FOCUS

A Mercury Editorial

Give Pete Worthington an A+ for his attempt.

His efforts before the Kentucky House of Representatives should be applauded.

In an emotionally charged speech before the Kentucky House last Wednesday, Mr. Worthington sought to have the tax rate left at 25 cents per hundred dollars valuation, but, in addition, expand the menu of options available to school districts to help raise funds to provide local support financially for the education reform package.

It appears many members of the House of Representatives, especially those from the large cities, have seen fit to ignore the effort Mr. Worthington was making.

Instead of looking at Mr. Worthington's amendment as a sincere, well thought out approach to working toward a solution for rural counties, it was cast aside.

To make matters worse, the same House of Representatives took two votes on the amendment.

The first time the amendment passed. It appears Mr. Worthington had been able to make legislators understand the need to spread the tax burden across school districts, and not limit the bulk of taxation to property owners.

Every citizen of Kentucky who is the least bit responsible knows there will is a need to raise revenue through taxation to properly finance existing programs and fund additional programs for the state's schools.

Mr. Worthington this newspaper applauds your effort and regrets you were a victim of the political power machine as you worked for the people of your district . . . and all of the people of Kentucky.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

In June, 1990, the National Sheriffs' Association will be fifty years old. They will be so honored by many dignitaries at their annual convention in Denver, Colorado. The Kentucky Sheriffs' Association , a viable member of the NSA, will be a participant in the ceremonies.

Many new programs have been implemented by Kentucky's County Sheriffs through their association with the National Sheriffs Association including Neighborhood Watch programs, the D.A.R.E. Program, and the TRAID Program (protecting the elderly from crime).

Kentucky Sheriffs are also involved in the Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys and Girls Ranch, a non profit summer youth camp for needy children. Kentucky Sheriffs have made it possible for over 9000 needy boys and girls, ages nine thru 13, to have the opportunity to attend a summer camp. The sheriffs provide the transportation to and from the camp for the children and will soon be taking applications from children wishing to attend this summer.

These are some of the reasons we are asking you to "Support Your Local Sheriff". Please contact your local sheriff to get first hand information of his many duties and the programs he may be planning or may have already started in his county.

If I can be of any service to you, please give me a call on any matters concerning the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association or the Boys and Girls Ranch at (502) 362-8660.

Sincerely,
Ray H. Stoess
Executive Director

Editor:

I am a minister for the Church of Christ in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. On Monday March 12th, I came to Carlisle to join a group of Christians who were doorknocking to inform the citizens there about the revival services being held that week at the Carlisle Church of Christ where Brother George Rogers serves as the minister.

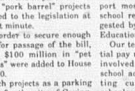
As I went about from door to door inviting people to come, I could not help but notice just how pleasant and friendly everyone was as they greeted me at their door. I have gone doorknocking before in other communities where this was not the case.

I just wanted to write you and let the people of Carlisle know how much I appreciated their pleasantness. Your community is indeed quite fortunate to be comprised of such friendly people.

Sincerely,
Kevin L. Jenkins,
Minister
Mt. Sterling, Church of Christ

Bond's Broadcast

By Hank Bond



It is Rude, Crude and Socially Unacceptable

This isn't something you'd probably ever read about in the Lexington paper or on the Associated Press wire, but it is certainly something which has drawn my attention.

Over the past few weeks we have made a practice at our house to watch Kentucky Educational Television's coverage of the Kentucky General Assembly — along with C-Span's coverage of certain meetings within the US House of Representatives and US Senate.

It is incomprehensible to me how in the world anything ever gets done. Maybe that's why legislators have to go back and fix things every two years in Kentucky.

The whole time someone is up speaking there is more noise in the chamber than there is at a UK basketball game when the Wildcats beat LSU with a shot at the buzzer.

Not only is there a lot of talking and laughing (which would lead one to believe there's not much attention being paid) but the milling around by members — and others — just adds to the distractions.

If our school children acted like this as often as our elected officials do, we would certainly have detention halls full to capacity every day.

