

# Opinion

## Saving the Burley farmer

Under Federal statute the regular three-year referendum on burley tobacco production control and price supports is coming up soon.

No doubt, the burley growers of Nicholas County, and of the burley belt as a whole, will give their usual overwhelming endorsement. To do otherwise would be unthinkable. The disastrous years that preceded the program are too well remembered to permit any other outcome.

But this year we have new reasons to approve the statute in the *Courier-Journal* (Jan. 25) apply states the situation. It is by Paul Norman, farm editor of that newspaper. All burley farmers who haven't read it should get a copy and do so.

Headlined "Many Tobacco Farmers Saved By Price Pool," the article tells of the burley pool's successful operation in "saving" growers by providing price supports.

Also, the writer tells how the program not only is under attack in Congress by anti-tobacco forces, but now faces a new threat resulting from potential losses in the Southern District markets.

The "saving" of tobacco farmers

over the years is a familiar story to the producer-members of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association, their own organization, which administers the price-support program in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and Missouri.

The burley crop the government pays has never cost the government any losses. It has always repaid the principal on its loans, plus interest, besides all overhead costs such as processing and storage, and in addition obtains a profit to farmers on consigned tobacco.

Last year about 200,000 checks went out to growers, totaling over \$11 million, representing gains earned for them on the 1967, '76 and '77 crops. The current worries that plague the burley-grower don't directly affect burley growers and their organization. But losses on flue-cured tobacco could render the entire tobacco program more vulnerable to new attacks by anti-smoking forces.

In the coming referendum an attempt will be made to amend the "plastic" "Yes" vote for renewal can provide a showing of confidence in the program, and particularly in the way it has been handled for and by the burley growers.



## Agree or not

By S.C. Van Curen

FRANKFORT—Conservation of energy is the directive Kentucky has adopted that is presented confronts us with a dilemma.

The Environmental Protection Agency sets air standards to such strictures that coal can't be burned as it has been. The Federal Power Commission or the Interstate Commerce Commission regulates the price of petroleum products.

Yet, this bleak and unusual winter has put people out of jobs, has increased the unemployment rate, increases the nation, and has denied the nation of needed products.

This all comes at a time when we have had a change at the head of our national government. Jimmy Carter, the new president, has pledged in his campaign to relieve us of most of these problems.

The question presented is how is it going to do it with all the barriers placed in his way.

The people elected a Democrat president apparently because they thought Republican President Gerald Ford could get a workable program through a Democratic Congress.

There's nothing wrong with that part of thinking on the part of the American public. It's their privilege.

## Mercury Quobors

by Warren R. Fisher

Monday, Jan. 31, was an eventful day and my first experience at a court hearing which was held in Frederick County before Circuit Judge John P. Lair.

The case being Blue Grass Knitting vs. the City of Carlisle and its Mayor and Councilmen. Normally I would have had the time to spare, but since I am along with many other businessmen I had volunteered to shut down our business in order to conserve natural gas.

The difficulty arose when the City was gas supplier to Columbus Gas Transmission Corporation in which Blue Grass Knitting was a class 1 priority customer and used about 75 per cent of the city's natural gas supply.

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As Judge Lair pointed out, the violation of the restraining order was not the restraining order itself, but the shutting off of the natural gas supply to Blue Grass Knitting Corporation's dryers.

Not being a court reporter I was not attempt to present a blow by either side. But the learned Judge stated at going over to the City's side that I sometimes thought it would be better to turn off the electricity in his home and use the same for a refrigerator, put another in the kitchen, and personally was doing all he could to do.

In his summation, he closed all the leading Coal-Producing States Kentucky is the leading coal-producing state in the nation, and we have reserves that can carry us far into the future if developed and used to the best advantage.

The 1974 legislature allocated several million dollars toward the development of a coal conversion process for liquefaction and gasification of coal. Kentucky and national industries are joined in a pledge toward this end, but my little headway in the layman's eye has been made toward this goal.

Admittedly, progress is slow, but in the light of the dilemma which the nation now faces, it seems to me the plea that not enough stress has been put on the "hurry-up" attitude this nation should adopt.

Only last week Kentuckians got dismal news that natural gas supplies are going to be reduced come Feb. 1, and that the future is not too bright past that point.

Schools are closed because of the lack of fuel, and because of foul weather. Industries are shut down, putting people out of work. We're increasing unemployment. We're making people suffer because of the lack of fuel and income.

The Environmental Protection Agency has made us cold, put people out of work, and increased the expenditures of welfare dollars for people on relief through no fault of their own.

The question seems to be if we breathe a little polluted air or do we freeze to death.

That's a valid question facing the 95th Congress.

The Carlisle Mercury Established in 1867 Phone (606) 283-2464 Published every Thursday at 222 N. Locust St., Carlisle, Nicholas County, Ky. 40311.

Advertisement for Studio 234-2700, featuring Walt Disney's 'The Chrome Mobile' and other items.

Advertisement for 'FOR SALE' featuring a Firearm and Accessories, Smith & Wesson, Colt, Ranger, Winchester.

Advertisement for 'Honey program' with comments sought on proposed determination relating to the price support program for the 1977 crop of honey.

Advertisement for 'Farmers plant 410,000 acres of winter wheat' with no roof cave-in.

Advertisement for 'Absolute Auction' on Friday, Feb. 4, 1977, featuring 65 Holstein Dairy Cows.

Advertisement for 'Kentucky Utilities Company' with the slogan 'Say You Saw It In The Mercury'.

Advertisement for 'Carlisle Drug Co.' featuring 'A Woman Never Forgets A Man Who Remembers' and 'I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous'.

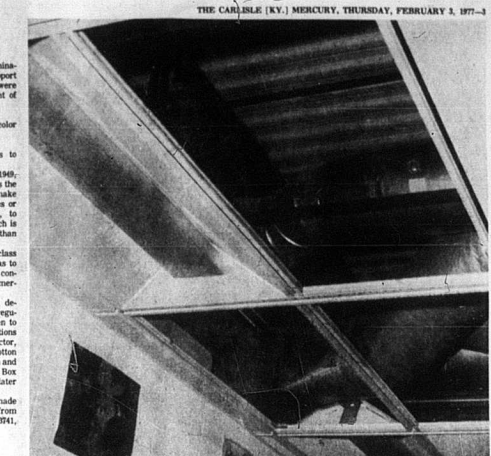
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One room of ceiling fell at Nicholas County Elementary recently when a water pipe pulled loose and water from the heating-air conditioning system emptied. The roof did not cave-in as has been rumored around town. Superintendent Elden said the school is ready to be occupied when the energy crisis eases.—Dance photo

Advertisement for 'Kentucky Farmers' planning a total of 410,000 acres of winter wheat in the fall of 1977 for harvest in 1978.

Advertisement for 'Kentucky Utilities Company' with the slogan 'Say You Saw It In The Mercury'.

Advertisement for 'Carlisle Drug Co.' featuring 'A Woman Never Forgets A Man Who Remembers' and 'I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous'.

Advertisement for 'New food!' with a list of items and a phone number.

Advertisement for 'OFF THE WALL' featuring 'MOJO DOES TALK' and 'IT SAYS GOOD-BYE'.

Advertisement for 'NATIONAL NEWSPAPER' with subscription rates and contact information.

Advertisement for 'Kentucky Press Association' with membership information.

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