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1980 General Assembly issues aired

It was a sparse crowd of constituents that turned out last Saturday at the courthouse to see Sen. Ed Ford and Rep. Adrian Arnold, Nicholas County's representatives in the Kentucky General Assembly.

But the lack of a large audience didn't hinder the two lawmakers from discussing the issues that will confront the 1980 General

Assembly when it convenes on Jan. 8.

One of the hottest bills that is likely to come up next month is the professional negotiations bill for Kentucky school teachers.

"I think Gov. Brown is out of step with the legislature on this one," Sen. Ford said.

Ford noted the difference between Gov.

Julian Carroll's stand on professional negotiations for school teachers.

Carroll, he said, took the position that he wouldn't veto a bill if the assembly passed it, knowing that the conservative majority of the legislature was opposed to professional negotiation for public employees.

But Brown, he feels, is "jacked in" to support such a bill — and Ford doesn't feel that the legislature has changed its position on that issue.

Other issues expected to generate comment are workmen's compensation, the state road fund and the bonded indebtedness of the state.

The last is an underlying issue that many legislators are becoming concerned with. Rep. Arnold pointed out that with the commitments Gov. Carroll made to the city of Louisville for projects there, the state's total bonded indebtedness would reach about \$2.8 billion.

It might become an issue when the question of refinancing the state road fund comes up, Ford said. One approach to the problem of finding money for the state road fund is the selling of maintenance bonds.

"That's telling your children they'll have to pay for maintaining Nicholas County's roads in 1980," Ford said.

County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot asked Ford if there was talk among legislators to raise the license registration fee. Ford said there was, but that another approach is to raise the state's tax on gasoline. "Three cents on the gallon might take care of the road fund's problems," he said.

(An article prepared by the Kentucky Department of Public Information was printed in the Oct. 18/1979 issue of the Mercury. It reported on an Interim Joint Committee on Highways and Traffic Safety

meeting which produced a study that said the lack of growth in the state's road fund was "suffocating" the state's general construction and maintenance needs. Factors mentioned in the study were shortages of mechanics, inefficient bidding procedures, \$3 to \$5 million in obsolete parts and 25 percent of the equipment needing repair at any one time.)

Ford pointed out that the state tax on gasoline has been nine cents on the gallon since gas sold for 34 cents per gallon. An observer at the meeting pointed out that people seem willing to pay whatever gasoline costs and that users of the roads should contribute to the maintenance.

Another issue which Ford said will confront the legislature but which might not receive much attention is a measure designed to allow cross-county banking, permissible now only in cases where no other bank serves a county.

It is an issue that will be supported by two large Louisville banks and the details are not clear as to what sort of districts will be proposed for the banks.

Arnold said area development districts are being spoken of as well as congressional districts. Such a measure, if successful, will allow a bank to have a branch in any county of the district so designed, instead of having to remain in its own county.

As far as working with the new governor, both men agreed on two points: that Brown has far less background in state government than his predecessor and that the legislature's growing independence is a result of the members' efforts to increase their influence and not of any governor's relinquishing his control over the General Assembly.

Perhaps the issue that concerns legislators

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Issues meeting

State Rep. Adrian Arnold (second from left) and State Sen. Ed Ford (second from right) discuss the issues for the upcoming session of the legislature with County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot (left) and Joe F. Conley. The two Nicholas County representatives held a pre-legislative conference with voters last Saturday at the courthouse. — Mercury photo.

Library board honors two

By Judy Judge

After serving the people of Nicholas County for almost 13 years, Mrs. Taylor Snelling, better known to most as "Miss Elsie," will retire from her position as head librarian of the Nicholas County Library on Dec. 31.

"Miss Elsie" has served the people well, providing them with information on unbelievable subjects and helping both young and old select reading material for their pleasure.

Mrs. Snelling was employed by the library as bookmobile operator in February of 1967. In April of 1972 she succeeded Marjorie Montgomery as head librarian.

