



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1959

Raleigh's Word For Today Is 'Boo!'

THE political medicine men who view state minimum wage legislation with ceremonial dread were casting spells, raising ghosts and calling upon Heaven as a witness again this week.

It was at a public hearing of the House Committee on Manpower and Labor that the incantations reached some sort of peak.

As always, the cry of "Socialism!" was raised. But the whole rogues' gallery of contemporary demagoguery was present and accounted for—Mr. Marx, Lenin and Franklin D. Roosevelt. As an added refinement, the conservative sponsors of the legislation were bedeviled with impartial fervor.

It is nothing less than amazing that sensible men can make such dusty arguments and dim distinctions. In proposing a state minimum wage, Gov. Hodges is not carrying out the Communist Party's platform—except on a stretcher. If Marxism has any coherent meaning at all, it means the expropriation of the ownership and control of capital, and industry in the whole community. What Mr. Hodges wants to do is bolster the state's capitalist economy, not destroy it.

It is difficult to believe but more than 90,000 Tar Heel workers presently make less than the 75 cents an hour recommended by one group of legislators as a reasonable wage. Nearly 200,000 make less than the \$1 minimum proposed by another group. This situation reduces the purchasing power of labor, threatens the stability of industry and hampers the state's economic progress.

Yet opponents of any sort of state minimum wage legislation are resorting to the same kind of ideological postures that lobbyists were using around Washington in 1937. It was this sort of opposition to a federal minimum wage that prompted President Roosevelt to declare:

"A self-supporting and self-respecting democracy can plead no justification for the use of force to keep workers from working their hours... Our problem is to work out in practice those labor standards which will permit the maximum but prudent employment of our human resources to bring within reach of the average man and woman a maximum of the goods and services conducive to the fulfillment of the promise of American life."

Congress responded a year later with the U. S. Wage and Hour Act.

Yet, here we are, after 21 years, nurturing the same old fears and calling up the same old spirits.

A minimum wage law, we are told, is "not the American way." It could be argued with greater logic that it is "not the American way" for 90,000 Tar Heels to be working for wages that are below the decent level of subsistence. Likewise, it is "not the American way" to deny in-state workers the protection granted their neighbors who happen to be involved in interstate commerce.

Gov. Hodges has strongly recommended a state minimum wage of at least 75 cents an hour. Furthermore, he noted in his biennial message Feb. 23 that "the state can afford it, employees deserve it and the state's economic progress demands it."

State Labor Commissioner Frank Crane has called a state minimum wage law "an essential instrument in the growth of the state."

Thirty states now have such laws, but minimum wage legislation has been defeated in at least seven sessions of the North Carolina General Assembly. Clearly, the time has come for the state to recognize its duty and do it. It would be an act, not of Socialism, but of Americanism.

Project Argus Leak Riles Senators Who Knew Facts

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
INDIGNANT senators may demand an investigation of what they consider a classic example of the manipulation of top-secret information to influence high policy.

The example senators were seized on is the leak to The New York Times of Project Argus, the 300-mile high explosion of three small atomic bombs. Members of Congress entrusted with the information under a top-secret label several months ago were cautioned that secrecy was vital to America's security. Then they read the same information in the newspapers.

The leak coincided with the arrival of Prime Minister Macmillan for talks with President Eisenhower. He was known to be bringing a compromise proposal for agreement on a suspension of atomic tests. The news of Project Argus was leaked in such a way that it is seen that tests would have to continue and the British compromise, therefore, would have to be rejected.

STILL RESTRICTED

Even after the news had been printed and Deputy Secretary of Defense Donald Quarles had issued a statement on it, senators



ADM. LEWIS STRAUSS
Villain of Story?

has suggested an investigation. Adm. Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, was summoned to explain what happened.

Anderson says that when it was known the Times would print the

story the White House in the three-hour interval before actual publication telephoned top officials in the Defense Department and the Atomic Energy Commission to give them the official line. Members of the Congressional Joint Atomic Committee were not informed.

