Opinion

Swapping deficits

There's a reason that food stamps and welfare have been federal programs. It was because hunger and poverty were rampant in America, and because the states and local governments did not have the resources or the commitment to care for the poor, that the federal government originally stepped in. And there is no reason to believe that if the federal government were to step out again — as President Reagan now recommends — the state would not revert to earlier behavior.

Indeed, as the states lose the special federal trust fund that Reagan wants to set up for them for three years and then phase out, their welfare and food stamp programs will undoubtedly deteriorate. Even at the outset, the president's great swap will hurt them: Reagan is talking about starting the funding for these programs at their average 1979-81 levels — making no allowance for growth or inflation — and cutting from there. This is the "new federalism."

Roads, airports, mass transit, sewage systems, urban redevelopment, vocational training programs for the handicapped, and low-income energy assistance will also be de-federalized — turned over to the states three years from now, together with a consolation prize of enough money to meet last year's spending levels for these services. In the future, as the federal trust fund and the federal excise taxes that produce it are phased out, the states will have to raise their own taxes to keep these programs going.

The president doesn't say how the states can duplicate the oil windfall profits tax that is one of the major excise taxes they are supposed to be able to take over, and he doesn't explain how the vast differences in the taxable resources of poor and rich states will be ameliorated. The states with declining industry and deteriorating facilities simply have no money for retraining workers and rebuilding their roads and ports. Just as the states with the biggest refugee populations and the most generous social programs will suffer for their humanitarianism by paying for all the nation's poor that will certainly be drawn to them. A more equitable dispersal of American resources is apparently one of those unbearable impositions of federal government from which the "new federalism" will free us.

One could, of course, imagine a new division of state and federal administrative responsibilities for many services that would make more sense than the current system. And it is to this vision of reduced bureaucracy that the president is appealing. But that vision is a far cry from the shell game he has proposed, which will reduce nothing except the living standard of the poorer among us and the ability of the states to uphold it.

The president merely wants to swap with the states — their Medicaid deficits for his own entitlement program deficits. Neither will gain in the long run, although the president is clearly hoping that all the motion will distract attention from a deepening recession for which he has no remedies. And if anyone loses, rest assured it will be the states and local governments which, in addition to everything else, will get the burden of meeting those medical needs that the federal government chooses to ignore as it attempts to balance its own accounts. It is not, after all, to the White House that the poor go when they are sick and don't meet the new Medicaid standards; it is to the county hospitals.

The "new federalism" will return the financing of welfare to the nation's most regressive taxes — the local property tax and the state sales and excise taxes. And it will resurrect the inequities among states that preceded the national welfare and food stamp programs. Even in the president's conception of it, it will reduce the level of all public services. The vision behind this "bold, new program" is nothing if not limited. It is, in fact, a return to much of what was worst about the old federalism.

Peace Corps ranks thinning

The Peace Corps was set up by the late President John F. Kennedy, and we wish we could say it is still going strong.

It isn't. It has dwindled down to 5,400 volunteers from a high of 13,000 in the 1960s. The corps now is operating in 60 countries instead of 90 and the organization faces budget cuts next year.

In setting up the organization, John Kennedy said: "There is not enough money in all America to relieve the misery of an undeveloped world in a giant and endless soup kitchen. But there is enough know-how and knowledgeable people to help those nations help themselves."

That's what the Peace Corps has been doing for these past 20 years, and we hope it continues its magnificent mission for many; many years to come.

And now . . . rent-a-fed

The Heritage Foundation's latest pitch to give large contributors access to high White House officials isn't the first such offer by well-connected private organizations, but it's probably the most flagrant. Backed by a letter of endorsement from President Councelor Edwin Meese, the conservative foundation is telling potential donors that they can meet with senior White House officials if they kick in at least $1,000 and join its "President's Club." "You will be provided with access to Washington policy-makers," says the pitch letter, "which cannot be had at any price. I have no doubt that you will find your membership returned to you many times over."

