Opinion

Guest editorial

The juggernaut has slowed down

The General Assembly mercifully drew to a close last week with disappointments for some, gain for a few and a great sigh of relief for many.

This has been a session that could be pointing to a trend. No great new programs have been created, no massive changes have been brought about and the juggernaut of increasing expenditures by 10 to 15 percent per biennium has been slowed.

True, the American dream seems to be for bigger and better, but there comes a time when government, as well as individuals, must slow the pace enough to consolidate its gains, get its house in order and then make plans to embark on new ventures.

While education has been one of the prime areas of concern in many past legislatures, as it was in this one, the governor, legislators and the public never reached a working agreement on what could and what really should be done. Opinions just differed too much.

The one point they seemed nearer in agreement on is that money alone is not the total answer, although it might be the fuel that drives the education vehicle. All parties returned to the subject after adjourning other ideas and theories that would prove inoperative unless they all meshed into a smooth working machine. Each cog in the machine holds an important position, but putting them together was the problem.

The Great Greek and Roman teachers never had ivy-covered buildings or air-conditioned classrooms in which to teach, but their students learned, although they were few and classes were held intermittently in streets or the steps of the Forum.

They never arrived at the basic answer for quality education: A capable teacher and students with the desire to learn.

The current theory seems to be that youngsters must be force-fed their education by machines automated by attendants bearing the title of teacher. The parent's role is more and, more being relegated to the chore of producing the child and then turning him over to the educational system.

This session of the General Assembly, the chief chore seems to have been that of housekeeping and playing for time to sort out a course for the future.

The major road construction network is almost complete, our parks system is among the finest and must be maintained, our services to the people through the Human Resources Cabinet need to be reassessed. Forget about adding this and that because some people or a vocal special interest group makes noise in that direction.

The great drive to bring new industry into the state is tailing off some since the great expansion in the South following World War II. This job will never be completed since there are always some shifts and changes in population and demand for product, but the time is here to study the problem though at a reasonable pace.

The time for superlatives has slowed. —

S.C. Van Curon in The State Journal

Here we go again

The Social Security reform bill signed into law last April contained "something for everyone," said President Reagan. The elderly were assured that "America will always keep its promises" and young workers were pledged "that they will get their fair share of benefits when they retire."

In citing Congress' daring in tackling and solving Social Security's financial dilemma, Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill said, "This is a great day for America."

Well, here we are less than a year later and the euphoria is fading fast. A gloomy report from the 200-member Committee for Economic Development warns that if drastic measures are not taken to cut costs, the Social Security system will be broke by 1990.

Among recommendations are raising the retirement age as soon as possible and slashing the full cost-of-living increases now given Social Security recipients.

Last year's reform legislation was two years in the making and largely the result of changes urged by a bipartisan study commission. The commission compromised with reality in order to achieve consensus. Then the commission's compromises were further diluted by a Congress driven by special interest groups.

Contrary to the president's statements, the Social Security legislation contained nothing for hardheaded realists. Their complaints, lost in the din of congratulatory rhetoric, are now beginning to be heard.

Here Abouts · · · · · with Emily A. Wolf

At it again, literally

Local names and places will occupy considerable space in a forthcoming book authored by Dr. Ealie Asbury, founder of Forest Retreat Farms Inc. here and retired Cincinnati surgeon.

"Both Sides of the River" will roll off the press in early May and may be ordered now by sending a $25 check to Thoroughbred Press, Dept. A, P.O. Box 580, Lexington, Ky. 40586.

According to a requested synopsis from Doc, "the title refers to my career at the Mayo Clinic and in Cincinnati, north of the Ohio River, and my early life (he was born in Nicholas County) and later experiences in Kentucky, south of the river.

"It is partly historical, partly philosophical, partly humorous and partly autobiographical. There is a long chapter on Forest Retreat in which Uncle Tom Asbury is featured and Hiedi mentioned.

"In the chapter entitled 'Kentucky and Cincinnati Surgeon' there is a paragraph on the Nicholas County Hospital (where he operated on weekends). In the chapter 'Early Life' there are a couple of pages on the Asbury family and Bishop Asbury and other chapters dealing with Keeneland, my veterinary experience and retirement and old age.

"Part of the profits of 'Both Sides of the River' will go to the University of Kentucky Library. Even a small amount of money is helpful to libraries..."

An earlier book, "Horse Sense and Humor in Kentucky" is still selling well, according to Doc.

"As you know 97 percent of all books are published at a loss, paid by the author. Thanks to the cooperation of Haden Kirkpatrick, this book is making a good profit for the library at Berea College. I haven't the exact figures but it will be between $15-25,000."

The title of the new book was suggested by Dr. Lawrence Thompson, a historian at the University of Kentucky and a frequent visitor at the Forest Retreat.

