

**FOCUS**

**Bond's Broadcast**  
By Hank Bond



**On the road again**  
Going to conventions can be an interesting experience.

First you have the chance to see many people you only see once a year, and secondly, you have the opportunity to learn by exchanging information.

In the same light, you see and hear many things from speakers during the convention you might not have an opportunity to hear any other time.

For Brenton Jones, I will have to say he hasn't changed during the transition from candidate to office holder.

When he was on the trail of the path to the governor's office he talked about fiscal responsibility and how he would actually work while in office.

So far, and I will agree it's only been a short time, he has lived up to his billing.

While at the Kentucky Press Association convention in Louisville, we had the opportunity to sit and listen to him talk. He gave a very interesting presentation, and while it was unfortunate he was grouped a lot with what Governor Wilkinson is doing, however, essentially this isn't actually the way it should be.

Jones was acting on what he had promised in the general election, and accordingly, he has a lot to live up to.

To offer a comparison, the governor is doing what he feels best, and so is Jones, and only time will tell, who is correct.

**Speaking of the convention . . .** we were certainly pleased with the four awards presented to The Mercury during the convention. We will continue to work hard to make this newspaper your newspaper, and present the type of information you most often ask for.

And yes, too, we're making arrangements to increase the size of type in the near future.

**Train rides, again!**

The historic train, which passed through Nicholas County last year, will make three trips this spring.

There will be a trip May 22, May 29 and May 30.

We'll have some more information about this later, but there have been some changes made for this year, and the additional runs will give more the opportunity to travel by rail.

And so, for another week, thanks and thank you.

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**Ford's Footnotes**

By Senator Ed Ford  
We have now completed week three of the 1988 General Assembly. Actually, we have met only 13 of the sixty legislative days because of recent holidays.

The Governor's State of the Commonwealth Address floor and passage of legislation to reorganize

**Representative Remarks**

States quo circa were tossed aside by Kentucky Governor Wallace Wilkinson as he appealed to an attentive legislative audience for common sense spending.

It was a familiar message the Governor presented to the joint session of the General Assembly in his traditional State of the Commonwealth address. Many of my colleagues and I felt reinvigorated by the Governor's courageous steps as he promised us a fair budget with necessities not luxuries but hope and opportunity for all.

In his nearly 30-minute speech, the Governor vowed irreplaceable spending with a credit and not a debit. It was a thing of the past for state government. Yet amidst the plain words he used to describe the state's financial condition such as "broken" and "bleeding," he maintained there is no need for a tax increase. He tasked the government to tighten its belt and commit itself to a year of "common sacrifice".

Legislative chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committees have served themselves the nickname "the gloom and doom boys" with their constant predictions of revenue shortfall and fading revenue sources.

To those of us concerned with the fate of the state's current education reform, the Governor appeared to be sharply critical of past policies and attitudes, ordering to reform enacted without adequate financing. But we heard little more of the specifics for plans for education.

He repeated a desire to establish some measure of performance standards for schools and a benchmark program for schools and teachers. But any measure of success or future success for current reform was left undetermined for his comment that



**LETTERS**

Editor:  
Much has been said about the proposed soft drink tax in Kentucky. We would like to comment on a recent action that is underway.

Perhaps the greatest indication of the opposition of the people to the proposed tax was expressed during this past week when the House Speaker withdrew his name as co-sponsor of the Soft Drink Tax Bill.

We would like to compliment the Speaker for his response to the wishes of the people who expressed their opposition to the soft drink tax.

Many other associated legislators have also openly stated their opposition to this punitive and discriminatory tax.

It has been recognized by legislators and citizens alike that the soft drink tax is punitive-in-dis-

crimination and is regressive. The Kentucky Soft Drink Association is an unproved expression of their willingness to pay their fair share of a broad based tax, however, we do not feel that we should be singled out for a punitive tax.

We feel certain that the working men and women-the children-and the senior citizens of Kentucky would join in expressing their appreciation for the Speaker's action this past week.

Happily the few remaining legislators who have not expressed their views will join Speaker Blackford in listening to the folks back home.

Sincerely,  
Roland Vorles, President  
Kentucky Soft Drink Association  
P.O. Box 1842  
Frankfort, Kentucky

neither will I allow us to invest our education dollars in programs that don't show promise for real improvement in the schools".

The Governor promised two new job programs - one to give unemployed Kentuckians job training, the other a customized training program to help small and medium-sized businesses that are expanding operations or introducing new technologies.

A policy speech from the Governor would not complete without mention of a history and his unwavering support for passage during this session of the Legislative Budget Act.

Members of House of Representatives leadership have already given the history legislation priority status by allowing it to be House Bill 1.

I think House members are in agreement that we must wait until next week to get a clear look at the specifics of the Governor's "Kentucky Five" Program.

It is at that time he is required by statute to present General Assembly members with a budget for the biennium. At that time I believe we will see which areas of state government have been redesigned for the future that so many seek.

