

The Journal - Patriot

DEPENDENT IN POLITICS

Published Mondays and Thursdays at North Wilkesboro, N. C.

D. J. CARTER and JULIUS C. KUBBAZ Publishers

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year \$1.50
 Six Months75
 Four Months50
 Out of the State \$2.00 per Year

Entered at the post office at North Wilkesboro, N. C., as second class matter under Act of March 4, 1879.

MONDAY, FEB. 27, 1939

No Entangling Alliances

It is not so long ago since the United States was engaged in the greatest foreign war in our history, that men still in the prime of life cannot remember its beginning and its end.

One does not have to be forty to recall the slogan "He kept us out of war" which was the victorious battle-cry of the Democratic party in 1916, or to remember how, less than six months after his reelection, President Woodrow Wilson was forced by circumstances and the pressure of public opinion to call upon Congress to declare war against Germany.

Nobody would be safe in venturing to prophesy in these troubled days that some similar circumstances and an aroused public opinion may not drag the United States again into war.

One point which is not always clear in the minds of people today ought to be kept to the fore in all the war talk. That is that America did not go to war to save France or England, or Belgium, or any other nation but our own.

We were fighting for our own hand, and President Wilson resisted every effort to line us up as allies of any other nation.

In the newly-issued seventh volume of Ray Stannard Baker's great authorized biography of Woodrow Wilson that point is emphasized over and over again, in the personal letters and official documents of the President.

On one occasion, when the Food Administrator, Herbert Hoover, issued a poster containing the words "Our Allies" President Wilson wrote him, reminding him that the words "Our Associates in the War" was the proper phrase, adding that the American people were very jealous of any intimation of formal alliances.

If we should be forced into another war it will not be as allies of any other nation, but in defense of our own rights alone.

An Amazing Personality

However strongly people may differ with each other about President Roosevelt's political and governmental policies, there is universal admiration for his courage and fortitude in the face of a physical handicap which would have floored almost any other man. Even his friends believed that when he left the sanitarium at Warm Springs in 1928 to run for Governor of New York he could not possibly stand the strain of public office.

That was eleven years ago, and Mr. Roosevelt today is in better physical condition than any President has ever been after six years in office.

Except that he cannot walk unaided, he has the build of an athlete, and while carrying a far greater load of personal responsibility than most Presidents have shouldered, he finds time for daily exercise to keep himself in trim.

One of the secrets of Mr. Roosevelt's continued endurance is his ability to throw off the cares of office for frequent periods of relaxation. Just now he is aboard the cruiser Houston in the Caribbean, watching the Navy maneuvers, which are fun for him. It is his first vacation since the Christmas holidays, the first time he has spent as much as six weeks continuously in the White House. No President ever traveled more nor got as much recreation from his travels.

In the nearly eighteen years since he was stricken with infantile paralysis Mr. Roosevelt has traveled farther than anyone could have thought possible in 1921. The qualities of will-power and vitality which pulled him through have won him the respect even of those who do not admire him. We wish him a pleasant vacation in the Caribbean.

Going to church hasn't hurt anybody that we ever heard about. That's pretty good recommendation for church-going, we think.

Borrowed Comment

ECONOMY BY FAILURE

(Raleigh News and Observer)

Facing a committee of North Carolina public school teachers aroused over the Appropriation's Committee's rejection of all proposals to increase teacher salaries—including the Governor's recommendation—Governor Hoey counselled: "The best way is to approach members of the Legislature. . . . An aroused interest does not do any good unless someone talks to the members".

Properly, the teachers agreed to ask the Appropriations Committee to reopen the salary question, and set about informing legislators particularly and the people back home generally of the plight of the men and women who teach their children.

The task of conviction ought not to be hard. If the bare fact that the State of North Carolina provides only \$2.71 a day for the living of its best qualified and most experienced white teachers does not convince, there's little hope of convincing by any discussion of schools and school needs.

The bitter point is that only 5,372 white teachers of the State's 15,665 draw even this high average salary from the State. This third of the teacher staff is deemed entitled to \$2.71 a day because this third has qualified for the highest certificates with a minimum of three years college training and has a minimum of eight years teaching experience.

All of this third and many more of the 11,684 teachers who have A grade certificates but who have not taught so long as eight years have borne with remarkable patience a progressive martyrdom to the cause of North Carolina's children.

A 10 per cent salary cut, the abandonment of local and county contributions to teachers' salaries, the 33 1-3 per cent straitenout imposed when teachers were required to teach the lengthened State term of eight months for the same annual salary they received for the previous six months term—all these items have gone into the impoverishment of the teachers, whatever may have been done meantime toward the theoretical enrichment of the curriculum.

