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DOUGLAD COXE, Editor-Manager

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Our Venereal Delinquents

Just recently a representative group of men and women of the county heard Mr. Chester Davis, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, speak here on the rise of juvenile delinquency in which he stressed largely the need for more supervision of youth in the home.

Today the News-Journal carries the report of Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, state health officer, which gives some rather alarming information on this growth of delinquency among the youth of North Carolina and the exceedingly high rate of venereal infection among this group.

Perhaps a part of this increase was explained by the FBI-man's report in which he said that many of the young girls had followed soldiers into North Carolina from other states. These girls and young women had married men either in camps, or just before the men entered camps. Then the soldiers were sent overseas and the girls were left behind. After a time, these girls started going out with other soldiers, due to loneliness or a craving for excitement. Continuation of this practice led to their delinquency and eventual arrest and incarceration by local police or by FBI agents operating under the May Act.

The area around Fort Bragg, in which Hoke County is, soon became one of the worst spots in the country for venereal infections. Mr. Davis said, and the infection rate at Bragg was fearfully high. Since the invocation of the May act in this area, the rate has gradually dropped until last August it reached the lowest point in the history of the Fort.

While many North Carolinians may have objected to the invocation of the May Act here, the reports of the FBI and of Dr. Reynolds are of sufficient extent to prove that, since our state's local police and sheriffs' department would not or could not enforce our laws against vagrancy and prostitution, it was a justifiable action of the medical authorities and the commanding officer of Fort Bragg to ask the War Department to bring the FBI into the local law enforcement picture.

Yet, jailing these unfortunate and misguided girls is not the answer to the delinquency problem. Dr. Reynolds and Mr. Davis concur in their indictment of the laxity of home discipline and training. They place the blame of so large an increase on the parents, and upon the communities which have taken no thought of this craving for excitement and have failed to provide supervised recreational advantages for youth who have neither the home-training nor the mental stability to guard themselves from the promiscuity which ultimately leads the dreaded venereal infection and lands them into the hands of the law.

On Government Advertising

Good newspapers, the ones which have established themselves in the confidence of their subscribers, have attained this confidence through their independence. Though many of a paper's subscribers may disagree with some of its policies, its attitudes and its opinions, these same subscribers have given and maintained its life because of this confidence. When that confidence is gone, soon the newspaper goes, too.

In recent months many of the smaller papers have been having a hard time. Advertising revenue has fallen off because many of their regular buyers of space have little to sell and what merchandise they can get is readily sold without advertising promotion. Most of the great national concerns are in war work. They have little to advertise except in so far as they wish to keep their names before the public, to maintain a "good-will" on which they have spent millions of dollars in building, so that when they return to the manufacture of civilian goods their names will have not been forgotten. These advertisements, with few exceptions, are being carried in the nationally-circulated magazines and the larger daily papers.

The weekly paper, except in certain boom areas, is suffering from a lack of patronage. Yet the demands upon it for both national and community service are far greater than in the normal peace times.

As a sop to the publisher who is in difficulty, some of the office-holding folk up in Washington are asking an appropriation to pay for the Treasury Department's advertising of Bonds. Senator Bankhead has a bill named for him which has that as its purpose. This might help a few publishers tide over... but we doubt it.

It would help, though, to make the weekly press subservient to the government. It would then help weaken that supreme confidence those millions of subscribers have in their local papers, and if continued would, we fear, lead to the ultimate destruction of the weekly paper as a strong force of our Democracy.

On the other hand, the splendid support that local industry and business has given the drives locally leads us to believe that local business men would rather this promotion, as important as it is to the success of the increasingly large bond sales, be an entirely local affair. They

have cheerfully taken space, good-sized hunks of it, for every patriotic promotion ever conducted in Hoke county. Their part in the publicity of the recent 3rd War Loan Drive was the largest ever asked of them by this paper. Their response, with one exception, was completely whole-hearted and cooperative.

It is true that the newspaper, large or small, cannot bear this big advertising load alone. But, the newspaper, backed by its citizenry-subscribers, is carrying its load of the war effort, and we feel it should continue to do so without any subsidy, grant or political sop handed out by politicians who want to get everybody's snout in the public treasury... After all, when this war is over, the newspapers are going to have a lot to say about the utter idiocy of many of the present government expenditures which are not helping, but hindering, this self-same war effort, and we would like to see the newspapers untouched by this grant, and untied from the strings of politicians... free to denounce and decri when the time comes.

War Wastes And Frauds—And Politics

Lindsey Warren, former N. C. Congressman and now comptroller-general, has fired a broadside at the army folks, and the contractors whom they supervise, for needless and outrageous expenditures in 270 instances. Some of the money was paid for juke-boxes, or liquor, and even a set of false teeth for a worker.

Officials of the War Department fires back, and says: Not so!