In addition to the Governor's constant prediction of financial gloom, the Kentucky Supreme Court dealt an expected blow to the state road fund.

The two-year-old deal on an heavy truck tax passed by the General Assembly in 1986 was declared unconstitutional. The fall of the truck tax prevents yet another budget deficit of some \$60 million on the road fund and an alternative must be addressed in this session.

Legislative activities should pick up speed next week as the revenue budget is closely scrutinized and it becomes clear what funds are available and what is needed.

the 1986 statute, to require state agencies to follow the intent of the laws we pass. Thousands of regulations are on the books now, but not all of them carry the message or meaning intended by the General Assembly.

At one time, we enacted legislation giving ourselves the authority to review and strike down any regulation we believed bypassed our intention.

However, a Supreme Court ruling in Brown vs. LRC now limits our committee's power to simply review the regulations but not strike them down.

Under Senate Bill 2, all new regulations will be reviewed by legislative committees when we are not in session. If a committee finds a regulation counter to legislative intent, the committee members can refer that regulation to the full legislature for review during the next regular session. If the regulation is not approved by the General Assembly, it will expire upon adjournment of the legislature and cannot be reworded for two years.

Earlier, he had said he may not be able to trust money in the general fund to balance the budget to complete this fiscal year which ends in June.

With more than \$450 million in shortfalls predicted for the next two years, our chances is not going to be easy. There is no doubt that programs will be cut.

Our annual general fund budget is about \$3 billion dollars, with nearly one-half of that amount going to elementary and secondary education.

The Governor is required by law to have a legislative review of his second budget to see if he has not revealed yet how he will do this or which programs he will cut.

If you wish to contact me you may leave a message on our toll free line. Call 1-800-372-7181.

the original bill in 1986 was designed to give us the better handle on the unchecked proliferation of agency regulations issued each year. However, it created a massive burden of paperwork both for the agencies, for our staffs and for the legislature itself.

Literally thousands of regulations had to be reviewed, reviewed into statute form and reissued and accepted by the legislature if they were to continue in effect.

Senate Bill 2, offered by Sen. Fred Bradley and myself, only affects future regulations but does not have a legislative review of the regulations over the next four years. This bill was passed by the Senate and now goes to the House of Representatives.

The bill's purpose is the same as Miller's Message

By Chip Miller  
Early case of spring fever

What is it about warm weather that makes you want to get outside? What is it about the warm weather that makes you want to put on a pair of shorts and get out the softball glove and bat and head out to the ball field?

The weather turned spring-like warm Wednesday and I couldn't keep myself from continually going to the door and looking out into the sunshine. I felt trapped indoors all day.

Spring fever they call it. It gets the best of us.

It brings out the kid in us all. We want to do nothing but go out to play in the sun. I can remember as a kid this type of warm weather would cause everyone to bring their bikes from out of the garage.

Besides kids longing to play in the early spring weather, how many of us adults have the urge to break out the grill and barbecue tonight?

Of course, you do realize this weather will spoil us. When the cold January and February chills roll back through we'll be going outside without a coat on and most of us will catch a cold.

But who cares for now, right? When I go home tonight, I'll probably go out for a long walk around the farm.

It might be a bit muddy, but the sun's warmth will make up for that. At least I don't have to bundle up and tuck my chin under my coat collar.

This early spring-like weather is good in one sense too; it makes us appreciate the spring when it does arrive months later.

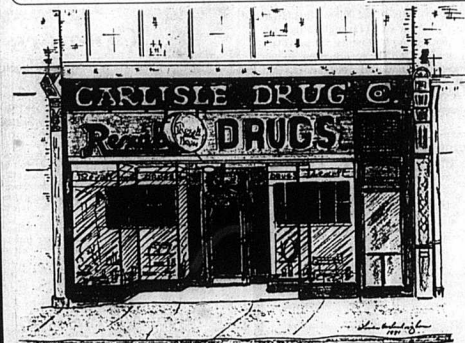
And then maybe we won't let it slip away without taking advantage of it.

**Attention All Nicholas Countians**

**Carlisle Drug**  
Your Hometown Drug Store  
Is Changing To Meet Your Needs

*Serving You, our customers is what we enjoy doing best! We hope you'll visit us again soon and see the changes we've made just for you!*

*G. C. Myers, Rusty Lawrence and the entire Carlisle Drug Staff*



**HELP! HELP!**  
We're asking for your Help. We want you to vote for the new name of our new prescription area.

We know this is one of the most important areas in our store - especially for our customers and we'd like your vote! Above our renovated prescription area, what sign would you most like to see?

**VOTE FOR ONE**

Pharmacy \_\_\_\_\_  
Prescriptions \_\_\_\_\_  
Write in (your choice) \_\_\_\_\_  
Please bring your vote to our store! Thank You.

Thank You.