



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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One More Triumph Of Logic Is Needed

The minimum wage bill's plucky partisans took their text from Shakespeare's "Henry V" today:

Once more unto the breach,
Dear friends, once more.

Victory in the House of Representatives was sweet. But another stern test awaits the measure in the Senate.

Despite predictions that senatorial opposition will be comparatively light, any lessening of effort now would be unwise. Final ratification will quite possibly depend on the same kind of parliamentary derring-do which saved the bill from destruction in the House.

Meanwhile, the House majority has earned the admiration of all Tar Heels who are equipped with 20-20 social vision. Despite several unfortunate exemptions, the 75 cent minimum approved Wednesday may raise the standard of living of as many as 50,000 North Carolinians.

It took courage, perseverance and more than a little horse sense to answer the shrill charges of professional calamity-howlers who attacked the measure as "communistic," "diabolical" and "calamitous." Every imaginable parliamentary trick was employed to kill it. Finally, a concerted effort was made simply to amend the bill to death.

On the last day of debate, 24 separate amendments were offered and only three important ones actually were approved. During one stretch, 16 consecutive amendment assaults were beaten back by the bill's defenders.

This sort of determination on the part of the legislation's strongest advocates reflected considerable political spunk.

Mecklenburg can be particularly proud of its own representatives in the House. The House delegation voted solidly for the measure on its third reading. This involved some 11th hour soul-searching on the part of Reps. Frank Sneed and Ernest Hicks, both of whom altered earlier positions. On second reading, Rep. Sneed voted against the bill, and Rep. Hicks merely voted "present." Reps. John Kennedy and Irwin Belk were with the measure all the way.

The 66-39 victory was all the more remarkable when one considers the history of similar legislation. Several times the Senate has passed a minimum wage bill only to have it bottled up in a House committee. In fact, wage floors have been introduced and laid to rest in at least seven previous sessions of the General Assembly.

The present version is by no means perfect. It is still unreasonably restricted in its application. But it reflects a changing attitude and important stirrings of conscience. It is a fair beginning on the road to reason.

There is nothing new or radical about this kind of legislation. A federal minimum wage affecting interstate commerce has been in effect since 1938. Gov. William B. Umstead recommended a state minimum wage law as early as 1933. Gov. Hodges has consistently supported the idea. By 1958, at least 30 states had such laws on their books.

North Carolina clearly owes its citizens the opportunity to secure a reasonable economic security against poverty and exploitation. The House has acted with logic and responsibility to provide this opportunity for thousands of Tar Heels. The Senate should do likewise.

Consolidation: Cool Off, Gentlemen

The Chamber of Commerce is absolutely right in supposing that consolidation of the city and county school systems will result in better planning and placement of new school buildings.

But the Chamber's good intentions went awry when it suggested that a school bond election already contemplated be delayed until the consolidation question is settled.

The current classroom needs are urgent. The proposed \$8 million bond issue will only begin to meet these needs. But it would be a pity to delay even this bare beginning for an indefinite length of time.

There is logic in the timetable proposed for the bond election, planning and construction. It provides sufficient time for completion of the buildings by the fall of 1960. If the timetable is thrown badly out of joint, the 1960-61 school year will open minus space for several thousand children.

It boils down then to a race against time. There is not enough of that as it is, or of money either. But the two school boards ought to be permitted to make the best use possible of what is, in fact, available.

Obviously, a prior merger would be preferable, for the present system of "joint planning" is rather informal and

there have been occasional breakdowns in communication between the two boards on the questions of bond issues and building needs—once occurring in connection with the bond issue that is presently being proposed. But the bond issue in question is undoubtedly justified and the money is needed rather quickly. The voting public would obviously have more confidence in the planning of a consolidated system, but in this case, the matter won't wait until consolidation is signed, sealed and delivered.

It is to be hoped, however, that action on consolidation will not be long delayed. There is work to be done and a single system of public education for the entire county can do it better than two separate administrations.

Both the school boards and the Chamber of Commerce are fully aware of what is to be gained by a merger and they are engaged in a common cause. Since this is so, it is regrettable that the County Board of Education felt it necessary to use such highly seasoned language in its rejection of the Chamber's suggestion. It will simply not do for soldiers in arms to begin quarrelling among themselves. If this happens, the common cause will almost surely be lost.

