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Hester thinks County Hospital does more than its fair share...

Nicholas County Hospital will not participate in a Fair Share program for indigent charity care cases as proposed by the Kentucky Health Care Access Foundation Inc., Breverton C. Jones, president.

According to Robert W. Hester Jr., administrator, "we cannot, in good faith, agree to a program that calls for sponsorship of a mandatory program as a condition of licensure if the voluntary approach does not work."

Hester told The Mercury this week that the local hospital has always provided more than the minimum of charity care and will continue to do so.

"If the need is there, our care will be there," he said. We always for exceed the 2.6 percent indigent and 8.4 percent

medicaid minimums the program calls for.

NICHOLAS COUNTY Hospital was one of eight hospitals statewide which did not endorse the Fair Share program. Sixty-seven facilities went along with the proposal and some to other hospitals had not responded to last count.

The text of Hester's letter to Jones follows:

"Nicholas County Hospital, Carlisle, chooses not to participate in the Fair Share program. We will not be signing an agreement with the Kentucky Health Care Access Foundation. The Board of Trustees of Johnson Mathey Health Care Inc., the not-for-profit corporation that includes Nicholas County Hospital, wishes to share the following reasons for this decision:

"The vital, sole provider areas there will be no patient shifting or responsibility sharing. We will continue to, as in the past, care for our Medicaid patients and indigent persons. When the need for care arises, and the physician deems hospital care (inpatient or outpatient) is necessary, we have always and will continue to provide that care.

"When the percentage of charity care and percentage of Medicaid patient days called for in the Fair Share program are fulfilled at our facility, we will still continue to provide needed services, as stated in Section F, Article II of the 1983 amendments to the Johnson Mathey Health Care Articles of

Incorporation. It is stated that this facility shall "... perform charitable services for charitable purposes..." We are obligated to serve the health care needs of Nicholas County, and do so in a quality, caring manner.

"We have always provided in excess of the 'Fair Share' and will continue to do so. The Kentucky Health Care Access Foundation program calls for our facility to provide a minimum of 3.6 percent total revenues for indigent and charity care and 4.8 percent of total patient days to be provided to Medicaid patients. In 1983, Nicholas County Hospital's percentage of charity care was 4.0 percent and percentage of Medicaid patient days was 13.19 percent. For 1982 the percentages were 3.0

percent and 12.12 percent, and projected 1984 figures are 3.0 percent charity care and 12.01 percent Medicaid patient days.

"As you know, we do not 'buy shares' and more. The program would do no way help us to finance those figures to the percentage called for, nor would it affect the present policies of this facility on charity and Medicaid participation."

The main objection to joining the Foundation's Fair Share program stems from Section 100-1-1-2. Nicholas County Hospital cannot, in good faith, agree to a program that calls for sponsorship of a mandatory program as a condition of licensure if the voluntary approach does not work. Because of our mission of community service, and our past (and future) policies on charity

care and Medicaid participation, we feel that we would have nothing to gain by participating in this program. We cannot control the outcome of the voluntary program. We know we would more than satisfy the requirements, but agreeing to sponsor a mandatory program in an already much over-regulated industry would simply be a poor business decision.

"The Board of Trustees, in making their decision, agrees in principle with the Fair Share concept. But our facility has always provided needed services regardless of the patient's financial condition. We cannot support a program that may, regardless of our compliance, become a mandatory program that affects a hospital's state license."

The Carlisle Mercury

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\$1,000 drawing
Jenny Carter, left, owner of Carter's of Carlisle, holds the box which Rob Hester, Chairman of Commerce president draws out the winning names in Carter's \$1,000 Shop of Home Grocery Mrs. Diane Wilson won \$200 respectively in the drawing which was held Saturday, Dec. 22.



Top 4-H calendar salesgal
Jody Boach raised \$115.50 in 4-H calendar sales and was rewarded with a black and white portable television set for her efforts. Presentation was made by Kelley Dellinger, left, County Extension agent for 4-H. Others present at the ceremony were Elementary School Principal Gerald Hammons and Mike Phillips, right, Extension Agent for Agriculture. Jody, daughter of the Jena Boach of Upper Concord Road, is a fourth-grader in Mrs. Jarlin Clark's room at NECS.

