Opinion

Refitted battleships are a very good idea

Many of the Pentagon's traditional critics, and a few new ones besides, have had a field day with the Navy's decision to refit and recommission the four Iowa class battleships.

The Navy has been accused of everything from indulging nostalgia at taxpayers' expense to equipping today's fleet to fight yesterday's war. What could be more preposterous, ask the critics, than hauling World War II battleships out of mothballs in the missile age?

These criticisms have a catchy ring, but we think the Navy has the facts and common sense on its side.

Refitting all four Iowa class battleships will cost roughly $1.6 billion, or about the same amount that might otherwise buy a new nuclear-powered cruiser. The $326 million being spent to refit the New Jersey, the first of the Iowa class ships to be recommissioned, represents the cost of a single new frigate.

What the Navy is buying instead is four of the fastest, most heavily armored capital ships ever built.

Although the battleships will retain their 16-inch guns, they will also be equipped with state-of-the-art cruise and ship-to-ship missiles. These Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles will give the Iowa class battleships unsurpassed firepower: the ability to destroy enemy ships hundreds of miles away, or fixed targets on land at ranges of up to 1,600 miles.

As to their survivability, the foot-thick armor and tightly compartmentalized hulls of the Iowa class ships will enable them to withstand more battle damage than any warship in any navy in the world.

Building such ships from the keel up at today's costs would rival the expense of a new aircraft carrier — at least $1.5 billion. But because the Iowa class ships have been carefully preserved, have spent relatively little time at sea, and can easily be re-equipped to carry missiles, the Navy can have four of the world's most formidable surface warfare ships for the cost of building one from scratch. That would be a bargain at twice the price.

Better yet, the New Jersey will be operational next year and all four battleships are scheduled to be at sea by 1986 — years before even one comparable ship could be designed, built, launched and commissioned.

Naysayers notwithstanding, we think Navy Secretary John Lehman's decision to recall the Iowa class battleships will add substantially to the Navy's punch at a price that should delight Congress and taxpayers alike.

Reagan's cabinet sets a bad example

While he is cracking down on federal overspending generally, President Reagan would do well to clamp down on the spending habits of some of his own Cabinet members and bureau chiefs.

Some examples cited by U.S. News and World Report include the following:

— Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis is said to have spent $104,000 a year for a private dining room which boasts five Coast Guardsmen as servants.

— Three officials of the Federal Labor Relations Authority spent $150,000 to buy fancy office furniture at a time when the authority was cutting costs by firing 47 of its 351 employees.

— $12,000 was spent to enlarge Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige's oak-paneled dining room which adjoins his office, plus $24,000 for new carpeting for Baldrige and his staff.

The White House staff isn't setting a good example, either. There has been a 100 percent increase in the number of chauffeur-driven cars that whisk White House aides around Washington. This fleet now totals 29.

It also is reported that the executive branch maintains plush lodges for VIP vacation hideaways in Wyoming, the Virgin Islands, Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, Shenandoah Park in Virginia, and in the Catoctin Mountains in Maryland.

The lodge in Wyoming, for example, has beamed ceilings, a stone fireplace, enough beds for 14 people and picture windows overlooking Jackson Lake and the Teton Mountains. These lodges are offered to selected VIPs in the administration at discount rates.

The problem with allowing Cabinet members and other highly placed administration officials to spend taxpayers' money on such perquisites is that it could well lessen their zeal for cutting expenditures in their departments and agencies.

A government official who lavishes so much tax money on a dining room, carpeting, furniture, etc., also is setting a poor example for others to follow. If austerity is going to be restored to government it should begin at the top and go all the way down through the ranks.

Agree or not

Is John Y full of 'economic' hot air??

by S.C. Van Curen

Changes in the economy haven't caused Governor John Young Brown Jr. to change his facts in "the speech" he makes at every opportunity about the industrial development and business growth during his term.

Neither has it caused the Commerce Department to alter its claims and facts about new and expanded manufacturing plants during 1980 and 1981 in Kentucky, although the downturn in the economy is nationwide and not limited to Kentucky.

The booklet on manufacturing developments in Kentucky in 1981 published by the Commerce Department lists 61 new manufacturing plants with an investment of $1,079,767,600 with an anticipated employment of 9,510 workers, or new jobs for the state.

The booklet also claims 432 expansions at an outlay of $603,270,800 with an employment increase of 7,947.

Commerce Cabinet Secretary Bruce Lunsford also is proud of the seven new supportive industries that are expected to employ 122 more people with an investment of $256,875,000.

