

# The Rocky Mount Herald

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## IS ROOSEVELT WORTH IT?

Tampa Tribune.  
The Philadelphia Record, which is not a partisan but a fair and outspoken newspaper, calls attention to the fact that the national debt, in the last three years of Hoover, increased \$6,236,000,000, and in the first three years of Roosevelt increased \$7,409,000,000—in other words, that Roosevelt has cost the country \$1,173,000,000 more than Hoover. "Is Roosevelt worth it?" asks the Record, which proceeds to elucidate: Many an intelligent American will be shocked when he examines these figures. He has been hearing so much about "Roosevelt, the spender," "billions for boondoggling," "irresponsible waste of national credit," "burdening the future generations," that a false impression has been carefully built up in his mind.

It is time the American people went off their diet of elephant baloney.

It is time the American people stopped being guinea pigs for Republican press agents.

Roosevelt, "the spender," has increased the national debt a billion more than did Hoover, the economical.

Has it been worth it?

Marriner Eccles, Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, finds that the national income has increased more than 15 billions a year during Roosevelt's administration as compared with Hoover's.

In a period of 30 months the national income has increased 37 1-2 billions over what it would have been had the Hoover level continued.

A horse that pays 37 for 1 is a good horse on any track.

For that billion-dollar smaller debt under Hoover we were getting a one-way trip downhill.

Conditions were never so black as they were after Hoover had rung up his six-billion dollar debt increase.

Business hasn't been as good in five years as it is today after Roosevelt has run up his seven-billion debt increase.

And recall that Hoover's deficits were mounting year by year, while Roosevelt's are decreasing.

The real waster was Hoover. He wasted the nation's manpower in idleness, its banks, its homes, its shops, its business, its income, to "save money." And then didn't save it.

We have never seen a more forceful, convincing statement of the New Deal vs. Old Deal case.

This should afford a fertile subject for future "potlaches" of the Fliberty League and its favorite orator.

## CLOAKROOMS AND CORRIDORS

O. Max Gardner was worth as Governor of North Carolina \$6,500 a year. At least, that is what we offered him and what he took to administer the governmental affairs of 3,000,000 people. For \$75,000 we probably could have had him on a ten-year contract. Judging by the eagerness with which men of ability seek out the job, Max Gardner, who always was distinguished for his talents other than legal, quite probably would have snapped up an offer to be North Carolina's governor for ten years at such a figure. Wherein, then, is he worth \$75,000 a year to President Egtvedt's Boeing Aircraft company as its special legal counsel in Washington, as disclosed by the munitions committee's probe?

Not as a lawyer, certainly. For purely legal advice the company could have, and probably did have, distinguished lawyers in its own home town. Not as an expert in aircraft litigation surely; his career hasn't developed that way. Not as—but let Fixer Murray's letter to his President Egtvedt suffice:

Max Gardner . . . employed shortly after the cancellation of the air mail contracts can be more help during this session of congress, in order to get proper air mail legislation . . .

Think back a minute. President Roosevelt found unwarrantable conditions existing in the government's relations with the air lines. Wisely or unwisely, he had Jim Farley throw every mail contract into the waste basket and start over. The air lines scrambled for help against the presidential indignation. For \$75,000 they hired Max Gardner to get through the kind of legislation they desired. Gardner had the prestige North Carolina had given him as its governor and as democratic national committeeman. For his influence with congressmen he was worth to one company as much in one year as North Carolina would have paid him in 12 years. It may be all right and entirely ethical as far as Max is concerned, but it sounds like the devil of a reflection on congressmen.—Charlotte News

## HOW OLD TO DADDY?

Transcript and Messenger

How old can a man be to still become a father?

The question was freshly raised in our mind because a couple of visitors who came by say the 96-year-old man living near New Bern is expecting another addition to his family this May.

The visitors were Sheriff Victor Meekins of Dare county and Cap'n Midgette, his neighbor. The Cap'n is a retired Coast Guardsman.

