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Your Award-Winning Community Newspaper

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Sunday Closing Bill: Bad

We are strongly opposed to any law limiting the right of one class of merchant to do business on Sunday while others are allowed to continue doing business as usual. We don't feel that doing business on Sunday is right or proper, but we certainly don't feel that we have the right to tell others whether they can or cannot do it.

This law, as we understand it, is nothing more than an effort on the part of some retailers to have other retailers told when they may and when they may not have their firms open for business, and the reasons are purely for purposes of limiting competition and not for saving anyone's character or morals.

Further, the law would be clearly discriminatory and unfair to only part of the retailers. While it would make it illegal to sell on Sunday merchandise traditionally handled by department, specialty and home furnishings estab-

lishments, it would not prohibit the sale of items "necessary to public health and safety, i. e., drugs, food, gasoline, auto supplies and items used for recreational purposes including souvenirs and novelties." The law would also not apply to some resort counties of North Carolina.

When a man or group of men have invested their money in a location, bought stock to sell and pay employees to sell it, it is not the right of any other competitor to tell him what days he can open or what hours he must or must not stay open. There is already too much legislation in business.

There is no right in this bill, in the spirit of our Constitution. We think the Supreme Court was right to nullify a similar bill when the last legislature passed it, and we hope and trust they will do the same with this one if it is passed.

Thanks To Our Town Fathers

We have no quarrel with our town administration, and feel that the mayor and commissioners are doing a good job. We do think it is bad when a business as large as this town is, has a hard time getting people to serve it in its most responsible positions, just as we feel that exhibitions of disinterest in town affairs such as that in the bond vote fiasco several months ago are bad.

We would add one more comment, just to make our position clear. We appreciate, and we believe the citizens should appreciate, that the jobs of mayor and commissioner are of poor pay, much work, worry and responsibility, and that they get a lot of blame when they are doing the best they can from many of us who are doing nothing constructive. For this, we thank this mayor and board for their services already rendered, and for being willing to do it for another term in the absence of others. These jobs are not nearly so much honor as they are service, and we shouldn't forget it.

Here's A Real Loophole

If you are a businessman, you have been figuring out your federal income tax under new rules that apply to your transportation, lodging, meals and entertainment costs. And remember, there is no exemption allowed for productive time lost in daily book-keeping.

It doesn't set well with a hard-pressed private citizen when he reads of the loose manner in which congressmen are permitted to list their expenses for travel on junkets around the world, for which tax money pays. Instead of an itemized statement they turn in a report that reads, for instance, lodging \$400, meals \$800, transportation \$500, miscellaneous \$300. No details are required about who, when or how they fed a guest whether the cost for entertainment, transportation and lodging pertained to government business, etc.

Why shouldn't a congressman be required to fill out in detail the same kind of an expense account as a private citizen, before he turns it in to the government for payment? After all it is public money he is spending and that should be more carefully accounted for than personal income.

If the government is really trying to plug tax-loopholes, why not include the public officials who travel at taxpayer expense, as well as the private citizens who travel at their own or company expense? In other words, let government set a good example.

Comments and Pickups

We are glad to see that Hoke Representative Neill McFadyen voted against the amendment to the education bill Tuesday, even though this amendment was passed by the House of Representatives.

The amendment would call State College "North Carolina State University of the University of North Carolina" instead of "North Carolina State, the University of North Carolina at Raleigh," as previously passed by the Senate.

"Never in Godde's World will there be bookes enuf," wrote the forgotten Scots poet, Jamie Fulerton, in 1643. On the occasion of National Library Week, April 21-27, we might comment that never has his statement been truer and, happily, that more and more Hoke County people are becoming aware of its truth.

During the 1937-49 period, the maximum Social Security tax paid by an employee was \$30--one per cent on the first \$3,000 of pay. The current tax is \$174--3 5/8 per cent on the first \$4,200. The 1963 tax will be \$222--4 5/8 per cent on the first \$4,800.



PUPPY CREEK PHILOSOPHER:

He'd Rather Have Federal Help In The Country Than The City

Dear editor:

It's been so long since the big city newspapers and magazines have exercised themselves over the farm problem that I had the feeling something was afoot, and it is.

According to an article in a newspaper I found out here on this Bermuda grass farm yesterday where it had blown up against a fence and which I removed at once before the whole thing blew over -- I'm no engineer but I know what a few more pounds of stress can do to a fence of mine -- big cities are seeking 375 million dollars in Federal grants to help them finance transportation systems for commuters.