FALLOUT TROUBLE

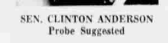
This fed the wrath that has long been smoldering. One immediate consequence was that Anderson demanded the release of so-called confidential letters sent to him showing a marked difference between the Defense Dept. and the AEC on the rate of nuclear fallout. In his statement releasing the conflicting correspondence Anderson said AEC Commissioner William P. Byrd should try to explain contradictions in his recent pronouncements on fallout.

For Anderson and others on the committee the villain of the piece is still former AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss, whose name is now before the Senate for confirmation as secretary of commerce. They believe that Strauss set the policy of telling the world as little as possible about fallout and making that little sound as innocuous as possible.

They see Strauss as still the

dominating force in high policy in the atomic field. This is one element in the concerted effort to block Strauss' confirmation.

Sensors say they want to look into the records of the Lewis and Rosa Strauss Foundation, named for his parents and of which he is president. Last year the foundation awarded \$5,000 and the Albert Einstein medal



SEN. CLINTON ANDERSON
Probe Suggested

to Edward Teller, popularly known as the "father of the H-bomb." Teller has been one of Strauss' closest collaborators in resisting any curb on nuclear testing and in playing down the possible effects of nuclear fall-

This year the \$5,000 and the medal went to Libby. Does this represent, Anderson and others are asking, a way of rewarding loyal supporters of the Strauss line? Awards from foundation funds are exempt from personal income tax and, therefore, have a greater value than such a sum would otherwise have.

STAKES HIGH

But quite apart from the personal bitterness injected into this controversy, the stakes are fantastically high. The correspondence released by Anderson, after repeated demands on the Defense Dept., shows that the fallout of atomium-90 is greatest in the United States, and earlier reports indicate it is heaviest in the northern tier states. The concentration is contrary to previous assurances from AEC.

No one can really be sure of the long-term effects of this pollution. On the other hand, health tests now, particularly in the light of the Project Argus experiment, is to endanger the income tax and, therefore, have a greater value than such a sum would otherwise have.

West Berlin Keeps East Germany From Satellite Rank

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON
ALTHOUGH the Eisenhower-Macmillan talks explored many a byway, one question was central and fundamental. In blunter language than the high-level talkers probably used, this was the question of whether to sanctify the status quo in Eastern Europe, including the division of Germany.

It has been pretty obvious from the outset that obtaining the sanction of the Eastern European states was the immediate goal of Nikita Khrushchev's pressure on Berlin.

QUOTED BEFORE

While West Berlin exists as an island of freedom in the surrounding wasteland of tyranny, East Germany's Communist regime can never achieve true stability. East Germany's instability in turn affects all the other Soviet satellites in Eastern Europe. But let the light of freedom be dimmed out on the Kurtzweilum. Then the slimy Walter Ulbricht will have no great difficulty in trans-

forming Eastern Germany into a tidy, profitable, dependable satellite, rather like Czechoslovakia and the Kremlin's European problem will be solved.

Khrushchev said all this quite bluntly and plainly to the British prime minister during the Macmillan "reconnaissance" in Moscow. Naturally, the language used by Khrushchev was of a rather different sort. He demanded the abandonment of the "policy of rollback" (which in Kremlinese for what John Foster Dulles calls "liberation") and accepted the idea that the situation in Berlin was intolerable to the Kremlin. He said Free Berlin was a symbol and an instrument of the "policy of rollback."

Khrushchev has been holding forth on the same theme, to this reporter among many others, on all sorts of occasions during the last two years. He has now gone on from words to deeds, as he indicated to Mac-

millan before he thinks he is justified in doing so by the changes in East-West balance of military power.