Doc and wife Mary returned to Cincinnati Sunday after "wintering" in Naples, Fla. where he's very active on the golf and bridge circuits. They will be on the south side of the river for the Keeneland Spring meeting and to host their annual post-Derby brunch May 6, along with Dr. and Mrs. Taylor Asbury and daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Stone, dwellers to the north of the river.

Naturally, I haven't read Doc's latest literary effort, (we'll review it later) but if it comes anywhere close to "Horse Sense and Humor..." it will be a winner. Had he chosen, Ealie Asbury, prominent surgeon, could have been Ealie Asbury, accomplished author. Come to think of it, he's had the best of both worlds.

Thanks, Doc, for including your roots for edification by future generations. You, not Old Stonehammer Metcalfe (the builder and former governor), deserve top billing as Master of Forest Retreat Farms.

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There could have been only one thing worse than watching Saturday's fiasco in Seattle on tv: seeing it in person, as a number of our Wildcat faithful did.

No one must have suffered any more than **Carolyn Proc Blair**, from start to finish. As we understand it, fear of flying had kept her feet on the ground to these many years. But since it was the only way to go that's the way she went.

If she recovers in time, we'll try to get a firsthand observation of Seattle for next week's paper. Notice we said Seattle, not the game. That debacle came through loud and clear on the airwaves, thank you.

*****

No speaka da language — How's this for a piece of legislation passed by the House last week and sent to the governor? Senate Bill 145, which would designate English as the official language of Kentucky, was approved, 84-7.

Hmmmmm. Wonder what those seven had in mind?

*****

Balloon Decension — Mrs. William Ray Brunker of Crooked Creek Road is the latest to report finding a balloon launched by students at Southern Elementary School in Falmouth.

Mrs. Brunker found the punctured orange colored rubber with an attached note from **Missy Lonaker**, a fifth grader, near trees in a line fence on their property, located near Camp Barefoot. In fact, Tropp 56 had camped there last weekend.

Mrs. Brunker figures the balloon caught in one of the trees and popped before it descended to the ground. Young **Danny Smoot** was the first to report a finding, recorded pictorially in last week's **Mercury**.

Agree or not

Special session straws in wind

by S.C. Van Curon

Frankfort — Gov. Martha Layne Collins gave the signal last week that she may call a special session of the General Assembly this summer to reconsider her budget.

The signal came in her answer to a question if she considered the loss of her budget this regular session as a personal defeat.

"I consider this not as a defeat, but as a delay," she answered, which can mean she very seriously is entertaining the idea of calling a special session after the May primary.

This also carries the proviso that the governor could get sufficient support among legislators to pass a new budget in a special session. It would be ill-advised to call a special session without this pledge beforehand.

THIS COULD take some doing but the climate will be much more favorable after the May primary since a majority of the 100 House members now running for office will have almost two years before they will be required to face the voters again.

It also will give the governor more time to sell her program to the public, a job she was unable to do before she faced a legislature unwilling to pass increased taxes when facing the voters.

Too, she had been warned by leaders in Arkansas and Tennessee that it took them up to two years to sell an expensive education program to the people and to the legislators.

The governor probably is right that the loss of her budget "was not a personal defeat for her, but it was the victim of the economy, something she and her advisors failed to foresee when she was running for office and making pledges of no increase in taxes. These pledges were made despite the fact that storm warnings had been issued from the Revenue Department for months and former Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. had made several cutbacks in expenditures to balance his budget.

The paucity of general fund revenue for the new budget as proposed by the Appropriations and Revenue Committees of the House and Senate is clearly seen by comparison with the Brown biennial budget.

THE GENERAL Fund budget proposed for 1984-85 is $2,411,738,800 as compared to $2,291,430,900 of Brown's for 83-85. The big difference or loss comes in the second year when the proposed budget is $2,553,777,100 as compared to $2,548,748,400 which will be only $5 million more than Brown had in his second year budget. But, it must be remembered that Brown had to cut back a lot.

In reality, the appropriation for Mrs. Collins for 1984-85 is about $137,810,000 less than the budget makers had anticipated for Brown's second year, but didn't materialize.

This is the first time since Simeon Willis was governor back during World War II that the legislature has failed to pass a governor's budget, although others have been slightly amended.

A DEMOCRATIC legislature rewrote Governor Willis' budget by putting more money into it than the governor had requested in his document. No additional taxes were needed then in a growing economy. The reverse is true now.

The most favorable tack for the governor to take to pass a new budget would seem to be to call a special session to revamp the state's entire tax system as was discussed in the Brown administration and viewed some by Mrs. Collins' people, although they didn't have time to draft a complete and acceptable restructuring.