As I understand it, so many people work in cities the streets

won't hold all their cars and they have to use trains and buses, but the trains and buses are losing money and their equipment is delapidated so naturally the only thing to do is to turn to Washington for money to make up the difference. Cities may denounce farmers for doing this, but they know a good idea when they see it. I can't get any big cities to agree with me, but clearly the trouble is that we've got a surplus of cities. Marginal cities, I guess you'd call them, like marginal farmers.

It looks to me like any city which is so big it can't get its people to and from the working areas every day, is simply too big. In reverse, it's like the farmer who's too small. Both are uneconomic.

Now with the farmer, the city answer has always been, let him give up unprofitable farming and move to town, but it's

hard to say that if a city is too big, let it close up and move to a smaller place. You can say it, but it hardly makes sense.

What cities need actually is either wider streets, narrower cars, or fewer people, but nobody seems to be making any progress in any of these directions.

The way it looks to me, big cities don't want the Federal government helping farmers in the country, they want them to move to town and then help them there.

Personally, if it's all right with Washington, I'd rather have the help where I am and avoid all that traffic. It's easier, more comfortable, and you can do it in the shade.

Yours faithfully,
J. A.

Cliff Blue's Tar Heel People & Issues

UTILITY DEBATE . . . In recent months there has appeared to be a widening of the breach between the private power companies and the REA associations furnishing power. To me it has seemed that some area of compromise should be possible, that both groups, private and public, might continue to serve for the best interest of the public.

I have discussed this matter with both the private and public utility representatives. I have discussed the matter with numerous legislators. Most with whom I have talked seem to feel as I do, that there should be some common ground on which both groups might stand and serve.

TELEPHONES . . . I have noted that the private and public telephone companies seem to be getting along fairly well without any big debate going on or battle brewing. It has been suggested that the power companies might well do what the telephone companies--private and public, did some years ago.

Some years ago the private and public telephone companies worked out rather closely defined territory boundaries that have been held pretty inviolate except in rare instances. If a plan could be worked out so that the private and public power companies would know just where their territory is and not have one or the other trying to step over the line, it would appear that it would be a move in the right direction.

Also high on the controversial list are taxes, which the REA group pays but little, and REA service in municipalities.

It will not be easy to work the matter out, for national organizations are attempting to tell both the private and public utilities how to face the issue, which makes a settlement harder to arrive at than if it were strictly a Tar Heel affair.

BOTH TO SERVE . . . In our opinion, both the private

and public power companies will continue to serve. As the REA group grows strong they will undoubtedly start paying taxes. In fact some of the REA leaders have indicated a willingness to pay taxes. And when they start to pay taxes they may find it to their advantage to become incorporated with the subscribers becoming stockholders.

HIGHER EDUCATION . . . The Senate passed the Higher Education bill last week and the matter will be before the House for decision this week.

It's interesting to note that the part about the report of the Commission on Education Beyond the High School which caused so much debate last fall--the recommendation that the UNC President and other college heads be members of the State Board of Higher Education--was never made a part of the bill, and is now--only a few months later not causing a ripple. Governor Sanford can be given credit for pouring oil on the turbulent waters.

RE-DISTRICTING . . . The chances for passage of a Senatorial Re-Districting bill improved last week with the overwhelming approval by the House Committee on Senatorial Re-Districting of the Currie Bill. The bill is expected to pass the House without too much difficulty.

ABSENTEE VOTING . . . The outlook for passage of a reasonable and practical bill to curb the abuses which have grown up under the absentee ballot law is good.

SUB-COMMITTEE . . . Its taking the Joint Appropriations sub-committee longer to complete their job than was expected at first. The processes of Democracy are sometimes slow, cumbersome and costly, but they are well worth the price we have to pay.

STEEL . . . With steel prices having gone up, you can expect another round of inflation.



Hooker Opens Attack At Chancellorsville

"Fighting Joe" Hooker launched his first (and last) major fight as commander of the Army of the Potomac 100 years ago this week, and the way it went, it looked as if he had a sure fire victory in his hands. It looked that way, but as Hooker was to learn, appearances are deceiving.

His fight was against the nemesis of the Federal army, General Robert E. Lee and some 65,000 Confederates dug in around Fredericksburg, Va., behind the Rappahannock River; where they had routed the Federals in December. Hooker had been a subordinate general then and had seen the mistakes; he would not make them, too, he thought.

So as April came to a close, Hooker readied his army of 130,000 men--twice the size of Lee's--for its big battle. Hospitals were cleared of wounded. Arms were inspected. Ammunition and supplies were brought up. Horses were shod. Even the weather turned good.

