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MONDAY, MAY 13, 1957

House Must Approve State Wage Floor

A LOBBYIST'S complaint that his objections to minimum wage legislation for North Carolina are insufficiently publicized is one of the most puzzling developments of the legislative season.

In the first place, the objections are almost as well known as the numbers one through ten. Secondly, they are publicized. And if they weren't the lobbyist would be at no special disadvantage. The underpaid workers who need minimum wage protection do not have, as the lobbyist does, the ear of the General Assembly.

Some of the major objections, as he sets them out, are these:

1 Minimum wage legislation is socialistic. It is, of course, in the sense that municipal water systems, public schools, the post office, pure food laws and a host of other statutes are socialistic.

2. A minimum wage would frighten new industry away from North Carolina. The point is that North Carolina is not seeking industry that is unwilling or unable to pay its workers a decent living wage.

3. It would work a hardship on business by forcing higher retail prices. So do innumerable factors, including even the weather. But the wage law, as amended in the Senate, also would enable some 60,000 Tar Heels to buy more at retail.

It could be argued as well that absence of a state wage law works a hardship on business engaged in interstate commerce and thereby subject to the federal minimum. "It has never seemed right," says the WILSON DAILY TIMES, "for one industry to have to pay $1 an hour for the janitor to sweep the floor and another doing business on the same block exempt from any wage law."

But all these are lesser issues involved in the minimum wage question. The basic issue is whether 60,000 Tar Heels deserve protection against exploitation and starvation wages, and whether the increased velocity of money resulting from this protection would benefit the state's economy.

The evidence of experience and of years of study of the question has convinced the Hodges administration and the state Senate that the answer is emphatically yes.

The House should answer likewise.

Reapportionment: The Cure Is Killing

INITIALLY shocked by a proposal to remodel the General Assembly in the image of Congress, Gov. Hodges is coming around to the position that the Senate bill "makes sense."

It does make sense for the determined foes of constitutional reapportionment of the Assembly. Approval of the bill not only would rid them of the biennial embarrassment of denying the present constitutional rights of urban areas to additional representation in the Assembly, it would even decrease the effectiveness of the illegally limited representation these areas now have. A neat exercise, in sum, of letting the rural bloc eat its cake.

But for the under-represented urban areas and for a fair, effective and efficient legislative process in the future, the new bill on reapportionment offers no sense at all. It merely would enlarge and perpetuate the shortcomings of the Assembly as it is presently constituted. The chief shortcoming is an inordinate emphasis on representation of area rather than on representation of people. Under the new proposal, the least populous county in the state would have exactly the same representation in the Senate as the most populous county. Thus the small, thinly populated rural counties would be given an iron veto power in the Senate. Further, they would retain control of the House even though that body would become more representative of population. The total effect would increase the trend toward rural authority in government while the population trend is running the other way.

Endorsers of the new plan seem to have forgotten the issue involved in reapportionment. The issue is not one of giving the urban areas control of the Assembly. In fact, the compromise plan offered by the Weathers Commission and supported by the more populous counties contained plentiful guarantees that population shifts would never reverse the essentially rural dominance of the Assembly. Liberal area representation in both Houses was guaranteed, regardless of population shifts. All the urban areas asked was some concession to their rights to proportionate representation under the constitution.

The new plan, rather than being a compromise of the issue, simply seeks to legalize an unconstitutional position under the ridiculous pretense that the counties of North Carolina are sovereign entities like the states of the union.

There is nothing wrong with the present composition of the Assembly that a little obedience to the constitution wouldn't cure. But the urban areas would serve themselves and the state by foregoing their constitutional rights rather than accept the greater wrong involved in congressional-style reapportionment.

Foreign Aid: Slogans Outlive The Facts

IN MASSACHUSETTS the other day, they reenacted the Boston Tea Party. In Washington, a congressman explained that "all the voters want is for Congress to cut the budget, cut taxes, and go home." And in any number of cities on any given day, someone was denouncing foreign aid as "pouring money down a rathole," and sagely declaring that "you can't buy friends."