Down Memory Lane

Severe storms hit county; freight train hits farmer

Thursday, April 9, 1964

Goebel Bean, an employee of the Mathers-Shearer Funeral Home, was injured seriously April 2 in an automobile accident on rain-slick U.S. 68. He was driving a funeral car loaded with flowers to the Mt. Olivet Cemetery when he lost control of the car and went over an embankment. He was taken to the St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington.

Mrs. Ealie Asbury of Forest Retreat Farm, Carlisle, presented a sterling silver cup to L.L. Haggin II, owner of Chukar, winner of the featured Phoenix Handicap at Keeneland Saturday.

Carlotta Wood Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Anderson, was presented at the altar for dedication at the Carlisle Methodist Church Sunday. April 5. The Rev. O.S. Gardner officiated.

The communion ware presented to the Christian Church by Miss Marie Flora, in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Flora, was used for the first time on Easter Sunday.

Earlie Blake, Scrub Grass Road, who was plowing near the railroad track, was struck by a freight train sometime Tuesday morning. Blake, who is quite deaf, failed to hear the train. He was taken to the Nicholas County Hospital but not seriously injured.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. William Jones, Paris, a son, William Joseph, April 1 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bradley, a daughter, Jane Ann, April 3 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Chester K. Hamilton, a son, Gary Duncan, March 23 at Bourbon County Hospital.

DIED — Mrs. Mary Eliza Sloop, 75, widow of Oscar R. Sloop, April 4 at Nicholas County Hospital. — Willie Posey Crawford, 68, April 2 at Veterans Hospital, Lexington. — Barber Russell Bromagen, 56, April 2 at Bourbon County Hospital. — Mrs. Beulah Childress, March 31 in Wooster, OH. — Mrs. Jennie M. Gillespie, 71, widow of Reynolds Gillespie, April 5 in Covington.

Thursday, April 13, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wyrick on Tuesday purchased the frame residence at the corner of Chestnut and Elm streets of Mrs. Warren R. Fisher at a private price. Possession is to be given May 1. The property is presently occupied by Capt. and Mrs. Roger Womack.

Carlisle was visited by the second severe storm in a little more than 12 hours Tuesday night about 7:45 following the heavy rainstorm early in the day. The rain was accompanied by large pellets of hail in addition to high winds and electrical storm.

Mrs. Frank C. Henry and Mrs. Charles Mathias were in Georgetown Thursday to attend the spring conference of the 7th District Parent-Teacher Association.

Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Knight have moved this week to their property on Locust Street, formerly the Ratliff home, which was damaged by fire last December. Sufficient repairs have been made so that several rooms are suitable for occupancy.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Eliza Fryman, a daughter, April 8. — To Mr. and Mrs. Billy Vaughn, a son, Thursday at Johnson Memorial Hospital.

To Mr. and Mrs. James Burden, Cincinnati, OH, a daughter, March 16.

DIED — Luther Leggett, 78, Friday at Maxie Memorial Hospital, Paris. — Daniel P. Vaughn, 83, at home near Ellisville. — Mrs. Josephine Thomas Snapp, 85, at home in Cowan. — Ben Myers, 73, Lexington, last Wednesday at home.

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Moving On East — Yes, the First National Bank of Carlisle will definitely relocate on the bank-owned site of the old Harper's Garage building, more recently known as Edwards' Ford on East Main.

No, there's no timetable for the move. According to Andy Dudley, president, the bank's financial consultant who is projecting cost figures will be tied up with income tax related matters through April 15. Dudley guesses it will be sometime this summer before plans are finalized.

The need for larger quarters than afforded by the present location on West Main, prompted the move.

*****

Somebody Said — It's hard to get children to listen to reason, perhaps because they hear so little of it from adults.

If you had plenty of pull . . .

you could make money on Confederate presses

You'd hang onto your Confederate money, even if you never really believed the South will rise again, if you knew how hard it was to print this rebel swag.

Even as the first shots were being fired at Fort Sumpter by the Confederate Army in an effort to dislodge the Union soldiers there, one Benjamin Evans, a colonel in the Confederacy, was in England shopping around for some printing presses and some lithographers and engravers to print the money for the South.

He had to smuggle his equipment and people through a Union blockade back to Charleston, SC, and this took a year going by way of Jamaica. The colonel got his two engravers and six printers into Charleston about the time it was being devastated by the war. They moved the plant quickly to Columbia and set up shop.

Then their problems began. The presses were all different, hard to operate and they had to make their own ink by grinding lampblack and cooking the varnish in a big iron kettle. The European printers were paid $17.50 a week, but the local printers got $2.25 per hundred "pulls" of paper through the press, and they could make as much as $75 a week. This brought on a near strike by the Europeans, who demanded more wages.