HOOKER MOVES OUT

On April 27th, Hooker moved out. Three corps --42,000 men--moved 25 miles off to the right, crossed the Rapidan and Rappahannock Rivers, and Lee's suspicions apparently were not aroused. At the same time, Hooker sent two other corps under Gen. John Sedgewick down to the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg, where they threw across pontoon bridges and began to cross under Confederate fire. Lee immediately resisted Sedgewick's advance, but that was all right with Hooker; his big movement was on the right; while Lee fought Sedgewick, Hooker planned to move in on Lee's left flank, catch him by surprise and destroy him.

Hooker's preparations went off without a hitch. By the evening of April 30th, he had assembled his men in the woods and wilderness around a crossroads and a brick mansion called Chancellorsville, 10 miles west of Fredericksburg, and all appeared rocky. Men whistled as they worked, and officers played poker on the ground. So pleased was Hooker with his achievements that he issued a statement of praise to his troops: "The operations of the last three days have determined that our enemy must either ingloriously fly or come out from behind his defenses and give us battle on our own ground, where certain destruction awaits him."

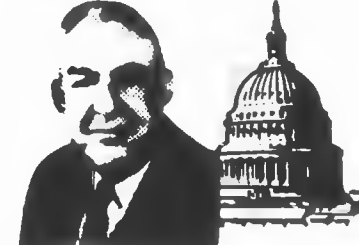
LEE'S PLANS

But it wasn't to be so. On that same day, Lee had learned of Hooker's movements and had begun his preparations, and now it was a matter of who would move the faster. As Hooker issued his grand statement to his troops, Lee was moving.

Lee saw the situation just as Hooker saw it: he must "either ingloriously fly or come out from behind his defenses." That was an easy decision for Lee, and he came out from behind his defenses. Leaving 10,000 men to hold off Sedgewick, he began moving west from Fredericksburg toward Chancellorsville. His top general, "Stonewall" Jackson, kissed his wife goodbye (she had visited him with their 5-month-old daughter, Julia; it was the first time Jackson had seen his daughter) and put his men in motion toward a battle that would cost him his life.

Next week: Chancellorsville --Lee's greatest battle.

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



WASHINGTON--The President in a White House ceremony last week bestowed upon Sir Winston Churchill the honorary American citizenship granted by Congress earlier this month. This is a fitting tribute to England's great war leader who meant so much to the cause of freedom when only

a Churchill could summon the world to resist civilization's most deadly challenge.

In the summer of 1940 after Dunkirk Churchill set the tone, raised the hearts of the democratic peoples, and breathed spirit and life into the fiber of men who did not believe in tyranny. His courage found expression in his oft quoted words: "Nothing in life is so exhilarating as to be shot at without result." In June 1940 during England's darkest hour he wrote the history of a people in five words: "This was their finest hour." As long as men cherish freedom, Sir Winston Spencer Churchill will occupy a revered place in history. It is well to reflect on the commanding personality of this great man who has influenced the course of history as few other men of our time.

The Senate has passed the wilderness preservation bill. It passed the Senate during the last Congress, but the House took no action on it.

I voted for the measure, which I deem a fine one, on both occasions. It now goes to the House.

Although the measure applies for the most part to the public lands of the western United States, it could have a useful effect on some of North Carolina's national forests.

At heart most Americans deeply love our primitive wilderness areas where civilized man can enjoy the quiet of natural lakes, clear streams, and peaceful forests. The object of this bill is to preserve for this generation and future generations by statute these areas of scenic beauty.

In essence, the bill provides for the setting aside of approximately eight million acres immediately as a part of the wilderness system. It also provides that from time to time additional tracts of land may be set aside by the President with the consent of the Congress.

Normally, I would not favor vesting power of this nature in the President. Here the fact is, however, that the public domain and all the national forests are already managed by the Interior and Agricultural Departments of the Federal government.

Stories Behind Words

by William S. Penfield

White Elephant

According to an old story, a king of Siam presented a white elephant, which is sacred in Siam, to any man he wished to ruin.

The man could not refuse to accept the gift, nor could he give it to someone else, for either action would be an insult to the king. And he could not let the sacred animal starve to death, for that would be a crime. Therefore, the new owner was saddled with the expense of feeding the elephant, which has an enormous appetite. Eventually the expense exhausted the man's financial resources.

From this alleged practice came the expression "white elephant," meaning some possession or advantage that brings more expense or responsibility than it is worth.

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Smokey Says:

So, smokers... be careful!