In the spending of such large sums at such a rapid rate, the War Department paid for many things that should have been paid for by the individuals who got them. It also paid for a lot that it did not get. An instance! It paid one man, according to Mr. Warren, for forty-one hours work in one day. There was plenty of shoveling, too.

At Fort Bragg there was a gigantic fire which burned for months during the construction of the expanded plant there. That fire burned up hundreds of thousands of board feet of lumber. Sure, it was scrap lumber, ends and split or knotty pieces. But then, we had lots of lumber, plenty of wood; and that fellow Lewis and his coal miners had not thought about sticking up the government, so we had plenty of coal. Too, there was plenty of paper then and pulpwood won't scarce. Perhaps this scrap would not have done for pulpwood but it would have supplied Eastern North Carolina with kindling wood for the duration; or, sawed into fuel blocks, it would have kept all the woodburning stoves about Fayetteville redhot for at least a couple of winters. Just a matter of salvage planning and conservation, for both army and civilian needs.

Perhaps, if Congress wants to do the right thing, it could set up a fiscal agency which would be empowered to investigate and approve or disapprove and adjust these contracts without interference from whichever party might be in control. Then the controversy over contract terminations, the justness or exorbitancy of them being definitely and impartially determined, would be settled and neither the Democrats, the Republicans, the New Deal nor the American Labor Party could make political use of money-spending during the emergency.

OPINIONS and SENTIMENTS From Other Editors

Habeas Corpus The Winner

(Greensboro Daily News)

The row between military and civil authorities over the suspension of the right of habeas corpus in Hawaii is now nearing a satisfactory settlement. It started when two naturalized Hawaiians of German descent petitioned the federal court for their freedom on a writ of habeas corpus, which the court granted. Lieutenant General Richardson, military governor of the territory, however, on the ground that while martial law was relaxed habeas corpus was still suspended, refused to honor the writ, in which he was backed up by orders from General Marshall.

Federal Judge Metzger thereupon fined General Richardson \$5,000 for contempt of court, and the general retaliated by fining the judge \$5,000. Neither fine was collected. There was a stalemate. "The power of the judiciary was exhausted," but the power of the people of the United States was not. There was considerable scurrying and conferring among Washington bigwigs as a result of which General Richardson restored the right of habeas corpus, released the two internees and remitted the fine he had imposed on the judge. Washington suggested to Judge Metzger that he remit the fine on the general. He refused to remit it in whole but did reduce it to \$100, on the ground that no one should be absolved too lightly from contempt of court. Thus the matter stands.

Our thought is that Judge Metzger is right. Doubtless General Richardson believed he was acting rightly, and indeed under his orders he could not have done otherwise.

But the writ of habeas corpus is the cornerstone of liberty and cannot be removed with safety. The constitution provides that it "shall not be suspended unless in case of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it." Even so, Congress alone can suspend it. It has done so only once, and then it limited its suspension to the duration of the civil war, which, we understand, is over.

An indefinite suspension would mean that military officials might arrest citizens and hold them indefinitely in custody without trial or even indictment. Habeas corpus is the world's best antidote to tyranny. No absolutist government—fascist, Nazi or what have you—can long flourish without eradicating this writ. The American and French revolutions were fought in no small measure to establish it as a cardinal and inalienable right. Therefore it is salutary for courts and people to guard it with the most vigilant jealousy.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS
 By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

NEW TAX PLANS PRESENT SERIOUS PROBLEMS

WASHINGTON.—How the average man will be able to pay a 30 per cent withholding tax, put the customary 10 per cent into government bonds, and live on 60 per cent of his earnings or less, is the main stumbling block to the tax problem which the treasury is pushing off upon congress.

In some instances, as with government workers, an additional 5 per cent goes to retirement, meaning that a single worker earning \$50 a week would have to pay out \$18.90 a week in taxes and live on \$31.10 (allowing for the \$12 a week basic withholding tax exemption).

Wages have gone up, it is true. The official estimate of average weekly earnings (War Labor board) is up 10.7 per cent from September, 1942, to May, 1943. But the cost of living is officially calculated to have increased 6.2 per cent in the same period.

National statistics never accurately portray anything more than a cold generalization. Most people think the cost of living, for instance, is up much more than the official estimate, which is weighted perhaps with many things they do not buy and cannot get these days.

Also, the wages of many war worker groups are up much more than 10.7 per cent while those of professional, clerical and white collar classes are probably not increased that much.

But officialdom says there is approximately 50 billion dollars of surplus money in circulation in the United States, and it wants to reach that reservoir of funds. The money, of course, is being spent, is in banks, business and pocketbooks. There is no taxation method by which it can be extracted directly, because of the unevenness of its distribution.