In the speech that Brown makes across the country he tells of his accomplishment in running Kentucky government like a business and claims to have reduced operating costs by cutting unnecessary personnel from the payroll.

He has cut about 4,000 from the state payroll, but the payroll cost now stands at its highest in history.

Brown claims the new investments total about $1.8 billion in 1981 to create 13,000 plus new jobs.

He hasn't bothered to adjust his job figures and explain that the recession has brought unemployment in Kentucky to its highest figures since the great depression. He hasn't said that industries have laid off more people than have been employed by new and expanded industries.

The largest new plant announced in 1981 was made by Armco Steel in Ashland at an estimated cost of $296 million. The announcement was made Aug. 26, 1981. Now smallest is a Frankfort firm with two employees that make barrel planters.

In a telephone interview last week Bill Skaggs, head of industrial relations for Armco, said no construction has begun and the project is now "on hold with its status uncertain." He blamed the downturn in the economy.

However, a $97,300,000 expansion is on schedule and operating with 80 new employees with a projected employment of 300 in the future.

Skaggs said total employment for the large Ashland concern is down to 4,050 now against a normal force of 4,650 when the plant is in full production.

"We're low on orders," Skaggs said, "but we hope this is temporary. The situation is purely an economic cause."

The Commerce Department tended to round out figures at zeros and fives, the survey showed.

For example, the booklet shows Batesville Casket Co. of Campbellsville making an investment of $25 million with estimated employment at 400.

Terry Cosby, a company official, said the investment figure is nearer $22 million with projected employment at 175."

The booklet says Somerset Boat Company's new plant at Corbin will cost $1.3 million and employ 40 people. Production manager Jim McBurney said in a telephone interview the correct figure is nearer $1.1 million and is expected to employ up to 40 when in full production. The company has a plant at Somerset that has been in operation several years, as well as other investments in Somerset.

The Brown Printing Co. at Franklin spent $13 million in a 1981 project and is currently spending another three million for expansion, Roswell Dennison, engineering manager, said. The company prints magazines, catalogs and brochures in colors. It is a German-held concern with headquarters in Waseca, Minn.

The Gravure Corporation of Florence is spending $7.5 millions and presently is employing 25 workers which force is expected to grow to 50 for the production of rotogravure plates for a nationwide market, Todd Wood, vice president, said in a telephone interview.

The AE Udimet, Ltd., producers of special metal products, technical equipment and special engineering designs is spending $3 million on a plant that now employs 10 specialty people. The company produces powdered metals that are used in jet engines, a company spokesman told the Caldwell County Times.

Anaconda Company is building a plant at Russellville that is expected to cost $400 million and will employ 400 to 500 eventually.

In the 1980 Commerce booklet, the State Journal in Frankfort was listed with expansion of $1,150,000. Publisher Albert E. Dix said this was a mistake. "We haven't spent that much since we bought the firm in 1961." He said this figure could be for the total equipment investment for the plant.

Down Memory Lane

Ceiling falls at county courthouse

Thursday, May 24, 1962

Mrs. Martan Jean Roma, native of Carlisle, daughter of Mrs. B.H. Pumphrey and a Spanish teacher at Campbell County High School, has been chosen as a participant in the Summer Institute for teachers of foreign languages to be held on the campus of Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, N.C., June 14 to August 7.

Four students from Carlisle High School have been honored by the University of Kentucky School of Journalism. Judy Giffin and Judy Hopkins have been presented Marguerite McLaughlin memorial certificates and Charlotte Hunter and John Talbert received Enoch Grehan memorial certificates.

Sterling Saunders of East Main Street will be one of the graduates at Eastern State College, Richmond, with a master of arts degree, at commencement next week.

Dr. Harold D. Rosenbaum, the only native Kentuckian in the College of Medicine at the new University Hospital, will be the commencement speaker at Nicholas County High School Friday, May 25.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Foster Watkins, a son, Lloyd Wendall, May 17 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Crawford of Port Hueneme, Calif., a daughter, May 20 at a hospital in Oxnard, Calif. — To Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ferrell, a son, Gregory Lee, May 17 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Roger Tapp, Sharpsburg, a son, John Roger, May 17 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Lucas, Sharpsburg, a son, Donnie Allen, May 20 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Curtsinger, a son, May 21 at Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Isabel Mary Walker of Chelmsford, England and S.Sgt. Mac Coleman Shrout, Carlisle, March 3 at Chelmsford Chapel. — Miss Virginia Crouch and Herbert L. Steele, Saturday in Jellico, Tenn. — Miss Bonnie Jean Jones to Norman Earl Duncan, Friday at the Carlisle Christian Church.

