FOCUS

Bond's Broadcast

By Hank Bond

Working together for this day and tomorrow

Nothing can help a town, be it large or small, more than unity and pride.

Take for example, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. That's a town, which has had tremendous success as a tourist attraction and resort area.

Why?

It's probably because the leadership of that community many years ago, had the ability to take at look at what the town had, was surrounded by, and then took the time to best plan and package how to present that area.

The result: a thriving business community, plus much more.

Carlisle and Nicholas County are no different. This is how the community will change. I will agree growth and change must be regulated to a point, but there comes a time to preserve what we have. We have to take a look at making some things different than we're used to.

This certainly doesn't happen overnight. It can't be done in one, two hour, meeting. It takes a great deal of planning, a lot of individual effort and the support of the area businesses, residents and elected public officials.

No doubt, there are some who will say, "It's always been that way."

I can't argue that change does not bring about more change, but in the long run for any small community to survive, it must be willing to accept a certain amount of change in order to prosper and offer those living there, and the generations ahead, the opportunity to stay home.

This county is no different. Without proper job opportunities, coupled with a thriving retail base, most young people will be forced to leave their homes to pursue educational then employment opportunities.

The Nicholas County Industrial Authority is a step in this direction. Those involved are looking to bring industries, a la, jobs to the county. In addition, this will increase the tax base of Nicholas County to a level the service areas can be improved and ultimately increased.

This is not a rapid process. Once an industry has taken a look at many areas, those in contention for locating an industry must be ready to put their collective best feet forward.

This can include a professional presentation, a well designed brochure, and ultimately a package of what can be offered.

Next in line on topics for the day is a strong, unified Chamber of Commerce. Without one, a normally strong and quality business district can fall apart.

Let's be real. . .a great amount of retail traffic goes out of town to shop. Many dollars are spent out of Nicholas County, which, if spent in the county, would offer many benefits.

The Chamber of Commerce needs to work on improving membership, along with holding general, consumer and other residential information sessions.

A good Chamber can help build the attractiveness of the business community and entice new business locations, and by working together as a group, can help build local retail trade by offering unified sales promotions and looking at the local community and knowing that community is its only source of revenue.

Today, tomorrow, and many more days ahead will depend on this type of unity.

Just plain working together. Everyone!

While there can be some problems in a Chamber or any organization for that matter, by putting the needs of the many in proper perspective, only the citizens of the area, your friends and customers, will benefit. . .and so will your respective businesses.

The Mercury, as long as I am here, will always be a great supporter of economic growth and unified support. To make this the best possible place to live should be everyone's goal.

With the constant drain on our area to draw our retail traffic, along with our quality young people, let's put the bargaining chips on the table and make this the place our young people want to stay.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

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Brains, wit, creative abilities . . .

'an incredible substitute for capital'

H. Ross Perot, founder of EDS and the quintessential entrepreneur, gave the Economics Club of Detroit a large dose of his homespun Horatio Algerism in a speech that attracted a record 7,000 attendees to Cobo Hall. Some excerpts from Mr. Perot's talk:

Whether we like it or not in our country, we are stuck with international competition of the highest caliber. If I had come to Detroit at the end of World War II and said that in our lifetime Pittsburgh would no longer be the steel capital of the world, Detroit would no longer be the automobile capital of the world, clothing and shoe manufacturing would be moved off-shore . . . most of the manufacturing, most of the mass production would be off-shore in Asia, all of you would have dismissed me as a lunatic.

We didn't invent the automobile, but boy, we figured out how to bring it to people. All of the concepts of mass production and bringing the automobile to the world came from right here in the United States. There's a message there. People say, "Don't worry, Ross, we're still inventing things." But give me a choice, I would rather have somebody else inventing things and mass producing them here because all the jobs are in mass producing.

The working American is an economic miracle. On the strong, broad shoulders of American working men and women rests the tax base. If they're not working our $2 trillion deficit goes into a tailspin in a hurry. We must remain the world's largest customer and we can't be that if our people aren't working.

Brains, wit and the creative abilities of the American people are an incredible substitute for capital. And so we certainly don't have to lose, even if that's all we have.

Everything you see at EDS today was at one time some person's idea. Since we had no money we had to listen to the people who did the work. My first message is listen, listen, listen to the people who do the work. Many of our ideas came from people too young and too inexperienced to have an idea of that quality. But they had it. So you've got to listen to all of them.

To all the business leaders today, I suggest to you that only we can create the jobs. Millions of fine, decent, American are more than willing to work. But they cannot create their jobs. Their abilities to have a job rests squarely on our leadership and our policies.

