Opinion

There's no business like small business

Giant corporations are the most important factor in the nation's economy, right?

Not exactly, even though most Americans would think so at first thought. The fact is, there are 13.3 million small businesses in this country and their number has been growing steadily for decades.

Consider: Small businesses employ more than half the work force, create most new jobs, are responsible for most new products and most new technologies. They bring new products to market faster than large corporations. During the 1981-82 recession, they laid off fewer workers than did their big brothers.

Small business' accomplishments and contributions will get special recognition during National Small Business Week, May 8-14. Outstanding small business men and women from around the country will be honored at a White House ceremony and in every state.

Small business deserves a big pat on the back from all of us. As President Reagan noted this spring, when he signed his second annual Report on the State of Small Business, "As business and civic leaders in their states and towns, small business men and women improve the quality of life to all Americans."

So we say: Thank you Small Business.

The decline of France

France has suffered its third currency devaluation since the socialist government of President Francois Mitterrand took control in 1981, the latest occurring in a broad realignment of currencies by European finance ministers.

Nothing could better illustrate the bankruptcy of the something-for-nothing socialist policies under Mitterrand than this succession of currency devaluations. The inflationary, anti-enterprise policies of the socialists simply have undermined what once was a fairly strong economy and progressively cheapened their nation's currency.

By contrast, the West German currency has been strengthening as more sensible economic policies have been pursued. In the realignment, the West German currency was revaluated upward by 5.5 percent.

As is usually the case when socialist policies bring on an economic crisis, those who imposed the policies don't abandon them. They simply start taking more from the people than they did before. That is what the French are proposing to do in a new "austerity" program — austere for the people, but not for the socialist government.

Later...maybe

Perhaps you've heard of the group called Citizens Against Apathy who had to call off a seminar because no one registered for it.

Probably few people are apathetic toward procrastination, and it's a pleasure to report that there has been a breakthrough, however tentative, on the problem.

Experts looking into the reasons why people delay acting on important matters, such as filing their income tax returns, explain that up until now there has been very little research on procrastination.

"I guess people don't get around to it," says Dr. Esther Rothblum, a psychology professor at the University of Vermont, who is considered big on procrastination.

Until someone comes up with a better explanation why scientists have neglected doing tomorrow's research today, Rothblum's guess would seem to be as good as the next person's.

More later.

Maybe.

Democrats have eyes on the White House

Two Fritzes, an ex-astronaut, the political Pied Piper who organized the McGovern campaign of 1968, a former Florida governor and one of the fastest senior sprinters in America are now running for the Democratic nomination for president.

In case you need a program, the candidates are: former Vice President Walter "Fritz" Mondale of Minnesota; Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings of South Carolina; Sen. John Glenn of Ohio; Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado; former Gov. Reubin Askew of Florida; and Sen. Alan Cranston of California.

They may be joined by Rev. Jesse Jackson of Illinois. Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, Rep. Morris Udall of Arizona and Sen. Dale Bumpers of Arkansas have already dropped out.

The winner of the Democratic nomination is likely to face President Reagan, who hints he'll run again in the election still more than 18 months away.

Barring, perhaps, the Nielsen TV ratings, presidential campaigns are the most grueling popularity contests in America. They are, at their worst, as issue-oriented as the Miss America contest and as intellectually stimulating as a 12-round boxing match.

Democracy may be defined as the popular practice of punishing leaders for America's problems by making them run the gauntlet for public office. Politicians get their revenge by giving the people what they vote — and sometimes pay — for. As flawed as it is, this process is man's best means of governing himself.

It is futile, in 1983, to try to predict who our next president will be in 1985. Reagan's greatest political strength is his personal popularity. If the economy continues to improve and America remains at peace, Mr. Reagan will be hard to beat.

