

Opinion

It's up to you

Regardless of how Tuesday's primary turned out, it would be difficult to say that it was a clean, well-fought campaign. "Dirty, well-ought" would be more appropriate terms.

The individual candidates for the Democratic nomination for governor spent about \$5 million chasing a \$30,000-per-year job. Along the way, they supplied their Republican opponents with enough ammunition to insure that the charges and counter-charges that flew back and forth will not be forgotten between now and November.

The race for lieutenant governor also nurtured charges of payoffs, attempted payoffs, tradeoffs and ripoffs. Anyone who reads our fair state the past few weeks must have come to the conclusion that the easiest way to make \$100,000 in Kentucky is to run for lieutenant governor and then wait for the bribes to roll in.

Politics has never been known to be a clean game but this past campaign raises a lot of

questions about the way it is pursued in Kentucky. Why would so many people spend so much money for such a low-paying job? What about all the reports of FBI and federal grand jury probes?

The issues in the race were nil. The same old songs of more money for education, better roads etc. were trotted out in rotation. The real issue, responsible government, was lost in the dust.

The way this primary was conducted and the manner in which the general election will be run should be an issue of concern also for Kentuckians. When our governor's races begin to become more than popularity contests and when Kentuckians begin to look upon their elected officials as someone to lead and govern instead of someone to exact promises from then we might see a more responsible, intelligent campaign. There have been some bright spots before and there can be again. But only if you, the voter, want it that way.

Agree or Not

Sales tax is non-issue

By S. C. Von Curon

FRANKFORT—The one certain issue Democrats are going to use in the fall campaign is the two per cent increase in the sales tax levied under Gov. Louie B. Nunn in the 1968 legislature.

It's a fake issue on its face because the Democrats are going to talk about Nunn's five percent sales tax, and not mention that the Democrats put on the first three cents in 1960.

Truth of the matter is it's a tax for all Kentuckians.

Ask yourself this question. If it were not for the sales tax, where would Kentucky be financially with regard to services for the people, especially education?

Speaking fairly, the sales tax was conceived in deceit and born in subterfuge. Democratic Gov. Bert T. Combs levied the first three cents. When Nunn came into office in December 1967, the state faced a deficit of \$25 million, and it was necessary to levy the additional two cents to balance the budget by June 30, the end of the biennium, to meet the mandate of Kentucky's constitution.

Let's take the statement, "Conceived in deceit, and born in subterfuge."

First off, Gov. A. B. "Happy" Chandler was faced with a demand for a soldiers' bonus in 1957. He worried through the 1958 legislative session without providing one.

He could have levied a sales tax to finance the bonus, but he had run in 1954 to win his first term on the promise of taking off the sales tax put on by Gov. Rully Laffoon. He took it off.

Happy didn't want the onus of putting on a sales tax to pay the bonus.

So, Happy came up with the idea of putting a bond issue on the ballot, financed by a sales tax, to pay the bonus. He thought the people of Kentucky would default it.

The nation was in a recession at this time, and the coal fields of Kentucky were in dire straits. Bert Combs was running against Harry Lee Waterfield, supported by Chandler. Chandler had defeated Combs for governor four years before.

The ballot question never stated the amount of the sales tax to be levied. Surprise, surprise, the bonus issue passed, thanks to a heavy vote in Eastern Kentucky, Combs' native territory, and

Combs won the governorship.

Now, for the subterfuge part. Combs took the vote for the bonus to mean a mandate from the people to levy the sales tax to pay the bonus. A half cent tax would have paid the bonus over a 20-year period since it is a getting tax, increasing with inflation. However, Combs saw the need of education and other services for Kentucky and had no trouble passing the three percent levy. This was under the guise of paying for the soldiers' bonus.

Democrats always carp about Nunn's five cents, when he only added two out of necessity, and it was a predominantly Democratic legislature that voted this extra two cents.

