

The Shelby Daily Star

(FOUNDED 1894)

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28, 1945

THE KILOWATT-HOUR TAX

The kilowatt-hour tax on electricity proposed by John W. Clark, Franklinville manufacturer, as a means of supporting the University of North Carolina has all sorts of complications, some of which we hesitate to mention for fear of being accused of being a part of the power trust, if there is such a thing. Nevertheless, before this proposal is either laughed off or accepted, it deserves to have some questions asked about it.

Although Mr. Clark says this idea is just something he conjured up on his own hook without discussing it with others, there is nothing new about the suggestion. A kilowatt hour tax has been proposed many times before. Bills have been introduced in the North Carolina legislature carrying this feature but thus far they have not gotten very far.

Of all forms of taxation, according to our understanding, this levy on the production of power plants is regarded as the most vicious by industry generally and would be feared the most if anybody had an idea that it would be given serious consideration.

This kind of tax is regarded as dangerous by business and industry because it is a direct levy on one of the essential requirements of their operation. Those who would levy such a tax might think they were levying it against a natural resource of the state, namely its water power, which they would point out should ever remain a vested interest of the people. The taxers might be right about the state's inherent majesty with respect to these great natural assets but they would be blundering wrong if they thought the tax load would be borne by them. The tax would be a direct levy against the production of our industries, a pretty big one at that, for kilowatts mount up fast—as anyone who gives the matter a second thought can see.

So many millions of kilowatts are required to process so much cloth, yarn or what-have-you. The seemingly trifling and insignificant tenth of a cent which the state would levy against each one of these kilowatts would have to be charged in with the cost of the goods and there you have the trend towards inflation again. If we consider the millions upon millions of kilowatt hours of electricity consumed by our factories, homes, business and otherwise in North Carolina, then we get an idea of what a charge such a tax would be against our output. How much chance do you think this state would have of attracting new enterprise to this state by hanging this sledge hammer over their heads?

Another thing, too. What would be the policy of the state with respect to the great power production of TVA, government plants? We hardly see how the state, as sovereign as it might be, could lay a taxing hand on such a one of Uncle Sam's pet children.

No, we don't think Manufacturer Clark's taxing project will be adopted without some argument, even if it is for so worthy an end as maintaining the University of North Carolina. All in all, it just reminds us that there are very few new things under the sun when it comes to taxation and most of them have their weaknesses.

IN THE BOX SCORE

A few days ago reference was made to the low death rate from pellagra in North Carolina as being a cause for gratification. Now it comes time to congratulate ourselves on the low general death rate.

Vital statistics released by the state board of health show a death rate of 7.9 in 1944, two tenths of a point below the all-time low of 8.1 for 1943. Our birth rate was the highest for any year since 1929 with one exception. In short, our children are being born faster and we are dying slower which seems to speak well for the preservation of the race.

But there is one thing we would not forget while we are rejoicing over this manifestation of the liveliness of our people. That is the fearfully high proportion of our men who were turned down for the draft on account of physical defects.

We cannot explain these away by referring to birth and death rates. They are the final figures in the box score of living it is true. But we also want to look at the "At Bats" and the "Hits." There is such a thing as hanging around on this globe of ours without much vim and vigor. In such a case usefulness is lessened proportionately.

We are pleased enough at the count in births and deaths. Now it is up to us to see to it that in the space between those two there is a maximum amount of health and happiness.

With the state prison department losing 27 prisoners in the course of two days, we would say that its manpower problem may be getting critical too.

There seems to be plenty of points to this argument that foods are becoming scarcer.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEER NURSES



THE WOUNDED CAN'T WAIT — JOIN ME AND HELP!

Merry-Go-Round

Gardner Says His Board No Rubber Stamp

By DREW PEARSON
(Lt. Col. Robert S. Allen now on Active Service with the Army.)

WASHINGTON — Though debates of the War Mobilization board are secret, it has been belying all predictions that it would be a rubber stamp for the Army and Navy. Those who have sat on the inside say it sometimes asks Gen. Lucius Clay to leave so it can discuss war problems with-out army domination.

