

Fall gardening: time to harvest basil

**UTAH GET YOUR BUSINESS ONLINE** (It's easy. Really fast. And really free.) **GET YOUR FREE WEBSITE ▶**  
 Free website includes domain name and hosting for one year. **Google**

# Money. *The Salt Lake Tribune*

Search

[News](#) [Sports](#) [Blogs](#) [Opinion](#) [Money](#) [Lifestyle](#) [Entertainment](#) [Weekly Ad](#) [Obituaries](#) [Jobs](#) [Homes](#) [Cars](#) [Classifieds](#) [Deals](#)  
 Personal Finance Real Estate Home Prices Technology Tourism Stocks Cheap Chick sponsored by **GARDNER COMPANY HOMES**



Wayne Rogers with Alan Alda and Loretta Swit in a publicity still from M\*A\*S\*H in 1976.

## Wayne Rogers takes on Congress, finds it wanting

**Economy »**  
 Former TV star-turned-businessman blames lawmakers for the economic crisis.

Article Tools

» E-mail this story  
 » Printer-friendly version

Photos



At A Glance

**EDC of Utah calls 2010-2011 'stellar'**  
**Jobs created** » 7,263 versus 3,788 in the previous year  
**Jobs retained** » 1,346 versus 897 a year earlier  
**Real estate space absorb-ed** » 3.15 million

BY PAUL BEEBE 2  Like  
 The Salt Lake Tribune

First published Oct 12 2011 05:45PM  
 Updated Oct 12, 2011 11:22PM

Attention Congress: Wayne Rogers doesn't respect you.

Rogers, the 78-year-old actor-turned-businessman who gained fame as "M.A.S.H.'s" "Trapper John," thinks the men and women who populate the House and Senate are, to one degree or another, demagogues. They are, he said, self-dealers who appeal to emotion rather than facts, easily bought by lobbyists, ignorant of history and "dumb."

"They don't listen to you," Rogers said to a record crowd of 550 people who attended the Economic Development Corp. of Utah's annual meeting, held Wednesday at The Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City.

"They are interested in themselves," said Rogers, an actor, historian, part-time Deer Valley resident, Broadway producer, stock commentator on Fox News Channel and chairman of his own investment strategy firm. "They are interested in getting themselves in the paper or on the news, so they accommodate you by making some grandiose statement that is devoid of facts and [is] a lot of opinion."

The crowd appeared to hang on Rogers' every word as they forked down scrambled eggs and bacon during the early-morning meeting of the partnership of public and private groups that aims to promote economic growth in Utah. A born raconteur, his earthy populist message focused mainly on Congress, but spared almost nobody else.

"We are gradually going to a fascist economy," he said. "I don't mean that in a political sense. I mean that in an economic sense, meaning we are going to have [a monopoly of] big government, big business and big labor [calling all the shots]. And they are all in cahoots. They are passing laws that favor them[selves]. They are able to bribe Congress into doing all those things."

Again and again, though, Rogers returned to his favorite villains: Republicans, Democrats, one Socialist and one independent, whom he said

Get Breaking Alerts via E-mail  
 Sign up for Breaking News e-mail alerts from the Tribune, our daily newsletter, or the latest updates from BYU, the Jazz, the Utah Utes and more. ([View All Alerts](#))

Breaking News  Top Stories  Jazz  
 Utes  BYU  Political Cornflakes

Email:

**MY SMILE IS DROP DEAD gorgeous.** -Jean, age 53  
 » Learn More

**ClearChoice**  
 DENTAL IMPLANT CENTER

Most Popular In Money

1. Novell-Microsoft trial opens Monday in SLC
2. Here's how to address the urge to refinance
3. Crisis exposes eurozone's dysfunction
4. Stocks drop as Germans signal no quick end to crisis
5. Occupy Wall Street reaches 1-month birthday
6. Utah businesses back bill to allow online sales taxes
7. Business events this week
8. This is the week to learn to protect your personal data

\$20 WORTH OF SCRAPBOOKING SUPPLIES **\$10**

square feet versus 1.35 million  
**Capital investment in Utah** » \$795.8 million versus \$348.9 million

**Visits by companies interested in the state** » 125 versus 136

Home Prices



Latest In Money

» **Occupy protesters eye diversity as movement grows**

Posted 48 minutes ago

» **Free apps for furious BlackBerry users**

Posted 1 hour ago

» **Wireless users will get alerts on excess data use**

Posted 1 hour ago

» **Utah businesses back bill to allow online sales taxes**

Posted 2 hours ago

» **Backcountry.com building East Coast facility**

Posted 2 hours ago

» **Gannett 3Q net income lower, matches Street views**

Posted 3 hours ago

» **Occupy Wall Street reaches 1-month birthday**

Posted 4 hours ago

+ **Show all Money stories**

should shoulder most of the blame for the 2007-2008 financial meltdown and the subsequent recession. Congress, he reminded the audience, passes laws. The House of Representatives is responsible for spending legislation, not the president.