Before Combs came into office, candidates had always campaigned poor mouth, no new taxes, etc. Kentucky was at the bottom of the barrel in education and almost all other services for the people. Our taxes were almost nil. Let it be said to Combs' credit that he taught Kentucky to think big. We would still be at the bottom of the barrel without the sales tax.

Think goodness, since Nunn was governor, the improved economy and inflation have permitted Kentucky first to remove the sales tax from prescription drugs, and in the next session from take-home groceries. The sales tax is still one of our largest revenue producers. Our income and property taxes are small.

Gov. Wendell Ford levied a severance tax on coal and increased the gasoline tax two cents per gallon to make up for the loss when it took the sales tax off prescription drugs.

Gov. Julian Carroll has increased the severance tax on coal.

Now, who are the taxers? This is what Kentuckians must think about when the Democrats come out this fall with their hypocritical charge that Nunn levied the five percent sales tax.

As Rep. Raymond Overstreet, R-Liberty, replied to a quip from Rep. Mary Ann Tobin, D-Irvington, in this year's special session, "Republicans will be glad to repeal our two cents sales tax when you Democrats agree to repeal your three cents."

Final thought. You couldn't repeal the sales tax if you put it to a vote of the people, for Kentucky would be bankrupt.

Down Memory Lane

Sadler home burns down; heat wave strikes county

Thursday, June 4, 1959
The Nicholas County Farm Bureau King and Queen Committee met to plan this year's contest. Committee consists of Mrs. Enoch H. Doyle, Mrs. James C. Lowe, Mrs. Glenn Hardin, chairman, Mrs. G. C. Cartmager, Mrs. Ernest Darrell and Mrs. John E. Soper Jr.

Mr. J. S. Wilson who received her A.B. degree in Elementary Education was graduated Magna Cum Laude from Georgetown College May 29.

She Irvin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Irvin, and Phyllis Tapp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Tapp, will represent Nicholas County at the 14th state 4-H meeting at UK June 8-10.

The Christian Church has called Miss Judy Pickett to serve as church secretary and youth consultant. She is a native of Ladoga, Ind.

Wilbur Shaw averages 115.65 miles per hour to win the 500-mile Memorial Louis Chevrolet Classic at Indianapolis, Ind. Monday afternoon.

Pat Esch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Esch, was presented an eight-year pin for perfect attendance Sunday at the Baptist Church.

ROBE—To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mitchell, a daughter, Darlene Ann, May 26. — To Mr. and Mrs. Buford Clark, a daughter, Lisa Ann, May 27. — To Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Dale Hunt, a son, and Thursday in Paris.

DIED—Mrs. Nora Snapp Richee, 82, Friday. — Mrs. Katie George, Sunday in Winchester. — Bedford Scott Gray, 39, Lexington Monday. — Mrs. Anne-belle Lynam Meason, 71, Paris, Monday.

Thursday, June 1, 1959
Joe Edward Johnson of Eminence, a graduate of Georgetown College, will succeed Robert May as coach of Carlisle High School. May has been coach here for the past three years.

Wilbur Shaw averages 115.65 miles per hour to win the 500-mile Memorial Louis Chevrolet Classic at Indianapolis, Ind. Monday afternoon.

The heat wave which struck this locality last week continues and rain is badly needed.

Dr. O. T. Cowan was elected second vice-president of the Blue Grass Dental Association on Saturday.

The Freshack Hotel is undergoing repairs and receiving a new coat of paint.

Robert T. Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Scott of Carlisle, was recently elected first lieutenant of Company C, Peabody Rifles, Crack drill unit of the University of Kentucky ROTC.

MARRIED—Miss Mary Frances Rinigo and Raymond Booth, both of Millersburg, Saturday in Lexington. — Miss Virginia Elizabeth Logan of Owensboro and James N. Scudder of Carlisle, May 27 at Madisonville.

