

Opinion

Some answers

In a wide-ranging interview with the Mercury last week Ken Urlice, administrator of Johnson-Masters and Hart Inc., operator of the nursing home and hospital, outlined some of the reasons for the facility's financial performance last year.

From this interview it was learned that the facility, like many others in the nation, is highly dependent on the government-sponsored Medicare and Medicaid programs for survival. More than half the patients treated at the hospital and 80 per cent of the nursing home patients fall under these programs.

Other factors also contributed to the performance. The level of occupancy in both facilities was lower than anticipated. Although this is not something that can be foreseen, it also affected the facility's revenues.

This last factor is ominous, indeed, when compared with the fact that Nicholas County has only three doctors with two of them approaching retirement age. It is a hard and fast fact, Mr. Urlice agreed that without doctors to administer the hospital, it is a hospital in trouble. And we don't believe that doctors in surrounding communities are going to be lured to Nicholas County patients to the Nicholas County hospital when they have hospitals in their own areas to use.

Agree or Not

More legislative independence makes session worthwhile

by S. C. Van Curen FRANKFORT — The mills of the gods grind slowly, someone wrote, and that is exactly what has been happening in this legislative session called especially to reduce taxes.

However, the populace should not be angry with the legislators for they have been taking a very hard look at the budget process and the spending process. There are some taxpayers who feel that it is a waste of state money for the legislature to be in session under this special call, for tax reductions aren't going to be really significant to the middle-income person, or for anyone else, that matter.

However, taking the salt tax off horse stables, except telephone, will be some relief to the retired person on a small fixed income. A couple of dollars per month will mean a lot to the person who is having a struggle.

Taxpayers, however, should not despair for what this special session is costing can pay dividends in the future to all Kentuckians. Legislators have delved deeply into the budget process and into state spending. Many have learned that the capital construction fund has been used by past governors as just a big barrel of money to use for some of their pet projects and to do some things, like buying an \$825,000 jet airplane, without anyone's knowledge.

There is no more about the governor's budget and through both houses in the week without extension. The Appropriations and Revenue Committee should take a very hard look at the budget and its allocations. Legislators have found fat in the budget, but there seems to be a trend in the Senate to use the surplus to cut taxes this year instead of the idea of the House to trim fat from the budget.

Using the surplus will just delay action until the 1980 session, and there is no guarantee there will be a recurring surplus to make up for the loss in taxes and the reduction in lines. Governor Julian Carroll earlier said there is no "free lunch," meaning there wasn't anything to cut expenses to allow for a reduction in taxes. However,

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Memory Lane

Movie proceeds go to class; farm sells for \$85 an acre

Thursday, February 12, 1979 Walter Wyrick, owner of the Lyric Theatre, announced Wednesday that one-half the proceeds from the movie "The Missouri Traveler" would be given to the Carlisle High School for use in the annual Junior-Senior Trip.

Russell Alexander, Bill Vaughn, Elisha Walton, Enoch Doyle and Bill Power, members of Lloyd George VFW Post will attend a meeting of the Central Kentucky Horse Show Association, Sunday in Lexington.

Cliff Vice of the Southern States Carline Cooperative, has returned from a three-day district agency conference in Huntington, W. Va.

Luether Whitaker, assistant County Agricultural Extension Agent, left Sunday to begin his tour of duty in Army Reserve Training at Ft. Knox.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Paul Garrett, a daughter, Feb. 8. — To Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kenneth Harper, a daughter, Cynthia Kay, 6. — To Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Alexander, Dec. 25, 1968.

MARRIED — Miss Betty Lou Howard to Donald Gilliland, Monday at Genevieve Canfield, Morehead, to Milton Whitt, Farmers, Jan. 30.

DIED — Mrs. Ella Bell Eastwirth, 85, Monday at the home of a niece, Mrs. Richard Eastwirth in Paris. Mrs. Susanne Hutchens, 108, Monday at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. L. Buchanan. Mrs. Mattie Vaughn Parson, 85, Tuesday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Willie Stone. Mrs. Alice Hankins Phillips, 96, Cynthiana, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Gates. — Mrs. Cassie Elizabeth Morris, 69, Tuesday at her home near Falmouth. — C. W. McVey, 69, Sharpsburg, at his home Friday.

