

Opinion

Freedom is Golden

That freedom includes your right to read this newspaper. It includes other rights such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

All too frequently, the newspaper reader forgets that these rights are guaranteed under the First Amendment. We can and should be responsible for these freedoms, because they're not challenged.

The reporters and editors of this newspaper work for YOU the reader. They want to have the latest information that is needed for YOU to participate in our democratic form of government.

YOU should have high expectations from your newspaper. You want truthful, accurate, factual reporting. You want clarity in writing.

Adversarial interviews and one-sided reporting are threatening a free press and freedom of expression.

Not everything in the world is wrong. This newspaper brings you the highlights of positive happenings, too.

This newspaper must not withdraw from controversy like ignored beauty contestants, however.

It must be fair. It must be accurate. It must listen to your concerns. It must provide solid, basic information.

Communication may not be easy. But the

alternative is non-communication. That begs question. And there are the people who would like to see the press and can should be objective. We can and should let you be drawn into a dialogue about the meaning of an unimpeded flow of information. We can and should be responsive and accountable. We can and should encourage professional excellence.

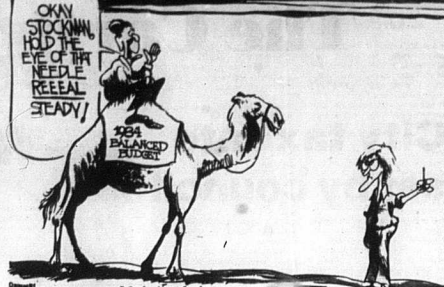
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Agree or not Succession amendment depends on whose ox is being gored

By S.C. Van Curen

Viewpoint on the constitutional amendment that would permit Kentucky's constitutional officers to serve a second term all depends on the adulation of whose ox is being gored.

As least that is the type of arguments put up by Gov. John Young Brown Jr., who supports the amendment, and Senate Majority floor leader John Berry but just week in their debate.

The political consensus is that Kentucky's governor has more power than most other governors in the nation. Since Kentucky has a legislative session every two years, the governor and elected officials run the government, supposedly under the guidelines laid out by the legislature. For the remainder of the time, the governor has broad leeway in his discretionary powers, and he is the one who determines expenditures on road projects and many other services of government.

But the legislature appropriates the money for the budget, setting aside certain amounts for the highway department and other branches of government, but most of the time it is left to the governor to choose the projects where the money is spent during his term.

In some few cases, the legislature designates certain projects and appropriations to the governor, in many cases, has the right to delay these projects and divert the money to others

he conceives to be more urgent for the public good.

Any person who has made any effort to be a casual observer of state government politics knows that Kentucky's chief executive rewards his political friends and punishes his enemies.

A four year term is a short period for a governor, it is true, but the opponents of the amendment argue that a governor would spend his first four years building political walls with such strength as to insure succession.

While Berry generally gave Brown good marks on the administration in that, it seemed somewhat of a tongue-lashing observation Berry made that a future governor would have a helicopter at his disposal and use public funds to move about the state to announce road projects and carry cabinet members with him to announce projects announced by his predecessor.

Berry didn't mention the fact that Brown has just returned from such a shabby affair on the state in "taking government to the people" to hear what they have to say and to announce millions of dollars in highway projects and others of interest to people of all local areas.

The fact that the vote on the amendment comes next month just happens to be in the progression of time, it is not a coincidence that the governor's recent trip, so he says.

Down Memory Lane

Guy Neal breaks collarbone

Monday at Johnson Memorial Nursing Home. — Walter T. Craycraft, 77, Lexington, Wednesday at Good Samaritan Hospital. — Mrs. Lillian Moss Crand, widow of the Rev. J.W. Crand, Saturday in Enticement. — Miss Jennie Moore, 81, Saturday at home on Syracuse Street.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1981

One of the largest crowds to be in Carlisle for many months was on the band of the Carlisle High School marching band at the Farmers Stock Yards. The stock yards reported a strong and active sale Tuesday and receipts were \$1,380.

