

Senate Race

(Cont. from front)

winning a special election to fill the Senate seat in 1994.

During several years out of office beginning in the mid-1980s, Robinson was hired of \$1 a year as a cloakroom attendant for the House. Holding the archaic patronage position allowed Robinson to continue adding years of service to his retirement benefits.

Robinson said he advised legislators during those years.

Robinson died several accomplishments in his 20 years in office, such as getting more pay for jurors and pushing to have state deposits kept in interest-bearing accounts. Much of what he got done came through amendments to other lawmakers' bills, he said.

Robinson said his greatest accomplishment as a legislator came this year, when he sponsored a measure that calls for posting the Ten Commandments in public schools. "The Ten Commandments are something...I think it puts respect when people see them posted," Robinson said.

But even on that matter Robinson came under fire because he did not want to mention Jews in the legislation.

"I think we have done the Christians and the Christian history of this nation a terrible injustice," Robinson told the Senate, after it agreed to mention Jews in the legislation.

Robinson was the subject of several editorial statewide because of his remarks on the Senate floor.

A federal judge later ruled against the legislation and it is now tied up in court.

Recently the Senator has also come under fire for his yes vote that would allow liquor by the drink in areas of the state where it is now prohibited.

Robinson said Wednesday that he was not necessarily voting for the measure to allow liquor by the drink

but to allow local people to have the say when it comes to such matters.

"I simply will never vote against local control," Robinson said.

Robinson was also chairman of

the committee that proposed legislation for the consolidation of counties. Robinson maintained that he was for the measure because it was not mandatory and because no county would have to participate if they did not so desire.

The consolidation of counties measure died in a Senate committee. As for Kuhl, he worked in banking for 31 years before retiring in June 1999 as president of National City Bank in London.

A former teacher and coach, Kuhl has been involved in a number of civic, charitable and development activities in the area, including work to improve education and the economy. "I've been at the forefront of a lot of development," he said.

Kuhl said that, if he wins, his top priorities would be more funding for education, economic development and health care improvements, including holding down costs for older people.

Kuhl said he also wants to improve the image of politicians. Too many have abused their authority, discouraging voters, he said.

"People in the state do not trust our politicians," he said. "We've got to change that."

The National Rifle Association and The Fraternal Order of Police have endorsed Robinson.

Officials in McKee also presented him the key to their city last week.

But, an editorial in the *Herald-Leader* on April 23rd, said Robinson was the worst legislator of 2000.

And, Rockcastle Judge Executive Buzz Carloftis did not support Robinson.

Editors Note: Much of the information contained in the above story came from a *Lexington Herald-Leader* story written by Bill Estep.

The following is a statement released by Carloftis on Tuesday.

Carloftis has provided *The Signal* with documentation to back up

his remarks.

Following Carloftis' remarks is a written response from Robinson.

Carloftis' comments

Saying he is obligated to speak out - regardless of politics - when his personal core beliefs, values and principles are under fire, Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis, a Republican, today vigorously denounced the record of State Senator Albert Robinson who is up for re-election in Knox, Laurel, Jackson and Rockcastle counties.

"While it pains me to speak out, I cannot uphold, endorse, defend or support Robinson's actions when I am convinced they are detrimental to our community - and I know that people did not elect me to this office to support anyone whose actions I believe to be contrary to our county's best interests - regardless of politics. My conscience will not allow me to stay silent on the following issues."

First, Albert Robinson went completely against the wishes of our county's citizens when he voted in favor of county consolidation and merger in his senate committee," Carloftis said. "Proponents of combining counties say it will be more efficient. Robinson wants us to believe on the one hand that he is against bigger government, but the result of his vote for consolidation of counties will mean that local governments will be much bigger. I have never known of any government getting bigger and more efficient at the same time," Carloftis stated.

The judge went on to say that mergers will mean that a new and distant county seat will be named; citizens will be inconvenienced with long travel to their new county offices; people will be much more separated from their local government; the average citizen's voice will be greatly diminished in local affairs; and consolidation will be destructive to what is now the grass roots of Kentucky's government.

"Albert Robinson said that he 'compromised' on the legislation, making it 'permissive.' I don't think it is stretching the point to say that what the state 'permits' today generally becomes absolutely required tomorrow," Carloftis said. "Robinson's vote for county consolidation simply allows the door to swing open for something we should not be supporting. His so-called 'compromise' only compromises our county's and others' futures. If you think this won't have far-reaching consequences for our local communities, think again. Even local newspapers will be adversely affected," the judge said.

"The real prize sought by those in favor of county consolidation is not efficiency. On the contrary, it is the consolidation of the big politician's power."

