

## The National Outlook

### The Government Pay Raise

By RALPH ROBAY

As of the first of this July all Federal Civil Service workers, which includes all employees of the Post Office, got an increase of pay of not less than 7 1/2 per cent. The total cost to the government, and the taxpayers, is over \$700 million. It was granted as a result of both Houses of the Congress overriding a most vigorous veto by the President. To appraise the action the following points must be kept in mind.

1. Only two years ago all these employees were given a 10 per cent increase. Since then the cost of living has increased only a small fraction over 2 per cent. On this comparison, therefore, there could be no reason for this latest rise.

2. The Department of Labor currently is making a quite elaborate study of government wages in relation to those paid by private employers. The Congress provided the funds for this study (\$500,000) and its purpose is to provide a basis for determining whether the government is paying enough. The results of this analysis will be ready in about two months. No one can be certain what the survey will show, but it is expected that we shall find that only in the higher government jobs is the pay below what is customary in private employment. This will not be corrected by the current rise because those holding these positions do not come under civil service except in a few instances.

Government employment does not offer an opportunity to become wealthy, but it has certain aspects which are not found in the private sector of our economy. Such employees have what amounts to a guaranteed annual wage, thirty days vacation each year (this is much longer than private industry grants), substantial sick leave with pay, excellent pension system, and what in effect is an almost complete protection against being discharged. All of these have to be put on the plus side from the viewpoint of the employees, and they all cost money.

4. As a result of this increase, the average pay to government workers will be above that of comparable work in private industry and much above that of state and municipal workers. The \$700 million, therefore, is far from the total cost of the action. States and municipalities will have to raise their pay scales,

and private industry will be under renewed pressure for higher wages. What the total cost will amount to for the economy as a whole is not possible of determination, but it certainly will be in the billions.

5. Even without this increase there was a growing question as to the projected \$4.2 billion federal surplus for this fiscal year. This was because the Congress obviously was in no mood for serious economy and had many extravagant proposals before it. With the pay increase and if one or two of these proposals is passed, there will be a deficit rather than a surplus for this fiscal year.

6. Passage of the pay increase, and overriding the President's veto, was sheer, blatant, raw politics. Only 69 in the House and 24 in the Senate voted to sustain the veto. Here was pressure politics at its worst, and it is almost frightening to see it in operation.

7. The rise definitely has inflationary implications. It will hinder our attempt to solve our international deficit. It materially lessens the prospect for income tax rate reform. It makes it increasingly difficult for us to have steady, sustainable growth. We have heard much in recent months about fiscal responsibility. This action was a perfect example of fiscal irresponsibility.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Continued from Page 3, Section 2

the proper appreciation and use of the natural world as it serves our human needs. We must be sufficiently ingenious to find a way to invest the sacred in the secular, proving to God our love. It will have to be done by choice if we are to accomplish it at all.

We reach occasional peaks of unparalleled goodness as we live out our years. One of the most moving stories ever recounted involved a father rocking his ailing baby boy through a long and hungry night. Doctors had prescribed that the child must have only a special kind of prepared milk. A blizzard had descended and cut off ordinary communication. The accustomed bottle of milk was conspicuous by its absence. Hungry and bewildered, the child cried himself to sleep, rocked gently

all the while by his anxious and suffering father. In his slumber he would whimper pitifully, and as his father soothed him he suddenly became painfully aware of the plight of thousands of babies in the squalid poverty of the world's want. He thought of other young fathers who had to watch their babies die for lack of a little food. He thought of the sleepless nights and tortured days as anguished little bodies withered away, and eyes glazed in hopeless suffering.

When the milkman finally got through, it had only been a few hours of hunger and waiting, and suffering, for the father and his son. But as he wakened the baby from his haunted sleep, and gave him the good warm milk, the father hurried away to send a gift to the hungry babies of the world. That father was treading on the threshold of God's pity and God's love. For God is like that.

The gallantry of goodness is a by-product of the church's idealism. The marching forces of humanitarianism waging an endless battle against disease, poverty, and abuse were set in motion by our Lord. The battle goes on through the instrumentality of the church.

Society reaches its finest hours when, banded together, whole communities ship carloads of clothing or food to those who dread the approach of winter. A son captures an hour to be remembered when he honors the reasonable requests of his father or mother.

It is in making more consistent these expressions of human nobility that we prove our faithfulness to the God who loves us. (These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission.)

