

Opinion

The new Soviet leader

The manner of Yuri Andropov's sudden emergence to the reins of Soviet leadership upon the death of President Leonid Brezhnev was something of the man's skill and ambition. But, because he headed the dreaded secret police for 14 years, that also tells us the KGB has become the most significant power base within the Communist Party.

According to reliable reports from Moscow when the ruling Politburo convened behind locked doors immediately after President Brezhnev's death, Premier Nikolai Tikhonov, a Brezhnev protégé, was nominated to be the new general secretary by Konstantin Chernenko. Tikhonov, who is 77, declined on grounds of his age and ill-health.

Money talks too loudly

"Politics has got so expensive that it takes dollars of money to even get beat with." In 1962, a half century after Will Rogers made that observation, Republican-conservative Lewis E. Lehrman, a businessman who never run for office, spent around \$11 million, about \$6 million of it his own money, to get defeated in the New York gubernatorial race.

In Minnesota, department store heir Mark Dayton, another political neophyte, spent more than \$5 million of his own money to duncen Republican Sen. David F. Durenberger. In New Jersey, Frank Lautenberg, a wealthy, self-made businessman, spent the same in his first political race, "fighting against a legend" and won a Senate seat.

Withholds child support

A new law signed by President Reagan in September directs the Pentagon to withhold money out of the pay checks of an active or retired military officer or enlisted man for court-ordered alimony or child support.

Some states have laws that provide that the district attorney shall assist mothers in the collection of family support money from their ex-husbands. In many cases, the families become dependent upon taxpayer-funded welfare aid programs when the ex-husbands fail to provide.

Letters

Replies to Lanum letter To the Carlsile Mercury: In answer to Mr. Jay Lanum, he is known that no minister or anyone else was ever forced Mr. Lanum to quit coming to the Center. I hope that Christ our Lord will forgive Mr. Lanum for like the minister or anyone who loves the Lord, he could have come in and sat with everyone else in the pews.

Feliz Navidad To the Carlsile Mercury: I am currently serving an overseas tour in Madrid, Spain with the United States Air Force. As a way to express my holiday greetings to all my relatives and friends in Carlsile, I wish to share with you a list of names.



Agree or not Banking industry will try harder

The copy of a bill apparently favored by a portion of the banking industry is being passed around in the industry although Gov. John V. Brown Jr. has not included it in his bill for the special session of the General Assembly that will meet here in June.

And what borrower is going to disagree at such a rate if he needs the money. Presently, on loans above \$15,000 the rate may be negotiated between the two parties. The monthly rate on revolving charge accounts also would be fixed and tied to the discretion of the vendor.

Ray Mackey: Federal deficit must go

If the federal government's deficit is not soon brought under control, a federal leader has warned, the return of runaway inflation and higher interest rates is a virtual certainty. Ray Mackey, who serves as president of the 100,000-member Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, made that annual prediction during his annual address to the delegates attending the 61st annual Farm Bureau convention in Louisville.

Ray Mackey said on Congress to address the growing deficit problem through passage of a Constitutional amendment that requires a balanced federal budget. He also told the farm audience that an entitlement program, which he charged have become Congressional "nervous open," must undergo permanent scrutiny if spending is to be curtailed.

Such entitlements as social welfare programs, unemployment compensation, and federal pensions and Social Security benefit increases must be checked, Mackey stressed, "irresponsible congressmen" who express "righteous indignation" over each such proposal that is put before Congress.

The nation's economic problems can be traced, Mackey continued, to a people under the pressure of carting their own weight, and a citizenry which "grumbles about the things it wants but is unwilling to pay the price to obtain them."

Nothing the aid maxim, "There is no such thing as a free lunch," Mackey added, "We have continued to elect to Congress those who have nurtured programs which would have provided for themselves."

Down Memory Lane

Patricia House wins contest

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Op-Ed page Man of letters . . . doesn't seem to get these letters in his mail

Letters that I never get: Dear Mr. Metz: Just as you suspected, your last statement from me was grossly misquoted. I never said I was worth \$382.00. Instead, I was only for the billing department as an entry for this big mistake and waste to thank you for calling the error to my attention.

Dear Mr. Metz: I am so cooperative of you to accept the fact that I am not a member of the union. I am not a member of the union. I am not a member of the union. I am not a member of the union.

From Arthur Bloch's "Murphy's Law: Book Three": Faber's Rule for Failure: If at first you don't succeed, try to do a much greater job than you tried.

Dear Miss Nancy: I was just talking to the other night how we need the advice of an experienced and learned friend on how to bring this nation out of the doldrums.

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This that and 'tother a page from the diary of a country editor.

So back to town through the adorning beauties each cradled in my arms from being out of doors, and dried brightly and away to await the opening of the evening post. I do assure the Mathias, who asks me how I am now, and what know that I am all right and know little news of the town.

Down the Main Street, where I observe Captain Fiske, the barber, carrying out his full-bellied drawn carriage. As he is called, and stop to look at the making music that he has had run the scale. Never in 14 years I have had better luck in my life, but never done. And I am minded that I bear that day that Fulton has waded some money that he will get in on more and I must fear that he will lose his gold, if he has not his wagers, which I must do.

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"Hung Up" about gifts for those on your list?

Let us help with a Carter's Gift Certificate!



In this corner....

Two inches of snow for Christmas

By Jim Butler WALKER: In this corner, the weather experts say, we have a green Christmas in Kentucky. Our great weather is in this corner.

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