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News And Comment From Washington

Washington, D. C., May 3.—If there ever was a time and place when politics ought to be forgotten and the effort to gain partisan advantage ought to be laid aside, the time is now and the place is the Capitol of the United States. There are just two big jobs before this Congress. One is to frame a new tax law that will distribute as equitably as possible the burden of the additional dollars of revenue which must be raised in order to balance the national budget, and the other is to reduce federal expenses to as great an extent as can be done without adding unnecessarily to unemployment or restricting any useful and necessary governmental activity. To reach these two vital objectives is so obviously essential to the public welfare that it would seem as if even the rankest of politicians would rise to the plane of statesmanship until the task is finished.

But what is the present situation? The Democratic House of Representatives first took up the problem of taxation. The Treasury Department had submitted to the House a tax bill which was thoroughly well balanced, consistent and logical. But just about that time Democratic leaders apparently began to fear that President Hoover and his Administration were likely to gain too much credit for political leadership, seeing that the only constructive measure looking to business recovery had come from the White House, and so they determined to strike out upon an independent course. The Ways and Means Committee substituted a manufacturers' sales tax for many of the paragraphs in the Treasury Department measure and presented the bill to the House in that form. The Administration did not altogether like the new bill but in the hope of getting prompt action it offered no objections to it and Republican leaders in the House joined with the Democratic leadership in giving it their support. But the Democratic leaders made the tactical blunder of submitting this highly controversial bill to the House without any restrictions upon debate or amendment, and the result was that they lost all control over their membership. Party discipline broke down utterly and the sales feature of the tax bill was stricken out. This left a big hole in the measure and the House filled it up with a shovel, tossing in one tax item after another without regard to rhyme or reason. This hodge-podge measure has been in the hands of the Senate Committee for the past three or four weeks and it certainly is to be hoped that it will be reduced to some sort of orderliness by the time it reaches the Senate.

But while the House was making ducks and drakes of the new tax bill, the Senate, struggling with the economy problem, was playing an equally sorry role. The President, weeks ago, submitted to the Congress, through the Economy Committee of the House, a proposal to stagger employment in the government service as is so generally being done in industry, and require annual employees to take a thirty days' leave without pay. This plan would effect an annual saving of about \$80,000,000 and would involve no dismissals from the public service. Indeed it probably would make room for some 20,000 additional part time workers by way of substitutes. Instead of acting on this plan the House Committee insisted on a flat 11 percent reduction in wages, and the Senate under Democratic urge, as fast as appropriation bills reached it, made a horizontal 10 percent cut in all appropriations—about as slovenly and unscientific a procedure as could well be imagined. The Postmaster General declares that in his Department alone if the Senate measure prevails, from 30,000 to 40,000 postal employees will have to be discharged and the postal service must be drastically curtailed. It seems incredible that man experienced in legislation should blunder so egregiously, and one must hope that a better balanced measure ultimately will prevail.

The country demands and expects rigid economy in federal appropriations this year. But it expects this economy to be practical in such a way as to produce the least un-

employment and the slightest possible interruption in essential government services. The greatest saving could be made through reorganization of the government on lines of greater efficiency. This was what President Hoover recommended long ago, and he offered to be the "goat" to take the entire responsibility of such reorganization upon himself, subject to veto by Congress. The House leaders at first rejected this suggestion with an emphatic intimation that they did not propose to make a dictator of the President. But the House Economy Committee, after studying over other plans, has come back to the President's idea and has written into its omnibus retrenchment bill a proviso that the President shall be authorized to proceed with reorganization, with power to consolidate, transfer and eliminate overlappings within executive departments, his action to become law after lying before the House for sixty days, in case it is not sooner acted upon by that body. If this measure prevails in the House and Senate, the first step ever taken by Congress to relieve costly and useless duplication and to strike a blow at the bureaucracy which has grown to such appalling proportions will have been taken.

Sharing on about a 50-50 basis with the interest excited by the struggles of Congress with taxation and economy has been the investigation of the New York Stock Exchange by a Senate committee. The inquiry was undertaken, it is well understood upon the suggestion of President Hoover who has long felt that short selling on the Exchange inevitably depresses prices and in that way has a deleterious effect on the business of the country. The disclosures that have already been brought to life seem fully to justify this conclusion. The way in which the Exchange can be used to depress prices, as shown by the testimony, is not by any means, however, the most interesting fact that has been brought out. It was shown that at a time when German bonds were being floated in large quantities in this country brokers were employed to "peg" the price at or near par until the flotation was completed. Then the support, which had been financed by the banks floating the bonds, was withdrawn and they immediately dropped to a figure which represented in the aggregate huge losses on the part of those to whom they had been sold. It is difficult to find words strong enough to characterize fitly such procedure as that. It certainly comes close to obtaining money under false pretenses.