Thursday, February 16, 1979 At a meeting of the Nicholas County Board of Education, Saturday afternoon, Mrs. Eda S. Taylor was again appointed Superintendent of Nicholas County schools for a period of one year, the term for which she applied. She will retire as superintendent July 1, 1980. The Nicholas County Board of Supervisors, which met last evening at the Lyric Theatre, has installed new leases in the projecting machines and has also installed the newest type of curtain projector. Circuit Judge James C. Dodman appointed Windsor Gausser, Luther City and Ben Alexander as jury commissioners to fill the jury pool. Mr. and Mrs. Orville Fuller purchased recently from the Nicolas Family Court the residence on Dewey Avenue formerly owned by James A. Cameron. The Scott-Kendall Sales Company sold public stock last Thursday. The Swartz farm near East Union to H. L. Brown of Sharpburg, at \$85 per acre. Horses brought from \$100 down, cows from \$70 down and feed and farming implements sold well.

J. W. Sheeler, who has been local I & A agent here for the past several years, will take over the agency of the company at Richmond, March 1. The Nicholas County Board of Supervisors composed of John M. Varner, A. A. Dale, J. J. Hays, J. H. Hays, J. Hays and James T. Ockerman, appointed by Judge D. M. Curry, convened Monday morning to do the annual assessment of the county.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. John William Cantall of the county, a son, Feb. 4. MARRIED — Miss Gladys Heathman of Kansas, Ill. to John H. Cheatham of Paris, Ill, Feb. 1. DIED — Mrs. Dora Retta Thomas Wagner, 62, of the Bartlett section, Monday night. — Mrs. Pearl Hamm Purter, 85, Sunday at her home near Ellisville.

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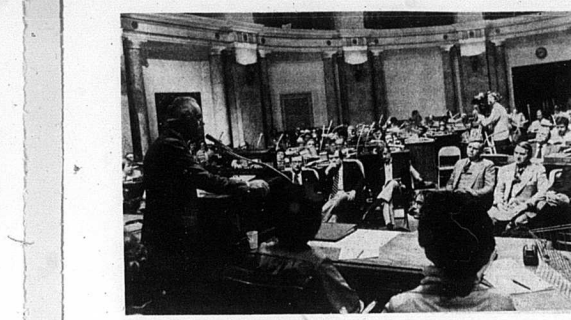
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Letters

To the Carlisle Mercury: I would like to respond to a comment made in the Mercury by Mr. Shelby Boy Lee about my running for judge. I feel that my action is perfectly legal. If I didn't, Homer, Scotland or Voltaire were alive today, they would quickly be telling me that my wife was not paid while serving as a matron and cook. The current jailer is being paid much more than I; and in addition, he is being paid for her work. I would have remained jailer if the fiscal court would have allowed me the same financial arrangements as Mr. Letts has.

It is true I have protested the condition of the jail and I will still speak out when I feel that the County is not providing adequate facilities. My resignation was prompted by refusal of the fiscal court to do anything about my complaints and to pay me as I am now paying the jailer. I feel that anyone, including me, has a right to run for a county office and I have threatened with investigation. I have nothing to hide and will answer any questions that anyone wishes to ask me. Please feel free to call my home.

Ray Lamm 7753 Indiana, Apt. 215 Jacksonville, FL 32211



Gov. Julian Carroll is shown addressing a joint session of the Kentucky General Assembly last week. The special session is producing some results in the areas of tax relief and legislative independence. For more on the special session see the Agree or Not column in this week's editorial page and the wrap-up article on page one. —State photo

Praises lawmakers

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Survey shows erosion main local soil problem

by Wilmer Halcomb, S. C. S. An issue which has been out of the headlines for years, soil erosion, is the number one natural resource environmental concern in Kentucky.

Water quality and solid waste disposal problems came in second and third, respectively, in the state-wide tabulation process according to U. S. Soil Conservation Service officials. Over 4,500 Kentuckians from all walks of life established these priorities during a series of public meetings conducted this summer in all 120 counties. The meetings were held in compliance with the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977.

Local conservation districts and the SCS sponsored the county-wide public involvement sessions. Since the meetings were a mix of urban and rural citizens, people were somewhat surprised to see soil erosion at the top of the list.

Other subjects have received far more media emphasis by the media in recent years. Evidently, soil erosion problems are not confined to any one segment of our society. The subject involves cropland erosion from marginal lands, improper pastureland management practices, clear cutting and bad roads leading to and from forest lands, urban construction sites and problems associated with

new as well as old mining sites. Priorities four through 12 consisted of forestry management, water supply and storage, organic waste disposal, improper land use management, wildlife habitat development, public information and education, private farmstead protection, flooding and mining pollution. The public inputs will be forwarded to Washington, D. C. to be placed in with responses from the other 49 states. National concerns will be announced in 1979. At that time conservation districts and the federal Soil Conservation Service will once again ask the public to decide which conservation programs should be used to attack local concerns.

