

## Rabbi's Column – February 25, 2019

Quoting those prophets of old, "What a Long, Strange Trip it's Been" at the Wyoming Legislature this session.

The journey is not completely over, as there a few more days this week to go, so a summary statement is not completely in order yet. However, there are a few statements that can be made, and a few comparisons to the place we are at in the Torah Portions. In Wyoming, we are at the final stages, and in the Torah, we have completed all the blueprints and personnel assignments, so it is time to do the work and take an accounting. (Which requires listing everything at least two more times.)

Some other lessons that can apply to all important discussions and projects:

Almost everything takes longer than you think it should.

One person in the right place at the right time can stop a project in its tracks.

The most passionate person is the one with a particular opinion, not the person representing them and trying to get their point across.

Any group of people who are not currently in the room can be relied upon to support in legislative discussion whatever opinion an individual legislator has decided they should have.

At times the same group of people who are not present are presumed to support all sides of any issue.

Using "I" language in a discussion clarifies whose opinion is being expressed and also enables people to decide where they stand. Using inclusive language "we all, our opinion" can lead to defensive behaviors rather than supportive ones.

Purim is coming! Purim is coming! So, this week, try to be happy and help others to be happy, too.