

The Rocky Mount Herald

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Looking at WASHINGTON

Monopoly Probe Is Broad Inquiry Into Cause of Poverty Amid Plenty

The inquiry into monopolies projected at the cost of \$500,000 is one of the most far-reaching investigations ever authorized by Congress. Before it is concluded its sponsors hope to be able to answer queries that have puzzled many people during the past decade: "Why there is poverty in the midst of plenty; why there is hunger in a land of food surpluses?"

Economic Study.

On April 29, President Roosevelt sent a special message to Congress on monopolies. He called for "a thorough study of the concentration of economic power in American industry and the effect of that concentration upon the decline of competition." Five days later Senator O'Mahoney, of Wyoming, introduced a resolution to provide for an executive-legislative investigation into the causes and effects of the concentration of economic power and financial control over industry.

Considerable discussion followed as to the composition of the proposed commission and the control of funds allotted for the inquiry. The President suggested that the matter be investigated by the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Securities and Exchange Commission. There was some sentiment in Congress for an investigation by members of Congress without participation of executive officials except at the pleasure of the commission. However, as finally passed by the Senate the commission consists of twelve persons, including three senators, three representatives, and one person each representing the Departments of Justice, the Treasury, Commerce and Labor, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Federal Trade Commission.

F. J. R. Controls Inquiry.

Considerable argument was also had over the disposition of the \$500,000 made available to finance the inquiry. There was sentiment in Congress to leave the entire sum in the control of the commission itself. Administration adherents proposed that \$400,000 of the money be given to the President to allocate it. This would permit the President to provide funds to various departments and agencies of the Government in the process of the investigation. It was assailed as a surrender by Congress of its prerogatives, but, nevertheless, was accepted.

Senator O'Mahoney, in a radio address, declared that "the whole economic system has broken down because we have permitted it to be privately controlled for the advantage of those exercising control instead of seeing to it that it is public, controlled for the benefit of all." He insists "the anomalous fact that starts us all in the face is that the world produces more than enough to enable everybody to enjoy plenty, but millions, through no fault of their own, are in want and misery."

Broad—Far-Reaching

Investigation of monopoly in this country and of the concentration of economic power is so broad in its scope and so far-reaching in its implications that no one can tell where the inquiry might lead. The Commission, when formed, will sit through the Seventy-Sixth Congress, or till January 5, 1941. It will make a report to the next session of Congress, which is the first session of the Seventy-Sixth, and make recommendations for legislation to improve existing economic conditions.

Meanwhile, critics of the Administration are attacking the inquiry on the ground that it will be "a Roman Holiday" for the New Dealers who will take advantage of its authority to pry into business affairs, harass industry and finance at will, and generally disturb the confidence which, they insist, is what the nation needs most at this time.

Jobs vs. Plenty

The problems to be investigated, revolve around the 12,000,000 unem-

played in a nation where one-tenth of one per cent of the corporations owns fifty-two per cent of the assets of all corporations. And where one-tenth of one per cent of the corporations earns fifty per cent of the net income of all corporations. Again while forty-seven per cent of American families and single individuals have incomes of less than \$1,000 a year the one and one-half per cent of the country's families at the top of the heap have as much income as the forty-seven per cent at the bottom. What is the cause of this condition?

Has Business Worked?

Some of the other questions to be answered, if possible, according to proponents of the inquiry, are whether corporations use their reserves to keep business going in depressions, who owns the big corporations, why the output of steel can drop seventy per cent and prices remain almost stationary? Do bankers direct corporation policies? How industrial production can drop forty per cent, throwing millions out of work and yet prices of finished goods fall barely six per cent?

It is safe to say that the work of the Commission will involve a thorough study of the economic set-up of the nation. Moreover, its revelations may prove to be the most sensational in many years of congressional inquiries.

PWA Ready to Speed Many Projects In Fight to Revive Fading Recovery

The 1938 Relief-Recovery appropriation will revive the Public Works Administration, which is already receiving a flood of applications from local communities anxious to take advantage of the loans and grants.

PWA Versus WPA

This will, naturally, lead to renewed discussion as to the advantages and disadvantages of the PWA and the WPA. The discussion, of course, has not been settled. It may be admitted, at the outset, that the WPA program is more direct in its distribution of funds and that the money that it dispenses gets into general circulation faster. At this time, however, the PWA has nearly 2,800 projects already approved and left over from the earlier program, which would mean greater promptness in construction work.