"I'm sorry I can't go along with you on that, Mr. Justice," observed forthright Eric Johnston, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. "I haven't worked out in England and I don't believe that compulsory labor will work out here."

Johnston then proceeded to give a comprehensive picture of his objections to the work-or-fight bill. "I am against it for the following reasons," he said. "One, the Army has continued to dump its war contracts into No. 1 labor areas. It has dumped its newest plane contract in San Diego, the tightest labor area in the United States. It will have to hire 8,000 more men and you can't get 8,000 more men in San Diego. This new contract means more schools, more sewage, more housing and there are plenty of other areas not overloaded with war work."

WASTEFUL LABOR HOARDING "Second," continued Johnston, "the Army has made no real effort to get rid of cost-plus contracts. These contracts mean labor hoarding. Management doesn't have to worry about the cost and doesn't care how much money it spends on labor."

"Three, there has been no real effort to conduct a manpower propaganda campaign on a national scale. We have had local babyhood campaigns in Allentown, Pennsylvania and Newark, New Jersey but those cities are already saturated. I am convinced that there are enough patriotic people in the United States who will be glad to take jobs in various communities and that we can find them if we conduct a nationwide educational campaign."

"Four," Johnston went on, "the government has got to tell the public the truth. We've got to quit saving the war is about over. When Winston Churchill comes out as he did last summer and says the war will be over in 1944 or when General Eisenhower says the same thing, naturally the American people believe them. We heard testimony yesterday of our tremendous losses. If those are the facts the American people should know them. They are able to face the facts and they will work harder if they are informed. If certain West Coast navy yards are full of damaged ships, then the American public will be glad to get more men to repair those ships."

"Finally," said Johnston, "we must strengthen the war manpower commission. We've got to give it more power to enforce labor rulings. We should give it power to go into a plant and survey what labor is being used, and then enforce its rulings to prevent hoarding. Until those things are done," Johnston concluded, "I am against the work-or-fight bill."

Johnston found considerable support for his views. It came from farm groups as well as labor and industry on the War Mobilization board.

At the end of the meeting, hony-handed Jim Patton of the Farmers' union said: "I'd like to ask for an executive session." "This was a discreet way of asking the representatives of the Army, the Navy, and the administration to leave so board members could talk privately. After the Army and Navy bowed out, Patton said:

"What I want to know is: Are the members of this board going to be a bunch of rubber stamps and stuffed shirts or not?" "Certainly, we're not," replied ex-Governor O. Max Gardner of North Carolina, chairman of the board.

Since then the board's members have lived up to that statement. They have been no rubber stamps for anyone.

UNAMERICAN DEBATE

Last week was not the first time Mississippi's Rankin, now dubbed "titular leader of the Republican party," has approached a near fist-fight with a colleague. Rankin and Representative Emanuel Celler of New York nearly came to blows in the house lobby not long ago just after Rankin delivered a blast against Jewish dentists and physicians.

Celler had charged that the American dental association was seeking quotas for Jewish dental students. Rankin jumped up to complain: "I am tired of the gentleman from New York raising the Jewish question in the house."

Behind The FRONT PAGE
By Holt McPherson
Managing Editor

"NOTHING IN LIFE IS MORE DIFFICULT FOR PEACE-LOVING people to bear than war with all its grim horror, its unending trial of sorrow, its disruption of homes and its utter waste of life and property," says a friend vitally interested in success of the Red Cross. "Yet the people of this nation are in the fourth year of the world's most horrible war."

"Each day more blue stars in service flags turn to gold as this son, that brother or that father falls on a distant and unknown battlefield. Each day hundreds, or thousands, of men are carried back to hospitals with grievous wounds. Each is a member of some American family. Thousands, yes millions, of American men in uniform are tired beyond belief of battle, and homesick for home and family. Yet they know they must keep right on."

"There is not one of us but would give everything to lighten the burden of sorrowing families who have lost their men, or calm the fears of those whose men have been wounded. We would give all we could to ease the pain of the injured, or still the homesickness in those who must fight on."

