



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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One Crying Need Outshouts The Others

THE sky over Raleigh darkened today as the state's most worrisome problems flew flapping home to roost. From Gov. Hodges, from a mixed assortment of governmental study commissions, from private pressure groups and from individual legislators themselves, the cry was essentially the same: "Mine first."

Two years is a long time between drinks and between legislative sessions and so a certain amount of earnest impatience is forgivable. The rush to get special pleadings for special causes before a new General Assembly is always brisk, always insistent.

Obviously, some matters cannot wait. One of these in 1959 is a minimum wage proposal.

It is interesting, and more than a little cheering, that a bill to set a 75-cent hourly wage floor was among the first legislative proposals introduced as the House of Representatives convened.

The measure is the product of Rep. Dwight W. Quinn of Cabarrus. It is essentially the same proposal—with only a few modifications—as a bill defeated by the House in 1957 after passing the Senate.

Press room cynics have already given their opinion of the new bill's chances. This is done silently, with a twist of the wrist, thumb pointed downward in a manner of Roman emperor condemning a fallen gladiator to the sword. The judgment is based upon the comfortable assumption that legislators will be afflicted by the same social blindness that has handicapped many another General Assembly in the past.

This rather unfortunate disease assumed a particularly virulent and contagious form in 1957. The only consolation is that immunity may have been developed due to the constant exposure to the utterly ridiculous dialectics of the same old lobbyists. Admittedly, the arguments against a decent state minimum wage are some of the best that ever came out of the 19th century. But as the years—and centuries—roll by they somehow lose much of their Old World charm.

Rep. Quinn's proposal is modest enough. It would guarantee workers a minimum of only \$30 a week, gross, before Social Security, taxes and everything else has been deducted. It would even exempt workers in agriculture, domestic service, salesmen on commission, those whose pay is in the form of tips and gratuities and goodness knows how many others.

But it is not just a principle that Rep. Quinn and others are seeking to establish. Let's look at the record.

North Carolina has about 1.1 million people employed in nonagricultural work today. About 600,000 of this number are covered by federal minimum wage legislation because they are involved in interstate commerce. Of the half million Tar Heels not covered by the federal law, nearly half—almost a quarter of a million—work in state's retail trade and service-industry establishments and have no wage protection. Thirty-seven per cent of all these employees earned in 1957 less than 75 cents an hour.

Modest as it is, a 75-cent minimum would help North Carolina obtain higher purchasing power for its people, increase its dreadfully low per capita income and build a healthier future for the state as a whole.

Surely, Tar Heel legislators will not turn their backs again on these social and economic realities.

Everybody Else Has A Pressure Group

IN fine fustian fettle, the CINCINNATI ENQUIRER tweaked the noses of North Carolina newsmen the other day, causing considerable anguish in the corn belt.

It had to do with the Dixie Classic, the collegiate basketball extravaganza held each December at State College in Raleigh. The University of Cincinnati came into the tournament, you may remember, ranked No. 1 in the nation and left in a somewhat disheveled condition after suffering two jolting defeats.

"It is doubtful Cincinnati ever will go back to the Dixie Classic as long as the racial problem exists," harrumphed the ENQUIRER's Dick Forbes. "Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say as long as the North Carolina press keeps it a hot potato." The ENQUIRER's man accused Tar Heel newsmen of taking "digs" at Cincinnati's great Negro all-American, Oscar Robertson, and other Negro players in the tournament.

This raised eyebrows down here. Not being sociologists, Tar Heel sportswriters profess boredom when confronted with the intricacies of ancestry. The only thing that really seems to move them is performance and they were hurt when it was suggested that their failure to appreciate Cincinnati's performance was mistaken as a "dig" at young Robertson's race.

A Change Of Pace For Hibernating Fans

IT happens every year about this time. It's always a bit startling. But it comes as a welcome change of air, as it were, as if somebody had suddenly opened the front door to a mild day.

These dreary afternoons, when one would ponder rindrops puddling together, the first reports from baseball's organized minds provide a well-pitched change of pace.

Already the stories have begun. It's a faint stirring, to be sure, but it's there, and hibernating fans feel it as surely as twinges from a diving rod.