But unemployment remains close to a postwar high. A record $207 billion deficit projected for 1983, combined with a $1.25 trillion federal debt, threatens to abort the economic recovery. The administration's policy of interventionism in El Salvador and Nicaragua could plunge the United States into a war in Central America. The president's military buildup is losing support in Congress and on Main Street. And there is growing pressure from the American people for Mr. Reagan to stop talking about arms control and do something about it.

These issues are grist for the Democrats' mills. But the Democrats' challenge is to find, if they can, a way to stimulate employment without sparking inflation; to promote human rights without allowing America to lose power in the world; to strengthen social programs without weakening national defense; to negotiate a workable arms control agreement and get it passed by the Senate. That is a tall order for any candidate of either party.

Forces beyond the control of politicians and presidents govern elections. The mood of the country has shifted from the dark days of the Iranian hostage crisis when former President Carter, perceived as weak, was beaten by a tough-talking Mr. Reagan. Events could, in a day, shift the public mood again.

Whatever the outcome, elections make presidents realign their policies and make politicians seek out the pulse of the people. If you listen beneath the campaign rhetoric, you can almost hear America voicing its fears and hopes — the plainsong of democracy.

Agree or not

Jail problem will have to be solved by next legislative session

by S.C. Van Curen

Kentucky's horse-and-buggy county government system no longer can cope with inflation and federal court rulings regarding jails.

Several county jails across Kentucky are being closed because they do not meet federal standards while the state prison system is overcrowded and cannot accept all prisoners being sentenced by the courts.

This combination has created a crisis that will take considerable time and a lot of money to correct. It will be one of the major fiscal problems facing the 1984 General Assembly.

State Corrections Secretary George Wilson has proposed a network of 32 regional jails, with 21 of these being full service jails. Eighteen of these would be under contract to the state to house up to 500 state prisoners. Dozens of short-term holding facilities would take care of violators who would appear in court within hours.

Kentucky's 120 counties were created in part to accommodate travel by horse and buggy and in part as political spoils.

Duplication of these services is an expense that cannot be supported by the local governmental resources, particularly in the smaller and less populated areas.

The fee system for paying jailers was all but obliterated by the 1982 General Assembly in that a minimum salary for county jailers was set at $12,000 per year with the state paying part where necessary. No jailer is to receive less than his statutory limit if he achieved it through fees in 1981, plus cost of living increases.

If and when a regional jail system is established, many county jailers will be relegated to the status of being transporters of prisoners to and from jails to the courts. The system also could eliminate some of the political patronage in the present system because fewer deputy jailers would be needed in places without a regional jail.

The holding facilities possibly could accommodate drunks, drunken drivers and other transgressors who could be arraigned in local district courts within a 24-hour period.

Presumably prisoners charged with major offenses and remanded to jail without bond or awaiting bond would be housed in the regional jails. Transporting them to circuit courts served by the regional jails would be an expense not present now, but would be less expensive than building modern jails in every county and maintaining them.

If Kentuckians ever become willing to consolidate some of the county governments, the courts could be located in the same town with the regional jails.

Kentuckians did change their archaic court system, consolidating its county and city police court systems into a district court, retaining its circuit court and dividing its highest court into appellate and supreme court divisions.

The only elective court office this eliminated was that of city police judge while it created a district court system. The statutory office of county judge remains in the system but with the new title of judge-executive without any judicial duties. His duties are limited to administrative which in effect makes him chairman of the board of directors, the fiscal court.

Revamping the jail system is going to be time consuming and expensive.

Down Memory Lane

Nicholas, Carlisle education boards agree to merge; save your grease says Uncle Sam!

Thursday, May 9, 1963

The Nicholas County Board of Education and the Carlisle Board of Education agreed at special sessions Friday, May 3, to merge and the new board will now be known as the Nicholas County Board of Education. Reasons for the merger, which extends the five educational districts was worked out along with the merger.

A wire received last Wednesday from Rep. John Watts, Washington, D.C. stated that Carlisle's workable program for community improvements has been approved. This means Carlisle is eligible for federal aid in the form of loans and grants for urban renewal, low rent public housing, lower liberal FHA mortgage insurance to assist in private redevelopment areas and re-housing displaced families.

