THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1947.

Congress And The Good Health Program

THE battle for the Medical Care Program has been waged for months in North Carolina, and is now going into its final stages in Raleigh with bright prospects of victory. But another battle is being waged in Washington that is no less significant for the future of Good Health in North Carolina—and the prospects there are quite dim.

The North Carolina program, as outlined by the Medical Care Commission, depends upon three primary sources for financial support. The State will put up roughly one-third of the necessary $48,000,000, the counties and cities another third, and the Federal Government the remainder. There was good and sufficient reason for establishing such a fiscal basis for hospital construction in North Carolina. In the closing days of the 1946 session the 79th Congress passed the Hill-Burton Act (by unanimous voice vote in the Senate, 136-28 in the House), which pledged the Federal Government to underwrite one-third of the cost of a $1,125,000,000, five-year hospital building program. But the 79th Congress did not make the necessary appropriations to implement the Hill-Burton Act. That decision now rests with the 80th Congress, and the leadership of the 80th Congress is dedicated to cutting expenditures.

In his maiden address in Congress last week, C. B. Deane of the Eight District pointed out that no part of the $75,000,000 authorized for the fiscal year ending June 30 has yet been appropriated. He further noted that President Truman, responding to pressures of the economy advocates, in his budget message requested only $50,000,000 for the first two years, while the bill authorizes a total of $150,000,000. Mr. Deane warned:

> The Legislatures in various states are at this very time beginning to set in motion appropriations from the states to qualify under the hospital construction part of the bill.
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> Yet, if this Congress refuses to support the recommendation of the President, or even go beyond it, the program in the various states, including counties, small towns, and communities throughout this land where the citizenship has raised thousands and millions of dollars to take advantage of the provisions of the Hill-Burton Act, will be placed in jeopardy.

Federal aid for North Carolina alone would run to almost one-third of the total appropriation proposed by Mr. Truman for all 48 states in the first two years. It is true, as Mr. Deane conceded, that most states are still engaged in preliminary surveys and demands for cash will not be heavy for many months to come. Nevertheless the failure of the 80th Congress to take positive action will be a serious blow to all the state programs—and perhaps a fatal one to North Carolina's, which is now in an advanced and precarious stage.

We presume that Mr. Deane is receiving the whole-hearted support of all the other members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation in his effort to prod the Congress into meeting the obligations assumed when it passed the Hill-Burton Act and held out a bright hope for better health to millions of Americans. Certainly there is no more important legislation, from a local standpoint, now pending before Congress. The efforts of the thousands of volunteer workers who waged the public campaign for support of the program will go for nothing if it turns out that the idea of Medical Care has been sold to the people of North Carolina, but not, as they were led to believe, to the Congress of the United States.

Remember, ABC Means Control

THERE not having been, to our knowledge, an official census of the liquor trade in "dry" Mecklenburg County, we are inclined to believe that Representative Morris' estimate of 2,600 bootleggers is a little high. We have no quarrel, however, with his general conclusion. There are far too many illicit purveyors operating here, and they serve as the nucleus of criminal activity that extends into many unrelated fields of extra-legal endeavor.

The only way to put these criminals out of business, we believe, is to legalize the sale of liquor under rigid ABC control. But note that adjective "rigid". Since the liquor referendum bill being prepared by Representative Sims is already a comprehensive and detailed document, it seems in order to suggest that the Delegation also consider putting into it some additional teeth designed to guarantee that control means just what it says.

Opening of ABC stores will reduce bootlegging from a multi-million dollar business to a rather small enterprise, but it still will not, in itself, clean out all the breeding-places of vice that now thrive here. Some, at least, of the 250 speakeasies Mr. Morris says are now operating in Charlotte will continue to attract customers who want a quick drink but don't want to buy a bottle. And the home-delivery boys, offering 24-hour service, will continue to find customers too hyprocritical or too impatient, to patronize the legal dispensaries.