DIED—Mrs. Fannie Sanders Kingsolver, 65, Saturday night at her home on the East Union Road. — Mrs. Katie Smith Hamn Robinson, 62, at her home in Mayville, Sunday. — Mrs. Jennie McCune Stout Hughes, 72, Monday, May 29 at her home on East Main Street.

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The heat wave which struck this

The story of June

By Neville Shackelford

Traditionally speaking, June is the month of roses, brides, dewy mornings, nesting birds, dairy cows, commencement exercises, and strawberries. No time truly is it also the month of poets. The "lovely month of June" Coleridge calls it, and rightly so. During June's long, warm, sunny days, strawberries, gardens, and crocuspids are at their greatest, and the white and blue of all of the wildflowers of April and May are gone, domesticated bloomers are most plentiful and richest in color. The idea of June being the time of brides dates back to the early Romans who were noted for their numerous adventures. In that time May was considered an unlucky time for weddings but June, especially during the period of the full moon, was better than any other time of the year. During the Middle Ages the superstition gained momentum — a moonbeam still in effect to this good day. The beauty of the month, its warm and normally fine weather, and assurance of flowers, make it ideal for such festivities as weddings and outdoor celebrations.

Historians relate that it was the ancient Romans that gave June its name, which to them was the fourth month. Some of these authorities believe that its name was taken from that of June, queen of the gods and patron saint of marriage. Other authorities of equal rank are of different opinion. They think the name is derived from "juniores" because in those



Letters

To: Citizens of Nicholas County
On behalf of the Nicholas County Ministerial Association, we wish to thank the members of this community for their enthusiastic support in the building of a new Chapel at our new hospital-nursing home complex.

We also owe a great deal of appreciation to: Tommy Vaughn, who supervised our project and gave a valuable help. Reese Snood, who was willing to drop what he was doing at the time to lend the county's wholehearted support, Robert Heister, who helped coordinate our efforts with those of the Hospital Board, without whose cooperation we would have been unable to venture into this project.

We wish to commend the people on their generosity and giving spirit. It is really heartwarming to know that our community has people who realize that the health of our spirit is just as important, if not more, as the health of our physical bodies during times of hospitalization and nursing home care. Thank you again. I am

Yours in Christ,
Mark L. Prevost
President, N.C.M.A.

Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

On my way back to the Mercury office (when I'm walking) I've noticed two sunflower plants thrusting their stalks through the blacktop near the corner of Chestnut and Elm Streets.

Had one planted the seeds in their garden, it's just as likely the seed wouldn't have germinated, but on the other hand were the two stalks in a garden they'd have a better chance of reaching maturity.

My Bag, that's all it said:
Having opened a small manila package several weeks ago and finding a heavy duty duck bag with nylon drawstring, I just assumed someone had forgotten to return literature on where to order and how much. The package did have an address label POB 2665, Hendersonville, N.C. Forward and Return Postage Guaranteed.

One side of the bag is emblazoned with My Bag in two colors, red and blue. Not having heard anything or seen any article referring to the bag I decided to take it home. The better half exclaimed upon seeing it, "My Bag!" Yep, that's what it says on one side, how did you know? "I ordered it with a box top and coupon for Brian to put his toys in."

I don't think I would have tossed it away, besides it said on one side, My Bag.

—MV—

We can't get by with it
One sometimes wonders how many letters get by with no postage? Maybe the outfit mailing with P.O. Meter 66427 had balk first class mailing privileges if there is such an animal.

We even have difficulty getting our mail delivered with the postage on it.

OFF THE WALL

BUYING ON TIME ISN'T DIFFICULT, BUT PAYING THAT WAY IS



GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

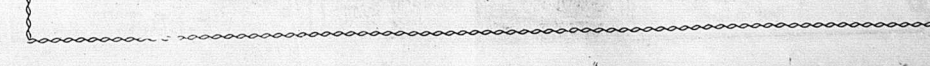
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MAYBE IF YOU THREATENED TO QUIT...

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STAYING ON