

## ADDRESS

HON. BERT T. COMBS

Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Highways are an essential weapon in the competition between the states for good will, for new industry and for tourists.

Kentucky recognizes that its magnificent scenery in the mountains and in the Blue Grass can not be enjoyed by out-of-state motorists unless they first can enjoy comfortable, convenient travel to those areas.

We recognize that our sites for new industrial plants, with their ample supplies of water, coal, timber and manpower, will remain undeveloped unless we have good roads on which to haul in raw materials and haul out the finished products.

We know, too, that the public relations value of splendid highways is beyond calculation. Visitors are prone to judge a state and its progressiveness by the quality of its roads, just as we are prone to judge a man by the neatness of his appearance.

Kentucky has a lot to sell—to the family seeking an attractive park in which to spend a vacation, to the industrialist desiring an attractive location for his new plant, to the millions of people needing our manufactured goods and agricultural product.

To do a better job of selling, we must dress up our display windows. Highways—good highways—are definitely a part of our display windows. They attract customers to our wares, and they advertise the fact that Kentucky is a good place in which to do business.

In recognition of the importance of good highways to a state's prosperity, we are now in the midst of the greatest road-building program in Kentucky's history.

We are not content with the interstate super-highways, with their four lanes and six lanes, which will traverse the state. We are building good roads into relatively undeveloped regions, such as Eastern Kentucky, so that all sections of our state can be opened up to commerce and industrial development.

You are familiar with the Eastern Kentucky Highway, which we now are designing. We expect to start construction this summer. It will extend for 200 miles into a region which has a rich potential for development.

But we shall not stop there. We have plans for a similar highway into another area whose riches have not yet been fully tapped.

The construction of more and better highways is part of an over-all program for the development of Kentucky. This program is unprecedented in magnitude and scope. Every agency and resources of the state government is being utilized and their efforts are being correlated with private business and the state's industrial, agricultural and civic organizations.

The state government is pouring millions of dollars into the undertaking. The investment, we believe, eventually will prove to be only a fraction of the benefits which Kentucky and its people will receive in new wealth and in job opportunities.

The time has passed when one community alone can go out and successfully solicit new business. The competition for industrial plants is so keen that the communities of the state must join their forces and be assisted by the state government itself.

It is not unusual for the Governor and other officials of a state to lead expeditions into other states in quest of industrial plants. This has become a necessity and Lt. Governor Wilson Wyatt and I are doing our part of it.

A substantial portion of the state government's budget for the next two years makes provision for financing operations along this line.

We even have included several hundred thousand dollars for advertising Kentucky's industrial and recreational virtues in national magazines and out of state metropolitan newspapers.

Kentucky is entering upon the most intensive era of development and promotion in its history. In this we are entering into partnership with the local communities and with our leaders in business, labor and agriculture.

Every facet of state government operation, which can help us develop our potential for industry and agriculture, is being applied to that purpose.

For example, in expanding our state parks system, we are not doing that merely for the pleasure of Kentuckians. We figure that attractive parks, well managed with comfortable accommodations will bring in thousands of additional tourists who will put fresh money into circulation in Kentucky.

We intend to spend a million dollars for an agricultural research center at the University of Kentucky. This center will help our farmers produce more and better crops, adding to Kentucky's wealth.

We have budgeted a million dollars to finance the construction of a series of small lakes throughout Kentucky. These will improve the economy of every section in which a lake is located.

These projects are just small parts of an over-all pattern, but when all the parts are fitted together they make up a dramatic program for Kentucky's welfare.

On a broader scale, we have the Industrial Development Authority and hope to have a Kentucky Business Development Corporation.

The Development Authority will lend money to the local government agencies for building industrial plants and establishing industrial sub-divisions. The Business Development Corporation will lend private capital for use in establishing new business firms and expanding existing businesses.

Existing state agencies are being expanded to lend a hand in the development program. In the Department of Economic Development we have created two new divisions which will help local communities promote and develop new industries. In the Department of Public Relations, we have set up two new divisions to advertise Kentucky's industrial and recreational advantages in order to attract new industries and more tourists.

The name of the Eastern Kentucky Planning Commission is significantly being changed to the Eastern Kentucky *Development* Commission. The Commission, after a careful study of the needs and the resources of Eastern Kentucky, has prepared a far reaching program which embraces detailed plans for modern highways, housing developments, shopping centers, tourist facilities, industrial plant locations, at least three airports, forestry development and utilization, water control and usage, and community development.

The agencies of state government will be used in putting this program into effect.

You have read, of course, about the billion dollar budget now before the Legislature. All of that money, to be spent during the next two years, will directly or indirectly contribute to the development of Kentucky. This includes higher salaries for our school teachers, more classrooms, better hospitals, greater benefits for the needy, aged and other recipients of public assistance.

You can readily appreciate why improvements in these categories are necessary if Kentucky is to take full advantage of the opportunities awaiting it.

Reforms in government also have an important role. They will increase the efficiency of our government service and result in substantial savings to our citizens. Both of these are inducements to people who contemplate setting up businesses and making their homes in Kentucky.

An outstanding example of this reform is the merit system for state employees. It will guarantee, by legislative enactment, security to the people holding state jobs. The system will mean less turnover in employment, which heretofore has

been costly to the state. It will encourage more people to make a career in state government.

To remove roadblocks in the way of progress, we are proposing a limited revision of our State Constitution. The Constitution is 68 years old and was adopted in the horse and buggy days. Many of its restrictions provide obstacles to progress in this age of atomic energy.

Our program for Kentucky's development is an ambitious one. It represents the best thinking not only of your state government officials, but the thinking of leaders in fields outside government. It is a program designed to take advantage of the ambitious possibilities of the new decade.

To be successful, it requires the cooperation of all Kentuckians.