



The Legislature surprised many of us with an early Easter present. They declared SINE DIE on Wednesday morning, March 28. They went home early with no need for any special called session.

This was my second regular session serving all of you as Executive Director of the Christian Action Commission of our Mississippi Baptist Convention. Each of the four annual sessions, after the state-wide election, have a unique flavor. The first session is 120 days instead of 90. This extra time gives the veterans and rookies opportunity to get organized and to settle in.

The next three annual sessions have 90 days. The second session (my first, last year)

is the session where something new (such as the lottery) is the greatest threat. The legislators are settled in and have three years before facing re-election. If a senator or representative is going to take a risk, this second session is the time. In my first year, I jumped out of the fat into the fire.

Sitting in the south gallery of the House, listening to the Governor's State of the State address last year, I knew the lottery would be the greatest threat it had ever been. We survived the regular session

without a lottery. But, there had to be a Special Session (in my very first year) to fund MDOT and other departments. We survived the Special Session without a lottery.

Then came the Study Committee out of the House to look at the pros and cons of lotteries in other states. We at the CAC were available to speak at the public hearing against the lottery, but were refused the two minutes we needed to "set the record straight." I still hear comments (one last week) about

how surprised some were that we did not voice our opposition at that hearing — we were not given the privilege to voice our opposition. We did put a letter into the study report explaining why we were AGAINST the lottery.

Nearly everyone thought a lottery was a done deal in this year's session (my second regular session and the third after the election). Praise the Lord, many were surprised that we have no lottery. Thanks to your contacting the good men and women in our

legislature, I have survived my freshman and sophomore years without a lottery. God is good, all the time.

But we must stay alert and vigilant. January will be here before we know it. A last-ditch effort in the House during the final week to start a lottery failed by a slim margin, 58 to 56. Please check how your representative voted. Know the truth and the truth will set you free (John 8:32). WHEW!!!

Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.

Whew!



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BIBL i O C i P H E R

NEW HNAT PE AZBG, NK QVCPKO NAKZ

VNOV AZBGW DK, NEW VNOV SPBGE

VPYKGAX XZC DK NE ZXXGCPES NEW

N KNQCPXPQG OZ SZW XZC N

KHGGOKYGAAPES KNBZDC.

GLVGKPNEK XPBG: OHZ

Clue: Q = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark 11:25

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