Opinion

It won't fly

President Reagan's budget is a remarkable achievement — as far as it goes. Here is a major installment on fulfilling the president's pledge to shrink the size of the federal government. The budget amounts to a virtual freeze of federal spending. The 1.5 percent increase from 1985 to 1986 is roughly the amount of increase in funds needed to service the national debt — the only truly untouchable figure in the budget.

But the applause is muted, and for good reason. Mr. Reagan has taken the knife to programs of benefit to students, veterans, farmers, commuters, the elderly — virtually every segment of the population except the very poor. The alarming pyramid of federal deficits demands as much. But because the president has been far more gentle with the defense budget, the impact on the federal deficit is blunted. He has squeezed $39 billion out of domestic programs, and let the defense budget rise by $29 billion. This simply won't fly on Capitol Hill.

For all the budgetary bloodshed, the president is looking at a deficit of $180 billion in 1986, while the projected deficit of $140 billion in 1988 abandons his own goal of seeing the deficit drop to $100 billion by that year. "The budget does not attack the deficit, it accommodates it," said Sen. Mark Hatfield, summing up the administration's failure to come to grips with the issue dominating every discussion of the economy today.

The Reagan budget cannot be dismissed as "dead on arrival" because the cuts it proposes in domestic programs must be accepted sooner or later or the furor over the deficit will come to nothing. But even a president riding the wave of his massive November landslide could not expect Congress to swallow a budget that raises so many issues of fairness. Can the government ask federal and military retirees to forgo a cost-of-living increase in their pensions, and not ask Social Security beneficiaries to do the same? Should federal civilian employees be asked to take a pay cut, while military personnel are getting a raise?

Mr. Reagan believes that the civilian branch of the government is demanding too much and the military is not getting enough. He declares that the success of the forthcoming arms talks with the Soviet Union depends on showing a determination to go on rebuilding our defense — that providing anything less than a six percent budget increase for the Pentagon will send the wrong message to Moscow.

But what message will now go forth? The administration could have presented a defense budget that squeezes waste out of procurement programs, consolidates military bases and stretches out the timetable for the goals of the military buildup without abandoning the goals themselves. This would make further reductions in the deficit and put the same kind of squeeze on the Pentagon that the civilian side of the government is enduring — but with no signal to Moscow that we are any less determined to enter arms negotiations from a position of strength.

Instead, weapons programs in the $313.7 billion defense budget will be marshandled by congressional committees to cut spending below levels the president and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger have certified to be essential. The administration has no choice but to defend its budget as the bare minimum for security, and in the end will be told by Congress that it must get along with less. This kind of byplay over defense can only comfort our adversaries and distress our allies.

Mr. Reagan likes to point out that if growth in spending is brought under control and an expanding economy produces a steady increase in tax revenues, the deficit eventually will disappear. What worries most economists is that the massive deficits built into Mr. Reagan's budgets are themselves jeopardizing the economic growth his neat formula requires. The administration may choose to put that concern aside, but Congress will not.

WHAT'S TO CHANGE? SEEMS TO BE WORKING OKAY TO ME...

Agree or not

Worst is yet to come, news that is... for winter damage to roads, bridges

by S.C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT — Worst news of the winter storm that has inconvenienced and ravaged Kentucky for the past six weeks may be yet to come.

That will be when the State Highway Department makes its annual assessment of winter damage to roads and bridges, Russ Romine, assistant commissioner of equipment and maintenance, said last week.

The state has been at a distinct disadvantage in the battle against the storm because of inadequate and dilapidated equipment. The seven-year replacement schedule on equipment was virtually abandoned during the four years of Gov. John Young Brown Jr.'s administration, Romine said.

Echoing Romine's assessment is State Senate President Pro-tem Joe Prather who said, "the state had to use old equipment that an independent contractor wouldn't take out of the garage."

Replacement equipment already has been ordered in the full federal allowance for this year, and "an additional million worth from surplus in the fuel account, and we are looking for more. I can assure you that every possible dollar will be spent for new equipment. This administration is pledged to that," Romine said.

The winter damage assessment is usually completed by the middle of March, but because of the longer run of cold weather and snow and more rain and cold predicted in the long-range forecast, it probably will be in April some time, he explained.

