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Tar Heels Who Can't Hear The Boom

ECONOMIC progress in North Carolina booms on, loudly, insistently, under the brilliant generalship of Gov. Luther Hodges. In almost every phase of his campaign toward higher payrolls and industrial diversity, the governor has won victories. But even Gov. Hodges must know, on the eve of another General Assembly, that some 90,000 North Carolinians cannot hear or savor the boom. They are Labor Commissioner Frank Crane's phrase, "the forgotten people" — the Tar Heels who are not employed in interstate commerce and are thus not subject to federal minimum wage law. In fact, they are subject to the state wage law, for try as they will, the apostles of economic boom like Gov. Hodges and Labor Commissioner Crane have not been able so far to sell North Carolina on state legislation. Here, North Carolinians along with the other, more orthodox southern states.

In the past six legislatures, six state minimum wage bills have been introduced — proposing floors of 40 to 75 cents per hour. But the tale of their fate reads like Richard III's soliloquy on the death of kings: Some slain on the floor, some lobbied to death, the 1957 bill "sleeping killed" in the House Committee on Manufactures and Labor by an unprecedented "tabling" action. Gov. Hodges and his allies, who will hopefully try again for state minimum wage action, may ask themselves why such legislation is always killed off in the General Assembly. It is a question for all of us. For a state which has been attentive to the need for an economic face-lift, it doesn't make sense. Let a new chemical plant, for instance, be transplanted with its high wage scale into the Tar Heel economy. The reception is enthusiastic. There are no critics that the discrepancy between its wage scale and wage scales traditionally paid in "home grown" industries will somehow plunge the state into depression. When migrating industry is at stake, there are no windy orations about dangerous seed in our green and pleasant land. But let legislators begin to ponder a state minimum wage law for the hundreds of small businesses and certain types of labor. Such a law, one lobbyist told a state Senate committee in 1957, would be "a dangerous flag in the face of capital we want to attract new industries."

The leading doctors of economic falderal may be left to decipher that piece of inconsistency, for almost without exception new industries coming into North Carolina shame the home front with their high wage scales. How, then, could they be frightened by a law which would raise the wage of the "forgotten people" of North Carolina? The fact is that economic old wives' tales die hard, especially when they serve falsely helpful for those who have their own interests exclusively in mind. For the management of small businesses, however, no-old economic tales is more deceitful than the myth that high wages injure the economy. Decent wages can only supply more purchasing power, which in turn will seek the small establishments along hundreds of Main Streets which need it most. In the ledger of a growing economy purchase equals sale. Income equals production.

But the story is not economic alone, but also human—that some 90,000 members of this state's working force work for wages far below the vast power of the state and national pocketbook to pay. A state minimum wage law is not only a matter of sound economics. It is a question of conscience.

'Sam, A Lot Of Those Liberals Don't Realize How Well We Treat These Folks Down Here'



A Peep Under The Curtain

The Impact Of Mikoyan

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON — The visit of Anastas Mikoyan means for the future depends on decisions still to be taken in Washington and Moscow. It has been an extraordinary exercise in atmospherics. The very fact that the No. 2 Russian Communist sat down in the White House for nearly two hours with President Eisenhower was in itself evidence of a change that no one would have believed possible six weeks ago.

Attack. From the Russian side, pressure is coming to resume the meetings which were suspended just before Christmas. The same desire was expressed in an American note. But to formulate a sound position in the immensely complicated field of modern weaponry would, in the opinion of those who should know, take from three to four months. It would have to be done by the same team of experts put together by William C. Foster, America's chief negotiator, for the first series of talks.

Yet it is clear from the Mikoyan visit that it is not possible just to sit still. Khrushchev is moving in a new direction, showing a direct rebuff to his agent, Mikoyan, he shows every sign of pursuing with vigor the course of "peaceful coexistence." We know that Mikoyan was not rebuffed. His extended talks with Secretary of State Dulles, climaxed by his meeting with the President, had the look of negotiation if it were not that both sides so insistently repeated that the discussions were solely to explore each others' viewpoints. It is now time, therefore, in the view of observers who have so long watched the course of one step forward and one step back, for new vigor in the preparation of the American position.



MIKOYAN Started Something?

CASTING THE DIE So far as Moscow is concerned, Nikita Khrushchev's report to the 22nd Congress of the Communist party will almost certainly tell the tale. It is on the basis of what Mikoyan reports to him he comes down hard for negotiation with the West on the broad issues of the cold war, then he will have cast the die against the so-called anti-party group and their hard line.

In Washington the situation is more complex, and it is here that the second qualifier must be raised. To have real meaning, any future negotiation must be prepared for with great thoroughness and exactitude. To go to a meeting merely with good will, relying on the sudden improvisation of something like the "open skies" proposal, is to risk another far more dangerous disillusionment. Take as an example the conference in Geneva aimed at reducing the danger from surprise.