MUSCLES FLEXES

The Khrushchev complaints about Berlin, and his demands that the West face the political "facts of life" were in fact sharply scolded with boasts about new Soviet offensive weapons of immense destructive power. On this point, Macmillan also got the impression that war would probably ensue if the Berlin crisis were ever allowed to reach the stage of the blocking of the West Berlin access routes. It was a Western attempt to open the access routes to Berlin.

Since these were the results of the Macmillan "reconnaissance," and since the President had agreed in advance to go to a summit meeting, the pros and cons of sanctifying the status quo in Eastern Europe were bound to dominate the Eisen-

hower-Macmillan meeting. The problem had to be explored, it is also bound to dominate the future summit conference.

NO FINAL DESIGN

Even after the Anglo-American Summit at Camp David, however, it is by no means decided what the final Western line will be. For one thing, the British prime minister got a fairly sharp reaction from Gen. de Gaulle when he raised the question in Paris and in Bonn, with Chancellor Adenauer, he hardly raised the question at all. Adenauer is likely to react fairly violently to any sort of compromise proposal that would conceivably satisfy Khrushchev.

Another thing, it is still an even bet that John Foster Dulles will resume his duties in April if Dulles indeed comes back. Adenauer will have a powerful supporter.

Eisenhower's and Macmillan's failure to agree on what to do at the summit was rather plainly revealed by the cheerful but

excessive emphasis placed on their agreement about going to the summit—a point which had been conceded by Eisenhower, for all practical purposes, even before Macmillan came to America. But these talks have at least revealed what the British would like to do at the summit.

They would like to leave the Western forces in Berlin and to reaffirm the West's moral commitment to Berliners. But they would also like to propose a continuation giving de facto recognition to East Germany and to the whole status quo in Eastern Europe. They believe that such a continuation can be devised.

The Khrushchev belief, in part, because Khrushchev specifically admitted to Macmillan that the West could not formally recognize East Germany—which seemed to suggest that a continuation would be accepted in the end.

We want to make this a national organization, but we must have funds to do so, Charlotte, of course, would be headquarters for a national Over 40 Club. Donations from \$1 up will be appreciated and should be mailed to Over 40 Club, 111 W. 2nd St., Charlotte. We would like to have the name and full address of those contributing.

—PAULINE L. BAKER

Exhibit A: Why A Merger Is A Must

UNINTENTIONALLY city and county school officials have just given Mecklenburgers one good reason why consolidation is essential.

Consider the situation. The County School Board this week made a unilateral bid for an election to authorize the issuance of \$6 million in bonds for building needs. The City School Board was allegedly caught flatfooted with building needs of its own and nothing before County Commissioners.

There had been an informal agreement in effect between the two school systems to "locate schools where the children are" regardless of district lines. But the agreement has no legal standing.

Under present law, the two administrative units may determine their building needs, select their sites and erect their buildings without reference to each other's needs and sites. Of course, Mecklenburg County votes as a unit for the issuance of bonds for school buildings and pays for them from countywide taxes. County Commissioners, speaking for the whole county, make the allocation

of the bond revenue between the two administrative units but do not control the location of the sites for the buildings to be constructed. That is left to the governing boards of the two administrative units, except for the fact that plans for individual buildings must be approved by the state superintendent's office. This is the normal procedure in North Carolina.

The frailty of "informal agreements" is obvious. Even though the two administrative units employ the same consultants, communications between the two boards has never been particularly good. In fact, there is just one way that Mecklenburg's taxpayers can be assured of countywide planning. That is consolidation.

Pause That Refreshes

IF, steelmaking, the workers participate in a little farm production, they will feel refreshed. —From a report issued by Red China's Honan Province Communist Party.

A Plan To Resist The Vices Of Spring

WHAT with a benign sun coming up from Florida, longer afternoons and willows suddenly popping into leaf, here with a token of advice to men, particularly those of household breed.

Many of you are bound to be infected. It happens every spring. The tired blood rebounds just like it does in the TV commercials. Then trouble really takes a hammer on your physical well being.