With the merger of every five, six or seven counties, those politicians will have quickly eliminated numerous local governments with which they must now work and will have created one, big local government separated from the people. This would cut down on, diversified community reviews and assemble power into the hands of a few," Carloftis said. "Such actions are wrong for our community and our democracy. Local government has a much larger responsibility to the public: Its most important role is to allow the citizen a larger voice in the public affairs."

"Secondly, Albert Robinson lobbied for and sponsored an amendment that could double legislators' pensions at taxpayers' expenses. Having successfully done that, he then wanted the cost-of-living increase in retirement benefits retroactive to 1982. According to reports, he then admitted in a letter to the attorney general that it was not (his) intent to make the provision so visible." In other words, he wanted to hide the action. I find this amazing, especially since our decisions on the fiscal court are heavily scrutinized, which is exactly the way it should be. After all, this is the people's money," Carloftis said.

"Thirdly, Robinson diverted \$300,000 of our taxpayers' road money to the City of London, which in turn built streets and constructed a business subdivision - thereby greatly increasing the property's value - on private property that is for sale by Albert Robinson. We in Rockcastle County do not believe this is what should be done with our money. For a legislator to divert public funding onto private property for what can be his future personal gain is highly unethical in the average citizen's view. This is outrageous and, in a single word, wrong. This type of action hurts and greatly diminishes the public's confidence placed in all of us who are officials. No wonder people become apathetic about their public business which, in turn, creates an environment for things like this to happen. Rockcastle Counties aspire to a higher expectation of their public officials. For all our sakes, we hope those in Jackson, Knox and Laurel counties also hold their officials to a high standard," said Carloftis.

"Fourthly, Robinson voted in favor of SB 247, without consulting with the people. This bill greatly expands the possible sale of alcohol throughout our communities."

"Finally, but not least - I am deeply and personally disturbed by Robinson's attempt to erase the history and contributions of a group with whom he disagrees," Carloftis said. "After reading the accounts of his statements regarding Jews, it was almost as though I had picked up news from Germany of the 1930s. This is frightening. After all, the first person to spot Nazi on Christopher Columbus' voyage in 1942 was a Jew," Judge Carloftis said. "Robinson's views toward any group with whom he disagrees does not give him the right to re-write history, and we in his senatorial district should not give him a continued license to make such public statements on our behalf. They are exclusionary in tone and are completely against the great historical foundations of Abraham Lincoln's 'Republican Party,' Carloftis said.

"I am a Republican who believes that Robinson's record and actions do not reflect the values of our community, and I further believe that his actions are not in line with our Republican Party's high ideals of superior government and inclusion of all people. I am puzzled by those among us who endorse his actions. I mean, after all, if you hitch a ride in another man's car, you must be in support of the direction in which he is driving you. This is one Republican official who is not."

"Albert Robinson is the only Republican candidate I cannot support."

Robinson's response

State Senator Albert Robinson expressed his shock and dismay at the illegal and untrue attacks on his record by Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis today. "It is disappointing that Mr. Carloftis has come out and told the truths he has about my record and done so in an illegal fashion by using taxpayer-funded equipment that the people of Rockcastle County fund with their tax dollars, for campaign purposes."

According to a news release from Robinson's office, the attacks on Robinson's record was sent out from the County Judge-Executive's Office which he says is a clear and illegal violation of state law. "I cannot believe that a county official would use their office for submitting a blatantly false statement such as Mr. Carloftis has released. It is illegal

and it's wrong," said Robinson.

In his release, Robinson said Carloftis, who was not registered Republican until a few years ago and comes from a long-time Democratic family, sent a statement to local papers distorting Robinson's record and making untrue statements about Robinson's actions in the General Assembly. "As I've said from the start of my campaign, the Democrats are mad and they are going to do and say anything to win and Mr. Carloftis' charges are proof of that," said Robinson.

Robinson added that he "was also shocked at the insults Carloftis lodged against Congressman Hal Rogers who is actively supporting my campaign. I am proud of the work I do with Congressman Rogers and I'm proud to be riding with him down this road" as Mr. Carloftis alluded to and for him to insult our Congressman is an affront to every one of Rockcastle County.

"But," he noted, "the Lexington Herald-Leader and other liberal groups and organization are opposed to me because of my support for posting the Ten Commandments and my opposition to same-sex marriages and other positions that liberals support so I'm not surprised at this attack on me and my record of service to the people of my district."

Editors Note: Judge Carloftis did not mention Congressman Harold Rogers' name in his remarks concerning Robinson's record.

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