Ten N. C. Boys Are Selected

Names of the ten North Carolina boys selected as finalists in the competition for the North Carolina scholarship in Culver Military Academy have just been announced by Dr. W. A. Brownell of Duke University. They are: Killin R. Hayes of Waynesville; Ralph Baum of Kitty Hawk; Ben Herring of Greenville; William A. Page of Huntersville; James P. Deaver Jr. of Brevard; Billy Dawson of New Bern; Harry B. Horne Jr. of Rocky Mount; Guy H. Elder Jr. of Charlotte; Philip Rosen of Asheville; are survivors in a competition in which 133 outstanding students from all parts of the state were entered. They have stood highest in exacting scientific tests and general all-round qualifications. They will meet the committee at Duke University for final examination next Saturday, May 7th. The winner and two alternates will be determined by the records made in that quiz, which will include a personal interview with the committee, a stiff physical examination and some further tests of mental capacity. The winner will receive a three-year course in the Indiana Academy with all expenses paid. The scholarship is valued at \$6,000.

Earl Hitch, secretary of the Committee on Scholarship, Culver, Ind.

Fifty-six Durham County farmers sold \$271.88 worth of surplus produce on the curb market last Saturday.

Fire Destroys Residence C. A. Jacobs

About 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, the nice 7-room cottage home of Mr. Chas. A. Jacobs was almost completely demolished by flames, and only a part of the furnishings were saved.

Mr. Jacobs was in Smithfield at the time, and Mrs. Jacobs had started a fire in the bath-room heater preparatory to bathing the children. She said she had not been out of the bath room but a very few minutes when she discovered that fire was burning in the roof where the bath-room stove flue went through the top of the house.

This home is next to the Episcopal church, but the hard work of the firemen kept the flames from spreading to adjoining property. At the time of going to press we had not learned whether or not the loss was covered by insurance.

Rev. H. N. Massey Guest of Kiwanis Club

Rev. Herbert Massey, pastor of the Smithfield Baptist church, gave a very interesting and instructive address before the local Kiwanis club at its weekly meeting Thursday night. Mr. Massey called attention to that fact that April 28th was the anniversary of one of the greatest treaties in American history. This treaty he pointed out dealt with the boundary line between the United States and Canada and defined the nature of its defenses. The speaker further pointed out that on this great expanse of boundary not a single fortification exists and yet for over a hundred years the two countries have existed side by side without a suggestion of conflict. This was forcefully contrasted with conditions that exist today throughout Europe, where small countries are sapping their total physical and material strength in the mad race for military competition. It was his expressed hope that they might some day take a lesson from the United States and Canada as to the proper way for nations to dwell together.

During the remainder of his discourse he very forcefully presented the fact that one of our great troubles today was the desire for individual advancement at the expense of group betterment. He further stated that no individual belonged to himself, but that rather he was a part of his own family, the trade or profession in which he existed and the nation in which he lived. Mr. Massey also stated that people get what they deserve and that the communities and nations of which they are a part will improve only in so far as the people deserve conditions. This was one of the most interesting and instructive addresses that has been delivered before the Kiwanis club in some time. This closed the monthly program presented by Rev. L. T. Singleton.

Barbecue and Fish Supper

The ladies of Circle A of the Methodist Church will give a barbecue and fish supper in the building opposite the Selma Drug Co. on Friday evening, beginning at six o'clock. Plates will be 25 and 35 cents.

CLAYTON DEPOSITORS ARE PAID DIVIDENDS

Payment of a 20 per cent dividend, amounting to \$28,119, to depositors of the Clayton Banking & Trust Co., was announced yesterday by C. I. Taylor, head of the liquidating division of the State Banking Department. The Clayton Bank closed last November after an attempt to revive, it failed.

Proceedings County Recorder's Court

State vs. Welton Stevens, white laborer, aged 21. Larceny of wire value less than \$20.00 and setting fire to woodland. Not guilty.

State vs. Mrs. J. M. Seago, white. Violation prohibition law (possession and transportation of 1 pint of whiskey) and operation car while intoxicated. Plea of guilty to both counts. \$50.00 fine and cost. Defendant ordered not to operate motor vehicle in North Carolina during next 90 days.