The present state prohibition laws are full of holes big enough to drive a trailer truck full of liquor through. And the effort to further weaken them continues at every session of the Legislature. There is, for instance, a bill up now which would make it illegal for law enforcement officers to trap a bootlegger by "undercover methods", i.e. purchase of illicit liquor under false pretenses. Since possession is no crime, this would remove almost the last possible method of enforcing the prohibition statutes.

The primary goal of the ABC advocates must be the end of bootlegging in Mecklenburg County. This, we suspect, is impossible of attainment, but every effort must be directed toward it. The appropriation of 10 per cent of the income from the sale of liquor for a special squad of law enforcement officers will help a great deal, but it will not be enough unless the necessary laws are passed to back them up. The Drys have shown little concern with enforcement of the prohibition laws they espouse; the ABC advocates, if they carry the day, must not follow that bad example.

The Re-Election Of Mr. Bridges

RE-ELECTION to the presidency of the Chamber of Commerce for another year is a considerable compliment to J. H. Bridges, and it also stands as evidence of the good judgment of the Chamber's board of directors.

Chambers of Commerce always fall upon difficult days during a period of great municipal growth. When that growth coincides, as Charlotte's has twice within memory, with the end of a war the difficulties are multiplied many times. The great problem during Mr. Bridges first year in office was not boosting the city, but taking care of the individuals and businesses already attracted to it, or clamoring to come. That same problem looms for 1947, although there is reason to hope that it may be eased somewhat by the gradual termination of shortages and increasing opportunities for new construction.

Nevertheless, there will still be many occasions when it will be the Chamber's sad duty to inform a businessman that the town cannot provide the office space, or the factory facilities, or the convention accommodations he would like to have. That means that 1947 will also be a year when big plans must be made to insure the elimination of that sad duty—plans along the lines of the proposed Merchandise Mart for the convenience of fashion exhibitors.

Mr. Bridges has shown great skill at organization, and at maintaining the harmony that is essential to progress. His colleagues, we think, were wise to persuade him to stay at the helm to meet the great challenge of the coming year.

Another Voice

A Respected Bootlegger?

THE HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE is usually careful with its language but in a news story which appeared in its columns this past week recounting the death of one of its constituents, we believe that this newspaper either made a misstep or if not that, has uncovered the most unusual character of the century.

We refer to its delineation of William Long, (Black Diamond), 65-year-old Negro as a "notorious but respected bootlegger." Continuing our contemporary says: "Despite a record of 35 charges of violating the prohibition law during the last fifteen years, police and members of the sheriff's department remember him as the man who donated $100 to a Red Cross drive, who co-operated to the limit during each of the numerous raids at his home and was frank to admit 'I hauled the stuff.' Black Diamond always had the best lawyers for his frequent appearances in court and one member of the bar association tells of the time he claimed to have paid his way out of the State Penitentiary. Despite his long court and prison record, customers, neighbors and law enforcement officers described him as a 'square shooter'."

We find plenty of basis for the "notorious" factor in his make-up. Any person who has been indicted 35 times for selling this kind of poison and still finds enough customers to rise up and call him blessed; who afforded nothing but the most expensive lawyers and who is supposed to have bribed his way out of prison, certainly has a reputation of parts.

We are willing for the old Latin adage that nothing but good be spoken of the dead to hold as it relates to Black Diamond. But surely for a person who has done so much to wreck the peace and character of a community as this man, some other polite words could have been found to better fit the case than "respected" and "square shooter."—*Shelby Daily Star.*

The writings of son Elliott baffle us—somehow recalling a crack of Charlotte Greenwood in an old film: "Are you trying to be funny? Well, try harder."

Oldest of the soap operas is world diplomacy, with Peace putting her trust in a long succession of well-dressed cads, or so history says.

A Baltimore steamfitter writes *The Evening Sun* to criticize the boiler installation depicted in a comic strip. Otherwise this is the best of all possible worlds.

Metals, says an expert on the Sunday radio, become fatigued. As when a teenage daughter talks the ear off a telephone.

