

Guest Opinion

Manufacturing & agriculture tax credit critical to economic growth

From Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

A Middleton-based manufacturer explained the importance of the Manufacturing & Agriculture Tax Credit (MAC) to its business and employment growth in a video released Thursday by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC).

In an episode of WMC's Two-Minute Drill series, Connor Meloy, Chief Operating Officer of Automation Components, Inc. (ACI), explained how critical the tax credit is to the company. With the savings, Meloy explains that ACI was able to purchase new equipment and that the com-

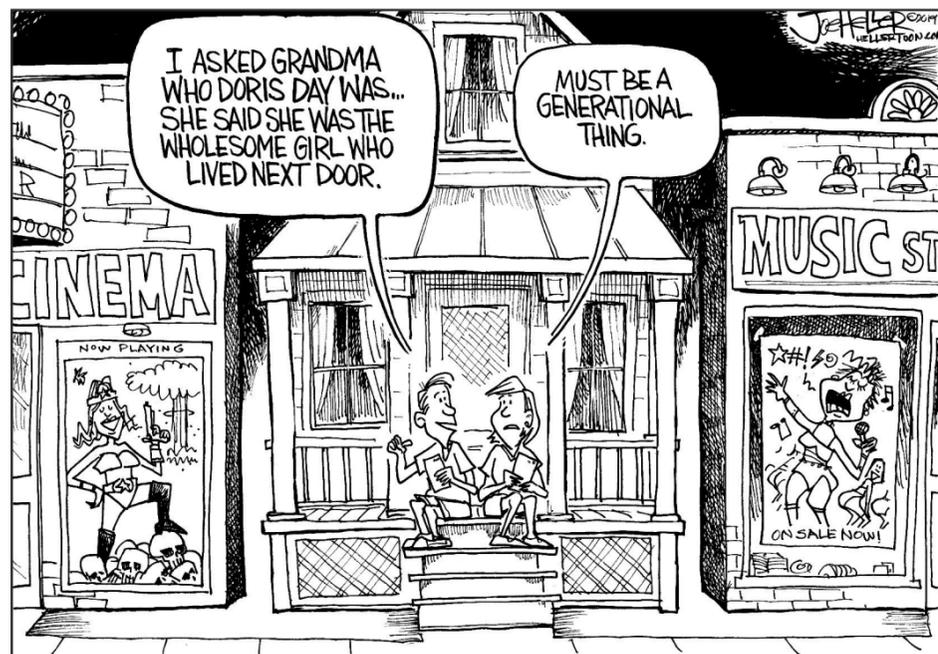
pany expanded with 84 new employees in 2018.

"We've grown a ton over the last five years and we really don't want to see that growth slow down and we don't think it's going to slow down," Meloy explains in the video. "However, without the MAC, we would have some difficult conversations about equipment and people. Without the MAC, I don't think we would hire 84 people like we did in 2018, so it is extremely important."

The video was released while the legislature and governor are debating the value of the MAC to creating jobs and incentivizing economic growth. Gov. Tony Evers proposes to all but eliminate the

tax credit, which would raise taxes on manufacturers by \$516 million over the state's two-year biennium. The Republican-led legislature, however, has pushed back arguing the tax credit is critical to the state's largest economic industry.

"We know the Manufacturing and Agriculture Tax Credit is a critical reason we have seen thousands of family-supporting manufacturing jobs created in recent years," said WMC Director of Tax, Transportation and Legal Affairs. "ACI alone made a large capital investment in new equipment thanks to the MAC, and they were able to hire 84 new employees in 2018."



Guest Opinion

Congress needs to look inward

By Lee H. Hamilton

There are a lot of reasons why Congress finds itself hamstrung in Washington and discounted by the people it serves at home. But in the end, the demons Congress has to fight are its own. If it is to return to relevance, effectiveness, and higher standing in public opinion, the paths it must follow start on and wind through Capitol Hill.

For starters, Congress has gotten into some terrible legislative habits. The worst is the omnibus bill, which is emblematic of the deeply rooted issues Congress faces. These bills are thousands of pages long and they bypass pretty much the entire legislative process.

Good process is not about efficiency. It's about bolstering your chances of getting things right. And that means handing authority back to individual members and to the committees so that what comes out of Congress can benefit from the creativity and insights of a

wide range of talented politicians.

This step, however, requires another: Congress has to spend more time legislating. Its members work very hard, but not at legislating. Yet if the political and legislative process is a search for remedies to our nation's problems, then it needs care and attention. Building expertise and finding consensus—even within one's own party—takes patience, skill, perseverance...and a lot of time.

And honestly, if members of Congress can't make the time to re-energize the practice of negotiation and compromise, then what hope is there? The definition of being a responsible lawmaker is to deal with divisions and to move the country forward anyway. Otherwise, each side just sits in its corner and maneuvers to beat the other at the next election and we, as a nation, spin in circles.