The general manager makes his re-

port. The Blasters look better this year. If ol' Knuckelhead can deliver on the mound, and if Zip Clabber can find his batting eye with those new contact lenses, watch our smoke!

That's the beauty of organized baseball. General optimism. It matters little that Knuckelhead split his arm at home five years ago or that Zip's batting average will certainly maroon itself in the 150 regions. They could get better!

These make for brighter thoughts, and before the first pitch, at least, everybody's a winner.

Now if the Charlotte Hornets get some lefthanded chumpers this season and one good slugger...

We wonder if a lot of Americans aren't getting a bit overly sensitive and unreasonable protective when it comes to race—not only the color of the skin, but also in the editorial towers, the walnut cubicles of Hollywood, the television studios and even the steamy prose of much contemporary literature. Just the other day, critic John Crosby raised a similar point in a piece on "tolerance dramas."

"For a score of years now," he wrote, "the only permissible violation has been white Protestants of Anglo-Saxon stock. During the war, of course, we could also sneer at Germans and Japanese and since the war it's been open season on the Russians. Mostly, though, the bad guys are simply ourselves. Everyone else has a pressure group.

"Brown, yellow or black-skinned folk are automatically virtuous—or, if there is a fall from virtue, there are strongly extenuating circumstances, usually intolerable social pressures. The result is that writers are forced to be fundamentally dishonest in their perceptions of people of any other color or creed than white and Protestant."

Mr. Crosby's point is well taken. Why can't people simply be represented as people, not as plaster saints? It's a good question. Meanwhile, we've been moping around all day trying to think of something new to tolerate. We think it's going to be the CINCINNATI ENQUIRER.

THAT EXCESS WEIGHT

IT surprises us, as it did a pair of eminent investigators, to learn that when it comes to sloughing off excess pounds, men do a consistently better job of it than women.

The investigators of the male-female reducing comparison are Dr. Albert Stunkard, psychiatrist at the University School of Medicine, and Miss Mavis McLaren-Hume, M.S., member of the staff of the New York Hospital nutrition department.

They report in the Archives of Internal Medicine that three separate studies show that "a far higher percentage of men than women were able to achieve the modest success of a 20-pound weight loss," and that the discrepancy between the results of treatment for men and women is even more pronounced if 40 pounds is considered as the reducing target. But the investigators offered no reason for the success of men.

Rushing in instantly where psychia-

trist and nutritionist feared to tread, we offer our readers their choice of three reasons why men are better reducers than women:

Men are naturally more determined than women.

Men are naturally more anxious to look well than women.

Men (husbands) have women (wives) to blame well see to it that weight comes off if the doc says it ought to come off.

Why the last reason doesn't also work in reverse is meat for another investigation, this time by 17 underweight psychiatrists and 17 overweight nutritionists.

Pome In Which A Piercing Rhyme Is Being Achieved:

Didst thou have fun when thou wast
 Last to visit with thy dentist?
 —ATLANTA JOURNAL.

Mental Health Group Offers Help To Many

Editors, The News: FOR the last three months, I have been a member of a group of 12 to 14 people who call themselves the Recovery Club. We meet each Friday night at 8 o'clock in one of the rooms upstairs at the main Public Library. The purpose of our meetings is to train ourselves in the practice of mutual help and self help. Our goal is mental health. Leaders are lay people and what the group offers lies in the fact that many nervous people can be helped by the understanding of simple and practical methods for handling their problems and by the bolstering influence of a group of people who suffer from troubles or problems akin to their own. We learn to recognize and to handle the symptoms of our "crises"—Tension, fear, fatigue, panic and outbursts of temper are some

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON PRESIDENT Eisenhower has been letting some interesting tidbits drop at his breakfasts with Republican congressmen. They range from portrait painting to balancing the budget to the sometimes dour visage of Herbert Hoover.

Regarding the budget, Ike has let it be known that he was not as optimistic, privately, about balancing it as he has been publicly.

