



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1959

Tobacco Farmers Must Face Their Fate

North Carolina's beleaguered tobacco farmers must now swallow the bitter cup of a presidential veto and begin to face up to their troubles.

The issue in President Eisenhower's veto of the Democratic bill to reestablish "parity" supports of tobacco and wheat must be picked from a confusing maelstrom of currents in the farm picture. Briefly, that issue is between variable price supports as designed by Agriculture Secretary Benson, now in effect, and a return to a program which, if the bill had passed, would have frozen tobacco prices at 1958 market levels. North Carolina leaf-growers, who favored the recently-vetoed bill, argued that under the variable system of supports the prices in next fall's markets will rise, and those rising prices will further jeopardize the faltering export markets.

Mr. Benson is anxious, seemingly, to force the farm-subsidy issue to a crisis before the taxpayers. His "variable" supports have done little for the small farmer, but have piled the surplus warehouses high with wheat and tobacco. The only conclusion one can draw — and in fact Mr. Benson admits as much — is that Benson aims to aid the tendency toward "factory" farming in this country. Behind variable price supports stands an unmistakable indifference to the small tobacco-grower's fate, since Mr. Benson is convinced that the industry has grown too big for its own good. He is a front man for the Midwestern factory-

farmers and tillers of the 40-acre calibres can expect little mercy from his policies.

Mr. Benson's austere exactions aren't an unmixer evil, not so, anyway, if North Carolina farmers will look ahead. Even if the secretary of agriculture hadn't swayed President Eisenhower to veto the "parity" bill, the victory of tobacco farmers would have been only one victory in the losing battle that small farms all over the U. S. are fighting for life. What makes that battle so dismal?

The small farm, as a "way of life," is condemned to slow ruin because there are few to carry its torch politically. The continuing march to the city leaves the vast majority of American voters caring less than nothing about the small farmer's problems. Urban renewal, housing, highways, education — all are better issues in Washington than what is befalling small farmers.

In tobacco specifically, American growers have lost a good 10 to 12 percent of the export market in seven years — even while consumption increased 5 percent in that period. Higher prices next year can only debilitate American competition further, in its battle against the cheaper Rhodesian and Canadian tobacco.

For North Carolina farmers, the future is not pretty to behold. If they are wise, they must behold it straightforwardly, however. It may be that truck and animal farming, diversification in general, is the answer. Certainly the bright leaf is dimmer than ever.

The Beat Heard Around The World

American jazz has come of age. Take it from 91-year-old hipster whose heart never beats in waltz-time.

He is Sen. Theodore Francis Green (D-RI), until recently chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

On hand for the sixth annual Newport Jazz Festival in Rhode Island this week, he announced his pleasure that CBS Radio was to air live broadcasts of the goings-on available to the Voice of America for international transmission.

"In these discordant times," said the nation's most distinguished jazzophile, "it is well to weigh the unique ability of jazz to communicate with all peoples at home and abroad. Jazz sums up the American character by emphasizing the combination of adventure and team work, elements which are basic to our progressive past. Throughout the world jazz continues to attract and fascinate growing numbers of enthusiasts from all walks of life."

"World travelers report that this universally understood music is one of the important aspects of fine relations. It breaks down the barrier created by man's tendency to distrust unfamiliar manners, customs and philosophies."

U. S. middlebrows who habitually look down their noses at the nation's only native art form may have been somewhat mystified. But the senator spoke the truth.

American jazz — not to be confused with rock 'n' roll or the mass-produced trifles of Tin-Pan-Alley — has achieved special significance abroad. Its strange origins, its flowing rhythms, its completely uninhibited character have made it the subject of great curiosity and enthusiasm

wherever it is performed today. European intellectuals dissect it, young people dance to it and almost everyone listens to it. It is so characteristically American that it was banned in Germany, Italy and Japan during World War II and is frankly frowned upon today in the Soviet Union.

When a large jazz orchestra led by John Birks (Dizzy) Gillespie toured the Middle East in 1956 for the State Department, the effect was described by top U. S. diplomats in the area as "magical."