When we were tiny, or small, and didn't have the tools, when we were out-gunned, outnumbered, and the odds of victory seemed hopeless, our rallying cry when we felt we were too tired and beaten to answer the bell for the next round, the rallying cry that gave us renewed determination to get back in the ring and win was Winston Churchill's shortest speech. Here it is, in its entirety. "Never give in. Never give in. Never. Never. Never."

-- RM --

Another economist lesson is from Harold Vanselow, a shrewd stock market investor. He says inside information isn't one. There is a better method.

To find the beginning or ending of a bull or bear market, it is necessary to find the number of freight car loadings for the previous week. You can do this by reading the Wall Street Journal every Tuesday. Plot this information on a sheet of graphing paper.

Likewise, find the weekly liquor consumption per capita in the same newspaper and plot this on the same graph as the freight car loadings. Do this weekly, connecting the respective dots with lines.

When these two lines meet, this is either the beginning or ending of a bull or bear market because now there are more people getting loaded than boxcars.

This fault healer was doing great. He had all kinds of successes. Nothing seemed to stop him. His powers were rising and his popularity was beginning to soar throughout the land.

And one day when he was taking a walk he found a man in tears. He asked him what was wrong.

"I've got this wart on my nose and it's really ugly," the man said.

The faith healer touched the wart and it fell off. The man went away happy.

When the faith healer turned the corner, he found another guy in tears. He asked the man what his problem was.

"See this thumb? It has so much arthritis in it I cannot use it," he said. "And it hurts constantly."

The faith healer touched the man's thumb and the pain vanished. The man was delighted.

As he continued his walk, the faith healer came upon still a third man. Tears were streaming from his eyes and his body shook from great weeping.

"What's the trouble, my good man," he asked. "Perhaps I can help you, too."

The man, barely able to speak he was so distraught, said, "I can't help crying. I'm a professional football player and a team just offered me a contract."

"That sounds great to me," the faith healer said. "What's the name of the team?"

"The Dallas Cowboys," he sobbed.

The faith healer sat down and cried with him.

-- RM --

Uncle Charlie was waiting his turn at the clinic when a doctor walked into the room. He went up to Uncle Charlie and said: "The nurse tells me there's no improvement in your skin condition."

"That's right, doc," Uncle Charlie said.

The doctor sighed. "Look. It's really a simple rash," he said. "Haven't you been using the ointment I prescribed?"

Uncle Charlie shook his head.

"Why not?"

"Well, the label says to apply locally," Uncle Charlie said, "and I've been out of town deer hunting all week."

-- RM --

You have read the great benefits of fidgeting as an important way of burning up calories. Some people, I'm told, can squirm and wiggle away the equivalent of jogging several miles each day. And without all the misery that goes with pounding the pavement.

Each morning I watch joggers struggling down the street. They move as though they badly are in need of a proctologist. Their fists are clenched, their eyes glazed, liked their Preparation H had failed them.

The doctor says a little exercise never hurt anybody. So I do as little as possible. For a few days, I was into this jogging thing. Actually it was walking. More like strolling. But I got tired of dogs yapping at my heels and people staring at me like if I am out walking up and down the sidewalks I must be up to something.

The fidget system is just my speed. I can tug my ear, scratch my head, rub my sore knee and head for the car. Then after trying several positions in the front seat, tilting the steering wheel a few times, adjusting the rear view mirrors, hooking up the safety belt and getting my flight plan from the backseat driver, I have burned off all the excess calories and feel great again.

Whether the fidget stone has more medicinal value than the buckeye is another subject that will take some research. I promise to work on it.

-- RM --

Federal Aviation Administration officials insist that the skies are safe, right? They should chat with Lloyd W. Barry, United Airlines senior vice-president of flight operations.

In a Dec. 5 letter to the carrier's pilots, Barry wrote that United crews have averaged 6.3 near collisions per month in the last year and that catastrophe was averted through pilot skill or "in some cases, just plain good luck." Barry pulled no punches. "I am deeply concerned about a midair collision occurrence in United Airlines," he added. Scarier still is his advice to pilots: Be sure to look out the window.

Onward, upward.

RUSS METZ

Report to Kentucky

SENATOR WENDELL FORD

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

PAY RAISE FOR CONGRESS IS BAD IDEA

The Administration's new budget proposes a sizeable pay raise for members of Congress, as well as for the President's Cabinet and federal judges.

I believe the idea is a bad one.

The same budget suggests numerous funding reductions that will affect millions of Americans. For example, it proposes that 14.7 million school children should no longer be eligible for subsidized school lunches. And that senior citizens pay higher Medicare deductibles.