Obviously, the best of teachers cannot give the best of service harassed by the problem of living under the standards required of teachers on \$2.71. Equally obvious is the fact that when the best teachers abandon a profession in which there is so much of pain and so little of promise, their places will be taken increasingly by teachers who are worth less than the \$2.71 the State is willing to pay.

For the people of North Carolina and their children this may be economy, but it will be the economy of public school collapse.

GIVE THE DEVIL HIS DUE

(Statesville Daily)

It is obvious that in the main the members of the General Assembly have followed the lead of Governor Hoey and have closed their minds to all argument against the general sales tax. As a matter of fact the public has become caloused to it, and it is now accepted as a necessary evil that will endure.

However, when and where two or three are gathered together and Paul Leonard is among them, you can guess pretty well what they are talking about. Paul has castigated the sales tax up one side and down the other, partly because he is paid to do it, but largely, we reckon, because he honestly and sincerely considers it an unequitable and iniquitous thing. But because Mr. Leonard has been unrelenting and continuous in his fight, he, too, has been accepted as a necessary evil—to be endured with as much patience as can be commended.

It should be refreshing then, to Paul at least, to find such a loyal supporter of the sales tax as the Greensboro Daily News editorializing thusly:

"There is that in what the Fair Tax association is saying, the protest that is being voiced by its spokesman, Paul Leonard, that ought to be given consideration, that must receive consideration, if the senators and representatives are to be able to give a good account of their stewardship. . . . Mr. Leonard comes in as a witness specially interested, but a reputable witness. It is a high duty of the legislature to disprove his indictment if it is not true. It is a high duty to devise corrective measures, if it is true, and if any substantial part of it is true. Justice and common honesty demand no less".

The Greensboro paper, we said, is an earnest and sincere supporter of the sales tax but on every other issue its editor is fair and a straight-shooter.

New Model City To Be Shown at New York Fair

NEW YORK (Special)—A magic carpet ride through space two miles above "Democracy," the perfectly integrated garden city of tomorrow, will feature the central theme exhibit of the New York World's Fair which opens April 30, 1939.

The exhibit, created by Henry Dreyfus, industrial designer, will be dramatic in form. It will reach a stirring climax when, out of the distant skies above the "dancing" audience, will troop marching legions of workers, symbolizing the interdependence of man in modern civilization. Nearer and nearer they will tramp, until the whole arch of heaven is filled with towering figures, arms upraised, singing the song of tomorrow. As the final strains of this marching air die away, great streamers of colored light shoot forth from the zenith, drenching the sky from horizon to horizon in all the hues of the rainbow.

A Dramatic Show

This dramatic show will be housed in the eighteen-story Perisphere, companion structure to the 700-foot Trylon, which constitute the architectural focus of the Fair.

An entirely new method of projection, utilizing slides instead of film, will be employed to throw the moving figures on the sky. New methods of fluorescent lighting will be used.

The garden city itself will be a model—one of the largest ever built and the first to portray a full-size metropolis catering to a million people and complete in every last detail. This city of tomorrow will serve 1,000,000 people, but no one will live in it. Homes will be in suburban developments. Factories also will be located in satellite towns, and broad green belt areas will circle both city and towns.

Model City Possible

City planners, engineers, architects, landscape architects, airport specialists and other experts collaborated on the design of "Democracy," and so accurate is the model that, according to Mr. Dreyfus, it could be given concrete reality today were sufficient funds made available. Blue-ink drawings have been made not only of street layouts, harbors, airports, athletic fields and civic centers but of traffic and pedestrian overpasses, theatres, hospitals, shops, bridges, dams and apartments.

The entrance to the theme exhibit will be high up on the side of the Perisphere fifty feet above the ground. Access will be by means of the two longest moving stairways ever built in this country. Visitors will enter on two levels and step on to two magic carpets or revolving platforms placed one above the other and moving in opposite directions.

False Claims Call For Road Terms

Raleigh.—Numerous of indictments have been brought against claimants under the State Unemployment Compensation Act for misrepresenting their earnings when signing continued claims for benefits during the past 10 or 12 months, many of which have resulted in road sentences for the claimants guilty of law violations.

In most of the cases the claimants signed weekly statements that they had no earnings or small earnings during the preceding week when actually they were fully employed and drawing wages for the full week, or wages larger than they reported.

Recently three negroes in Wilson were found guilty and fined \$20 and costs and given 30 days on the roads, with capias to issue for non-payment of the costs. Last fall 29 negroes were tried on similar charges in the Wilson Recorder's Court.

