

Little Sister

By MARGARET WIDDEMER

CHAPTER 53

"LET SAT down. Good heavens, Bet, you stole practically all that speech from a magazine," said the surprised Lella. Bet, still preening over her applause, glared at her.

"Lella, you can't understand right-mindedness and decent behavior. All you care for is country club stuff. All I can say is, I hope poor Orton can tame you down a little."

Bet was speaking now—a nice little sales talk, as informal as if he had not been wrestling with his notes all evening. As for poor Addison, he still sat stiff and staring. Mrs. Johnston-Hedges spoke, making a very good effort at being on the bandwagon and having been there some time; Orton spoke with his usual stiff good humor. Somehow the speeches wore on. Everybody except Lella and Mrs. Johnston-Hedges seemed in a state of high delight. The Fernwood Manorites were delighted because it was plain that when the time came to vote their private beach away from them. The other Fernwoodites were delighted because they were going to have the use of a casino and a beach and all the comforts in general of a country club for the price of going to Playland. And the Fernwood Waters people were delighted because they had jobs and very cheap houses with ground to grow things or landscaped as the more snobbish would unquestionably do of a class that their neighbors had to pay three times as much for.

"I should think I was, my boy!" said his father with enthusiasm and relief mingling in his manner.

"—I—oh, Dad, I never knew it! It was always Jim—he was everything and everybody liked him best. He was a prince. . . . I was crazy over him myself. . . . but nobody cared about me for myself, I thought, not even Jerry—except Bet—and Aunt Minnie. You'd love Aunt Minnie, Dad. I never knew you did. . . . not a bit. . . . why. . . . maybe you liked me all the time."

Poor little Addison nearly broke down, there at the table. His father put an arm around him and bent down. His voice was moved, too.

"That's what Redmond told me, sonny. He said you weren't fighting for a cause as much as to try to show me that you had talent as well as poor Jim. It seemed fantastic to me that you shouldn't have realized this, but I saw he was right. So when he came to me and told me that you'd married a good girl, and were trying to do the sort of thing I'd been interested in myself when I was a young fellow, why—I was up to the old man to back you, Addy, boy. I gave him two or three of my bright young men, and he and young DeFries and my best architect put it through for you the best way we know. . . . Why, Addy, I always loved you more than I did Jim. You were so like what I was when I was young. And I tried not to show it, because it seemed egotistic and unfair. I—I guess I overdid it. And after he died you were off revolting, and—and . . ."

The Huntingtons, father and son, did not explain or apologize easily. But they were trying hard.

"Mr. Huntington, take my seat!" Lella said impulsively, and vacated it for him.

She hadn't realized that it put her next Jerry Redmond.

And it hadn't been old Robert Martin after all, Jerry hadn't schemed or lied—excepting in a perfectly splendid way. She owed about fourteen apologies to Jerry.

For a moment she froze. Then

LONG RIPS INTO FARLEY AGAIN



Ripping into Postmaster General James A. Farley in another tirade on the senate floor, Louisiana's "Kingfish"—Senator Huey P. Long—demanded immediate senate action on his resolution calling for the investigation of the conduct of the postmaster general who has been vacationing in Florida. But Senator Joseph T. Robinson, majority leader, delayed the resolution when he moved the measure be sent to the postoffice committee for preliminary consideration. Senate action on the resolution may follow.

representatives McDonald and Lumpkin and their anti-sales tax group would substitute for the sales tax are so cleverly drawn and worded that as merchants do not seem to realize just what they would do. This was true at first of the chain store tax section, which was suggested by the same group and intended to be a partial substitute for the sales tax. But when the substitute was analyzed it was found that it hit North Carolina chain stores harder than the national chains, with the result that the merchants succeeded in getting the finance committee to take this chain store tax section out of the revenue bill, at least for the time being. As soon as the merchants wake up to the fact that they will have to pay more than \$1,000,000 a year in direct taxes under the one-fourth of one per cent of gross receipts and an average of 50 cents per \$100 of valuation on their property as well, they are expected to make a strong protest against this plan.

There is no way of estimating just how much of this additional \$1,488,261 a year the McDonald Lumpkin plan proposes to get from domestic corporations would be paid by merchants, or how much of the \$2,342,249 it plans to get from foreign corporations would be paid by merchants. But conservative guesses are that at least \$1,000,000 year of this would have to be paid by merchants whose businesses are incorporated. This would mean that the McDonald-Lumpkin plan, if put into effect as a substitute for the sales tax, will put a tax of at least \$2,000,000 a year on the merchants in gross receipts and property taxes.

Floor Space Base. The floor space factor, despite objections voiced by chain department stores and others, may be used as a determining factor in assessing chain store taxes may be incorporated in the revenue bill after first being rejected by the joint finance committee.

Senator Carl Bailey, member of the subcommittee which wrote the proposed new section in which floor space was used as a factor, made a stirring speech to the committee in which he declared that no other factor could be used which would be equitable. "I ask the committee here and now," he declared, "to tell the subcommittee whether it so disapproves of the floor space factor that it will under no condition accept it. If you won't accept it, I want to be relieved of any subcommittee dealing with chain store taxes. You can not write an equitable chain store tax section with out it." His views were supported by Senator Mason, of Gaston, also a subcommittee member, and others.

When the vote was taken, Senator Bailey had his way, and more. The subcommittee was told to re-write the chain store tax section using any factors they thought suitable. Anti-sales tax members and others joined in endorsing Senator Bailey.

