



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1959

Are Legislators Ready To Look Alive?

NORTH Carolina's chronic invalid, the General Assembly, is sitting up in bed again.

It's about time. For nearly two months, both the House and Senate have been afflicted with ergophobia. Leadership has been at best, languorous. No major legislation has been enacted. As late as last week, the shape and shape of the appropriations bill was anybody's guess.

In the more important committees, most of the legislators have spent their time, like Samuel Butler's Hudibras, dividing hairs "next unto peace and side." The micromentalist attitude has, understandably, produced no big decisions.

There are, however, faint stirrings. They were apparent to close observers last week. The two public hearings, and word was out among the Assembly's old pros that Easter would signal the end of the sista.

The situation is not unusual. Far too many legislators traditionally waste their own and the people's time during the early months of a session. The Assembly's 1958 slumber party lasted more than 100 days. By comparison, the current model might even be called "hard-working" as the Raleigh News & Observer has already decided. But we can detect nothing wildly energetic in a legislative body that operates on little more than a three-day work week.

The job ahead is gigantic. The problem of getting and spending money alone is hefty enough. As last week ended, Burke Davis said up the sluggish state affairs in the GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS.

"The Finance Committee, its inertia matched only by that of the public, has started the two public hearings, mild affairs, on the withholding tax and the bulk of Sen. John Jordan. Meetings of this body have almost ceased."

But there are other areas of major concern where progress has been disappointing—constitutional revision, court

reform, minimum wage proposals, safety legislation, to name but a few.

There is, as Raleigh newsmen have noted, less public interest in this sitting of the Assembly than is customary. That in itself is curious since the issues before the body are important, even historic when one considers the possibility of a whole new constitution. While this apparent disinterest reduces the pressure on legislators it does not reduce the responsibility to tackle the big issues promptly, energetically and with a degree of wholeheartedness.

As for the future, serious thought ought to be given to speeding up the whole legislative process with some organizational reforms. A reduction in the number of committees in the House of Representatives might help. When Luther Hoopes, as lieutenant governor, presided over the Senate in 1953, he sliced the number of committees in that body from 36 to 28. The Senate now has 29 committees; the House of Representatives has 42, not including joint committees. The opportunities for consolidation are numerous and obvious. The overlapping areas of responsibility breed confusion and cost the taxpayers money.

Shorter, brisker sessions might also be more efficient than biennial legislatures. They would certainly enable lawmakers to do a better job on fiscal affairs. Estimates of revenue and expenditures for two-year periods have often been badly out of line because of changing economic conditions and other factors. It's just good business practice to prepare budgets on a yearly basis.

But, in the final analysis, no amount of tinkering with the system can guarantee legislative efficiency. With the best of intentions, a legislature made up of disinterested men can move with all of the efficiency and grace of a dinosaur. It takes good men to make a good legislature—men of judgment and character who will help lead it into a team working in the public interest.

The Grand Jury: Old, Weak, But Needed

JUST like the rest of North Carolina's grand jury system is in bad need of a major overhaul.

The present Mecklenburg Grand Jury cast serious doubts as to its own existence recently, but the abolition of this traditional body would be a dangerous error in public investigative processes.

That is the most productive, important and sometimes least used of all grand jury functions. The shortcomings of a county home for the aged or an inadequate jail can be highlighted by their findings, as in no other way.

Their reports are not taken lightly. Many a reform in local government has stemmed from grand jury action.

Sen. J. Spencer Bell has noted that the traditional investigative powers are its principal excuse for existence in present times. He also added that the system is "now outmoded" and quite inefficient.

No Levy Seeds In The Cold Ground

WE always dread this time of year. Things keep coming out of the ground around the home place, some of which we had been ordered to commit to rest last fall. These bulbs and roots have caused us a heap of grief.

Not that we balk at helping to sow or churn the ground into the helpless snow. We have begun to realize our education was badly pruned when it comes to flowers and other growing things.