'They Want Us To Co-Operate Better'

People's Platform

Thunder Of Silence

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

BEFORE 1860 the South produced Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Randolph, Marshall, Tyler, Polk and the last of the Southern politicians of the first rank; John C. Calhoun. Since then the Democratic Party has produced individuals who have been, "Big men in their own states," and have been "Educational governors," "Good-roads governors," "Live-at-home governors;" but not one of them has made an impression upon the American people as a whole. There is a reason: Coincident with the willingness of the South to accept the concept of sectional political solidarity as the core of Southern Democracy, public life has been limited to men who have been willing to use the weapons necessary to destroy, not defeat, opposition; for, where two parties exist sectional political solidarity cannot be effected; and the intellect, brains, and characters of the South have sought other fields than politics and statesmanship.

It has been a long descent from the the intellectual altitude of Jefferson, Andrew Jackson and John C. Calhoun, who were Southern Democratic statesmen, to the altitude of civil eminence of Bilbo, Clyde Hoey and Hamilton C. Jones, who are Solid South statesmen.

With the establishment of one party in the South most citizens have lost a measure of their sense of civic responsibility; and public affairs have been left, to a great extent, to those who find it profitable to attend to them. After the successful destruction of opposition the officeholders have found that they, with their immediate dependents and friends, have enough votes to control. And from the great mass of inert, indifferent, inarticulate people in the South we hear only the thunder of silence.

As the one party idea has taken hold in the minds of the Democratic South voters find it necessary to look only for the word Democrat and they do not know, nor care, nor concern themselves about what else is on the ticket. The principles involved, the issue at stake, the personnel of the candidates, are of no significance to the Democratic Solid South voter. In that way the voter becomes a good Democrat; and in that way government is taken away from the people. That is the end result of sectional political solidarity. The Solid South Democrat has, figuratively speaking, stuffed cotton in his ears, and in doing so has kept out the sound of political opposition. At the same time he has drowned the sound of the symphony of American democracy, and popular rule; and has blurred the rhythm of the epos of a free people.

However, the result of that condition is inevitably and ominously that Democratic candidates and leaders do not feel under any obligation to set forth, or declare, their views on public questions. Witness the late negative campaign of our present Congressman, the honorable Hamilton C. Jones. Who knows or cares what Mr. Jones thinks or believes? But, of course, he is a Democrat; that is the essential thing. There is another eminent instance of political unaccountability. The eloquent and plausible Senator from this state, the honorable and artful Clyde Hoey, was elected as a Democrat and public print says that after he went to Washington he voted twelve times with the Republicans and against the Democrats. To fail to declare their views before election permits the inference that our Representatives intend to vote as they please, upon measures concerning the citizens, after election, and that indicates that they are, or think they are, our masters and not our servants.

All this is the logical result of long continued one-party rule. Extremism defeats itself in politics and statesmanship as well as in the exigencies of ordinary human activities. Southern Democracy started out to destroy opposition to Southern Democracy, and in doing so has destroyed democracy in the South. Eighty years of sectional political solidarity has made of the eleven Solid South states the whipping boy of the nation, and a byword in the mouths of foreigners, who say, "You fight for democracy abroad; you do not practice it at home."

Let us see how elections are carried on in the three prize Solid South states. In South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi with a combined population of approximately seven million the vote at the election of 1944 was 582,000. In the two two-party states of Massachusetts and Wisconsin, which also have a population of almost exactly seven million, the vote at the election of 1944 was 3,073,000. If, in proportion to population, the vote in the two two-party states was a normal vote then the vote in the three one-party states was only one-sixth of a normal vote.

Now, taking the officeholders in each of the one-party states mentioned, from district school committeeman to governor, and from election registrar to United States Senator, and including state, county and municipal officeholders, the reasonable estimate for each state is 50,000, and counting four votes to each officeholder (which is conservative) that would give 600,000 votes; almost exactly the number cast. The discrepancy of 18,000 would indicate that the results of the election were considered so certain that some of the dependents or beneficiaries of the oligarchy did not trouble to vote.

