Opinion

Let's wait and see

From all the rhetoric flying around Frankfort these days, one would think Lt. Gov. Thelma Stovall decided to change the state song to "On The Banks of the Wabash" and the state bird to the crow instead of merely calling a special session of the legislature.

Mrs. Stovall's action was perfectly legal, which may be why so many of the administration spokesmen and other gubernatorial candidates are having difficulty finding grounds for criticism of it. To date most of the comments we have seen and heard center on three facets of the session: it will be expensive, it is political in nature and the impact of any legislation that will be enacted will be detrimental to the financial solvency of the state.

Without getting into partisan politics, we suggest a wait-and-see attitude on the special session. For one thing, it will not be orchestrated as finely as the regular sessions of late, which means there may be the possibility of some meaningful debate on issues that affect every Kentuckian.

It was coincidental that the Mercury's editor had an appointment for an interview with Frankfort attorney Joseph Leary two days after the session was called. Leary is one of Mrs. Stovall's political advisers and an astute politician in his own right. Although the interview concerned the Nicholas County tax mill, which Leary is pursuing, he did offer his opinion that some constructive legislation might result from the call.

Yes, the session will be expensive. A suggestion by several Kentucky newspapers that the lawmakers pass a resolution to limit their pay to hold down costs has some merit and should be pursued. (Some wags have noted the solons seeking re-election should pay the state for the privilege of receiving free publicity hard upon the May elections.)

As for being political in nature, it is the Mercury's observation that very little emanates from our capital city that is not political. Certainly the administration can throw no stones on that account, considering all the free publicity its handpicked candidate has received via the Kentucky Department of Public Information for the past two years.

Financially harmful? That is a hard charge to answer, and even harder to substantiate. We all know statistics can be used to cover a multitude of sins. Very few of us know exactly what kind of financial state our state is in. We hear on one hand that frugality is needed but on the other hand the state can spend $67,000 for a survey on how Kentuckians see themselves and what type of image the state has with its neighbors. The Kentucky treasury is a fascinating animal that can effectively conceal its true size while allowing the governor (and this refers to governors in general) to dispense largesse from his contingency fund like a caliph of old.

Whatever will arise from the special session it will at least allow Kentuckians to see their lawmakers in action in an assembly restricted to a few issues. The excuse the issues are so complex that they should be studied at length simply won't hold water. What in the world are the citizens maintaining a Legislative Research Commission and interim committee meetings for if not to keep abreast of the issues?

And the issues are volatile. Taxes are uppermost in everyone's mind these days and beyond that, effectiveness of service. The special session call focuses on some areas where good arguments have been made for tax reduction and accountability, not to mention an attempt in revising some of the district court financial structure with an aim to returning to the counties some of the revenues they have lost as well as an attempt to reimburse the counties for space given to housing the district courts.

It will be interesting to see what results from the special session. If it only contributes a small measure of independence to the Kentucky General Assembly, a trait that seems to have eroded in past sessions, then it will be worthwhile. If it results in some tax reduction with an accompanying belttightening that seems long overdue in Frankfort then it will be well worth the cost and time involved.

And if it shows the true measure of some of our lawmakers, then it will be invaluable in determining the future course of this Commonwealth in electing legislators that do not forget the folks at home when they enter the heady atmosphere of the state capitol.

Agree or Not

Cutting taxes will also mean cutting some state expenditures

by S. C. Van Curen

FRANKFORT — The last thing any governor wants is a special session of the General Assembly just before a gubernatorial election year.

Gov. Julian Carroll is no exception, if you've been reading the news out of Frankfort.

A legislative session provides the perfect platform for legislators seeking statewide offices. It also is the perfect platform for critics of the present administration to vent their dissatisfaction.

This being the case, a special session at this time harbors opportunity for mistakes to be made.

Lt. Gov. Thelma Stovall has stolen the thunder and the platforms of many of her announced opponents in next year's primary for the Democratic nomination for governor.

Tax-cutting is a popular subject now. Her six proposals all appeal to people who want their taxes cut and to cut inflation where possible.

It is going to be exceedingly difficult for any legislator who is seeking re-election to vote against taking the five per cent state sales tax off utility bills. Inflation has made all citizens aware of taxes, especially on utility bills that have increased almost annually since 1970.

Mrs. Stovall says her cuts will amount to about $73 million per year in general revenue income to the state. On the other hand, Gov. Carroll says it will cost much more. No one really knows at this time.

Reduction of moving traffic fines will also be popular with the public. The last legislature increased these fines by a flat $15 in an effort to continue to support local police officers after federal funds for this purpose were withdrawn.

