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**CAPITAL REPORTER**  
*Scott Summers*

RALEIGH, N. C. — Much talk has been made about the "independence" of this legislature, how it could not be bulldozed by Governor Kerr Scott and how it had a mind of its own.

Most of this conversation has come from the extreme conservative, or anti-Scott forces.

These folks—sitting in the saddle at the beginning of the 1951 General Assembly some four weeks ago—suddenly have discovered that "independence" is a two-edged sword that is likely to cut their own throats.

These folks also have discovered that the Legislature is divided into three parts: (1) The ultra-conservative, hold-the-line, no new taxes—no new spending group that includes the anti-Scott boys—although all of this group is by no means anti-administration despite the fact that the leaders generally are "agin-Scotters"; (2) the "down-the-line" supporters of Scott who, if anything, think he was too conservative in his recommendations to the Legislature; and (3) the lawmakers who are not on either side but are considering each individual measure with an open mind, trying to do what is best for North Carolina.

Fortunately, the latter group is the largest. Incidentally, most of the freshmen senators and representatives fall into this category. They have not lined up on either side, although they are resentful of the ramrodding attempts of the ultra-conservative group—particularly as evidenced in the stacking of committees—at this writing are leaning toward the administration and the liberal side of the fence.

The conservative leadership lost ground with the committee appointments, but the investigation of the building of the State Fair coliseum—which they were sure would cast discredit upon the administration—turned into a boomerang that had them talking to themselves by last weekend.

The would-be Legislature bosses discovered that killing the coliseum, which at first seemed to have universal favor, was heartily opposed by agriculture leaders. These leaders at a public hearing told a special committee investigating the building that it would be a big boon to agriculture and industry in North Carolina—particularly to the cattle industry, which they labeled as Tar Heel's greatest field for "cash crop" growth.

And many of the legislators, when they found that the coliseum would not be a basketball or ice-skating arena, but would be used primarily as a live stock arena, decided that it was not the monstrosity it had been at first pictured.

They learned, too, that it would cost the State quite a bit of money to Welch on its contract to build the coliseum, and many of them did not like the idea of the State trying to get out of a contract anyway.

They learned, too, that the investigation had been promoted back of the scenes by some would-be political string-pullers with a primary aim of embarrassing the administration. Ironically, one of these ambitious big wheels now is talking about how "disappointed" he is in one of the legislators fighting the hardest for discontinuance of the coliseum. This same would-be lawmaker helped to instigate the investigation, it is reported, despite the fact that he at one time fought for the coliseum and also contributed to the election campaign of the very legislator he now is tossing to the wolves.

All of which adds up to this: You can expect some knock-down dragout legislative fights.

The balance of power in the Legislature may swing to the administration.

And he who messes with top-level politics frequently finds his fingers singed.

Incidentally, a lot of the lawmakers are waking up to the fact that that "hold the line"

recommended budget really is a "back of the line" budget.

It left out even the contingent pay raises for school teachers; it left out some \$6,500,000 for the hospital building program, and it ignored merit pay raises for State employees under the general fund.

Just adding up those items comes to something like \$25,000,000. Add in money enough to take care of enough teachers to keep the teacher-load the same as it is now and you get pretty close to the \$30,000,000 mark. Add upkeep and staffing of permanent improvements, and you get mighty close to the \$38,000,000 that Governor Scott asked for in addition to the recommended budget.

Even some of the conservatives are beginning to talk as though the governor knew what was needed.

However, they still are fighting extra taxes. Their aim, apparently, is to cut enough money out of the \$44,000,000 still unspent or not yet contracted for in the permanent improvement kitty to make up the difference.

A few questions asked in the joint finance committee sessions would indicate that several of the boys will stage a fight to put theaters back under the sales tax and to eliminate many, if not all, of the sales tax exemptions.

A bill probably will be introduced this week giving ABC officers the right to go into every county in the State in an effort to stamp out bootlegging.

Now, the ABC investigators can go only into those counties having legal sale of liquor or beer ad wine.

The measure would have the effect of setting up a state-wide unit similar to the Federal government's Alcohol Tax Unit, which is the scourge of white liquor makers.

Much has been said about laxity of law enforcement in so-called dry counties. In many of them you can buy liquor easier and cheaper than you can in those counties having state ABC stores. Public apathy, indifferent law officers, and in some instances pay-offs are responsible.