Equipment breakdowns slowed work or made road clearance impossible in some cases. This is an instance where saving was a false promise, and Kentuckians will be paying for it several years to come.

Changing the subject from roads to taxes in the interview with Prather, he said there is little prospect for a general tax increase next year "unless there's a strong shift in public opinion."

On the other hand, "I expect s(t)hething will be done in the way to increase money for the road fund and that seems to be changing the fuels tax and increasing it," he added. The tax is now levied on a percentage basis or mmumum — one percent or a minimum of nine cents per gallon on the wholesale price of gasoline. The tax for trucks is higher.

Prather says the state is going to have more money for road maintenance or the entire system will deteriorate. He also said there is some consideration being given to make some changes in the coal tax road recovery fund in the way it is allocated for roads.

He said the four years of near neglect to the road system during the Brown administration is putting a squeeze on present resources, and the state just can't allow the system to fall apart. "Brown had only one bad winter, 1978 his first year in office, and that was taken care of in the last year of Gov. Julian Carroll's budget. Brown's first budget didn't become effective until July 1, 1978."

Prather is aware of the plight of our educational system, and agrees that it needs more money among other things.

"Money isn't the complete answer for the public," he said. He believes the public is demanding that more time be devoted to the basics of education and less time to extracurricular activities and fringe courses that are sometimes substituted for some that would be far more worthwhile to the children.

"If the selling job being staged now for education is effective, and creates a demand from the taxpayers, I'm almost sure the legislature would act in a satisfactory manner," he said.

Methinks...could it have been the culprit?

"Me thinks things are getting out of hand"; me thinks I had better stop thinking if my remarks of the previous week had anything to do with *what befell Kentuckians*, more especially Nicholas Countians, myself included — we did make it to the postoffice with time to spare Wednesday, but only because of help received from our local National Guard Unit, PSG Wayne Capps and Joe Jennings, who we gather had a difficult time getting our page negatives to Cynthiana — Jennings had someone going to Colville which was on the way reaching Colville he met an obstacle in the form of a semi sprawled across Ky. 32-36. He then backtracked to Paris, taking US 27 north to Cynthiana, returning via US 27 and US 68 with the printed product.

About 7:30 p.m. Libby, Janie and husband Bobby and I were able to address all the papers only to find there were no mail sacks.

In desperation I suggested that Janie call Mayor Franklin Hughes, a postal employee, who was easily bribed with the promise of a copy of the **Mercury** to open the postoffice where Bobby got us the necessary sacks.

We like government issue, the brown mail sacks, though we had contemplated using cardboard boxes, it was thought that the issue would be safer in mail sacks upon the open stoop at the rear of the post office.

We did miss our regular mailing time by several hours, but once again we managed to keep the record intact and not miss a publication date.

— MV —

One out of two

Of two unidentified pictures published in the February 14 issue, the one on the bottom left of the front page turns out to be the old Henry School on the East Union Road, the year 1903-4. The names that are known are printed elsewhere just in case we can't find room for the picture this week. You might say we are "snowed under"!

— MV —

It May Be A Good Thing

Cortmell Lester is quoted as having made the following comment last week that is worth repeating: "This snow may be a good thing; it will Keep the flu outbreak down with people not able to get out."

— MV —

Snowbirds migrate

If I heard correctly the other evening, two snowbirds, that's what Floridians call people from the northern tier of states, were to have started home Monday. We wish them both a safe return.

Enough said, I can only hope it's welcome home, Emily.!

— MV —

Even my multi-type can stutter!

I measured with my pica pole 28 picas as the depth of one leg of this piece, then multiplied by three and came up with 74 instead of 84, hence the reason for this addendum. The CWIV 88 TG counts by lines whereas the MCS-5 counts depth by picas, if I'm still short, so be it...

MERCURY
VAPOURS
Warren R. Fisher

Something on your mind?
Write a letter to the Mercury

Letters from our readers

To The Carlisle Mercury:

We would personally like to take time to write this letter to thank the National Guards for the terrific job they did in cleaning the roads to make them passable. They worked day and night in the snow and cold to get the people a way to go through.