They have been to see the old man at New Bern so that Victor might take some pictures and interview members of the family. Victor's a newspaperman, among other things, and he's strong for getting up feature stories for his weekly in Dare county as well as for other papers. Victor said he took the Cap'n along to provide his friend with some inspiration.

"One of the couple of times they went out to see the man near New Bern, his name is George Hughes, they took the mayor of New Bern with them. Cap'n Midgette was with the mayor when a whole flock of children came out of the Hughes house. (The oldest Hughes has children, grandchildren and great grand children.

"Which one would you say favors the old man the most?" the Cap'n said he asked the mayor. And he tells it that the mayor looked all the kids over and picked out the child born a couple of months more than a year ago to the 96-year-old man and his 27-year-old second wife.

Victor and the Cap'n said all members of the Hughes family are just as proud as they can be of the way the oldest one of them all keeps lively.

"He's rugged and strong looking," they gave their own observation of his appearance.

At one period of their visit, while Victor was talking to Mr. Hughes about figures which summarize the facts of his liveliness, the Cap'n chatted for a while with Mrs. Hughes. He asked her frankly about her husband and she replied, quite as frankly, he said, that her husband is a real proper man.

Victor, beside being a sheriff and a newspaperman, is also a father of two attractive little boys. In his various capacities as father, newspaperman, official and friendly mixer with folks he naturally has learned a lot about life and its processes. He says he'd swear to it—and the Cap'n teases him that he made a regular professional examination—that the Hughes family will have another addition in not far distant future.

Old Mr. Hughes is very fond of his wife and members of the family say he likes her to be with him just about all the time. They say the couple have been separated after dark only one time since they were married and that was when she went in to town to see a picture show with a group of the neighbors.

The family seems to take quite calmly, except that it has roused the pride of them all, the general interest and discussion resulting from the birth of the child a little over a year ago. They have had many visitors of different sorts, including a woman doctor from New York who came down to make a scientific investigation of the case and who with her scientific ways satisfied herself just as strongly that the case was proper and normal as Victor and the Cap'n did by their visiting with the family.

Victor explained, incidentally, a report which got out that the Hughes family doctor denied another baby is going to come to the family. He said the doctor, when asked about it, said he wouldn't say "yes" and he wouldn't say "no," because it was up to members of the family to give out whatever information they wished. Which of course was proper professional ethics.

But Victor says he's willing to swear there is going to be another baby.

## THE KIND OF LEGISLATORS NEEDED

The Enterprise

Quite a number of people in many counties are beginning to announce their candidacies for seats in the coming General Assembly, a thing that is hard to understand. There was a day when it was considered a position of honor. That day has passed away, and no one of any capacity should want it for the money there is in it.

What the people need is men with convictions; men who can draw their own laws and not have to depend on gambling lawyers from other state to come down and draw up our laws against punchboards, pinball tables and the many other gambling schemes, with enough errors in them to make them of no effect. It seems to be almost impossible to get some legislators to remember their promises to their constituents.

We need fewer people who represent special interests hanging around our legislature, with free liquor and lawyers to draw their bills for them. The hired lobbyist should be excluded from our legislative councils. They are just too much for a weakling to come up against. We need legislators who know tax problems and who are not trying to climb mountain peaks of fame and prominence. They should have the capacity to keep a true and honest balance between all classes and be willing to see the rich and the poor fare alike.

## HAROLD D. COOLEY SPEAKS ON BILL

(Continued from page one)

sunshine know no state lines and respect no state rights.

### Recalls Dust Storms

Well do we remember how, within the last 12 months, the high winds of the west swept with force and fury across state lines in great clouds, carrying upon its wings the fertile soil of Oklahoma, and landed it even upon the very dome of this capitol. Yet men say that this soil erosion and wind erosion and these dust storms are but local problems. When the heavy rains come in the hills and mountains and sweep down through the canyons and gorges with tremendous force and volume, dashing across state lines, gathering momentum and power as they go, carrying within the bosom of its flood waters the fertile soil of a state, across the lines of other states and on into the gulf or the sea, who is willing to say that this is a local problem? Who can say that the flood waters which sweep down from the mountains of New Mexico, down through the Panhandle of Texas, is a local problem? Who would suggest that the police power of a state could say to the flood waters of the Mississippi, "recede! You have no right to enter this commonwealth; you are a local problem of your own state!"