Last Wednesday night when the Kentucky House of Representatives addressed House Bill 940, which is the Education Reform Bill, this activity was apparent to the maximum.

Donald Blandford, who's job it is to keep it all under control, is just as bad. Besides answering the phone on several occasions during this emotional series of debates he talked to people who would come to the chair and certainly had to miss what was going on some of the time.

Then, when a floor vote was called for (voice vote - not roll call) on more than one occasion he ruled the amendment failed when the audience certainly would have believed it had passed. This voice vote stuff — especially when all of this has been put on the line to benefit education — should not be part of the process.

It was impossible to know how legislators voted. Why, oh why, should every legislator be accountable to voters for every vote taken?

This only makes sense to me.

A word on politicking . . .

This one - on - one stuff should be handled during the non-session hours. Legislators running from table to table, seat to seat, to address individual issues shouldn't go on.

It is simply a matter of being inconsiderate. No one would allow their children to do that at home during a very important family meeting. No teacher would allow this to go on in the classroom.

So, why, I ask you Kentucky legislators, should we allow this to go on when you hold the fate of the people of Kentucky in your hands for so many issues?

This is not only the case in Kentucky. By watching the US Congress a few times; it isn't uncommon to see someone get up to speak and have no one in the room paying any attention.

Since television is now being used to bring us these historic events possibly our legislators should have a little better manners.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

INCUMBENT - State Representative

Arnold seeking ninth term

By Josh Shepherd
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

With 16 years in office already to his credit incumbent Adrian Arnold is seeking his ninth term as Representative of the 74th district.

Arnold, chairperson of the house committee on counties, said he feels representing the district is never accomplished in two years. It is an ongoing process, he said, in which experience is an advantage in getting legislation passed and special projects started in the district.

However much of the duties as a legislator often provide for an official to take a stand on issues that reflect the interests of his constituents. Environmental and agricultural issues are among the most important concerns Arnold has for the district and for the state at large.

"I feel we have, in the past session, not passed enough legislation to protect the environment. The legislature has made some progress but more attention needs to be brought to maintain and improve the quality of our water and air," Arnold said.

Arnold voted against House Bill 758 which would limit state environmental regulations to be no more stringent than federal regulations, but his no vote was not enough to keep the bill from passing through the House of Representatives. But he also has given his support to legislation which would give more local control over waste management, Arnold said.

"I don't want Kentucky to become a dumping ground for out-of-state garbage," he said.

Agriculture, Arnold said, is a $3 billion industry for Kentucky and he intends to continue to promote the industry in the house. Measures, he said, must be taken to keep farmers on farms and develop diverse crops for farmers who are interested in other crops.

"Tobacco is this district's number one crop and I intend to continue to promote and protect the industry," Arnold said.

However, he has also introduced a bill which would provide loans to farmers interested in diversifying to other crop alternatives, he said, and possibly locate and establish processing plants in the district.

"I don't believe in forcing alternative crops on farmers who don't want them, but I also want to provide available means for a farmer to explore other alternatives to help support their income from tobacco," Arnold said.

However, more domestic concerns have played an important part in his years of service to the district.

He said he has worked with county officials in every part of the district to work on extending water lines to outlying rural areas of the district. Most recently, he has played a part in obtaining a community development block grant that has helped the Sharpsburg Water District extend water lines to areas of Bath County and Nicholas, he said.

"Over the past year I have worked with all three counties on several water projects and though they haven't reached all the places I want, they all have been to an extent, successful," Arnold said.

Arnold feels the strong agricultural environment in the district contributes to the overall economic development of the area, but he said he feels he has spent too much time in the past working to get new industry to settle in the district. Equally important is for a representative to work with existing industries and have them stay in the area, he said.

"I feel I have been negligent in that area. Its nice to have new industry locate in the district, but if another goes then there is no movement, no progression," Arnold said.

He also wants to continue efforts to help small businesses remain solvent and prosperous. The projections for the coming decade indicate that 80 percent of new jobs will come from small businesses, he said, so economic growth depends a lot on the continued success of the small business. Both industry and small business must be maintained, he said.