He recounted his testimony in 1988 before the House Banking Committee, which was holding hearings about the Glass-Steagall Act, a Depression-era law that separated investment and commercial banking activities. A decade before the financial crisis hit, Rogers asserted to the panel that the nation's big banks were threatening the soundness of the banking system by pushing legislation that would allow them to get back into the securities business.

Story continues below

### Obama to GOP: Act on jobs or get run out of town

Published Oct 6, 2011  
05:50:02PM 0 Comments

### Poll: Approval of Congress drops to 12 percent, matching 2008 record low

Published Sep 17, 2011  
08:14:20AM 0 Comments

### Kearns High educator taps primary sources to make history come alive

Published Sep 10, 2011  
10:19:02PM 0 Comments

Rogers said he asked the panel members whether they were aware of hearings of the Senate Banking Committee during the waning months of the Hoover presidency and the first months of the New Deal. Spurred by Ferdinand Pecora, the committee's counsel whose grilling of the big Wall Street actors of the time riveted the nation, Congress passed Glass-Steagall and other legislation that would prevent the 1929 stock market crash from happening again.

"When I testified before the Congress, I asked them: 'How many have you read the Pecora hearings?'" Rogers said. "They had no idea, and we pay them to represent us. Well, what came out of the Pecora hearings came the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Glass-Steagall Act," which stabilized the nation's financial system for the next six decades.

Congress repealed Glass-Steagall in 1999. Eight years later, the financial system collapsed a second time. Congress responded in 2010 with the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform bill, which Rogers said will ultimately fail to protect the nation because it did not again separate commercial banking from more speculative investment banking.

Dodd-Frank "didn't cure anything. As long as you leave the investment banks together with the community banks, it's going to happen again. It has to. [It's] bound to," Rogers said.

Rogers poked a stick at Occupy Wall Street protesters who he said are going after the wrong target.

"What they ought to be doing is protesting Congress. Congress caused this. It wasn't [the banks, ultimately, who brought about the financial collapse]. It was Congress, when they abandoned the Glass-Steagall Act," he said.

Rogers' words seemed to resonate with many in the audience, who said they are fed up with partisans who have created so much rancor in government.

"He speaks from the heart. He may not be politically correct, but he hits the nail right on the head," said David Hill, general manager of Cameron Construction in Salt Lake City.

Next Page »

2

0

Like

Copyright 2011 The Salt Lake Tribune. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Public Safety

**Man hit, killed by TRAX train in Murray**

69 Comments

Technology

**Where to go if you're fed up with Netflix**

5 Comments

Utah News

**Woman survives fall at Bridal Veil Falls**

6 Comments

Find us on Facebook



The Salt Lake Tribune

Like

7,988 people like The Salt Lake Tribune.



Steve Kathy Victoria Janita Rick

Facebook social plugin

Recent Activity

Login

You need to be logged into Facebook to see your friends' recent activity.



**Snowmamas helps families plan winter ski vacations in Utah** | The Salt Lake Tribune  
20 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

**WOOD REVIVAL**  
DESK COMPANY INC.

**20% OFF**

Top Jobs  
Salt Lake Tribune

ApplyUtah

**MIKE HALE CHEVROLET**

Sales Consultant needed for Chevrolet Dealer in Park City, Full-Time, Benefits, Drug-free work environment. Call Nick @ 801-5...

**DAVIS APPLIED TECH. COLLEGE**

Information Technology Adjunct Instructor (Part Time) The DATC is seeking a qualified and dedicated instructor to teach Info...

**AARS IWELLS**

BP is currently seeking a #26862BR Line Locator Technician in Jonah, Moxa, and Wamsutter, WY. The Line Locator position is r...

**STAFFING SOLUTION BY PACE**

Twin Falls, Idaho - Hiring CNC Machinists- CNC Programmer -Machining Supervisor - Marketing Analyst- QC Engineer liz.whitney@re...

**MUTUAL OF ENUMCLAW INSURANCE C**

Sr. Claims Adjuster III (Property & Casualty) 2011-