"Tomorrow, as the American Red Cross opens its campaign for funds, we can do our share in lightening the burden of sorrow, in calming the fears, and in easing the pain of the wounded."

"The American Red Cross was created just for that purpose and through its channels of mercy we can do most for those who need our help."

"The Red Cross is at the front keeping alive the atmosphere of home for the men who are fighting; the Red Cross is in the hospitals cheering the wounded and sending messages to anxious and fearful relatives; the Red Cross is sending blood plasma and surgical dressings to save the lives of American youth; the Red Cross is here at home to aid and assist families in distress."

"This is your Red Cross and through it you can do your share in human kindness and blunt somewhat the horror that is War."

THE WIFE OF A SERVICE MAN NOW STATIONED IN France has been able to send him all the various things he has asked, but his request for a camera has her stumped so that she's appealing to this family of readers for one she can buy. Who'll furnish it?

WEN "SKEETER" BURNS, SECRETARY OF THE NORTH Carolina Building and Loan League comes here for a dinner tonight. There'll be an important and interesting presentation of the G. I. Bill of Rights (Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944) which is hailed as the most significant and far-reaching piece of Veterans Aid legislation to become law. It includes provisions in which building and loan men and bankers see probability of the most extensive home purchasing this country has seen.

Lowery Austell, of the Shelby Building and Loan, handed me the other day a pamphlet of questions and answers on the subject that shows the loaning agencies right on their toes to assist the returning GI's in the dreams of home ownership.

In fact, that field offers perhaps the most likely development of immediate residential construction here, although some hardship cases have won approval in recent days. There is, of course, the possibility that war work expansion may require provision of some housing on a considerable scale, but the GI's seem to offer best prospects of home construction at the present time. Tonight's presentation should bring information that will be continually helpful in that direction.

I GOT A TREMENDOUS THRILL THE OTHER DAY OUT of the announcement that my old friend and fraternity brother, Norwood Carroll, who was taken prisoner by the Japanese at Manila in early 1942 when he was unable to get his family away because a third youngster had just been born, had been released from the Santo Tomas internment camp. Now it develops that it was his young son of the same name, the child's sister and mother, but Norwood's own name hasn't shown up. It may do so yet, I trust. The last message to come through was in September—earlier there had come a message from Norwood that the family was together in Santo Tomas—when a cablegram to his mother through the Red Cross bore the baby's name which was constructed as designed to let his folks know the child was living. It is a fearsome thing, and yet one can't help hoping that somehow friends and loved ones, with help of the Red Cross buying them, will come through the ordeal safely.

service rolls, said they predominated in veterans' hospitals. Rankin went on to hurl the personal charge against Celler that he was a major cause of anti-semitism in this country.

Three times during Rankin's harangue, Celler arose to term the Mississippian's words "false," "unfair," and "outrageous."

But in the house lobby, shortly after the speech, Rankin began biting out not only his words, but also Celler's.

"Don't you cut my remarks out of their protected Celler," "I want my remarks to stay in." "Keep away from me," growled Rankin. "This is my business, not yours. You act right on the floor and we won't have any trouble."

Celler started to protest again, but Rankin shouted: "Now you stop looking over my shoulder," and arose from his chair threateningly.

Celler warned that he would rectify anything Rankin cut from the Record, and stalked off.

NOTE—When Representative Michael Edelstein of New York replied to one of Rankin's out-

A Daily Prayer In War Time

FOR COMPASSION
While war rages over the world, O Lord, may our hearts remain serene and steadfast, and established upon the firm foundation of Thy father care. Deliver us from all meanness of mind and from the hurt of hate. Lift up our hearts to fellowship with Christ's own spirit of compassion, even toward our enemies. In the dreadfulness of war, may we be delivered from all ignoble passions. Make us brave in action, but pitiful in victory. So shall we conquer our own souls, as well as our misguided foes; and be ready for a peace animated by the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

WHAT OTHER PAPERS SAY

MARCH (New York Times)
Here comes March, and high time it is, too. March isn't Spring, but it isn't the depth of Winter either. March brings a break, a change, a let-up in the pressure that has been on, this year, since early December. March brings April, and violets and Spring.