Halleck's Reminder

It was Charlie Halleck of Indiana, the new GOP House leader, who precipitated the budget issue by reminding him that it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to thwart Democratic demands for greater spending for mis-

Money 'All But Abolished' In Red China's Communes

By R. H. SHACKFORD

THE next trick in the new Red Chinese system of communes—if it comes off—is the plan ultimately to abolish money as far as the people are concerned.

By supplying the people everything the state decides they need, money will not be necessary, and according to Mao Tse-tung, will bring about a Red Utopia without personal greed. Abolition of money will deprive the individual of any chance to exercise choice and make it possible for the regime to suppress "inappropriate desires."

MARKSIT PRIZES

The road to this goal has started with a "wage-plus-supply" system. In the more advanced communes, the member gets a tiny "wage" in money and the rest of his basic necessities "free" from the commune

—housing, food, clothing, etc. The "wage-plus-supply" Marxist principle—"from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs." The Bolsheviks in Russia have never tried this, even though they keep promising, and Lenin himself once promised "free" bread.

Some of the Chinese communes already include several major items in the "supply" portion—food, clothing, housing, marriage and funerals. Few peasants ever have had that much "guaranteed" in the past, so even the tiniest amount taken "wage" is impressive to many a scheme that was many years into the commune "voluntarily."

It reminds one, however, of how Mao wooed so many followers by promising to distribute

the land among the peasants. He did in 1949-50, but took it back then to form collectives in 1955. Now he's taking it away from the collectives where the peasant retained small private plots, and giving all of it to the communes (the agents for the absentee landlords in Peking).

How little the people are getting in this new Chinese "chain gang" empire—without almost everything squeezed out of the central regime—is disclosed by Peking's own statistics: And once communes are organized to supply everything, even that pittance of wages in money will be abolished.

At the moment, however, the ambitious peasant or worker theoretically can earn a bonus.

But it works both ways. It's called a "bonus and punishment" system, the punishment for laziness.

HOW TO QUALIFY

To qualify for a "bonus," the workers must fulfill all the following:

1. Be obedient to leadership (Communist) and work hard and enthusiastically.
2. Fill or overfill production quotas "with regard to quality."
3. Love and protect public property.
4. Fight against bad men and bad things at all times and in all places.
5. Think progressively, study hard and play a leading role in the technical innovation movement.
6. Work AT LEAST 28 days per month.

The "punishment" side provides that unenthusiastic workers, absentees, etc., shall be

"educationally criticized," issued "basic wages at a discount" (Chinese for pay cut), or demoted in their wage grades. The regime claims great success for this colossal carrot-and-stick system—a great event without parallel in history for the peasant to have free meals as a reward for regular income. When wages were distributed for the first time, some of the peasants were moved to tears.

"WAGING WAR"

But all is not serene. Hardly a day goes by without a statement is issued that doesn't harangue the poor and lower middle-class peasants to "wage unceasing war" against the upper middle-class and rich peasants and landlords— that is, the remnants of capitalism.

TOMORROW. What about Mao's strained silence on the "left deviationism" of the Red Chinese communes?

People's Perimeter Deserves Representation On Council

Editors, The News: Charlotte

IT IS MY hope, that our representatives in the state legislature will be fighting hard for the perimeter area constituents now as they did during the last session. I feel that I am expressing the thoughts of many people living in the perimeter area, because I have asked around about this.

We feel that we should have representation in the Charlotte City Council. We will be in the city a year before we are entitled to vote or have people run for office. As far as we are concerned, we were taken or have voted into the city, we feel we should have our choice as to whom will represent us in the future.

I have lived in Charlotte city for ten years and am now buying a home in the perimeter area which was not a prerequisite. It just happened that way. I have been very interested in the affairs of the City of Charlotte. I have a tendency to watch what goes on, and we are particularly dissatisfied with what has happened, but we would like to have a chance to have some representation in the plans that are being formulated for us.

—C. E. "REDD" GARRETT

New Timber Needed On Charlotte Council

Editors, The News: CHARLOTTE voters elect a City Council for public service, but get 5 to 1 action. All the policemen wanted was to get together for decent working conditions, which they were sadly in need of. But, their union was outlawed.

The Council and the mayor had to go to Raleigh to get the ruling that was, we suppose, hatched up by the past gang in the state legislature, and boosted by somebody's Chamber of Commerce.

