Editorials

Economic Decline

We have not read the Rand report which says that the economic decline of the St. Louis city area was fostered by policies of the federal government. This is a fact that really needs no argument to prove.

What does distress us is the negative approach to the findings of the report by Mayor John Poelker and other civic leaders. This is an indication of what is wrong with our city. Our leaders are so intent upon saving the city using the old methods, that they cannot possibly see that perhaps something new needs to be tried.

The mayor doesn't need to tell us that we are not losing jobs in the city when there is currently a fight to save the Aviation Systems Command and its nearly 4,000 jobs. The approach the leaders are taking in that fight is the right one. We would like to keep AVSCOM in the city but if the Army must relocate it, then we would like to keep it in the area.

If we could adopt this kind of an approach for the entire metro-area, then things like the new airport, the transit system, and all area-wide problems could be solved in a manner beneficial to all. We understand the Rand Corp. recommended that the city should become another suburb.

The approach has worked pretty well for Los Angeles which has become the nation's foremost "motor" city. We wouldn't like to see our area develop without a rapid mass transit system, though. The Los Angeles area is known as "Seven suburbs in search of a city." Maybe St. Louis could be one-O- Two or whatever the latest number is.

End Sunday Closing

The General Assembly is trying to find out what to do about the State's Sunday Blue Laws. Under this ridiculous statute some of the things you really could do without you can buy on Sunday. On the other hand, there are dozens of items that you might really need on Sunday that you can't buy.

Last week, a committee of the assembly was holding meetings in St. Louis. Similar hearings were being conducted in Kansas City and St. Joe.

The whole legislative movement (Blue Laws) is a waste of time. The state has no business imposing a religious taboo upon all of us for an individual act.

What the state should do is repeal the Sunday Closing Law.

Slacog Bogged Down

The so-called "umbrella agency" which was proposed several weeks ago by a team led by Supervisor Lawrence Roos has run into strong opposition. The proposed agency is known as SLACOG -- St. Louis Area Council of Governments.

Governor Bond of Missouri and Governor Walker of Illinois set up a study group to propose a plan for area-wide government. What this group did was propose almost exactly the same sort of setup we now have with the Bi-State Development Agency. The only difference is in the method of selecting the governing representatives.

Certain politicians have been critical of the Board of Commissioners of the present Bi-State Development Agency because they said, the members are appointed by the governors of the two states. These politicians say this setup does not give the area representative government because these commissioners are not elected to any office.

Instead SLACOG will have 28 representatives, half from each state. All of these, except for three civilian members from each state, will be elected officials of some kind. The theory here is that if the representative doesn't vote right, he's likely to lose his job in the next election. Take the case of a Mayor James Eagan from florissant, for instance. He is so radical that it could be predicted that he would upset thousands of people in the area. But we venture to say that the voters of his city would keep re-electing him and he would retain his seat on SLACOG.

Mine Eyes Have Seen

by James (Jim) Carrington
State Representative 67th District

On Saturday it was a distinct honor for me to be invited to participate in Senator Franklin Payne's panel hearing on community involvement. There were so many community leaders there expressing some really relevant, down-to-earth ideas on improvement of life in the inner city. When all of these people get their heads, hearts and hands together and begin working for St. Louis, something great is surely going to come of it. Congratulations to Sen. Payne for a well-organized, informative hearing!

Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Naomi Ricketts and the generosity of Mr. Wilbert Williamson the Wellston Senior Citizens rummage sale was a huge success. It takes all of us working together to get things done. Roses to Mrs. Ricketts and Mr. Williamson!

Sunday, approximately 125 parents and children took a 100-mile trip around Missouri and ended up picnicking at the home of Mrs. Alice Steele, Director of the Alberta Hms. 5200 Waterman. Many thanks to Mrs. Steele for her gracious hospitality!

Finally, a word about our Family of the Year contest. We believe that the family is very important to the stability of the neighborhood and we, therefore, hope to honor our six participating families on Dec. 9. We wish to include the name of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bond of Hillsdale among our contestants, all of whom are working very hard to make this event a huge success.

It takes so many things to keep people interested, involved, and willing to participate in community development. That is one of the goals of the 67th District Neighborhood Council and I, as your state representative, will do everything in my power to get each of you involved as much as you can and want to be.

Awakened

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was an alarm clock that was not set to go off. The alarm clock was also reported stolen shortly before Allen was disrupted in his nap.

Patrolmen James Arnold and Barry LaLumandier, of the Third District, took Allen to the station where the items he was using were identified as stolen from his home at 1908 Louisiana avenue, by Roland Herrmann, 32.

Police may have discovered what caused Allen to fall asleep after allegedly stealing the sleeping bag and clock. He had in his possession a vial that contained 14 tablets of potent drugs. He was held on charges of burglary, stealing and inviolation of Missouri's Controlled Substance Law.

Police were called to 5476 Wren avenue when two men were seen by residents fighting in a truck that had been parked near their homes, about 1:45 a.m. last Thursday.

Patrolmen Michael Watts and Michael Roe of the Sixth District, reported that they learned that the two men were fighting over the contends of the ten-ton refrigerated truck, $8,711 worth of stolen beef, The officers said Michael Nunn 21, of 4420 Elmbank, was sitting in the cab of the truck rummaging through the glove compartment when they arrived. As the officers approached the truck to talk with him, Nunn jumped out and fled into a house at 5476 Wren avenue. The officers followed and arrested Nunn in the kitchen of the house.

Another suspect who was on the truck, Calvin Bell, 26, of 4700 Newberry Terrace, jumped off and fled south through an alley.

The house in which Nunn was arrested is occupied by Bell's sister, Ms Minnie French, who was sleeping upstairs at the time of the visit by police. The officers searched the house and found packages of frozen meat in various places. They recovered the balance of the $8,711 in stolen meat in the rear yard of the home, police said.

The truck was stolen from a parking lot of the Holiday Inn, 4545 N. Lindbergh Blvd. The driver, Randy Battles, 25, of Arlington, Texas, was asleep in the hotel at the time of the theft. The truck and the meat are owned by the Delly-Foods Co., Arlington, Texas.

The F.B.I. was called in on the search for the stolen truck and meat because of the theft from interstate shipment. The arrested subjects face federal charges.

Virgil White, 23, of 3206 Greer avenue, a manager at the Greyhound Bus Terminal, 807 North Broadway, luckily got back items that were stolen from his office last week-