

Attorney General explains fuel adjustment clause

by Attorney General Stephens

There has been a great deal of confusion on the part of consumers regarding the fuel adjustment clause which appears on their monthly utility bills. Many consumers do not understand what these charges include.

The fuel adjustment clause is an invention of the Public Service Commission (PSC), a state regulatory agency that controls the utility companies. The PSC has established the fuel adjustment clause to allow utility companies to automatically pass on to consumers any additional costs incurred by utility companies for the procurement of fossil fuel, which in Kentucky consists mainly of coal.

If the clause was not included on utility bills, the bill would be the same, if not a little higher. At least when the costs are itemized on your bill, you realize the amount you are paying for the base rate of the service and how much the cost of the fuel is increasing each month to provide you with those services.

Another misconception regarding the fuel adjustment clause is that consumers believe the utility company is allowed to keep this additional money

collected. This is false. The money is passed directly to the utility company's suppliers, which in most cases, would be the coal companies. The utility companies do not retain any of the money in the "fuel adjustment" charge.

If you have a consumer complaint regarding another problem, contact the Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Clair Street, Frankfort, KY 40601. Our office has found that it can most effectively deal with written complaints and encourages you to write when you have a complaint. However, if you have an emergency situation or just need some information, you can call the toll-free consumer hotline at 1-800-372-2560.

Help available for gardeners

Beginning gardeners as well as old-timers can get lots of help from the Nicholas County Extension office, including a copy of the new home gardening tabloid written by horticulturists and other specialists at the UK College of Agriculture.

"It tells what varieties to plant, when to plant them, and just about everything else you could possibly want to know." Come in and get your free allowed to keep this additional money

DWI offenders being helped

FRANKFORT — Highway is being made in Kentucky against one of the worst traffic problems confronting America. The drinking driver.

The state's alcohol driver education program, begun by the Kentucky Department of Transportation in 1974, is reeducating drivers convicted for a highly white-intoxicated (DWI) under program.

Only nine per cent of the nearly 18,000 drivers who completed the program in that three-year period have later been arrested again and convicted for DWI, according to state transportation Secretary Calvin Grayson.

In the past year, 7,267 DWI offenders completed the course and were allowed to go on driving. "While we don't know how many serious accidents were avoided, we do believe it (the program) is saving lives," Mr. Grayson said.

A look at the number of DWI-caused fatal accidents which occur annually in Kentucky demonstrates "vividly why we attach so much importance to these clinics," he added.

During 1976, the latest years for which complete Kentucky State Police accident statistics are available, there were 146,308 traffic accidents reported in Kentucky. Of that number, 8,192 were attributed to DWI.

Mr. Grayson also gave high marks to the courts for cooperating in the program.

"It has been the judges' acceptance of the program which has made us so successful," he said. The number of referrals to the program has increased every month since the program began, with clinics now in operation in 22 locations.

The clinics, taught by certified teachers specially trained in traffic law, consist of films, lectures and class participation with the format designed to change the drink-and-drive behavior. The six-hour course is divided into sessions of two and one-half hours each held on the same night for four consecutive weeks.

Card of Thanks

I wish to thank all of those who remembered me while in St. Joseph Hospital. I appreciate your cards, gifts, and visits so very much. Good friends mean a lot.

Thanks again,
Bill Poirer

Short-term courses offered this spring

Ten short-term courses are being offered this spring by the University of Kentucky Office of Continuing Education for Women and University Extension.

The courses are in vocational training and guidance, psychology, poetry, the middle years, communication, literature, creative writing and art.

Persons interested in enrolling should contact University Extension in room 203 of Frazer Hall on the UK campus or call the Registrar at (606) 258-2721 or 258-3531.