Arnold said he wants to explore ways of bringing the cost of medical insurance and health costs down and improve the quality of life for the growing population of senior citizens in the district by supporting law enforcement measures to keep crime from rising in the district, he said.

"I just feel that being one of the few farmers in the legislature for a primarily agricultural oriented district, combined with my experience and the contacts and friends I have made in Frankfort and chairing the Counties Committee, I have an advantage in representing this district. These next few years will be trying times for the state and legislative experience and knowledge is very important," Arnold concluded.

Adrian Arnold

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Carlisle Mercury
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CHALLENGER - State Representative

Hogge making second attempt at state house

By Josh Shepherd
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

The first time Thomas Hogge ran for office he was narrowly defeated by incumbent Adrian Arnold by about 120 votes, but he has not given up his aspirations of running again and this time, he faces Arnold alone.

Hogge's only political experience is his previous race against Arnold, but he feels the lack of experience is an advantage to his campaign, this time.

"I am not a professional politician, but then I think people are looking for someone with a knowledge of the community. Everyone has to start somewhere . . . but considering the founding fathers themselves were freshman politicians with ideas that worked," Hogge said.

With experience as a businessman, farmer and a family history deeply linked in education, Hogge feels his personal experience with the people in Bath, Montgomery, and Nicholas counties give him an insight to the problems and issues most important to the people in the 74th district.

Though the district is made up of rural farm counties with a part of Montgomery County acting as a business hub for county commuters, Hogge feels there is room for development.

However, in agriculture, Hogge feels many in Frankfort have the wrong attitude.

Some but not all farmers need to diversify, Hogge said, but there is nothing that can really replace tobacco as a major crop in the area.

"I don't feel the state supports tobacco as strong as it should. I've been a tobacco farmer and I would like to see

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GENERAL NEWS

Arnold votes no; would again

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ties (those in your district), but I'm not down here just for that.

"As committee chairman you can help push good legislation and try to stop bad legislation."

Although House Bill 940 has been approved and passed on to the Senate for consideration, Arnold maintains the general feeling he has been able to obtain from voters in his district is the bill was too complex and passed too quickly.

"It was too much, too soon," Arnold said in reviewing his vote.

"More than 80 percent of the people I have talked to within my district have been opposed to passing the reform bill in this manner.

"I believe I have to vote with the will of my constituents.

"At the beginning of the 1990 session there was an agreement to have a special session to consider and adopt the Education Reform Package.

"A special session would have allowed time for all the interested parties to participate and debate the issues involved and to understand the long-range impact of the legislation.

"Later in the session, it was decided that we would have to consider the Education Reform Package during the regular session.

"This created a tremendous workload and did not allow the time necessary for all interested parties to become involved.

"House Bill 940 was introduced only three weeks before the end of the session. Three weeks is not enough time to formulate a plan to completely restructure the state's educational system and adopt new taxes to pay for it.

"Many who contacted me during the session said there was too little time for input from the public and education professionals, and others expressed concern about the $1.2 billion in new taxes that would be adopted to pay for school reform.

"The tax measures included in HB 940 were of particular concern to me, since rural districts like those in our area of Kentucky would see substantial tax increases under HB 940.

"While we are all well aware that the massive school reform program will require more revenues, it is always important to carefully weigh the impact of new taxes.

"Unfortunately, there simply has not been enough time to study the effects of the proposed tax plan on the economy of our district."

Arnold supported an amendment introduced by House Speaker Pro Tem Pete Worthington (D-Ewing) to maintain the state tax rate at 25 cents per $100 valuation.

"I worked hard to support and help Pete's amendment," Arnold said of the amendment which was passed, then recalled and defeated.

"I believe it was good to limit the amount, and it was unfortunate the amendment was defeated."

Again, Arnold continued, it was a matter of trying to do too much, in too short of a time frame.

"Finally, I voted against House Bill 940 in part because of the "pork barrel" projects attached to the legislation at the last minute.