There have, in fact, been equally good offers. Last year, for $3,000, a group of invited foreign businessmen was promised access to a whole host of senior Reagan administration officials, among them the secretary of the Treasury, the secretary of commerce, and the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. That one was arranged by a private firm in collaboration with some of Reagan's closest aides, among them National Security Adviser Richard Allen, a man who has had chronic difficulty distinguishing between the public interest and his own and who has since been forced out of his job.

What the earlier effort lacked, however, — and what the Heritage Foundation pitch has — is the overt endorsement of the president's closest adviser. The Heritage Foundation effort, says Meese in his letter, is "a vital communications link" between the White House and Reagan's supporters. "This administration will cooperate fully with your efforts."

There are two questions here. One concerns the objectivity — if not the tax exemption — of a think tank so beholden to one set of politicians in its fund-raising. Is this an outfit that could ever conduct objective research on anything close to the administration's heart? The other, and far more important, question is: To whom is the administration for sale (or perhaps only for rent) and for how much? Is this kind of access-for-sale official White House policy and, if so, what are its terms?

The foundation is absolutely right that many organizations use letters of endorsement from prominent people when they make their pitch. But they don't come with offers of access to Washington policy-makers or with the blessings of presidential advisers.

Letters

Poems, cards, random

To The Carlisle Mercury:

American Legion would like to take this time to thank Jeff Tidwell for participating in the oratorical contest sponsored by American Legion Post #17. The American Legion gives a $16,000 scholarship to the winner of the national contest.

This is just one of the many programs sponsored by the American Legion that benefits the youth of America, such as Boys' State, Girls' State and Little League.

We would also like to thank the other contestants that participated in Nicholas County High School oratorical contest.

Nicholas Post #17 was represented at Ashland Ninth District oratorical contest by John Ecton and Billy Dixon.

Sincerely,
Billy Dixon
John Ecton

To The Carlisle Mercury:

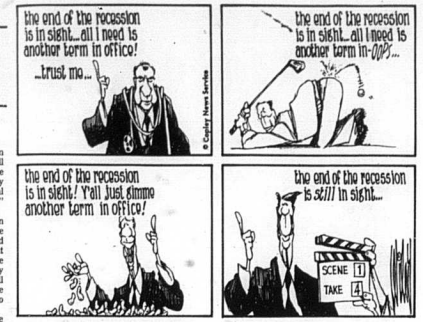
In your Feb. 4 issue an article appeared regarding the arrest of local County Judge and Billy Hopkins. However the headlines failed to mention Billy Hopkins.

In my opinion, Reese Smoot was the innocent bystander.

The article just goes to show how Nicholas County really is.

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

Barbara Woodward
Route 3



Agree or not

A new bill of rights for state employees

by S.C. Van Curon

Legislation introduced in both the House and Senate may be considered as a new bill of rights for state employees although it does not infringe upon the governor's right to appoint and dismiss certain key personnel in state government.

Provisions of the companion bills basically give all state employees greater job security through an employee strengthened appeal panel. Rep. Hank Hancock, D-Frankfort, and Sen. Fred Bradley, D-Frankfort, chief sponsors of the legislation, said.

The legislation would make the Personnel Board more responsible to all state employees and not just those covered by the State Merit System as is now the case.

The bill creates a new chapter which enlarges the board to seven members, giving rank-and-file employees two seats; and requires the commissioner to be a graduate of an accredited college or university and have at least 10 years of experience in personnel administration or related fields.

The governor will appoint the commissioner but with the approval of the board composed of two persons elected by state employees, and five appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by the Legislative Research Commission, the Commission on Women, and the Commissioner on Human Rights which guarantees these groups representation.

The commissioner will be required to maintain personnel records on all employees and report any turnover rate of 15 percent or more in any department, bureau, division or section in a 12-month period.

The bill says the commissioner shall conduct an investigation into the reason for the turnover and report the findings to the Personnel Board, the governor and the LRC.

The bill shields the two elective members from domination by the executive branch and insures their right to attend Personnel Board meetings.

If a rank-and-file board member's employment status rises above this level, the position becomes vacant immediately and is to be filled by a rank-and-file employee.

The proposed bill also provides authority for the Personnel Board to hire, under budget restrictions, needed personnel to administer and enforce provisions of the bill.