The ten non-credit courses are:

- "Painting Workshop," 7:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, March 27 to April 7, Second Presbyterian Church, 460 E. Main, Lexington. The creator of the popular TV series "Hona's Palette" will teach the class. Hona has studied in Berlin, New York and Antwerp and has received a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts.
- "Southern Writers," 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, March 28 to May 2, room 441 of Commerce Building, Dr. Alan Moore of the UK English faculty will lead discussions on William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Wendell Berry and Guy Davenport.
- "Contemporary Poetry," 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Mondays, March 27 to May 1, room 441 of the Commerce Building, Dr. Moorer will lead discussions on the English language poets.
- "Genesis' Poetry: The Mid-Life Passage," 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, March 30 to May 4, room 208 of Commerce Building, Instructor Carol Griffin of the Comprehensive Care Center describes mid-life as a "time of becoming responsible toward others." The class will examine changes in roles and attitudes, and explore opportunities for new decisions and goals.
- "Understanding and Improving Communication in Groups and Organizations," 7:15-9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, March 30 to May 4, room 441 of Commerce Building, Karen M. Holmf

John Jacob Niles in benefit concert

John Jacob Niles, folk-singer and balladeer, will be in concert Tuesday, March 28, for the benefit of the University of Kentucky's new Art Museum.

The concert, set for 8 p.m. in the Gospel Theatre, UK Fine Arts Building, will include classical ballads whose origins trace from Appalachia back to the British Isles.

Mr. Niles, who is 86, will accompany himself on the dulcimer singing such favorites as "Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair," "I Wonder as I Wander," "Go Away from My Window" and "The Hangman."

The noted composer, and one of the country's leading balladeers, has made folk music, has contributed greatly to the knowledge and appreciation of America's native musical heritage and has delighted audiences throughout the United States and Europe with his authentic musical arrangements.

Mr. Niles' concert will benefit the new UK Art Museum, which will be housed in the Fine Arts Building currently under construction on the UK campus. The museum is scheduled to open in the Spring of 1979.

Mr. and Mrs. William McCann of Lexington will host a reception Monday following the concert for Mr. Niles and concert patrons — those who attended the concert.

Pricilla Coak and Ursula Coak, museum art, that proceeds from the concert will be used to purchase the works of art for UK's permanent collection.

"This money can be matched dollar for dollar by the National Endowment for the Arts for the purchase of a work by a nationally recognized living American artist," she said.

A native of Louisville, Mr. Niles was educated at the Cincinnati Conservatory, the University of Lyon and the Schola Cantorum in Paris, France. He is the recipient of five honorary degrees.

Arranger of over 1,000 folk melodies, Mr. Niles also makes his own dulcimers. Four of his dulcimers always go with him on tour.

Most recently, Mr. Niles has studied the poetry of the late Thomas Merton. He has composed "The Niles-Merton Song Cycles No. 1 and No. 2," Op. 172. His collection of American folk music, begun before World War I, is the largest private collection in the United States.

Carolyn R. Hammer and Clyde Carpenter are co-chairmen of the concert patrons committee. Mrs. John Stephenson is chairman of the ticket sales committee.

Tickets are \$20 for a patron ticket, \$5 general admission, and \$2 for UK students with UK cards and children 12 and under. They will be on sale at the Guilford Theatre box office from noon to 6 p.m. March 16, 17, 27 and 28.

For more information, telephone (606) 258-5715 weekdays from 1 to 5 p.m.

EPA warns us of different water pollution

FRANKFORT — Water pollution brings to mind in most people images of rivers snarled by floating logs and debris. But a new type of water pollution — runoff from roads, farms and suburban neighborhoods, airports, and construction sites to name only a few — is the main danger to water pollution.

"Non-point source pollution," as it is termed by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is the biggest pollution problem in terms of volume but the biggest challenge to federal and state water pollution agencies in cleaning up rivers and streams.

While water-carrying pipes along rivers and streams can be inspected and monitored, the amount of pesticide being carried into a small stream by runoff from farmland or the amount of sediment washed into streams from a developing subdivision presents difficulties not only in measuring, but, more importantly, in finding ways to stop it. At present, the only way to stop it is by finding ways to stop it.

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In Kentucky 14 organizations have joined to form the National Pollution Prevention Program developed by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. The program is a division to solicit this input. Currently the division is seeking additional organizations.