The hassle was finally settled with higher wages given but since printers can never stand too much prosperity, they began hitting the juice as this account tells:

"Corn juice and peach brandy impelled some of them to fail to show up for several days. Further, the department was short of one and two-dollar notes from the printed supply. Evans ordered his men back to work at the point of a revolver, which created a mutiny. The men were rounded up by a company of soldiers and put into jail until a truce could be called. The men were given 25 cents more on a hundred pulls and the work went on."

Then those nasty Union soldiers burned down Columbia and put the print shop out of business for good, and the North went ahead and won the war and declared their paper money was more valuable than the South's. But at the rate it is now going, before long both currencies are going to be worth about the same — nothing.

— RM —

Russ Metz

A little red or black pepper sprinkled into your shoes will help keep your feet warm in cold weather, sporting pundit mopd Jim Flynn has been telling hunters for about half a century. Don't put it inside your socks; between sock and shoe will do fine, and if you use too much it may give you a royal hot foot.

In the spirit of the technology generation, a Los Angeles herbalist named Samantha Stevens says she has a formula of herbs and spices that do the job at only $4.95 for 28 packets.

Her product is called WarmFeet and includes capsicum, ginger and brassica (no kidding). They're herbs related to pepper, ginger and mustard.

Sounds great to me. If you are out hunting and bag a rabbit and happen to be uncommonly hungry, you can throw the hare into a skillet, remove your shoe and get a packet of flavoring. Col. Sanders, eat your heart out.

— RM —

Ted Nethwek, the executive director of the Milwaukee Bar Association, has a collection from various law transcripts, illustrating more or less, what can occur in the course of questioning.

Q. Now, you have done quite a bit of drinking in your life, haven't you?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. In fact, you have been drinking this morning, haven't you?
A. Yes, sir. I have had a little.
Q. What have you had to drink this morning?
A. Beer, two.
Q. You mean to tell me, as red-faced as you are, and as glassy-eyed as you are, that you have had only two bottles of beer?
A. No, sir. I didn't say nothing about bottles. Cases, man, cases.
Q. What kind of treatment did your doctor give you?
A. Insolent treatment.
Q. Do you have a family doctor?
A. Yes, sir, he is Dr. ..... He's a specialist.
Q. What is his specialty?
A. He's a neurotic.
Q. What part of your legs bother you?
A. Just from the hips down.

— RM —

Some of those alleged snap courses for college athletes aren't really all that easy. There was the former Heisman Trophy winner who shall remain nameless (O.K., it was Billy Sims, but don't go around blabbing it) who once had to face a course titled The Theory of Track while he was at the University of Oklahoma. Sound like a breeze? Think again. What is the theory of track? Not so simple, is it?

After weeks of preparation, scholar Sims was able to pass the final by answering the essay question, What is the theory of track? with the brilliant observation, "The dude who runs the fastest wins the race."

There are some coaches who do attempt to put their players into more demanding classes, but most players are smart enough not to fall for such chicanery. The story goes that when Bubba Smith of Michigan State fame was a freshman, one of the coaches agreed to pre-register him. After getting his list of classes, Bubba stormed into the coach's office and complained. "I thought you said I wasn't going to have to take no foreign languages."

I didn't enroll you in any foreign language course," said the startled coach.

"Then what's this business about me having to take English?" asked Bubba.

— RM —

Each spring baseball training camps are filled with rookies to watch. Some of them in fact are hard not to stare at. Bernie Lincicome reports.

An extensive and careful examination of this year's rookies in Florida and Arizona has revealed quite a number of promising newcomers.

Ernie "The Inhuman Eraser" Elliott. Kansas City Royals, pitcher, hard throwing right-handed, could be the next Nolan Ryan, could also be the next Chuck Stobbs, has control problems, holds Class AA record for hitting batters in the shortest circle.

Randy "Pops" Hayes, New York Mets, shortstop, only 15, he is mature beyond his years, veteran scout Gabby Moses says he plays like he is at least 16. Discovered at the Daffy Duck Day Care Center sliding into sandbox.

Wendell "Little Dynamite" Lucas, San Francisco Giants, young brother of Big Dynamite, signed as a package, could be manager-material, can make out lineup cards without misspelling Spanish names, can sit through an entire game awake, and can spit tobacco juice through the cracks in the dugout floor without moving his shoes.

Lefty Fowler, Pittsburgh Pirates, pitcher, irrepressible clubhouse fake, every team needs one, favorite tricks are putting bubblebath in the whirlpool, sewing sleeves shut and tilting knock-knock jokes, created a new snack called Ivory Soup.

Lou Trapaks, Detroit Tigers, designated hitter, at 6-foot-7, 135 pounds, was often used between bats in the minor leagues as the left-field foul pole.

Spud O'Garrity, Cleveland Indians, batting practice pitcher, fastball couldn't get arrested in a school zone, great confidence builder for weak hitting teams, has never thrown a ball that did not land over the centerfield fence.

Onward, upward.

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