

# House Week in Review

by Rep. Adrian Arnold

We began the arduous task of reviewing the state's financial situation early last week when Gov. Martha Layne Collins presented her proposed 1986-87 budget for our consideration.

During her Tuesday night joint session address, Collins outlined her administration's budget priorities and gave us some specifics of her proposed \$4.4 billion budget for 1986-87.

Collins requested \$4.4 million for child services, assistance to the elderly, and health-care programs over the biennium. Collins pledged to fund money into drug and alcohol abuse programs for juveniles and to upgrade pretrial care programs throughout the state.

Collins is requesting \$6 billion for the General Fund, which finances almost all state agencies. The remainder of her proposed budget involves funds from the federal government and other sources.

What the budget did not include was any tax increase or any proposal for solving the state's fund crisis.

As expected, much of the two-year plan focused on further improvements in education — at all levels. Under Collins' plan, elementary and secondary education would get a boost of \$77 million. The state's universities and colleges would enjoy \$12.8 million more — one of the biggest higher education budget hikes in over a decade.

Collins stressed the importance of fully funding the educational package that was adopted during last summer's special session. In addition, she asked us to provide money for further improvements, including more special education units, vocational education, and early childhood training.

Retired teachers would also see \$18.8 million added to their benefits if Collins' budget is approved by the Legislature. Retired teachers would benefit in another way if a bill

## Ford's Footnotes

by Sen. Ed Ford

The biggest challenge of every legislative session is deciding how we are going to spend your tax dollars over the next two years, and we began to face that challenge in earnest last week.

Governor Martha Layne Collins sent us her proposed two-year spending plan for the executive branch of state government last Tuesday night.

Of course, not all our time has been spent on the House and Senate. As submitted, the governor's plan calls for spending more than \$13 billion over the next two fiscal years, of that figure, \$6.2 billion would be General Fund money, and the rest would come from federal funds and other sources of state revenue.

Our Appropriations and Revenue Committee wasted no time in beginning first and started reviewing sections of the bill.

Even though the budget was a major concern last week, we did manage to vote on some other legislation. Although it appeared that a bill concerning airport security might have a rocky ride when it reached the floor, it passed without a hitch.

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passed out by the House Education Committee becomes law — they would retire after 20 years of service instead of the current 30 without loss of benefits.

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## Road fund situation needs will restrict development resulting from Toyota

Failure to begin solving the Road Fund problem will mean that the state will be unable to reap the full benefits of Toyota's decision to locate in Kentucky, according to a state transportation spokesman.

Speaking at the Kentucky Transportation Conference in Lexington, Jack Fish, president of Kentuckians for Better Transportation, said Toyota's decision to locate its automobile assembly plant in Kentucky points up "the critical road transportation issues in attracting new industry."

"The new facility," he said, "also emphasizes just how important to Kentucky's future it is to have more adequate source of funds for highways."

"With the expected satellite plant development that will result from Toyota's locating here it is easy to see that additional road and highway improvements are desperately needed to more areas of Kentucky to share the benefits."

"It will be unfortunate for all Kentuckians if we are unable to take full advantage of the new opportunity Toyota provides."

"Communities that do not have good access to interstate highways and toll roads are generally not in a position to compete for new industry."

"And having sections of three major toll roads that are breaking up certainly won't help attract business and industry to the communities served by these roads."

"It is absolutely essential to have funds to improve highways that connect our major population areas with the interstates and toll roads. It is also essential that we have funds to rehabilitate our toll roads."

"All of this presents a compelling argument for raising user fees on motor funds and registration fees to compare to those in adjacent states."

Adequate transportation, Fish said, is always a major factor in financing business and industry site selection. "Future job opportunities depend on maintaining the road and highway system and expanding it

to serve our park systems. She also included a \$12 million incentive package for the new Toyota plant in Scott County."

It's now the job of our House budget review subcommittee to dissect the particulars of the proposal and decide whether the requests are fair and whether the money is there. Many of the subcommittees have already jumped in

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## Horsemen of China

On the frontiers of northwest China, the nomads called the Kazakhs, still ride the horses that "Tibet and Mongolia. The Kazakhs call their horses their "wings" and value them for their beauty, bravery and above all, as a measure of wealth.

NOVA focuses on the horse society in northwest China and examines how recent changes in Chinese society have affected the lives and culture of the nomads in "Horsemen of China," to be aired on KET Sunday, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m.

Half of China's landmass is occupied by minority tribes who have centuries have struggled for independence against both Chinese and Russian rule. After 1949 Chinese soldiers tried to take the Kazakhs into embrace the new social and political values of communism. In many cases the government would force, and some tribespeople left the country. But many chose to stay.

NOVA focuses on the family of Abd-El Ghayr, known as "white beard," a respected elder and leader of his family group. Ghayr is also member of the local Communist Party and, like almost all of Chinese Kazakhs, belongs to his local collective organization. But he is not an idealist, who has his own ideas about the newer ways of life while not abandoning the customs of Kazakh society.