It also extends appeal rights to classified employees who are dismissed, demoted, suspended or otherwise penalized for cause. Any unclassified employee who is dismissed without cause shall not have right of appeal... protecting the governor's appointive rights.

It requires the board to hear appeals within 60 days after filing and announce disposition within 90 days.

A seniority system of seats would be established for state employees laid off through no fault of their own. They would have reinstatement rights through seniority.

Protection is also extended to em-

* See Agree or Not, page 9

Down Memory Lane

Child bruises foot on elevator

Thursday, February 22, 1962

John H. Glenn Jr. was orbited into space Tuesday in near perfect flight that took him around the earth three times in four hours and 56 minutes. He is the first American to orbit the earth.

Harvey Wagoner was awarded the State Utopia Award to the outstanding man or woman who has contributed greatly to the advancement of young farm people. He was presented the award at the annual State Utopia Banquet, Feb. 17, in Lexington.

Four members of the Carlisle High School Band have been chosen to participate in the Morehead State College Band Clinic on Feb. 22-25. Martha Anderson, Sally Hamilton, Beverly Mann and Susan Talbert for membership in bands, and Bill Hamilton is attending the clinic as an auditor.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Durland a son, Jeffrey Allen, Feb. 14 at Central Baptist Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Willie Ray Darrell a daughter, Deanne Fay, Feb. 8 at Bourbon County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Cartmell Lester a son, Jeffrey Nicholas, Feb. 18 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Wells a son, Wednesday at Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Marilyn Debet Meeker and John Price Durham, Jan. 22 in the Chapel of Our Savior, Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, Colo.

DIED — Robert Burns, 70, Locust Grove, Saturday at Nicholas County Hospital. — Mrs. Bessie Aldea Myers, 57, Bourbon County, Tuesday at home. — Eugene Atwood, 36, Monday at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. — Mrs. Janice Marie Kendall Dilia, 25, Dry Ridge. — Mrs. Joseph E. Kenney, 71, Friday at home in Nicholas County. — James Edwin Withers, 80, Sunday at home in Millersburg.

Thursday, February 18, 1942

The Nicholas County Chapter of the American Red Cross is jubilant to announce that Nicholas County is over the top in its endeavor to raise $1500 for War Relief.

Miss Hallye Griffin, secretary to the draft board, reported that 414 persons registered in Carlisle and Nicholas County on Monday.

MARRIED — Miss Ruth Smoot and Frank Earl Paul, Saturday, Feb. 7. — Miss Dorothy Louise McCracken and Julian Wells, Saturday at the home of the officiating minister, the Rev. J.R. Davis. — Miss Gladys Cleo Miller and Rankin Hurst, Feb. 11 at the First Baptist Church in Louisville by the Rev. R.R. Couey.

DIED — Mrs. Emily Kenney Mitchell, 73, widow of Eli Mitchell, Wednesday at the home of Mrs. C.N. Purcell, Tunnel Hill. — Mrs. Cora Price, 71, widow of Joe Price. — Mrs. Kate Ashley Caldwell, 75, Friday at the home of her sister, Miss Daley Ashley in Arnold Heights. — Mrs. J.H. Fulton, 71, Wednesday at home on West Main. — Mrs. Martha Butler Hardin, 91, widow of George Hardin, Friday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ed Henderson. — Mrs. J.H. Miller, 83, Feb. 14 at home in Bald Hill.

Thursday, February 22, 1922

John Wells, Ellisville, has been appointed clerk in the local post office until an examination is held to fill the vacancy which was caused by the resignation of Frank Powell.

William Henry, of this city, who for the past several months has been a traveling salesman for the David Adler & Son Co. at Lexington, has taken a position with the Lexington Dry Goods Co. as traveling salesman and will enter upon his new work March 1.

While playing on the elevator at the Peoples Warehouse Saturday afternoon, Hubbard Endicott Jr., little son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard Endicott, had his right foot badly bruised when he got it caught between the elevator and a shaft. Fortunately no bones were broken.