For one thing, Arabs reared on Red propaganda about "racial wars" in America were amazed to see four white and 12 Negro musicians performing together. This music," said U. S. Ambassador to Lebanon Donald Heath, "makes our job much easier."

A diplomatic correspondent of the New York Times wrote from Geneva in 1955:

"America's secret weapon is a blue note in a minor key. Right now its most successful ambassador is Louis (Satchmo) Armstrong. . . . This is not a pipe dream from a backroom jam session. It is the studied conclusion of a handful of thoughtful Americans from Moscow to Madrid. . . ."

Its international appeal is not to be sneered at or under-rated. For to be interested in jazz is to be interested in the United States.

Consequently, Charlotteans enjoying cool applications of Newport jazz this week over WBT can find some additional satisfaction in the knowledge that feet are also tapping behind the iron curtain. It will be, truly, the best heard around the world.

Frederick C. Abbott Helped Us Grow

Charlotte has lost one of its giants. Frederick C. Abbott was more than a community builder. He was a planner, a creative thinker, a source of continuous inspiration. It was his kind of vision and enterprise that actually laid the foundation for Charlotte's surging progress in recent years.

Mr. Abbott's business was real estate. Land is as much the source of a city's greatness as it is a farmer's livelihood. Add bricks and mortar and you have two other essential ingredients of significant progress. Add people and the picture is complete. Mr. Abbott knew the importance of all of these elements and he knew how they could be best combined for the benefit of the whole community.

His magic worked and Charlotte benefited. There are monuments to his success

all over town yet, as a rule, they do not bear his name.

But he was known in the business community as the founder of organized real estate in Charlotte and those whose memories go back to the green years of the 20th century know how long and how diligently he has served his neighbors.

Mr. Abbott was not, however, a native of Charlotte. He came here as a young man and rose rapidly in the business world. The depression of the 1930s was a cruel blow and real estate values plunged sharply downward. But he accepted the consequences with cheerful optimism and, following the depression, continued to maintain a successful business. Furthermore, he continued to contribute handsomely to the progress of the community. His confidence in Charlotte and its future never dimmed.

He will be missed by all of us.

From The Hartford Courant

MAKE IT A CABBAGE

Old MacDougall had a farm, but that was a long time ago. Once you could get by with a quack-quack here and a grunt-grunt there. Now those days are gone forever. Today you'd better plant the north 40 to two-dimensional tomatoes, or else your congressman isn't going to send you those free packets of seeds any more.

As a matter of fact, certain members of Congress have had the Agricultural Department in Washington upon the carpet. The House Space Committee has rapped the department for not pressing ahead fast enough with futuristic foods for future space dwellers. Rep. James G. Fulton of Pennsylvania told the department recently to get going with space food projects. He suggested that perhaps entirely new forms of vegetables might be grown in orbit around the earth, on the moon and the planets.

"Maybe we could develop a tomato that is almost two-dimensional," he declared, "a million miles long and as thin

as paper, a vegetable that would take advantage of the sun's intense rays in space." Then, on second thought, he added, "or maybe vegetables grown in space would have to be very small." Rep. Fulton conceded that his suggestion might invite ridicule, but he said, "Original thinking always brings a laugh." Chin up, Mr. Congressman — remember your nameake Robert and the steamboat. He had the last laugh, too.

Mr. Fulton also suggested that in order to find out how well food can be preserved in space, a geranium might be placed in the last stage of rockets used to launch satellites. Bosh! The thing to plant is a cabbage. Then we'll be bound to get ahead in the race to the moon.

The addition of Alaska and Hawaii to the United States has greatly reduced the number of people who have visited all states in the Union. — Mattoon (Ill.) Journal-Gazette.

People's Platform

Editors, The News:

I enclose an open letter to the members of the legislature, and especially to Rep. Watts Hill Jr.

—MRS. A. WILSON

To the Legislature:

The 1959 General Assembly was considered amusing by some; others were a little bitter and highly concerned. Can you tell the public why — knowing the basic issues were being dodged — you did not have the courage to say so and allow the people to make their demands? Could it be that you did not realize until after you adjourned that the public was so thoroughly aroused?