It was all part of an American tendency to try to manage complex affairs with catchy slogans. They are remarkably effective instruments—not in solving problems, but in persuading voters to believe the problems are capable of easy solution.

The "rathole" slogan has been particularly effective in creating opposition to foreign aid. And even as current events disprove its validity, the use of the slogan seems to increase.

Attacks on the President's request, for example, are stronger now than they were before the crisis in Jordan, say, or the announcement of the important visit to Washington of President Diem of South Vietnam. Both Diem and Jordan's King Hussein are tremendously admired in the United States. Both stopped the spread of communism or Communist-inspired subversion in areas the U. S. considers vital to its own safety. Yet it is fair to say that neither could have stood against communism without the assistance of the foreign aid program.

As for the other slogan, the U. S. indeed cannot "buy friends." It can, however, supply weapons and assistance to enemies of communism. That is what it is doing for Diem, who is, and for King Hussein, who is not, considered a "friend."

It is possible that the foreign aid program can be reduced without impairing its effectiveness in fighting communism. But it is unlikely that such reductions can be made by congressmen who insist in the face of contrary fact that foreign aid is "pouring money down a rathole."

Harvey Breit In The New York Times Book Review

TA, YABBOS

DIDN' even *see a tosser* on account uv the *tosser*, see. So's I got to *flog* the stuff fast, d'you *fluff? Arf a tick*, I *vez* to the *bogies*, and without so much as a *dekko*, I *shoot the moon*. It were a bit uv *bolo*, if it were anything; I got to *wallop* the stuff or I got to *flog* it. Anyway, rahnd the corner I *flog* it and get me some *ting-a-ling*. It's a *lark* now, my belly fat with *skilly* and my pockets full with *Woodbines*."

For Fowler's sake, you say, what *gre* we talking about? Arf a *sec*, and we'll tell you. Just the other day we were reading FOWLER'S ESP, a forthcoming novel by the talented and tough Gerald Kersh (Simon & Schuster, publication date May 24), and the Cockney talk in it we found both fascinating and bewildering. By using only colloquialisms we plucked out of the novel, we have put together a paragraph with the deliberate intention of fascinating and bewildering you too. Here goes, then, from FOWLER'S ESP back to good old Fowler:

"I didn't even have a *small coin* because of the *double-crosser*. So I had to pawn the stuff, do you see? *Wait a bit*, I said to the *police*, and without so much as a *glance* about, I *skipped*. It was a bit of an *unlidy* situation. I had to sell the *stuff under the counter* or I had to *pawn* it. Anyway, around the corner I *pawned* it and got me some *money*. It's a *frolic* now, my belly fat with *weak gruel* and my pockets filled with a *brand of cigarettes* (sold in packets of five)."

Ta yabbos, and don't you never be no nark.

Article about a Brooklyn taxi driver who found and reported a lost purse said he received "a bid to appear on a television program at a $25 fee." This is obviously in error; the figure must have been $25,000.—ARKANSAS GAZETTE.

Pome In Which Further Comment Is Made Concerning Home-Made Humor:

There are times you almost choke
On an amateurish joke.

—ATLANTA JOURNAL.

We think the rumor that Conrad Hilton plans to buy the Leaning Tower of Pisa is false. He could call it the Tiltin' Hilton, of course, but could he find enough waiters with one leg shorter than the other?—MATTOON (ILL.) JOURNAL-GAZETTE.

—PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S TRIAL BALLOON—

White House Leaks 'Rumor' Of Gruenther Appointment

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

GENERAL Alfred M. Gruenther, President Eisenhower's closest friend out of his military past and his dedicated right hand in one assignment after another, has now served for nearly six months as head of the American Red Cross and the President is considering giving him another and more difficult job.

Reports have been inspired by the White House that Gruenther is likely to succeed Charles E. Wilson as Secretary of Defense when Wilson retires later in the year. This deliberate testing of the wind is to determine public reaction to the appointment of a general to the civilian office of head of the far-flung defense establishment.