In the face of this situation, it is obvious that the treasury tax program will be viewed in congress as a rather theoretical ambition. No one there thinks anything like 10 billion more in money can be raised. It is likely that the bill if finally enacted, will be less than half of the requested amount.

HOW ABOUT SALES TAX?

There is one way in which a large amount of new money could be brought in, from the surplus cash reservoir, but it has not much backing. This method, of course, is the sales tax.

Mr. Roosevelt has always shared the common liberal viewpoint that such a tax lays more heavily on the poor than the rich. The fact is it now would catch those who have the money and are spending it.

In normal times, the liberal argument has a better foundation, but, in these days when the surplus money is largely in the hands of war workers, the liberal position seems to me to be antiquated. However, in view of Mr. Roosevelt's opposition, it cannot be enacted.

Clearly, the present income, corporation and excise taxes are near the workable endurance limit. You read and hear some liberal and union claims continually that corporations are making big war profits, but here again the national average is somewhat misleading. The big war producers like United States Steel, General Motors and others are making less.

Contract renegotiation is cutting still further into war plants income. The national over-all figure is bolstered by such sensational increases as those of the railroads, for instance, which are making more money than ever in history.

Consequently, it would not be surprising if congress failed in the end to enact any tax bill at all.

IS LABOR DRAFT BILL 'DYING ON THE VINE'?

The Austin-Wadsworth compulsory labor draft bill is dying on the vine. The only one who could possibly revive it and cut it through is Mr. Roosevelt. His persistent silence has discouraged the backers of the legislation. They now know they cannot get the measure out of either the house, or the senate military affairs committee even as far as the senate floor for public discussion.

The only administration authorities who have forcefully advocated the measure are War Secretary Stimson and his assistant, Patterson. Congressmen have heard rumors that at one time the entire Roosevelt cabinet wanted the bill, but apparently not now.

WAVES STAY AT HOME

The senate naval affairs committee killed the provision permitting WAVES to go overseas, largely on the private recommendation of some naval officers.

The committee members made some personal investigations of the WAVES organization during their recent vacation travels, and brought back splendid reports. However, to transport them overseas would involve complications of housing which probably would cost more than their transportation would be worth.



POOLE'S MEDLEY

By D. SCOTT POOLE

A fellow in Georgia grafted a tomato plant into a cucumber root, and recently his plant has grown to a height of five or six feet, and is full of green tomatoes. If they are kin to cucumbers they will ripen the night before a killing frost.

Another thing, if that man attempts to graft tomato plants into all the cucumbers around here, he will use all the tomato seed himself. Cucumbers are taking the farms in this country.

Editorial headline in the Charlotte Observer charged a few days ago, that the O. P. A. had put 100 North Carolina dairies out of business. The cause is the price of dairy products are celled, and the price of feeds is allowed to go on up.

"It is the common people who feel the weight of the Roman yoke." Administering to the necessities of others gives people of means an opportunity to evade the burden of taxation. "Those who collect tribute for Tiberius keep a quarter for themselves."

No other form of taxation gives dishonest people so good an opportunity to take something for their own use, as a sales tax. And, poor people pay more than their share of the burden of government, because there are more of them.

Not only that, but it taxes paupers along with millionaires. An old Holiness preacher and his wife, both over 80, received from the relief board \$2 each per month back in 1932, and the great State of North Carolina reached and took 12 cents from those old

toothless mouths. They passed a sales tax law in 1931 to keep the schools open. I would never again open a public school house door, if I had to starve papers to keep the schools open. It is a question in my mind whether public schools, as now operated are wise.

The students have concluded they have plenty of time to learn all there is to learn, so they are in no hurry to study their lessons. Another thing: The State pays the bills. No government has a cent until somebody pays taxes.

Price of corn is no longer quoted on the markets. The price in Chicago is \$1.07 per bushel. The price in the Chicago price plus the freight from that point to where it is purchased. Now, I call that unwise. Corn should be celled at \$1 per bushel.

Often cotton sells here at a higher price than that quoted in New York. Cotton does not sell for the same price in any two towns throughout the season. That is what the folks say about it. In other words, the market price of anything is what the seller gets.

I have believed in vocational training. Young people should be trained for the useful calling of life. Boys were taught a trade, or profession in the olden times.

We read in the papers that millions of people will starve in Europe and in China. The Germans are robbing the Europeans, and the Japs are robbing the Chinese.

Governor Broughton has called a "holiday" in tobacco marketing. The prices had to drop to stay within the 41 cent average, and there is more good tobacco than was expected.

OUR DEMOCRACY — by Mat

LIBERTY

OCTOBER 28, 1886.— THE LIBERTY-LOVING PEOPLE OF FRANCE PRESENTED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THIS SYMBOL OF FREEDOM.

OCTOBER, 1943.— THE STATUE OF FREEDOM TO THE LIBERTY-LOVING PEOPLES OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.