Editorial

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FAMOUS COLUMNIST TABS TAFT "JERK" FOR ATTACKING GENERAL MARSHALL

One of the most widely-read newspaper writers in America has decided that Senator Robert A. Taft (R., O.) is a "jerk"—and has said so.

He is Henry McLemore, whose column appears in more than 200 daily papers. Part of his comments on Taft are printed below.

McLemore is not a political columnist. He generally writes in a humorous manner on the lighter topics of the day. Occasionally, a more serious subject makes his blood boil. Taft's recent attack on General Marshall did that.

* * *

McLemore is no "wild-eyed" liberal. Born and reared in rural Georgia, McLemore is the son of a Methodist minister. He did such a good job as a sports writer for the United Press, the McNaught Syndicate hired him to comment on events in general.

Here is what he wrote in London—where he was on a special assignment—about Taft:

"Senator Taft came to my mind about an hour ago when I noticed a story under a Washington date-line that informed me that Senator Taft was against President Truman's appointment of General George Marshall as Secretary of Defense.

* * *

"My first reaction to the story was that Senator Taft finally had reached rock bottom. My second, third and fourth reactions were the same.

"I am sure that one can't call a Senator a jerk and still maintain dignity, so I am going to waive dignity and call Mr. Taft a jerk. Not a bench-sitting jerk. Not a utility jerk. Not a jerk who has run in to kick a field goal. No, I am going to call him—from thousands of waves away—a starting, first-string varsity jerk.

"Give him Ruth's old number, Gehrig's old number and Grange's old number. Place him on a pedestal as the one man who, without having to go to the trouble of thinking, hits the wrong thing on the head every time.

"Senator Taft objects to Marshall. Just think of that.

"The man of Ohio carries enough nonsense in his head to attack a man who, in the pages of history yet to be written, will emerge as one of the great Americans of all time.

"It is like a Piper Cub attacking a B-29. It is the mouse slapping the cat, the lamb trading haymakers with the lion.

"The Senator says his reason for trying to block Marshall's appointment is because it would strengthen Secretary of State Acheson's hand. In other words, the Senator's dislike for Acheson is stronger than his like for his country.

* * *

"Who did more than any one else to make this country victorious in World War II? Marshall.

"Who saw the needs and fought with hack politicians to get them? Marshall.

"My consolation here in London is the knowledge that my countrymen will ignore the Senator from Ohio and go ahead and put the best man in the job.

"One of these days—it may not come until a Russian throws a hand grenade through his living room window—Senator Taft is going to realize that the United States is now fighting for survival, not Ohio votes."

UAW-AFL Issues Poster

GET OUT THE LABOR VOTE

Milwaukee, Wis.—The AFL United Auto Workers issued this poster to stimulate rank and file participation in the 1950 elections.

RALEIGH, N. C.—The public flood control-hydro-electric power vs. private power companies row could be solved very simply if both sides would get the knives out of their hands and work together.

In a speech last week at Fayetteville, Governor Scott took another back-handed swipe at the power companies for what he called "lack of vision."

And at a press conference the next day he said that flood control on the Cape Fear during the past 50 years would have saved more than enough in damaged farm land and crops to have built all the seven hydro-electric plants Army engineers have recommended for that stream.

Power company spokesmen have pointed out that it is cheaper to build steam generating plants than it is to try to operate hydro-electric plants. That is true, and if power is the only aim it would be foolish to build dams for power.

But no one has denied the need for flood control. If at the same time, more power can be manufactured, it's foolish not to do so.

But the private power companies don't want the government to go into competition with them by selling power.

Since the private companies are given exclusive franchise in their areas— and since private power companies are not expected to foot the bills for flood control—a simple solution would be for the government to build combination flood control-power dams. Then sell the power only to the private companies for distribution. Included should be a provision that this cheap power be used first to expand services to new areas and for reselling to REAs. Any extra power then would be available for use in regular channels.