A good example comes to mind from an incident of summer last. We had a very small bloom which was memorized as "Mama." Perhaps that's hispanic, as some were more than a bit. At any rate, some from a scarred psyche or someone were studied when compared to a segment's rather staid breed. Thereafter, we pointed these out playfully to others as lookalikes. This strained family relations for the better part of a week.

This time of year we're always getting jonquils and daffodils confound, too, and that brings a wistful smile about. We have tried to shake this off with a

light approach. When summer's garden show reached its height last season, we grabbed a shotgun and headed for the backyard late one evening. This drew an inquiry, as we knew it would.

"Ha," we crowed. "Don't you think somebody ought to guard our place now?"

No laughs, not even a chuckle. We were told that there is no place for levity in the garden.

Defeated at every turn, crushed by a lack of vocabulary, we sulked through the winter. Even learning the component parts of 3-10-10 could not promote us to much-mover second grade.

Perhaps a trip into the mountains would help when the sun begins to move things up there. But we have the sneaking hunch we'd be trailing the wrong abutts, so to speak.

Even guarded comment of the beautiful dendron of the rhodo is liable to bring pitying stares. With this green-gloved family don't tell us about frost-smelling just as good under an alias.

California's Gov. Brown Saddles Dark Horse For '60

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON
WE THINK California has always been in its hand too early, in past national conventions.

The remark has a sinister ring for non-Californian Democratic candidates hoping for California delegates. It was made by one of the revolvers of the California democracy, Robert Kent, who is now chairman of the northern half of the state organization. It announces, in clear terms, what may be called the serious dark horse candidacy of California Gov. Pat Brown for the Democratic presidential nomination.

There is the widest difference of

course, between an ordinary dark horse and a serious dark horse. Just about every senator and governor in both parties is an ordinary dark horse, if he is not an avowed candidate.

THREE TESTS

To be a serious dark horse, however, you have to be solemnly convinced that you really can slip past the front-runners and win in the stretch. You have to own some delegates who will assist you in this delicate operation. And you have to have a theory about how you can win, or at least a gate strength in order to achieve your grand objective. If you pass these

three tests, you are a serious dark horse.

Gov. Brown, it is clear, now passes all three of these interesting tests. The development began to be suggested when he came to Washington to speak at the Gridiron dinner, and stayed on to make the formal round of the other Democratic candidates who now form such a rank local growth. The reality of the development has been confirmed by visiting Brown's headquarters, a room where Roger Kent was the most significant.

The Brown theory is simple. California's political importance has grown greatly since the days when the Republicans foolishly undervalued the vote-getting possibilities of Earl Warren. Even in those

days Warren might have had a better chance to be nominated if he had been more insistent about his candidacy, which was also a dark horse candidacy. Brown is now to be insistent. California law requires California convention delegates to stay with the man they are pledged to until he releases them. A favorite son pledge pledged to Brown is being prepared. Hence the governor will also have the means to be insistent.

ANOTHER BELIEF

Brown is further reported to believe that neither of the active Democratic candidates, Sen. Kennedy of Massachusetts, is going to be nominated in the end. If Kennedy and Humphrey fall, the Brown argument is said to run, the convention will then look at the inactive-active candidate, Sen. Symington of Missouri, and the inactive but available candidate, Sen. Johnson of Texas. But neither Symington nor Johnson can hope to carry California, according to Brown. So why not Brown as the next choice?

If the governor really has the guts to hold out for huge California delegation for ballot after ballot in the manner above-indicated, it will matter a great deal to the other candidates, even if the Brown theory utterly fails to work. The front-runners, and especially the White House, will be forced to look to California to put them over.

By the same token, the other inactive but available candidate,

Adlai Stevenson, is just as likely as Brown—indeed a good deal more likely—of now-to-be fitted from a successfully executed post-everybody-else plan. That fact certainly cannot be absent from the minds of the rather numerous California Democrats who are Brown supporters, but Stevenson enthusiasts too.