"Our very civilization depends upon the soil. Are we, as a nation, helpless to protect it? Shall we sit supinely by and permit America to join the decadent parts of China and Asia Minor, once opulent and magnificent, but now stripped of their fertile soils and buried in the dust—destructive exploitation of resources? I need not argue this question further.

"We are told by those who know that the dust storms of May, 1934, swept 300 million tons of fertile topsoil off the great wheat plains of the west; that 400 million tons of soil material are washed annually into the gulf of Mexico by the waters of the Mississippi; that generally water and wind erosion together, each year, remove more than three billion tons of topsoil. They tell us that 100 million acres of fertile acres of farm land, equal to Illinois, Ohio, Maryland and North Carolina combined, have been essentially destroyed for profitable farming; that another 125 million acres are seriously impaired; and that another 100 million acres are threatened—all belonging to the best farm lands of the United States.

"Annual Loss Staggering  
"This, in dollars and cents, we are told, means an annual loss to the land owners of the nation, of not less than 400 million dollars. They tell us that the cumulative loss may be conservatively stated as already not less than 10 billion dollars, and that, if the wastage is not stopped, in another 50 years the cumulative loss will reach the staggering figure of 25 or 30 billion dollars.

"Men and nature must work hand in hand. The throwing out of balance of the resources of nature throws out of balance, also, the lives of men! The ruthless exploitation of our land resources must cease. Men cannot continue to violate basic arrangements which nature will not tolerate. On December 19, 1935, the secretary of the interior transmitted to the President a report entitled, 'Little Waters: A Study of Head Water Streams and Other Little Waters.' This report deals comprehensively with a great national problem and I commend it to the careful consideration of every man, woman and child interested in the conservation of a great national resource—the fertility of American soil. In my opinion, this report should be made available to every student of agriculture and every farmer in the country.

"The triple A was declared unconstitutional because:

"(1) The act invaded the reserved rights of the states.  
"(2) The processing tax therein provided for was levied upon one group, the processor, for the benefit of another group, to wit, the farmer, and was not levied for the general support of the government, and was, in advance, appropriated to the uses of the statute.

"Money Used For Contracts  
"(3) The money so extracted was used to purchase compliance with contracts, binding upon the growers who had signed them, a compliance which the Congress was powerless to command.

"(4) The regulation sought was not, in fact, voluntary, for that the power to confer or withhold unlimited benefits is the power to coerce or destroy.

"May I point out that in the proposed act no processing tax is provided for, or levied?

"And, further, may I suggest that the proposed act provides for no contract of any kind or character which, in any way, might be binding upon the farmers of the country?

"And, last, may I say that the farmers, and all of them, are foot-loose and free to do as they please, and no one can penalize them.

"Now, let us consider a few statements in the opinion in the triple A case. What did the court mean by the following language?

"We are not here concerned with a conditional appropriation of money, nor with a provision that if certain conditions are not complied with the appropriation shall no longer be available. By the agricultural adjustment act the amount of the tax is appropriated to be expended only in payment under contracts whereby the parties bind themselves to regulation by the federal government. There is an obvious difference between a statute stating the conditions upon which moneys shall be expended and one effective only upon assumption of a contractual obligation to submit to a regulation which otherwise could not be enforced.

Measures Court Language  
"What did the court mean by the

following language, none of which is, in any way, necessary or pertinent to the decision?

"We are not now required to ascertain the scope of the phrase 'general welfare' of the United States" or to determine whether an appropriation in aid of agriculture falls within it?

"It is not clear that the court intended to suggest that under the general welfare clause of the federal constitution, we could make grants of federal funds in aid of agriculture?"

"Is it not clear that the court intended to suggest that we could, in the absence of contracts, binding upon farmers, make conditional appropriations, with provision that if certain conditions are not complied with, the appropriation shall no longer be available?"

