



**Across Mid-America**

**Chance Meeting** A flock of blackbirds heads south on the annual migration to warmer Tropic. (Staff photo by George Otton)

## Bill Would Ban Utility Charges For Lobbying and Advertising

By Laura Scott  
Kansas City

**TOPICS**—Public utilities in Kansas would be prohibited from charging customers for lobbying, advertising, rate increase requests or other executive activities under a bill recommended Friday over the fastest objections of legislators and electric company spokesmen.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. Arnold Berman, D-Lawrence, a frequent critic of public utilities, reflects the committee's efforts to strip utilities of their political and advertising activities.

The bill would prohibit utilities from including in their rate bases and thus charging customers the costs of:

- Newspaper, radio, television or outdoor sign advertising.
- Entertainment or lobbying, including dues to a private club and of meals or beverages to anyone other than an employee of the company.

The Electric Companies Association of Kansas, which represents major electric companies in the state, vigorously opposed the proposal.

Association Director Wayne Zimmerman said the proposal would hamstring utilities in serving customers. He argued the prohibition on executive salaries, saving the companies had in pay, good salaries to attract good management, and other benefits would be "the best innovative means available."

## Governor Bids Off Football Duties

**TOPICS** (AP)—The football game today between the University of Kansas and Kansas State University has been dubbed facetiously the "Crummy Game of the Week" by a syndicated newspaper columnist as an ode to Gov. Robert Bennett, who has lost the chief executive's job to the state's chief executive.

Bennett will meet Gov. Stanley Smith to present the Governor's Trophy to the winning team.

Plans were made some time ago for the game to be in Flagstaff, Ariz. This weekend for games needed at the college's daughter schools, the governor says.

KU, seventh in the Big 8 Conference last year, the game will not be held until next year, K-State, last in the Big 8, has more one game and last year. That makes today's contest a showdown for nothing more than state bragging rights.

## Revenue Upheaval Agency Morale Shaken

**JEFFERSON CITY** (AP)—Morale in the Missouri Revenue Department probably has been affected by the recent firing of the director and three top employees and the prediction by a top official, acting director Richard Judd said Friday.

In September, Gov. Joseph Tsongas fired Director James LaPage after LaPage refused Tsongas's order to remove four members of the department's special investigative unit.

On Tuesday, Judd fired three top administrative employees on orders from Tsongas's chief of staff, Gerald Orin.

And Orin has predicted more dismissals in the department as Tsongas moves to put his bylaws in the job now held by people hired in the administration of his Republican predecessor, Christopher Bond.

The agency is not covered by the state merit system.

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## \$20,000 Is Offered for Clues In Probe of Latest Car Bombing

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—Authorities asked several south St. Louis County expert choppers for help Friday in solving two recent car bombings that have claimed the lives of a man and a woman.

The county board of Police Commissioners offered a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible.

The latest of the two victims, 20-year-old Miss Shirley Marie Flynn, was killed Thursday when a high explosive charge went off under the front seat of her car as she left her home for work.

"We are in desperate need of any information that would shed light on the bombing," said Capt. E.J. Hanneke of the St. Louis County Police Bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department.

The first bomb, apparently made up of only one stick of dynamite, damaged the car of Ronald T. Barghus on Oct. 7. It left Barghus injured. A second, more powerful car bomb killed Robert C. Jackson on Oct. 18.

Authorities said the reward from Thursday's bombing had been sent to Washington for analysis.

Meanwhile, residents of the area have expressed fear because of the apparently random selection of the victims. Police patrols have been beefed up and days off and recreation days for homicide officers have been canceled, officials said.

Police said they tend to believe that the bombings are the work of one individual person. They do not believe they were the work of a professional. "The bomber does, however, know enough about explosives and electricity to keep from blowing himself up," police said.

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**SLACKS TO GO**

Ed Schach, lobbyist for Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., defended Bell's advertising costs as good ways to promote products and inform customers. He said surveys showed that telephone company customers had good management, and that direct advertising was their most direct link with the company.

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