This bill would give ABC officers the right to go into any county in the State to make investigations and arrests of bootleggers and other violators of the liquor, beer and wine laws. Its backers claim it would increase enforcement of the laws immeasurably and cut down bootlegging to a minimum.

Ironically, opposition is expected from the dries—who yell for a state liquor vote but in many instances don't bother to try to enforce the prohibition laws in their own dry counties.

Incidentally, the Allied Church League has declared war—come 1952—on all legislators who aren't militant dries. This organization does not approve the present bill before the legislature, which would call for a vote on an all-wet or an all-dry State. It will draw up one more to its own liking and seek some legislator to introduce it. Such a bill would call for an all-dry or an "as is" state—the Allied Church League being afraid to take a chance on a real test of wet and dry strength. Their attitude is "we want to quit selling liquor but we don't want to take the remote gamble that you might win and be able to sell your hooch in our territory." And they claim such a vote should be taken in the name of democracy. This corner believes the State would go dry if a referendum were to be held, but the question should be honestly answered and not on a half-way basis.

Backers of the "Hamilton" pay bill drew in their horns and their bill last week. Originally introduced to put Judge Luther Hamilton of Morehead City back on the retirement pay roll, it ran into trouble from lawmakers who didn't feel a bill should be passed

**GREATER NEED THAN EVER**  
The working people of America need strong Labor Unions today more than ever before in our history. Without such Unions and without the economic gains which can be made only through such Unions, the future would look extremely dark. These Unions must carry through their plans to make this nation 100 per cent Union organized, in every craft and in every jurisdiction.

Not only are strong unions needed by the working people; they are the greatest need today of free American enterprise in business and industry. For, without these strong Unions as a bulwark against the growth of communism, free enterprise will perish from the earth.

The Unions, however, have a tremendous task ahead of them in organizing the unorganized areas, for business and industry and anti-Union leaders in politics do not always see eye to eye with Labor.

As Executive Vice President Dave Beck told the Commonwealth club in San Francisco recently, communism does not flourish in the Chambers of Commerce, or the service clubs, because these organizations are composed of men who are reasonably successful financially. They are far from poverty. They enjoy good living and they have confidence in the future for their families. Of course, they want no part of communism.

Communism grows only in befuddled minds, or where poverty and filth and squalor are prevalent. The vast tenement districts of the big eastern cities breed communism. Down south where men are still slaves to brutal bosses, communism is spreading. It is among those who toil for their living that the commies set up their cells. That is why commies are always trying to infiltrate the Labor Movement.

Take away the causes of poverty and squalor, make men free from the fear of poverty, give them confidence in the future, and communism will die.

Communism is a liar. It lies about what it has done in Russia. It lies about what it intends to do elsewhere in the world. For communism is simply the guise under which vicious and unscrupulous men are seeking to rule the world.

Communism in Russia has reduced the wage of the average Russian worker to \$308 a year. This is official Soviet propaganda. Meanwhile, through its tragic inefficiency perhaps, communism has given the Russian people the highest level of living costs in the world. Eggs cost 34 cents each, when they can be had at all, in Moscow. Butter is \$2.30 a pound. Soap is \$1 a bar, which probably doesn't bother the commies, but poor shoes at \$100 a pair and overcoats at \$450 must be important items in the land of the big snows.

We are at war with communism. It is a war which Russia will be happy to wage so long as there are any Chinese soldiers left to fight. Maybe Russia will put her commie troops in some day but probably not until the puppet red governments have bled themselves dry. That's the Russian way.

We are not fighting to rule the world. We do not want the other fellow's land. All we want is to be let alone so that we can work out our own problems in our own way and in our own time. We know there is room for vast improvement, but we insist on doing it by our constitutional methods and without giving up our rights and liberties. That's why we are fighting.

That is also why America needs strong Unions and a strong Labor Movement. For there is no group more strongly convinced of the benefits and future of our American way than Labor.

—Washington Teamster.

introduces Motor Vehicle Department-sponsored bills, whether he personally backs them or not.

Legislators dodge questions on senatorial redistricting much in the same way they would evade such queries as "have you beaten your mother-in-law lately." They feel like they can't win, no matter how they answer.

Most of the districts would lose by redistricting, and no lawmaker wants to go on record as favoring something that would hurt his section of the State.

Charlotte, Greensboro, et al, will yell, but it wouldn't be at all surprising if the constitutional requirement for redistricting every 10 years is ignored by this session of the General Assembly.