### R. A. Beasley Dies After Long Illness

R. A. Beasley, 87, died Friday afternoon at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. C. Skinner, in the Macedonia section after a period of failing health for the last three years.

Mr. Beasley was a retired farmer and until his illness was very active in the Yeopim community, taking special interest in politics. He was a native of Chowan County, son of the late Robert and Martha Bunch Beasley.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Rondell Barrington of Grimesland, Mrs. J. C. Skinner of Edenton, Mrs. Mattie B. Taylor of Kinston and Mrs. Mar-

garet Jordan of Hertford; a brother, Little Beasley of Long Island, N. Y., and a sister, Mrs. John E. Warren of New York. Sixteen grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren also survive. He was a member of Holy Innocent Episcopal Church at Sevon Springs.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at Williford Funeral Home. The Rev. George B. Holmes, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, officiated, assisted by the Rev. Gordon Shaw, pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church. Burial was in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

Never ask for tomorrow: it is enough that divine Love is an ever-present help; and if you wait, never doubting, you will have all you need every moment. —Mary Baker Eddy.

### Minutes Of Board Of Public Works

Edenton, N. C. July 3, 1960.

The Board of Public Works met this day in regular session at 8:00 P. M., at the Edenton Municipal Building with the following members present: Thomas C. Byrum, Jr., Chairman, Jesse L. Harrell, Ralph E. Parrish, James F. Ricks, Jr., and J. H. Conger, Jr.

The minutes of the regular meeting of June 7, 1960, and special meetings of June 10th and June 15th were read and approved.

On motion by Jesse L. Harrell, seconded by Ralph E. Parrish, and carried, E. and W. bills in the amount of \$16,017.16 be paid. Of this amount \$655.55 covered purchase and installation of flasher lights on North Oakum Street on each side of the Colored Schools, \$388.75 for sewer extensions, and \$14,972.82 was for general operational expense. The bills follow:

Gulf Oil Corp., \$84.20; Hollowell Drug Store, \$3.18; Motorola C. & E., Inc., \$46.75; Gray & Creech, Inc., \$3.62; George Chevrolet Co., \$1.24; Edwards & Broughton Co., \$14.39; Norfolk Southern Railway Co., \$0; Addressograph-Multigraph Corporation, \$27.75; The Chowan Herald, \$35.00; Paramount Chemical Co., \$12.50; Line Material Industries, \$40.09; Hughes-Parker Hardware Co., \$20.92; Taylor-Colquitt Co.,

\$998.00; Graybar Electric Co., \$240.44; Williamston Office Supply Co., \$50.40; Carolina-Norfolk Truck Line Co., \$4.18; Bunch's Auto Parts, \$11.04; Jackson Radio & TV Service, \$17.60; Ralph E. Parrish, Inc., \$3.60; Transport Clearing of the Carolinas, \$2.50; North Carolina Sales Organization, \$7.28; J. D. McCotter, Inc., \$7.20; Byrum Hardware Co., \$4.64; Coastal Electronics, Inc., \$41.55; M. G. Brown Co., \$8.91; R. S. Jordan Co., \$4.90; Hays Mfg. Co., \$24.17; Railway Express Agency, \$5.10; Phipps & Bird, Inc., \$8.71; North Carolina State Board of Health, \$16.00; Ashley Welding & Machine Co., \$91.11; Tidewater Supply Co., \$18.51; Electrical Equipment Co., \$47.20; Howerton Gowen Co., \$106.88; Hobbs Implement Co., \$17.10; Mueller Co., \$45.99; R. J. Boyce, \$34.90; Norfolk & Carolina Tel. & Tel. Co., \$36.00; N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles, \$2.00; Remington Rand, \$98.56; W. F.

Freeman, Inc. (US17 N-Sewer), \$388.75; Albemarle Motor Co., \$1,720.00; Postmaster, \$98.05; Virginia Electric & Power Co., \$11,562.40; Twiddy Sign Service, \$8.00; Railway Express Agency, \$4.89; salaries paid in June, \$3,236.06; total, \$19,253.24. Received for current, water and merchandise, \$22,091.41. Receipts in excess of disbursements, \$2,838.17. The Finance Committee presented E. and W. Board budget for the year 1960-1961 and on motion by J. P. Ricks, Jr., seconded by Ralph E. Parrish and carried, the budget was approved as presented. On motion by Ralph E. Parrish, seconded by Jesse L. Harrell and carried, salary increases matching those authorized by the Town Council for the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Stenographer are approved. RALPH E. PARRISH, Secretary.

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