These budget reductions -- still to be debated by Congress -- were proposed to help the government meet its goal of balancing the federal budget by 1990.

Our yearly budget deficits add to the federal debt, a debt that grows each day with interest. It currently stands at nearly $2.2 trillion. That is more than double the amount of debt owed by the federal government in 1980.

Economic experts warn that if we fail to bring our budgets under control soon, there could be disasterous consequences.

It is clear that bringing federal budgets down will require penny-pinching at all levels of government, as well as hardship for Americans affected by various cuts. So it would be dead wrong for Washington decision-makers, calling on everyone else to sacrifice, to enact a pay raise such as the one proposed.

The Reagan budget would raise the salaries of members of Congress by 16 percent and Cabinet officers by 13 percent. While the proposed raises are substantial, they are less than those recommended earlier by a presidential commission, which called for raises ranging from 57 percent to 80 percent.

Congressional raises are always a tender issue on Capitol Hill. It is expensive to live in Washington, largely because of the high housing costs. Most members also keep a home back in their state and must pay airfare to commute back and forth frequently. So there are many financial pressures which a pay raise would help members lessen.

However, across the nation taxpayers are readying their 1986 income tax returns. They all deserve to know that Congress is serious about deficit reduction, and that its members are willing to sacrifice personally.

This is no time for Congress to accept a pay raise. To do so would indicate that we are not serious about balancing the federal budget. It would also be insensitive to those who are being asked to sacrifice in this effort.

I intend to oppose this pay increase, as I have others in the past. Perhaps, if Congress balanced the budget, the American public might look more favorably upon a pay increase for its representatives in Washington. Until then a raise is simply not justified, and perhaps not deserved.

Letters

Editor:

As I complete my fourth year on the Kentucky Supreme Court, I believe it is appropriate to report to the people of this appellate district the progress of the Court and my participation therein.

In the past year a total of 1194 opinions and discretionary reviews have been considered by the full Court. 819 discretionary reviews have been completed.

275 opinions were rendered. I wrote a total of 42 opinions, 20 to be published and 22 memorandum opinion, the most for any member of the Court.

The Court has made certain gains in reducing delay and increasing efficiency.

Various efforts have been continued to eliminate delays in the transcription of court records. An experimental project has been expanded in regard to voice-activated video camera recordings.

The Court has implemented a policy of disciplinary sanctions on attorneys who persist in superfious and frivolous briefing. The purpose of the sanctions is to eliminate unnecessary delays.

Most oral arguments are now heard within 3 months of their submission. Generally, a decision is made within 8 weeks after final oral arguments are heard.

Certain cases are more complex and involve more voluminous issues, and they require additional time for deliberation and careful review.

There is no significant backlog in the Supreme Court.

As you know the Supreme Court is the court of last resort and the final interpreter of Kentucky law. Each case must be carefully reviewed because the decision rendered will have a permanent impact on Kentucky law.

We hear appeals of decisions from all other state courts. Criminal cases which involve the death penalty, life imprisonment, or imprisonment for 20 years or more go directly to the Supreme Court for review.

Significant cases decided in the past year include the following: Validity of occupational tax ordinances; procedures for tax refund; method by which medical hospitals operated by the Universities of Kentucky and Louisville can be sued; permission for parents to sue for loss of affection in the death of a minor child; establishment of rules so that county attorneys must no have conflicts of interest in prosecuting cases; approval of the statutes which permit the use of video tape in a sex abuse case involving a victim under 12 years of younger; definition of the phrase extreme emotional distress in murder case; procedures relating to persistant felony offenders and the use of prior handgun convictions; definition of solicitation for prostitution in a liquor violation case; approval of teacher discipline procedures; allowance of depreciation for small public water districts; approval of the Governor's budget bill transfer but exempting pension trust funds.

In the coming year, some of the issues the Court will face involve the constitutionality of the legislation which induced Toyota to locate in Kentucky; further definition of special districts in regard to municipal immunity, and the propriety of closed meetings for the University of Kentucky Presidential Search Committee.

Donald C. Wintersheimer
Justice
Kentucky Supreme Court

GENERAL NEWS

Yearend food prices show big increase

The 1986 year-end report on food prices in Kentucky was bad news for both consumers and farmers, according to Kentucky Farm Bureau's marketbasket survey.

The 40-item marketbasket of staple food items jumped more than a dollar in cost during December, to a statewide average $83.07. That brought the total retail food price increase for the year to 7.8 per cent, or $4.56 for the 40 selected foods.

Those findings contrasted sharply with year-end farm price statistics. USDA said farm prices for all commodities dropped an average 3.5 per cent during 1986, indicating a wider farm-to-retail margin.