The James Simons family living in the Myers community of Nicholas County was selected by the local Farm Bureau committee as winner in the county as the safest farm family.

Margaret Ellen Duncan, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Duncan, was presented at the altar for dedication by her parents at the Carlisle Methodist Church on Sunday, May 5.

DIED — Mrs. Carrie Green Broderick, 85, wife of John Edward Broderick, May 6 at Nicholas County Hospital. — Miss Mabel Henry Reed, May 5 at St. Luke's Hospital in Ft. Thomas. — Charles William Sparks, 73, May 1 at home on the Locust Grove Rilslit. — Stanley Hardin, 59, Lexington, May 1 at Veterans Hospital, Lexington. — John William Booth, 69, May 3 at home in Dayton. — Mrs. Nora M. O'Neal, 84, widow of Martin H. O'Neal, May 4 at the home of a daughter, Mrs. W.O. Lawrence, Danville.

Thursday, May 13, 1943

William Tucker of Scottsboro, Al., has joined the Carlisle Mercury staff as manager.

Uncle Sam requests that every home in Nicholas County save kitchen grease for the war effort. Kentucky's collection of kitchen grease has raised rapidly, but we are raising only half our quota. The need is serious.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Kash House, a daughter, April 8. — To Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Marshall, Covington, a son, May 3 at St. Elizabeth Hospital.

DIED — Mrs. Lutie Henry Daniell, 78, Monday. — Harvey Morgan Hubbard, 65, May 10. — W.Newton Tune, 59, in Lakewood, OH.

Returns filed near April 15 will wait six weeks for refund

For those taxpayers who waited until the final week before April 15 to file their tax returns, there will be an additional wait of approximately six weeks until they can expect their tax refunds.

Although there is a heavy volume of returns filed in the final week of the tax filing season, taxpayers with refunds can generally expect their tax refunds by June 1. If there are no errors or problems with a taxpayer's return which is filed by April 15, the IRS must issue the refund due within 45 days of April 15, or the taxpayer will be entitled to interest on the refund beyond the 45-day period.

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Jim B. Wanke ..... Editor
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Op-Ed page

We gonna miss you folks . . . when all that's left is us and Stetson

I was in the backyard the other evening, burning dinner over a slow fire, when my dear wife, Maggie, came out to read me an item in the newspaper.

It said that the tiny farming community of Stetson, Maine, had voted to declare itself a nuclear-free zone. And would the Soviet Union therefore kindly scratch it from their list of possible targets?

"If the Africans, Latin Americans, Australians, Antarcticans and now the Europeans want to declare themselves nuclear-free zones, and rest in peace," I said, "why can't the Stetsonians?"

"Because if our illustrious leaders get us all blown up, shouldn't the folks of Stetson be patriotic enough to go along? After all, our leaders are their leaders. Besides, what's to stop anyone who wants to from becoming a nuclear-free zone? What's to stop us?"

"You make a lot of sense, for a change," I said. "That's a keen idea! We'll save our little family yet. Get to cracking on that!"

"You know as well as I do we couldn't get our town council to pass it," she said. "They couldn't even agree on putting a stop sign at the corner."

"Who needs them? We'll do it ourselves. How does this grab you: 'We, the residents of 151 High Street, do hereby declare our premises free from the production, handling or emplacement of nuclear weapons . . .'"

"How will the Russians know?"

"We'll draft a letter to Chairman Andropov: 'Dear Chairman: Upon mature reflection, we regret we will be unable to participate in any forthcoming nuclear holocaust. Will you be so good as to remove our names from your hit list?'"

"It's a polite to say you hope this won't cause him an inconvenience."

"Whatever. And then we will add, 'Enclosed, please find a map of our little community. The X marks our house. If there's any confusion, it's the first house from the corner past the caution blinker light. To make sure, I'll paint NUKE-FREE ZONE on the roof in large letters.'"