Then using "blitz input a national conservation program will be presented to President Carter to concentrate on the nation's top natural resource concerns on a priority basis. The problems of soil erosion are so gradual people have been apathetic in some respects until a crisis develops. High levels of sedimentation brought on by soil erosion causes streams or rivers to plug up. Only when flooding occurs in people's homes become concerned, but it's too late and the damage can't be corrected overnight.

The people of Nicholas County feel that these 11 problems were the most important to them:

1. water pollution.
2. air pollution.
3. land use planning.
4. bad use of land.
5. noxious weed control.
6. woodland management.
7. recycling waste products.
8. restrictive federal control.
9. refuse waste (landfill and litter).
10. animal waste management.
11. conservation education.

Ford's Footnotes

by Senator Ed Ford We have completed our fourth week of the Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly. We are feeling confident, following any legislative debates on the final version of legislation that we will be able to close shop within a very few days and hopefully by the end of the week.

G. A. Duncan, proprietor of the State House and Assembly, and the House and Senate Committees of both chambers remained in Frankfort Friday to begin the lengthy item transmitting of state government budget. Governor Carroll met with us in caucus and then in joint session, giving us his recommendations concerning proposed budget cuts. The Senate appeared to be in agreement with his suggestions, most of which were developed on the floor of the Senate while acting as a Committee of the Whole.

It is our goal to provide tax relief without sacrificing a sound financial future for the Commonwealth. We are aware that this session itself involves an investment of tax dollars, but that cost compared to the relief we can provide to Kentucky taxpayers will be small.

Both chambers have passed bills relating to traffic fines. A number of bills have made progress for reducing court costs, relieving fiscal courts of the responsibility for providing office space for court officials, and several measures have been passed to make changes in various jail reimbursements for prisoner care.

As a member of the Senate Education Committee, I was revealed on my last week during testimony by the Department of Personnel's Deputy Commissioner, Arthur Hatterson, Jr., that a ten per cent (10%) increase in salary for area vocational teachers will be in effect this month.

Hopefully next week I can inform you that we have successfully passed some meaningful tax reductions, including both sales tax on utility bills and property tax.

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TIM'S AUTO TIPS

IN EMERGENCY ONLY! If you get caught in a snow storm and do not have a snow shovel or your tire hasn't 10 pounds. This will give you better traction. Do not do this for high speed driving. Fill tires as soon as possible.



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Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

To remain nameless A candidate for a state office who will remain nameless unless you happened to get the mailing that carried his name and plea for dough to support it and radio advertising failed to include newspapers as a means of getting his message out. Fair. —MV—

To boot or not To boot is the question? I suppose the best way is to boot, although my big feet are getting tired of carrying those heavy boots or is it my legs have become weary. Any way, if MGA is correct this freezing rain etc., that is proposed for Tuesday afternoon and evening will make a snowy mess of things again. Oh, well, will just join with the rest of this area in a winter storm watch this evening. —MV—

In the morning mail In the mail comes a card that proclaims, a practical how to handbook for... NEWS WRITING: From Lead to "30" by William Teal. At first glance I thought Russ Teal had branched out into "how to field". —MV—

Coming to feat I thought some of my accounts payable were rolling around to fast, but then all bills seem to come due too soon. Even computer service centers make errors that humans have to correct. —MV—

I jumped out A story on page two of last week's issue proclaimed at the bottom that the balance of the article would be found on page three. Well the balance must have jumped out, but if you're interested here's the carry-over. February may have never inspired many poets or been mentioned favorably in literature, but it is nevertheless, as in 1980 again, a good month. It is the best time of the year for families to draw together in the warm comfort of their homes as in the Northern hemisphere, the year drops down to its bare fundamental.

Although, as mentioned before, the amethyst is February's jewel, an old rhyme holds that it will be better for those born during the month to wear a pearl instead. As the old much-quoted rhyme goes: "The February born will find/Sincerity and peace of mind/Freedom from passion and from Care/If they but the pearl will wear."

That does it — I'll have to find a pearl to wear! Since this issue is closer to the date than I care/Having celebrated in advance/I'll have to approach the date with optimism. —MV—

Speaking of things jumping off pages Several classifieds that were ordered and paid for didn't make the last issue. —And that hurts!

IMAGE PAINT

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