

The NATIONAL OUTLOOK

BY GEORGE HAGEDORN

SURPLUS LABOR AND SURPLUS WHEAT

In a recent speech to labor leaders President Johnson promised that, if other measures for attaining full employment fail, he will turn to a program of stepped-up public works. When you think about it, this approach bears a disturbing resemblance to the wasteful and futile devices we have been using for several decades to deal with agricultural surpluses.

In effect the President has proposed that, if there is an unsalable surplus of labor, the government will remove that surplus from the market by buying it up with public funds. This is, of course, exactly what we have been doing for many years with respect to surpluses of certain agricultural commodities.

But the existence of a surplus—whether of labor or of wheat—is evidence of some impediment to the operation of normal market processes which would otherwise bring about a balance between supply and demand.

Artificial Impediments

In the case of farm products, the impediment is clearly the government price support program. Farm prices are maintained by government action at a level which would cause more to be produced than could be sold. The government tries to balance this by paying farmers not to produce and it then accepts the obligation of buying up the remaining surplus. In recent years about \$4 billion of the taxpayers' money has been spent annually for these activities.

In the labor market a variety of laws and pressures have resulted in a wage level higher than would have occurred in a free market. This is especially true in the unskilled occupations, where the current incidence of unemployment is most severe. The sequence is the same as in the agricultural area: Artificially high prices mean unsalable surpluses.

The suggestion of a public works program as a cure for unemployment has all the drawbacks of the farm price support program—and some others. The

farm program helps the more productive and well-off farmers but doesn't give much help to the poor farmers on marginal land. In a similar way, a public works program would probably make more jobs for skilled and experienced workers. It is hard to see how it can do much for the untrained and inexperienced who are the core of our unemployment problem.

Problems Unsolved

As we have seen in the history of the farm program, one form of intervention leads logically to others. Controls over individual action proliferate. An open-end claim is established against the public revenues. New problems are created but the original problem is never solved.

The acreage restrictions which accompany the farm price support program amount to a rationing, among farmers, of the right to produce certain products. Could it be that we may eventually see government rationing of the right to seek or hold a job?

The President devoted the bulk of his speech to urging the labor leaders to use restraint in their demands for wage and fringe benefit increases. He may have spoiled his intended effect by adding what can be taken as a promise that, if they fail to exercise such restraint, the government will mop up the resulting labor surplus by an expanded public works program.

Youth Drowned At Arrowhead Beach

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Apparently he was not a very good swimmer and soon was in trouble. His brother attempted to reach him with an oar and when this failed, he dived overboard in an attempt to save his brother, but was unsuccessful.

Rescue units from nearby areas joined in a search for the body which was recovered by a group from Colerain.

Carroll Boyce, coroner for Chowan County, said the death was accidental and that it was the first drowning in Chowan County in 1964.

Rorrer is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin G. Rorrer of Virginia Beach and his brother Stephen of the home.

JAYCEES MEET TONIGHT
Edenton's Junior Chamber of Commerce will meet tonight (Thursday) at 7 o'clock at the Edenton Restaurant. Pete Dail, president, urges every Jaycee to be present.

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.



COLLEAGUES LIKE BLUE—H. Clifton Blue, candidate for Lieutenant Governor, accepts from Robeson County Representative David M. Britt, right, a sheaf of endorsements from fellow law-makers. Britt, who canvassed mutual friends among Democratic colleagues, said more than half the 300 who endorsed Blue authorized use of their names in any way that might help.

Post Office Closed On Memorial Day

Due to the observance of national Memorial Day on Saturday, May 30, the Edenton Post Office will be closed for the holiday.

There will be no city or rural mail delivery during the day, nor will any of the windows be open. The lobby will be open, however, and mail placed in lock boxes as usual. Mail will also be dispatched.

VFW MEETS TUESDAY

William H. Coffield, Jr. Post No. 9280, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will meet Tuesday night, June 2 at 8 o'clock.

LEGION MEETS TUESDAY

Ed Bond Post No. 40 of the American Legion will meet Tuesday night, June 2, at 8 o'clock. Commander E. L. Hollowell is very anxious to have a large turnout of members.

POCAHONTAS MEETING

Chowan Council No. 54 Degree of Pocahontas, will meet tonight (Thursday) at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Irma Allsbrook, Pocahontas, urges every member to attend.

RED MEN MEETING

Chowan Tribe No. 12, Improved Order of Red Men, will meet Monday night, June 1, at 8 o'clock. Thomas Jackson, sachem of the tribe, requests a large attendance.

Vacation Bible School Planned At Center Hill

Plans have been announced for a vacation Bible School to be held at the Center Hill Baptist Church. The school will begin Monday, June 1 and continue through Friday, June 5.

Commencement exercises will be held Friday night at 8 o'clock. The school will begin each morning at 9 o'clock and close at 11:30 o'clock, and will be under the supervision of Mrs. Wilbur T. Jordan. It will consist of four classes, ages 3 through 13, including nursery, beginners, primary and juniors.

All youths in the community are invited to enroll in the school.

Valedictorian



Carolyn Hall, a senior at D. F. Walker High School, has been named valedictorian of her class. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elton Hall and plans to attend North Carolina College at Durham in the fall as a home economics major.

Chappell's Hill Church Vacation Bible School

Announcement is made that a vacation Bible school will be held at Chappell's Hill Baptist Church at Tyner. The school will be held Monday, June 1 through Friday, June 5.

Classes will be held each after-

NOTICE!

This is to notify the public that I will not be responsible for any further bills made by Thomas Edward Parker. MRS. MAMIE PARKER.

noon from 2:30 to 5 o'clock and all children in the community are urged to enroll.

A soldier has a hard life, but little consideration. —Robert E. Lee.

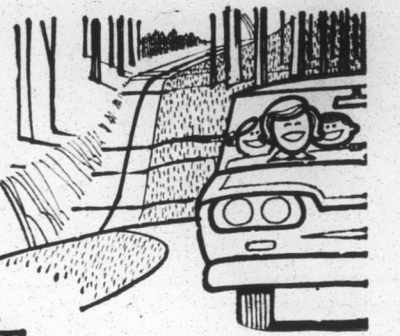
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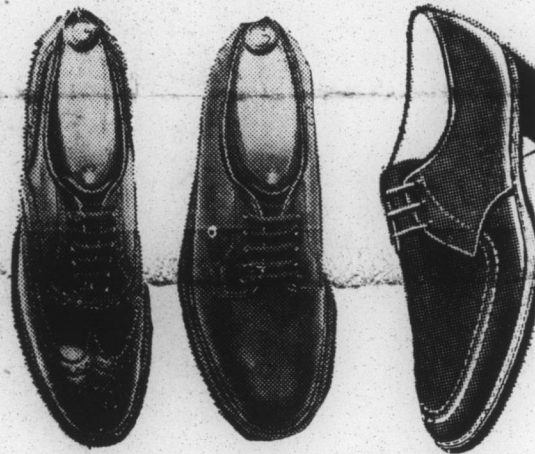
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