DIED — Jessie Mastin, 40, last Friday night at his home near Millersburg. — Greenberry Dotson, 68, Monday morning at Brentsville, Bourbon County. — Miss Emma Ruth Boggess, 28, Feb. 3 at the home of her parents near Lickton. — Mrs. Elizabeth Vancamp, 77, Saturday at her home in Doreyville. — Mrs. Sarah H. Bushby, 78, last Wednesday at her home near Hooktown. — Mrs. Johanna Geunce, 71, last Saturday at her home near Headquarters. — Mrs. Miranda H. Myers, 67, last Thursday at her home near Cassidy Creek. — Mrs. Martha Tribble, 88, Friday night at the home of her daughter near Oakland Mills. — Edmund Cummins, 67, last Saturday evening at the home of his brother on West Main Street. — Mildred Frances Bromagen, eight-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bromagen, last Thursday.

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NEWSPAPER and NNA NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Wind-chill factor is . . . science's way of freezing you to death

Life was better before we had the wind-chill factor. I know older people are always saying it was better back then. But, in this case, it's true.

Wind-chill factor has an evil ring about it. The very thought of it conjurs up a sinister science fiction shiver like the Blob or the Andromeda Strain, or something other all-embracing, insidious, ugly monster.

Before the wind-chill factor came along, people would dress up and go out into the cold and think it was part of life. Sometimes they even enjoyed it, pitying their unfortunate relatives in West Palm Beach, who never know the joys of an honest-to-goodness winter.

There were apt descriptions of just how cold it was, without introducing scientific measurements to scare you to death. It could be "colder than a well-digger's rump in the Klondike or "cold enough to freeze the ears off a brass monkey," which everyone automatically knew was right smartly cold. When the mercury dipped below zero, it was no big deal.

Now that's all changed. When it gets pretty nippy and windy, they tell us the dreaded wind-chill factor and we go into a state of shock like it was a meltdown. When the wind-chill factor is 53 below, how can anybody in his right mind leave the house without updating his will?

Wind-chill is negative thinking. If we can't have a wind-warm factor, or a warm-sweat factor, or at least a long-john factor, let's scrap the wind-chill factor and ignorantly freeze to death like we have in the past.

— RM —

And then with winter comes cabin fever:

Cabin fever is talkin to the dog for 10 minutes, then waiting another 10 minutes for an answer.

Watering the cactus four days in a row.

Dusting under the bed in hope of finding some interesting reading that might have slid away.

Reading the fine print on aspirin bottles and the weights and measures in the Sears catalog.

Calling somebody on the phone without a reason, simply to hear another housebound's voice.

Trying a new recipe that's fattening.

Deciding it's time to begin a program of shaping-up exercises.

Starting the program with a lie-on-the-floor exercise and failing asleep there.

Going out to shovel snow without being asked.

Checking the mailbox three times before the mailman comes.

Going to the farm just to say hello to the cows.

Wishing you lived in town so you could join a class, any class.

A backache caused by doing nothing.

— RM —

In delving into the labyrinths of the Social Security system recently, a congressman came up with some surprising facts:

About $1 billion a year in Social Security benefits go to persons living outside the United States.

About 70 percent of those recipients are aliens who once worked in the United States, but now live elsewhere, usually in their home countries where the cost of living may be lower.

Quite a few of the aliens worked only temporarily in the United States and now receive a handsome bonus for that short period of their lives.

The GOA provided three extreme examples: Alien A paid in $25 and so far has received benefits of $11.000, B paid in $161 and has received $31,000, C paid in $50 and has received $13.000, and D paid in $397 and has received $42,000.

"It would seem," the congressman said, "the law should be changed to remove from eligibility those non-citizens who live and work in the United States temporarily and who then return to their homeland and receive Social Security benefits, spending it all out of our country."

"I would favor giving back what those people have paid into the program but no more. Such a change would save nearly $700 million a year."

A near-broke Social Security fund could use that $700 million right now. Why hasn't the congressman introduced such legislation?

— RM —

Then there were these two Irish farmers. . . .

"Flannigan went over to Rafferty's farm and proceeded to haggle over a young pig in Rafferty's sty. In rubber boots, they stood ankle-deep in mud and finally struck a bargain.

"Three pounds is me final price," says Rafferty.