As head of the Edison Institute (the private power companies' organization) Carolina Power and Light Company's Louis Sutton is in a fine position to make such a suggestion and see if he can't get private power and government pulling together. He probably can end a running fight not only in North Carolina but also throughout the rest of the country.

And, incidentally, it would increase earnings of private power companies.

The prison rehabilitation program is beginning to hit on all eight cylinders.

The camp for young first offenders at Camp Butner has proved so successful that a similar camp for Negro youths at Goldsboro has been okayed by the State Highway Commission.

In addition, another such camp for white youths is in the planning stages for Morganton.

These camps are not placed at state hospitals because of nearness to psychiatric treatment, but are so situated in order to give the young first-timers work on the hospital farms.

The unfortunate fact about our prison setup is that now some eighty per cent of all prisoners are repeaters. If, through the rehabilitation program, the first-term youths can be sent to society as good citizens its long range effect will be to save the State tremendous amounts of money in operation of state prisons.

Warden Joe Crawford's rehabilitation and recreation program at Central Prison is paying off in an all-round better attitude among prisoners there. The sports and other recreation programs are resulting in better work and better dispositions among the prisoners, with hope that some of the repeaters will not be coming back after their current tour at Central.

Raleigh radio station WNAO is planning a program from the prison, using all prison talent and featuring an unidentified prisoner's story of his life on each program. This program will start next week. The prisoners wanted to use "If I Had the Wings of An Angel" as their theme song, but the idea was vetoed by radio station officials.

The State Board of Conservation and Development is planning quite a "do" at its regular fall meeting, October 23-26 at Charlotte. On the 24th the Board will take a trip to Morrow Mountain State Park near Albemarle. On the 25th, Buggs Island project officials and army engineers will tell all about recreation plans for the program, and on the 26th a regular business session will be held.

Agriculture Commissioner L. Y. "Stag" Ballentine is being praised for his presentation of Agriculture Department needs to the Advisory Budget Commission.

He used charts to demonstrate the tremendous expansion of work done by the department during the last 21 months. Particularly, gains were shown in dairy and beef cattle programs, seed testing and poultry grading.

"I didn't go into a lot of figures," Stag said. "I tried to get across the growth in services rendered by the department and the need for expansion."

From remarks made by members of the Budget Commission and interested listeners, Ballentine apparently succeeded in doing an impressive job of presentation.

Even the most conservative of the conservatives now are convinced that the State will have to have increased revenues to keep up its services during the next biennium.

And about the only suggestion of new money raising is sales tax exemptions.

But don't think the people with exemptions are gonna take it sittin' down. Already the high brass of merchants, automobile and other organizations are getting their ducks in a row to fight such a proposal. They probably won't begin a concentrated campaign until after the November 7 election.

Did you know that practically every school bus in the State violates the law every school day?

C. C. Brown, director of transportation for the State Department of Public Instruction, said this was so. There's an average 10% overload on each school bus, he told the Advisory Budget Commission.

That came out after D. Hiden Ramsey, State School Board member from Asheville, told the Commission it was time for the State to take over full responsibility for the school bus system.

The school board wants to add 815 buses to the system at State expense during the next biennium. That's in addition to 1,250 replacements. This would provide a seat for every student by the end of the biennium, eliminate the dangerous overloading, and practically eliminate second runs.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Clyde Erwin has troubles other than school consolidation. He reported that the boll weevil feasted on his Cleveland county farm's cotton, but that he didn't get enough out of his crop insurance to pay for his fertilizer.

E. L. Gavin of Sanford, Republican nominee for U. S. Senate, needs to do a little missionary work with at least one of his hometown neighbors. CAPITAL REPORTER passed through Sanford recently and stopped at a filling station. Turned out it was the same one at which Gavin traded — but the man on duty didn't even know that Lawyer Gavin was running for the Senate.