There are many educated, well-thinking citizens in this state and their greatest sin is in sending to Raleigh men who were not qualified to do the job. We were all too complacent and too wrapped up in our own little world to do what we should have done. This we admit and accept full blame for our lack of courage.

Believe me, it will not happen again. The 1959 General Assembly was a disgrace to the people of North Carolina and we are heartily ashamed of each and every one of you.

I truly believe that the public and the State Board of Education have for a long time known the schools lack quality and quantity. They have faced up to this fact. Why didn't the General Assembly do likewise?

They make the laws and levy taxes, yet less than six million dollars were sincerely interested in improving our educational system. We were betrayed, and generally speaking, the body of you meant to ditch the subject at the last minute anyway. We have some good teachers left in North Carolina.

They are willing to accept responsibility, but we need many more. We train them only to lose them to more progressive areas. A man teacher cannot possibly support a family on a state-based salary. Therefore, he soon finds better-paying positions and leaves.

Do we love our children so little that we can afford this? I have not found one person who would not be willing to pay more taxes if they were properly used. I have been in the teaching profession and I know how heartbreaking it is to try to accomplish so much for so many in such a short time.

We have no time for a long-range program. The time is now and the people are

The 1959 Legislature Wasted Precious Time

our children. They can't wait to be educated at the whim of the representatives. Time passes too quickly and we need action, not promises of things to come.

You, the members of the legislature, wasted precious time with petty details unworthy of consideration. The "spanking bill" was silly and certainly introduced by someone who has never actually been in a classroom. A good teacher seldom needs to use such discipline: children who are kept busy do not find time to get into mischief. The teacher only shows his anger, the student grows more rebellious and resentful, and you soon find a real problem on your hands. Certainly you feel you need to justify yourselves, but we cannot hear your words when your actions speak so loudly.

The past is over, the future is what counts, and many changes will be made. The broad field of education you so blithely speak of is more destructive than an instructive. Please help to educate the taxpayers to place the proper value on education. A great challenge is given to you. Will you do it with it?

Mrs. A. Wilson

An Informed Public Always Votes Well

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

The vote of our citizens yesterday on the two school issues is a very gratifying experience to those whose prime responsibility is to provide better education for our children.

The favorable vote is due in no small measure to the fine coverage in news stories as well as editorials in The Charlotte News.

This vote, once again, confirms my conviction that an informed public votes well on important matters.

Thank you sincerely for the part that your paper played in this important vote.

—JONES PHARR

Have They Read The Holy Writ?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

As alert critics tell us that the insidious teachings of the Communists have been given to our children in books like that story of the black rabbit and the white rabbit living together and loving each other, we



A Class In Charlotte's Midwood School: So Little For So Many

wonder why such critics have never learned that the Holy Bible is a mixture of black ink on white paper throughout, written by people of foreign lands, with no regard whatever for our way of life, and especially some of the scriptures of the New Testament as red as it can be.

Our guess is that they have not yet had time to read and study the Holy Writ.

—A. C. BUCKLE

Who Wants To Be 'Sound As Dollar'?

Washington, D. C.

Editors, The News:

I heard of a banker who underwent a complete check-up and then anxiously awaited the doctor's verdict. It came: "You are as sound as a dollar." To which the banker replied, "Gracious, as bad as that!" and promptly fainted.

Bankers have their opinion about what inflation does to

the value of the dollar. So should the rest of us. We must decide for ourselves what our dollar today is worth in terms of its 1939 purchasing power and what it may be worth ten or twenty years from now.

—J. WAYNE POWCHER

Non-Smokers Also Have Their Rights

Salisbury

Editors, The News:

I concede the right of a man to smoke if he bothers no one with it but himself. But I assert that no man has a right to smoke and force other peo-

ple to be sick from the fumes of his smoking. Such people should not be allowed to buy smoking tobacco and should be fined, and put in jail until they learn better. On every bus and in every restaurant, we have to put up with these chain-smokers who have to be pulling the fire alarm.