DIED — Mrs. Oma Pearl Bussell, 57, wife of George Bussell, Tuesday at Nicholas County Hospital. — Jeff T. Booth, 62, Monday at the home of his brother, Clarence Booth, Harrison County. — Mrs. Alma Hopkins Harding, widow of Samuel Harding, Monday at the home of her son, Claude Harding, Bloundstown, Fla. — Glenn C. Gilvin, 68, Friday at home in Harrodsburg.

Thursday, May 21, 1942

W.B. Dampier, superintendent of Nicholas County Schools, escaped serious injury Tuesday afternoon when a large portion of plastered ceiling in his office at the Nicholas County Courthouse fell.

Thirty-four seniors will be given diplomas Thursday night at the Carlisle High School. It will be the 50th such annual event staged in Carlisle.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Duncan, a son, Robert Kenneth, May 16.

MARRIED — Miss Alma Louise Toot and Samuel Guin Curtis, May 16 at Maysville. — Miss Clara Soper Hughes and Theodore Martin Wilson. — Miss Cassie Chapman and John Carlton Rambo, Friday.

DIED — R.B. Cannon, 84, May 16 at the home of his son in Brooksville. — Mrs. John Evans, 58, Monday at home in Hamilton, Ohio. — Miss Mildred Reed, 37, Thursday in Lexington. — William Collins, 83, Wednesday at home. — Mrs. Mary Hance Dellart, May 15 at home in Washington, D.C. — Mrs. Delilah Frances Dunn, 94, Friday in Lexington.

Thursday, May 25, 1922

Dr. G.T. Cowan has been named recruiting officer for Nicholas County cavalry regiment of the Kentucky National Guard now in progress of formation.

Fire originating in a kitchen flue completely destroyed the residence of John Stephenson near East Union. Most of the household goods were saved.

MARRIED — Miss Anne Elizabeth Riggle, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Riggle, and Charles R. Given, son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Given, all of Bath County, on Wednesday afternoon. — Miss Willie G. Barr and Howard E. Colliver, at the home of Rev. Mark Collis in Lexington, Thursday.

DIED — Dr. E.H. Burris, 72, Monday at his home in Lexington. — J.R. King, 70, at his home in Chicago. — Jesse Taylor Berry, 73, Friday morning at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington.

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Letters from our readers

Recommends Mills for Congress

To The Carlisle Mercury:

The time of decision is at hand. On May 25 the Democrats of the sixth congressional district of which Nicholas County is now a part must choose a nominee. Republicans have no choice. One thing is clear. The next Congressman will come from Lexington. The Democrat with the best chance to win is Don Mills. He is a former editor of the traditionally Democratic paper, the Lexington Herald. He was well educated in government both at the University of Kentucky and the University of Edinburgh where he held a Rotary Club scholarship. He traveled extensively abroad and he became personally acquainted with the Russian situation. Though I do not have the honor of claiming him as a former student, he served two governors who were one time students of mine.

On the basis of my study of political leaders for 56 years, I can recommend Don Mills as well qualified by education and experience to be a distinguished representative for the old Ashland Henry Clay district. He will do much to revive the record of John Breckenridge, my former student and long time friend. He supports a hundred percent the Allen Barkley-Virgil Chapman tobacco program with no nibbling and additional costs to farmers. He will do his best to support the social security system now threatened by the Reagan administration. Tobacco and dairy farmers, the aged, and the unemployed, as well as school children whose school lunches are threatened, will find in Don Mills an ardent and enthusiastic friend.

He has already come forward to support emergency relief for the drouth stricken farmers of Nicholas County. Now is the time to give him help. Vote for Don Mills on May 25.

Thank you,
Jasper B. Shannon

Wintersheimer is the man

To The Carlisle Mercury:

On May 25 an election will be held whereby a successor to the late Judge Robert Lukowsky on the Supreme Court will be chosen. There are three candidates for this high office and, coincidentally, all reside here in the northern-most tip of the district, two from Kenton County and one from Campbell. I am acquainted with each of these gentlemen and I must testify that each is of high caliber, well qualified to sit on the bench of the Court.

However, my choice is Judge Donald Wintersheimer. While equal in all other respects, Judge Wintersheimer has the edge when it comes to consistency of thought, application of the law and the determination that society is served by it. Judge Wintersheimer has the most appellate court experience.