March is more than a month. It is a frame of mind, a state of the emotions. It is traditional to regard March with suspicion, to think of the whims of March weather, the temperamental tantrums, the cold rain, the wind, the soggy thaws, the warm mornings that chill off into raw afternoons and icy evenings. March is all of that, and more. Admit it, and still March will be welcome this year.

The willows will turn amber at the tips, promise of the green that will soon follow. Maple buds will fatten, and sap will ooze from the Winter's wounds. Skunk cabbage will open its well-sheathed blossoms in the icy swampland, primitive and purple in its fetid invitation to the earliest insects. Wild strawberries will splash their pristine green of new leaf where the heightening sun warms the hillside. Mint will freshen at the edges of little streams that creep from the boglands toward the lower valleys. And on banks that catch the full force of the sun there may even be the golden dappling of coltsfoot blooms before the month is over.

This Winter has been a long haul with a cold load, and the creek of snow, the shimmering glare of ice has long been under foot. January gave us no customary thaw; February has specialized, as usual, in snow. But here comes March, the month of change, the time of the Spring equinox. For once, "Welcome" seems an adequate greeting.

LETTERS

MCCRAWLEY SEES FREE ENTERPRISE ENDANGERED
To The Editor:

Free enterprise or private enterprise, which ever you please to call it, has made America great and will make her even greater if let alone. But we have people in this country, and some of them in high places, who if not checked are determined to destroy free or private enterprise, and change our American way of living, and set up in its stead a Socialistic or Communistic form.

The term, "Free enterprise," simply means that every individual has the right to engage in business—large or small for themselves, and

If Today Is Your Birthday

By STELLA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
—Born today, you are more of a dreamer than an active doer. Quiet and reserved, you are seldom the type who demands the floor in order to be heard. However, still water with you runs deep and you are inclined to have very decided and determined ideas. You often surprise those who do not know you too well, by the fire and force of what lies beneath your calm exterior. Although you are deeply affectionate, you will reserve your love for the few to whom you are closely devoted. It is likely that you will fall deeply in love once in your life and if this romance culminates in marriage, you will have a very happy home life. On the other hand, if your love is not reciprocated, you might never marry, preferring to take no one rather than a substitute for your ideal. You are fond of life in the open and will enjoy close communion with nature. Something of a student and bookworm, you can get a great deal of enjoyment out of reading and often seek the companionship of a book rather than another person. Don't permit yourself to become a recluse.

LEAP YEAR'S FEBRUARY 29
—If your birthday comes once every four years then you will have your characteristic talents which will set you apart from those born on either February 28 or March 1. You will have a charming personality; will be a natural leader of others; a fine public speaker and oftentimes have the gift of mimicry. Your personal magnetism is unusual and you might even have the qualities of magnetic healing in your touch. Self-confidence and self-assurance are an integral part of you. You enjoy traveling. Try to be a little more self-analytical and less critical of others.

To operate that business in their own way and manner so long as they do not interfere with the rights of others. The term has been so battered and blasted by the foes of business, that its meaning has almost been distorted. But I think a very good definition for the term is contained in the following lines:

The power to choose the work I do, To grow and have the larger view, To feel and know that I am free, To stand erect, not bow the knee.

To be no chattel of the state, But be the master of my fate, To dare, to risk, to lose, to win, To make my own career begin.

To serve the world in my own way, To gain in knowledge day by day, With hope and zeal to climb, to rise, That's what I call Free Enterprise.
S. C. CRAWLEY,
Route 4, Shelby, N. C.

Pfc. Jack Champion Is Cited In Italy

Pfc. Jack E. Champion of 903 South LaFayette street, has been cited by the 350th "Battle Mountain" regiment and awarded the "Blue Devil" division and awarded the Combat Infantryman badge for actual participation in combat against the enemy with the Fifth Army in Italy.

