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State General Funds down 1.5%

The General Fund for the 1979-80 fiscal year is down 1.5 percent from the July 1979 estimates and 2.6 percent from the revised estimates of March 1980, according to a state revenue report issued by Finance Secretary George Atkins.

Totalling \$1,782,037,268 for the last fiscal year, the General Fund is up 4.9 percent from the fiscal year of 1978-79. The sales and use tax, which accounted for about one-third of the fund (\$607,265,901) was 1.4 percent more than last year. It was also off 0.4 percent from the July 1979 estimate and 1.4 percent of the revised 1980 estimate.

The exemption of residential utilities from the sales and use tax base accounted for the relatively small increase, the report stated.

The coal severance tax receipts were \$176,367,655 in fiscal 1980 compared to \$153,012,964 in fiscal 1979, an increase of 14.8 percent. However, due to a greater need of the lease rental payments to the Kentucky Turfpike Authority for resource recovery road projects, the General Fund portion of the receipts are only up 3.3 percent.

The individual income tax collections for 1979-80 were \$666,821,200. This is 10.9 percent more than 1978-79, 4.6 percent less than the July 1979 estimate and 4.4 percent less than the revised 1980 estimate. In addition to economic conditions, part of the relatively low increase in individual income taxes may be attributed to a speedup of refunding this year, the report said.

In July 1979, \$7.4 million of 1978 taxes were refunded. In June 1980, \$21.1 million of 1979 taxes were refunded, which, when compared to \$11.2 million refunded in June 1979, leaves little to be refunded in 1980-81, the report stated. The state Transportation Fund is not shown, according to the report, a 0.4 percent loss in 1979-80 from 1978-79. Were it not for the coal severance tax transfer, this would be 3.8 percent, Atkins' release stated.

The decrease is due largely to the motor fuels and motor vehicle usage taxes.

Increased costs of automobiles and gasoline, coupled with a recessionary period, has definitely reduced receipts from both taxes. The normal motor fuel taxes show a loss of \$11,461,265, or 5.8 percent from last fiscal year's peak of \$198.5 million to \$187,037,739 for fiscal 1980, reported Atkins. It is also stated in the report that motor vehicle usage lost even more with a 14.7 percent decline to \$27,111,947 for fiscal 1980.

Motor vehicle and operator licensing held its own as did all non-tax receipts. The Transportation Fund tax revenue of \$30,260,829 (Tax Receipts — State Road Fund plus departmental fees) compared to the December 1979 estimate of \$28 million is off by 3.8 percent.

Agency funds continue to increase due to federal grants for welfare and health and increased educational fees, according to the report.



A first

Doris (Mrs. Fred) Whaley notched a first Sunday when she was elected a deaconess in the Carlisle Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Whaley said she didn't know if the church was ready for a lady deacon but she supposed it was. Another deacon — elected by the church Sunday was Marshall Cox. — Mercury photo.

Whaley named deacon

Doris Whaley was a little reluctant to have her picture taken Monday but as the first lady deacon of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church her place in Carlisle history is assured.

"I tried to sneak out of town last night (Sunday) but a lot of people had heard," she laughed.

Mrs. Whaley and Marshall Cox were elected deacons (or deacon and deaconess) at the Sunday service at the church.

"I wasn't sure if the congregation was ready or not but I guess they are," Mrs. Whaley said Monday. "I have a good friend in Paris who was named deacon in her church last year but I

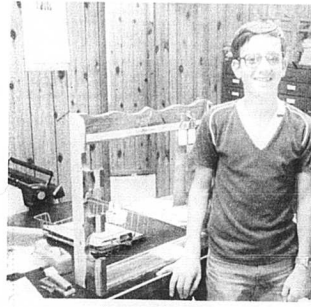
didn't think it would happen here for a while."

Mrs. Whaley is a deputy property valuation administrator in the Nicholas County PVA office and is used to more than the normal responsibilities of a housewife.

Last week, in the absence of Nicholas County PVA Rose Brady, who is off on a maternity leave, Mrs. Whaley had to oversee the local board of tax appeals.

Needless to say, she's excited about her new duties at the church.

"I'm not sure if it will make much of a difference," she said, "but I'm going to give it a try."



State winners

Woodie Buzzard won with his guckrack in woodworking and Nancy Woolsey was a Kentucky State Fair champion 4-H tobacco grader. The two champions won their titles in competition at the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville earlier this month. — Mercury photo.



BGI buries union

Barbara Alexander of Carlisle places a rose on the coffin of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. Not a face among the crowd of Blue Grass workers showed a sign of grief. The burial symbolized an end to any union aspects at Blue Grass Industries.

Food Stamps and job applications?

Abled-bodied food stamp recipients must actively search for jobs or be dropped from the program, under regulations proposed this week by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Labor.

Under the proposed rules, people who fail to look for a job on their own or who don't report for the interview at their state employment office will find their households dropped from the food stamp program for two months, said Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Gerald Tucker Foreman.

Those who are exempt from the work registration requirement are primarily the elderly and disabled, those already working, those responsible for the care of dependents or those already registered for work under the employment insurance and work incentive programs.

The rules also require recipients who register for work to be called in to their state employment service, now identified as job service in many states, for an interview and job classification.

Double funding

Foreman said under the existing program, funding limitations have prevented employment offices from actually calling in and interviewing any more than the most employable of the food stamp work registrants. Recipients who have registered for work but had few job skills have often not had the benefit of employment office services, Foreman said. Under the proposed rules, USDA would more than double the amount of funding to the U.S. Department of Labor, raising the annual amount to \$91 million so that department can reach hard to place recipients.

State job service agencies would continue to refer registrants to potential employers, under the proposed rule. But food stamp job seekers would have to supplement this service with their own eight-week job search.

The proposed rules would establish as a standard that work registrants contact between eight to 24 potential employers within the eight week period, and also report for two follow-up interviews with their employment counselors, Foreman said. Requirements for each person's job search would depend on their individual circumstances and the availability of jobs in the community, as assessed by the job service counselor.

The state job services would report to state welfare agencies the names of food stamp job seekers who refuse to comply with the interviews or job search requirements, as well as those who find jobs.

Other methods seen While the work registration and job search regulations are expected to be in effect by early 1981, the two government agencies plan to run an 18 month demonstration project to test other ways, such as job-finding, to help match food stamp applicants with jobs.

They will be seeking state welfare and job service agencies to sponsor the demonstration projects.

Today's proposed regulations complete implementation of major food stamp reforms enacted in 1977 and set uniform national standards for work registration and job search activities.

Comments on the proposed regulations should be sent by Oct. 7 to Alberta Frost, deputy administrator for family nutrition programs, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.



Bob Mattox, Director of the Weatherization Program at the Nicholas County Community Center, stands beside a wood stove (Iron pig), made from old water heaters. The wood burning stove was named "The Pig" because it resembles the animal.

The Iron Pig

Bob Mattox, Director of the Weatherization Program for Nicholas County says qualified individuals will be able to get wood burning stoves at no charge. These stoves are provided by the Central Kentucky Community Action Council Inc., Lebanon, Ky.

These wood burning heat stoves, or pigs as some people call them, are made of old water heater tanks. The structure of the wood stoves efficiently burns wood without much waste. The stoves meet all safety standards Mr. Mattox also states that these heating units can be bought for \$100.

The sweat may be dripping off your brow now but this winter the heat will feel good. If you have any questions about these heating units call 289-7172.

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