From the people of Moorefield and the surrounding areas we say thank you National Guards for your help to us. You did a terrific job.

Thanks again,
Thrashley and Betty Markland

To The Carlisle Mercury:

We never thought we'd be in such a desperate situation. However, after digging out our feeding truck for several days and trying several avenues for help with no luck, we called the National Guard yesterday (Thursday, Feb. 14).

Jim Galbraith responded immediately, and Henry Caswell and buddy were out here shortly to do a great job freeing our truck and clearing away the drifts into our farm. They were a Godsend, and it's hard to express the experience and feeling.

Thank you, fellows! We're grateful, pleased and proud to have a Guard in our community.

Lu'tia and Rose Marie Farah
Carpenter Pike

To The Carlisle Mercury:

Thanks to the National Guards in Nicholas County. I am sure a lot of people feel as I do about the tremendous job the guards did this past week in helping clear the roads after the snow drifts blocked the roads. They worked around the clock to get the job done.

The county road crews do a good job in clearing the roads but this was too much for them to handle. A lot of private citizens used their own equipment to help with no expense to anyone except themselves. A big thanks go to these people too.

The way everyone worked together through this makes me proud to be a resident of Nicholas County. Also a little excitement was caused at the hospital when the National Guards brought a very sick man to the hospital in a helicopter.

It makes us all feel like we're in good hands with the Guards around. Thanks for a job well done.

Mary Guy
Johnson Rd., Carlisle

To The Carlisle Mercury:

I wish to commend and thank the Nicholas County Road Department on how well they have cleaned our roads. We want to thank them and Earl Planck for their well done jobs.

We realize this has been a bad winter for all of us so I hope you all go out and give Earl Planck your support again. I say thanks Earl for a good job.

Lizzie Ratliff
6280 Moorefield Rd., Carlisle

Down Memory Lane

Utopia Club is organized in County

Thursday, February 25, 1965

What started out as a dream more than two years ago will become a living reality Sunday afternoon, Feb. 28, when the Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home and Home for the Elderly will be dedicated. The new home is financed entirely from the sale of bonds and there are no federal, state or county funds in it. The bonds will be paid from the revenue from the patients in the form of monthly bills.

W.G. Henry will retire April 1 after working 28 years for the State Highway Department. He began his employment as a member of the maintenance department in Nicholas County for two years, then worked at the district office, in Flemingsburg. At the time of retirement, he was working with the engineering office in Lexington.

Miss Paula Donovan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Donovan, was crowned basketball queen Friday night at the Nicholas County High School gym, where the Bluejackets defeated the Wolfe County Wolves 91-67.

Farm income in 1964 might show up quite well in the statistics of Kentucky agriculture, but most farmers will tell you that it has been a tough year for the majority of them. The full effect of a smaller tobacco crop (about 18 percent less than 1963) and the resulting lower cash income will not be fully felt until after the market closes in early 1965. Production costs have increased faster than income, droughts were more general and severe than usual and corn yields were down by nine bushels per acre causing hardships.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. John H. Gaffin, Ann Arbor, MI, a son, Timothy Fisher, Feb. 2. — To Dr. and Mrs. Jack W. Shepherd, Georgetown, a son, Jason Wesley, Feb. 15 at Bourbon County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Art Walters, a daughter, Whitney Ann, Feb. 16 at Bourbon County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Arthur K. Linville, Peoria, IL, a son, Scott Meredith, Jan. 17 at Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

MARRIED — Mrs. Opal Sexton and Albert Hamilton, Jan. 29 at the Rogers Memorial Building by the Rev. Norman Kiser.

DIED — Mrs. Lillian Conley Price, 69, widow of J.N. Price, Feb. 15 at Fleming County Hospital. — Mrs. S.E. Lyke, Colfax, Iowa, the former Elizabeth Young, Feb. 15. — Mrs. Maude Wagoner Platt, 70, wife of Floyd Platt, Feb. 21 at home in the Crooked Creek section. — Spencer J. Riggs, 69, Millersburg, Feb. 21. — Clarence B. Ingels, 75, Feb. 23 at Bourbon County Hospital. — Charles Alexander Helphenstine, 82, Feb. 10 at home in Ewing. — Green Kellar Donnell, 82, Lexington, Feb. 14 at Good Samaritan Hospital. — Robert H. (Hobb) Maffett, 77, at home in Jackson, MS.