The first bill really doing anything about reorganization of the various state agencies as tossed in by Senator Tom Sawyer of Durham, who happens to be the brother of Dr. Roma S. Cheek. You no doubt recall that it was Dr. Cheek's study of State government that started all the latest fuss about reorganization.

Sawyer's bill would submit the constitutional question to a vote at the next general election. If favored, the Legislature would be authorized to combine the various agencies into 12—other than those agencies headed by elective officials. It also would set up a merit system, covering all but elective officials and top appointive brass.

Two other bills on reorganization have been introduced, but they merely call for commissions to study the possibility of such a move. In the past, such measures have resulted in nothing being done. Sawyer's bill, if passed and voted upon by the homefolks favorable would make reorganization mandatory.

**AFL COUNCIL PLEDGES**  
**IKE FULL SUPPORT**  
Miami.—The AFL executive council pledged wholehearted support to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower as Supreme Atlantic Commander.

The text of the cablegram signed by AFL President William Green follows:

"The AFL extends to you as Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization its heartiest appreciation of your inspiring and dynamic efforts to expand, mobilize and unify the armed might of the free peoples in the interest of preserving world peace.

"We pledge to you our wholehearted and undivided energies toward rallying the many millions of workers in the ranks of international free trade unionism for loyal and energetic support of the cause of peace and yourself as the first soldier of this sacred cause.

"Far more than military weapons will be required to win the fight against Russian imperialist aggression, whose advance agents and traitors paratroopers are the subversive, totalitarian communist outfits in the free lands."

**KEENAN PICKED AS 'CONSULTANT'**  
Washington.—That labor voice in the National Production Authority is not going to be at the operation or policy-making level but as "consultant."

NPA Administrator William H. Harrison appointed Joseph Keenan of the AFL and Ted Silvey of the CIO "as special consultants to advise in the selecting of staff personnel."

Mr. Keenan served as vice chairman of the War Production Board during World War II and after the war was labor advisor to Gen. Lucius D. Clay, military governor of Germany. He continues active in the AFL, having recently been named Secretary of the AFL Building Trades.

**BUSINESSMEN DEAL WITH THE COMMIES**  
Senator Herbert O'Connor (D, Md.) pointed out to the Senate American businessmen talk a good anti-Communist game while carrying on profitable trading with Red China.

"The astounding fact is that as late as a few weeks ago shipments of highly useful materials were on the high seas being transported on United States flag ships to Communist China," O'Connor states.

Last fall O'Connor headed an investigation into shipments of American goods to Communist countries. O'Connor went on to tell the Senate:

"As late as November 16, 1950, a shipment of 24,672 pounds of steel sheets were allowed to leave New York in the steamship Igadi destined for Taku Bar, Red China."

"Since the outbreak of the Korean war on June 25, 1950, six shipments involving almost 50 million pounds of cotton are known to have been exported to Manchuria and Red China direct."

**GET THIS BOOK ON BOWLING ON THE CUFF**  
New York.—Glass Bottle Blowers Association (AFL) is giving away a 20-page record book for bowlers. In addition to space for recording 120 games, it contains information for beginners, and a page of accurately defined bowling terms. A free copy of the book can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the association, 12 South 12th Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

**Labor Helps the Navy**  
Washington.—High praise for construction "know-how" contributed by organized labor to training of Navy Seabees, was voiced by Rear Admiral Joseph F. Jelley, chief of Navy Civil Engineers, in a talk before the executive council of the AFL Building and Construction Trades, Jan. 19. AFL is assisting the Navy in recruiting 70,000 competent construction men over draft age in the Seabee Reserve.

**NLRB Clamps Down On Labor Unions**  
**For Alleged 'Sharp' Organizing Tactics**

WASHINGTON.—In recent decisions of the NLRB, new precedents in labor-management relations have been established. By decisions in two separate cases, the Board tightened its procedures and standards of Board elections. In one case, an election was set aside because the winning union circulated a marked sample ballot bearing the name and title of the NLRB regional director. In the other case a regional director's dismissal of the union's protests against voting by certain employees, was upheld because the union had failed to serve its exceptions on the employer.

**KEENAN RESIGNS LLPE**  
**POST: 1952 PLANS BEGUN**  
Miami.—The administrative committee of Labor's League for Political Education accepted the resignation of Joseph D. Keenan as director at its mid-winter meeting.

The committee adopted a resolution expressing appreciation for the services rendered by Mr. Keenan, who has been elected secretary-treasurer of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department.

A subcommittee was appointed to seek a successor to Mr. Keenan, who has served since 1948, and another to map a financial program for the 1952 presidential campaign.