"Done," replies Flannigan and digs three one-pound notes from his pants pocket. All three notes are crumpled and Rafferty fumbles the hand-off from Flannigan. Three pounds fall in the mud and the pig quickly eats them.

"Now what?" asks Flannigan. "The bloody pig's got me three pounds."

"Take the pig," says Rafferty. "You're an honest man. Watch him closely and retrieve the notes. Give them to me later."

Flannigan puts the pig under his arm and sloshes off to O'Leary's pub. "Two whiskeys," cried Flannigan. He drinks one, pours one down the pig, waits a moment and kicks the pig in the stomach. The pig coughs up a one-pound note. "I'll give ye 10 pounds for the pig!" O'Leary yells.

"Not for sale. Two more whiskeys" replies Flannigan. Two drinks, a kick, another cough, another pound note. "Fifty pounds for the pig!" yells O'Leary.

"Not for sale. Two more whiskeys, if you please." Again, the pig takes a shot of whiskey, is kicked in the stomach and coughs up another pound note.

"One hundred pounds!" screams O'Leary. "I've got to have that pig!" Flannigan decides that's a lot of money for pig and so lets him go. Next day, Flannigan meets Rafferty and gives him the three pounds. "Too bad about O'Leary," Rafferty mentions. "How's that?" asks Flannigan. "He was arrested in a terrible disturbance at the pub."

"Sweet mither of God, on what charge?"

"Sweet mither of God, on what charge?" asks Flannigan.

"For kicking to death a drunken pig . . ."

—RM—

Recalling some smiles from 1981: The Turkish Daily News of Istanbul reported that "For a few hours, as President Reagan lay under the surgeon's wife, there appeared to be confusion . . ."

The administration took its lumps. Retired Adm. Gen LaRocque defined Reagan's favorite scare phrase, "Window of vulnerability" as "The space between Cap Weinberger's ears." Secy. of State Al Haig made the 10 best-dressed list. "Dressed to kill" was the immediate unfair comment by a nattering naboh of negativism.

Tom Lehrer's delightful response to a query about his age: "I'm 53, but I prefer to think of it as 11 Celsius," Sen. Sam Hayakawa explained how he expected to be reelected: I'm am going to speak my mind because I have nothing to lose."

Jimmy Carter is working on a book titled "How to Cope With Nuclear Disarmament and Puberty." Stan Dunn of San Francisco summed up the year's best, concluding his radio newscast with "and that is the world in a nutshell, an appropriate receptacle."

Onward, upward.

An editor's random thoughts...

by Warren R. Fisher Sr.

February 4, 1937

Up to find the sun shining again after many days of misty skies. And in the breath of the morning I find a hint of spring, a delicate and faint aroma of plowed fields moistened by April rains. It is but a hint, but a teasing, momentary whiff to the nostrils, yet the song sparrow has felt it and a mocking bird that has fed now and then at my bird lunch counter these days of snow and ice is so thrilled by that breath of promise that he sings in matchless mimicry his song of spring. From among bare branches of a maple this gray-clad songster puts into his repertoire all of the joy of Maytime. He has heard a call, I think, whispering in the south wind — a call that teases human ears, bringing a vague longing, a feel of something forgotten and of faculties lost in the long upward climb of millions of years.

I find a fellow feeling in a writer for the Christian Science Monitor, who has sensed the "whiff of Spring," when the earth is yet cold in the grip of Winter. He is moved to write as delightfully as the mocking bird sings.

"Perhaps, some January day, you will venture forth, armed to meet the sharp, thin, vital air, alert to take the crisp, whipping wind, with its pointed crystal touch, and meet, instead, zephyr, so soft, so languid, so weighted with the moist, sweet scent of patches of thawing ground, that you will know at once what is forward.

That is the whiff of spring, the scent which you will never forget once you have caught it and once it has associated itself with the feel of the

* See Random Thoughts, page 9

The Idle Rambler

by James C. Smith

There's a lot of horse-tradin' that goes on when the lawmakers get together in Frankfort for their biennial powwow. And every once in a while someone goes after a thoroughbred and winds up with a mule.

