FOCUS

Bond's Broadcast

By Hank Bond

Can Gambling Really Save a County or a State?

There's absolutely no doubt a Bingo Game or a State Lottery will generate a good deal of money.

In fact, in the words of a local county official, there's a whole lot of money in them, but is it really a good way to balance the coffers of a state, county or city for that matter?

Across the state in the May primary election, those going to the polls, or at least the majority, voted for the democrat promoting a state lottery.

It was no mandate by any means, but it is a consideration for this general assembly. Maybe there is a need for a state lottery, and if it is time for one now, the burden will fall on the state's elected officials to see that it is done.

In southern Kentucky, McCreary County officials are promoting a county sponsored Bingo game in lieu of a countywide tax or tax increase.

Although some corners claim it is legal for the county to do so, that will have to be decided by a court if someone pushes it that far. Remember, though if it does go that far, a Commonwealth's Attorney will have to sue a county . . . not likely in my mind.

But all of this poses some serious questions in my mind.

How can a God fearing populous really believe gambling will solve the money problems of this state?

What happens when state money spenders or county money spenders have managed to use up all that a gambling operation will fund . . . then what?

It is a tough way to budget for a fiscal operation. "Well, we can always count on a few bucks from the Bingo game, Saturday night."

Give me a break.

This is no way to soundly run any governmental unit.

While the prospect of a Saturday night Bingo game may appear fun, it does to me, it just doesn't float the boat. Neither does a lottery, really.

Sure, I'd like to pick up a couple million on a $1 chance, but odds being odds, most will spend far more than will ever be recovered.

What has to be done is some serious studying of what state and local tax dollars are actually being spent on.

This has been done to some degree by the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, but there may have to be more done. There still isn't any word on what will happen to the Casey County suit, but come January there will probably be a payroll tax withheld in Nicholas County.

Kentucky State government is no exception. Has government in this state been responsible to cutting what should be cut and trimming what can be trimmed.

I have serious doubts about that. There's a lot of lip service about what can and should be done, but year after year about all we hear as citizens of Kentucky is more is being added and the price tag keeps going up. A shortfall this year, again, will send legislators reeling for what to do . . . but the answer won't be found on a Bingo card or a jackpot lottery card.

Getting the financial house is order in what has to happen.

Come on. No more gimmicks. Let's get government back to running the way it should be: With Responsibility.

So long, Kenny

During a tenure of one of my many jobs, I had the pleasure of meeting Kenny Price. He is no longer with us.

After suffering a massive heart attack last Monday, Kenny died Wednesday. Efforts were made to save him, but to no avail.

He was always very pleasant to me. I saw him usually two times a week, and as often as four.

Although it has been many years since I have seen him, I always enjoyed watching him on television.

It is with the kind way he treated me, and those around him, in mind, I use this space to bid him a fond crossing to the other side.

Good-bye, Kenny.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

U.S. SENATOR FOR KENTUCKY

Mitch McConnell

A NEW INITIATIVE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Since the people of Kentucky elected me to the U.S. Senate in 1984, I have made rural development a top priority.

Most rural areas have yet to experience the prosperity and opportunity that our cities and suburban areas have enjoyed over the past five years. Consider these statistics:

- Rural America contains less than 25% of our country's population, yet 38% of our poor are located in these areas.
- Rural unemployment rates are significantly higher than urban areas, and 25% of all rural nonfarm businesses are facing severe financial problems.
- Farm incomes have fallen more than 40% since the 70's, and the Department of Agriculture estimates that between 1982 and 1985, farm land values fell by $146 billion.

The double blow of falling land values and reduced incomes have devastated the tax base of rural communities. Critical services such as fire and police protection have been eliminated or cut back in the face of falling revenues.

In order to combat these problems the federal government has instituted programs that offer a great deal of assistance to farmers and rural communities. However, these programs often overlap and sometimes offer duplicative services because there is no coordinated, focused federal rural development policy.

I'm fighting to turn this problem around. To help our farmers and rural areas, I have introduced the Rural Development Improvements Act. This bill would streamline and improve federal programs for rural areas by creating a new federal agency, the Rural Electrification and Development Administration (REDA). The REDA would be formed by combining the services of the Farmers Home Administration and the Rural Electrification and Development Administration.

The REDA would take a number of steps to coordinate federal programs that affect rural development. In addition, it would target the Agriculture Extension Service by providing additional training to extension service agents. This training will help extension agents respond faster to the ever-changing problems that farmers face.

The Rural Development Improvements Act also will focus on developing and improving our nation's agricultural vocation programs. This will provide men and women that want to build a future in agribusiness with more opportunities to broaden their knowledge in rural development, economics, management, and provide information on the latest farming methods. This will give them a critical advantage in competing in the international marketplace.

The Rural Development Improvements Act has been referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture. I have sent a letter to my 99 other Senate colleagues asking them to cosponsor this bill. As this important piece of legislation moves through the Senate, I will be keeping you informed of its progress.

Rural America faces many challenges. But I am optimistic that together we can forge these challenges into the opportunity that our rural areas so richly deserve. The Rural Development Improvements Act is a step in that direction.

Do you remember?

This picture is part of The Mercury Collection of photos. It was found while searching through some old boxes of pictures a few weeks ago. By the date, the picture is from 1957. If you can identify those in the pictures, please send their names to The Mercury Office.