Previously the finance committee had rejected, after hearing many protests from department stores, the recommendation of the subcommittee that chain stores with more than 500 square feet of enclosed floor space pay additional taxes on square footage basis. Chain stores fighting

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- Cutlets and Liver, lb. 29c

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- Neck bones and pig ears, pound 10c
- Spare Rib and Pig Tails, pound 15c
- Pork Chops or Roast, lb. 23c
- Pig Liver, lb. 12 1/2c

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SLOT MACHINES ARE APPARENTLY BEATEN

Legislature Seems In Mind To Outlaw Them, Deplete Revenue

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel.

Raleigh, Feb. 15.—Slot machines are doomed to disappear in North Carolina if the Senate follows the lead taken by the House, despite the revenue obtained by the State and local governments.

The House passed the most stringent anti-slot machine bill ever offered in North Carolina, and accepted an amendment which apparently closed any possible gap in the measure. The bill itself, a copy of the New York law which says legislators who are opposed to slot machines is highly effective. It was introduced by a group of House members and forbids the sale, manufacture, possession, transportation, operation or leasing of such machines, and makes unlawful the possession of tokens used to operate slot machines.

When the bill reached the floor of the lower house, Representative Jonas (R), of Lincoln, offered the gap-closing amendment which forbids any local government or the State collecting any license fees for slot machines. His amendment was adopted. It makes the bill, say those who are familiar with such acts, airtight.

Most observers were surprised at the comparatively easy manner in which the bill was approved. A roll call vote was not necessary.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where many observers have believed the bill is doomed to failure, but the ready adoption by the House has made rejection by the Senate very doubtful.

It was because of the revenue derived from such machines that few observers thought the machines would be outlawed. The question is now up to the Senate. The whets are spinning—soon we will see whether slot machine operators get a lemon or the plums.

Outlook Gloomy On Street Upkeep

(Continued from Page One.)

which is composed of city officials of 106 cities and towns in the State.

The principal opposition to this bill is coming from the rural counties, whose representatives feel that it is more important to seek highway revenue in building new roads or maintaining present ones out in the country districts than to build new streets in the cities. It is agreed that it would cost the highway department at least \$1,000,000 a year to maintain the streets traversed by State highways.

Another reason members of the committee and of the legislature are decidedly cool towards this bill sponsored by the Municipal League is that so far the league has declined to join forces with those who are opposing diversion of any of the highway revenue to other than road purposes. Several months ago overtures were made to the league by the administration, asking it to take a definite stand against diversion of highway funds for a reduction in highway revenue. The league refused to do this. As a result of this, when its representatives recently sought the assistance of the administration for its proposal to have the highway department take over the maintenance of all city streets traversed by State highways, they got rather a cool reception.

John Barrymore, actor, born 33 years ago.

REPUBLICANS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

Best Vote-Getter They Have Had In State, Party Leader Admits

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel, By C. A. PAUL.

Raleigh, Feb. 15.—Republican legislators hope that the present absentee ballot law remains on the statute books just as it is. "It is the best manufacturer of Republican votes in North Carolina," said a prominent Republican here today, "Republicans in the legislature will, of course, vote to repeal the law, but we hope the Democrats let the repealer die in committee. Abuses of the absentee ballot law have helped the Republican party in this State more than any other thing."

Republicans have been foremost among the absentee ballot law's severest critics, but they are now keeping quiet about it. In previous elections they have made charges of fraud, arguing that the Democrats won many county elections by misuse of absentee ballots. There is little doubt that those charges have resulted in an increased Republican vote in many instances.

Now, however, say some Republican here, they want the law retained although they will have to vote to repeal it if it comes to a showdown. "But," added another Republican, "it will take from us one of our very best vote-getters. The made charges of fraud, arguing that the Democrats won many county elections by misuse of absentee ballots. There is little doubt that those charges have resulted in an increased Republican vote in many instances."

Early in the present legislative sessions bills were offered to abolish the wartime absentee ballot law and the governor himself urged that it either be repealed entirely or so radically

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TOMATO SOUP, Delicious, can 5c

OCTAGON TOILET SOAP, 3 cakes 14c

STERLING HEALTH SOAP, 4 cakes 19c

OCTAGON CLEANSER, 2 cans for 9c

SUPER SUDS, 2 pkgs. for 17c

Chain Store Levy Beaten, Merchants Tackle Others

(Continued from Page One.)

amended as to avoid abuses. The bills were sent to committees on elections. There they have remained. So far as is known no action has been taken.

per cent on wholesale merchants and to levy in addition a property tax of 50 cents per \$100 valuation on the stores, fixtures, equipment and buildings of all merchants whose businesses are incorporated.

For in addition to taxing all domestic and foreign corporations at the rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of capital stock and surplus, the McDonald-Lumpkin plan would levy a property tax of one-half of one per cent on the assessed valuation of all domestic and foreign corporations. This would mean that merchants who are incorporated as either domestic or foreign corporations would have to pay a State property tax of 50 cents per \$100 of their assessed valuation in addition to the gross receipts tax of one-fourth of one per cent and in addition to the local city and county property taxes.

The prospectus prepared by Representatives McDonald and Lumpkin, who have submitted their series of new tax plans as a substitute for the present three per cent sales tax on retail sales, estimates that this new property tax will bring in \$1,488,261 a year in excess of the \$796,230 which is now being collected from domestic corporations from the tax of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of stock and undivided profits.

Thus the average property tax of domestic corporations under this new plan would be twice what they are now paying the State in franchise taxes. The estimates also show that more than three times as much would be collected from foreign corporations under this plan as they are now paying in franchise taxes, or that for every \$1 they pay in franchise taxes under the present plan, they would pay \$3 in property taxes.

Merchants Not Aroused Yet. The new taxation plans which Re-

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PEAS, fresh green, tender, lb. 12 1-2c

BEANS, fancy green, tender, lb. 15c

POTATOES, Red Bliss, lb. 5c

LETTUCE, Iceberg, head 10c

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