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Minimum Wage: A Tar Heel Necessity

AH for the life of the legislative lobbyists. When appearing against state minimum wage legislation, an old argument they happen to lay tongue to seems to satisfy the "fact-finders" on the Senate Manufacturing, Labor and Commerce Committee.

One lobbyist, for example, said the proposed 75-cent wage floor for lower paid Tar Heel workers is "not the American way." The committee listened, and asked no questions. Actually, the lobbyist had misled his memory.

The minimum wage has been "the American way" since 1938 when the first federal minimum became effective for workers engaged in interstate commerce.

With equal profundity, it could be argued that it is "not the American way" to deprive these citizens of a decent level of subsistence. Nothing raps the nerves of American business more than deficit financing. Yet living in debt is the only way a family can live when the wage earner makes a grand total of \$25 to \$30 a week.

To get to the heart of the matter, the yardstick of experience long ago disproved all the gloom and doom predictions trotted out by the lobbyists. By increasing the velocity of money and effecting a more reasonable distribution of wealth, the minimum wage has been an instrument of prosperity for both management and labor.

It is needed in North Carolina for just that purpose. "It is," says Labor Commissioner Frank Crane, "an essential instrument in the growth of the state."

Here is the testimony of the state's business governor in a 1955 address before the Southern Garment Manufacturers Association:

"We are very conservative in many of our southern legislatures in matters of labor and wages. When minimum wage legislation was brought before our North Carolina General Assembly this year, it had rough sledding. This shouldn't be so. We must be more liberal and understanding in our thinking and acting on this subject. Just remember it will cost you and me more in taxes if we fail to get the money through better income for our people."

But before the Senate committee yesterday, the lobbyist was warning that minimum wage legislation would be "a danger flag in the face of capital we want to attract for new industries."

If memory serves, North Carolina has never pursued that type of industry. Its operating philosophy has been more in line with this statement by New York's respected JOURNAL OF COMMERCE: "Industry's attitude toward wages today is that an employee who makes good money and is capable of doing a good job will help the concern to be the kind of efficient operation which can make profits—not from keeping its employees down and saving on them, but from turning out a larger volume of better goods at less cost through proper planning."

Logic and experience both are on the side of a Tar Heel minimum wage. It is high time for the General Assembly to get on the same side. Moral and economic necessities demand that it do so at this session.

Revolution In Military Art Forced Great Britain's Hand

By WALTER LIPPMANN

A FULL explanation of the new British defense policy, which was set forth in an official White Paper last week, would have to include a review of what has happened in world politics during the past seven or eight years. The review might well begin in 1949 when the Soviet Union broke the American monopoly of atomic weapons.

For a number of reasons Great Britain has been the first of the big powers to speak distinctly and openly about the complex problems which are posed by this military revolution, and to reshape its own military policy accordingly. There need be no doubt in our minds that this White Paper will have an influence far beyond Great Britain on military thinking and planning.

There is, for example, the blunt statement "that there is at present no means of providing adequate protection for the people of this country against the consequences of an attack with nuclear weapons," and that therefore "the overriding consideration in all military planning must be to prevent war rather than to prepare for it."

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But time will show, I imagine, that there is a lot to be read between the lines.

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The British conclusion depends, so I gather, upon a current as-

sumption that the United States is ahead of the Soviet Union in the race to produce guided missiles of intermediate range, and that in not too long a time the United States will be able to supply Britain and the NATO countries with these missiles. If this fundamental assumption is correct, then entering a period — which may last for a few years — in which the balance of nuclear power will be theoretically and statistically inclined against the Soviet Union. For, again theoretically, the Soviet Union will have to produce the intermediate missiles which are based in Britain and Western Europe whereas the United States would be somewhat less vulnerable.

FRAIL PREMISE

Many of us, myself included, do not think such theoretical calculations are reliable enough in the real world to be taken very seriously as a basis of practical policy. But the assumption that the United States has a lead in the field of intermediate missiles is very much in the minds of the military planners all over the world. For example, would it be taken very seriously as a basis of practical policy. But the assumption that the United States has a lead in the field of intermediate missiles is very much in the minds of the military planners all over the world.

SOVIET WARNINGS

It is most probable, too, that the Soviet warnings to Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and to Western Europe generally are addressed primarily to this prospect of the intermediate missiles. Quite evidently, Moscow is generally anxious about the prospect of being encircled by a ring of guided missiles with nuclear warheads, especially if or some time they come she will have comparable power to strike at the United States.

PEOPLE'S PLATFORM

Noxious Grasses

Editors, The News: I AM introducing a bill which will suppress many noxious weeds and certain segments of our government; however, I would like to explain that there is nothing personal or political implied in this bill.

For your information, I was reared on a farm, a small one I will say. In Sampson County, I have taught school in Lillington after graduating from State College and worked as assistant farm agent in Hargett County, later moved to Duplin County in 1936 as farm agent. In 1939 I was appointed farm agent in Robeson County. I then moved to Mecklenburg County in 1944 as its farm agent. In 1947, I was honored to be appointed county manager of Robeson County where I had served as farm agent for about six years.

With the experiences I have had, I have heard farmers complain many, many times about the trouble and expense they have had incurred by pests known as Bermuda grass, Johnson grass, nut grass, and sand spurs which they claim have been spread by certain segments of the State of North Carolina and more particularly, the Highway and Public Works Commission and its employees. I am sure when I tell you that I have been convinced by the numerous reports that these good citizens of the State of North Carolina have been damaged by the spreading of these noxious grasses along the highway of North Carolina.