Let's cool off, gentlemen, and learn to work together.

Don't Let That Fortune Teller Smile

Not too long ago reporter John Kilgo of The News took car in hand and journeyed to the land of spiritism. He found that his \$2 bought an incantation "to the gods," a promise that he would get a job soon and a reminder to come again and bring \$3 for a brighter forecast.

The keeper of the occult didn't provide anything really mysterious; there was no seance and nothing floated about the room apart from Kilgo's money.

All told, quite disappointing.

Now comes Chief Joe Whitney of Mecklenburg's Finest.

He's disappointed, too, but for another reason.

Checking on territorial faith healers, the chief found a broad state law protects the clan. At last report he felt they were here to stay.

We can take them or leave them to their tea leaves.

But should we ever meet one we're going to try to keep the conversation on a serious plane. Actually, we have a driving compulsion the other way.

If the fortune teller smiles, he's afraid we're going to start punching.

That's just the way it is. It's probable the cause is deep-rooted, but we've always wanted to strike a happy medium.

From The Richmond News Leader

WAITING FOR OSCAR

Hollywood, it seems, can't be bothered with anything smaller than an extravaganza. Movies, they say, are better than ever; they are certainly longer. So, too, are the celluloid color's annual rituals—the Motion Picture Academy Awards.

Last week's super-colossal clamor began (for television viewers in the Richmond area) at 10:30 o'clock Monday night and wound up early Tuesday morning. The parade of suave actors, well-upholstered actresses and paunchy men in evening dress was a long one. It was like a gigantic commencement ceremony, at which every graduate received a prize and felt conscience-bound to say a few words.

There were awards for sound (black and white) and sound (color); for cinematography; for original film-scripts and unoriginal film-scripts; for short subjects and documentary films; for musical direction and song-writing; for just about everything, with the possible exception (we might have nodded and missed it) of an Oscar to the cowpoke with the fastest draw.

Interspersed with the awards were song-and-dance routines and brief "comic" monologues, intended to divert the captive audience from twirling the dial to catch the late, late movie. As each little-

known genius and horn-rimmed mogul bumbled forward to claim his trophy and murmur his gratitude, the audience applauded gratefully, for they were nearing the BIG awards. And, finally, inevitably, Hollywood's orgy of self-promotion came to a climax. Bleary-eyed, numb and hypnotized, faithful moviegoers found out who got the big ones. It was all very tense, dramatic and exciting, except that the moment of truth came an hour too late.

The awards seem to grow each year, as more and more of the technical aspects of film-making are Oscarized. The wind-up or the big pitch becomes lengthier and more devious. Some day, it is possible, the forty-fifth master of ceremonies will embark on his five-minute stint as the pale rays of dawn rise over the Hollywood Bowl. Users will be passing among the faithful with jugs of black coffee and the orchestra leader will lie sprawled on a cot. With a weary drum roll, the long-awaited moment will come as the emcee croons:

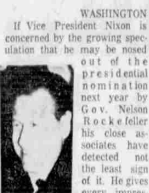
"The Best Actress Award goes . . . to . . . Miss . . . Sylvia Sturdliff!"

And a voice will rise from the thin tuxedoed ranks of Hollywood's surviving performers and be sympathetic with his social reforms, but with Cuba located only a few minutes' flight from the United States, across the approaches

A Holding Operation

Nixon Plays Serene Role

By MARQUIS CHILDS



WASHINGTON
If Vice President Nixon is concerned by the growing speculation that he may be named out of the presidential nomination in the next year by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, his close associates have detected not the least sign of it. He gives every impression of a man serenely content to wait for what destiny may bring him.

There is good reason why this should be so. The vice president, as one of the three most powerful men in the country, knows that things within his party are running his way. He has some reason to believe that from the abyssal low of last November the trend today favors a Republican candidate in '60.

AN UNDERGROUND

This, in short, is a holding operation. And all the time Nixon's own organization will be working intensively in state after state to nail down the nomination.

