



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1959

Raise Tax On Liquor? It's Too Risky

THE biennial quest for new state revenue took a dubious turn this week. It was just as poet Ogden Nash predicted:

*Candy is candy
But liquor is quicker.*

Specifically, it has been proposed that North Carolina increase its tax on spirits sold in ABC stores from 10 per cent to 17 per cent.

Advocates of the move mentioned two advantages:

1—It would add a cool \$10 million a year to the state treasury.

2—It would serve John Barleycorn right.

As might be expected, No. 2 attracted some support from Tar Heel dries, there being no general enthusiasm this year for a statewide liquor referendum.

Whatever the motives, this is bad legislation. Mecklenburg County Commissioners were woe to speak out firmly in opposition to any such nonsense.

No sympathy for the liquor lobby is involved. It is simply a question of practicality. Increased taxes on legal whiskey would only increase the amount of illegal booze sold and would further order Tar Heels into neighboring states where liquor prices would be cheaper. In short, it would defeat the well-defined purpose of the ABC system.

Experience suggests that such a hefty hike at this time would enrich the bootlegger, poison the public and encourage organized crime.

The bootlegger's profits, of course, would come directly out of the public till.

The ABC system ought to be preserved. Aside from its effectiveness in imposing order and honesty on the sale of intoxicants, it has another important advantage. It exists solely by majority consent of any community in which it operates. This fact tends to make the system clean, orderly and efficient. It also allows each community to decide how it can best control the alcohol traffic. And any community under the ABC system can vote out liquor stores any time it wishes.

As for the intended slap at old John Barleycorn, it might be well to remember the origin of the name itself. It is from an old folk song, SIR JOHN BARLEYCORN, written down by poet Robert Burns. The words tell of Sir John's neighbors who vowed that he should die. So, they hired ruffians to "plough him with ploughs and bury him." This they did, and afterwards "combed him with harrows and thrust clods on his head." But he did not kill him by these or by numerous other means attempted. Sir John, it seems, bore no malice for the flagging spirits even of his worst persecutors.

The Plight Of Tar Heel Wage Earners

THE anguished cries of some industrialists about a proposed state minimum wage rang a mile hollow this week.

Facts gathered by a University of North Carolina committee and published Sunday in the RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER demonstrated dramatically the plight of the Tar Heel wage earner in an era of economic expansion.

In average weekly earnings of all manufacturing workers, North Carolina ranked 30th among the states in 1949. By 1954, however, it had dropped all the way to the bottom, ranking 48th. Weekly earnings averaged \$47.88 that year.

In 1957, the latest year for which statistics are available, North Carolina had moved to 47th in average weekly earnings of manufacturing workers. The average that year: \$61.05.

Since agriculture usually gets the blame for North Carolina's low capita income, it is interesting that the state's realized net income per farm in 1949 was \$1,690 and we ranked 38th in the nation. By 1954, the total had risen to \$2,001 and we ranked 30th. In 1958, the total was \$2,221 and we ranked 32nd.

Since 1949, therefore, North Carolina has slipped from 30th to 47th in average weekly earnings of manufacturing workers but has risen from 38th to 32nd in realized net income per farm.

And what is the quibbling about in Raleigh today? A suggested state minimum wage of 75 cents an hour.

It would guarantee a weekly income of only \$30 a week, before deductions. That's right—\$30 a week.

A Sure Wager

IT is to be noted that the Navy has purchased a bathyscaphe, cousin to a submarine, which has dived to 12,000 feet in tests.

How long will it be before we hear: "If man was supposed to go that far down he'd have been made like a fish."

What To Do With The Hi Fi Fanatic

MORE than once we've been subjected to the ravings of the 20,000-cycle fidelity nut. You know the type: Recordings of train whistles, auto exhausts, insects at play, a stomach growl—nothing is left untouched in this world of sound.

We've even been advised of a record grooved with nothing but silence. If there is any noise, we suppose, something is wrong with the system.