Under the former PWA program, which started in 1933 some 10,474 non-Federal projects were carried out at a cost of \$2,777,000,000. The national government supplied \$852,000,000 and the applicants put up \$1,925,000,000, although \$700,000,000 of this money was borrowed from the PWA itself.

Must Apply Early.

It is possible that the new program will be almost as large. However, interested sponsors of projects should note that all applications must be filed by Sept. 30th, the work must be underway early next year and be substantially completed by a given date. This is why Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, administrator of the PWA, has urged prospective borrowers to get in their applications early.

Besides the hundreds of new applications already received, others are coming in daily. Moreover, a check-up on prior applications shows that about eighty per cent, of them are still alive and to be pushed. Communities wanting projects can apply to the seven regional offices, located in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Omaha, Fort Worth, San Francisco and Portland, Oregon. These offices will examine the applications in final form and send them to Washington where they will be further checked before going to the President for final approval.

What Will Be Done.

Based on its past experience the PWA has worked out percentages by types as to the number and costs of projects likely to be constructed in the new program. Here is what the figures show:

(Continued from page one)

Little Girl Left On Front Porch

Three-Weeks-Old Baby Found On Porch of Local Resident's Home

Only one candidate is on the list to receive a box of cigars as result of the Father's Day stork derby promoted by the Rocky Mount Junior Chamber of Commerce—and that candidate had not applied either for the cigars or the baby.

Jasper L. Cummings, president of the Junior Chamber and sponsor of the stork derby, who offered last week a box of cigars to the daddy of each of the first five white babies born here on Father's Day, announced today that the only "blessed event" recorded here on Father's Day involved a founding left on the porch of a Rocky Mount home at 3 o'clock Sunday morning.

Cummings said today he had received no claims for the five boxes of cigars. He added, however, that he intended to award at least one box of cigars and said that he was qualifying J. D. Winstead, Jr., a member of the Junior Chamber on the porch of whose home the founding was left, as a winner in the stork derby.

Police were continuing their investigation today seeking to learn who abandoned the child, a three-weeks-old baby girl.

Meanwhile Park View Hospital was serving in its traditional role as parent in loco parents, labeling the founding "Miss P. V. H." if the child's parents are not located she will probably be given a name to fit the initials, like one of the founding predecessors whom Park View Hospital attaches named "Patricia Virginia Higginbotham."

Eventually, if the founding's identity remains unknown, the Nash county welfare department will put her up for adoption.

Retailers Renew Sales Tax Fight

W. F. Dowdy, New Bern, To Head Merchants; Dowell Re-elected Secretary

Blowing Rock, June 21.—The North Carolina Merchants' Association today closed its annual convention after passing a resolution describing the State's sales tax as "a crushing and entirely unjustified burden upon the poorer classes."

The 200 delegates, representing 83 counties, resolved to petition Governor Hoey to use his influence in repealing the tax. The association said the tax was established as a temporary measure and now, with a \$15,000,000 surplus in the State's Treasury, there was no longer any need for the merchants to act as collectors.

Officers elected and installed were: W. F. Dowdy of New Bern, president; O. A. Swaringen of Concord, first vice-president; W. R. Sellers of Burlington, second vice-president; Willard L. Dowell of Raleigh, executive secretary; T. C. Hinkle of Lexington, treasurer; and R. B. Tomlinson of Cary, a field secretary. Durham was chosen for the 1939 convention.

The host city cup, given to the local association showing the greatest mileage attendance, was won by New Bern. The president's cup was given to Thomasville for the largest percentage in membership increase.

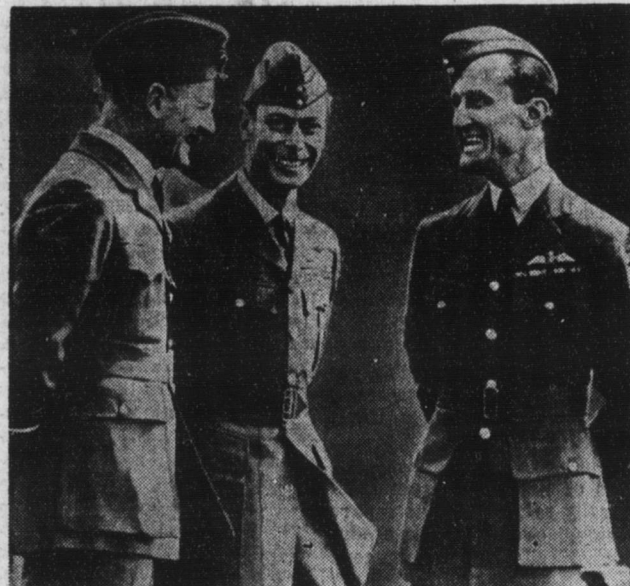
Henry R. Dwire, director of public relations at Duke University, told the merchants that "the modern business man was forced to run as fast as the dickens to stand still."