His hold on orthodox Republicans is indisputable. Year in and year out he and the shrewd operators in his camp have been working with the men and women throughout the country who will go to the convention and select the nominee. In one nationwide campaign after another, Nixon has been at each step to meet with the grass-roots leaders, to give flattering attention to their views and to send back warm and friendly letters of appreciation.

What the astute men around Nixon understand is that in order

to get the nomination from the vice president—and for all practical purposes he has it as of today—Rockefeller must have a professional spearhead. He must have able and knowledgeable leaders, such as former Gov. Thomas E. Dewey and former Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr., who will do the essential spade work.

Dewey and Brownell in 1961 and the early months of '52 prepared the way for Gen. Eisenhower's nomination. Whether they would do the same thing for Rockefeller today is a question. There is some evidence that Dewey has been disillusioned with the Eisenhower administration and disillusioned perhaps with the game of politics itself. Absorbed in a highly lucrative law practice he has had little contact with the White House.

BIGGER BATTLE

In sidetracking Nixon as they sidetracked the late Sen. Robert A. Taft, they would stir even greater hostility among the Republican regulars than came out of the '52 fracas. While the orthodox Nixon has replaced Taft as a kind of Mr. Republican Jr., this inheritance has been careful to cultivate. In his speech on the rule of law before the Acad-

emy of Political Science in New York he quoted Taft on international organization as "one of the most brilliant political and legal minds in the nation's history."

Should he cinch the nomination as Mr. Republican Jr., the question then becomes how much it is worth. The detailed statistical analysis of last November's debacle left behind by retiring Chairman Meade Aiken shows that Republicans are in almost every part of the country a dispirited species.

But the Nixon team pins its



Richard Nixon is in an Optimistic Mood These Days

hopes on two factors. One is the growing evidence of a half-dozen cracks in the Democratic front. At the time the campaign of '60 rolls around the Democrats, in this view, will be hopelessly split.

The second factor is a revival of all-out prosperity, with unemployment falling below 3.000.000. A Republican-sponsored tax cut judiciously brought forward next February or March will spark it. This is the stuff of the Nixon dream and it is rather more substantial than most political dreams.

People's Platform

Editors, The News:

You write about a two-party system in Mecklenburg County but how can a strong two-party system be established here when the city government is run on a non-partisan basis?

Democrats can't run for the City Council as Democrats and Republicans can't run as Republicans. They just run as non-partisans.

There is no such thing as a non-partisan. Either a fellow is a Republican or he is a Democrat and he votes for or against things in accordance with his party ideas. A voter ought to have a right to find out what political ideas a candidate has before he elects him to a city office. If he's a Republican he ought to call himself a Republican so I can know

Party Labels Should Be Retained in City Vote

what I'm doing when I mark my ballot.

Let's have partisan elections in Charlotte.

Let's be open and have a debate about who the candidates are and what they represent. A lot of people think that all the councilmen are Democrats. I know they're not. Some of them are Republicans because they have voted in the Republican column.

—CYRUS PARKER

Unemployed Need New Legislation

Editors, The News:

Statistical information on unemployment and unemployment compensation justifies passage of a standard federal unemployment compensation law.

Despite the approximately \$4 billion paid out in benefits, state administered unemployment insurance met only part of the need. For the most

part, maximum benefits in 1958 represented only 44 per cent of the average weekly wages compared with 65 per cent in 1953. The average individual benefit represented about one-third of lost wages. Unemployment tax costs today are about one-third of what they were in 1953. Limitations in state laws which still stick a few pennies on the tax bill. Consider for a moment this office building that is to cost millions; when the money is needed all that is necessary is to put it on the ballot, and the voters do not seem to know what to do but vote for it and then cross out high taxes. The county had all the property needed for an office building, but the county board had to let this property stand idle while the taxpayers dig for many years to pay the bills.

Now they need to build a bridge or dig a tunnel to keep those advocates from getting on over going to and from the distinguished office building across the street. Seems we get worse all the time in our selection of office holders. It would be a good thing if we could say, "You want this, then you pay for it," or use better judgment for awhile until we get some of our millions of bonds out of the way.

As others say, we have to build and we have to pay for it. When will this come to an end?