Sometimes music is played. It appears one does not just emphasize the brass section, tympany or woodwinds, one pummels listeners with ricocheting melody from all corners. The only solid defense is to flee.

When these people can't entrap you into a home concert, they'll woofer you to death at work, at Sunday School or any other place.

But now, by George, we've got a comeback. It might work for you, too. At least it will halt all that jazz about tweeters, reamps, stereo and the like.

We have heard from an impeccable source (which means it's pretty solid) of a 200,000-watt high fidelity amplifier. It comes in a box 24 feet long, 12 feet high and 3 feet wide. An inside man allowed that if it could be hooked to a king-sized speaker system "you could carry on a conversation with a friend three counties away." Just how large the counties should be is not explained, but the figures are impressive.

Of course, it should be left unsaid that the amplifier was built by Westinghouse for Lockheed to test vibration resistance in missile parts.

Just leave the fanatic alone with his pitiful two-watt rig.

News From Britain

JUST thought you'd like to know that the world's smallest union is Great Britain's Amalgamated Society of Lace Pattern Readers, Correctors, Press & Piano Puncturers with 15 members.

The ampersand-trailing division does not flail away at musical instruments, we're told. They punch lace patterns from a piano-like keyboard.

tras, they write, could do without a mate. "If the trumpeter wore a pilot's pressure suit, which could be surreptitiously inflated by a switch on the conductor's desk." The difficulty here is that conductors are busy men as it is. They must stick to the score. If they are not to forget to press the switch until too late, all existing compositions will probably have to be re-scored for pressure-suit—a daunting prospect. Why do the professors despair so quickly of their own suggestion? "It is better (they write) to sit than stand, but the strict supine posture, which would be better still, seems hardly feasible." Surely one of those many-jointed delicately balanced implements could hold the score comfortably above a supine trumpeter's head?

ILL WIND

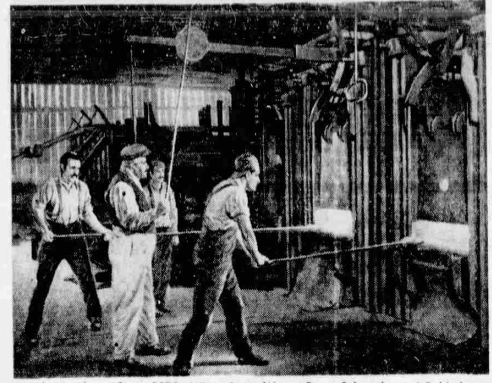
My father was a hobo
Because he played the above,
Which, as everyone knows,
Is an ill wind no one blows good.

DANNY Kay's lament is sad enough, but the oboe player's troubles are nothing to the trumpeter's—if we are to judge from an article which Professors M. Faulkner and E. P. Sharpey-Schaefer have published in the BARRISTON MONIAL JOURNAL. When a trumpeter holds a high, loud note "a formidable Valsalva manoeuvre," they find, takes place: "peripheral venous valves shut," and other unpleasant things happen until, in short, the trumpeter feels dizzy or (now and then) blacks out. Some orchestras go so far as to employ a "mate" to stand by to take over the note if necessary. Emerging from their capacitance manometers and other instruments for measuring the blower's distress, Professors Faulkner and Sharpey-Schaefer surprise us by concluding that "apart from the discomfort of occasional dizzy sensations or blackouts, trumpet players are not likely to come to any harm." This is nice to know. All the more, the trouble is serious enough for the professors to make some practical suggestions. Orchestras

People's Platform

Why Federal Minimum Wage Must Be Increased

Charlotte
Editors, The News:
In 1938, when the first federal minimum wage was set by 25 cents an hour, average hourly earnings in American industry were less than 68 cents. Thus the gap between the minimum and the average was 38 cents an hour.



Ironworkers, Circa 1870: When Some Wages Rose, Others Lagged Behind

Today the \$11 minimum compares with a mere 68 cents an hour in industrial earnings of at least \$2.19 — a difference of \$10.81 an hour.

