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Legislature Gets Sales Tax Repealer And School Measure

Optional Nine-Month School Term Provided On Statewide Basis Under Bill; Sellers Introduces Tax Repeal Measure

Raleigh, Jan. 22.—(AP) Substitute measures providing for an optional statewide nine-month school term, and bills to repeal the sales tax and to make forcible picketing a felony were introduced in the legislature today.

The school bills were submitted by Senators Horton of Martin, Johnson of Duplin and Evans of Hertford, and Representatives Unstead of Orange, Reynolds of Buncombe, Arch Allen of Wake and Wallace of Johnston.

The measure to remove the sales tax in its entirety, introduced by Representative Sellers of Alamance, asserted the levy was enacted during an emergency with the understanding it would be repealed when the emergency no longer existed. It said that the tax was enacted when the State had a deficit, in place of the huge increase in federal taxes and asked that the State take this recommended step to relieve partly the tax burden of the people. His measure went to the finance committee.

Representatives Cook of Cumberland and Burgh of Henderson would make unlawful and a felony the use

of force or violence or threats, there-in an effort to prevent anyone from engaging in a lawful vocation. Their bill defined a labor dispute as that between an employer and at least two employees. Workers would have a right to picket but they could not use force in an effort to keep others from working.

The senate passed a measure by Senator Taylor of Anson providing that \$29,000,000 of the State general fund surplus be invested in State or government securities or those guaranteed by the federal government.

The Taylor measure originally was introduced by the senate finance committee to provide for the investment of \$22,000,000 but the house finance committee reduced it to the original amount. The senate concurred in the amendment.

Taylor suggested that the next legislature might be able to invest \$10,000,000 of the surplus and said the State might eventually be able with the revenue to retire its bonded indebtedness, which on January 10 amounted to \$105,000,000, including \$1,000,000 in highway bonds.

British Storm Tripoli Turbulence Erupts In Congress

Young Star Meets Cadets



Little Twinkle Watts is the center of attraction amid this group of West Point cadets. She was one of the stars in the cast of "Stars on Ice" which made a trip to the military academy to perform for 1400 cadets and their families. Because of the war, the performance was one of the few special events held this year during graduation week. (Central Press)

Showdowns Demanded On Issues

Six Separate Probes Already Are Ordered By House; Flynn Hearing Resumed

Washington, Jan. 22.—(AP) —Signs of increasing turbulence broke out in the new Congress today with suddenly renewed demands for prompt showdowns on such issues as farm prices, conflicting agency relationships, progress of the synthetic rubber program and regulation of aviation.

With orders for six separate investigations already having emerged from the House, the Senate foreign relations committee resumed its inquiry into Republican charges that Edward J. Flynn, former Democratic national committee chairman, is unqualified to serve as minister to Australia.

Meanwhile, a battle opened for a re-definition of farm price parity to include the cost of agricultural labor in the parity formula.

Chairman Fulmer, South Carolina Democrat, predicted the House agriculture committee, meeting for the first time today since the 78th Congress convened, would report out a bill calling for the revision.

The committee unanimously reported and the House approved such a bill in early December, but it was lost in a Senate session-end legislative tieup. The House action was despite earlier "unalterable opposition" expressed by President Roosevelt.

Protests also came from Democratic chairman of three House committees against a move to streamline Congress by creating a standing House committee on aviation with jurisdiction over commercial and civilian phases.

Simultaneously, criticism of the relations between the board of economic warfare and Reconstruction Finance Corporation subsidiaries came from Vice President Wallace in a letter accompanying an order giving new controls over all imports except natural rubber, he termed these relations "not satisfactory."

Declaring that William M. Jefferson, synthetic rubber program has been "impeded," Chairman Gillette, of Iowa, of a Senate agriculture subcommittee, said war production board Chairman Donald M. Nelson would be called upon next week for an explanation.

'Expendable Peggy'



"Peggy," the heroine of "They Were Expendable," the story of the battle of the Philippines, has been identified as Lt. Benj. Greenwalt (above), of St. Louis, Mo. "Peggy's" identity was revealed by Miss Jason R. King, her sister. Nothing is known of Lt. Greenwalt's fate after fall of Corregidor. (Central Press)

Field Guns In Position Before City

Rommel's Forces Flee Into Tunisia; Reds Claim End Is Near At Stalingrad

(By The Associated Press)

British shock troops were reported to have swept through the main defense works of Tripoli in the climactic battle of Libya today while on the Soviet front the German high command indicated that the end was near for Nazi divisions trapped before Stalingrad.

A bulletin from Adolf Hitler's headquarters said Russian troops attacking from the west had broken through the lines of the German "defenders of Stalingrad," the beleaguered forces described by the Russians as the remnants of 22 Nazi divisions.