If office is the motive of the average voter, and unaccountability and irresponsibility the practice of the leaders and candidates of the Democratic Party in the Solid South, then here is a section where both the mechanism and spirit of American Democracy have failed.

"Great is Diana of the Epresians." Acts XIX 24-28.
"Great is the Solid South."

—HOYT H. EAVES.

Wonderful

FAYETTEVILLE

Editors, The News:

IT has been my pleasure to be traveling in your state for the past week under contract to Carolina Assemblies, giving programs of "Fun and Music at the Piano" in the schools of your wonderful state. I say wonderful—and that's going some when a native Californian speaks that way.

But it has been wonderful. The beauty of the countryside, the tranquility of the Blue Ridge Mountains as they sweep in graceful grandeur across the panorama and one glides to a happy resting place over the roads that skirt the scene—in some peaceful town or village hiding modestly in amongst the trees and canyons.

The schools are both gracious and receptive and I am looking forward to a long stay in these parts.

—GALEN MILLER HARVEY.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, The News.

Marquis Childs

Prayer For Congress

WASHINGTON

THE new chaplain of the Senate, the Reverend Peter Marshall, when the Senate convened on the first day of Lent offered the following prayer:

"Our Father in Heaven, we pray for the members of this body in their several responsibilities. Help them in their offices, in committees, and above all, as they meet here in legislative session. May they never forget that what is done here is not done in a corner, but always under thy scrutiny. May they feel the weight of their responsibility before thee, and remember the influence of a good example, that all who come to this place may have a stronger faith in government of the people, by the people, for the people. May the Senators so speak and act that all who wait upon them and serve them may be inspired, rather than disillusioned, by what they see and hear and are asked to do. Lord Jesus, make thyself real to these men, that each may feel thee sitting beside him and hear thy voice and win thine approval in all things. So help them, God, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

If ever a Congress needed praying for, it is this 80th Congress. If ever a Congress needed the kind of humility which leads men to seek divine guidance, it is this one.

U. S. WEIGHT DECISIVE

In the welter of day-to-day politics, most members of Congress fail to see how long is the shadow of what they do or fail to do. They do not understand that the weight of America's economic power is at this moment decisive in a precarious and uncertain world.

In dour old Herbert Spencer's dictum, every act has its consequence. On June 17, 1930, the 71st Congress passed Public Law 361. It was better known as the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act.

The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act raised the tariff wall against the products of other nations. In effect, it slammed America's door on the trade of the rest of the world. It was passed over the protest of a thousand political scientists, economists, experts and technicians who signed a petition pointing out what its consequences would be.

Everything they said, and a great deal more, came true. You can trace the chain reaction — the formation of a sterling trade bloc, the collapse of the dubious economy of Germany and Austria, the onset of the Nazi brutality and, at the end, global war. There were other complicating factors. But the match to the fuse may well have been that act.

The decisions the 80th Congress takes, or fails to take, can reach as far. If they again ignore America's economic supremacy, then the consequences will be far more dire than those that came after 1930.

VITAL TESTS AHEAD

Two vital decisions must be made by Congress in the days immediately ahead. While they are important in themselves, they are also of the greatest significance as signposts marking the way we intend to follow.

The first is on the confirmation of David E. Lilienthal to be chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. If Lilienthal is rejected for reasons of prejudice, intolerance and the power of special interests, which will be the real reasons behind all the careful rationalization, it will be a demonstration of failure in self-government. It is a picture of America — all-powerful America — cowering before a shadow. The end may be, in effect, a confession that we do not entrust this new power to any but the military, who look at it, as their profession demands, solely in terms of a weapon of destruction. This is to say nothing of the direct effect on the whole atomic energy project, which is slowing to a standstill.

The second decision is on the budget. If the cut is too deep, then we shall default on our responsibilities. It will come at the expense of our armies of occupation in Japan and Germany. It may come out of the minimum of $350,000,000 that President Truman has requested for relief to fill in the gap left by the ending of UNRRA. It may even come out of the budget for national defense.

