

# CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

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boys on their toes, and believes he is cutting out graft—petty or otherwise. He pays for his own meals at prisons. He has notified all hands that anyone caught "borrowing" a ham or otherwise helping themselves to prison goods or equipment will be prosecuted. And he constantly makes surprise personal checks on camps to see how they are operated.

Apparently, the former Winston-Salem police chief is the man for the job.

Drafting of doctors in North Carolina apparently is hitting hardest where doctors are most needed. From reports across the State, the first call seemed to hit the rural sections or small towns where they had only one or two doctors.

Any doctor who get his training at government expense should be ready and willing to repay his country by entering the service. But there has been a dearth of "country doctors" for a long time. It seems ironical that the young men who entered general practice where they were most needed should be the first to get the nod.

While on the medical subject, let's toss a few orchids to the doctors for the plan to give a half-million dollars to aid in training of more doctors. It's a shame they didn't use their million-dollar anti-socialized medicine propaganda campaign money for the same purpose.

While opposing socialized medicine, several Tar Heel doctors have told me that they realize the problem of providing medical attention is becoming acute. And they admit that it's up to the medical profession to do something about it.

It comes back to the same thing. If you don't want the gov-

ernment stepping in on the job, you have to do it yourself—and you can always do it better and cheaper. The sooner everyone realizes this and quits sticking their hands out to Uncle Sam and to State government, the better off we'll all be.

The telephone companies are doing all right in the raise-getting field. Recently the Utilities Commission has granted a number of boosts. Last week, for example, the Western Carolina Telephone Co. of Franklin was allowed an \$8,000-a-year boost in gross income. The Norfolk and Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company of Elizabeth City got a raise of \$52,000 gross income, which will add \$25,000 a year to its net take—and raise rates in Elizabeth City, Hertford, Edenton and Manteo.

And by the time you read this Southern Bell and Carolina Telephone company both will have been allowed boosts. Southern Bell asked \$3,000,000 but will not get more than 75 per cent of that, if that much. Carolina wanted another million and a quarter, but that was lowered.

The boosts are being granted on the basis of added investments in the companies. They are justified on the basis of the company getting a certain percentage return on its total investment.

Not being a wizard in high finance, it doesn't make sense to me.

For example, and this is a hypothetical case:

It seems to me that if you're getting a return of one dollar each per telephone that you'll get the same rate of return no matter whether you add to your investment by adding 1,000 more telephones or not.

In other words, if the company is valued at \$1,000,000 and has 10,000 phones, the rate is set so

that these bring in a return of around six and one-half per cent. If you spend another \$100,000 and add another 1,000 phones, it would seem that the same rate on these additional telephones would bring in the same percentage.

But, of course, dumb me didn't add in all the "depreciation," the "lower value of the dollar," and all the other gimmicks that a big corporation can dream up to clip the customers.

In the past, the Utilities Commission granted a raise and forgot about it until the company asked for another boost. With the expanded personnel, it now hopes to check at the end of each year and see whether or not the companies are making the "small profit" they claim or not.

One road-building contractor got caught trying to put down a road that didn't meet specifications recently. He was resurfacing a strip on one of the more widely-traveled east-west highways. He didn't see fit to put as thick a coating on it as he was supposed to, but a sharp-eyed Highway Department inspector caught him. He had to go back and put down another layer. Estimated cost—out of his own pocket—because he didn't do it right the first time varies from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

And then, this same contractor was reported as saying that he had "been getting by with it" for the past 10 years.

Maybe the Highway Department needs a few more sharp-eyed inspectors.

Big corporations are expecting the excess profits tax and are doing something about it. There's a flood of applications for new corporations going through Secretary of State Thad Eure's office these days. Many of them have identical names on them. In other words, one big corporation would have to pay a big excess tax. But if it divides into three small ones, splitting profits, it will pay smaller excess taxes—if any. The individual taxpayer still is hooked, though.

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Once again sweet memories of the Christ-Child, Born so long ago in Bethlehem, Fill the hearts and minds of those who love Him, As they think what all this means to them.

Once again we hear the angel's message To a lowly maiden, meek and mild, "Mary, thou shalt bear a son, called Jesus, For the Savior shall He be, this precious child.

Once again we see the caravan winding Down the crowded streets of Bethlehem town. No more places for two weary pilgrims, Only stable cold to lay them down.

There, amid the straw, that night, in darkness, Mary brought her first-born into being, But He was the Savior, all divine.

Then we hear some other angels singing, "Peace on earth, good will to every one."

And the memories come a-thrilling, sweet and tender, Of the Baby born that night, God's only Son.

So we think again today of all its meaning.

Rich and precious, beautiful and rare.

Some day we shall see Him, not a baby,

But a King, and He will reign here, everywhere.

And we look with eyes of faith toward our redemption, Drawing nearer as the Christmas comes again;

Manger lowly, Babe so helpless but remember,

He is King, and we adore and worship him—Amen.

—Blanche S. Deming.

Purchase Union Label gifts and make it a very Merry Christmas.

## WOULD BAN RUSSIAN MADE GOODS IN U. S.

LAFAYETTE, IND.—Backing up the action taken by the 1947 international convention of the Retail Clerks International As-

sociation-AFL, barring Communists or any other subversive elements from membership or official position in the RCIA-AFL, James A. Suffridge, secretary-treasurer, has denounced the continued importation of Russian-made goods, including mer-

chandise and commodities from Red-dominated satellites.

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Merry Christmas!

The kissing branch is hanging high,  
The mantel's banked with pine;  
And clear against the frosted pane  
The Christmas candles shine.  
Far off the church bells bless the air  
With wind-blown, silv'ry chime;  
May Joy and Peace be with us all  
This happy Christmastime!

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says

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"These are my children—Michael, Patrick, Maria, John, Prudence, and Stephanie."

"In some homes, children say their prayers at their mother's bedside. In our home, my mother said her prayers at my bedside. She was a deeply religious woman. She took me to church every Sunday. And she never tired of telling me that the happiest of all women is the one who has discovered the Kingdom within. Certainly my mother's 'lovingness' and firm sweetness showed she had discovered the Kingdom within. She had strength and peace of heart that made her glow with happiness. Even strangers quickly saw it. And she used to say:

"If you know right from wrong . . . if you learn to taste the joy—and the discipline—of knowing God, you will know love and happiness all your life."

"This is what we are trying to give our children—almost from the time they are able to walk. So when our friends say they are thinking of not sending their children to church until they are old enough to understand and make up their own minds, John and I cannot agree with them.

"How else will a growing child acquire the strong sense of moral right and wrong that will lead him to happi-

ness? Only our churches can teach him. "John and I honestly feel that even with our strong religious backgrounds, there are still many questions of right and wrong that perplex us: (And as every parent knows, there are many—not only those that arise in the home, but also from neighbors, schools, clubs.) And especially with moral values fluctuating as they are doing in the world today, we want our children to have the guidance and fortitude that only the Church can give them. We know it ourselves. And how incalculably it has helped us!"

take your problems to Church this week millions leave them there!