Soviet dispatches today said that the German army units originally numbering 250,000 men had been tightly encircled in the Don-Volga corridor and whittled down to less than 50,000.

On the north African front, columns of General Sir B. L. Montgomery's British eighth army were reported by a British broadcast to be storming at the gates of Tripoli, with their big guns in position to pour destruction into the already bomb-blackened city.

Parts of the axis divisions were reported to have fled from the city and much of the civilian population was being evacuated.

The British command asserted that some of the fleeing axis forces had withdrawn as far as 25 miles inside Tunisia from Libya.

Heavy fighting was also in progress in central Tunisia, suggesting that a showdown battle was developing for the last axis foothold in north Africa.

The British radio said British field guns were now in position "on a height commanding the city and harbor of Tripoli, whose main de-

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RAF Raids Ruhr Valley

Four Raiders Lost In Attack, Twelfth Bomber Assault Made During This Month

London, Jan. 22.—(AP)—The RAF, returning to the attack on Germany for the first time since its raid on Berlin last week-end, blasted targets in the industrial Ruhr during the night, the air ministry announced today.

Four raiders were lost in the assault, which left large fires burning in the target area. Accurate observation of the results was prevented by heavy clouds, the air ministry added.

Some of Britain's biggest bombers, capable of carrying fourteen block-busters, apparently took part in a heavy bombardment which had at least six two-engine planes that were shot down.

Last night's raid, the twelfth in Germany this month, followed a series of daylight attacks on northern France and the Lowlands by RAF bombers, escorted by squadrons of fighters, including two squadrons of the United States Army air forces.

SARRAT 'ESCAPES' FROM MARTINIQUE

Washington, Jan. 22.—(AP)—Fighting French headquarters here announced today that Major General R. Sarrat, commander of the French garrison on Martinique, had "escaped" from the Caribbean island and joined the forces of the Fighting French.

The announcement quoted Sarrat as saying that since the American landing in north Africa the bulk of the French population of Martinique had been openly hostile to the Vichy government.

\$100,000 FIRE SWEEPS SPARTANBURG PLANT

Spartanburg, S. C., Jan. 22.—(AP)—A \$100,000 fire swept the big sheet metal warehouse of the United Waste Co. today, blowing flames from the business district late last night.

Nearly warehouses and storage tanks of raw materials escaped damage, and the loss was mostly covered by insurance.

Habitual Drunkenness Bill Extended

Raleigh, Jan. 22.—(AP)—A bill by Representative McDonough to provide punishment for habitual drunkenness in Mecklenburg county was amended in committee today to include Durham, Wilson, Cleveland, Caldwell, Person, Montgomery, Nash and Perdue counties.

House judiciary committee No. 1 withheld action on the original measure, however. The bill would impose a \$50 fine or 30 days imprisonment for the first offense, a fine of not more than \$100 or 60 days imprisonment for the second offense.

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Reduction Of License Taxes Considered Sure To Be Given

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In The Sir Walter Hotel, By LYNN NISBET

Raleigh, Jan. 22.—It became virtually certain at the finance subcommittee hearing on Schedule B taxes Thursday that North Carolina business will get substantial relief on these items. The hearing itself did not adduce sufficient evidence to determine just what the reduction will be nor just how it will be granted.

There are two opinions as to the best course: one would delegate authority to the commissioner of revenue and the advisory budget commission to make temporary adjustments as need might be shown; the other insists upon the legislature doing the job by writing the changes into the revenue act.

Star witness at Thursday's hearing was W. C. Pender, secretary of the Colonial Stores, successor to the Pender chain, with headquarters at Norfolk. Pender admitted that his outfit was doing a larger volume of business than ever before, that it even now is making some money, though net profits after taxes were

substantially less last year. He painted a rather dark picture of prospects in the food industry.

Buyers for the several hundred stores operated by Colonial no longer seek what they want, but buy what they can get—even as the housewife on marketing day. Pender said that the increased volume in business was obtained in hub centers around defense plants. The Norfolk area is booming. Nevertheless, Colonial has closed 74 stores during the past year and may have to close others.

The real gloom in his presentation was the plight of small communities where there are only a few retail food outlets. Since big distributors are rationing food supplies on percentage basis to old customers, when one store closes the others in that town cannot get additional quotas. Some relief on taxes would, Pender said, lessen the likelihood of closing present outlets.

The subcommittee, over which former Speaker Libby Ward presided,

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Better Facilities In Prospect For Feeble-Minded Children

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In The Sir Walter Hotel, By LYNN NISBET

Raleigh, Jan. 22.—The commission which the governor will be authorized to name to study facilities for better care of feeble-minded children has a field of such unlimited possibility and opportunity as to constitute a major endeavor.

