



The Depot by the local Historical Society has only a few finishing details remaining. — Mercury photo.

Lawmaker's roundup

ADAs are latest victims of budget cuts

New subcommittee members in recent cuts to state funds to area development districts were alternately defended and attacked by a crowd of state and local officials testifying before a newly-created Appropriations and Revenue subcommittee on ADAs.

The conflict arose when the state Commerce Cabinet decided to trim \$205,000 from the development districts' \$13 million budget. The cuts were necessary, according to agency officials, because of federal budget reductions. In the past, the state matched federal appropriations, but when the federal funds stopped rolling in, the state match likewise dried up.

However, Finance Secretary George Adams restored some of the money — about \$65,000. "It is," he said, "more efficient to draw on the knowledge of a central body and not constitutive for every fifth or sixth class city to hire a manager to meet legislative mandates."

But Community and Regional Development Commissioner A. D. R. E. "Skipper" Martin said, "I'm not sure we shouldn't put more responsibility on local governments by encouraging

them to hire experts to meet their needs instead of relying so heavily on the state."

The subcommittee members took the sentiments of the finance secretary, however.

The Commerce Cabinet's notion that the local governments can provide support for the ADAs is a new idea, said Rep. Art Schmidt, R-Old Spring, Franklin County. Democratic Rep. Hans Hancock said the administration is advocating for the ADAs just the opposite of what state government is doing — going to a regional system.

"The ADAs consolidate expertise — just like the state is doing," he said.

Martin suggested that the ADAs concept should be studied to better determine the function and validity of the regional training and assistance concept. "It's a difficult question," he conceded.

"The Legislature may choose to legislate funds to the ADAs," he added. "The Commerce Cabinet judges law keeping claims court cases."

The subcommittee on trade practices has laid aside a notion to raise the jurisdictional limit in small claims court to \$1,500 from the current \$1,000. That decision came after three district court judges told the subcommittee members that the basic problem of the court — to serve the "man on the street" — would be jeopardized.

"By raising the limit to that of the civil court, we're just encouraging people to bring a legitimate claim in the wrong court," said Judge John Fayette, Chief District Judge from Fayette County. He said many cases that should have been brought in civil court were lost because the plaintiff chose small claims court for economy

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Mainstreamed children reason for EKU grant

Eastern Kentucky University's Department of Special Education has received a federal grant that will be used to train regular educational teachers in teaching mainstreamed children, according to Dr. Quasar Sultana, department chairman.

Sultana said the grant will fund a training program consisting of 10 workshops covering a total of 37 clock hours of instruction. The program will begin in October and will be held on the EKVU campus on the following Saturdays: Oct. 10, Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 5, Jan. 23, Feb. 6, Feb. 20, Mar. 6, Mar. 27, and April 10.

Interested teachers are encouraged to apply early as participation will be limited to the first 30 applicants. Sultana said applications are now being accepted. Each participant will receive a stipend of \$10 per workshop to cover personal expenses.

For admission and additional information, contact Dr. Quasar Sultana, Walpole 340, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Ky. 40475, or telephone 225-4421.

and ease. "You may be using the wrong size glasses if you use the limit," he added.

And sometimes the court fails because the plaintiff can't collect his judgment, said Judge John Daughday of Graves County.

Investment responsibilities should be balanced.

State Treasurer David Davis will oppose any legislation that would reduce his authority to invest state funds or require competitive bidding by banks for state deposits.

In testimony before the Interim Joint Committee on Banking and Insurance, Davis said competitive bidding would run up large administrative costs and probably lead to the concentration of state deposits in a few big-city banks.

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the law — which mandates that construction projects involving state funds pay workers a certain wage — has been criticized because this "prevailing wage" is often so artificially high that it significantly increases costs.

One major revision proposed by the Capital Construction and Equipment Purchase Oversight Committee was raising the "threshold" amount from \$500 to \$250,000, meaning that only projects costing at least \$250,000 would have to pay the prevailing wage.

Other recommended revisions involved a new formula for determining the prevailing wage, the elimination of employer payroll-reporting requirements and the exemption of local governments from the provisions of the law.

Equipment 'hang-up'

for flood-warnings system.

Although progress has been made, the flood warning system being installed in flood-prone Eastern Kentucky is still not in working order.

Adi Gen. Billy Williams, of the state Department of Military Affairs, told members of the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources that the National Weather Service — which is financing much of the program — has had trouble finding appropriate equipment.

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Kentucky Business Scene

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The fiercely competitive engineering consulting business in Lexington has added a new word to its vocabulary: consortium.

Four Lexington-based engineering firms announced recently they are combining forces to form a consortium to play out its hand and turn a profit. "It's not like selling your house," said "one of the fellows constructing work associated with massive energy projects on the drawing board for Kentucky, particularly those in the synthetic fuels industry."

The company is known as Engineering Resources, Inc. and is comprised of: Howard K. Bell Consulting Engineers, CWR Engineers, Proctor-Davies-Ray Consulting Engineers and Parrott, Ely and Hurt Consulting Engineers.

The firms employ a total of nearly 600 professionals working out of offices in Lexington, Louisville, Bowling Green and Hopkinsville as well as in out-of-state field offices.

The consortium was founded to put the four firms in a good jockeying position to supply support services to the giant out-of-state engineering firms placed in charge of designing such projects as synthetic fuels, coal slurry pipelines and shale oil development.

"Individually, our firms found we were lacking the size to play a significant role" in the consulting work, according to Dr. Robert L. Sanders, the 42-year-old former commissioner of the Bureau of Energy Research, Kentucky Department of Energy, who was named ERI executive president.

"Many of these projects are in the multi-billion dollar range, and collectively they will require several hundred thousand man-years of labor over the next five to eight years," Mr. Sanders said. "Nearly \$700 million, or about six percent of the construction cost of these projects, will be devoted to engineering services, and we want to be in the position of providing some of these services."

Mr. Sanders said ERI's subcontracting work may entail such things as rural and administrative office building, construction and coal handling equipment installation. Or the consortium might advise the prime engineering firm on the project of applicable state environmental permit regulations.

Collectively, the firms comprising ERI have more than 33 years of professional experience and have completed thousands of engineering projects in Kentucky over the years. They have experience in civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, sanitary and architectural engineering as well as in planning, surveying, aerial photography and mapping for construction administration.

Still, its own considerable resources may prove inadequate in solving some technical issues, Mr. Sanders said. If ERI's consultant efforts fail, the consortium would contract for services with architectural or construction companies. Because "we

Certification results noted by ASCS

Final certification results in Nicholas County as of July 15 showed that 1,713 acres and 10 wheat acres planted for harvest will be eligible for disaster benefits this year.

"Those farmers in compliance with provisions of the 1981 wheat and feed grain program are eligible for disaster and deficiency payments," said Robert Letcher, chairman of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

The ASCS has program and the farmer-owned reserve program designed to strengthen grain prices.

"Price support loans enable farmers to obtain cash and hold their crops off the market to benefit from price increases that often come later in the season after harvest," Letcher said.

The reserve program is designed to remove wheat from the market for three years, or until prices reach established levels. It is set up to offer grain producers short and long term benefits

The Carlisle (Ky.) Mercury, Thursday, October 1, 1981 — 5

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