For some commodities the price decline was much sharper, accenting the severe price recession affecting many Kentucky farmers.

Corn prices plummeted 41 per cent from December 1985 through December 1986, wheat fell by 24 per cent, soybeans by 18 per cent and beef cattle by around 6 per cent.

Hogs showed a slight decline during the 12-month period, falling by one-half of 1 per cent. But those prices had been significantly higher during the summer months, accounting to some extent for higher retail tabs now.

Five of six food price categories cost shoppers more money at the end of '86 than was the case a year earlier. Pork prices were 20 per cent higher, fruits and vegetables were 9 per cent more, and poultry and eggs were nearly 8 per cent more. Beef cuts and dairy products each showed increases of around 3.5 per cent.

Only grain-based foods such as bread, meal and flour showed lower than year-ago prices. That decline averaged just under 2 per cent.

Kentucky Farm Bureau market analyst Jeff Hall said he finds it difficult to understand why retail food price moved up so sharply during 1986 when most Kentucky farm commodities -- with the notable exception of livestock -were selling so cheaply.

"It's a foregone conclusion that farm-to-retail margins for some of these items have widened," Hall said. "And the effect may be worse in Kentucky because our farmers don't sell many of the higher-dollar items which are still most profitable."

Hall said grain prices are at their lowest levels in two decades, tobacco prices are down significantly and milk prices held steady during 1986. Only hogs and cattle, among the major commodities, showed price strength over the 12-month period.

December's marketbasket actually showed declines in two meat categories, pork and poultry, but surveyors recorded a sharp run-up in beef prices averaging nearly 10 per cent.

Most of the other survey items held fairly even in price during the final month of the year.

Greenup in far eastern Kentucky showed the lowest local marketbasket cost in December while Somerset checked in at the high spot.

Overall, volunteers working through Kentucky Farm Bureau Women canvassed retail food prices in 19 Kentucky communities.

The local figures were Greenup, 55.91; Salyersville, 57.99; Scottsville, 67.25; Shelbyville, 67.75; and 58.55; Morehead, 59.33; Greensburg, 59.92; Glasgow, 60.91; Lexington, 61.86; Elizabethtown, 62.17; Campbellsville, 62.97; Georgetown, 63.06; Hopkinsville, 63.08; Tompkinsville, 63.43; Danville, 64.09; Louisville, 65.46; Owensboro, 65.81; Dry Ridge, 66.49; London, 67.25; Shelbyville, 67.75; and Somerset, 67.78.

Lunch Time!

Lunchtime at Nicholas County Elementary School brings hungry students into the school's cafeteria. Food service director Bill Guthrie reports the cafeteria's staff is serving an average of 300 students breakfast and 860 students lunch each day. —Bill Guthrie Photo.

Radon.....

Continued from page 1

The agency attributes from 5,000 to 20,000 fatalities each year to exposure to the gas.

Readings of 93 Kentucky homes, conducted by the University of Pittsburgh's radon testing program last winter, show radon levels as high as 25.1 pCi/l in areas of Fayette County. High readings also were found in Jefferson, Barren and Hart counties.

Radon is a danger in any state, but we don't know to what extent.

If you would like to have your home tested for radon gas, call 289-7229.

Data collected from the testing will be used in the science project.

— Portions of this article are derived from a news release of the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources.

Blue Licks.....

Continued from Page 1

"It will be a multi-purpose building, which can be rented out for private use for receptions and other activities, Devine said.

"There will be a seating capacity of 240, fireplace, holding kitchen, and restrooms."

Actual construction should begin in late 1987 or at the beginning of 1988.

The banks of the Licking River at the park will also be expanded for boating, fishing and picnicing.

"We hope to build a new road to the river and a boat ramp and dock," Arnold said.

"Our next phase is to add cottages at the park. Cottages are profitable for other state parks and would also generate revenue for Blue Licks."

However, according to Devine, these other projects are further down the road, and actual funding is uncertain at this time.

Dr. Edmund and Lida Utkov donated the land in memory of her parents, Nora and Thornton Sellers, who lived in the area for many years.

A plaque with Mrs. Utkov's name will be erected in the park.

Arnold also said the donation will boost the economy in Nicholas and surrounding counties.

"Developing the land along the Licking River will benefit Nicholas Countians.

"This is definitely progress for our area, and I am committed to pursuing future development," Arnold said.

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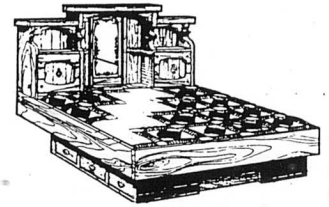

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