Thursday, March 1, 1945

The signal for the start of the Red Cross drive in Nicholas County to raise its quota of $6,000 was the leaders and workers dinner Tuesday night at the Masonic Hall where more than 100 persons gathered for instructions and inspirational addresses in preparation for the start of the drive which begins March 1.

Last fall 25 home fruit orchards were ordered cooperatively and set. This spring a similar plan is being used in ordering strawberry, raspberry, asparagus and rhubarb plants. Individuals interested in ordering their plants should contact W.T. Straw, county agent, who is arranging the order.

A Utopia Club has been organized in the county for young men and women interested in agriculture and home improvements. Officers and directors are Owel Day, president; Pauline Linville, vice-president; Billy Caldwell, Fred Whaley and Clay Ritchie, directors.

MARRIED — Miss Edna Jane Burton and Cecil Warren Vice, Feb. 17 at the Baptist parsonage in Lebanon, OH.

DIED — Mrs. Ellen Barr, 86, Feb. 21 in Paris. — Owen R. Gaffin, 68, Saturday at home near Headquarters. — Oscar A. Hovermale, 63, Moorefield, Tuesday at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington.

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Op-Ed page

Cocktail party alive and well?...

of course, even if people attending are not

Despite the crackdown on drunk drivers and even those who screw up the juice to lushes who get themselves nabbed by the law, the American cocktail party is still alive and well in America.

And it isn't because booze companies have started giving rebates on each jug because they haven't made it all that easy to get your two bucks back. Along with a receipt from the barkeeper and a form to fill out, you have to soak off the label on the bottle. Then you hang it up to dry. A clothesline full of liquor bottle labels hung in the backyard could give you a bad name in the neighborhood.

The reason the American cocktail party is still healthy is not the booze, a college survey tells us. It is the togetherness. And right there you know the college typists ought to stick to panty raids and leave the research on anything as sacred as cocktail parties to professional elbow-benders with degrees of redness of the nose.

What they did was take 384 college kids, half of them men and the other half women, and let them mingle. Some were in small groups, say four people, other groups were larger, up to 16. In each case, the groups were either all male, all female, or coed.

Then the researchers worked together on their assignments, some working the crowd and others working the smaller groups. Some of their subjects were allowed only four square feet per student to move around. Others got 17 feet.

Finally, they asked the students how they liked it. Men's first choice: a large crowded group with lots of women. Women's first choice: a large crowded group with lots of men.

From this great revelation, the researchers came to this conclusion: if the boss wants to boost employee morale, have a fairly large, crowded group of men and women do the work together. But don't serve drinks.

Now what kind of a crazy conclusion do you call that? Is that supposed to mean bosses should run their business with one continuous cocktail/coffee party? That may be the way they run college, but it is a little kinky way to run a railroad.

Having just drifted away from a genuine American cocktail party a few headaches ago, I'm here to tell you those college kids have gotten too far out of their field of concentration. You don't get graduate answers from underclass drinkers. You have to use seasoned alumni to get any kind of answer why the cocktail party is alive and well even if the people there may not be.

It might have been a good idea to study the footwork of cocktail party-goers. At least those feet that remain parallel with the floor. Four square feet is plenty of space in front of the shrimp bowl, but swingers are going to need 17 feet or more and those with weak kidneys can seldom be confined to any given area unless you measure the distance to the nearest toilet.

If you think it is the togetherness and not the booze that makes the cocktail party hum, the next time you throw a bash like that announce a ban on the juice and see how many show up. Lotsa luck.

At the risk of getting my Sunday School pins stripped off and being drummed out of my church, I'd like to say something in favor of the cocktail party. Where else can a fellow go and see how loose people can get without coming apart? Or learn why we should give $2.2 billion worth of arms to Israel, or how to clean the lampreys out of Lake Erie?