"In this modern day of quick-changing ideas and scientific development where methods are progressing every hour, there are bound to be depressions," he said.

Swaringen presided at today's session. Roy A. Palmer of Charlotte gave a demonstration using a model store front. He spoke on "New Lighting Ideas for Building Sales."

Dr. Archibald Rutledge, author and student of wild life, addressed the Morven High School graduates in Anson County on the appreciation and conservation of wild life at the recent commencement exercises.

Enjoying a Joke With His Majesty



King George VI enjoying a joke with Air Vice Marshal E. L. Gossage (left) and Capt. A. H. Orlebar of the royal air force (right), during a stop on his flying tour of the air stations at Northolt, Harwell, Upavon and Thorny Island.

The June German And Its Antiquity

There has been much discussion of late as to the June German and its beginning. Since there appeared in the paper an article some time back in which the writer in describing the grandeur of the June German and its fine features, and as an old time expression has it: "when the scribe got in his weaving way he went off into realm of imaginative discussion and said the June German had been an annual affair for 58 years." After anything gets to be 25 years old it is very easy to say 50 after fifty, 100. When an individual gets to be worth a hundred thousand dollars it is just as easy to say he is a millionaire. We notice from the papers a statement which is credited with having come from J. P. Bunn, head master of dancing in Rocky Mount, "That the first dance he ever remembered in Rocky Mount was 48 years ago and that it was part of the festivities of the fair, and that this dance was held in the autumn prior and not in June, but about the year of 1900, or 1901 the Carolina Cotillion Club was organized and held its first German in July and later changed it to June."

According to our information it has been held with fair regularity since, only a few years having been missed. There was no regular dance held until the organization of the Carolina Cotillion Club. Some statement has been made that Thomas H. Battle was first president. This according to our information is not true. While Mr. Battle was one of our finest citizens and a most outstanding leader of all good works of a public and civic nature, state, municipal, and church, he was never classed as a dancing man and so far as we are able to learn never danced, but we are informed that he was always most liberal to the dancing group when they were short of funds and made generous contributions. The June German has enough age, its fame has spread about and it is hardly necessary to undertake to boost its age 20 years. Sometimes in describing wine one of the most necessary requisites is that the wine be fine, and immediately you give it age. Probably this was in the mind of the writer in writing about the June German.

One of the strange things about Mr. Bunn's statement is that he is willing to admit that he is forty-eight years old. Something that we never thought he would admit.

Big Pay, Public Service Small Pay, Relief

The large amounts of money appropriated by Congress from the United States Treasury upon the request of the President of the United States was intended to give relief to those suffering from want and hunger and we have nothing but the highest praise for the President as the distribution of this money must of necessity rest upon others designated by the President and in most instances he has left it up to Senators, Congressmen, and Governors. While much has been well spent yet we can not close our eyes to the facts that much has been misspent. There are many in this country hungry and have been denied help while others not in need have received large salaries. We believe the old people should have their pensions when they do not have property and others regardless of what their sons and daughters may have.

One of the axioms of the ages has been a father or mother can take care of ten sons and daughters but ten sons and daughters cannot take care of one father and mother.

We print below an editorial appearing in the Courier-Journal, Raleigh which carries facts worth consideration for here in our own mist we have the same conditions existing. People of large finances and large government salaries permit members of their families on relief.

POWELL'S FOLLY

Quite a furore in local dailies the past few days over discovery that Charlie Powell's mother has been receiving about \$21.12 a month in a sewing room at Oxford. Mr. Powell is chairman of the North Carolina Unemployment Commission at a salary of \$5,500 a year and the papers profess horror that he should allow his mother to go "on relief." Mr. Powell's mistake was in not getting his mother a job that paid \$200 a month instead of \$21.12. Mothers and wives of other high salaried persons have these good jobs and nothing is said about it.

For instance: The mother of the solicitor of this judicial district is superintendent of welfare for Wake county at a salary more than ten times that drawn

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Urges Cooperation of Business Government

New Move Made For Probe

Alamance Delegation Gives Lucas Papers Dealing With Request For Check

Burlington, June 21.—Action for a check of primary voting in certain precincts of Alamance County—rejected once by the county board of elections—was revived today.

An Alamance County delegation went to Wilson late this afternoon and filed with W. A. Lucas, Chairman of the State Board of Elections, papers dealing with the primary. Lucas did not reveal the nature of the papers, but said that he would make a statement tomorrow after examining them tonight.