It is of concern to all the people of the state, with the western half having more vital interest in it, because now the only school for such pupils is Caswell Training School at Kinston.

Title of the bill introduced in the senate Thursday by Senator Joe Blythe of Mecklenburg doesn't convey anything like all of the scope of the study authorized by it. The bill would empower and direct the governor to name a commission, two senators and three representatives, to investigate facilities at Caswell

and to recommend needed expansion of the service rendered by the institution either by enlarging the Kinston unit or by establishing other units elsewhere.

It is in that last provision that the real meat may be found. Hospitals for adult mental patients are located at Raleigh and at Morganton, with one for colored patients at Goldsboro. State hospitals for treatment of tubercular patients are located in the middle and eastern and western sections. But for feeble minded children the great predominant and west have no nearby school. That is one of the first things the proposed commission will undertake to remedy.

It is fitting that the matter should have been brought to legislative attention by Mecklenburg, since the Charlotte News started agitation for

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Prison Statistics Disprove Some Ideas, Confirm Others

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In The Sir Walter Hotel, By LYNN NISBET

Raleigh, Jan. 22.—Cold facts and figures in the biennial report of the State prison division do not bear out some of the popular ideas and oft-repeated claims of the value of schooling in building character; but they do show that nearly half the crimes for which road sentences have been imposed were directly traceable to liquor.

The report, however, will not be as good documentary support of prohibitionist idealism as might first appear, because liquor is losing place in the crime field. Of the 17,802 male persons committed to road camps for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1941, 8,733 or 48.5 per cent, were convicted of either driving drunk, drunkenness or other violation of liquor laws. During the following year ending June 30, 1942, the total number of

commitments had dropped to 13,317, of which 6,402 or 48 per cent were liquor law violators.

The figures are more disturbing to child welfare folks. During the first year covered, 2560 of the commitments were of boys under 21 years of age, that being 13.8 per cent of the total. The second year this class had dropped to 2,130 but in ratio to the overall total, the percentage had increased to 15.5.

Least too many figures prove confusing on the educational breakdown, carried in detail by the printed report, suffice it to record that men and boys credited with as much as a high school education make up by far the largest single bracket, and account for nearly one-fourth of the total. Among whites this group is almost one-third.

There is some surprise in the showing of near equal division

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Allies Liquidate Sanananda Pocket

Strike Closes Enka Plant

Asheville, Jan. 22.—(AP)—A strike of 3,000 workers in the production department late last night shut down the plant of the American Enka Corporation, now working on war orders.

The workers joined 200 employees of the pool-pinning department who walked out on Monday, after union officials said their demands that grievance be submitted to an arbiter were refused by the company.

Company officials, deeply opposed to the strike, are reported to be discussing reasons for the strike.

Ten Inches of Rain In One Day Hampers Operations; Airmen Score Against Japs

Allied Headquarters in Australia, Jan. 22.—(AP)—One of the four pockets of resistance still held by the Japanese in the Samaranda sector of New Guinea has been liquidated, the allied high command reported today.

One hundred and 50 Japs were slain in this operation. The pocket was the one about 700 yards in from the beach near Samaranda Road.

The fighting was seriously hampered by ten inches of rain, falling in a single day, but the troops slogged on for the kill.

The air force, meanwhile, in widespread action reported an overwhelming victory in an hour's running battle with 25 Japanese planes over Wewak, New Guinea, and ranged over Rabaul and Ambon island in attacks on enemy shipping, hitting a Japanese cruiser and a merchant ship in an Ambon island harbor.

Four allied bombers encountered a covey of 25 enemy fighters over the north coast of New Guinea. In the ensuing clash they reported twelve of the fighters were shot down and six damaged. The bombers returned to their base unscathed, reported.

Other bombers damaged at least two large merchant ships and attacked the airbase in a smashing, mast-high moonlight attack on Rabaul. The airbase at Gasmata, in southern New Britain, also was bombed.

The Ambon mission reported it shot down two and damaged others of their base headquarters reported. Then it bombed a Japanese cruiser, leaving her listing and smoking, and scored a direct hit on a 5,000-ton merchant ship, it reported. All of the allied planes returned from the raid, the communique added.

Jap Plane Bombs Santo

Washington, Jan. 22.—(AP)—A lone Japanese plane bombed the American base island of Santo Thursday, the Navy reported today, in the first enemy air action directed against that New Hebrides operated by the Navy.

The Navy communique, No. 258, said:

"During the night of January 20-21, United States aircraft carried out several harassing attacks on enemy installations on Ballale island off the northeast coast of Shortland island. Results were not observed.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA. No decided change in temperature tonight.