This last is a signpost the world will have no trouble in reading. It will be unmistakably clear that we are not prepared to assume our responsibilities. We will be turning our backs on the great void created by the liquidation of the British Empire.

CONSEQUENCES FORESEEN

These are the decisions. The consequences can be almost as surely known as they were known by the thoughtful men who petitioned against the Smoot-Hawley tariff. At the end of the chain reaction this time will be World War III, and an atomic chain that has no end.

We set aside weeks for this and that purpose, some frivolous, some serious. This might be a good time to designate as Pray For Congress week.

Samuel Grafton

Czech Compromises

PRAGUE

YOU can feel the tensions here, under the surface, not by the amount of public controversy, which is small, but by the shape the Czech economy is taking. The Czechs have rejected the Russian idea of state trusts, each in charge of an entire industry. Their goal is to have each nationalized factory run as business by a little autonomous state-owned corporation. It is as if they wanted, even under nationalization, to keep as much of the Western way as they could, as if they were comforting themselves by preserving at least the forms of Western life, hoping that their little autonomous corporations will resemble Western business models, if only so much as a wax flower resembles the original.

WANT FREEDOM

The Czech desire for political freedom is real; and Czechs seem afraid that if the forms change too much, the substance of political liberty will go also. But in trying to join capitalist form with socialist content, the Czechs are opening up a whole series of problems entirely new to the world, like boxes within boxes. How, for example, does a private firm (and there are many small ones left here) compete with an autonomous state corporation? Both presumably will pay taxes, but what if the state corporation can't? Do two state officials then meet and have a quarrel? Or does the state sell part of itself out to pay taxes to itself?

Then too, is it patriotic or unpatriotic for a private firm to compete with a state corporation, and perhaps pin its ears back? The Czechs, looking East and then West say firstly that each autonomous corporation must stand on its own feet. But will the state, in a false Schizoid calm, sit by and let a private firm snatch a fat contract from under its nose? If nationalization is right and proper, why should the state pretend to be disinterested and why shouldn't it give all possible help to its own units?

Here you take another slide on the ideological sandpaper. What will indeed be the long-range trend in relations between the state and the automobile corporations? Won't the state try eventually to rationalize industry, by assigning certain tasks to certain units? Will it really stand by, as a blithe impartial umpire, and let a dozen autonomous corporations compete with each other in making the Czech equivalent of corn flakes? But to take the other road is to go in the direction of the state trust.

HARD WINTER

The Czechs don't know the answer; they know only that it is a hard Winter and the snow is high on Prikopy St., and they are trying desperately to make a stable mixture of socialism and freedom.

There is another problem remaining, almost as standard in Europe today as the cold in the head. Czechoslovakia, like every country I have been in, is passionate for exports. That weird feeling you get in Europe, that each nation is trying, as with a strange kind of inverse politeness, to foist its best on the world and keep its worst, flares highest here, for 30 per cent of Czechoslovakia's income normally rests on foreign trade. But no nation has ever tried a heavy socialist export trade. That idea is even newer than atomic energy; and some Czechs wonder what will happen to exports, their living link with the West, at the hands of the autonomous corporations which are being created by the state and sent out, like so many busy bees, to work.

FROZEN PATTER

There are whispers that the Communists want to by-pass these problems by expropriating what remains of middle class business property and preparing for closer eventual relations with Russia. But the others hold on as best they can, and try to keep their heads. All of Europe has been struggling, during this strange hard Winter, with two problems, first the snow, and second the question of how to reconcile freedom with planning; and it is here in Prague that one sees men most clearly torn between the alternatives. If they are calmer than other people, it may be because here they see the problem presented in its most naked form, with the kind of candor that stops the wisecrack at its birth, and freezes the patter in the throat.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Dewey Takes Notable Step In War On T. B.

WASHINGTON

MANY states of the United States require every dairy cow within their borders to be tested for tuberculosis once a year. Governor Tom Dewey has now taken the revolutionary step of elevating human beings to the same level as cows.

