

Editorial

It doesn't get much dumber than this

We're going to step a bit outside our usual world of reporting to comment on Mississippi state politics. We're not going too far, though, because the following report touches us personally. As college professors, academics, we seem to have failed our politicians.

Take a look at the following article.

[Officials defend Kemper plant](#)

*Written by Geoff Pender The Clarion-Ledger
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The crux of the story is that construction of Kemper County coal plant is wildly over budget and local citizens are experiencing huge increases in their electric bills. According to Mr. Pender's report,

“The cost of the plant has ballooned, from \$2.8 billion to nearly \$5 billion, and construction, now said to be at 80 percent, is behind schedule.”

Ignoring for a moment the failure of government, let's focus on our failure as academics to educate our highest-level politicians in the most fundamental facts of our heritage: Consider the following quote from our governor who defends the huge cost overruns and waste of our money by claiming:

“You're always going to have critics,” [Republican Gov. Phil] Bryant said. “... Nobody ever built a statue of a critic.”

Aside from being overly sensitive to critics, Governor Bryant is demonstrating his “knowledge” of history. George Washington and our “founding fathers” were critics and guess what? Right. We've built many statues to them. Abe Lincoln was a critic and there's a really big statue of him in D.C. We can add examples practically *ad infinitum*.

Now consider our failure to teach our politicians arithmetic. Or the value of a dollar. And, you have them spending, over-budget, in the billions of dollars, then, defending their nonsense with a demonstrated ignorance of elementary history.