Certainly the county judge-executives, or most of them, are for the counties getting more money from the state since the local courts were abolished by the 1976 constitutional amendment, cutting off a source of revenue for them.

The danger in the special session is that these tax cuts will be made without a method to reduce state government expenditures to offset them. Several legislators have argued there is enough fat in the budget to take care of these cuts. Bills were introduced in the 1976 and the 1978 legislative session to remove the sales tax from home utility bills, but they failed. This is one of the main questions Mrs. Stovall has included in her call for the special session.

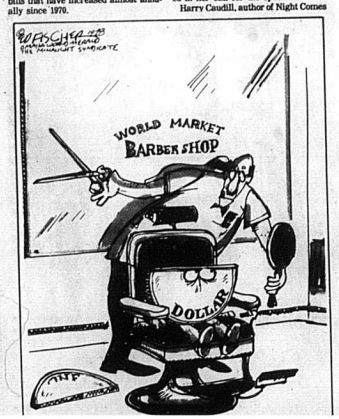
Harry Caudill, author of Night Comes to the Cumberlands, has been proposing of late that a severance tax should be levied on oil and gas produced in Kentucky. Most of it goes out of state. Most of the natural gas Kentucky home owners consume comes from Louisiana and Texas while gas produced in Kentucky is shipped to Eastern seaboard states and Pennsylvania.

These issues included in the call are items that put Gov. Carroll in a very vulnerable position. How can he oppose these tax reductions?

There have been some suggestions that a tax on oil and gas can offset some of the proposed tax reductions.

However, this subject was not in the call, but the call can be amended by the governor to include that. Or, if he goes out of state again, Mrs. Stovall can enlarge the call.

Whatever happens, look out for a lot of oratory from the legislative halls in Frankfort.



Until her death in 1960, this woman's name was synonymous with good manners and socially correct behavior. Even today, her books are still considered important guidebooks of etiquette to most Americans. A definite style-setter, she was a slender, Gibson-girl-shaped socialite in her youth who was gutsy enough to take a strong stand against Prohibition and maintained a conventional perspective on society's rules which prompted her to write such lessons in the relationship between the sexes as, "the girl who runs, runs after a man who will run faster." Her best-selling book had 39 printings and ten editions. Who was that lady? Emily Post

Would You Believe...

Bloodhounds are able to detect a scent up to 10 days old.

* * *

The crawling fish of Asia can live for a week out of water.

* * *

Memory Lane

Safe stolen from Moorefield; court decides against jail site

Thursday, December 4, 1958

In the county convention held on Nov. 29 at the Nicholas County ASC Office, H. S. Vice was re-elected chairman. Harvey Wagoner was re-elected vice chairman.

A safe, containing an estimated $376 was stolen from the Mercantile Store and rural post office at Moorefield early last Wednesday morning.

Delegates from Parent-Teacher organizations throughout the Nicholas County area met Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Thomas C. Johnson to organize the Nicholas County Council of Parents and Teachers.

E. P. Henry of the Jacksntown Road won the T.V. given away by the F & J Variety Store at its grand opening last week.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Earl Prather, a son, Dec. 1. — To Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hamm, Frankfort, a daughter, Cheryl Ann, Nov. 21. — To Mr. and Mrs. William E. Woodall of Millersburg, a son, John Edward, Nov. 30.

MARRIED — Miss Barbara Sue Reid, Moorefield to William Maxwell Tolliver of Carlisle, Thanksgiving Day at the Moorefield Methodist Church. — Miss Lucille Kokendoffer to James Paul Wilson, Thursday in Lexington.

DIED — Charles W. Dinsmore, 37, Tuesday in El Paso, Texas. — Michael Henry Berry, 89, Saturday at his home. — Robert Bussell, 69, Saturday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ida Thornsbury. — Charles Edward Conkright, seven-year old son of John and Mildred Snowden Conkright, Sunday in Lexington. — Mrs. Era Taylor Bowe, 75, Monday at the home of her son, Topsey Bowe in Bourbon County. — William Griffith McClintock, Saturday at his home in Paris.

Thursday, December 6, 1928

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court at its regular meeting Wednesday decided not to place the proposed new jail building in the northeast corner of the county court yard property. A large number of townspeople had protested against putting the jail in the court yard.

With a squad of nine men, the National Guard basketball team under the direction of Lt. Ted Poe, is preparing diligently for its first season as an independent basketball team.

Strings of colored lights for Christmas decorations in Carlisle were put up and turned on last Saturday afternoon.

Smith's Service Station, at the corner of Main and Sycamore, is having a greasing and washing shed added to the main part of the station.

The 91-acre farm of J. W. Smith on the Pleasant Springs Pike was sold last week to G. M. Weddell.