It will do us well, I think, to carefully ponder the vital role that we, the electorate, play in maintaining the prestige of the state's highest court. To my mind, at this point in time, it can best be done by electing Judge Donald Wintersheimer. Please join me in voting for him. Thank you.

Yours truly,
Howard J. Litzler
6466 Marily Drive
Independence, Ky. 41051

Mercury enjoyed

To The Carlisle Mercury:

Please renew our subscription to the Mercury for one year.

We enjoy reading about our hometown each week. Our check is enclosed.

Mrs. Jim Earlywine
589 Dover Road
Lexington, KY 40505

To The Carlisle Mercury:

Please send me The Carlisle Mercury another year.

We enjoy reading The Carlisle Mercury as Nicholas County is our home town. Enclosed is a check for $9.50.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Oscar (Bessie L.) Hughes
Maysville, Ky. 41056

Op-Ed page

Turn sore back into status trip . . . tell 'em you hurt it picking up options

I took a couple of days off a few weeks ago to get in touch with my body.

The part of my body that most interested me was my back and the pain located there. It wasn't the first time I had ever missed work because of a nagging hurt on my backside. Once I spent a week on a board because someone told me it would help. It didn't.

I have learned there is a certain status to the way you get back pain. The lowest status is to hurt your back by bending over to tie your shoelaces and then find you can't straighten up.

One guy told me this happens to him two or three times a year.

"So, big loafer," I told him. He hasn't spoken to me since. I have noticed that a sense of humor is the first thing that goes when back pain comes.

One of the highest status ways to injure your back is playing tennis. Playing polo is probably the ultimate, if you can get anyone to believe it. But tennis is in. This is an extremely fashionable form of pain these days. Hurting your back while hang-gliding or raising your hand at a presidential news conference comes in a close second.

I quit playing tennis years ago because of a disease developed in the head called good sense. For awhile I tried whittling as my No. 1 recreation, but the courtyard benches made my back worse.

Still, I am amazed at the people who are determinted to beat their backs to death on tennis courts to maintain that status it gives them. You see them strapping on elaborate ankle and wrist braces made out of high-impact plastic, steel and Velcro bands and you wonder why these fellows, who obviously would be more comfortable in wheelchairs, are doing themselves in this way.

I once asked a guy, who looked like he had just come out of an emergency room at the hospital, why he did it.

"To stay in shape," he said.

"What are you taking for your back?" I knew he had the pain like I have.

"Big orange pills."

"What do they do?"

"Absolutely nothing."

"Oh, yeah, them," I said. "They do the same for me."

Doctors have been known to smile, adjust their bulging wallets and whet their cutting knives when looking at x-rays of my back. I always go for a second opinion — mine.

I knew a fellow who paid $9,000 for a nose job and then found out it was his necktie that was on crooked.

So think I'll keep mine intact. It might come in handy when I run for president. When I tell the people back came from picking cotton, that ought to cinch the southern vote.

— RM —

It may sound impossible, but . . .

✓ I once drove 28 miles without seeing a McDonald's.

✓ I pulled a sticker off a can at the supermarket and the last price was higher.

✓ I once met an insurance salesman who did not say, "God forbid."

✓ I once read about something that did not cause cancer.

✓ I heard a rock singer the other night and understood every word.

✓ I arrive five minutes before a scheduled appointment with a doctor and was called in on time.

— RM —

More laws, axioms, maxims and rules for our tirne:

Cookie's Crumbles: All things come to him who orders hash.

Conrad's Conclusion: Put a little money away every week and at the end of the year you'll be surprised how little you have and how little good it will do you.

Landau's Lament: After food and love-making, man's greatest drive is to find a comfy place to take a nap.

Duke of Windsor's Two Greatest Pieces of Advice: Never refuse a chance to sit down or an opportunity to relieve yourself.

Reneau's Statement: A crowded elevator smells different to a midget.

Cannon's Comment: It you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the next morning you will have a flat tire.

Cliff's Law: Never stand between a dog and a hydrant.

Pickett's Postulate: Anytime you share a bedroom, the person who snores the loudest will fall asleep first.

O'Brien's $357.73 Theory: Auditors always reject any expense account with a bottom line divisible by 5 or 10.

— RM —

Here's how several people would advise newlyweds:

Singer-actress Dolly Parton: Bend a little. The ingredients of a four-star marriage are compromise and understanding.