The organizations will serve as a communication network between the division and the people informing a state water quality management plan. The plan is the result of the 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, is at the heart of the state's overall water quality management plan and is the most enforceable and sustainable of all water quality laws and is the most enforceable and sustainable of all water quality laws.

"We are seeking organizations who have in the past demonstrated some ability to deal with the public or have dealt with public issues and are interested in clean waters," says Mike Kinneil, public participation coordinator for the program with the state Division of Water Quality.

Mr. Kinneil says that while the locations of the organizations already recruited for the planning process will mean most areas of the state will have input into the final plan, there are still many areas in Eastern Kentucky and the northcentral part of the state between Louisville and Cincinnati that are not represented. Mr. Kinneil is hoping that organizations in those areas will become involved in the process.

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IRS has advice to speed returns

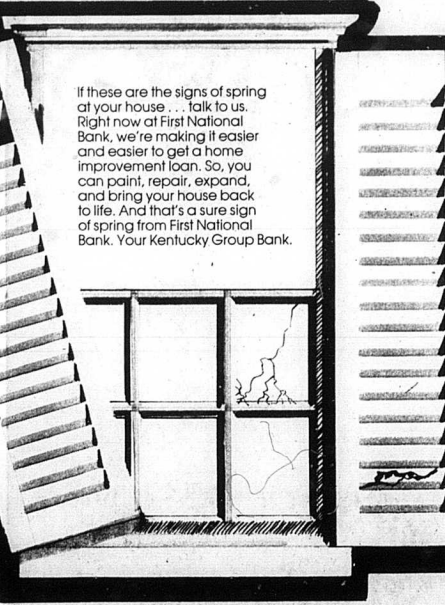
LOUISVILLE — Taxpayers can prevent probable slower processing of their tax returns and delay in the issuance of refund checks by double-checking their returns before filing, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) advised.

Some of the most common taxpayer mistakes, according to the IRS, include math errors, use of the wrong filing status, failure to sign the return and especially to provide the signatures of both the husband and wife in the case of a joint return, and failure to use the "zero bracket amount," and failure to attach the necessary documents such as W-2's.

Using the post-off label and mailing returns in the coded, pre-addressed envelope, both of which come with the tax package, also help avoid delays and speed issuance of refund checks.

Signs of Spring

- A Broken Shutter
- A Hanging Gutter
- Cracked, Peeling Paint
- A Leaky Roof
- A Cracked Driveway



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New law may help vets

If certain health problems prevented veterans from beginning or completing their education under the GI Bill, a new law may make it possible for them to turn back the clock and enroll again. VA regional office director Mrs. Mary Sinders of Louisville says.

The new program is available to veterans, spouses or surviving spouses who eligibility for GI Bill education benefits expired on June 1, 1976, or later, but who had not used all their schooling entitlement when mental or physical disability interfered with their training.

The disability must not have resulted from the individual's willful misconduct, Mrs. Sinders emphasized. She cautioned potential applicants they must provide medical evidence that mental illness or physical disability was responsible for their being unable to begin or complete schooling before the expiration of their GI Bill eligibility.

Under the law, veterans have ten years from the date of their discharge from active duty to complete GI Bill training. Spouses or surviving spouses have ten years from the date of their initial eligibility to complete training under the bill.

Until passage of the new law, those who had not used all their GI Bill education benefits by the end of that ten-year period lost it forever.

"This law," the director said, "gives us a welcome opportunity to help veterans who had their education delayed or interrupted because of circumstances beyond their control." An extension approved will be for the length of time VA determines the veteran or spouse was prevented from beginning or completing the education program.

The VA doesn't know the number of potential eligibles, but the VA official noted possible evidence that mental illness or physical disability was responsible for their being unable to begin or complete schooling before the expiration of their GI Bill eligibility.

Further information on the program may be obtained at the VA regional office through Disabled American Veterans service officers.

Taxpayers who've already filed returns this year are making slightly bigger refunds than in previous years, the government says.

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