Precincts involved in the new action were not disclosed, but it is thought that they are those about which complaints were made to the county board just after the primary on June 4. The previous protests were dismissed when only two of four complainants appeared before the county board. The wards protested in which irregularities were alleged were North and West Burlington and North and West Graham, four of the heaviest-voting precincts in the county.

At the same time, the county board declined to follow a recommendation of H. J. Rhodes, chairman of the Democratic County Executive Committee, that a recount of all ballots be made to clear up rumors of irregularities.

In connection with the new move, Chairman Lucas notified Worth Thompson of Graham, chairman of the Alamance board, to impound ballot boxes in some precincts.

Charges in the first instance were of a general nature: that the counting was slipshod; that in some instances ballots were removed from the boxes, which resulted in disputes, later as to whether they had been counted; and that in some cases tabulating was done by persons other than election officials.

Dates Are Given For Spring Hope Fair

Spring Hope, June 20.—Dates for the 1938 Spring Hope community fair were announced this week by Fair President Hobart Brantley, as follows, September 26 through October 1. The fair will be held this year on the Legion's newly purchased plot of land about one mile from Spring Hope on Highway No. 61 towards Raleigh.

Purchase of this site, containing approximately eighteen acres, was recently made from R. L. Mitchell of Bunn by the local Vester-Wheless American Legion Post No. 91, annual sponsors of the Spring Hope fair, who felt that their five-acre plot was not quite to house the growing fair displays another year. On account of the initial purchase price, most improvements will necessarily be postponed until another year, however, they do plan to enclose the land with wire and install water this summer.

At their last meeting, the Legion sponsoring group voted to offer the Parent-Teacher Association of School District No. 11 the privilege of helping as co-sponsors of the fair as they did last year.

Members composing the 1938 Fair Association are: Hobart Brantley, president; Hubert B. Bergeron, treasurer; Ralph A. Hales, secretary; Paul B. Cone, C. S. Bunn, R. V. Rich, J. T. Matthews, Joe B. Denton, Malcolm R. Hinton and Richard Abernathy, directors.

Aboard the S. S. Reliance, en route to Nassau, June 20.—President Frank P. Spruill of Rocky Mount today urged members of the North Carolina Bankers Association to show a "more cooperative spirit" toward government lending agencies, in a speech at the association's 42nd annual convention, being held on shipboard.

Bankers, he said, should support the government, and in return, the government should "do its part toward giving business a fair and just opportunity."

Nine Recommendations

Spruill urged cooperation with the federal government in a nine-point platform of recommendation, presented to the association.

Other planks urged that:

The banker's conference be continued; work to reduce "excessive" bond rates be continued; bankers take a more active part in governmental affairs; senior bankers take more interest in the work of the A. I. B.; the farmer be assisted in "placing his problems on a more business-like plan" and that work of the State and federal departments of agriculture and 4-H clubs be encouraged; a vote of thanks be extended the Federal Bureau of Investigation for "splendid work done in North Carolina," the business sessions of the convention be increased from two to three days.

"The headaches and pains of 1931 and 1932, while behind us, are too fresh in my mind not to be grateful for an administration which showed me the light, eased my pains, and protected my depositors," Spruill said.

"When we needed help, and all of us needed it, we called and assistance was given," the association president continued. "None were so well but what we needed a doctor, and while we may not need regular visits from the doctor now, I, for one, am thankful for what has been done for us."

No business, no government, no party and none of us will be successful without the full support and cooperation of one another. Cooperation on the part of both is what we need. In fact, we need more cooperation on the part of business with city, county, state and the United States governments."

Rocky Mount Man Named Official Of State Group

R. S. Oliver of Rocky Mount, sales Manager of the Planters Cotton Oil and Fertilizer Company, was elected vice chairman of the North Carolina Cotton Seed Crushers Association in a meeting at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

C. B. Ragan was re-elected chairman of the group, it was stated in an Associated Press dispatch.

The South Carolina, association, meeting simultaneously, elected W. T. Mikel of Columbia president and Edgar Lawton of Hartsville vice president.

Local Resident Dies Here

Joe Arrington, 44-year-old local railroad shop employe, died at 1 o'clock in a local hospital after a lingering illness.

Funeral services were conducted at 4 o'clock from the home at 733 Long street. Rev. W. H. Skeels, pastor of the Universalist church, conducted the ceremony, and burial followed in Pineview cemetery.

He is survived by his wife and 11 children and other relatives in the city.

NOTICE

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