"I know the Soviets have smart bombs," Momma said. "But do you think their computers read English?"

"So we'll write it in Russian."

"I think you ought to get a bumper sticker that says the same thing for the roof of the car," she suggested. "It wouldn't be right to get it nuked before it's paid for."

"Good thinking," I said. "And don't you imagine this grand idea might spread. First, it will be only our house, then our neighborhood and our community. As the movement catches on, our county, our state and our nation will join in. And finally, the glorious day will dawn when the entire planet is a nuclear-free zone!"

Just then, our neighbor appeared in his backyard to prune the love of his life, his crabapple tree.

I leaned over the fence to explain the whole beautiful concept to him. "Would'nt you like to paint 'NUKE-FREE ZONE'' on the roof of your house, too, ""I asked, "and include your address in my letter of regret to Chairman Andropov?"

"What do you think I am," growled my neighbor, "a Communyp or something?"

"Well," said Momma, "there goes the neighborhood."

— RM —

Russ Metz

Recently, Jim Quinn, food editor of the Philadephia Inquirer, listed several items to keep in mind when trying to decide where to go for a little knife and fork action. Here are some of his suggestions:

- Never eat in an empty restaurant. Everybody who's not there must know something.
- Never order the veal if it doesn't cost more than the chicken.
- Never order a martini in a Chinese restaurant.
- Never eat in a restaurant the week after it gets a good review.
- Never order the catch of the day if it's flounder or sole. That's likely to be the catch of every day, waiting in the freezer to be thawed to order.
- Never eat in a restaurant where the menu is larger than the table, the table smaller than your chair, the pepper mill larger than your date or the baked potato larger than your steak.

— RM —

While most of George Ade's wit and wisdom was captured in his plays, essays and fables, touches of his brilliance can still be found in his shorter perceptions of people and life. Consider the following:

- "Anybody can win unless there happens to be a second entry."
- "She was short on intellect but long on shape."
- "The house was more covered with mortgages than paint."
- "She told him it was terrible to hear such things as he told her and to please go ahead."
- "After being turned down by numerous publishers, he decided to write for posterity."
- "Early to bed and early to rise and you'll meet very few of our best people."

— RM —

Red Pope, a Florida marketing consultant for a bank holding company, was in the Midwest for a sales meeting, and found himself with time on his hands.

He had no meeting scheduled, had no appointments and had exhausted the sight-seeing opportunities.

He asked a clerk at his hotel if anything interesting was going on and was told all was quiet except for a dog food company's sales meeting in one of the banquet rooms.

Pope sauntered in, found a set and realized that the company's sales manager was rebuking his salesmen severely.

The company product, which had been No. 1 in sales for years, had dropped to No. 2.

The sales manager began asking questions.

"Who has the best dog food in the world?"

"We do," the salesmen chorused.

"Who has the best distribution system?"

"We do!"

"Who has the best relationship with the grocers?"

"We do!"

"Who has the best sales force?"

"We do!"

"Then whose fault is it that we're No. 2?"

"The durn dogs," one of the salesmen said. "They won't eat it!"

— RM —

I was all set to deep-six any more lines about people whose elevators don't go all the way to the top floor, when some more came across my already cluttered desk:

- His clock goes tock-tick.
- They don't make a microchip small enough for his date bank.
- President Reagan has lost a few pages of his script.
- He's got a kink in his hose.
- If it was raining soup, he'd be out there with a knife and fork.
- If it cost a nickel to go around the world, he couldn't get out of town.
- He isn't quite all caulked.
- He hasn't enough brains to steer a horse around a merry-go-round.

Onward, upward.