CONGRESS IMPRESSED

Action by Congress would be necessary to put a military man in the office that the law provides shall go to a civilian. But Gruenther would have little difficulty with Congress, since he has again and again impressed congressional committees with his incisive intellect and his remarkable dedication to public service.

Gruenther would be put in as secretary in the belief that he could hold the line against interservice rivalry as the new look in military defense is achieved. This is an across-the-board adaptation of small atomic weapons to every branch of the service for readiness in fighting limited wars.

As this new look, which has been projected for a considerable time, takes hold, the massive deterrent of the hydrogen-bomb attack, with its potential of total destruction, becomes less important. The belief is growing that the massive deterrent will never be used and that a reserve of hydrogen bombs — 25 is the figure in some discussions — will be sufficient.

DONALD A. QUARLES
Strengthening A Liaison

As President Eisenhower suggested at his press conference, if by remote chance an agreement was to be reached with Soviet Russia barring future production of nuclear material, the United States could convert part of the explosive now in the big bombs to the use of smaller weapons.

But this is bound to mean far-reaching changes with respect to piloted aircraft and the contracts held by the big companies for those aircraft. Service rivalries will be stirred anew, and only Gruenther, with his hard driving ability and his intimate knowledge of the military establishment, could hold it down.

That would be particularly true — and the White House has given serious consideration to this aspect — if death or prolonged illness removes the President and puts Vice President Richard M. Nixon in the office.

Donald A. Quarles, just moved from Secretary of the Air Force to be Wilson's deputy, would stay on in that post. Quarles is now working on revision of the Pentagon's office of research and engineering. His objective is a greatly improved liaison with the nation's leading scientists so that the military can have the immediate benefit of any scientific breakthrough.

That liaison has been weak under 77-year-old Frank D. Newbury, soon to resign as assistant secretary for research and engineering. Leading scientists have distrusted Newbury. Quarles, with his impressive background in directing top-level research in industry, is considered ideal for the No. 2 spot in the Pentagon.

ALFRED M. GRUENTHER
Warming Up Backstage

While Gruenther has given to the Red Cross a typical Groenther day of 12 to 14 hours and a great deal of travel in the country, he has, nevertheless, been close to the latest military thinking with the stress on across-the-board use of small nuclear weapons.

This thinking takes in Britain's new defense planning, with the emphasis on nuclear retaliation and the extension of small nuclear weapons to all NATO powers for the defense of Western Europe. For two years Gruenther was chief of staff for General Eisenhower when the latter was supreme commander of NATO forces in Europe.

Hardly a week has gone by since he returned to Washington that Gruenther has not been with the President. As one of the nation's crack bridge players, he is often the President's partner. On weekends the wife, ever alert, Gruenther is with Ike on the golf course.

Theirs is a remarkable relationship of trust and confidence. And if the public reaction is not adverse, the President may put his trusted friend in perhaps the most exacting office in government next to the presidency, with authority to spend up to $40 billion a year.

As their testimony before the House committee considering the defense appropriation made clear, the service chiefs are inclined to accept the new look with all that it means in sweeping alterations. But when the pinch comes, powerful pressures are certain to develop. And then, if present plans work out, it will be yet another tough task for Al Gruenther to hold the line.

People's Platform

Teaching Profession No Longer Attracts Youth

Marston

Editors, The News:

I WOULD like to state my views on teachers receiving higher salaries.

Today with higher living standards the teacher is unable to keep pace with others on his small salary. The teaching profession is not and will not attract many young capable people with this problem.

Today the average teacher pays from $1,200 to $1,500 per year for his education. In four years he pays about $5,000. Yet he will receive less pay than any college graduate going into other fields. Many fields require only one year of higher training yet receive higher wages than the average teacher in North Carolina receives.

I think if North Carolina doesn't soon do something about this problem our educational standard will drop below every state in the union.

It is time for citizens of North Carolina to wake up and meet this problem face to face.