Nathan Young, rural mail carrier with the local post office, was taken ill unexpectedly last Wednesday while delivering mail and was removed to his home.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Julian Caswell, a daughter, Dec. 2.

MARRIED — Miss Ruby Mae Miller of Dayton, Ohio and Herschel D. Barton also of Dayton, Nov. 30 at the Carlisle Christian Church.

Kentucky Reflections

First Amendment does more than just protect press interests

by George Street Boone

That enternal vigilance is the price of liberty is one of the sturdiest chestnuts of political rhetoric, but such vigilance is a lot of demand of anyone.

While its obsession with its own importance is one of the less endearing qualities of the American press, the obsession does often serve the public interest well. That prickly pride and independence is often evident in the questioning by representatives of the press.

Governor Carroll's testy sparring with reporters over such matters as personal service contracts, leases, the use of state planes and indicted associates' documents well his sensitiveness to unfavorable publicity. The sparring serves also to illustrate the press's proclivity for needling but it also serves the public interest.

When the U. S. Supreme Court recently handed down a decision that encourages law officers to make a wider use of search warrants in newspaper offices. The press was concerned almost entirely with the effect of the decision on its ability to collect the news and protect its sources. Carroll chose National Newspaper Week to announce that he had caused strong measures to be issued to limit state police from injudicious searching of private files with only a warrant. The regulations came after months of consultation between the governor's office and representatives of the press.

It is too much to expect a harmonious relationship between the press and government if either side considers the relationship as primarily an adversary one. As Woody Allen said, the lion shall lie down with the lamb, but the lamb won't get much sleep. The governor has found press relationship increasingly difficult, and progressively he rests less well with the press.

In the broader view, the First Amendment is designed to protect far more than the business enterprises that gather beneath the press umbrella. It is intended to protect the collection and transmission of information, procedures which are essential to democratic process and the governor recognizes this. Newspapers and other news organizations have a constitutional right to publish information that are not accorded other citizens, Although Nixon is no longer in power, his specter glares down balefully from the Supreme Court which formerly was the last guardian of civil liberties.

special rights, they should anticipate further inroads into press freedom.

In these days of repeated rebuffs and worse at the hands of the courts, the press needs every ally it can muster. The Supreme Court has made it clear that it is not impressed by press claims to special status. Rather, the majority view of the Supreme Court seems to be that in gathering news the press has no constitutional privileges that are not accorded other citizens, Although Nixon is no longer in power, his specter glares down balefully from the Supreme Court which formerly was the last guardian of civil liberties.

Inside The Mercury

Giving thanks Thanksgiving finally over

Many of the Mercury's city and county,mail subscribers received their papers a day earlier than usual last week thanks to the combined efforts of the Mercury staff and the U. S. Postal Service, Carlisle division.

But for a while last Wednesday it was touch-and-go as to whether the deadline could be met. In fact, if the mailmen hadn't graciously waited a little longer than usual, it might have been Friday before anyone received their papers in the mail.

Our usual procedure in preparing the Mercury for printing winds down about 6 p.m. Tuesday when all the pages are shot into negatives for the trip to the Cynthiana Publishing Company.

For several years the Mercury has had a Wednesday morning printing deadline. But increased traffic at the Cynthiana plant caused us to review the situation a couple of months ago and make some adjustments. Now the paper is taken to Cynthiana as soon as the page negatives are completed.

This gives the Cynthiana plant a little more time in which to print the Mercury and avoids a Wednesday-morning rush caused by another Cynthiana client being notoriously late in meeting their deadline.

Plans go awry

Our objective last week was to have the paper in the mail by 7 a.m. Wednesday, the earliest it had ever been addressed and sacked for the post office. But unforeseen obstacles threw a wrench into those plans.

The Cynthiana Publishing Company recently expanded its press capacity from 20 to 28 pages. Since the Mercury rarely runs over 14 pages this expansion didn't affect us — we thought.

It seems the new units were added to the press the weekend before the Thanksgiving holiday and like any other addition to a precision machine, the adjustments took a little time. By Tuesday evening the bugs had definitely not been worked out and a slowdown was in the making.

The negatives reached Cynthiana at 7:30 p.m. By 4 a.m. the next morning we were told we were next on the press. At 9 a.m. that prediction came true but the troubles were just starting.

A modern, offset printing press is machined to extremely close tolerances. It has to be on a level from front to back that would put a championship pool table to shame. When the press started with the Mercury's plates on it, something was out of whack.

"Floating Webs"

If you'll notice your paper you may see that the pages are printed on sheets in multiples of four. Pull one of these sheets out about halfway and you see what the problem was.