We need new timber in the City Council, but we do not need any that has been discarded. Let's not use any dated timber for a new Council.

We are to elect a new Council in May that will have good will for the city employees and we want them to be what they are. We had hoped that our city employees would get a correct rating, but they have been rated down hill instead of up hill. They surely do not do any boasting as of the last few days.

—S. C. VAUGHN

Mental Health Group Offers Help To Many

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Residents Of Suburbia Eye A Distant Skyline

And give me feelings of tension, frustration, and resentment. Fortunately, they get less and less painful, and we hope in time to conquer them. As part of our meeting, we will do personal experiences which show how recovery training has helped us in our group and we feel perfectly free to discuss our success or failure, because we can count on the others' understanding.

My own experience may illustrate best what Recovery can do. I am visually handicapped and this has made my life difficult because almost all my activities and my work depended on normal eyesight. The self-imposed acceptance of help or the help forced on me make me unhappy

and give me feelings of tension, frustration, and resentment. Fortunately, they get less and less painful, and we hope in time to conquer them. As part of our meeting, we will do personal experiences which show how recovery training has helped us in our group and we feel perfectly free to discuss our success or failure, because we can count on the others' understanding.

I have learned to look at my handicap objectively. I no longer count the things I cannot do but concentrate on what I can.

I have learned that I do not need to be perfect but should be satisfied with reasonable average achievements. Sighted people also spill a glass of juice or stumble, why should it upset

That's What Happens When You Rely On Ordinary People To Defy Law And Order

grand strategy
 BATTLE OF LITTLE ROCK

HERBLOCK



Some Free Advice To The Alaskans

Editors, The News: LET'S all welcome Alaska as the 49th state. They say Alaska is larger than Texas. However, alphabetically, Alaska comes right after Alabama. The Civil Rights Commission has been "investigating" in Alabama. Since Alaska is next on the list, let's send this commission way up there to see that all the Eskimos are properly registered to vote. We should show Alaska the same courtesy that we showed the State of Arkansas and send 1,100 paratroopers up there to help integrate all of the Eskimos. Let's send Jimmy Hoffa to Alaska to get all the dog sled drivers to join the Teamsters Union.

Now that Alaska has put on long pants and become a state, she has many things to learn. Alaskans will find that there are very few state's rights left. They will find they can't even plant a corn patch without some federal bureaucrat blowing down their back.

Personally, I hope the Alaskans will dig and dig and dig and discover a lot of new gold mines and send the gold to Washington, D. C., so that we can start paying off our huge national debt.

—CHARLES B. DOUGLAS

Ike Drops Breakfast Hints On Thrift

WASHINGTON There would also be trouble holding down congressional spending for housing, rivers and harbors, flood control, and farm price supports, the President was told.

Chief Problem

"Everyone in Congress wants to economize on the expense of the other fellow," remarked one breakfast guest. "Nobody is willing to sacrifice his own pet projects. That's the chief problem of keeping the budget balanced."

Ike didn't seem to appreciate this philosophy.

"Well, then, Congress is out of tune with a recent Gallup poll," he remarked. "It showed that the general public favored cuts all down the line in non-

defense spending—and that the public wants us to balance the budget."

Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts got onto more personal matters by informing the President that she had awakened at 3:30 a.m.

"I was so anxious to be on time for this breakfast that I didn't wait for my alarm clock to go off," she reported.

White House Art

"By the way," she asked, "have your efforts to encourage the arts, by giving painting kits to the White House staff, been successful? I do not see any evidence of it around here and I have been wondering if this gift to your staff had produced any results," prodded Mrs. Rogers.

Hoover's Dour Visage

"While we are on this subject, you may have observed that we have a new portrait of the former President Herbert Hoover here in the White House," he said. "The old portrait, which was here when I became President and which I never considered true likeness of Hoover, recently was removed."

Note—The old portrait of the ex-President was painted by a man who was depressed when he looked at it as he was worrying over his administration.

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The President replied that, except for his own amateur efforts with the brush and easel, he had never heard of any budding artists among the White House staff.

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