Mercury Memories

Compiled by Ann Shearer

5 years ago

Thursday, August 12, 1982

Mayor Frankie Hughes received word Friday afternoon from the Gas Restoration Board in Frankfort that Carlisle will receive the $150,000 GSRP loan to help finance the local gas restoration project.

A thirty-five cent per hour wage increase effective September 27 was announced during the Personnel Appreciation/Thorobred Hoedown of Blue Grass Industries on Friday, August 6.

The Nicholas County Little League All Stars brought home another championship last weekend. The 11-12 year olds won the Anderson County Invitational played in Lawrenceburg. Members of the team are: Brad Allison, batboy, Wendel McNabb, John Wagoner, Bryan Brierly, William Seaton, Kevin Hughes, Tim Pope, Scot Allison, Tip Fryman, Chris Anderson, Ray Phillips, Derwin Howard, Chris Holler, Todd Day, David McCarty. Coaches, Larry Allison, Billy Anderson and Leonard Sooby.

The congregation of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) welcomes the Reverend Allen R. Campbell as their new minister. Mr. Campbell and his wife Margie, come to First Christian Church after serving Newtown Christian Church of Georgetown for four years.

Reverend John O'Hanlon, a new pastor of the Carlisle First Assembly of God moved in our community this past week. He is living in Sexton's Trailer Court with his wife, Laura and children Randy and Roxanne.

BORN - Kerr Ann Carter, July 3, 1982. John Robert Hall, August 1, 1982. - Jeremy Layne Taulbee, August 4, 1982.

MARRIED - Jean Ellison Gervin and Charles Thomas Bennett, July 24.

DIED - Mrs. Fannie Gaunce Earlywine, 92, widow of John Earlywine, August 3, 1982. - Donald Gilkison, 54, August 5, 1982.

10 years ago

Thursday, August 18, 1977

Congressman Carl Perkins was the guest speaker at the commemoration services of the Last Battle of Revolution held at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park on Sunday afternoon. H. Dallas Bugg was master of ceremonies and song leader. Flowers were laid by the public on the mass grave of those who died in the battle, August 19, 1782.

Over 1483 students are expected to enter both Nicholas County schools as they reopen Monday, August 22 for the 1977-78 school year.

Mrs. Arrah Lee Sexton, Carlisle, recently celebrated her 80th birthday in a very special way, as a "guest of Governor Julian M. Carroll for a performance of "Fire on the Mountain" at Danville's Pioneer Playhouse.

The 201st Engineering Battalion of the National Guard, which includes the Carlisle unit, has been nominated to train next summer in Germany.

Layman's Day at Wesley Chapel C. M. E. will be observed Sunday, August 21 at 3 p.m. The program is sponsored by the men's and ladies auxiliaries of the church with Mrs. Anna L. Thompson as chairperson and Greg O'Bannon assisting chairperson.

BORN - Kathryn Marie Lawrence, August 9, 1977.

MARRIED - Miss Connie Howard and Randy Lee Harris, Thursday.

The Carlisle Mercury

(USPS 090-820)

Established 1867
Serving Nicholas County for 120 Years

Phone 606-289-2464

Published every Thursday at 234 North Locust Street, Carlisle, KY 40311-0272

Postage Paid at Carlisle, KY.

Postmasters: Send Change of Address to P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311-0272

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Subscription Rates

In Nicholas County (sales tax included) $11.55 per year
All other Kentucky Counties (sales tax included) $12.60 per year
Out - of - Kentucky $16.00 per year

The Carlisle Mercury is a proud member of the:
Kentucky Weekly Newspaper Association
Kentucky Press Association
The National Newspaper Association
The Carlisle - Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce

Report to Kentucky

SENATOR WENDELL FORD

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

AN ACTIVE CONGRESS PAUSES AT MIDTERM

By the time you read this, the 100th Congress -- our Bicentennial Congress -- will be in recess until early September. And I will be back with you in Kentucky, reflecting on what still needs to be done in one of the most eventful congresses in memory.

This is an historic Congress partly because Democrats have gained a majority in both houses and are pursuing an agenda that we believe can come to grips with some of our nation's most pressing problems.

The Senate has passed a trade bill to allow manufacturers, businessmen and farmers to compete on a level playing field in world markets. We have shaped a plan to reduce a budget deficit representing a major threat to our economic future. And we have initiated measures, including catastrophic health care for the elderly, to further the concept of fairness in American life.

For me as a third-term senator with challenging committee assignments, the past seven months have been a period of intense activity.

Many challenges have come with my new role as chairman of the Rules Committee, the Aviation Subcommittee of the Commerce Committee and the Energy Research and Development Subcommittee of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Our energy subcommittee has worked almost nonstop on a variety of crucial issues, ranging from the advancement of clean-coal technology to the protection of our nation's vitally important uranium-enrichment capabilities. This subcommittee already has been responsible for 23 of the hearings conducted by our full Energy Committee.

The Aviation Subcommittee is addressing the problems of an overcrowded and often outmoded aviation system -- problems that have been developing for years and recently have captured the attention of much of the nation.

Dealing with 26 bills, this subcommittee so far has held 14 days of hearings in Washington and elsewhere. We have initiated much