"Does not this bill seek to use the power of the general welfare clause of the constitution?"

"Does it not make conditional appropriations of money, with provision that if the conditions are not complied with, the appropriation will no longer be available?"

Lawyers Are Baffled  
"With processing taxes, binding contracts, and coercion out of this bill, why are we not following the 'pathway of the law' within the framework and provisions of the constitution?"

"In this day of legal triumphs and defeats and 5 to 4 decisions, not even the best constitutional lawyer in the country can assure us that any act of Congress is or is not constitutional.

"It is not easy for men to divorce themselves from their economic and political philosophies. No man is infallible, but all men can be honest, and we are justified when we act upon honest convictions and believe as to the constitutionality of proposed legislation. I believe that the conservation of soil fertility is a national problem and that this act is constitutional, and I hope it will pass."

## FORUM

### COURT AND CONSTITUTION

To the Editor: The Republicans, Liberty Leaguers and other stand-patters who so loudly defend the Constitution, and the power of the Supreme Court to invalidate acts of Congress and the President, apparently are never bothered by the fact that they are advocating two things which are contradictory and mutually exclusive. The little difficulty in their position is that the Supreme Court itself is a part of the Federal government; and if the government as a whole is to be restricted within the limits of the Constitution, then the Supreme Court cannot escape those same limitations.

Now, the Constitution does not anywhere give the Supreme Court power to nullify acts of Congress and the executive. Therefore, in order to remain within its constitutional charter, the Supreme Court will have to cease exercising this power.

On the other hand, if the Supreme Court is to be allowed the continued exercise of this power, it means that the court will occupy a position superior not only to Congress and the President, but to the Constitution as well. But the three departments of the Federal government are equal and independent, according to the Constitution. Therefore, if one of them can overstep its con-

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stitutional authority, why cannot the other two do likewise? If the Supreme Court is to be the exclusive judge of its place and power in the Constitution, why cannot its constitutional equals, the President and Congress, be the exclusive judges, respectively, of their places and powers in the Constitution?

So, let the self-appointed defenders of the Constitution and the Supreme Court tell us which they want: the Constitution preserved intact and inviolate, or the Supreme Court to reinstate the chief exemplar in Constitution-breaking. If the former, the Supreme Court will have to be brought back to its constitutional limitations; if the latter, then Congress and the President cannot consistently be denied the same power which is so triumphantly ascribed to the Supreme Court.

J. M. McNEILL  
Chapel Hill.

## COULD HOOVER DAM THE TEARS?

The Editor:

Let the die-hard Republicans read this and weep.  
Herbert Hoover, in his Lincoln birthday address at Portland, Ore., quoted Theodore Roosevelt as follows:

"A broken promise is bad enough in private life. It is worse in the fields of politics.

"No man is worth his salt in public life who makes on the stump a pledge which he does not keep after election."

Hoover should be the last person in the world to utter these words. Did he not promise a chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage?

The AAA is a good thing for the farmer. Let the farmer plant all of the tobacco and cotton that they want and they won't get a good price for same. Of course it is a good thing for Mr. Clay Williams, who is the head of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, who divides his time with Winston-Salem and Washington, D. C., to have the farmers plant all the tobacco they can, so they won't get a good price for same. Of course, he thinks it is a mighty good thing for the five big tobacco companies, and he likes it. The Supreme Court did a bad thing when it broke

the AAA up for the farmers and let them plant all the tobacco and cotton they want. Al Smith and Raskob send out invitations for all the people in the United States to join his third party. Well, I am one that does not accept his invitation, which is the American Liberty League. The capitalists and industrialists want to bring back Herbert Hoover days. Al Smith has taken a walk, but not from the Democratic party. It was New York weather that got Al now. He is sunning himself down in Palm Beach, Fla. Herbert Hoover, before he was President of the United States, used to be a civil engineer in California. He ought to be back on the job. When he was President of the United States for four years he did not do a thing in the world but drain the whole country and damn it.

N. J. EDWARDS  
Goldsboro, N. C.

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