Preliminary plans for the campaign were discussed.

The finance committee consists of AFL Vice Presidents George M. Harrison and Matthew Woll and Richard Walsh, president International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

**"JOIN US," GREEN URGES UNORGANIZED**  
Detroit.—AFL President William Green said the aim of the AFL "is the organization of the unorganized, so that workers everywhere can attain and secure higher living standards."

Speaking to the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, Mr. Green said:

"Unorganized workers are workers without the right of franchise in economic life—in capable of taking part in and enjoying the benefits of that system of economic democracy which we are trying to expand and improve in this country.

"Workers who are denied trade union membership, or who fail to seek it, are as helpless and impotent in our economic life as those who are denied, or fail to use, the right to vote."

**FOOD PRICES HIT ALL-TIME PEAK**  
Washington.—Retail food prices rose 1.2 per cent to a record high level between December 15 and January 2.

The Labor Department estimated prices reached 218.9 per cent of the 1935-39 level, 1 per cent above the previous record high established July 15, 1948. Since the Korean outbreak, prices have risen 6.9 per cent.

The biggest increase was 4.7 per cent for fats and oils.

The next biggest increase was for dairy products, up 3.5 per cent. Prices of meats, poultry and fish rose 1.7 per cent.

**1951 UNION SHOW WILL BE HELD**  
Washington.—Ray F. Leheney, director AFL Union Industries Show sponsored by the Union Labor Trades Department, stated that any rumors to the effect that there will not be a 1951 labor-management exhibition are unfounded and untrue.

Until the President of the United States issues an order declaring that there will be no trade shows during the emergency the show will go on, Mr. Leheney said. It will be held at Soldier Field, Chicago, Ill., May 18 through May 26.

**SEEK 5,000 LOCALS**  
Washington.—The AFL National Federation of Post Office Clerks began its annual Bring-a-Brother Campaign January 15 with a goal of 125,000 new members and 5,000 locals by May 15. The clerks now have 4,796 locals.

**In two cases, unanimous Board panels found the United Mine Workers had violated the law by "restraining and coercing employers in the exercise of their right to refrain from union activity." Miners had paraded around six non-union mines in the Kentucky fields.**

In another case, a trial examiner ruled that there was no evidence to prove that UMW had, in the 1950 contract negotiations, "insisted upon a union shop or a welfare fund with benefits restricted to union members."

In two other cases, NLRB ordered unions to bear the full cost of back pay for employees whose discharge had been caused by the union. In each case the unfair labor practice charge was filed by the employe, only against the union. In one case the Board found a seaman's discharge was caused by the union instructing members not to sail on any ship that employed him.

**BUILDING TRADES ELECT JOE KEENAN TO RIVERS POST**  
Miami.—Joseph Keenan, director Labor's League for Political Education, was elected secretary-treasurer of the AFL Building Trades Department at its mid-winter executive council meeting.

Mr. Keenan, former international representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, succeeds the late Herbert Rivers, who died last December 6.

Mr. Rivers held the position since 1937.

Wage stabilization, housing legislation and the impact of federal controls on construction were among the many issues taken up by the department's council.

**MATT WILL RE-ELECTED VICE-PRES. 6TH TERM**  
New York.—Matthew Woll, president of the International Labor Press of America and AFL vice president, was re-elected vice president of "CARE," for his sixth consecutive term.

Since incorporation of "CARE" as a non-profit government-approved co-operative relief agency, Woll has represented AFL's relief arm, the Labor League for Human Rights, one of 26 member agencies of "CARE." In its five years' operation "CARE" has distributed ten million food and textile packages, valued at more than \$100,000,000 to individuals abroad.

**AID HOUSING More Than One Vets Loan**  
Washington.—Republican Rep. Jacob K. Javits, New York, introduced new legislation which would enable veterans to obtain more than one home loan within the prevailing loan guaranty limits of the GI bill.

Under the Housing Act of 1950 the law enables a veteran to obtain a home loan guaranty up to 60 per cent of the amount borrowed up to a maximum amount of \$7,500.

Under the Javits bill the veteran can again exercise his benefits under the GI bill for a new loan of the difference between the amount previously guaranteed and \$7,500 without being limited to the single loan already made.

**CONNOLLY APPOINTED**  
Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin appointed William L. Connolly, director U. S. Bureau of Labor Standards, as chairman of the Federal Safety Council. He takes over his new assignment in addition to his present duties.