Recently the Library Board held an infernal tea in honor of Mrs. Snelling. Mr. Joe F. Conley, chairman of the board, presented Mrs. Snelling with an engraved silver tray in recognition of her service to the community and devotion to her job.

Also honored at this time was Mrs. Roger Wornack who recently resigned from the Library Board after serving as a member for 23 years. Mr. Conley presented her with an engraved silver dish.

Hutton named All-State

Nicholas County High School senior Mike Hutton was named to the Lexington Herald-Leader's All-State Second Team Sunday.

Hutton, a 6-3, 155-pound end, was competing in his first year of varsity football this past season. He was also named to the Louisville Courier-Jour-

Besides the members of the Library Board, Mrs. Freda Sparks, bookmobile librarian, was present for the occasion. On Jan. 1, Mrs. John R. Anderson will assume the responsibilities as head librarian.

Extension Office to close

The Nicholas County Extension office located in the basement of the cour-

thouse will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 1 for the Christmas holidays.



'Miss Elsie' honored

Mrs. Taylor (Elsie) Snelling, retiring Nicholas County librarian, was recently presented a silver tray for her years of service. Mrs. Roger Wornack (right) was also honored with a silver dish for 23-year tenure on the Nicholas County Library Board. Making the presentations was Joe F. Conley, chairman of the library board. — Mercury photo.

KSP picks Campbell to head Dry Ridge post

Nicholas County native Marion Campbell is the new commander of the Kentucky State Police's Dry Ridge Post, which includes his home county.

Campbell, 38, replaces Capt. A.D. (Dale) Fortner, who was named director of criminal investigations at the state police's Frankfurt headquarters.

A 16-year state police veteran, Campbell holds the rank of captain in the force. He once served briefly at the Dry Ridge Post as a cadet and is being transferred there from the Harlan Post.

Campbell was born in Carlisle and graduated from Nicholas County High School in 1959.

Following his entry into the state police in 1964, he worked as a trooper at Morehead until 1969 when he became a detective. For the next seven years, he remained in criminal investigations where he rose to the rank of captain and served, at various times, as assistant investigative commander and as commander of the Crime Lab and Special Investigations Unit.

In 1976, he was transferred to the KSP Academy as training commander and, a year later, returned to the Morehead Post as an investigative unit commander. His last assignment was as post commander at Harlan.

Campbell holds both a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and master's degree in public administration from Eastern Kentucky University. He is also a graduate of the FBI's National Police Academy at Quantico, Va.

As post commander at Dry Ridge, his

area will include Boone, Bourbon, Brecken, Campbell, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Nicholas, Pendleton and Robertson Counties.

He is the son of Mrs. Jim Campbell of Moorefield and the late Mr. Campbell.

East Ky. Power names manager

On a unanimous vote by the Winchester-based East Kentucky Power Board of Directors, Donald R. Norris was selected as the cooperative's new President and General Manager, effective Feb. 4. The action was taken at the December board meeting.

The 29-year old Norris, currently general manager of the Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative in Wilton, Iowa, replaces Ronald Batson, who resigned in September and agreed to continue until his contract expires on Dec. 31.

Norris is a native of Iowa where he attended Iowa State University and received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He has been with his



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This year both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on the Mercury's regular press day, Tuesday. In order to give our employees some time off and to get your Mercury to you the papers dated Thursday, Dec. 27 and Thursday, Jan. 3 will be printed on Saturday, Dec. 22 and Saturday, Dec. 29.

This means that all ads and news copy for those two issues should be in by Friday, Dec. 21 (tomorrow) for the Dec. 27 issue and Friday, Dec. 28 for the Jan. 3 issue.

Depending on the press schedules at Cynthiana, where the Mercury is printed, Carlisle and Nicholas County subscribers should get their papers on Monday, Dec. 24 and Monday, Dec. 31.

The staff of the Mercury would like to thank the employees at the Carlisle Post Office for their help in this matter. Despite President Carter's announcement of Monday, Dec. 24 and Monday, Dec. 31 as a holiday for all government employees the post office will be open on those two days.

Here's our holiday schedule