This, that and t'other...

by Warren R. Fisher Sr.
May 10, 1934

Into the guttered out hull of a night tortured and sleepless, just as the dawn was breaking, there came a sweet melodious pleading, faint and distant, yet somehow familiar. And as the East lightened and the chirp of sparrows lessened, died away, again it came more clearly with a mellow sweetness of mingled notes. And straightway came to one who listened a peace as of home-coming long deferred, for in the medley of sweet sounds Spring spoke, Summer whispered of her coming and I knew that somewhere in my garden, in the leafy covert of tree or shrubbery, that slim, grey aristocrat, the catbird, sang from a heart bursting with joy in the coming of Spring, the beginning again of the everlasting cycle of love and nest-making and eggs in a nest...Clear-ringing, vibrant, flute-like the song of the cardinal; sweet the woody timbre of the notes of a thrush, pausing this morning a moment in my maples, but for all the beauty of their song, the catbird speaks to my heart. Six summers now since this slim bird nested in the tangle of honeysuckle beside my porch, weaving her nest of laced twigs, strings and bits of paper, so that we might look down into the jewel casket in which she soon placed three blue-green eggs. That year a cherry tree bore in my garden and I remember how her mate sang from among the scarlet clusters, singing clear, singing happily all through the hours of sweet sunlight; singing with wistful, reassuring sweetness as twilight came on — singing straight into a heart that understood bird song for the first time — for that May there had come into my aviary a blonde nestling, now a fledgling grown; and from the restless stirrings of the tousled head in the trucked-bed beside me, I know this magpie will soon give her greetings to the Spring, with all the varied chatter of her age and sex. Very far away seems that May month and already there is in the depths of woodlands, the faint, sleepy chirp of sparrows, to the mellow gurgling flute of purple martins, to the piercing whistle of a cardinal, the horny calls of the robin, the bubble of a wren, the unaccustomed song of some chance visitor that nests matchless performance of the mocker — and as the East flames, perchance there will come to you from the shrubbery at your door, the wistful sweetness of that cousin of the mocker, the catbird — singing the song of May.

march that memory may not recapture of its sweetness. Swift, silent and inexorable the march of the years; swift the transition period from nestling to fledgling, even in the comparatively long period of human infancy. So I would warn you makers of nests, each and every, to savor well the first lovely stirring of nestlings, the first gropings of an unfolding mind, the first trying out of little wings; for the memory of man is an uncertain thing and little folk soon learn to fly, out of the nest and to hearts other than ours.

***

"He hath made everything beautiful in his time." And never more so than when the catbird sings from leafy coverts and full, fecund Summer whispers her promise over the shoulder of May. Now are the days filled with bird song and the nights sweet with a promise of the heavier fragrance of June. Our feathered friends are betimes in their lovemaking, voicing their joy in sweetest song, protesting little, accepting with stoic courage the tragedies that come: the swift attack by winged pirates, the stab of claw and beak and talon, the bullets and arrows of thoughtless humans, the horrible pounce of the sinuous, twisting shape, as it rears its flickering-tongued head above eggs in a nest.

Yet he who boasts an immortal soul as his exclusive possession bemoans the harshness of his lot, complains, and banishes from his everyday life the gift of song. Hohum. A rather dismal countryside, I am thinking, did the birds follow our example and go about their tasks in silence. Then would the silence of the fields strike into the mind's perception like the sudden tolling of a heavy bell; and even those of us who think we are unconscious of bird song would be conscious of a deathly lack of something, sweet and long familiar. So do you listen these May mornings, if wakefulness assail you, or if you be one of those hardy souls who rises betimes — listen to the first

Democrats hear Ford, Huddleston

Bobby Rowe, Kentucky Young Democrats president, has announced that U.S. Senator Wendell Ford and U.S. Senator Walter "Dee" Huddleston will be the featured speakers at this year's state convention which is being held at the Continental Inn, Lexington.

Senator Ford will be the awards banquet guest speaker on Saturday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. Senator Huddleston will keynote the convention by delivering the opening remarks to the general session on Sunday, May 15, at 1:30 p.m.

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