The Kentucky Press Association may well find itself to be the dubious owner of a sneaky ass that carries the potential to kick the living daylights out of every taxpayer in the state.

The issue is the law requiring local governments impublish detailed financial statements showing where taxpayers' money was spent in the previous fiscal year. The way the story unfolds is interesting, if not ludicrously ironic.

With the professional organizations that represent school boards, cities and counties across the state screaming that they were just too short on funds to continue to publish their annual reports, a special task force was set up by KPA to hammer out something the press and the taxpayers could live with, and the local governing bodies could afford.

Well, that special task force came back to the rest of us in KPA and announced their proposal that would allow consolidation of certain areas of the statements. Those consolidations would have cut the costs of publishing the financial statements by 19 percent to 42 percent. "We have to give a little or lose it all," the task force reported.

The membership of KPA overwhelmingly adopted the compromise package.

When the legislators descended on the state capitol this year, the deal began adding-interesting little twists.

On Jan. 26 the Senate passed a bill (SB 66) that would require cities and counties to only show lump-sum expenditures for employees' salaries in their financial statements. Individual salaries would not be published.

You'd think KPA would have made a fuss over that one, but they didn't. The bill came through the senate committee chaired by Sen. Ed Ford. The bill was passed out of committee unanimously. "No one spoke against it," Ford told me last week. He even talked with the KPA representative. It passed the full senate with a lopsided 31-7 vote.

Why didn't KPA oppose an obvious erosion of the public's right to know? Because the omnibus compromise agreement would supersede the narrow bill.

But (enter Gomer Pyle), "Sur-prise, Sur-prise!" On Feb. 3, after the Kentucky Municipal League decided it could not live with the compromise agreement, House Bill 429 was introduced to the house cities committee. Sponsored by Rep. Marshall Long, former mayor of Shelbyville, and Rep. Dolly McNutt, former city commissioner and mayor of Paducah, HB 429 would eliminate the requirement to publish financial statements altogether. It would require only the publication of a summary audit.

Since lump-sum balance sheets are hardly the same as detailed financial statements, or even a compromised and consolidated one, KPA jumped through the ceiling.

It's going to be a tough fight in the legislature now. In fact, Rep. Adrian Arnold told me that the bill probably has a 60-40 or 50-50 chance of passage. He also told me that things can change rather dramatically from week to week in the statehouse.

The real irony lies in the fact that while KPA's task force was wheeling and dealing with the politicians' representatives, there was one crusty old country publisher who adamantly opposed any compromise.

He said things like "Today the legals —tomorrow the open meetings!" and "give in to them on this thing, and pretty soon they'll take it all away!" and yet, "Does lightning have to strike the privy before we wake up to find our public notice advertising gone with the wind?"

He was dramatic. No one listened. After all, the KPA task force was being headed up by a representative from the prestigious (drum roll and trumpets please) Courier-Journal.

So the press association gave in and watched SB 66 go quietly and unopposedly through the senate. And, just as the crusty old country publisher predicted, the Kentucky Municipal League stepped in and is trying to take it all away.

The country publisher is Russ Metz from Owingsville. I hope he'll forgive me for calling him old and crusty. But I know that being able to say "I told you so" in this situation will not make him feel much better. KPA should have listened to him — for the peoples' sake.

STOP House Bill 429

If you want to know how your city government is spending your tax dollars.

Kentucky House Bill 429, now being considered by the General Assembly, *eliminates* the requirement that Kentucky cities publish an annual financial statement in this newspaper showing how your tax dollars are being spent.

You, as a taxpayer, have a right for this information to be published so that you may know.

We urge you to mail the coupons below to encourage your State Representative and State Senator to vote *against* House Bill 429 and protect your right to know how your city government is spending your tax dollars. *Do it today before it is too late.*

The Carlisle Mercury

Clip and Mail Today

State Sen. Ed Ford
State Senate
Capitol Building
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

I am opposed to House bill 429 which eliminates the requirement that Ky. cities publish an annual financial statement.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____

State Rep. Adrian Arnold
House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

I am opposed to House bill 429 which eliminates the requirement that Ky. cities publish an annual financial statement.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____

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