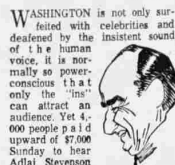
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Greater Reliance. The time has come, some in the administration are saying, for the secretary to put greater reliance on men of ability whom he can trust. New men such as William C. Foster, John J. McCloy, and Eric Johnston might be brought together in a negotiating council to frame the American position. Dulles has asked if Chancellor Konrad Adenauer to re-think the West German position on renunciation. The time is at hand for some hard rethinking everywhere.

EASIER TO DO NOTHING? In view of the conflict within the Eisenhower administration over Soviet policy in almost every phase — nuclear testing, surprise attack, trade — some observers are saying that in the end it will be easier to do nothing. The divergent views of the Pentagon, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the State Department can be welded together by only one man, and that is the President. He has shown in six years in the White House that it is just his kind of difficult, bracing task he

They Flocked To Hear Adlai Who Still Looks Like An 'In'

By DORIS FLEESON



NOT A WARWICK

WASHINGTON is not only surprised and delighted and deflected by the insistent sound of the human voice, it is normally conscious that only the "ins" can afford to pay a price of \$7,000 Sunday to hear Adlai Stevenson lecture on "The Political Relevance of Moral Principle," and 2,000 more tickets could have been sold were they available. What does this mean in political terms? Democrats are asking the question with the greater urgency because no one of its many Presidential candidates has either a commanding lead or recognized moral stature.

LEAVEN Stevenson was inaugurating an annual lecture series in memory of Dr. Powell Davies, and certainly many came to show their sorrow that the liberal voice that has been heard so rarely in this land is stifled. But liberals were only a leaven in the audience, just as they are something less than a leaven in the Democratic Convention. Stevenson was inaugurating an annual lecture series in memory of Dr. Powell Davies, and certainly many came to show their sorrow that the liberal voice that has been heard so rarely in this land is stifled. But liberals were only a leaven in the audience, just as they are something less than a leaven in the Democratic Convention.

They are continually being encouraged by such evidence that people now want to hear what Stevenson has to say. They are making any organizational moves and disclaim any part of the studies that are taught.

New Police Chief Looks Courageous

Charlotte Editors: The News: I HAVE watched with interest to see what sort of man our new police chief would turn out to be. It is too early to be sure but the signs look very good. People do not believe in their schools as they used to because they have fallen down on the job. The teachers do a poorer job than ever and like modern labor racketeers they are yelling for more money all the time. I'm a teacher but I think we should be more dedicated to our work and think more about the good we can do than what we are paid for doing it. — J. W. JEWELL

Merchants, Chamber To Run City Hall?

Charlotte Editors: The News: [THERE ARE so many people filled by people who don't fit. They are in Charlotte, Raleigh and Washington. Furthermore, every state has them; some more than others. Who puts them in office? The little fellow who supports those who are responsible for the deals that the little fellow doesn't need. We can and do get rid of one now and then. But when we discontinue we get too to fill the void. Evil treatment is what is responsible for the leadership of some countries today. Looks as if America is going down hill at a similarly fast pace. As it stands today when a person gets a jump ahead, his first thought is to knock the little fellow. Who builds the merchants' bank account? The little one. The big fellow does this to strangle him on every turn. I say this. If the merchants and the Chamber of Commerce are going to run the cities, then let's close the Council Chamber. I see where the big fellows say they are going to run a dictatorial slate. Lots run, but fall on the way. There is a lot of anger floating around today. We will wait and see who is who, as of May 1959. — S. C. VAUGHN

Schools Have Fallen Down On Their Job

Editors: The News: I AM convinced that the studies in our high schools and colleges must take first place if we are to win in this cold war. It is mighty nice and very pleasant to engage in some game or activity that we love, but after all the school was put there on

Charlotte Lends An Ear To Moscow

NEW Americans can listen to the suave, enormously self-assured voice of a Radio Moscow "news" commentator without experiencing a slight chill. The accent is distinctly American—complete with midwestern twang—and the words sound innocent enough at first impression. But then again something is not quite right. There is a faint tinge to the line of chatter that is profoundly disturbing. It is not that the Soviet commentator is lying outlandishly. Not at all. He has merely edited the news for his own purposes — embedding something being leaving out something, then twisting the truth ever so slightly somewhere else. The result is often a clever distortion with great propaganda value. It is this result that is so upsetting.

wave receivers and tape-recorded. Standing by is Rupert Gillett, a veteran foreign affairs expert, who straightens out the Kremlin's verbal knuckleballs and puts the news back into its proper perspective. It is a commendable project and we congratulate the station on its enterprise. The notion that it is aiding and abetting the Soviets by spreading Communist propaganda is nonsense. It is instead educating the public, acquainting it with the hard ideological mask of Russian communism and indicating the lengths it will go to distort truth. If the broadcast accomplishes nothing else they will at least reveal to a number of Americans precisely the kind of things we're up against in the cold war. We hope listeners will come away from their loudspeakers with a new and healthy respect for Soviet cunning, a new determination to do what is necessary to combat it. If some are frightened by what they hear, let them be. This nation could use a little intelligent fear from time to time. It keeps us in trim.