Furthermore, in setting the 35 cent minimum Congress provided an elaborate system for its steady increase. A 40 cent minimum was made mandatory after one year, and a 40 cent floor by 1945. As a result, virtually all industries had reached the 40 cent minimum by 1941, four years before the original target date. This is the record before World War II. The legal minimum wage bore a realistic relationship to the wage structure of the nation as a whole.

It was not until 1949 that Congress raised the legal floor under wages. The raise was relatively substantial — from 40 cents an hour to 75 cents, or nearly double. But this increase was followed within a year by the Korean war and a new inflationary spiral.

Let us examine in greater detail what has happened since the 75 cent minimum went into effect Jan. 1, 1950, and since the figure was raised to \$1.65 six years later.

For the last period, industrial workers as a whole saw their wages rise an average of 50 cents an hour. The range in leading industries was from 45 cents in non-ferrous metals to 67 cents in bituminous coal, with auto, oil, aircraft and the rest falling in between.

This was also the period when old-age pensions were established to supplement social security, when employers agreed to pay all or part of the cost of hospital and

life insurance, weekly sickness and accident benefits, medical care and the like.

This was the period when regular, automatic wage increases were jealously guarded by the more fortunate workers, through cost-of-living escalator clauses and — even more significant — actual "improvement factors," to compensate for higher productivity.

Thus the increase in the minimum wage to \$1, which took effect March 1, 1956, amounted to only half what had already been gained in wages alone by workers in industry as a whole.

In the last three years the higher-paid workers have continued to move ahead. The average in-

dustrial wage has risen 30 cents an hour, in many industries the gains have been better.

To put it another way, in the nine years since the 75 cent minimum was established, average hourly earnings in American industry as a whole have risen 80 cents an hour; the average in higher-paid jobs has gone up 86 cents an hour; but the legal minimum has been lifted by only 25 cents.

Clearly a substantial increase in the federal minimum wage is justified by the foregoing comparisons alone. But there are other, even more compelling reasons.

First, the health of our national economy demands it. Manpower

productivity has increased more than 30 per cent since World War II. At least 700,000 new workers enter the job market annually. A high level of consumer purchasing power is essential to keep the economy growing and to provide jobs for all Americans; and this in turn can be achieved only if workers as a whole share in the greater productivity of industry as a whole.

Second, the health of the lowest-paid workers and their families demands it. The "city workers' family budget," drawn up by the Department of Labor as a modest but adequate standard for a family of four, would require a wage of \$2.55 an hour today.

Third, it is morally indefensible for any American worker to be condemned to a mere subsistence level of the nation.

—H. D. LISK

Episcopal Churches Send Their Thanks

Charlotte
Editors, The News:
We, the Council of the Episcopal Churches of Charlotte, wish to take this opportunity to thank The Charlotte News and John Borchert, religion editor, for the splendid coverage given our Joint Episcopal-Northern Lenten Services just completed.

It is such cooperation as you exhibited that encourages us in our efforts to bring to Charlotte during the Lenten season outstanding preachers from all sections of the nation.

—HENRY T. EGGER
General Chairman
Joint Episcopal Lenten Services

Oracle Of Laurens Sees Bright Days

Laurens, S.C.
Editors, The News:
I am glad to hear you are writing me from your state waiting to know what I think of the prospects for a good fruit crop year.

The outlook right now is very favorable for a good fruit crop year. It is if you can get by the month of March, the most dangerous month of the year on fruit trees. Lots of trees are in full bloom and some in full leaf.

The most dangerous part of March is three days before the new moon and seven days after. But we must consider the last summer months, too. I have seen some commercial orchards completely destroyed in July and August.

—C. E. TOLLISON

The Roof Of The World Is Being Stained With Blood

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON
IN Tibet, Jawaharlal Nehru, a lot of other people are receiving a much-needed demonstration of the ruthlessness, persistence, and power of Chinese imperialism.