—S. C. VAUGHN

'You Can See The Poor Fellow Is A Prisoner'



Passage of this proposed legislation is not, as argued by some employer groups, encroachment of federal power on the states. The basic Unemployment Compensation Law is a federal one. The tax is a federal tax. There are already some 36 standards in the federal law which the individual states must comply with to be eligible for federal funds. Therefore, this legislation would not change basic federal-state relationship. The states would continue to administer their own program.

The proposed legislation would provide, among other benefits, no less than one-half of the individual's wages for 39 weeks, subject to state-wide maximum benefits of two-thirds of the state's average weekly wage, extension of coverage, better financing and eliminate many of present law's inequities.

The total long run cost of these improved benefits would still be only one-half of the original and intended cost of unemployment compensation. These increased benefits would require no appropriations by Congress. It would be financed, as at present, within the federal-state unemployment compensation payroll tax.

—H. D. LISK

County Government Spends Too Much

Editors, The News:

It looks as if the taxpayers are going to get another sting in the eye in reprobation.

What did we get out of the last revaluation? Plenty of expense. We always get that end

Absolute Power Can Be Deadly

Salisbury

Editors, The News:

There is much talk in the air about a strong president being one who is an autocrat or one who rules without consulting others. To me, all such talk is foolishness and paves the road toward tyranny and autocracy.

A strong man is a wise man and a wise man is not afraid of others looking over his governing plans. One-man government has rarely been successful because it is the nature of human beings to be selfish. There are few Jeffersons. Lincoln and others who could be trusted with great power.

Great power is dangerous even when given to a Jefferson or a Lincoln unless there are safeguards.

King David, who is described as a man after God's own heart, did terrible deeds while exercising absolute power. Even this good king lost out as his sins got worse.

Great power is dangerous so we should be very careful whom we elevate to the presidency.

—JAMES W. JEWELL

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

The man responsible for getting Fidel Castro of Cuba to come to the USA was the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the American people can get better acquainted with him in George H. White, editor of the New York Times.

This is in contrast to the New York Times, which built Castro up but has reported little recently of the hectic gyrations and amazing speeches by the young man who is ruling a country vital, geographically, to the United States.

Basic Question

The most important thing to know about Castro is exactly where he stands in regard to Soviet Russia. We must praise his honesty-in-government, reforms and be sympathetic with his social reforms, but with Cuba located only a few minutes' flight from the United States, across the approaches

Castro On Russia--He Says Neutral

to the Panama Canal, and the chief source of our sugar supply, the basic question is:

Where does Castro stand regarding Russia?

Our Naval Base

Where does he stand also regarding the Guantanamo Naval Base, our most important in the Caribbean, which already his supporters claim should revert to Cuba?

Sixty years ago in Cuba the United States fought a major war because of the activities of a foreign power, Spain, right under our noses in the Gulf of Mexico. And Spain was much less dangerous in 1898 than Russia is in 1959.

Key From Speech

Insight into Fidel Castro's position on Russia was first revealed on March 22 when Jose "Pepi" Figueres, former president of Costa Rica and a staunch supporter of Castro, made a speech at a big labor rally in Havana. Figueres was hailed in Havana as a hero. He had battled for years against the dictators of the Caribbean, had lined up with Fidel Castro, rejoiced over his victory. So he was invited to Havana as an honored guest, given the keys to the city. Speaking at a labor rally, however, he said:

"We have been doing some great things for democracy in Latin America, but it's time we remembered that our friend, the United States, faces a grave problem with Soviet Russia. We should align ourselves in a solid front in the Western Hemisphere against communism."

County Government Spends Too Much

Charlotte

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Figueres was allowed to finish, whereupon Fidel Castro sorrowfully rebuked him.

"I don't like to differ with my good friend from Costa Rica," he said, "but in any competition between the United States and Russia, Cuba would be neutral."

Little Coverage

These remarks were buried in The New York Times, nor did subsequent statements indicating Castro's leaning toward Russia get much coverage.

On April 3 he delivered a four-hour telecast in which he really took off the gloves against his old friend, ex-President Figueres of Costa Rica. Figueres had backed Castro to the hilt when he was the underdog, but made that stake of his friendship could take criticism.