—GEORGE SEAGO

Tar Heel Teachers Deserve More Pay

Jackson Springs

Editors, The News:

WHY should the teaching profession attract newcomers? The teaching profession today is not attractive to newcomers. Several years ago more young people entered this field than ever before. But today with our nation's higher living standards, the teaching profession is less attractive than ever before.

While some other professions call for less time and money, the teacher goes to college for four years but yet gets less pay than the average college graduate. Today college costs on the average $12,000. The teachers pay out $48,000 to $60,000 to obtain their degrees.

Today a person certainly needs an education to get a job and make a comfortable living for himself and his family, and without satisfactory teachers how can the children learn and prepare for a future career?

If the teaching profession in North Carolina were paid higher salaries, it would attract many more young capable people for future teaching.

—BEULAH AUMAN

Asheville Church Too Shortsighted

Chapel Hill

Editors, The News:

AN ARTICLE in the May 9 News states that Asheville's Patton Avenue Baptist Church went on record as opposing dancing "on the campus of any of our Baptist colleges," and has threatened to cut off financial support to Baptist colleges which permit dancing. "Specific mention was made of Wake Forest College, whose trustees recently decided to permit dancing on the campus."

Are the members of the Asheville church aware of the fact that their support is being used to pay professors their salaries, to build new campus buildings, to repair the older buildings, to maintain the cafeterias, to provide scholarships for needy students, and to further scholastic research all for the education and advancement of the students? Or do they perhaps fancy that their contributions are being used to decorate the colleges' gymnasiums for Saturday night sock hops?

—ALVIN RANKIN JR.

Judiciary Overreached Itself In Girard Case

Pittsboro

Editors, The News:

THERE are just two items I wish to discuss briefly in this communication. First, the rearing and snorting of Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the NAACP, at the North Carolina College, Durham, this week.

Surely he must know that the white racial renegades and emotionally insane churchmen have taken charge of integration and are running, so to speak, with the ball at lightning speed, leaving the NAACP without purpose, function or expense.

In fact, it is more useless and purposeless than a last year's bird nest. Of course, the North Carolina College is a fine place at which the NAACP counsel can limber-up and put on the moves, and maybe Durham is the place for complete integration, not desegregation, as there is a vast difference between the two procedures. And don't miss that, either.

Second, the Girard College decision of the U. S. Supreme Court; and I am wondering how much longer can one expect the American people to submit to this type of judicial tyranny?

I have never had any sympathy with under-cover methods and have fought in the open and above-board in all my fighting and argument; but the time has come for thinking people to let the court know that force will be applied to preserve segregation in private institutions and religious faiths and assemblies.

Girard College is a private segregated college and the trustees, though officials of the city of Philadelphia, were acting not for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the County of Philadelphia or the municipality, and not a penny of public money had ever been got in the construction or operation of the college. Girard, a banker and merchant prince, of French descent, put most of his estate of $7 million in the institution, $5 million in construction and $2 million in endowment, which under the trusters' administration over the past 125 years has grown to $96 million. The college was built for the education of "white orphan boys," and the current enrollment is around 1,000 students.

But the fool argument of the court, that because the trustees are city officials, therefore, they represent either the commonwealth, the county or city and the college is a public institution and can't remain segregated, I am now a boiling commentator, within the next few minutes I will be working probate matters, figuring out and making settlement of estates and before the day is done I may be out with my gun trying to kill a crow. It's not who I am but what I am doing that determines my relationship to the public.

Under the fool decision of the court, I can't have a segregated party and call upon a policeman to protect my party against intrusion on the integrated, white racial renegades or emotionally insane churchmen, without violating the Fourteenth Amendment because I had the aid of a public officer. This makes it necessary for me to protect my party by the use of one of my old trusty firearms, which I would certainly use.

I have the life of Stephen Girard before me and have just read his will. He endowed a Masonic Orphans' Home, to which only white orphan children are entered. Will the court hold that to be in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment if Negroes are excluded?

It's the nature of tyranny to overreach itself, and that the court has done in the Girard College decision.