C of C grand prize winner drawn; individual store winners listed

Ellie Rowe of Carlisle was the grand prize winner of \$100 in the Carlisle/Nicholas County Christmas giveaway promotion.

Other winners in individual store drawings were: Carlisle Community Women's Club (three country hams donated by H.A. Crockett, Kruger of Mayfield); Jerry Hagood and John Anderson, Carlisle; Bobby Weigert, Mayfield.

Carlisle Mall — Barbara Payne; RIA — Mandy Simon; Carlisle, Hopkins Drug — Carl Vico; Carlisle, Lester's — Karen Overly; Mercury — Betty J. Hest; Dee Jay's — Levee Reale; Lindsay Paper, Justice Station, Bakers — Clyde Purcell; Taster — Fred — Greg Robinson; Garrett's — Furniture — Harshel Ham; Carter's shopping spree, J.S. Wilson and Dana Wells.

BABSON'S REPORTS FOR 1985

By Babson's Reports Inc., Wellesley Hills, Mass., Dec. 27, 1984

A year ago the American economy was running under a full head of steam. After only a mild upturn during the winter months of 1983, the business tempo suddenly quickened dramatically. It was agreed that backstop that the staff of Babson's Reports predicted a period of further economic growth for 1984, albeit one less spectacular than was the case in 1983. As 1984 unfolded it seemed as though there would be no stopping the onrush of business, with the year's first two quarters continuing to display vigor and dynamism on the economic front. While this development served to excite the nation over the possibility of an overheated economy, the high rate of manufacturing capacity utilization and brisk consumer and business demand for goods and services thankfully did not translate into renewed inflation and a straining of credit.

Recession fears emerge

When the long awaited cooling down of the pace of the economic recovery/expansion did occur, however, the lid was both abrupt and pronounced. Midway in 1984 the rate of business activity suddenly slowed to a crawl. The marked contrast of an economy outstripping ahead earlier in the year which seemed lacking in vitality caused a shift in the local point of national opinion from the possibility of a "hot" inflation and the region where there might develop into one of stagflation or recession.

Among these are the outlandish federal budget deficit, the overwhelming adverse balance of foreign trade, the "stagflation" and the region where there are situated, and the uncertainties of what changes will be brought to the federal income tax "amplification" of the art and the moves to cut the budget deficit.



Retiring postal employee
Eugene Snopp, local postmaster, left, is pictured presenting retiring postal employee Harold Wilson a service award. Wilson retired effective Jan. 1, 1985 after 21 years with the postal service which includes service time. He was also presented a watch by Mr. Snopp on behalf of his fellow employees. —Mercury photo.

Motorists need card-carrying insurance proof

Starting January 1, 1985, county clerks throughout the Commonwealth will need proof of insurance before reviewing car registrations, according to officials with the Kentucky Department of Insurance.

Insurance Commissioner Gil McCarty explains that a "wallet-size" proof of insurance" card, issued in December, must have been distributed to insure 1985. The cards to be given to the County Clerk when reviewing the individual's motor vehicle registration, and the other is to be retained by the policyholder.

The new law, passed by the 1984 General Assembly, insists that the proof of insurance sticker which motorists have been required to attach to a rear window will be null and void at the end of the year.

After the first of the year, a state

the transition of monetary policy from anti-inflation restraint to an approach which can more readily accommodate off the first half of a recession. The resultant downward in interest rates of recent months should bolster residential building activity to forecast. The onset of an economic recession. Thus, the staff of Babson's

Overall, present trends seem to indicate that 1985 will be a very good year

Notwithstanding, it was discouraging that the widely watched index of leading economic indicators suffered a downturn of sufficient duration to constitute at least one warning signal that an economic recession may be in the offing.

1985 - Slow Growth, No Recession

Six months of listless business have dampened public sentiment considerably. Hence, mistakes that an economic recession may be lurking nearby cannot be summarily dismissed. There are, in addition, some rather problems confronting the nation which, if not brought to heel, could ultimately produce harmful economic and monetary consequences.

Among these are the outlandish federal budget deficit, the overwhelming adverse balance of foreign trade, the "stagflation" and the region where there are situated, and the uncertainties of what changes will be brought to the federal income tax "amplification" of the art and the moves to cut the budget deficit.

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