Kerr Scott will cut short his attendance at the Southern Governor's Conference in South Carolina November 26-28 so that he can fly to Chicago for the National 4-H Club powwow.

As the only 4-H boy ever to be elected governor of a state, he will be an honor guest at the Chicago session.

He was a member of the "Corn Club," when it was organized in 1910, and Mrs. Scott was a member of the "Tomato Club," the girls' organization.

Incidentally, the Governor almost caused a commotion in downtown Raleigh the other night. After endless hours of budget hearings, he would up sitting through a three-hour session with the National Federation of Music Clubs, the other night. It wound up late, and he decided to walk from the Sir Walter Hotel to the mansion just to work the kinks out of his legs. He had on his "two-cow suit" (that's what he said he could have bought with the money he had to spend on evening clothes when he was inaugurated) and started up a deserted Fayetteville Street.

A police car spotted him, slowed down for a look. Not satisfied, the cops circled the block twice—giving the governor the one-over—before apparently convincing themselves that Scott wasn't some midnight rambler bent on mischief.

With Democratic party leaders beating the bushes for money to run the campaign, here's a source suggested by one Capitol Hill observer; nick each teacher for $1 each of the pay boost just voted them. That would net some $26,000 for the campaign kitty.

State Public Instruction Controller Douglas reports a recent check shows between five and six hundred schools in the State still without lights.

The Governor asked Douglas to check again and let his office know where they were.

"Maybe we can do something about it," the Governor deadpanned, "now that we have electricity running out our ears."

Douglas noted that the requested budget also had a $16,000 item for school telephones, "since you're expanding that program."

On the House speakership race front, supporters of Rep. Frank Taylor of Goldsboro claim from 49 to 51 votes "in the bag." Cohorts of Rep. Fred Royster of Henderson report up to 67 votes in the "sewed up" class. Unbiased observers don't believe either man has anything like those claims pledged, but they believe Taylor has a slight edge. There's talk that Wake County's Brantley Womble—who served in the much-maligned 1933 session—may be rung in as a "dark horse." Womble, a middle-of-the-roader who calls 'em as he sees 'em and lets the chips fall where they may, could wind up wielding the gavel in the 1951 House, some folks think.

Cousin C. Wayland Spruill, veteran representative from Bertie county, bought a Texas style hat recently for Secretary of State Thad Eure.

Cousin Wayland said he was tired of seeing Thad in his beat-up summer straw. No. "Cuz" is sorry he did it. Seems as though every friend he has is peeved because he didn't get in on the bonnet-buying spree.

"It's cost me five more hats to keep some of my best friends," Spruill moaned. "But I've given notice that I'm through—the rest of 'em will have to buy their own hats or go bareheaded."

M. G. Mann, general manager of the Farmers Co-operative Exchange and the N. C. Cotton Co-operative, is quite a prophet.

In 1946 he predicted 35c cotton. It hit that. In 1947 he predicted 40c cotton, and was laughed at—but that, too, has come about.

Now he's predicting 50c cotton in 1951, but there are no snickers.

Red - headed, 70-odd-year-old Miss Nora Edmundson is teaching again this year because of Wautauga School Superintendent Walker's help.

You probably remember Miss Nora. She's the schoolmar'm who talked herself out of a job by getting the "Road of the 99 Fords" built in Watauga county. She was teaching a score or more of kids in a one-room shack, because they were isolated in the Watauga hills.

When they built the road, the kids were transferred to a consolidated school — riding buses instead of walking five to ten miles—and Miss Nora's job was gone.

Walker looked around. Down at Ocracoke, Teacher Rondthaler—son of Moravian Bishop Rondthaler of Winston-Salem — read about Miss Nora. He and Walker got together.

Now Miss Nora, spry as a cricket and refusing to retire is teaching the Outer Banks kids. She's pioneering again, now completing the tour from mountains to seashore. Folks like Miss Nora make "retirement at 65" sound silly.

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