Still speaking as of now, alone on one in the United States but Brown and a tiny number of men in the California party organization take the Brown dark horse candidacy at all seriously. Even the people of his own state, who gave Brown such a huge majority for the governorship, apparently do not think of him as a president as yet. In a March presidential test made by the usually reliable California poll, for instance, Sen. Kennedy dominated. Vice President Nixon and Gov. Rockefeller of New York, Adlai Stevenson beat Nixon but was beaten by Rockefeller. And both Rockefeller and Nixon beat Brown.

CHANGE POSSIBLE

All that can be changed by Brown's performance in the governorship, which has been much more solid and impressive than most observers predicted. A major Brown success in the California state house could cause his candidacy to be taken very seriously right across the country. But even if Brown alone seems alone in it when the day comes, it will still be important. If he thinks he can get the big prize and hangs on to his delegates for that purpose.

The Great Leap Forward



Be Gone, Kefauver Steel Strike Sighted

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
A very much a prospect for summer. Both steel industry and steel labor are in a tenuous mood. Both are demanding that the White House and the Congress keep hands off while the gladiators battle to a decision.

Neither is apt to have its way in this, rarely has the public interest been more clearly at stake in an impending strike both from the standpoint of inflation and de-

President Eisenhower has announced that there will be a hard party—the public welfare—as it is in on the negotiations. He declared that the result of the new negotiations must not be a further price increase. Such a deal, involving an increase in the price of steel, would act like a shot of adrenaline on prices everywhere.

The President's firmness was especially noteworthy since the steel industry has made it known to the White House that it wanted no interference in a strike which the industry expects will be long enough and hard enough to make the steel workers' knicker under.

Sen. Estes Kefauver, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly, who because of his threats of investigation possibly halved last year's steel price increase, has been warned by steel labor to keep his hands off. David McDonald, the union president, bluntly told Kefauver to "keep your nose out of my business."

Industry has been expecting a long steel strike for many months. Steel production lately has been at near record levels. This has not been due to a last recovery from the recession, but to stock-

Steel on hand
The automobile industry, steel's biggest customer, already has enough steel on hand to carry it through the present model year and the start of the next. This means money and any vacant lots owned by the automobile industry have now been put to work, leading against the strike. This process has been echoed by lesser customers.

The steel industry has been a

favorite example of those economists who have been talking about administered prices. These are prices which can be set in industries dominated by a few producers, or in which the government raises prices even in periods of diminishing demand. This was a theory espoused in the Congress, chiefly by Sen. Kefauver, who has used it as a lever to obtain more specific anti-trust legislation and more vigorous enforcement.

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell has now been given the green light by the President to concern himself directly in the forthcoming steel wage negotiations. And Sen. Kefauver's long name will surely highlight the matter of the public interest required.

As mentioned as it may be to enter the industry or labor in their hopes for a knockout, they are apt to have company in the ring. They are in good shape for a fight.

But the ultimate weapon the public has is that both the steel industry and steel labor may jeopardize their favored positions in the American economy. Steel production is to be made public will show an unusually satisfactory rate of return on investment. Steel labor enjoys a similar distinction among workers.

Nuts On The Tent

Safari In Best Tradition

By ROBERT C. RUARK

Nairobi, Kenya
I AM afraid that I have dealt poorly with the more frivolous aspects of a safari, but there seems to have been so much yelling and bloodletting on all sides that pursuit of the greater things of life seems relatively unimportant.

I had meant to tell you about what it is like to have your head for a moment in the hands of a lion, but I have not had time to do so. I have been too busy with the more important things of life, such as the hunt for a lion's head. I have been too busy with the more important things of life, such as the hunt for a lion's head.

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Defeated at every turn, crushed by a lack of vocabulary, we sulked through the winter. Even learning the component parts of 3-10-10 could not promote us to much-mover second grade.

Perhaps a trip into the mountains would help when the sun begins to move things up there. But we have the sneaking hunch we'd be trailing the wrong abutts, so to speak.