Did you know you can take off your vest without taking your arms out of it? I wish I'd been wearing a vest that night so this dude would have showed me how it was done. He was going to explain it and then another chap took me away to tell me Martin Luther was an agnostic. I didn't even know he was sick.

"You know what," a buddy of mine whispered in my ear at this party. "I haven't sung 'Minnie the Moocher' in 15 years."

"Does that mean it's time again?" I asked. "Have another drink, and maybe the thought will go away." He did, it did, and I did.

Except during the rutting season, the ratio of male-to-female has very little effect on the cocktail party. Women, I suppose are necessary to the overall concept of the thing, otherwise the men would be wiping their mouths on their sleeves instead of cocktail napkins, and cocktail parties would soon lose their class.

To make a cocktail party go, it takes a diversified crowd of livewire individuals with a little sand in their craws. I'd recommend these be invited to your next hospitality hour:

— Washington Redskins running back John Riggins, who was not prone to discuss his gridiron feats at a party recently. A comment like "Loosen up, Sonny, baby," to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is bound to make any party more intimate and cozy.

— Muammar Kaddafi, the Libyan clown who would stop at nothing to liven up a party, from spiking the punch with Semtex-H explosives to sticking cocktail toothpicks under the fingernails to anyone lingering at the hors d'oeuvres too long to bringing a hit squad to take out anyone who spilled sauce on his uniform.

— Isabelle Chandieu, the 18-year-old Miss France 1985 who was stripped of her title because she stripped for a centerfold. She doesn't understand all the fuss about being photographed semi-culottes and might like to show non-subscribers to the French magazine that if beauty is only skin deep, she was only displaying as much of her beauty as possible.

— Lee Iacocca, the Chrysler chairman, best-selling author and potential presidential candidate, who has still found time to court a 34-year-old former flight attendant. He'll tell you how a 5-year/50,000 miles marriage will be the next thing he offers, without making it sound like just another new dodge.

— Bobby Knight, the Indiana coach who has developed a new way to lose basketball games, something few coaches have ever tried. As warm, friendly and good looking as the commercial has Billy Martin, Knight would add to any cocktail party. But just what is your name?

— RM —

Before boarding an airliner, shades the American Water Works Association, take a swig of water. In fact, take several swigs.

According to the people who operate our water business, the body needs three quarts of fluid daily, taken through food and drink, to stay healthy. And all that dry air in pressurized cabins tend to suck up one's juices, up to a quart per 2½ hours, leaving fliers powerfully thirsty, tired and all-around icky.

To avoid same, the water people say swill water like all get-out before the flight and all will be well. Uh, huh, unless:

— You get a window seat and drive the guy in the aisle seat crazy climbing over him every two minutes to go to the johnny, or...

— You get one of those bumpy, stomach-wrenching rides and you upchuck all that stored-up liquid over everyone around you.

— RM —

Magician Harry Blackstone tells it about his dad, who was the world-famous magician The Great Blackstone.

Blackstone was in his dressing room when Dunninger, the mentalist, dropped in. Blackstone was trying to find a white tie for his full dress suit when Dunninger walked in on him. He was frantic. He had just arrived at the theatre, curtain time was in 10 minutes and his trunk was still packed.

"You're a mentalist," Blackstone snapped at Dunninger. "Tell me where my tie is."

Dunninger concentrated for a moment and said, "I receive the impression that your tie is in the second drawer of your wardrobe trunk."

Blackstone pulled the drawer open and said, "Some mentalist. There's only a black tie in here."

So you're the magician," Dunninger said. "Change its color."

Onward, upward.

Federal taxpayers may donate to reduce Public debt

Kentucky taxpayers filing federal income tax returns may make voluntary contributions to reduce the public debt, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Anyone wishing to contribute should enclose a separate check with his or her tax return and make it payable to "Bureau of the Public Debt." If additional tax is owed on the tax return, a separate check made out to the Internal Revenue Service is required to settle the tax liability.

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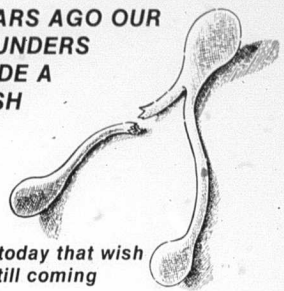

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