

MARGARET MARKHAM

Las

Cruces

Wilderness misinformation

I have grave concern that on May 12, the public was greatly misled and misinformed by the statements from Ramiro Cordero of the Border Patrol when he said "We're still allowed to patrol anywhere The federal authority gives us the authority to go anywhere." These statements were made after presentations by retired chief of the Border Patrol, Roger Brandemuehl, and other retired Border Patrol officers.

If Mr. Cordero's statement is accurate, then why did the Border Patrol request a buffer to the proposed wilderness in the Potrillos? Sen. Bingaman must also believe that Border Patrol access would be limited as he included the buffer in S.B.1689.

Cordero also flatly disputed Brandemuehl's statements that Border Patrol wouldn't be able to use "mechanized equipment" such as observation towers, sensor systems, night-vision scopes and low-flying aircraft in wilderness areas. That

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statement would be news to Jane Lyder, deputy assistant secretary of Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the Interior Department who stated, "A proposal to build permanent structures within a wilderness area violates the Wilderness Act." (Washington Times, 11/16/09)

It would also come as a surprise to his own Border Patrol officials who signed an MOU with the Las Cruces BLM concerning the Big Hatchet Mountains which states: In the event that Congress deems the Big Hatchet Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as wilderness, the CBP-BP must remove all communication site equipment from the Big Hatchet Wilderness as soon as possible.

Finally, Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security, in an October 2009 letter to Congress explained how wilderness designations impede Border Patrol efforts: "One issue affecting the efficacy of Border Patrol operation within wilderness is the prohibition against mechanical conveyances (land and air). The USBP regularly depends upon these conveyances, the removal of such advantages being generally detrimental to its ability to accomplish the national security mission."

Mr. Cordero's statements were not accurate and the public should be so advised.

JERRY SCHICKEDANZ

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