The origins of the clash that is staining the roof of the world with blood can be rather shortly summarized. Until now, in brief, the Chinese Communist effort to transform Tibet into a dependable puppet state has been cautious but highly disruptive.

On the cautious side, the Chinese maintained the facade of Tibet's ancient religious government headed by Tibet's two chief living gods, the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama. But on the disruptive side, the Chinese drove two great military roads into Tibet, at fearful cost in life among the forced laborers. They sent tens of thousands of Chinese exiles to settle in the once-locked country, especially around Lhasa, the sacred capital. And they attempted an unprecedentedly close control of Tibet's day-to-day affairs.

Chinese military roads only extend to the main bases of the 60,000 man army China has in Tibet. Guerrilla-hunting units will have to be supplied by air drop, and this will surely tax

air transport resources that are already strained to the utmost by the frenzied tempo of China's five-year plan. Finally, as every one has remarked, this naked, cruel display of Chinese imper-

alism in Tibet is the sharpest sort of corrective for China's woefully diminished about China that has been lavished by Nehru. To see this affair in perspective, however, it is also neces-

sary to note that Nehru ought not to have needed this reminder of China's persistent imperialism. One of the two central facts in the history of the Asian mainland is the inextinguishable power drive of the Chinese people.

Loss Of False-Face



KHAMBAS REVOLT

One of the first major reactions to this Chinese pressure was a rebellion of the warlike Khamba tribe, who originally occupied Eastern Tibet. The Khambas were driven out of the East by the Chinese Communist Army, but most of the tribe's fighting men made their escape to Southern Tibet. There they established their present center of resistance. The resistance movement grew, and this finally caused the Chinese to attempt the preventive arrest of the Dalai Lama, the living God who has always held most of the temporal power.

The rift and fighting that resulted in Lhasa, the escape of the Dalai Lama to join the Khamba resistance force, and the Peking government's proclamation naming the Panchen Lama as the new puppet ruler of Tibet—all these in a tale twice-told. The points to note are the continuance of the resistance and the acquisition of the Dalai Lama as a divine figurehead. For Peking, these are very serious points indeed.

NAKED, CRUEL DISPLAY

With its secret valleys, fearful heights, and sturdy people, Tibet is ideal resistance country. Its complete pacification would not be easy, even if the Chinese shed Tibetan blood like water, as they can be expected to do. Furthermore, the two new

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
A UNIQUE and highly interesting dinner is being held at the exclusive F Street Club tonight. It's being promoted by the Iron and Steel Institute in honor of the Republican leader of the Senate, Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois.

He Did A Favor

Most interesting of all, however, is the organization which is sponsoring the Dirksen \$100-plate dinner, namely, the Iron and Steel Institute. It so happens that the big, amiable senator named for President McKinley is a member of the Senate Anti-Monopoly Committee. And not long ago he did a great favor for the Iron and Steel Institute.

Trouble In NATO

Gen. Lauris Norstad, our NATO commander in Paris, has threatened to fire French Gen. Jean Valley as commander of all NATO forces in West Germany. Here is the reason.

First, French withdrew its best troops to fight in North Africa. Following this, President de Gaulle objected to having any French troops, even poor ones, integrated with other allied troops in Europe. He has argued privately that French troops fight better under the French flag.

This has infuriated Gen. Norstad who points out, also privately, that Gen. Valley, a Frenchman, commands four American divisions, three British divisions, and the entire West German army—all under a Frenchman.

The French have only two second-rate divisions. All yet he has given them wants them kept separate from Americans, British and Germans.

Industrialists Raise Money For Dirksen

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Washington Pipeline

A screening board has narrowed down the applicants for the first flight into space to exactly 12. All yet he has given them wants them kept separate from Americans, British and Germans.

Secretary of Labor Mitchell is sitting on a report which claims young people are remaining longer in school because they can't find jobs. If it weren't for this, the report warns, unemployment would be even worse. Last year, an estimated 10 million young people stayed in school or didn't try to find jobs because of the unemployment problem.