State vs. Bernie Griffis, colored laborer, aged 35. Assault. Not guilty.

State vs. Frank Williams, colored laborer, aged 28. Assault. Guilty. Continue prayer for judgment upon payment of cost.

State vs. James Cotton, colored laborer, aged 16. Violation prohibition law. Guilty possession and transportation of 2 pints of whiskey. Defendant sentenced to work for 60 days at County home.

State vs. Arthur Bunn, colored farmer. Assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill. Probable cause found and defendant bound to Superior Court. Bond \$1,000.00.

State vs. Josh Bunn, Arthur Bunn, Cleveland Bunn, Wilber Bunn. Assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill. Probable cause as to all defendants and each bound to Superior Court. Bond for Arthur Bunn fixed at \$1,000.00, Bonds for Josh Bunn and Cleveland Bunn fixed at \$500.00 each. Wilber Bunn permitted to go under own recognition.

State vs. George Lewis, colored laborer, aged 45. Larceny of clothing, flour, etc. Value less than \$20. Defendant given 2 years in jail and assigned to work on roads.

State vs. Donnie Banner, colored laborer, aged 18. Careless and reckless driving and assault with auto. Guilty. Defendant given 60 days in jail and assigned to work on roads.

State vs. Elma Holder, colored laborer, aged 30. Cruelty to animals. Guilty. Defendant given 30 days in jail and assigned to work at County home and pay cost.

State vs. Marion Wilkins, white laborer, aged 22. Violation of prohibition law. Guilty possession 1-2 pint whiskey. Continue prayer for judgment upon payment of cost.

State vs. Edgar Poole, white laborer, aged 30. Assault on wife, and publicly drunk and disorderly. Guilty. Defendant given 60 days in jail and assigned to work on public roads. Sentence suspended upon payment of cost and upon further condition that defendant does not drink any intoxicating drink during 12 months.

State vs. Joe Eason, colored laborer aged 37. Violation of prohibition law. Guilty of possession and transportation of 1 quart whiskey. Defendant given 60 days on roads.

State vs. Jesse Price, white laborer, aged 21. Storebreaking and larceny. Probable cause found and defendant bound to Superior court. Bond \$200.00.

State vs. Wilbur Barfield. Assault with deadly weapon. Guilty. Continue prayer for judgment upon payment of cost.

State vs. Lonnie Blaylock, colored farmer, aged 50. Trespassing. Guilty.

State vs. Jack Capps. Defendant in court on capias for failure to comply with judgment and sentence as set out in former trial. It is therefore ordered that defendant be confined in jail, for 3 months and assigned to work on roads.

State vs. Pete Pollard, white laborer, aged 20. Operating car while intoxicated and violation of prohibition law. (Possession and transportation). Defendant given 2 month on roads.

M. E. ORPHANAGE SINGING CLASS TO BE HERE SUNDAY

The Singing class from the Methodist Orphanage at Raleigh will give one of their Sacred concerts in the Selma Methodist church Sunday, May 8th, at 11 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to hear these children, and I am sure that you will be highly entertained and inspired by the concert that you will hear. They will be at the Selma Mill Sunday school in the afternoon at 2 o'clock.

This institution is now caring for about 340 children. They look to the Methodist of the North Carolina Conference for their support. I sincerely hope that each one will make as liberal contribution for this cause as he can.

Club To Stage Minstrel Benefit Crippled Children

HEARD AROUND THE COURT HOUSE

John Files, a Greek from Darlington, S. C., was arrested here about one o'clock this morning by policemen C. R. Cable and E. A. Johnson, on the charge of criminally assaulting two small white girls whose ages were given as 10 and 12 year, in his home town.

The South Carolina officers had trailed the man to Raleigh, and as the Raleigh officers were about to arrest him the electric light all went out, and he gave them the slip, and then got on his car and drove to Smithfield. The police were on the lookout for him, as they had received a phone message about 11 o'clock last night giving a description of him and giving the number of his car. After his arrest it was found that the license plate had been removed from his car. Immediately after arresting him the Smithfield officers notified the Raleigh police department, and four policemen came down and took him back to Raleigh last night.

It was said that feeling against the prisoner was running high in Darlington where the alleged crime was committed.

Allen J. Maxwell, one of the three candidates for the Democratic nomination for Governor of North Carolina, delivered a speech in the court house here tonight to an audience of something over 100 people, and he seems to have made a favorable impression upon many of his hearers. His manner of speaking was cool, calm and business like. There was no mud slinging and not a great amount of partisan criticism. According to the trend of his arguments he is convinced that we are face to face with a condition which demands curtailment in the spending of public money, in the various branches of our government including the town, the counties, the state and the federal governments.