"Sometimes claimants who have no right to the funds accumulated for the unemployed can get by for a short time in drawing benefits not due them, but we have several methods of checking up on all claims and usually detect such practices before they get very far," said Chairman Charles G. Powell. "We are using every means possible including the courts, when necessary, to protect the funds collected for unemployed eligible workers."

Certainly no one should object to a woman's kinking her hair instead of straightening her hair—if she chooses so to do.

What on Earth (or Sea) Will the Adventure-Loving Couples Do Next? Lively noblesse-au-craved adventure and got it with airplanes, the Italian cavalry and a million-dollar "ghost," but more exciting still was her "hell-ship" treasure cruise—and her next exploit will have to be even thrilling to top it. An amazing and unobtainable illustrated feature in the American Weekly, the magazine distributed with next Sunday's Washington Post—Herald.

TODAY and TOMORROW

FRANK PARKER STOCKBRIDGE

Everybody pays taxes. Nobody ever paid taxes because he liked to pay them. People are willing to pay taxes when they can see that they are getting something for their money. I think the great majority of Americans are getting tired of paying taxes for benefits which they do not get.

I hear protests continually from people who run automobiles and against the diversion of the gasoline tax from its original purpose of highway improvement and maintenance to all kinds of miscellaneous purposes. I am hearing more grumbles about the waste of public funds in maintaining high-salaried officials who do nothing for their salaries.

I look back into history and read the complaints of the American colonists against the taxes imposed on them by the English government, money taken across the ocean to maintain the King and court in royal luxury. And I read about the Declaration of Independence and the Revolution. Then I wonder what we are heading for in America today.

ECONOMY Politicians always talk economy before election. Very seldom do they practice it after they have been elected to positions which enable them to spend public money and levy taxes on the people. That is true whether they are town supervisors or selectmen, county commissioners, municipal mayors and councilmen, state governors and legislators, or Senators and Representatives in Congress.

I feel safe in asserting that more than half of the money spent by the 15,000 taxing units in the United States is wasted. The people who pay the taxes do not get value for their money. That goes for the Federal government, most if not all of the state governments, practically every city and county government and the majority of town and village governments.

We are paying, you and I and everybody else, almost a quarter of all that we earn in the form of taxes to maintain our government. The smaller the individual income, the higher the proportion of taxes. The average wage-earner works three months out of the year for the governments he lives under. The joke of it is that he doesn't realize that he is paying taxes at all. He thinks only the rich guys are being soaked. PUBLICITY voters

It is for the good of the people to get together and make such a flag show that the politicians will have to stop, look and listen. There is only one thing the average politician is afraid of or will listen to. That is the voters who elected him and can throw him out if he doesn't stop ball.

Before there can be any such uprising of the voters they need to know that they are being soaked by the politicians, and how. The greatest need in America today is more publicity about taxes, how they are levied, who has to pay them, and particularly what the money is used for.

There were 987,000 persons on the Federal payroll at the beginning of 1939, not counting W.P.A. workers, but only regular employees. There are probably as many more on the payrolls of state and local governments. That means that nearly two million people are supporting themselves and their families out of what you and I contribute. I think it would help a lot if the names of all of them, with the salaries they get, were made public in some way so their neighbors could see them and judge for themselves whether they are earning their pay.

PRIVILEGE equality The least defensible taxes are those which are imposed by politicians for the purpose of giving special favors to one class of citizens, or of punishing another class. They are indefensible because they uproot the basis of equal rights upon which the United States is founded.

The folks who will pay are the consumers, whose market-baskets will cost more to fill. Millions of ordinary, average citizens, whose interests surely should come first are being taxed for the special benefit of a few. I have always believed that anything which re-

duced the cost of the consumer, especially the Government, to encourage. Maybe I'm old-fashioned.

REBELLION women From all parts of the country I hear of people organizing revolts against unnecessary and oppressive taxation, which remind me of the colonist's rebellion against King George. The women are taking the lead.

Women of New Jersey last fall organized themselves into the Emergency Consumers Tax Council. More than 300 local groups have thousands of women pledged to combat unsound new tax proposals, to make consumers aware of all hidden taxes, and to demand repeal of overlapping and unnecessary taxes.

They won their biggest victory last month when they obtained a decision from the state supreme court revoking local ordinances that would tax "dash-and-carry" stores and markets out of existence. They have blocked half a dozen other schemes of politicians to spend taxpayers' money unnecessarily. The women of every other state could fight oppressive taxes as effectively, and I hope some who read this will write to Trenton and ask the New Jersey ladies how they did it.

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