From now on, every man, woman and child in New York State not only will get a tuberculosis test but also will find State Hospitals available for their care if necessary.

At a time when Republicans in Congress are pinching the Federal budget even to the extent of wiping out the school milk program, the Republican Governor of New York has quadrupled his health budget in order to battle tuberculosis.

He is also co-ordinating New York hospitals so that certain institutions in healthy counties such as Herkimer, which are virtually empty, will be taken over by the State. This will prevent the construction of more hospitals at a time when building materials are critical and their use would interfere with veterans' housing.

Note—Worst tuberculosis patch in New York State is among the Negro population of Harlem. Migration from the warm South, plus crowded living conditions has made Harlem one of the first T. B. areas in the USA.

Rankin In Reverse

DURING the long years under Roosevelt, the best friend and ally of Minority Republicans in the House of Representatives was Rootin'-Tootin' Congressman John Rankin of Mississippi. His barbs at his fellow Democrats always brought howls of laughter and rounds of applause from the Republicans across the aisle. They continually goaded the pint-sized Mississippian into more harangues.

Now that the Republicans are in the saddle, however, things are different. Rankin isn't the ally he used to be. In fact, he's almost more critical of the Republicans than of the Northern Democrats. Talking in the House cloakroom the other day, the gentleman from Mississippi opined:

"In nearly one month the great and glorious GOP Senate, the Senate which was going to do everything, has to its credit three major accomplishments: Unanimous confirmation of two Democrats—George Marshall and Fanny Perkins—to high posts, and the granting of a 60-day vacation with pay to Bilbo.

"Let's see, there are 51 Republican Senators, and if we multiply that number by $1,250, monthly salary of a member, we get the grand total of $65,650—about $21,250 per 'accomplishment.'"

Bob Allen's New Book

BOB ALLEN, who used to do a job on Washington via this column, today brings out a job on the cities of the USA. His new book, "Our Fair City," does to the sprawling hodgepodges of bossism and bizarre achitecture which we call cities what Lincoln Steffens did on the same subject twenty years ago.

Bob has corralled a stable of newsmen all the way from Boston to Butte, and under his editorial direction, they have dissected the bosses that run the cities, the newspapers that tolerate and sometimes conspire with the bosses, the red-light districts that pay tribute to the bosses—and so on down the line.

The book makes you realize that while we throw stones at Governments in foreign countries we could do a little stone throwing right here at home.

Vets Housing Crackdown

HOME builders who have been defying Federal regulations on veterans' housing had better start consulting their lawyers.

Certain builders in the Denver and Cleveland areas are being haled into court to show why they have failed to file sales reports on housing begun before controls were lifted last Dec. 24. This housing, numbering more than 350,000 units, still is affected by price controls and veterans' priorities.

Furthermore, the Denver and Cleveland cases are only curtain raisers to a nation-wide crackdown on builders, who are still required to file the sales reports with the OPA (now a part of the Office of Temporary Controls). OPA compliance officers have evidence that there have been widespread violations, with the result that many vets have been gypped.

Legal action was decided on at a confidential meeting of Housing Administration and OPA officials with representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Veterans Committee and the AMVETS. However, it required some two-fisted prompting by the vet spokesmen to get John Sink, Housing Expediter Frank Creedon's representative, to agree to the crackdown.

"I don't think it is a good policy to bring action against the builders at this time, when we have to keep everybody on the ball producing homes," objected Sink. "It may cause a lot of trouble and only serve to alienate the builders."

"Well, it's one thing or the other," declared Wesley Pearce of the VFW. "You're either going to have compliance or you're not going to have it. You can't enforce compliance without hurting somebody. If a builder is chiseling or defying the law he ought to be hurt.

"The only way to stop violations is to clamp down and get criminal convictions."

Andrew Newman of the AVC and Allen Solada of the AMVETS strongly seconded this view. So did the OPA spokesman. Finally, Sink gave in when the vet trio promised to get their organizations solidly behind the compliance drive.