Now, thanks to the imagination and boldness of a local radio station, a lot of people in this neck of the nation will have an opportunity to feel the stinging impact of Red propaganda. Each Sunday evening WBT Radio is presenting the voice of Radio Moscow as monitored on the station's own short

Conservatives, Arise! THE American Automobile Association is not only in favor of driver training "as an integral part of the school curriculum" but claims such training can be genuinely "liberalizing."

It Also Takes Money To Save Money

WALL Streeters have been chanting it for years: "It takes money to make money." Down on Courthouse Square in Charlotte the truism might be rephrased thusly: "It takes money to save money." At any rate, that was the philosophy of County Commissioners who voted this week to hire a purchasing agent to do the city's buying. It was a wise decision and one that can possibly save Mecklenburg taxpayers considerable sums of money in the future. It's true that the addition will cost \$5,000 to \$6,000 in salary alone. But any purchasing agent worth his salt ought to be able to save that kind of money in no time at all by organizing and standardizing the county's buying. Other counties have saved tens of thousands of dollars annually after the installation of a centralized purchasing system.

The truth is that county government is big business in many respects. Where sound business practices are applicable and appropriate they ought to be used without hesitation. Mecklenburg County's government has grown tremendously within the past 15 years. Its machinery has to be adjusted constantly to keep up with the demands of a bigger, busier metropolitan area. The smart and casual techniques of pre-war days just aren't effective any more. We're too big. Fortunately, the commission's majority is aware of this. Those hurrahs you hear are from grateful taxpayers.

MAN-EATING FIREMEN

CURIOSITY prevails in East Africa, that the business of fire brigades is to obtain and can human flesh for consumption. The Uganda correspondent of the KENYA WEEKLY NEWS reports a recent instance. A tribesman turned up at the Lampla fire station and tried to sell a fellow-African to the brigade for 1,500 shillings. The deal was not clinched, but the prospective victim said about it is not recorded. How did this belief originate? One theory is that it began with a new brand of tinned meat. The canning company sought to recommend this to its customers by enclosing the can in a scarlet wrapper with a trade-mark of an African's head on it. Unhappily the trade-mark was taken to indicate the contents

of the can, and the wrapper was just the color of a fire-engine and why else do firemen carry hatchets with them when they dash about the country, holding on to a big red van? Several people have been killed in the mistaken belief that they were being eaten. The killers thought to doubt that they were acting in self-defense. This belief is now for the most part confined to the remote rural settlements. But not many years ago it was put to use in the small town of Mbale, which was given to celebrating Christmas by an outbreak of burglary. The police patrolled the town in fire-engines and Mbale never had a quieter Christmas.

Drew Pearson's Merry Go-Round

WASHINGTON — Anastas Mikoyan enjoyed chewing on Senate questions more than on Soviet steak the other day, during his 90-minute luncheon with the Foreign Relations Committee. He ate as sprightly, savored the discussion intently. Sen. Alex Wiley, Wisconsin Republican, pinned Mikoyan down on the purpose of his visit. Perfect Health "What do you expect to accomplish?" asked Wiley. "If I get out of your country in perfect health, I think I will get a great accomplishment," replied Mikoyan, mischievously, referring to the egg attacks upon him by Hungarian refugees. He demonstrated his skill at filibustering when Arkansas Sen. Bill Fulbright, a defender of the filibuster, tried to cross-examine him about Berlin. For 20 minutes, Mikoyan expounded the Soviet position without really saying anything new. He Corrects Humphrey He argued that all occupation troops could be withdrawn from Berlin without jeopardizing its freedom. "Your troops won't be very far away,

Senate Filibuster Aces Meet Their Match

Our troops won't be very far away. Why make it an open city?" he shrugged. He wound up with an appeal for a "little agreement" as the first step toward mutual confidence. "Everybody is afraid of everybody," declared amiable Anastas. "You don't trust us. We are not afraid of you. We just make a little agreement as a beginning." He also corrected Sen. Humphrey, who usually does his homework on Senate accuracy, on a detail of the Rapacki plan for a demilitarized zone in Europe. Humphrey understood it called for demilitarizing the area 300 miles on each side of the iron curtain. Mikoyan explained that the demilitarized zone would extend only 150 miles each way but that the troops would pull back 500 miles. He was right. Long Called Later Sen. Long dramatically pulled out a letter from a constituent who couldn't get her son out of Rumania. He asked Mikoyan to intercede. "I can't get very well do that," protested the Kremlin's No. 2 man innocently. "Rumania has a minister in the United States." "Oh, no," disagreed Long. "You Can Meet Him" "If you come to my reception," Mikoyan offered sweetly. "You can meet him. I am sure he will be there." Long also complained that he had been harassed from visiting private homes during his visit to Russia. Mikoyan assured him there were no government restrictions, suggested his guide may have been embarrassed over the poor housing conditions. Ashamed Of Housing "We haven't reached the development you have reached in this country," he admitted, nibbling at a boiled tomato stuffed with peas. "We are a proud people the same as you. You are not proud of your slum housing conditions. We are not proud of our housing conditions." "I was in Russia a couple years ago," interposed Sen. Homer Capehart, Indiana Republican. "I got into a lot of homes." "I would think so," nodded Mikoyan, eyeing the genial countenance of the

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