Finally, Congress needs to spend far more of its energy looking over the executive

branch. The current hearings on the Mueller report highlight what's been lacking: this kind of attention should be paid to every nook and cranny of government.

The point of all this is that without a functional Congress, we don't have a functional representative democracy. I don't expect all these things I've mentioned to be resolved easily or quickly. But I want to see Congress again become an institution we can be confident is playing a constructive role in our democracy. And until it gets its house in order, I don't see how that will happen.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



The quintuplets in 1938 - Yvonne, Annette, Cécile, Émilie and Marie. Public domain image

Treatment of Dionne quintuplets brings regret, shame today

By Tom Emery

They weighed a collective thirteen pounds, six ounces at birth, and grew up in a tourist attraction resembling both a museum and a zoo. Everyone around them reaped the financial rewards. The lingering effects left them socially maladjusted for life.

May 28 marks the 85th birthday of the Dionne Quintuplets, the only known set of surviving identical quintuplets in world history. Born in 1934 in northern Ontario four hours from Toronto, the "Quints," all girls, were a continental sensation in the 1930s and 1940s, though the two remaining sisters largely avoid the spotlight today.

The quintuplets were born to an impoverished French-Canadian farm family, and barely survived their first few days. Forty-seven minutes passed from the birth of the first child to the fifth. Their parents, who had already produced six children, would later have three more, bringing the family total to fourteen.



Ontario Premier Mitchell Hepburn with the Dionne babies in 1934. Public domain image

Almost immediately, care of the quintuplets was controlled by Dr. Allan Dafoe, who later orchestrated much of the profiteering that quickly surrounded their upbringing.

He was hardly alone. A few days after the quintuplets' birth, their father, Oliva, signed a contract to display them at the Chicago World's Fair for 23 percent of the profits. The parish priest, apparently joining the craze, was to receive 7 percent.

A day later, Oliva apparently changed his mind and cancelled the contract, but the public-relations battle was already lost. Amid public outcry, the Ontario government later stepped in and established a board of guardians to care for the infants, in part to prevent American promotion.

Meanwhile, Dafoe was instrumental in the construction of a "hospital" across the road from the Dionne farmhouse. To meet skyrocketing public interest, an observatory was eventually created outside the nursery and indoor playground. There, throngs of spectators filed past a one-way glass window, allowing a peek at the quintuplets inside.

The scenario, sort of like a zoo enclosure, attracted three million visitors to northern Ontario between 1934-43, despite the ongoing Depression. A kind of theme park, "Quintland," sprang up around the nursery, and by 1936 was a larger tourist attraction than Niagara Falls. Souvenir shops, restaurants, campgrounds, and other recreational facilities were developed, including a large souvenir stand operated by the quintuplets' father that employed 25 people.

The quintuplets became a \$500 million boon to the strapped province of Ontario and were media darlings around the world. Dafoe and Oliva Dionne continued to line their pockets as well. Three Hollywood movies with the quintuplets were produced, and tens of millions of dollars rolled in from endorsement deals. At one point, dolls of the quintuplets outsold those of Shirley Temple.

These endorsements helped make the Dionne Quintuplets household names across North America. But interest in the quintuplets dwindled as they grew, and public perception of the Dionne parents rose while that of Dafoe, who was terminally ill, fell. Oliva Dionne eventually won back custody after a

prolonged legal battle, and in November 1943, the quintuplets moved back in with the family, this time into a new two-story brick house constructed with money from their fame.

There, the girls were forced to do chores despite the family's newfound wealth, and were shunned by their siblings. Sequestered from the outside world, the quintuplets had strained relations with both parents. The quintuplets later called the house "the saddest home we ever knew."

In 1995, the surviving quintuplets publicly charged their father with molesting each of them, a claim disputed by their siblings.

As the quintuplets reached adulthood, they continued to struggle with relationships and social skills. Three of the girls married; each union ended in divorce. The quintuplets lived on a trust fund that was relatively small by the standards of the income generated by their 1930s sensation.

In 1954, one quint, Emilie, died of a seizure, while a second, Marie, died in 1970 of a blood clot on the brain. Oliva Dionne passed away in 1979, followed by his wife, Elzire, seven years later.

The remaining three quintuplets, Annette, Cecile, and Yvonne, eventually moved into a Montreal apartment together, and in 1998 won a \$2.8 million judgment against the government of Ontario for the mishandling of their custody and their money. Yvonne died in 2001.

The story of the Dionne Quintuplets is periodically revisited. In 1965, the quintuplets published their autobiography, *We Were Five*, and a second memoir was released thirty years later. In November 1994, a two-part miniseries on the quintuplets aired on both CBS and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville, Ill.



A souvenir handkerchief depicting the Dionne quintuplets, circa 1942. Public domain image

Coming Events

The EHS Class of 1970 will be having a luncheon at the Cafe on Main on Wednesday, May 15, at noon. For more information call 884-8201 or email EHSclass70@live.com.