Actress Shelley Duvall: Divorce is a product of today's fast pace and work-related stress. Try not to spend too much time away from each other. Too much absence makes the heart forget.

Phyllis Diller: There should be more stroking in marriage, more compliments paid. Egos should be salved.

Marie Osmond: Keep on "dating." I want my husband to take me on dates forever. That's what keeps the quality of a relationship alive.

Lawyer-author Marvin Mitcheson: One way of keeping a marriage intact is to find what you're getting into before the wedding.

— RM —

One of life's little mysteries is why anyone watches a television program based on those capsule summaries provided by the networks, says Al Frisbie.

Here, for instance, was the summary for "The Wizard of Oz": "A fantasy about a young girl from Kansas who, with her dog, takes a cyclonic trip into the Land of Oz and finds herself on the yellow brick road to adventure."

A guy who never heard of the film would read that and flip through the paper looking for something a bit more exciting — like a checkers tournament.

Sometimes abbreviated story lines border on the absurd. Here's one from last week's tv log which was designed to whet interest in a murder mystery: "A string of bizarre murders, all committed by irrational criminals who have suddenly turned bad, leads to Stanford University, where all the murderers have been exposed to a rare strain of halfucionogenic drugs . . ."

What I'm trying to say is that while brevity has its place, trying to explain in a sentence or two what goes on in a half-hour show or full-length movie is next to impossible.

One wonders what tv program resume writers would do if told to freshen up historic events in a few words. For ludicrous example:

✓ Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicks over a lantern and sets the great Chicago fire of 1871. Neighbors claim the cow was drunk from a shot of bourbon given it to stimulate milk production, and coin a new word for booze: "firewater."

✓ Orville Wright pilots the first successful airplane at Kitty Hawk, N.C., but townspeople are unimpressed. "Danged fool Wright brothers used to be down-to-earth boys," one said. "Bad lately they've gotten real flighty."

✓ Benjamin Franklin flies a kite during a thunderstorm in 1752 and learns that lightning is electricity. He does not mention as a "shocking discovery."

✓ William Penn signs a treaty with the Delaware Indians in 1683, which makes the Delaware chief history's first recorded Penn Pal.

✓ Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin in 1793 and ignorant detractors contend it will give boll weevils cirrhosis of the liver.

✓ Noah Webster publishes his American Dictionary of the English Language in 1828. Asked it it's correct, he replies, "Take my word for it."

Onward, upward.

An editor's random thoughts...

by Warren R. Fisher Sr.
May 13, 1937

Spring burgeons into deeper beauty. One day soon we shall leave the tender, lettuce-green of April altogether for the deeper, fuller verdancy of May. Always at this season I have a feeling that I am letting beauty slip past me not fully enough enjoyed, a feeling that I am unable to drink deep enough from the "cup of cheer that Beauty draws for me." It is because this fresh loveliness of the earth's rebirth is so fleeting, I imagine. Viscount Grey of Falloden, in his "The Charm of Birds" expresses this feeling of the fleeting quality of early spring's delicate loveliness. He writes:

"There is no risk of satiety in April; there is time to appreciate the first green leaves on larch, hawthorn or chestnut; to note separately the appearance of each kind of spring flower, to welcome one by one with eye and ear the arrival of each species of summer bird. We keep abreast of the beauty of season and feel adequate to and worthy of it. But in May we are overwhelmed. New green is spreading everywhere; flowering shrubs and trees and flowers of garden and field are far too abundant for separate notice; all those birds yet named in this book, and more than these, are in full song. Neither eye nor ear, nor outward nor inward sense of man is equal to it. Each of us can select for especial and particular enjoyment a few things: the tender green of young beech leaves; the scent in mass of whin; a glade of bluebells; a wide field of buttercups under the sun; but when we have done our best, we are yet oppressed by a feeling that we can but take in a small portion of the abundant beauty. There comes upon us also, not only a sense of abundance, but of haste; it is all passing; the leaves darken from day to day; luxuriance remains, but tenderness and delicacy are fleeting. It is only for a short time that new beech leaves are so soft that the wind stirs them without sound. In early spring we long to hurry the season, in May we would say to it, "Stay! thou art fair."

And it cannot be stayed. "Twere all as well to bid a cloud to stand."

***

Dr. Willard Rouse Jillson, former State Geologist, and author of much Kentuckiana, visited Carlisle this week to consult the files of The Mercury for 1882. An August issue in that year carries a full account of the celebration at the Blue Licks, held just 100 years after the battle. The cornerstone of a monument that was never completed was laid to the accompaniment of addresses by many distinguished Kentuckians and all of these speeches were printed in a Supplement issued by The Mercury.

