

CAPITAL CLIPBOARD

State Labor Enforcing Agency To Become Part Of Federal Branch

By EULA NIXON GREENWOOD
BIG CHANGE . . . Although nothing formal about it for publication has yet been announced, the Federal enforcement division of the N. C. Department of Labor here in Raleigh is divorcing itself from the State agency and is becoming an out-and-out branch of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Division headquarters will be moved from Raleigh to Atlanta. North Carolina for a long while now has been the only state of the 50 charged with the administration of the Federal wage laws. We have been rather proud of this distinction, for it showed confidence in the operation of the State Department of Labor. One of the nation's best.

Also, and more important, employers have been . . . or have felt . . . much closer to officials charged with keeping them in line with the rapidly growing laws of the Federal Government. Approximately 20 officials now with the N. C. Department of Labor in various sections of the State administering the Federal laws are being given the choice of remaining with the State or going with Uncle Sam. Virtually all of them, we understand, are going Federal. As a rule, Federal pay is better, vacations and sick leave are regarded as more abundant, and there is less chance of being shifted out of a job.

The strictly Federal positions now housed in the N. C. Labor Building here — an 1890 — looking thing and a disgrace to the State — will be moved to other quarters as soon as space can be found.

Mrs. Pauline Horton and Julian E. Parker, both veterans in the field of Federal wages, hours, etc., are expected to be the top-rung administrators in the new setup.

You don't have to look far to see a State agency going national. The Employment Security Commission could be the next to go.

PEARSALL PLAN . . . A lot of the members of the Legislature who will come traipsing back to Raleigh in September for the special session have participated in two or three other specials.

We generally stumble on to one about every ten years.

The last one came in 1956. It was called by Gov. Luther Hodges. Its purpose was to adopt the Pearsall Plan of pupil assignment. It is now recognized as



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the bedrock for our racially segregated school system in North Carolina. Its name was derived from the fact that Thomas Pearsall, who is being mentioned for Governor, was chairman of the special committee named to circumvent recent rulings of the U. S. Supreme Court.

The special session of the Legislature went right down the line on the Pearsall Plan, varying not a comma, as we recall on constitutional changes, etc. And, the interesting thing is that the plan still stands — pretty much as laid out.

But heavy, heavy hangs the sword over its head.

OFF-AGAIN-ON . . . Well, they say a survey has been taken . . . and that this survey shows that Commerce Secretary Luther Hodges stands a good chance to win the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1964. Ho hum.

Now away out there on that big white cloud Luther Hodges says in Washington that it is all news to him . . . or words to that effect. So it is likely to be off - again - on - again - gone - again - Finnegan from now right on into next June on the Hodges gubernatorial candidacy.

Our only comment on this little morsel is as follows:

If it takes Luther Hodges as long to decide whether to run for Governor next year as it did for him to decide whom he wanted to succeed him in 1960, then leaves will be full grown next spring before we will know the answer.

It will be a long time, too, before as many wishers think they have the official nod: Addison Hewlett, Luther Barnhardt, Edwin Gill, John Larkins, and finally, and at long last, Malcolm Seawell. Let's hope we don't have to go through that again.

FLOWERS? . . . With tobacco prices dragging and the entire industry fearful of the future, there is renewed interest in the Reynolds Tobacco Co. experiments at the sprawling Avoca farm now owned by them in Northeastern North Carolina.

Bertie County Farm Agent George Jennings swears that something besides tobacco . . .

as we know tobacco . . . is being grown at Avoca. Reports leaking out say the plants have small leaves, but so does Turkish tobacco.

"Flowers are being harvested", we heard recently while through Edenton. This could be an experiment with the pollen from the peculiar plants under cultivation. One farm worker, who swore us to secrecy, said that some of the plants "have been growing for two, three years."

That's like no tobacco we ever heard of in this country. Only kudu is deadlier than a stalk of tobacco in mid-winter.

COSTS MONEY . . . Billy Arthur, lively writer for the award-winning Chapel Hill Weekly, reports that he heard of this man who was complaining bitterly of his wife always breaking things "like fives, tens, and twenties . . ."

NORTHWEST . . . The center of Raleigh, populationwise, used to be on New Bern Avenue, not too far from the State Capitol.

We heard last week that the official center of Raleigh . . . as far as its 100,000 people are concerned . . . is now just a block north of St. Mary's Junior College. This is nearly a mile west

— more northwest — of the old center. Raleigh has moved westward and northward in rapid fashion within the past decade. Although we sometimes observe cities spreading eastward and southward, this is not generally true in this section of the country . . . where the prevailing winds are from the northwest.

KINFOLK . . . An interesting sidelight on the death of Taylorsville Attorney J. Hayden Burke (in court last week on his 96th birthday): A ranking, rock-ribbed Democrat, he lived to see . . . at 95 . . . his son-in-law Ray Jennings, become secretary of GOP in N. Carolina! But they hit it off nicely and meant a lot to each other through FDR, Harry, Ike and JFK.

President says some students in Cuba are Reds.

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