You feel great. You begin with 18 trot-poles, holes of golf. Or you dig shrub holes, lay brick, wheelbarrow, pitch a game with the neighborhood fry. And then what? You're stroked out. Left a whimpering wretch from attempting the impossible. Physically your nerves react like a netted shark. Your mental processes resemble dripping dregs from a syrup bottle.

It will take weeks, perhaps the entire summer to regain well-being, relaxation and a supervisory capacity.

This, in short, is Athletics Anonymous, now born for you. Its program would enlist all ex-athletes, former laborers

and all others who wish to break the nasty habit of physical exercise.

We expect an outraged cry from many fronts. Exercise is good for you. True, but how many of you are moderate? How many can resist the incense of the sung or the building earth?

Athletes Anonymous, then, is to save those who become drugged into a stupor from a southerly breeze.

The plan is simple. It will work as well as other "anonymous" groups. Basically, when a spring addict feels an attack coming on he calls another member, who is duty-bound to respond. Bringing in soothing reading, perhaps a record player and bright conversation, the patient is sidetracked in mental force until the spell passes.

Later, the unfortunate one can be carried outdoors with a shovel or golf club in hand. If he quickly retreats to the sanctuary of the house he has beaten the vice.

On the other hand, if he falls to the grass and begins to breathe deeply, a cold shower is recommended as an emergency measure.

'What Makes You Think We're Trying To Conceal Anything?'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

KING Hussein of Jordan, the 23-year-old monarch now being entertained in Washington, was kneeling beside his grandfather, King Abdullah, in the Great Mosque of Jerusalem some years ago when a Moslem fanatic shot and killed his grandfather. A bullet grazed the young prince.

That was Hussein's first brush with death. There have been many attempts on his life since, the last by Syrian planes when he was attempting to leave Jordan last year.

\$90 Million For 'Executive' Aircraft

more courage than any other Arab leader. Above his desk hangs a picture of King Abdullah who held two secret meetings with Mrs. Golda Meir, now Foreign Minister of Israel, in an attempt to straighten out relations between the two countries. That was why Abdullah was shot. Probably, if little King Hussein were given half a chance, he too would try to settle problems with Israel.

Built For Public?

The Defense Department has denied that the three big Boeing jet haulers which Sen. Engle of California has been scrutinizing were designed for the use of President Eisenhower. Vice President Nixon, and President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Slightly Deceptive

This is true, but a bit deceptive. The Special Air Mission fleet even includes the President's private plane, the Col umbine, and theoretically it is available to other people. In actual practice, however, it is not assigned to other people except to bring a president of a foreign country, a king, or other dignitary to Washington.

Dulles' Choice

It was John Foster Dulles himself, not the Republican National Committee, who picked Owen "Broomie" Reid, 33-year-old attorney from New York, to be the U. S. Ambassador to Israel.

Dulles had read the series of articles the Herald Tribune published by Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, and agreed that because of Reid's friendship with Mrs. Meir he would be the logical choice as the new U. S. Ambassador.

From The Christian Science Monitor.

PERQUISITES OF OFFICE

THE rising young businessman knows he has gone when he can refer to one of the girls in the "steno" room as "my secretary." The junior officer in the armed services knows, when he rates four instead of three rooms in his "commutation of quarters" allowance.

The young executive knows he's been promoted when his office acquires an anteroom, the major that he's entered the colonel class when he can put "scrambled eggs" on the visor of his dress cap, the senior executive that he's arrived when his associates refer to him with studied familiarity as "D."

The colonel that he's gone up a peg when a

single-starred flag flies on his car. Norman P. Mason, recently elevated to be administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, says he knows now how one can tell when one reaches "flag" rank in the federal bureaucracy: "I now have a rug in my washroom."

It's easier to endure the throes of winter as long as it isn't throeing snow.—NASHVILLE (TENN.) BANNER.

Old-timer—One who remembers when senators and congressmen didn't charge their press agents to the taxpayers.—MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.