Now I fully realize that certain grasses, particularly Bermuda grass, are a splendid type of sod which in all possibility have helped to hold the shoulders of the roads of our good state, but I am still sincere when I say that there are other grasses that could be used which would take the place of these noxious grasses, and at the same time, not damage the shoulders and into the fields where farmers have to cultivate particularly row crops.

Quote, Unquote

Humor is emotional chaos re-measured in tranquility.—James Thurber. Godness, armed with power, is corrupt. Corruption, armed with power, is destroyed.—Rinhold Niebuhr.

Raking It In

Between 1951-56, TWA received a total subsidy of \$4,586,000 on its foreign operations. During the same period, Pan Am received the huge total of \$138,615,000.

For the first time in history, the House Appropriations Committee has cut Pan Am off without a cent of subsidy. It remains to be seen, however, whether the Senate will restore the \$5,500,000 Pan-Am subsidy that President Eisenhower requested for next year.

Durfee's Order

The order which Chairman J. R. Durfee has published, reopening Pan American files, is one of the sweeping ever issued by the CAB. After enumerating various cases in which Pan Am failed to charge its Mexican and Central American subsidiaries for services rendered, the CAB order concluded:

"As a result of these various matters, it appears that Pan American's subsidy needs may have been substantially over-estimated and that completion of the audit

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

For a long time, certain members of the CAB, led by ex-Commissioner Joe Adams, have been trying to get the money to examine Pan Am's books. The CAB officials were suspicious that the big air line, with more subsidies than any other American company, was collecting extra subsidies from American taxpayers by failing to bill its foreign subsidiaries for services. But the CAB was never able to get a thorough look at the subsidiaries' books.

Douglas' Crusade

Credit for finally collecting this money goes first to Sen. Douglas of Illinois, who, in speech after speech, urged the Senate colleagues both to cut down on line subsidies and to hire enough auditors to look at the books. In the House of Representatives, Congressman John Rooney of Brooklyn did the same.

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'Who's Ahead?'



The Big Pay-Off

How McLeod Got His Plum

By DORIS FLEESON

McLeod out of the security and immigration field where he has been a constant source of friction. But Sen. Bridges is still the senior Republican, ranking on the Appropriations and Armed Services Committees.

Dulles offered McLeod the embassies of Honduras and New Zealand. They weren't good enough. McLeod has been paid his price to go quietly to the attractive assignment to Ireland.

It is beginning to appear, in fact, that the Democrats lost the art of controversy in their 20 years amid the political feuds. How they could lose on this one it is hard to see. The McLeod appointment does not divide the Democrats; they are all against him.

It does divide the Republicans and would bring the anti-Eisenhower right wing rushing to its corner — if it were made an issue.

It is the ready-made case for the Democratic majority which professes to believe that foreign policy is badly executed. But controversy is discouraged by the Lyndon B. Johnson leadership; the Democratic senator who starts one is apt to find himself charging up San Juan Hill alone.

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Give Generously To The Symphony

ON a note of cautious optimism, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra announced plans for its 1957-58 drive for contributing members today.

It is understandable. Merchandisers of culture are by nature optimistic. It is in their blood. But bitter experience in the market place has taught them never to count their bonanzas before they are hatched.

It is unthinkable, however, that Charlotte will not respond generously and enthusiastically to the new campaign.

The symphony has a quarter of a century of valuable musical service behind it. In those 25 years it has become a permanent fixture in community life. It has earned the respect and admiration of thousands. Few cultural enterprises have given so much to so many for so little.

No symphony orchestra is self-supporting. The sale of tickets, program advertising and special performances produce about one half the expense of operation. The remaining one half of the cost of operating must come from direct contributions by interested individuals and firms.

The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra's

City's Growth Must Not Be Stunted

IT would be nothing short of tragic for Charlotte's growth to be stunted at this decisive moment in the community's history.

The arguments presented in Raleigh yesterday against a formula for the orderly extension of city limits were earnest and honorable. But they tend to overlook the question of the greatest good for the greatest number.

The overall good of the entire metropolitan community is at stake today. If Charlotte is restricted and hemmed in by bedroom communities which contribute in only a limited way to the city's support Charlotte will decay. The entire metropolitan population will be the victim of that decay.

A great deal has been said about the cost of city limits extension. Somebody ought to write a book on the cost of not extending the city limits.

There are defects in the formula for annexation of course. But they are heavily outweighed by the virtues and rewards of a swift and orderly extension of municipal boundaries.

We are one people and one community. By joining hands we can achieve a better life for all.

The only alternative is decay.

THE VANISHING STROLLER

IT IS COMMON knowledge (ask any man above 50 years), that back in the days of medieval history, when he was a boy, all public schools were built at least four miles from the nearest house. Locomotively, the only difference between him and the postman was the difference between blue overalls and Confederate gray. To hear these folks talk, you would think people back then were issued extra sets of legs at birth. If wisdom were predicated on walking, every store and office in the state would bulge with Platos. Now, of course, all schools are built just down the street. But it's a fact that most kids don't walk even this far. The car pool and the city bus have made legs superfluous for everything but rucks on various to hold long pants.

The old man wore himself out walking long ago, and now, even in the small town, to think of not riding four blocks to work is almost like using the gas chamber at the state pen in lieu of sleeping pills. The average housewife would

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