"In order to secure enough votes for passage of the bill, nearly $100 million in "pet projects" were added to House Bill 940.

"Such projects as a parking garage for the city of Covington ($3 million), a civic center for Murray ($10 million) and tourist developments in Benham/Lynch ($765,000) have no place in the education bill, and I could not support the "Pork" associated with House Bill 940.

"I want to point out I do support most of the ambitious school reform proposals suggested by the Task Force on Education Reform.

Our teachers need substantial pay raises, and should be involved with parents and school administrators in setting curriculum at their schools.

"Measures to curtail the ha school board districts, an kindergartn school studen panded.

"I fully int these and oth reforms are a school restru which is only "The real turing our sy schools will t the next few come any an the citizens of very importa

Bill could help

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gin in 1992.

Construction is scheduled for 1994.

"We're hoping if the legislation passes, the project will be locked in and become reality," Arnold said. He pointed to the importance of local commuter travel, as well as the advantages in economic development, if the narrow section of US 68 is improved.

"I worked hard to have this project included in the 1988 six year plan and it has been left in the plan.

"However," Arnold said, "In the original plan the redesign was planned for 1991 and it has been moved to 1992.

"We are making attempt to have the Department of Transportation stick to the plan for at least two years.

"Once people begin to expect a project, maybe this will help get them done, and not have the dates shifted.

"The work on the highway is needed badly, and I will vote to help lock it in, if I can," he concluded.

Worthington claims vote was taken in "Blind Faith" on education bill

By Hank Bond
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

FRANKFORT, March 25, — When it comes to the Kentuckians' vote on the Education Reform Bill, Pete Worthington summed up the vote this way. "We voted in blind faith."

Worthington who is a state representative from Ewing and speaker pro tem of the House said he felt the marathon session, March 21, may have forced things to go a little quickly.

Standing with others in the house, Worthington has said on more than one occasion he believes the education issue should be handled in the legislative session.

"Back in January relations with the governor weren't very good," Worthington said of the reform house bill.

"The governor took the position we would have to deal with taxes now or never and thus we had to address the education issue as well.

"Most people are positive about paying more taxes," Worthington said, "But, they have to be tied to education."

Although there were several changes in the original house bill, Worthington said on the House Floor, "I will vote for the children of Kentucky" as he cast his vote in favor of the heavily amended legislation.

Worthington offered an amendment which would have left the state tax rate at 25 cents per hundred, which was passed. After a hastily called break in the three and a half hour session, March 21, the amendment was recalled and defeated.

There has been a great deal of discussion about the way Speaker of the House Don Blandford, who is in his third term of speaker, handled the session dealing with the house bill.

Many republicans and members of Blandford's democratic party, have said they feel Blandford handled the votes in a heavy handed way.

"Some members didn't have a chance to get amendments heard in education committee," Worthington said, "But when the issue came to the floor everyone had a chance."

Along with the battle wages on the 40 or so amendments offered on the floor, there was a great deal of political vote exchanging apparent during the process.

"Some call that pork barreling," Worthington said. "It's part of the process."

In general, Worthington said the session has been tough.

"We've had an awful lot of work to do in a short time. It's hard on the members of the house and senate . . . it's hard on families.

"We hope to be able to finish things up on Thursday and Friday of this week," he said. Friday is the last scheduled day of the session, besides a two day session set-aside for veto overrides.

NORTHFIELD OIL DRIVERS RECEIVE SAFE DRIVING PINS

At the annual safety meeting at Biancke's, hosted by USF & G Insurance and Smith Insurors on Thursday, March 1.

Gary White and Don Talbert, of USF & G Insurance gave a presentation on Truck Safety. Joe Craig Smith of Smith Insurors presented driver cards and pins representing the number of years each driver has completed without a serious accident.

Those employees of Northfield Oil Company receiving safe driving awards were L to R: **Don Blair, 20 Years, John L. Williams, 12 Years, Marty Ishmael, 4 Years and Jack Ross, 21 years. Also pictured Is Joe Barnes, Company Manager.**

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