—JOHN W. HESTER

What Fringe Resident Wants To Come In?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

WHEN Rep. Vogler was quoted in the newspaper as saying he believed most of the people outside Charlotte favored annexation, what class or group of people has he been in contact with? I have yet to talk to one perimeter resident who favored annexation.

Even will of the people concerned—is there such?

—BEN T. ECHERD.

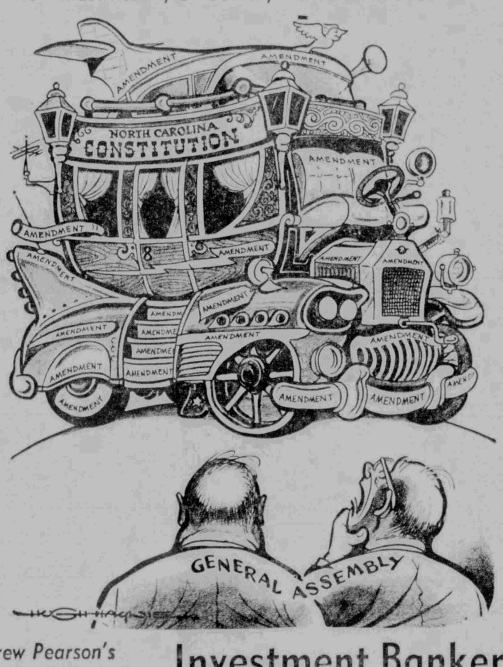
Quote, Unquote

It is easier for a man to be loyal to his club than to his planet; the by-laws are shorter, and he is personally acquainted with the other members.—**E. B. White.**

Pessimism is the only name that men of weak nerves give to wisdom.—**Bernard De Voto.**

Show me a hero and I will write you a tragedy.—**F. Scott Fitzgerald.**

'As A Last Resort, Of Course, We Could Trade It In'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Investment Banker Boosts School Aid

WASHINGTON

GOP Congressman Sam McConnell is a Philadelphia investment banker who also serves on the House Labor and Education Committee where he tries to do a conscientious job for all the public. He has just returned from a trip through four midwestern states at his own expense. The purpose: To learn the true facts about the nation's need for school buildings.

McConnell returned more convinced than ever of the urgency of federal school aid, despite the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

Disagrees With Chamber

"I'm an investment banker," McConnell confessed to this column, recalling that most investment bankers oppose federal aid on the grounds that it would rob them of school-bond underwriting business.

"I guess I'm a conservative, and I'm a lifelong Republican. But I simply don't agree with the U. S. Chamber's interpretation of the figures on the nation's need for schools.

'Real Shortage'

"There's a real shortage, but one of a specific nature. You have to understand that."

The place where schools are needed most, he explained, is in the suburbs, close to big cities. In such areas, population has swollen in recent years, but school construction hasn't kept pace. The suburbs lack adequate tax revenues to build schools, chiefly because they don't have taxpaying factories within their boundaries.

"Logically they should get help from their state governments," McConnell continued, "and in many cases the states are helping. But there are other cases where constitutional restrictions make state help impossible.

"For example, some states have a limit beyond which they're not allowed to borrow money. Constitutions just don't get adjusted in five minutes. It's hard to get them changed."

Build Now!

McConnell considers it urgent to build schools immediately, before the growing crop of school-age kids reaches high school.

"If they get a bad start," warns the congressman, "they may be ruined for the rest of their lives, even if we eventually succeed in getting the school shortage ironed out."

Following his trip to inspect school buildings in Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and Iowa, McConnell made an impassioned plea behind the closed doors of the House Education Committee. He begged his colleagues to back the federal aid bill, despite the economy hysteria now disrupting Congress.

NEA's Cold Feet

A few days later, representatives of the National Education Association got cold feet, called on McConnell to suggest that the proposed five-year expenditure be lowered from the $2,000,000,000 already agreed upon. The NEA was worried that the economizers would reject the bill.

McConnell agreed to cut $500 million from the proposed cost. The Education Committee later concurred by a vote of 23 to 3.