Even guarded comment of the beautiful dendron of the rhodo is liable to bring pitying stares. With this green-gloved family don't tell us about frost-smelling just as good under an alias.

And then there was the matter of the mighty quest which I, as the senior with doctor, laid down in order to procure a leopard for a client whose lack in leopards was poverty and whose wish was to have a leopard skin for his hearth. The quest eventually produced the leopard, but also produced an unseasonable rain in sheets and a slight epidemic that kept the camp completely flat. I have definitely given up with doctoring, since I do not seem to know my own strength.

And there was the situation of the lady and the rhino and the buffalo that smashed up a friend of mine, a professional hunter of great skill and experience, and the buffalo that almost got another friend of mine who managed to stick his gun against its neck as he boiled out of a bush and swished.

DIDN'T TELL
I suppose I could have told you what it is like to do 100 miles in two days over roads which range from asphalt to impossible, with rain and mud and a slight epidemic that kept the camp completely flat. I have definitely given up with doctoring, since I do not seem to know my own strength.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Editor's Note: Drew Pearson's column today takes the form of an Easter letter written from the Dominican Republic to his of his grandsons.

Dear Drew, Georgia, and Joe: I AM on one of the islands which Christopher Columbus discovered when he came to America. It is a beautiful island and I wish you were here. The water is warm and maybe we could go swimming.

You will remember reading in your history book, Drew, about how Columbus had to encourage his men, who had not yet reached the New World, to stay with him. He had to tell them that Columbus was one of the most persistent pioneers in his time.

Trouble Began

Well, after Columbus arrived he started a settlement, and the trouble

he began. He took some of the Indians back to Spain as slaves, while the soldiers he left in this New World settlement shot many of the remaining Indians.

The difficulty was that Columbus was more a pioneer than an administrator. He didn't want to settle down to run a home and keep a garden. He let others do that and they didn't do it very well.

Trouble Today
None of this was really the fault of Columbus. Nor was it the fault of the slaves. They were prisoners. But even so, the trouble began later, in the part of the island the Dominican Republic, is still having trouble with a dictator.

The part of the island where I am now, the Dominican Republic, is still having trouble with a dictator. The trouble began later, in the part of the island the Dominican Republic, is still having trouble with a dictator.

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People's Platform

Some Changes For Negro Policemen

Charlotte
Editors, The News:
HERE are some suggested changes to bring the colored policeman up with the rest of the police force. Before the shift in role of alternating them, move from the basement—it is filthy,

and the exposed pipes for heating make it uncomfortable.

Give them new cars, fully equipped with red light, siren and camera for evidence. Increase the number of policemen according to the percentage of population. Appoint Negro policemen to the Youth Bureau, Detective Bureau and the School Safety Patrol.

—JAMES K. ALEXANDER

From The Christian Science Monitor

TO A DOG'S NOSE

SOCIETY's efforts to protect itself from crime by deterring and detecting criminals are woven throughout its history. To promote progress and to protect the public is a mission which has been and will be undisturbed. And a "witch doctor" who would go through a village "smelling out" witches was sometimes an important if not widely loved functionary.

With a little more rationality came some reliance on "intuition." Then were added methods of criminal recognition. Bertillon measurements, "regues galeries."

Society's efforts in one respect have been coming full circle. European police and now some American have been using trained dogs, not only to help officers sense suspects they may be trying to arrest but to detect malefactors whom

police may not recognize.

Maj. Andrew T. Aylward of the St. Louis police force, which added canine recently that four months ago, declared that dogs are more reliable than men. He reported in dog-patrolled districts. He told of a test witnessed by his officers sent to London for courses in dog-handling in which a trained police dog passed up perhaps 8,000 persons and then pointed out a man with two marijuana cigarettes in his shirt pocket.

Human memory, photographic plates, anthropological measurements, makes your bow to a dog's nose.

There are two ways a man can make sure of getting his way to listen to him. Talk about buying something for himself, or for her—ORLANDO SENTINEL.

Columbus Came Over And Trouble Began

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