He gives as one of the chief causes of the world wide depression the spending of many billions of borrowed money by the nations of the world during the great war. He said the nations of the world had gone on a spree of spending borrowed money and that the people had bought almost everything, including silk stockings on the installment plan.

The speaker took his stand in opposition to the short ballot, which would give the governor the power to appoint a majority of the state officials now elected by the voters. He said he was apposed to the issuing of bonds without a vote of the people, and was apposed to appointing of members of the legislature to positions created by a legislature of which the appointee was a member.

He says he favors the breaking of the monopoly on school books, and the present profiteering schemes which he estimated would cut the cost of the books 40 percent. He favors the renting of the books to the students, which he estimated would save about four fifths of the money now spent for books by the people of the state. He thinks the state Road Commission should operate the school trucks in the interest of safety for the school children of the rural districts. He says that the transportation of the school children by trucks in recent years has cost the tax payers more than two millions of dollars a year. Mr. Maxwell says if he is made governor he will make the state prison pay its own way.

He thinks the state legislature should set an example of economy instead of putting on a small army of employees during the sessions of the legislature at Raleigh.

He says they have had so many employees there that their chief trouble was staying out of each others way.

Garner Leads In California.

In the recent Democratic primary John N. Garner, candidate for President, is leading Franklin D. Roosevelt by about 45,000 and is leading Al Smith by about 70,000.

The local Kiwanis club at its last regular meeting voted unanimously to put on a minstrel in order that our Underprivileged Child Committee might have funds with which to operate. This committee is headed by Rev. L. T. Singleton and has been doing a remarkable work with crippled children. At the present time the committee has five or six cases which need very badly to be taken care of. The entire proceeds will go to this committee for the purpose of enabling them to administer rehabilitation to these crippled children of our community. It is the hope of the chairman that every one will give conscientious support, for the more funds raised the greater amount of work can be done. The minstrel will be given in the high school auditorium on Friday evening, May 13th, at 8 o'clock. Those taking part will be as follows: End men, Star Harper, W. J. Crain, G. F. Brietz and D. F. Waddell; soloist, George D. Vick; interlocutor, George Norwood; fat man, Charles Scales; lean man, W. H. Adams; others added to the above attractions will be Marvin Blackman, George Willetts, Charles Jacobs, Fred Waters, Linwood Richardson, Dick Massey, Matt Wall, Thad Woodard, John Wiggs, L. T. Singleton, John Jeffreys, assisted by many other local celebrities. Charles Scales has been appointed general chairman. If you want your money's worth buy a ticket and see the above black faced comedians and song birds.

Kenly News

On May 2, Mr. Barney W. Lane near Deans Mill called Mr. H. A. Stancil of Kenly route 2 to treat one of his fox dogs. When he arrived at Mr. Lanes the dog had been dead almost one hour. Mr. Lane asked him to cut the dog open and see if he could locate the trouble. When he cut into the dog, he saw something move and discovered a 3/8 inch snake was wrapped around the dog's liver. The snake coiled on the ground after he was removed from the dog, but soon died. He had eaten three places in the dogs liver, the largest place being as large as half a dollar bill.

Mr. Stancil states that this is the third snake he has taken from dogs who were bitten by snakes and the dogs never treated for poison.

Mr. Lane purchased this dog about four months ago from near Seven Springs.

Those present and saw Mr. Stancil remove the snake from the dog were, Mr. Barney Lane his mother and his wife, Mr. Fletcher Deans, Mr. Auto and Vick Lane.

Revival Closed Sunday Evening

The series of revival meetings which were in progress for a week at the Selma Baptist church closed Sunday evening. There were additions to the church. Rev. C. H. Cashwell of Wendell did the preaching until Sunday, when he became so ill with influenza that he had to go home. The pastor Rev. Crain preached a masterly sermon Sunday evening using as his text, Matt. 7:13-14. "Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat. Because straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

His subject was, "The two Roads" "Only those who are willing to live a straight pure, upright life will find the narrow road, for self sacrifice, toil and misunderstandings are at every turn. It is not an easy road, the reward is eternal life.

The wide way attracts with us its worldly temptations, its lure of questionable amusements and its transient joy, but the end is destruction."

Mr. Bowie To Speak In Smithfield Friday

Hon. Tom C. Bowie candidate for the U. S. Senate, will speak in the court house, in Smithfield, Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The public is invited to hear him.