Literary GUIDEPOST

By W. G. ROGERS

"WARSAW GHETTO", by Mary Berg (L. B. Fischer; \$2.75); "NO TRAVELER RETURNS," by Henry Shokes, edited by Curt Reiss (Doubleday, Doran; \$2.50).

"No Traveler Returns" is subtitled "The story of Hitler's greatest crime," and so it promises to be hair-raising, breath-taking, skin-prickling. "Warsaw Ghetto" is subtitled "a diary," without one superlative, unpretentious; might be interesting, might not be.

They are about exactly the same thing: the nine-mile-square ghetto which the German government brutally forced upon Jews in Poland's capital in November, 1940, and obliterated, even more brutally, in April, 1943.

The principal differences are indicated substantially in the titles. Shokes bedsacks his account with what might be called the magazine touch, makes his villainous Nazis blacker than black, spills more blood than a body can contain, kills his victims not just once but maybe once and a half. Like Dryden's rampaging hero who slew his enemies thrice.

Where Shokes overstates, Miss Berg understates. Some readers may welcome the spice in Shokes, but I found myself more persuaded by Miss Berg.

Actually, both books assert that one of the great riddles of our time is the democratic peoples' hesitancy about telling Hitler, in words he would understand, to stop slaughtering Jews.

There are many areas of agreement, and even of similar if not identical observation. Both writers tell of Gestapo agents who pulled out Jews' beards by the roots; of mercenary Latvians and Lithuanians who shot down Jews for fun; of theaters, cafes, schools, makeshift rikshas, the horse-drawn trolley and that unsavory pair, John (or Kohn) and Heller; of girls obliged to strip and dance for the Germans; of children shot to death; of janitors mopping up the blood spilled in the streets by the Nazi masters; of the suicide of ghetto mayor Adam Czerniakow.

Shokes . . . and Reiss . . . are more diplomatic. Miss Berg more blunt. She recalls frankly the number of Poles who were anti-semitic. She praises the Russians. Shokes offers, however, a fuller account of the last battle in the ghetto . . . which Miss Berg had already left on her way to America.

Prepare For Action On Nurse Draft Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—(AP)—The house rules committee has paved the way for prompt house action on a nurse-draft bill. Advised that more than half a million servicemen now are in hospitals, with the number mounting at the rate of 1,600 daily, the committee approved for house consideration probably Friday a bill written by the military committee in response to the President's request for such a draft law.

The legislation would make liable to induction all unmarried and qualified nurses not under 20 nor over 44 years of age, with emphasis on inductions being placed on graduates of the student nurse corps.

Could Stomach Eat the Apple with Stomach Ulcer Pains?

The Biblical story of Adam eating a raw apple might never have come to pass had he suffered after-eating pains. Don't ignore your sufferings. Try Udgas for relief of ulcer and stomach pains, indigestion, gas pains, for heartburn, burning sensation, bloating and other conditions caused by excess acid. Get a box of Udgas Tablets from your druggist. First dose must convince or return box to us and get DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK.

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COMMISSIONERS RE-SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Pursuant to an order of RE-SALE in Special Proceedings No. 2742 and entitled: "D. C. ELLIOTT, et al. vs. LEONA WHITWORTH WRIGHT, et al." the undersigned Commissioner will offer at public sale at the Court House in Shelby, N. C. on **MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1945** at 12 o'clock M., or within legal hours, the following described real estate: Situated in the northern part of the City of Shelby and situated just east of the Shelby Hospital property, and bounded as follows: BEGINNING on a stake on the East Side of First Street where it intersects with the North side of Highland Avenue, and runs North 67 3/4 East 200 feet to a stake, corner lot No. 139, thence North 22 1/4 West 160 feet to a stake; thence South 67 3/4 East 200 feet to a stake, corner lot No. 139, thence thence South 22 1/4 East 160 feet to the BEGINNING. No Part of this property is to be conveyed to any member of the colored race. The bidding will begin at \$1260.00. TERMS OF SALE: CASH. Purchaser to pay all 1945 taxes. This 24th day of February, 1945. L. T. HAMRICK, Commissioner. HORACE KENNEDY, Atty.