Dr. Jillson is gathering material for a book on the Blue Licks, from the time of the earliest recorded visit of white men to the salt spring nearly 200 years ago, to the present time. He has an abundance of annotated bibliography and his book should be most interesting. The complete story of the famous old springs, once the most popular resort in the western country, has never been told. I think it is not Dr. Jillson's intention to go into extended detail, but his comprehensive bibliography will furnish a rich source for further reading and perhaps a more detailed history of the Blue Licks by some future historian.

G.I. BILL

Over one million men and women trained under the GI Bill while still on active military duty.

LETTERS

To The Carlisle Mercury:

Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting with many of you. As I toured your area, I was impressed with the sincerity and hospitality of the people in your fine county.

I represent you as your Justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court and representing you well is my main purpose for being here. I'm dependent on you folk like you to help me do my best job. I ask for your support and vote on Primary Election Day on May 25.

Sincerely,
John "Jay" O'Hara, Justice
Supreme Court of Kentucky
Sixth Judicial District

To The Carlisle Mercury:

As governor from 1963 to 1967, I was fortunate to have on my administrative staff, a young man whose ability and integrity continue to be important assets for public service in Kentucky. That young man, Don Mills, is now seeking — and deserves — your support for the democratic nomination to the congress from the 6th district.

As press secretary and a principal advisor, Don was an able spokesman for some of Kentucky's most important programs: a strong system of public education; our state's first billion dollar farm income, a strengthened system of libraries and cultural programs, and a solid professional merit system for State employees.

Don Mills' dedication and service in behalf of the sixth district has earned him the respect of Kentucky's democrats and republicans alike. I am proud to add my name to the list of Kentuckians supporting Don's campaign and I ask that you vote for him on election day, May 25.

As a state employee for six years and as a member of the faculty of the Lexington Herald, Don Mills has been one of this state's ardent defenders of a strong independent merit system, free from political and administrative abuse.

Don is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and, as a 28-year resident of the sixth district, your concerns are his. Between now and election day, I hope you will speak up for Don's campaign as he continues to address such issues as the economy, the current unbearable level of unemployment, inflation and interest rates, education, and the need for a strong farm program — issues that are so vital to the interests of the 6th district.

Sincerely,
Ned
(Edward T. Breathitt,
Governor 1963-67)

In this corner.... by Jim Butler Wanke

Not a day goes by that you don't hear someone complaining about how bad they got it. Of course, there are always pessimists who think this way on purpose. And there are those folks who would like you to believe they got it bad. But there is also a good smattering of ladies and gentlemen who really believe they got it bad.

A lot of country music portrays how bad things are, "rubbish meese, my girl is gone, my money is gone... haven't been a train lately and I got the blues."

But the fact is we Americans, and us Kentuckians included, have got it pretty good, when you come right down to it.

No war

We don't have a war going on and none of our sons are dying on foreign soil. That's pretty important. There have been four long periods in our history during this century when we couldn't say that.

The economy may be a bit black right now, but compared to other times in this century, isn't it still in pretty good shape?

Most of us have more than enough food to eat. And if you judge by the number of obviously overweight people we have (and I include myself) we have too much food.

Most of us who want a job have one. Many of those who draw unemployment do so because they want to. If they really had to, many of them could find a job.

We have free health clinics for those who need a doctor's aid and don't have the money. There is even a free hospitalization plan for those who are poor and need it. In many cases, prescriptions are covered.

If you are over 62 you can draw social security in most cases, and while it may not be a lot of money by today's standards, you can get by on it, if you're careful and have a part-time job in addition.

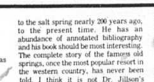
The point I'm trying to make is...as a society we have it better right now than at most times in our history. And if I can peek a little over the fence into the future...we have times coming in the future when we won't have it so good.

So let's enjoy our life now, TODAY. Today is really all there is. Yesterday is gone, not to be recovered, no matter how much we talk about it. Tomorrow is not here, and while it can also be talked about, cannot be lived until it arrives in the morning.

So what else is there, but TODAY?

Since you're spending all the time you have available today, you might as well make it count. Take a look around you, forgetting about yesterday and tomorrow, and things will look a lot brighter!

Revival
Oakland Mills Methodist Church
May 24 - 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Evangelist: Charles Emmons of Maysville
Everyone invited!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