I saw two ladies of the highest type get up and leave their diners in a restaurant because a man in the next booth was pulling on an old pipe and two others were smoking cigarettes. Don't non-smokers have any rights at all?

—J. W. JEWELL

Warren Breaks Silence

Anniversary Spat

By DORIS FLEESON

That politicians generally, and many others, felt strongly for or against Nixon. He did not expect to please everybody. He did think he had solved his problem by not taking a Mao point of view toward his subject with his own special insights. Instead, he wrote what he considered a documentary—careful, factual and thoroughly researched.

QUESTION OF ETHICS

There is a great deal of conversation here today about "the ethics" of publishing stories developed at a purely social affair. The hosts, correspondent Barnet Nover of the Denver Post and his wife, felt their silver wedding anniversary, the occasion for the fete, was all too memorable. But politicians and the press here move with the great white light that beats upon a threat, and such stories have been and always will be published soon or late.

In fact, it was upon the note of the responsibility of a public man owes to history that the dramatic Warren-Mazo dispute ended, and it was Mazo Nover who diplomatically guided it into precisely that channel.

'HANDCUFFED'

Mazo had complained that the chief justice had refused to talk to him about the book. The chief justice replied that he was "handcuffed" by his position on the court.

Never conceded that the position was difficult but argued that every public figure owes to the public the true facts of what has happened. When the men who know the inside story and have the facts upon which judgments can be based, they must yield to the greater good, he argued.

By a rather tumultuous means, the public now has at least one fact believed by Warren to be true. It is that the Nixon version of some recent history ain't necessarily so.

SUNNY REPORTER

Mazo is an able and sunny-dispositioned reporter for the New York Herald Tribune who was asked by Harper's to do the Nixon book. He is amazed and grieved that the chief justice, a public figure whom, he says, he reveres, should be so upset by the end product.

Mazo had known at the start

to beat anyone who comes into the state.

Good Humor

Kennedy, in equal good humor, explained that he felt he had to enter the state primaries or otherwise he would be killed off at the presidential convention by party leaders in the smoke-filled rooms. If, however, he had enough delegates before the convention opened, he felt it would be difficult for the party leaders to kill him in the secret huddle.

Big Business

While the Democratic Party has been talking about cracking down on big business, its representatives in Congress have been doing exactly the opposite. Most recent public demonstration was the Democratic vote to retain

the "George Humphrey amendment" which gives a 4 per cent tax preferential to those who derive income from the stock market.

Marking Up

Another unpublicized move took place backstage when Democratic senators "marked up" the appropriation bill for the Justice Department. Eisenhower, whom the Democrats have attacked as the friend of big business, had requested \$300,000 extra for enforcement of the antitrust laws against big business. However, Democrats on the Appropriations Committee working in a closed-door session quietly knocked the \$300,000 off Eisenhower's request. The House of Representatives had granted the \$300,000, but big business-minded Democrats in the Senate turned it down.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON Gov. Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut, who was elected by a heavy Catholic vote in Connecticut, has become the unofficial ambassador for Sen. Jack Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Blunt Talk

Journeying all the way to California in quest of presidential delegates, Gov. Ribicoff interviewed Gov. Pat Brown, another Democrat, and Roger Kent, Democratic state chairman. Neither gave him any satisfaction.

Kent was blunt in telling Ribicoff that Sen. Kennedy had better stay out of California.

Lock, Stock, Barrel

"We are for Pat Brown, lock, stock, and barrel," he said. "That goes

California Warns Sen. Kennedy

too for the state central committee and all other leading Democrats. And if Kennedy comes in here we'll give him a good kicking. If he comes in it will also open the state wide to other candidates and we'll beat Kennedy with Hubert Humphrey or someone else."

Instinct

Gov. Ribicoff was polite but tough. He refused to promise that Kennedy would stay out of the California primary.

Later Kent flew to Washington where he talked personally to Sen. Kennedy. With a smile he repeated his warning. "We're all going to be on the Brown delegation," he said. "The instinct of self-preservation is the strongest, and we're going to do our best

to beat anyone who comes into the state."

'You've Got To Stop Being So Inflationary'