Members of the Carlisle Presbytery Church purchased the home of the Mrs. Pearl Owens Dillard located near the church on Mulberry Street, at auction Saturday afternoon.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Milton R. Peddick, Cynthia, a son, Kevin Ray, Oct. 11. To Mr. and Mrs. William Sims, Flemingburg, a son, Phillip Allen, Sept. 29. To Mr. and Mrs. Bill Owing, Kaiserlaster, Germany, a son, William Samuel, Sept. 19.

ASHLAND, a daughter, Eleanor Marie, to Mr. and Mrs. Billy L. Lively, a daughter, Janet Sue, Oct. 13 at Louisville, Kentucky. — To Mr. and Mrs. David L. Lively, a daughter, Kathy Dawn, Oct. 13 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wayne Dake, a son, Brandon Keith, Oct. 15 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Keith, a son, Gerald Ray, Oct. 16 at Nicholas County Hospital.

MEMBERS of the Virginia Carol Bellamy and Bobby Lane Age Agency, Oct. 15 at Central Baptist Church in Paris.

DEED — Mrs. Beulah Hines McFarland, P. widow of Charles McFarland.

Start with IRS mess

President Reagan is serious about getting the government off people's backs, he has only to start with the IRS in going a long way toward keeping his promise.

Our nation's tax-collecting system is a horrible mess. In 1960, the tax code totaled 2,119 pages, which were then translated into more than 10,000 pages of regulations by bureaucrats of the U.S. Treasury.

Arms of people are employed in the tasks of writing, enforcing and deciphering the tax code. And it is those people who defend the complexity of this system because these lawyers and accountants depend on the confusion and complexity to hold their jobs.

But the burden of responsibility for this terrible mess lies primarily with Congress which, in attempt to please many special interest groups or constituencies, has written into law many difficult-to-interpret rules and regulations.

Unfortunately, much of the interpretations of the tax code is left up to the IRS, which always interprets it in favor of the IRS. In the past year, independent contractors for example, have encountered particular problems with the IRS. Congress has established the tax status for these self-employed taxpayers, but has neglected to define exactly what an independent contractor is. This leaves the definition up to the discretion of the IRS.

The Citizens' Choice National Commission on

Taxes and the IRS, a study group formed for one year to investigate taxpayers' reactions to the IRS and then make recommendations for improvement, heard the testimony of many taxpayers. An overwhelming number of those who testified before the Commission commented on the complexity of the tax system and its adverse effects of compliance. As one witness said, "What people can't understand, they can't respect, and if they don't respect the system, it's difficult to ask them to comply with it."

If we were to awaken one morning and find that the tax laws had been rewritten to require workers simply to pay a reasonable percentage of their income to the federal government, the average citizen would be relieved to find himself facing a system that is equitable, logical and easy-to-understand. Furthermore, the tax system would become a more viable one because taxpayers could respect it, and respect encourages compliance.

But it will never happen if we leave it up to the confusion merchants in Washington who write and prosper on red tape. There appears little chance the tax code can be rewritten to better understanding by taxpayers. There is no such thing as simple language in the vocabulary of a bureaucracy.

The whole tax code should be scrapped and a new, concise one drawn up — one that we can understand.

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Letters

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS WEEK
October 12-17, 1981

Since the founding of the Republic, freedom of the press has been a fundamental tenet of American life. We have always believed that the truth, given a chance to be heard, has a power of its own, and we recognize that a free press, whatever its occasional abuses or excesses, is essential to the pursuit of that truth and to the human freedom it engenders.

To continue as a success in what Thomas Jefferson called our "noble experiment" in self-government, there is no more essential ingredient than a free, free, and independent press. We must have a free flow of information on which to base our decisions and our actions. The dedicated men and women of the journalistic profession, who meet their duties with responsibility and high standards of accuracy, are among the foremost bulwarks of our nation's freedom. Their credibility and devotion to news reporting is a major factor in our people's confidence in our free institutions.