## National Geographic Special Feb. 12 on KET

Extraordinary creature battle to survive in a tropical marine world that is setting for a new "National Geographic Special: 'Creatures of the Mangrove,' on KET.

The special takes viewers on a journey to the tiny island of Sava in the south coast of Papua New Guinea. Heavy rains have swept the mountain of Sava north down to the sea where it is deposited as silt. In this way Sava is forested and the creatures in it have adapted to the silt and flow of the water.

Each year, highway maintenance costs, nationally, were up 150 percent. Some 407 million dollars in road repair is being diverted from the Road Fund above up the General Fund. Some \$15 million annually is being diverted to subsidize gasoline. And some \$10 million annually is being diverted to subsidize diesel.

The net result," Fish said, "is that the Road Fund simply cannot provide essential services — much less make major investments."

Major roads and highways are being neglected and the quality of the interstates there are virtually nonexistent. There are over five billion dollars in highway construction in progress. Three out of every five bridges are in poor condition. There are over five billion dollars in highway construction in progress. Three out of every five bridges are in poor condition. There are over five billion dollars in highway construction in progress. Three out of every five bridges are in poor condition.

## JTPA instructional video

Joseph Smoot, JTPA instructional aide at Nicholas County Elementary School, is shown working with two of the 13 students that have been certified for the program. Mrs. Smoot is working with the students in computer assisted instruction in the basic skills. From left, Robbie Shields, Mrs. Smoot and Wayne Ritchie. —Guthrie Photo.

Induct Judge Wayne W. Fitzgerald and Robert McGinnis of the 113 Judicial District attended the District Judges Judicial College held at Lexington's Radisson Plaza Hotel Jan. 12-14.

Opening the four-day program, Professor Harry Scholitz, Jr., National Judicial College, Reno, Nev., devoted a day to in-depth examination of evidentiary matters. During the course of a trial, or hearing in district court, testimony, records, exhibits and material objects may be offered as evidence to prove a fact or convince a jury or judge. Scholitz discussed various current and proposed rules which determine what evidence is admissible and what is inadmissible. He also dealt with the impact of procedural innovations on the handling of district court situations when individuals, attorneys, or the court's officers, hinder or obstruct justice, or willfully disobey the court's orders. Scholitz discussed the consequences of such acts and alternative actions that might be taken by the court to punish offenders.

In view of the possibility of the General Assembly increasing the jurisdiction of district courts to a figure higher than the current \$200, Kentucky's recently established comparative negligence doctrine will have an effect on the types of cases heard by district judges. Professor Martin Hartmann, Northern Kentucky University Case College of Law, discussed the impact of such matters on the district court judge and discussed ways to handle the practical problems district judges will encounter in handling comparative negligence cases in which awards are diminished proportionally to the amount of negligence attributable to the person seeking compensation for injury, damage or death.

Recent legislation has made mandatory the establishment of Foster Care Review Boards in each judicial district. Boards are made up of citizens volunteers appointed by the district judge and are designed to review the foster care placement of children placed by the court in the custody of the Cabinet for Human Resources or other agencies.

The board then submits findings and recommendations to the judge as to whether appropriate plans for permanent placement have been made and are being carried out. The board's efforts are aimed at preventing children placed outside their homes from neglect or abuse from being "lost" in the temporary placement system and forgotten. A panel of court administrative officials, judges and Foster Care Review Board volunteers provided information on how to establish, train and maintain citizen boards in districts where they are not already located.

With local jails over-crowded and filled beyond legal capacity, judges are being alerted to take incarceration. District Judge Darren Buckley and Mercer County, shared procedures he has implemented for the use of probation and parole officers.

In other matters brought before the 113 judges attending the College, University of Kentucky law Professor William Fortine addressed evidentiary and technical problems encountered in driving under the influence (DUI) cases. Associate Dean Ron H. Evans, New England School of Law, Boston, MA, provided discussion on recent search and seizure decisions and a general overview of applications of the Fourth Amendment.

## Tincher has perfect attendance

Alan Tincher, a dyer at Jockey International Inc. (Kintling plant), recently received a Perfect Attendance Certificate for 196 from Bill Griffith, director of Finishing, and Bobby Hirst, third shift Finish supervisor.

Employees who missed less than eight hours of work for 196 are Robert Bishop, Joyce Booth, Roger Bussey, Clarence Carpenter, Wendell Clark, Otha D. Crawford, Carl Daley, Simon Joseph, Richard McCoskey and Timmy Roberts.



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**New health care aide**

Louise Curran, health care aide at Nicholas County Elementary School, checks Steve Zornes for a temperature in the health room. Mrs. Curran is responsible for soothing all the bumps, bruises and upset stomachs encountered during the school day by elementary students. —Guthrie Photo.