St. John Lutheran Church, 207 E. High Street, Edgerton, will host a Salad Luncheon and Bake Sale on Wednesday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu includes hot turkey sandwiches, salads and desserts. Carry outs are available. For more information, call 884-3515.

Rock County Job Center, 1900 Center Ave., Janesville, will be hosting Legal & Financial Planning with Attorney Mike Vogel on May 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. Please RSVP by calling 608-741-3615 by 3 p.m. on May 16.

Evansville Grove Society is sponsoring Union Baptist Cemetery Update on Thursday, May 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Creekside Place, 102 Maple St., Evansville. The program will be presented by Jenean Hamilton. Coffee and treats will be served.

Norway-Mandt Lodge will be having a bake sale for Syttende Mai, May 17-19, at the corner of Main and Water Streets by Slinde's Interiors. There will also be a bake sale at the Lodge, 317 South Page Street. There will be a luncheon at the Lodge, 317 South Page Street.

The Masonic Center, 2322 E. Milwaukee, St., Janesville, will be hosting a Group Full Moon Meditation, celebrating Wesak, promptly at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 18. A potluck buffet will follow and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. with presentations on "The Power of Ritual" and "Sacred Sounds."

Humane Society of Jefferson County is having their 6th Annual Furry Friends 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, May 18, at 9 a.m. at the Jefferson County Fair Park in Jefferson. Register before April 15 to take advantage of the early bird discount.

Agrace Hospice Facility, 2901 N. Wright Road, Janesville, will be hosting Understanding and Responding to Behavior Changes on Tuesday, May 21, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. No registration needed.

The Rock County Genealogical Society is hosting the Annual Meeting and Program on May 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Carriage House, 450 N. Jackson St., Janesville, located behind the Tallman House. The building is ADA accessible.

Evansville Grove Society is holding a Hands-on Genealogy Workshop on Thursday, May 23, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Creekside Place, 102 Maple St., Evansville. Call Donna Pyper at 608-490-3320 with any questions.

Voigt Music Center, 345 Main St., Janesville, is hosting a jam with National Award Winning Musicians Erin Mae, Wendy Songe and Rick Thum on May 31. There will be classes at Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church, 8605 E. Co. Road A, Janesville, on June 1. For more information contact SouthernWisconsinDulcimerClub.com or N. Garrett agt 608-752-6514.

The German Interest Group of Wisconsin will host a program at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 2921 Mount Zion, Janesville, on Monday, June 3 at 7 p.m. The program will be about the book "The Making of Pioneer Wisconsin: Voices of Early Settlers" by its author, Michael E. Stevens. The public is invited at no charge.

The Rock River Safety Boat Patrol meeting will be held at the Culver's restaurant in Newville on Wednesday, June 5, at 7 p.m.

The EHS Class of 1969 will be holding their 50th class reunion June 7 and 8. For details please call Sandy Cook, 608-931-0723, Wayne Jacobson, 608-293-1842 or Phil Lenox, 608-449-6800.

Rotary Botanical Gardens, 1455 Palmer Dr., Janesville, will be hosting a Memory Tea & Stroll on Sunday, June 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. Please call Teena Monk-Gerber at 608-313-3335 with any questions.

AA Open Meeting - As Bill Sees It - at Central Lutheran Church, 100 W. Rollin St., at 7 p.m. on Saturdays in the Lounge (use the back door facing the parking lot). Call 608-295-0200 for information.

AA Closed Meeting - at Central Lutheran Church, 100 W. Rollin St., at noon on Thursdays in the Lounge (use the back door facing the parking lot). Call 608-295-0200 for information.

Albion Academy Historical Museum (near the Albion Tigers baseball diamond) will be open Sundays from 1-4 p.m. in June, July and August starting on June 2. We will be closed on Sunday, July 21. We will be open on Saturday, July 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a Pie Social in the basement and the Academy Cafe in the park.

Atonement Lutheran Church has invited other churches in the area to share its space or join its congregation. Call Nathan Anderson at 608-362-6553 or 608-290-2113 for more information. The church is located at 901 Harrison Ave. in Beloit.

Barbershop Harmony Society - Badger Chordhawks - Christopher Smith, director, and members of Janesville's own four-part, a capella harmony chorus invites you to discover the exciting experience of a cappella harmony. Come and visit the chorus for an enjoyable evening of singing on Monday evenings from 7-9:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church located at 612 N. Randall Ave. in Janesville. For more information call Clint Mohr at 608-755-1290.

Blackhawk Technical College Board Meeting - Meetings for the upcoming year will be held on the third Thursday of the month beginning at 6 p.m.

Bridge Players - Join the friendly duplicate game and play every Monday and Thursday at the Janesville Senior Center at 12:30 p.m. For more information call Ray Benton, 608-754-3688.

Crohn's, Colitis and IBD Support is available at Stoughton Hospital, meeting monthly, every