To the Carlisle Mercury: I have had a Mt. Oberlin address for 54 years. I am now 80 years old. When I came to Ohio, I had no intention of being here for only a short period of time. Today, most of my relatives and friends have passed on. My subscription will expire in Nov. 1981. I am now 80 years old. I have lived here for 54 years. I have lived here for 54 years. I have lived here for 54 years. I have lived here for 54 years.

Best wishes to The Carlisle Mercury always.

Yours very truly,
(Miss) Pearl R. Jackson
1515 N. High Street
Mt. Oberlin, Ohio 43134

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— Rube — Editors get paid? ... Sure, they don't live by fun and rudeness alone

An amusing column in the Canadian magazine "Today" has been passed along to me. It is Walter Stewart, the editor of "Today," who writes about his usual rate for food articles. He says he must be paid to edit.

"I just never considered it to me that people were paid to edit," Stewart writes. "My fingers crossed, no doubt. 'I thought it was something you did for fun and the chance to be able to write.'"

"Once the thought was put into my mind, however, I checked and discovered that, sure enough, editors do get paid."

So Stewart got busy and established some rates:

"For editing articles about politics, \$200 each.

"For editing articles about sports, \$15 per article. If accompanied by pictures, 50 cents per article.

"For editing articles dealing with which new things are said about politicians, \$100.

"For editing articles about sex, \$15 per article. If accompanied by pictures, 50 cents per article.

"For editing articles dealing with the plight of homosexuals, \$100 each.

"For editing articles about hunting, fishing, clubbing or skinning seals, \$50.

"For the same concerning baby seals, \$1,500.

"For answering letters from people who want to hunt, shoot, club or skin seal hunters, we have a volume reward, \$120 per letter.

"For articles about chugging, shooting, skinning and stabbing cattle, our usual rate for food articles applies, \$5.

"For articles dealing with business tycoons in a friendly manner, \$100 for each use of the phrase 'captain of industry.' \$200 extra."

"For non-business articles about business tycoons, \$75.

"For articles on union leaders will be handled at the same rates, with the phrase 'feisty pragmatist' substituting for 'captain of industry' in the above-mentioned optional extra.

"For editing articles dealing with the Constitution, Western Alliance, federal-provincial relations and the energy crisis, \$800 each article.

"For reading as well as editing articles about the above, a minimum of \$50 per article.

"For reading unedited manuscripts, \$50 per article. A bonus of \$100 will be added for comments stating: 'Your work shows great promise!' or 'I'm sure you're in for a big future.'"

"For frank remarks on unedited manuscripts, no charge.

"For editing any article containing the words 'overview,' 'parameters' or 'at this point in time,' 10 percent should be added to the above rates."

"How come," writes a bespectacled husband, "that you haven't written anything scurrilous lately about the women folk and particularly wives? Gosh, said, joined the ERA or still recovering from the bruises of your last encounter?"

Nah, I just been saving my strength for the next time that no-man's-land. Meanwhile, collecting a few choice tidbits that I can fire at the thimble from when the time is ripe. Such as:

"I'm concerned about what my wife spends as much as I am about what the government spends. The difference is that I'm not afraid to criticize the government."

"My wife's an angel," observed a meek little fellow in the chap sitting next to him at a bar. "Your lovely," answered the second fellow. "Mine's still alive."

I asked the wise steward at a French Restaurant if he had anything that was cold, bitter and dry. "I could introduce you to my wife," he answered.

"My wife can't even say her husband without getting into an argument."

"A wife can't even know how to put her husband down. A woman has her face lifted, her nose bobbed, her varicose veins retracted, her knee caps lightened, wears a wig and uplift and then keeps saying, 'You're not the man that I married!'"

"The average man worries about the future until he gets a husband. The average man never worries about the future until he gets a wife."

"When a man puts a wife on a pedestal these days, it's probably so she can reach the ceiling with her hair roller."

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Our democratic system is healthy because we can and should be free to criticize. They are free because of freedom of expression.

Our democratic system is healthy because competing voices are ready and willing to challenge one another in public.

The First Amendment protects with equal force the ideas we despise as well as those we cherish.

In a democracy, it is the public's job to determine what information is necessary to a self-governing society.

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