Something was out of level and as the paper sped into the folder to be cut and then folded twice one four-page sheet

*Please turn to page 14

Deliver your opinions correctly

This opinion page is open to our readers at all times. If you send your letter to the editor with a hand signed signature before Tuesday of that edition and if you say nothing in your letter that would slander anyone's name, your letter will be published and received by our reading public. On the other hand, if a letter does not comply with these rules, it will probably be either delayed or thrown in the waste-basket.

The opinion page is like any other service, it is designed for your benefit but it must be used correctly.

We welcome all letters and enjoy our readers comments but we cannot publish them at someone else's expense whether it be ours, yours or others.

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1978 Prize Winner A Key
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Watch those storms!

Last in a series

"Winter of 78 Survivor" was a slogan marketed on shirts in the spring of this year after many sections of the country as well as Kentucky remembered the severe winter weather.

The Kentucky Division of Disaster and Emergency Services hopes that Kentuckians will be better prepared this coming winter for hazards associated with winter storms.

Ronn Padgett, director of operations for DES, explained that winter differs from the other seasons because of many different types of storms and the speed at which those storms can turn from snow flurries into a blizzard.

Padgett noted that a "blizzard" is the most dangerous of all winter storms. It combines cold air, heavy snow and strong winds that blow the snow about any may reduce visibility to only a few yards. A "blizzard warning" is issued when the National Weather Service expects considerable snow and winds of 35 miles per hour or more. A "severe blizzard warning" means that a heavy snowfall is expected, with winds of at least 45 mph and temperatures of 10 degrees or lower. During the past winter it was this type of storm that paralyzed some regions of the Commonwealth for nearly three days.

A "heavy snow warning" usually means an expected snowfall of four inches or more in a 12-hour period, or six inches or more in a 24-hour period. Warnings of "snow flurries," "snow squalls" or "blowing and drifting snow" are important because visibility may be reduced and roads may become slipper or blocked.

Every winter many unnecessary deaths occur because people, especially older persons, engage in more strenuous physical activity than their bodies can stand. The Kentucky Division of Disaster and Emergency Services offers some advice about avoiding overexertion and the proper dress for winter weather.

Cold weather, itself, without any physical exertion, puts an extra strain on the heart. If you add to this physical exertion, especially exercise that you are not accustomed to, such as shoveling snow, pushing an automobile, or even walking fast and far, you may be risking a heart attack, a stroke, or damage to your body.

Winter storms such as heavy snows and blizzards are the most important times to be aware of this danger and to avoid overexertion.

The manner in which you dress can be very important in the winter months. Try always to be aware of the weather forecast to avoid being caught unprepared by a winter storm. If you spend much time outdoors, wear several layers of loosefitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than a single layer of thick clothing. Mittens are warmer than gloves. use a hood to protect your head and face, and to cover your mouth to protect your lungs from the extreme cold air.

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DES notes that the past two winters in Kentucky have been quite severe and urges citizens to avoid overexertion.

Ham cookin'

Mrs. Lovell Shaw, left, and Mrs. Earl Marshall, chairman of the Country Store exhibit at the Nicholas County Health Care Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar, get ready to slice one of several country hams donated by local merchants. Country ham sandwiches, pies and coffee will be served for lunch during the bazaar, which will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, at the old Armory. — Mercury photo.

Nicholas historical sites nominated

Historic sites nominated to the National Register of Historic Places will be considered by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the courtroom of Paul Sawyier Library, Wapping Street, Frankfort.

The board will review 20 sites in 13 counties, including the historic resources of Clark County. Counties in which other sites are located include: Bracken, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Jefferson, Leslie, Lincoln, McCracken, Nicholas, Trigg, Warren and Woodford.

The 11-member review board evaluates the sites, which, if approved, are sent by Mrs. Eldred W. Melton, the state historic preservation officer, to the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D. C., for consideration as a listing.

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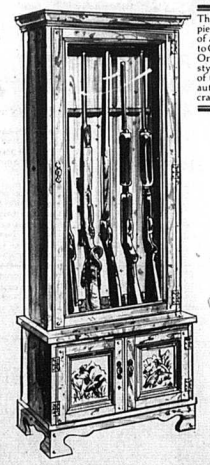

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Jasper Cabinet Company

Oops!

Due to a headline error and an accompanying caption error, the date for the Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade was incorrectly printed as Dec. 2, although the adjacent news stories carried the correct date of Dec. 9.

The parade will begin at 2 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Nicholas County High School. Another article in this week's Mercury contains all the pertinent information. The Mercury apologizes for any confusion that might have arisen from the errors.